



Reatta



Division Buick Club of America Newsletter

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Fall Edition

2007

Barney Eaton 2007 Bob Peterson Award Winner

This year's Bob Peterson award was presented to a very surprised Barney Eaton. Barney has been a dedicated Reatta owner and Reatta Division member since the earliest stages of our organization.

Barney was just elected to his second term on the Board of Directors of the Buick Club of America, as vice-president.

Over twenty-five years ago he began his campaign to help fellow car enthusiasts to be able to have quality products to enable them to enjoy cars as he has. His experience during the four years his oldest daughter attended Texas A&M is now being utilized by the RDiv members as he answers questions daily on any subject front to back or top to bottom of a Reatta.

His support through the years has supplied our members with reproduction floor mats with logos; plus stick-on logos and replacement grids for the 88-89 floor mats. He located the original vendor for the lumbar seat bladder and had them run a supply just for us. He located the closest possible match to the grey valve stem covers. His latest production has been "BarneyCranks" to replace the bell cranks in the headlight assembly. Additionally, he is reproducing the visor clips for the convertibles.

Barney started the Reatta database in 1996; it now lists approximately one fourth of the production Reattas. The data gathered is surprising us with the percentages and actual numbers of production.

His current project is to convert a list of every Reatta built, from an unusable print-out, to an Excel file on

CD which can be accessed by anyone with a computer. He continues to assist our members answering many questions and giving instructional support.

Barney will be the first to tell you that it's not work when you enjoy doing what you're doing.



Reatta Quiz

This option could be ordered only on certain 1991 coupes and convertibles. Do you know what it was? Answer in Reatta Logo Wear Section.

Reatta Logo Wear

By Carole Madsen



Summer is over and it is time to think about the fall and winter months ahead. New items this fall season include a 7.8-ounce sweatshirt, and a 9-ounce sweatshirt. You can check Reatta.org under logo wear for a photo of the sweatshirt and other logo wear items.

The latest items for the ladies are our sun visors and scoop neck shirts.

Several people have expressed interest in golf shirts and tee shirts with pockets. If you would like a pocket shirt let me know the size and color of the golf shirt and the size of the tee shirt.



I have had several request for blankets. The 100 % polyester fleece stadium blanket is 13-ounce material and measures 50"x 60" in size and is machine washable. The color choices are red, black, maroon, royal blue, dark green, and midnight heather (gray). Script colors are tan and black. It also comes with a strap for easy carrying. The price is \$30.00. The club needs six orders before we can place our order.

Sometimes Reatta Logo Wear items can take a while to receive, because the number of orders



Reatta Quiz

Answer: White wheels on white cars.



placed takes time to accumulate adequate numbers to meet the vendor's quota. You will find an order blank enclosed in this newsletter. If you are interested in any of the above items or have comments or questions, email me at carolemadsen@att.net.



Technical Update

By Barney Eaton, BCA Tech Advisor 1988-1991 Reatta; Vice-President BCA Board

The Reatta was fairly advanced electronically for the time period in which it was built. For that reason, there are probably more electrical problems with the Reatta than the average car of the same period.

I often have calls asking about electrical problems and they are difficult to diagnose long-distance, especially without the owner doing some testing. Most are simple problems, but must be found. The Reatta service manual is almost a must to own,



Reattas waiting to be judged in Bellevue.

and I can often walk an owner through the problem with him following the manual. If you do not own a service manual, there is a 1990 manual on-line at www.reatta.net

I have probably said it before but it also helps if you have some electrical contact cleaner/lube. Think about the environment that your Reatta lives in: temperatures range from sub 0 to the 100's, humidity, dust, vibration. It is a wonder that anything works after 16-18 years. Whenever I work on the car and unplug a connector, I spray it with cleaner/lube before reassembly.

The Reatta and Riviera share many parts including the electronics. Frequently, I hear from owners that a dealer or repair shop can't work on their car because they're so uncommon. Ask them if they

can work on a Riviera, then tell them they are similar.

Last week a non-Reatta friend purchased a 1991 Maui Blue coupe. The first problem we worked on was a non-functioning fuel gauge. It is pretty easy to isolate the problem to the dash or fuel tank. It is a simple matter of disconnecting the electrical connection at the tank and testing the resistance.

In his case it was in the tank and the manual is not a big help: It says, drain the tank and remove straps; we spent 2 hours on those steps. For your info, it appears (after we did something else) that the tank can be drained out the fuel return from the motor. A little air pressure into the fuel line should get the gas running out the return.

The gauge problem was an in-tank sending unit that had brittle contacts. GM was the only source for new parts and you must purchase the entire unit at around \$400 retail. That \$\$ figure gave us a challenge and we were able to repair it for nothing but some time.

One mystery was lots of "stuff" in the gas tank that looked like coffee grounds. There was enough that it could be scooped out with your hand. We don't know the history of the car, so it remains a mystery.



My advice, change your fuel filter. On coupes it is located under the car near your left foot; on convertibles, the filter is closer to the rear wheel.

View From My Workbench The M.I.S. Adventure

By George Madsen, Assistant Director

They did it AGAIN! Ron and April Gill, the people who are solely responsible for the Reatta Homecoming, just put together another great event. Ron claims that April is the driving force behind this dynamic duo, that she is the person who makes the arrangements for the Reatta events they put together. So...credit where credit is due.

In the spring, April contacted officials at the Michigan International Speedway about the possibility of having a group of Reatta Division and potential Reatta Division members driving their cars at MIS. After some negotiations, a rain or shine race date was set. The field of cars was limited to 22 by track officials. April sent emails inviting 22 loyal, hardcore Reatta lovers to join in a day of driving, dining and camaraderie. Some indicated they could not attend and more emails were sent out. Soon the field of 22 was filled.

When race day arrived we gathered in front of the gate of the speedway. Soon we were joined by a track official who conducted a drivers meeting. He laid out the race rules: Cars were allowed to run up to



Reatta Race Team at Michigan International Speedway

70 MPH, no passing, seven laps, and you could switch drivers in the pits at any time. We were then led into the infield. After some time in the hot sun we made our way to the track. What a blast! Carole and I drove, the wide open race track made it seem like we were just poking along. After the starter waived the red flag it was back to the infield where the group gathered for a photo opportunity.

Once everyone had the photos they wanted it was on to the Golden Nugget Restaurant for lunch. Later, most of us drove to Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton. The site is owned by Michigan State University and has some of the rarest and most beautiful plants and flowers you will ever encounter. If you get the opportunity to go there you will not be disappointed.

And AGAIN! After word got out about the great time we had at MIS April was deluged by requests to participate in another similar event. April arranged for another trip to the track; because she did not have 22 participants, several of us were able to double dip. Everyone had a great time at the track. After our race session our group gathered for lunch and a wine tasting at the Sandhill Crane Vineyards in Jackson.

Those of us who participated in either or both of these events, we would like to thank our club's good friend, April Gill, for these great events.

Editor's Notes

By Nancy Eaton

As Mt. Rainier recedes into the cloud cover, we salute another Buick Club of America chapter for a job well done. If you have never been to Seattle, you have missed one of America's treasures. It would take weeks to see all the sights and learn the history of the Northwest. From the Native Americans to the founders of Boeing and Microsoft, to the salmon industry to Mt. St. Helens, it's a never-ending panorama of beauty.

The North Cascade Chapter did their best to show everyone a grand vacation time and also see many fine Buicks, some never shown or judged before. Of the 112 cars judged, I imagine some 85 to 90%



were from Washington and other western states. There were several modifieds so well done you had to look closely to see they were modified. There were not as many Reattas as in past meets, but the ones there were new to most of us. The October Bugle will list the judging results.

Next year's National Meet will be held in Flint, Michigan on July 16-19, 2008. Your input is wanted and needed for what you would like to see done during the meet. There are many things to see and places to go, so let us know your choices..

As previously stated, there will be no 400-point judging, but we can conduct our own Reatta-only judging. This helps everyone to understand what to expect when having your car judged.

The Wingate Hotel has been exclusively reserved for Reatta owners only. Each Reatta owner with a current membership, may reserve one (1) room and must be handled by Kathy Olund, 810-694-9900. Any questions on the Wingate, contact Bob Neumann, 810-655-4202.

Reatta Marketplace - Cars and Parts For Sale

Parts You name it, I should have it. John 810-730-9230

Parts Large inventory. Reasonable prices. Jim jfinn@cpinternet.com

Used Four white rims (16") and hubcaps for a '91 Reatta in decent shape.
\$300.00 plus shipping.
John V. Cavanaugh
3235 Alex Findlay Pl.
Sarasota, FL 34340
john@cavanaughcompany.com

1989 Coupe Burgundy/Burgundy
7,551 original miles. All options except sunroof.
All equipment on vehicle is original except battery, also includes ALL literature and manuals. Please email for photos. \$15,000.00. Possible delivery.
Richard Haggan 970-353-4867 phaggan@comcast.net



Jim Finn judging Reattas in Bellevue.

Reattas set another milestone in August as a 1990 Select Sixty with less than 4,000 miles was auctioned by R. M. Auctions. We'll see if this sale at \$28,000, plus a 13% buyer's premium, brings a greater interest in the Reatta market. Quite a few of the Select Sixties have been stashed away and only driven occasionally by dealers who have coveted these special Reattas they were awarded by General Motors. Eighteen years later these dealers are retiring, selling their dealerships and some have passed on. As a result, the collector car world is starting to see these and other low-mileage Reattas come on the market, and, in many cases, at a premium price.

If you have been following the Reatta Marketplace, you have probably noted these well maintained cars: 90 Driftwood convertible (17,400 miles), 91 Polo Green coupe (less than 7,000 miles) and several others with less than 50,000 miles. This may be the time to start narrowing down your search for your "Dream Reatta". Or you may want to settle for the other Select Sixty prize, the die-cast pewter replica. They are not quite as expensive, and they are much easier to maintain. One sold in August on Ebay for over \$400.

Have you logged on to the Reatta web site lately? It has a new look, try it. www.reatta.org The 'Members' Rides' page is to be updated. Please submit your photo via email in PDF format to reatta@texas.net Don't forget your name and RDiv #.

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Membership and Division Information

Reatta Division membership dues are \$10.00 per year. Membership is for a twelve month period.

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

Please make checks payable to: Reatta Division, BCA.

Send all dues payments and address changes (please write your RDiv# on your check) to:

Secretary/Treasurer, Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Road, Blythewood, SC 29016.

All Reatta Division members are required to be members of the national organization, the Buick Club of America, of which we are an authorized division. Please note that a blue highlighter mark on the BCA number on your mailing label means that you are not a current member of the Buick Club of America. BCA dues are due or overdue or you never became a member of the BCA, in which case a BCA membership form is enclosed. In order to continue receiving the Reatta Division newsletter, your BCA membership status needs to be current. The national organization can be contacted as follows: Buick Club of America, P O Box 360775, Columbus, OH 43236 or by email at bcaoffice@buickclub.org

Please send classified ads and newsletter submissions to:

Newsletter Editor, Nancy Eaton, 20111 Deerfield Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628 email reactta@texas.net

Reatta Division meeting dates: We normally meet once a year at the BCA National Meet.