



Reatta Road



VOLUMN 22—ISSUE 4

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Winter 2018



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Anne Gibson



Hi Reatta Folks,

Well God laughed again! There is an old saying "If you want to make God laugh, make plans." In the fall of 2017 my husband and I were on our way to the SE Region tour in Alabama and he had a heart attack and subsequent triple bypass in Georgia. This fall, after over a year of planning by our local chapter for the SE Regional tour out of New Bern, NC, hurricane Florence flooded New Bern to the extent that the tour had to be cancelled. The host hotel was to be closed for at least 60 days and many of the restaurants would be closed for recovery as well as the tour destinations. Even the tourism office, that was assisting with our tour, had to move across town to temporary quarters while their area was repaired. The Gulf Coast Chapter scheduled to host the SE Regional Tour in the fall of 2019, has graciously postponed their tour until the fall of 2020. This will allow our Tarheel Chapter to host the tour in the fall of 2019. We again have planned the tour out of New Bern, NC, a quaint eastern NC village. The tour will be Oct. 17, 18, & 19 2019 and again we plan to visit the Tryon Palace, NC History Center, Beaufort, NC and more. The only upside is that the tour is all planned, all we have to do is arrange different dates with the hotel and tour destinations. Keep these dates open and consider joining us. Also pray for no hurricanes or other flooding on the Neuse River. I will post more information and registration information in the spring newsletter.

Since the SE Regional tour was cancelled, this did allow us to attend the estate auction of the late Bob Coker, longtime Buick Club member and collector on November 3rd. No Reattas, but some beautiful cars which included: a 1955 Buick Century Prototype car, first 4 door hard top Buick built, completely restored and a AACA Senior award winner; 1955 Buick Century Convertible, truly beautiful and heartbreaking I couldn't even bid (the opening bid was beyond my limits); 1955 Buick 2 door hardtop, Bob had owned this car since

1997 and was driven in two Great Races; 1955 Buick 4 door Century; 1955 Buick Century Wagon, also driven in a Great Race. All lovingly restored by Bob and in beautiful condition. In addition to the cars and some other vehicles, were many parts, auto memorabilia, and many, many tools. It was a very interesting, full day auction!

Winter seems to have come early for most of us unless you live very far south. Even Florida has had some cold temperatures this fall. We have put the convertible away until spring and I am sure many of you have done the same, maybe even earlier.

After the rush of the holidays, I will begin planning the trip to the Buick Nationals in Oklahoma. I have already gotten a couple of emails about scheduling arrangements for meetings. Marck Barker is busy trying to plan the Rendezvous. Due to the full schedule of the event, it is going to be a difficult job. Hope many of you are planning to attend. We will provide more info on the Rendezvous and Reatta general meeting in the spring newsletter.

Lastly, start thinking about nominations for officers for next year and nominations for the Peterson Award. Your input is more than welcomed. Here's looking forward to spring!

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Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 1st

LETTER TO OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Anne,

I attended my first National Buick Reatta meet in Denver, but we had to leave our Reatta at home.

While there and at our meeting I got a glimpse of the membership list when you were passing it around to make corrections and noted that beside myself there are only 5 other registered members in all Arizona.

I have written these members and enclosed self-addressed postcards to see if there is any interest in getting together once in a while and generally just forming some car friendships.

Three out of five returned the card and I guess that is better statistically then your attempt at getting members to vote. I will keep you informed of progress or lack of it.

I and my Reatta belong to a really great car club in Prescott. We have an annual big time event coming up this weekend and we participate in cruises and at least 5 parades a year. Every Tuesday morning we meet at the club house and are currently restoring a school bus and in the past restored a Prescott ladder truck that is the club's logo. Members bring parts to sandblast or get advice on.

If I have any luck organizing our Arizona Reattas I will let you know.

I do need an address for you.

Charles O. Thompson, M.D.
1250 Brentwood Way
Chino Valley, AZ

CHARLES AND HIS REATTA AT THE FRONTIER DAYS PARADE, PRESCOTT, AZ



CONGRATULATIONS ON FIRST JUNIOR AWARD

Congratulations to Ron and Sandy DeGroff for receiving a 1st Junior Award at the Antique Automobile Club of America's Eastern Spring National Meet at Gettysburg, PA, July 14, 2018.



Pictures by Ron DeGroff

Calendar of Events

June 12-15, 2019:

Midwest City, OKLAHOMA

How about taking a road trip on Route 66 to Oklahoma for the Buick Club's 2019 national meet? The event will be in Midwest City, an Oklahoma City suburb. Registration forms can be found on the Bugle mail wrap and tour ideas and meet details can be found on each magazine's back cover. Start planning now!

June 12-15, 2019:

Midwest City, OKLAHOMA

Reatta Rendezvous sometime during this week.
Annual meeting during this week.

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 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.

REATA REMOVABLE HARDTOP

BY BARNEY EATON

Over the years, Reatta owners have asked if a removable hardtop was available and the answer is NO.

Until just a few year ago, that was the end of the story. Luck would have it that a Reatta owner on the east coast contacted me one day and asked what I knew about a hardtop for the Reatta. My answer was short, nothing. Turns out he has two 35mm slides that pictured Reattas with hardtops. I was able to get copies of the slides and had them digitized so they could be stored on my computer. We still don't know the details of whatever story there is about the hardtop, but it is speculated that Buick was not interested. I am sending Elizabeth digital copies of both pictures and I hope she can use them.

First there is the Red car (pictured below). Look closely and you can tell by the shape of the dash that it is either a 1988 or '89. We all know there were no production convertibles those years, so here is the speculation. ASC (American Sunroof Corp) designed the production convertible top and built them. So they would have been involved with the early convertibles. It would make sense that they would have access to a preproduction prototype to aid in the design. That would mean the top on the red Reatta would have been made maybe before production convertibles.

The white convertible (pictured on the last page) is a 1991 because it has the Flame Red interior. Note it has a rear license plate with the ASC letters. Is this the red top painted white or were more than one made? What happened to the tops and why Buick was not interested in making it an option or why did ASC not offer them as an aftermarket part? Since we have no details from Buick or ASC we also do not know why the white car has wire wheels. If any of you have a connection to ASC it would be great to get more details on this rare item.



Reatta Owners Journal

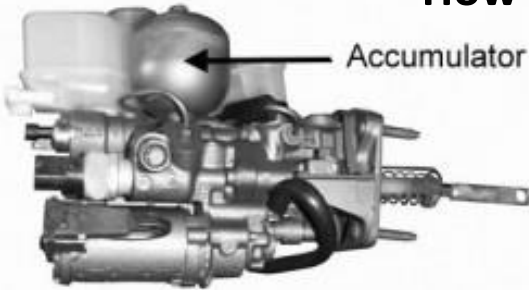


An online resource
for the Reatta
enthusiast.



Thanks to the Reatta Owners
Journal for the info on this
page. Check out more info at
their Website:
www.ReattaOwner.com.

How The Buick Reatta Brake Accumulator Works



The Buick Reatta brake system is the Teves Mark II ABS system. It uses a pressure accumulator, (shown in the photo on the left) to store a reserve of brake fluid pressure so there is still braking power when the brake booster pump is not running.

The Buick Reatta accumulator is a hollow steel chamber that contains a rubber bladder. The rubber bladder is pre-charged with about 750 psi of an inert gas. The rubber bladder separates the inert gas charge from the brake fluid. The bladder works much like a spring to keep constant pressure on the brake fluid in the system.

When the pump runs it compresses the bladder with up to 2600 psi before the pump shuts off. The system has a pressure switch that monitors the pressure in the system. When the pressure in the system drops to about 2000 psi the pressure switch will close and the brake pump will start again to rebuild the pressure inside the Reatta accumulator. If for some reason the pump fails to run, the pressure stored in the accumulator will give you several pumps on the brake pedal with enough pressure to safely stop the car.

When the bladder inside the Buick Reatta accumulator ruptures the accumulator will lose the inert gas charge. Then the brake pump will still apply pressure to the accumulator and the rest of the brake system but the system will no longer have the reserve pressure that it did with a good bladder. The result can be a flashing red brake warning light and the pump starting each time you hit the brakes. The pump running this so often puts an extra load on the pump that could result in failure of the pump. A good accumulator is an important part of the Teves brake system.

ATTENTION: Any advice or information found on this website should not be considered 100% accurate. Use any information you find here at your own risk.

HERE ARE SOME MORE HINTS AND TIPS

The brake accumulator is the most common part to fail on the "Teves" brake system that is used on the Buick Reatta. If your red or yellow brake warning lights come on momentarily when you hit the brakes, a defective accumulator is likely to be the cause.

Caution!, be sure to pump the brake pedal 20 to 30 times with the key OFF to relieve pressure in the brake system before attempting removal of the accumulator .

If the accumulator is extremely hard to remove, have an assistant hold the part the accumulator screws into with large channel locks or equivalent to prevent too much twisting force being applied to it. Not doing so could result in damage to the Teves unit.

Flushing out old brake fluid and refilling with a good brand of DOT 3 brake fluid every two years is HIGHLY recommended to keep the Teves brake system operating safely and to prevent premature failure. Do not use synthetic brake fluid in the Teves brake system! **If your RED brake warning light is on constantly DO NOT operate your vehicle until the problem is corrected!**

OUR REATTA EXPERIENCE

By Ed and Isabel Lenny

(BCA # 7534 Reatta Division # 816)

We have been in the collector car hobby for more than 45 years and have had the pleasure, and sometimes the displeasure, of owning a number of collector vehicles.

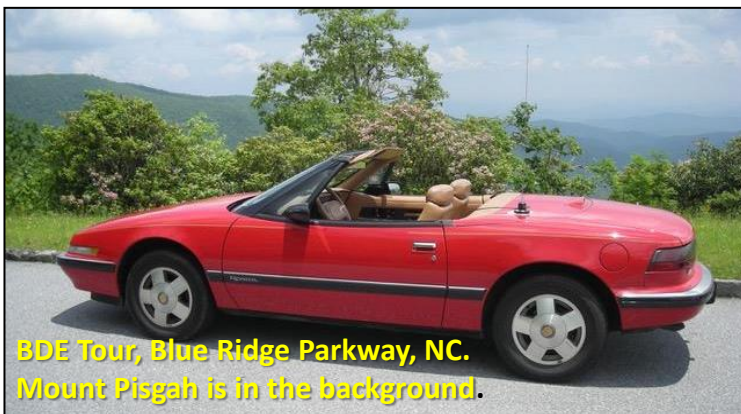
Ed has always enjoyed smaller cars, sport cars included, and was attracted to the Reatta when Buick first introduced it. However, at that time, it wasn't a practical choice. As the years passed by, we spoke to fellow members of the Buick Club of America who owned Reattas and learned more about Buick's personal luxury car.

However, when we became active in the BCA's Buick Driving Enthusiasts' (BDE) Division, we got to see more Reattas on our tours and we obtained more information from owners. This baby Buick really appealed to us because of its beautiful styling and its list of modern amenities, especially its excellent air conditioning system. The BDE has had tours all over this wonderful country and also Canada. When driving long distances, creature comforts become more important, especially for seniors.

We remember the BCA National in 2004 at Plano, Texas. As we were packing our late Riviera for the trip back to Pennsylvania, Barney Eaton and Frank Blizzard were packing their Reattas for their trips home and we were amazed at how much they could put into a car this size. We thought, if they can do it, we can do it. The Reatta makes an ideal long distance tour car as it holds more luggage than might be imagined.

Early in 2006, we found an ad for a low mileage, 15,000 miles, 1990 convertible. This Buick belonged to Mike O'Neil who owned O'Neil Buick. When we visited Mike's dealership where he kept his Reatta, we found it in a garage on his property with two other collectible Buicks. His Reatta was a week-end driver when the weather was agreeable and the Reatta's condition was excellent. We decided this Reatta was the one for us and soon we drove off as second owners of a well cared for Buick.

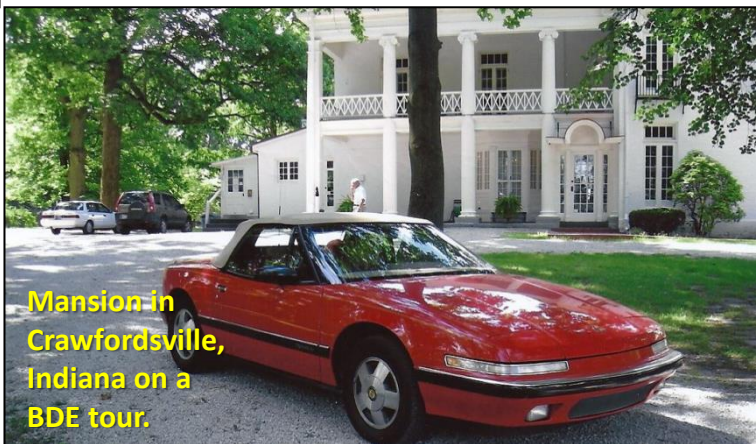
Photos by the Lenny's



**BDE Tour, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC.
Mount Pisgah is in the background.**

We joined the Reatta Division that same year and later in 2006 we took our new Buick on its first long trip to the BCA National Meet in Rochester, Minnesota. We were rewarded with a Gold Senior award. It has also achieved Senior status in the Antique Automobile Club of America, but the most fun we have had in the collector car hobby is touring with fellow collectors, as opposed to attending car shows. These tours not only provide an opportunity to get our Reatta out on the road, but we also get to visit interesting and varied places in the company of friends.

The Reatta Division is another great reason to go Reatta. The technical assistance is terrific with members like Barney Eaton and Jim Finn as good examples. We also enjoy the fellowship in the division and the Reatta Rendezvous is always a wonderful event.



**Mansion in
Crawfordsville,
Indiana on a
BDE tour.**



BDE tour

CARS FOR SALE

1988 Coupe: Red/Tan, 65,500 miles, BCA Gold Award. All original. Excellent condition. Owner and Shop manuals. Custom cover and more. **\$9999.** Joe Girone, Telford, PA, Contact- nonnog@comcast.net, **215-723-1431.** (6/18)

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. **\$2100 obo. Michelle 619 990-4763** please leave message if no answer or text. Email: servingsd@yahoo.com (9/18)

1988 Coupe; Red, grey leather, 86,000 miles, always garaged. Originally an Arizona car, in excellent condition; runs and drives great; everything works except the cassette player. A/C blows cold air, converted to 134A in 2017. **\$10,000.** Contact Don Cantleberry at **989-354-5504** or cberry895@msn.com. (6/18)

1989, Maroon, 185,000 miles. leather interior, touch screen dash controls, 2 sets of wheels (one factory/one chrome) . **\$2000.** Car has always been stored inside and there is absolutely no rust on the exterior, tail light lens in tact, 3800 engine, standard Buick transmission, cherylcravero@sbcglobal.net (12/17)

1989 Coupe: Red with Gray interior. 83,000 miles, new tires and recent repaint. **\$5,000 OBO.** Call Barbara evenings and weekends **(336)503-8970.** (9/18)

1989 Coupe Red , Beechwood interior, 16 way seats. A daily driver 122,000 miles, was lightly rear-ended by a 2018 Lincoln Navigator resulting in some minor scratches (no dents) but left side corner of taillight scraped pretty bad.

Caveat: The insurance company TOTALED the car, paid me off very well, and I got to keep the car as well. I believe that upon sale & transfer there will be a salvage title issued to the new owner? At any rate, the car is a strong runner and once I get responses asking for additional details, the best offer will take it. (I was paid very well by the insurance company). I still have it insured (liability only, as the salvage will preclude any collision coverage). My insurance carrier, AAA, told me there is a procedure for taking salvaged cars off of salvage and restoring clear title. So, it will NOT go to the crusher!

ALSO, coming soon. . . I will be offering my '90 Select 60 Convertible for sale as well. Again, when the time comes, plenty of photos and information will be forthcoming. toleary@bak.rr.com. **(661)300-0882 CELL (661)398-2105 WORK,** (9/18)

1990 Convertible: White/white top/ blue interior. 67,000 miles, kenclausen38@gmail.com, **(616)466-1758 asking \$5000.** Kenneth Clausen - Spring Hill, Fla (12/18)

1990 Convertible. Red/Tan top/Tan interior. 44,600 miles. New Top, AC blows cold, 16 way seat. This car is clean inside & out, always garage stored. Contact Larry Peterson **316-655-9725** asking **\$12,000 O.R.O.** You may email: gpstubby@gmail.com if you want to see pictures. (9/18)

1990 Convertible - red with white top/maroon interior. 59,000 miles - family owned since new. **\$8500 obo.** Contact Leslie Ellison - **(706)676-1573** lellisonsr@aol.com (9/18)

1990 Convertible, brown/tan, 58,000 miles, CD player and cassette player, Hand assembled, Automatic transmission, V-6, 170 hp, Leather Seats, loaded, Runs great and SO fun to drive, Delivery available . \$6500. John: **231-970-1714** or buttons1031@hotmail.com. (6/18)

1990 Coupe, Black, 160,745 Miles, Sunroof : Hello my name is Jarrod Kemp 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 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/Burgundy Interior. 74,000 miles. Has all possible options. Excellent condition. **\$11,000.** Contact Bill @ **586-574-1137 or 586-383-1137.** Car in Michigan. William Smith, Warren, MI (9/18)

1990 Coupe, Silver W/Grey Leather interior. 186,000 miles, 3800 engine, 2nd owner, always garaged. Lost my storage lease, needs a good home. **\$3,700 OBO,** Contact Steve Erdman @ **507-317-4047, or Reattanut@Frontiernet.net.** Elysian, Minnesota. (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.** (9/18)

1991 Green (only 120 made this color). 140,000 miles. Only two owners. New A/C condenser. Have original books. **\$5,800.** Contact Nelson Van Atta, BCA# 42176. nelsond64@aol.com. **(607)765-4300** Located in Binghamton, NY. (6/18)

1991 Convertible, Red/Tan with Hartz cloth top. CD and 16 way seats. A little over 32K miles and in excellent condition. 394 point gold senior at BCA National Meet in Charlotte. **\$18,700.** Call Ed Farnell **803-360-6806** or email: eafarnell@gmail.com. (3/18)

Classified ads will run for one year (4 issues) and then dropped, unless editor is notified to continue the ad. For those with 12/17 after your ad, please contact me to keep it running.

REATTa PARTS FOR SALE

"Reports have been recently 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."

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.** (6/18)

Lots of Reatta parts from 175 parts cars. Located in a salvage yard in Tucson, AZ. **Call Roger McCrone at 520-977-5463.** (3/18)

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** (3/18)

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.** (3/18)

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.



Reatta Division **Buick Club of America** **Officers & Key Division Positions**

WEB SITE ADDRESS:
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Agibson36@gmail.com

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89reatta@gmail.com

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barney@texas.net



REATTa ROAD EDITOR:

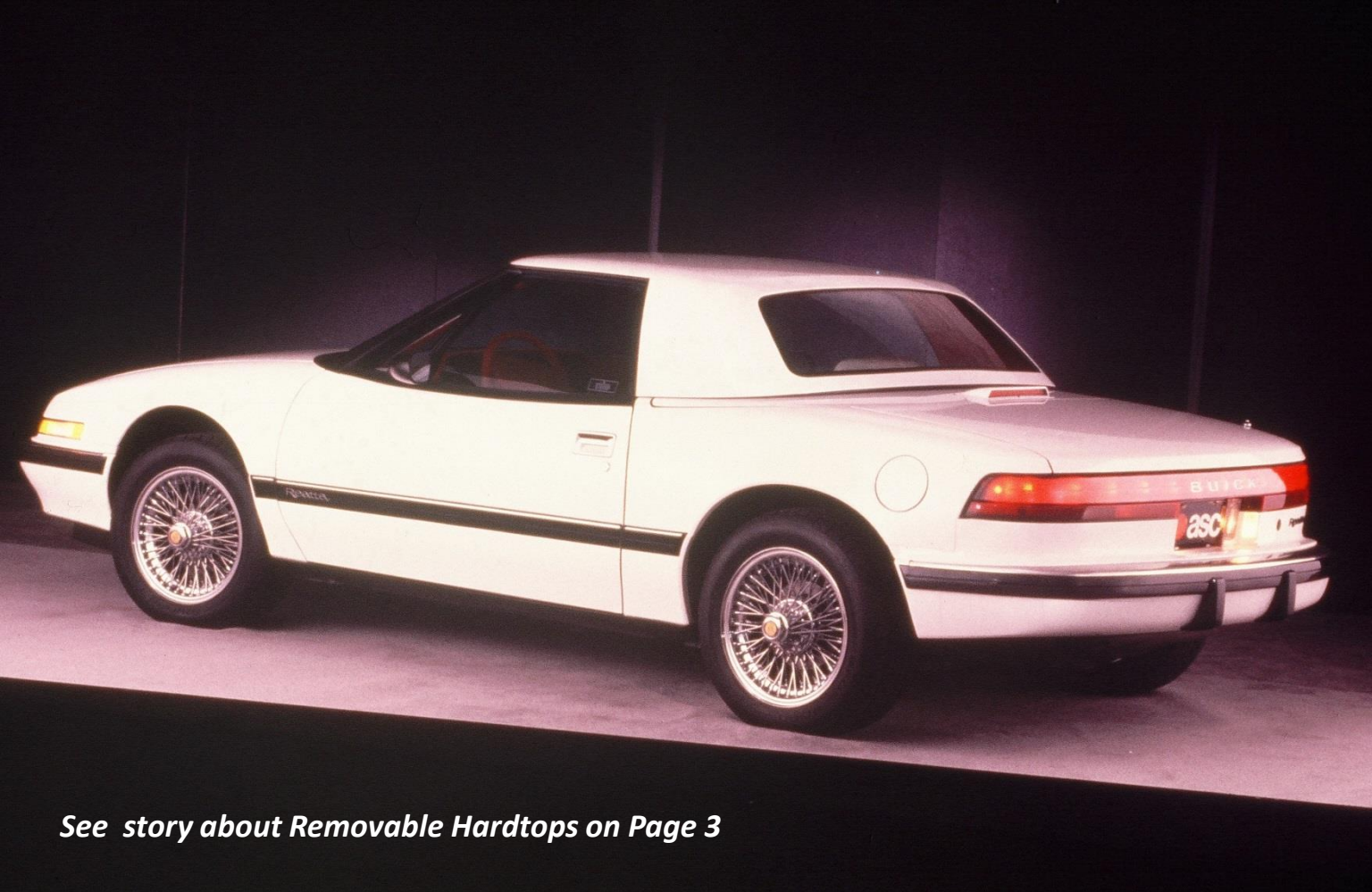
Elizabeth Lane
39 Cockle Hill Road
Salem, CT 06420
buffylane39@sbcglobal.net

LAND'S END STORE FOR MEMORABILIA
https://business.landsend.com/store/reatta

MEMBERS ONLY PASSWORD FOR THE REATTa 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.



See story about Removable Hardtops on Page 3

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, PO BOX 360775, COLUMBUS, OH 43236, BY EMAIL AT: buickcluboffice@aol.com , phone 614-472-3939 or fax 614-472-3222.**

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**