



Reatta Road



VOLUMN 24—ISSUE 1

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Spring 2020

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Marck Barker



Spring is nearly upon us! I just returned from a three-week, 6800 road trip to California to pick up a whole bunch of Reatta parts. While on the trip, I met up with several Division members and enjoyed hanging out with them at Wayne's shop (see story page 4).

By the time you read this, hopefully you have received the March 2020 Buick Bugle which features the Reatta. Including an article about my grey 1991 coupe. I am still waiting for my copy to arrive in the mail at this point.

April is coming up quickly and I am really looking forward to the Charlotte Auto Fair where we have spaces on Saturday and Sunday in the car club section. We have 1 car space left, though you are welcome to come hang out even if you aren't driving your Reatta. Email me at Marck@EastCoastReattaParts.com and I can send you all the information.

We have officer elections coming up soon, so if you are interested in running for Director, Assistant Director, or Secretary/Treasurer, please contact some or all of our Nominations Committee (info on page 7).

It sounds like Assistant Director Chip has an excellent Rendezvous lined up for the year's national meet. A beautiful scenic drive, a tasty restaurant for dinner, and maybe we can even scrounge up some ice cream in the area! I am looking forward to seeing many of you there and hope you'll make plans to attend the Reatta Rendezvous on Wednesday evening!

Lastly, we want to hear from YOU! Our newsletter needs stories about you driving your Reatta, shows you've taken it to, repairs you have done, anything! We love stories and photos of Reattas being loved and enjoyed. So write your story up, and send it to Elizabeth, our wonderful Reatta Road editor, so you can be featured in an upcoming issue!



Helen Hutchings Story on Page 2



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Deadline for the next issue is May 15

Letter to the Editor

Reatta Div and longtime friend/nearly a neighbor Rich Gibbs shared the Fall and Winter issues of Reatta Roads with me as he realized it highly was likely I'd somehow been involved in the story behind those 'Inside Buick' articles reprinted in those issues. Sure 'nuff and I even have photos to prove it!

Thinking you might like to publish that illustrated back story, I have attached the word doc which contains captions for the three photos. One photo is attached to this email and the other two follow attached to another email (ed – all the pictures are in this issue).

My full contact information is next -- feel free to reach out if you've any questions -- and, oh yes, John and Marcine Forrette know about all of this as well and send greetings to any in the division who might remember them.

Best regards, Helen V Hutchings, BCA #9972, Topeka, KS
landline: 785-233-0874, email: hvhent@juno.com

**Introducing the
1990 Reatta convertible**
Buick's new soft-top is 'crafted' at unique plant



There's a Back Story to Reatta Road 's reprinting the 'Inside Buick' articles – and here it is—with some pictures too.

By Helen V Hutchings, BCA #9972

1990 was my last year to serve as an elected member of BCA's board. Yet I would remain actively involved and regularly attend BCA Board meetings for the following decade because by then I'd been contracted to be Buick's Western Region public relations representative and liaison with BCA. Thus, when John Forrette initiated inquiry regarding a Reatta-focused organization in 1992, I quickly was aware.

Who knew then that this was the start of a real friendship between John, his wife Marcine, and myself that has grown and, best yet, thrives to this day. So I can report to you that all is well with the Forrettes although (for those of you reading this who knew them) they are no longer in Minnesota but rather reside in neighboring South Dakota. And collectible cars are still part of their lives...just with a slightly different marque and model than Buick's Reatta.

Regarding those articles reproduced from the Inside Buick magazine in the Fall and Winter 2019 issues of Reatta Road

Primarily those of us who were part of the Buick PR department dealt with automotive writers at print publications along with those in radio, tv and the then-growing (but still fledgling) internet outlets. One day I received a request from Corby Casler in Buick's Flint public relations office, to co-ordinate providing a 1990 Reatta convertible from my press fleet to a life-style writer at the Los Angeles Times newspaper. The name of this writer: Mike Arkush.



We arranged a time and place for me to turn over the car to him for a week. But this required a bit more because this writer wasn't really knowledgeable about cars nor an automotive enthusiast. As it happened a car-journalist friend (Art Gould of The Car Show on KPFK-fm Pacifica Radio and himself now sadly gone) followed along (so I had a ride back to my office) when I delivered the car to Arkush. Art snapped the three images you see here, (ed – one here and two on the front page), of me showing/instructing Arkush on some of the functions and basics of that lovely convertible. And you read and saw the article that resulted.

Madam editor, I'll leave to you to include this next or not—as seems appropriate to you. (ed- I decided to include this.)

Just prior to the recent holiday season during the course of moving, I discovered a box containing some of those issues of Inside Buick. I'd gladly sell for \$10 each including careful packaging and postage (within the US). Anyone wishing a list of those issues and a brief overview of the articles each contains, send me an e-mail at: hvhent@juno.com and I'll reply with a copy of that list.

Introducing the 1990 Reatta convertible

Buick's new soft-top is 'crafted' at unique plant



PHOTO: GARY SMITH

By Pat Murphy

Building on the success of the luxury two-seat Reatta, Buick is offering a convertible version for 1990.

Both versions of Reatta have a totally redesigned analog-gauge instrument panel — an example of Buick's responsiveness to market demands, according to Buick General Manager Edward H. Mertz.

"Reatta has received a most enthusiastic response in terms of satisfaction by buyers and reviews by the automotive press," Mertz said. "Many customers and writers have said, however, that they would prefer analog readouts and buttons and switches to the electronic control center with CRT screen. Our new instrument panel is a strong response to that desire."

A great many people have anticipated the Reatta convertible since January 1988, when a prototype was shown at auto shows.

Among the most enthusiastic is Jim Rucker, plant manager of the Re-



PHOTO: RANDY EDMONDS

Jim Rucker, plant manager of Reatta Craft Centre.

atta Craft Centre in Lansing, Mich., where the coupe and convertible are built.

The Craft Centre is an old forge plant converted into the smallest

state-of-the-art assembly plant within General Motors.

"It's really an incubation center," Rucker said. "It's a flexible plant where we test new ideas."

Like the Reatta itself, the manufacturing process at the Craft Centre features fresh ideas and innovative methods. The traditional assembly line has been done away with, and a high premium is placed on worker input.

The Centre employs "crafts-people" as opposed to production workers, and supervisors serve as aides, rather than foremen. And it is believed to be the only automotive plant in the country where the top boss, Rucker, takes a regular turn on the floor.

One day each month, Rucker sheds his business suit in favor of a blue collar. Then he spends an eight-hour shift at a work station selected in conjunction with the UAW.

Rucker said he is particularly ex-

Reatta Rendezvous for 2020

Chip Aeppli, Your Assistant Director

I invite you! Please join us for the annual Reatta Rendezvous on Wednesday, July 15th. It will include a scenic drive, a photo stop, and a tasty dinner served buffet style.

We've moved it to Wednesday this year to avoid conflict with the BCA Board meeting. We will leave around 5 pm, so that you will still have time to return from any tours.

I encourage you to come to the BCA National in Strongsville, even if not in your Reatta, and take advantage of the tours offered by the BCA this year. While Cleveland is not my home town, I am a life long resident of Northeast Ohio, and I hope you will come and enjoy some attractions in this area.

And come to the Rendezvous. This is the chance for the Reatta Division to enjoy our members, and our cars. The route I have planned will take us through Cuyahoga Valley National Park, so it will not be terrible with traffic or stoplights. Dinner will be at the Winking Lizard in Peninsula, Ohio known for good food and service. We will have a private room just for our group. I mean it when I say I look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks to Paul Gomberg for the picture of the West Coast Reatta Meet in Antioch, CA



First West Coast Reatta Meet Antioch, CA

Wayne Metz

Our first West Coast, North, Reatta get-together in January was a great success. We had 12 Reattas in attendance, with some folks coming from long distances. Stanley from Portland drove his Reatta to our get-together, Paul Gomberg flew from Houston and Marck Barker brought his "Reatta Repair/parts shop in a trailer", driving all the way from Durham, N.C., some three thousand plus miles, (one way).

We first did a tour of my shop and car display, and then oogled over each others Reattas. The most fun part was when we shared personal information as to how and why we purchased our Reattas. The stories that were told about some of our activities and trips were most entertaining.

It seems like the Reatta germ was contagious and catching on as several of us had more than one Reatta. There's just something about that car!

Walter Spector is preparing a driving tour through Niles Canyon and a part of the old Hwy 66 (Lincoln Hwy.) for our next outing. Date and meeting place is to be determined.

What do Reatta people do when they get together, they EAT, and they know how to do that well. Thanks to East Coast Reatta Parts for the sandwiches and soft drinks, and to Gail Metz for being the perfect hostess.

It was really a fun get-together with some wonderful and talented Reatta owners.

"Reports have been received about a Reatta vendor, that items ordered and paid for, but not received and no replies to inquiries. As always BUYER BEWARE. If you need suggestions as to reputable Reatta vendors, contact one of the Reatta Board of Directors."

Original "Barney cranks" are still available. Steel replacement headlight bellcranks are \$40 ea. (\$35 ea. to BCA members). Kits that include bellcrank, rollers & up-stop instructions are \$45 (BCA members \$40). Rebuilt Reatta headlight motors, \$55 per side (exchange plus \$5 shipping) Plastic wing nuts and receptacles (to hold the cover in the rear of the engine compartment) \$2 each plus \$2 shipping. Rebuilt power antenna W/steel cord \$60 (+\$15 return shipping). Trunk lock cover repair kits \$9.50. Custom Reatta car covers and all other cars in 14 fabrics and several colors, also 7 sizes of motorcycle covers (call for prices on covers). **Call Barney @ 512-869-5114 for info or Reatta tech assistance. Barney Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Dr., Georgetown, TX 78633. (12/19)**

Lots of Reatta parts from 175 parts cars. Located in a salvage yard in Tucson, AZ. **Call Roger McCrone at 520-977-5463. (12/19)**

Reatta parts.....21st year.....Large inventory at very reasonable prices. I also have exact reproductions of the convertible visor clips in all factory colors. Contact Jim Finn at reattas60@gmail.com (12/19)

Reatta Literature: over 125 pieces. **John Kilbane**, North Royalton, Ohio. Call – **440-552-6932. (12/19)**

Largest selection of Reatta parts in the country. You name it we have it. Parts and technical support available. We ship world wide. Call or email with your needs. **Orders@EastCoastReattaParts.com, 919-233-1973. (12/19)**

VERY LARGE REATA MEMORIBILIA COLLECTION FOR SALE. This collection which was previously referenced in the Bugle December 2008 edition consists of over 750 individual items totaling over \$20,000.

The collection includes literature, posters, videos, illuminated signs, promo items, various magazines featuring Reatta and many very rare items some of which were acquired directly from the library at the Reatta Craft Centre in Lansing, Michigan. Many Reatta parts are also for sale.

There is a separate smaller collection of general Buick items available. The owner will be moving soon and will no longer have the four car Reatta Garage which currently houses this vast collection of interesting items. Offers for the entire collection will be considered.

A list and photos of the items and pricing may be requested by contacting **Charles Parry at (315) 383-0707 (call or text), or email: gm33@twcny.rr.com. (12/19)**

Have 2 Reatta leather bound manual containers, both in excellent condition. One is complete including the flashlight, pen and tire gauge; the other is missing the flashlight and pen but has the tire gauge. One has the red colored manual, the other is blue. **Frank : 248-593-6391(03/20)**

Calendar of Events

April 3rd-5th: Charlotte Auto Fair

April 26, 2020: Elyria, OHIO

The North East Ohio Chapter hosts the 21st Annual Swap Meet and Car Corral at Nick Abraham Auto Mall, corner of Rte. 57 and 1111 E. Broad Street, Elyria, OH. 44035. The meet is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Call Tom Ferencz 440-227-4080

May 3, 2020: St. Paul, MINNESOTA

The Gopher State Chapter will host its 33rd Annual Spring Extravaganza Car Show & Swap 7 to 3 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul (rain or shine). Spring Show GSCBCA, P.O. BOX 130067 St. Paul, MN 55113 or 651-770-8096 or www.gopherstatebuick.org Always the first Sunday in May.

June 7, 2020: Gurnee, ILLINOIS

4th Annual Buick Charity Car Show Event, hosted by the Chiwaukee Border Chapter, BCA and Anthony Buick, 7225 Grand Ave., Gurnee, IL. Show information Kevin Kauppi, 224-623-1297, kevinkauppi13@aol.com

May 31, 2020: Woodland Hills, CALIFORNIA

All GM Car Show & Swap Meet at Warner Ranch Park in Woodland Hills, CA under the shade trees and cool green grass. Please visit our website for application and further info: www.buickclub.org/losangeles

July 15-18, 2020: Strongsville, OHIO

The 2020 BCA national meet will be held July 15-18 in the Cleveland, Ohio area at Strongsville, Ohio, hosted by the Northeast Ohio Chapter. Save the dates.

July 15: Reatta Rendezvous, More information to follow in the Summer Issue of the Reatta Road.

July 17, 2020: Strongsville, OHIO:

The Buick Heritage Alliance Banquet will be held on Friday, July 17, 2020 from 5pm-10pm at Michaud's Catering and Event Center, Strongsville, Ohio.

July 18: Reatta Annual Meeting, TBD

August 10th-15th: Back to the Bricks, Flint Michigan

CARS FOR SALE

1988 Coupe. Red/ Tan. 106,000 Miles. Maintenance since I took over ownership: Transmission mount, Timing belt, Water pump, Power steering pump , Struts/Shocks all around. **\$2,100 obo. Michelle 619 990-4763** please leave message if no answer or text. Email: servingsd@yahoo.com (9/19)

1989 Reatta sunroof coupe, blue/blue, not running, restore or parts. Needs a lot of TLC, but definitely not a basket case. \$1,000, includes shop manual. Email questions: dustyink@tabletoptelephone.com. Dave Howard, BCA 16232, RDiv 237 (Southern Arizona)

1989 Coupe, burgundy/burgundy, 98000 miles, stored six months each year. Fully loaded, including 16 way power seat and factory sunroof. A/C converted, recharged this year. One small ding in passenger door and small rust bubble on sunroof. Runs and drives great. \$5,500. Located near Akron, Ohio. **Andy Eisenman 330-571-4217** leave message, or email to afeisenman@gmail.com. BCA 42380, RDIV 854. (9/19)

1990 Coupe, Silver with Gray Interior, 190,000 miles, Original Owner. Was running when stored but needs some TLC. - **\$1,000** as is. Car located in CT. Also have extra set of 1990 rims and misc. parts available. Contact **Carl DeRosa - RDiv. #1029 • 203-915-7395** or carlderosa@rollinsprintingusa.com (9/19)

1990 Convertible: White/white top/ burgundy interior with 116,211. Asking **\$5500**. James McCall from El Paso, Texas, at MDS9001@GMAIL.COM (9/19)

1990 Convertible: White/white top/ blue interior. 67,000 miles, kenclausen38@gmail.com, (616)466-1758 asking **\$5,000**. Kenneth Clausen - Spring Hill, Fla (12/19)

1990 Convertible. Red/Tan top/Tan interior. Less than 50,000 miles. New Top, AC blows cold, 16 way seat. Car is clean inside & out, & always garage stored. Contact **Larry Peterson 316-655-9725**. Asking **\$11,000 O.B.O.** You may email gpstubby@gmail.com if you want to see pictures. (9/19)

I have a beautiful **1990 Buick convertible** with just over 61k original miles . My dad bought it used in 1995 with 35k miles and only put 23k miles on it over 20 years. When he could no longer drive it I bought it from him 4 years ago and have only put 4k miles more and have put new tires, wheels and full maintenance on the car. It has always been garaged and never driven in bad weather since we have had it.

I'm asking **\$7,500** but would consider all offers. The car runs great but we will be downsizing our house later this year and I won't have room .I really want this car to go to a good home since both my dad and I have taken very good care of this car since 1995. I can be reached at **770-377-4514** or on the weekends and evenings at LJKOZENY@YAHOO.COM. (9/19)

1990 Coupe, Black, 160,745 Miles, Sunroof : I am Jarrod Kemp and I live in Lake Odessa, MI. I am trying to sell a 1990 Buick Reatta for my grandma, she and my grandpa bought it a few years ago. My grandpa worked for General Motors in Lansing and he has passed away. We just want to sell it to someone who can enjoy it and give it a good home. Thank you so much for your time, my number is **269 838 4791**. (9/18)

1990 Convertible: White/blue top/blue interior, 44,000 miles, no damage, older repaint. Runs great. Has recent brakes and top. Interior like new. Have original, refinished wheels and tires. A nice car for your collection. With pictured wheels and tires **\$12,500. \$11,000** with original wheels. Call Ed at **610-366-0234** or cell **484-707-6146**. (9/19)

1991 Coupe with only 67000 miles. **White exterior with white belt trim and very nice red interior.** Completely serviced including engine and transmission oil and filters, brake system flush, and A/C service. New fuel tank, pump, and filter. Paint has a few issues but this is a very dependable driver. **\$6,900**. Car is in Louisiana. Contact **Ralph Artall at 337-592-0044** or email: ralph@artallfarms.com. RDIV # 2133 (9/19)

1991 Convertible, White Exterior, White Top and molding, White Interior with Blue Accents. Production Records indicate this is one of two 91's with white interior, both having the blue accents. This is believed the only one of those two with the 16 way seat, and white wheels option. The odometer currently shows 43,600K miles. The car has only been driven to shows and on several tours. Senior Gold, 399 point car and Senior Preservation in North Carolina. I have the original letter from a GM employee requesting the car on the Drive to Buy Program. It comes with the Factory Sticker., Factory car cover and lots of literature. This Reatta appears to be the rarest one built. **\$25,000. Frank Blizzard, 850 910-1444, frankblizz@aol.com** (9/19)

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) and then dropped, unless editor is notified to continue the ad.

CARS FOR SALE

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1991 Coupe White with Tan interior. CD player. 37500 miles, looks and drives fantastic. 399 point Gold Senior in 2015. driven only 1200 miles since the award. For more information contact **Herb Morris 314-852-0272** or email: **reatta90@sbcglobal.net.** (9/19)

1991 Polo Green Coupe. 138k, beautiful paint, runs flawlessly. New tires, chrome 1991 Reatta wheels, tan interior with standard seats. completely rust free W. Texas car. List of new parts too numerous to put here. Driven to 2019 BCA Meet. **\$8900 Contact Marck - (919) 233 1973 Marck@EastCoastReattaParts.com** (03/20)

1991 Convertible, white exterior, white top, red interior. 8800 original miles. I purchased the car in October 2015 when it had 6480 miles on it and have used it for two tours. I have replaced the AC compressor, new tires and radio. The original window sticker is in the car. This car is in like new condition and drives like a new car. Asking **\$22,500.00. GEORGE BRADY, 1810 Whispering Pines Circle, Englewood, FL. 941-223-1237. Email: georgecyndy@yahoo.com** (03/20)

CLUB HATS AND VISORS

The Reatta Division has purchased hats for sale from Lands End: 3 colors are available: red, black and white (adjustable size) – all with the Sunburst Logo.

Also available white visor with “Reatta” in script.

All are \$15 each plus shipping for Reatta Division members (\$20 each non-members). Please contact Anne Gibson (agibson36@gmail or (336)599-9589 to order.



**HAPPY 30TH
BIRTHDAY
1990
REATTAS**

Reatta Division Buick Club of America Officers & Key Division Positions

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LAND'S END STORE FOR MEMORABILIA

<https://business.landsend.com/store/reatta>

**MEMBERS ONLY PASSWORD FOR THE
REATA DIVISION WEB SITE IS:**

Buick3800 (CASE SENSITIVE).

**PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL APPEAR HERE
IN EACH NEWSLETTER. CHECK EACH
NEWSLETTER FOR A NEW PASSWORD.
IT WILL CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME.**



First West Coast Reatta Meet Antioch, CA

Photo by Marck Barker

MEMBERSHIP & DIVISION INFORMATION

Reatta Division dues are still only \$10/year and can be paid for up to 3 years at a time. You can either mail a check payable to the Reatta Division to me via "snail mail", or you can pay online through PayPal. The PayPal account is: ReattaClub@gmail.com

Please note that a **pink** highlighter mark on the RDIV number on your mailing label means that your Reatta Division dues are either due or past due. In order to continue receiving the Reatta newsletter, your RDIV membership status needs to be current.

Please make checks payable to: **REATA DIVISION, BCA**

Send all dues payments and address changes (include your RDIV # on your check) to:
SECRETARY/TREASURER, JERRY RICHSTEIN, 4798 Grants Way NE, Marietta, GA 30066

NOTE: All Reatta Division members are required to be members of the national organization, Buick Club of America, of which we are an authorized division. Please note that a **blue** highlighter mark on your BCA number on your mailing label means that you are not a current member of the BCA. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division newsletter, your BCA membership status needs to be current. The national organization can be contacted at: **BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA, % Cornerstone Registration, Ltd., PO Box 1715, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715; PHONE: 763-420-7829; Fax: 763-420-7849; EMAIL: bca@cornerstonereg.com**

Please send all classified ads and newsletter submissions to: **NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Elizabeth Lane, 39 Cockle Hill Road, Salem, CT 06420 or email at: buffylane39@sbcglobal.net**