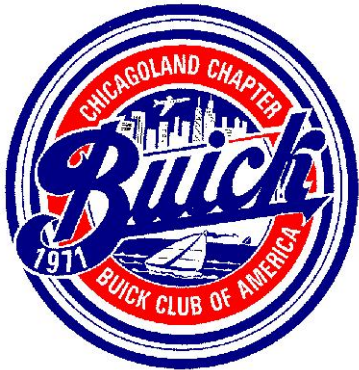


CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER B.C.A.

P.O. BOX 6660

VILLA PARK, IL 60181-6660



September 2011 Issue

OKTOBERFEST DINNER — October 15th

No meeting October 5th—see you October 15th at the dinner meeting

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER, BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Monthly Meeting—except January

The first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
at the **VILLA PARK MASONIC LODGE, 26 W.
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www.buickclub.org

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER WEBSITE ADDRESS

NEW—www.chicagolandbca.org

Chicagoland Chapter OFFICERS—elected positions

Director Jim Bloomstrand 847-359-6082 buicktruck@msn.com
Asst. Director Steve Kelly 847-464-1301 skelly48@comcast.net
Secretary Carol Lusskey 847-888-3170 SARbuddy@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer Rick Schick 630-904-1950 buickman@wideopenwest.com
Regional Director Steve Ledger 847-487-5340 buickbullitt@netzero.net

Appointed Positions

Newsletter Editor Robert Bezingue 630-231-0868 (*see address at right*)
Newsletter Advertising: Darryl Powell 219-926-4459 dryl-powell@yahoo.com
Web Master Rick Schick 630-904-1950 buickman@wideopenwest.com
Activities Chairperson: Jim Bloomstrand 847-359-6082 buicktruck@msn.com
Historian: Ted Barkei 630-983-9899

Regional Director: Steve Ledger 847-487-5340

Car Shows: Jim Bloomstrand Don Adams Rick Schick

Signage: Steve Kelly 847-464-1301 skelly48@comcast.net

Technical Advisors: 1929 Joe Petrik 630-325-5530

1950 Jerry Michalek 630-231-0679

1954 Skylark, 1956 Art Lostumo Jr. 847-455-9119

1957 Steve Kelly 847-464-1301

The FIREBALL FLASH is published monthly by the Chicagoland Chapter, Buick Club of America, Inc., a nonprofit corporation solely for the use and enjoyment of its members and to present a forum for the communication of Chapter and Regional news, as well as the personal stories of the staff and contributors. The Chicagoland Chapter does not endorse or warrant opinions or information contributed by any individual.



September 2011 Director's Notes

Many of us attended the 2011 Heartland Regional in Reedsburg, WI. I'm sure some of us found our way to the Circus World Museum or the Badger Steam and Gas show. Find out more about the meet at our September 7th meeting.

Hopefully the really hot weather is over, so more of our members will be able to make the upcoming shows. Several outstanding shows to consider are the Geneva Concours on August 28th, The Cantigny Show on September 18th and our annual Marquardt Show on Sunday September 25th. Check the calendar for events.

I am planning a fall tour along the I & M Canal down to LaSalle on October 29th which is the weekend after the GS Nationals. Ride on a Canalboat pulled by a mule, eat in the LaSalle area, and tour the area. Find out more about this tour at the September meeting or give me a call so I will know how many plan on attending.

I want to thank Steve Kelly for picking up the ice cream that we enjoyed at our August meeting.

Until next time,

Jim Bloomstrand

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Events Calendar

AUGUST

August 28—Geneva Concours

SEPTEMBER

September 7- Chapter Meeting at the Lodge

September 8-10- AACA National Meet, Oakbrook

September 12- McHenry: Green St & Route 120

September 18- 4th Annual Historic Route 66 show

September 18- Cantigny Museum and Gardens Car show—9am to 3pm. Robert McCormick Museum & Estate, 1S151 Winfield Road , Wheaton, IL
For more show information, contact Brian Gray at 630.260.8167 or email at bgray@cantigny.org.

Registration is Limited to 400 Cars

Registration opens 7 AM and closes at noon

Pre-Registration Fee: \$12

Registration at the Gate: \$15

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September 25- Marquardt Car Show in Barrington- see flyer in this issue

Events Calendar

OCTOBER

October 1- Upstate Illinois Show— contact: Gary Underwood
2404 So. Simmons Rd
Stockton IL 61085
815-947-9110

October 15- Oktoberfest — Bohemian Garden—980W 75th St., Downers Grove, IL Starts at 4 PM Cost is \$5 per member or \$5 fpr spouse. Non—members pay the full price.

Contact Jim Bloomstrand 847-359-6082
buicktruck@msn.com

October 8-9- Hunnert Car Pile-up — Grundy County Fairgrounds

October ?? Chicagoland Chapter Oktoberfest- Time and date to be announced. Do you have a suggestion?

Contact Jim Bloomstrand 847-359-6082
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October 19-22- GS Nationals

October 29- Fall tour to I & M Canal



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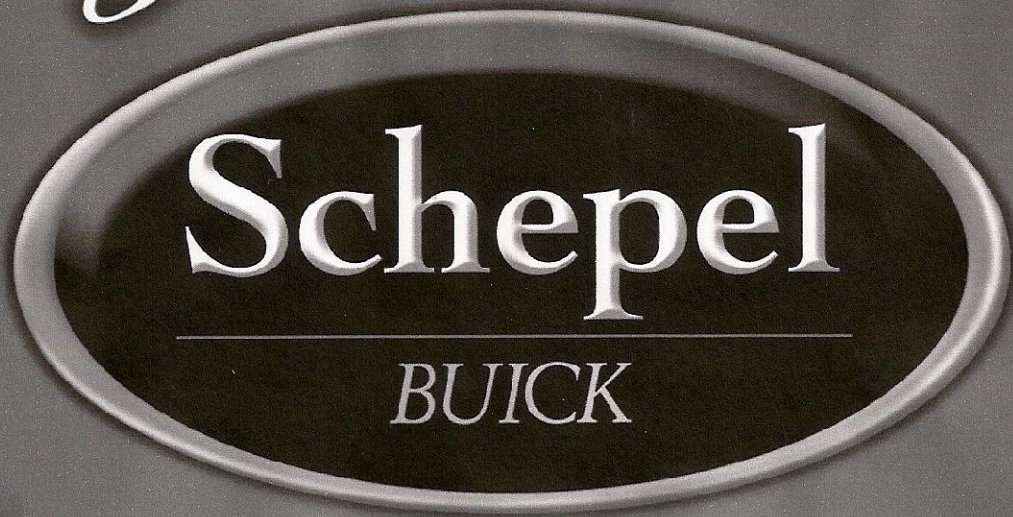
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Chapter VIII, Living Machines

From the book, NANETTE, by Edwards Park
W.W. Norton & Co., N.Y publisher 1977

The following excerpt was suggested by long-time member Larry "the Senator" Driscoll. It is from a great book about pilots in WWII. The book was given to him by a friend. Larry thought our members would be interested in this particular chapter.....

I was brought up with a Buick named Bella. She was almost exactly the same age as I was, but matured faster, as cars do, so that I never learned to drive her except to rumble jerkily around the yard once in a while. She grew to be a great lady, beautiful and still rakish in her old age, dignified yet forgiving, above all devoted to our family. She was dark green, a touring car with her black top usually down because we only drove her in the summers. She had black leatherette seats that got hot when she was parked in the sun and picked up pine needles when we left her in the shade. One of my brothers painted a thin blue line around her tonneau, coming to within an inch of the tops of her doors, and on each door the line curled into a little design that framed our initials—my sister's, my two brothers', and my own.

No one had to put my Mother's and Dad's initials on Bella because she was unquestionably theirs anyway. It was my mother who brushed the pine needles off the seats and loaded her with belongings for the trip from Boston up to New Hampshire in June and back to Boston in September. It was my father who best understood her six thunder-

ing great cylinders and who would grit his teeth in shared effort as he worked her up to forty-five miles an hour in order to take a hill on high—celebrating success by kicking the muffler cutout so that she blatted in triumph as she cleared the crest.

Bella got old and ill finally, and my father wrestled with his emotions and decided to sell her to Dyer Brown, the garageman who knew her as well as we did. We didn't want it to happen, but we couldn't see a way out.

But Bella could. When Dyer drove up to our place to get her, she died. She was driving up from the barn, and abruptly she stopped—a massive fracture of an integral part.

Dyer Brown understood completely. He surveyed the relic in the driveway, looked at my father oddly and said, "Bruk her Goddamn heart."

Heart, maybe. But not her soul. A couple of years later one of my older brothers came home from learning to fly in the marines—this was the depression, and no kid just out of Yale with a BS in engineering could hope to get a job, so a lot went into the services to get in on the glamour and good pay of aviation—and he went down to the graveyard behind the barn and kicked thoughtfully at Bella's gently rotting corpse and said, "Come on, we're going to take the engine out."

(TO BE
CONTINUED)



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**Tour to REEDSBURG, WI for the
HEARTLAND REGIONAL**
By Steve Ledger. Photos by Barb Carroll

On Thursday August 18th, 18 members of the Chicago-land Chapter BCA in 9 Buicks ranging in models from a 1962 to a 1985 met in Richmond, Illinois for a leisurely drive to Reedsburg.

As is the case with the Buick people, food is most important and this tour was no exception. We stopped in Cambridge, Wisconsin at The Mill restaurant for a wonderful lunch. From there, it was a pleasant trip, up Route 12, through Madison, Baraboo and finally Reedsburg, which is home to The Culver's restaurant chain. Thursday evening the Chicago-land Chapter had their annual dinner. This year, we had 28 people at The Chapparral Steak House located 10 miles in the country.

The Rock Valley Chapter arranged various tours to local points of interest and there was something for everyone. Saturday we woke up to rain which isn't unusual for a Buick Show. The weather cleared allowing the 400 point judging to

The tour group stopped at the Chapparral Steak House



begin.

Saturday afternoon, the new Regional Director Fred Pennings, held the annual Regional meeting. Saturday evening, the host hotel held the banquet for more than 100 people and the food was excellent. Rick Schick and Alan Oldfield were co-chief judges and the awards presentation moved very smoothly.

-Steve



The CCBCA members at the Chapparral table

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REEDSBURG HEARTLAND REGIONAL TOUR—continued



At left, we see the Chicagoland group assembled together. Note—everyone is smiling! Below is another view of the tour cars. Blue summer skies made for a lovely day.

