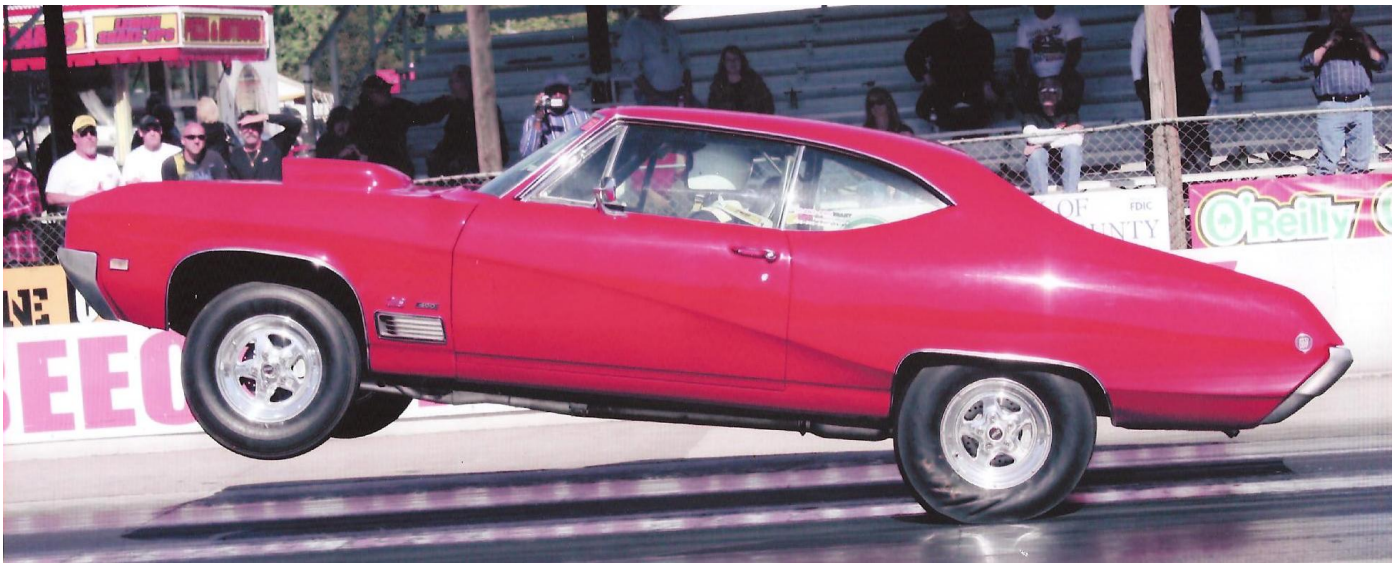


# FAST TIMES

## CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER BUICK GSCA

Volume: 17 Issue: 2 Summer 2011 Chapter of the **Gran Sport Club of America**; 625 Pine Point Circle; Valdosta, GA 31602 912-244-0577



Mike Zafino's 1968 GS 400 at Bowling Green

My interest in Buick's started when I was in high school. My father did mechanical work out of our garage. Occasionally he worked on this 1972 Skylark 350 - 2BL Carb with a 350 trans, factory buckets seats, console & ¾ vinyl top. I always drooled when the car was at the house. I made it a point to tell my father that if it was ever 4-sale, I wanted to buy it. 1 year after high school, Jerry the owner of this awesome car decided that he would sell it, but only to someone who would take care of it, and that someone was ME. This was my first real (sort of) muscle car, minus some muscle.

While driving thru our neighborhood, I spotted a 1970 STG 1 4-speed sitting in a driveway. I found out it had a blown motor, I purchased the car & because the Skylark was rusting so badly that I sold it, and put that money into a Real Muscle Car. I kept it a street car and did numerous upgrades, got a show quality paint job, even had GSX Stripes put on it. I raced it occasionally running 11:40 at 3800 lbs, all steel, including bumpers & rims. Of course, I wanted to go faster and not willing to chop up a Stage 1 4-speed, I sold it for a 1968 GS

400, red with a black vinyl top, best pass 11:09 @ 119ish (not my current car).

My interest changed to a 1987 GN New from Bauer Buick. In 1988, it was the most fun I ever had with a car. Every performance vehicle on the road tested the little V-6. Every Friday & Saturday night, no matter where we were, someone wanted to race, even my wife Robbin would partake in the fun, it was all street light to street light racing. After an evening out & heading home, 2 old ladies (not from Pasadena) ran the red light and wiped out the left side of the car. Cursed with a slow reaction time made me cry, even the police officers had tears in their eyes when they seen it was a GN. We sold it after it was fixed (big mistake) and moved onto 87- Cutlass 442 to a 2 door Chevy Lumina, not sure of that one. It didn't last long and I was back to a 1985 T-Type, then a 87GN, then a 70 GS 455 another 87GN and then to a 1968 GS 400 which is my current car

Continued on page 3

Please volunteer to help our Chapter Officer

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the GS Club of America, the Chicagoland Chapter of the GSCA, or any of the officers of these automotive enthusiast clubs.

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**Membership Policy & Dues**

The Chicagoland Chapter of the Buick GSCA is open to all Buick enthusiasts and owners of Buick powered cars. Membership is \$20 per year, and includes a quarterly newsletter and much more. Apply online at the chapter web site or send dues with check made out to CCGSCA with membership form to:

Shari Bonecutter – Membership Chairman  
Chicagoland Chapter GSCA  
4010 Raymond Avenue  
Brookfield, IL 60513-1846

**Chapter Web Page**

<http://www.chicagolandbuick.org>

**Member's Change of Address**

Chicagoland members who move are requested to notify our membership chairman before the next newsletter mailing. We do not want you to miss a single edition of your newsletter. Please notify us of e-mail address changes as soon as you change providers.

**Membership Renewal**

Please check the label on your newsletter. If your membership is up in January, June will be your last newsletter. Obtain an application from the website or past issue, and mail to 4010 Raymond Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513, along with a check for \$20 made out to "CCGSCA." Please don't let your membership lapse, for too long.

**Volunteers for the Chapter**

Contact Bob Nunes if you are interested in helping our Chapter continue exchange ideas, gathering local car show and cruise night information or plan activities for our members. Fresh ideas are needed to keep the Club exciting. Distributing the work among many volunteers makes it easy for all. The tasks do not take much of your time, and you will always have plenty of help, while hopefully having fun.

**Upcoming Events**

- Jan 22 – Meeting at Casper's Electronics – Lake Zurich
- Jan 28 – CCGSCA Christmas Party – Countryside, IL
- Feb 11 – Meeting at The Parts Place – Dekalb, IL
- Feb 26 – BOPC Swap Meet at Kane County Fairgrounds
- Feb 25 & 26 – Drag Race & Perf. Expo at Pheasant Run
- Mar 11 – Chili Cook-off at Darien Park District
- May 2 – 5: Turbobuick.com Nationals Burlington, NC
- Jun 15 – 17 Buick Race Day – Norwalk, OH
- Aug 3 & 4 – BPC Nationals – Hebron, OH
- Oct 10 thru 13 – GS Nationals – Bowling Green, KY

Continued from Page 1 For years I raced at Bowling Green in the GS Pro class which was heads up racing. For a few years I was very competitive but then Warren Heap stepped up his game substantially & left everyone ½ second behind. I'm still racing and working on that ½ second behind.

So enough rambling about the past, here's the specs on my current car:

Stock Block 4.350 bore, stock crank 4.150 offset ground, CID comes in @ 492, track eliminator hi port heads ported, offset intake port, T& D pedestal rockers with 3/8 Manley push rods. Carb is Pro Systems 1200, intake - Kenny bell wild cat Dominator, Cam is motion Roller 710 lift intake, 680 exhaust, duration @ .050 - 276,282 with 108

LS compression 14-1 gas ported pistons, grp aluminum rods, coated main rod & cam bearings. Coan 9" 5600 stall, 350 trans modified to accept all Torrington bearings, 300m input shaft, aluminum direct drum with 36 element sprag, trans brake (rarely) use it. Chromoly drive shaft, 1350 joints, 12 bolt 4/410 gear, Moser 33 splined axles. Tubes welded & braces secure outer

tubes to center. Stock located suspension (front & rear), rear anti-roll bar, QA1 rear 12 ways, morose Front springs, Calvert racing shocks, aerospace disc's on all, weld pro stars w/295 10.5 Mickey Thompson stiff sidewalls, glass bumpers & Stg 2 hood. Weight of car with driver 3440. Best pass 9.42 @ 141.50, 60ft rages 134-136, need to improve that! Car was white then painted red 4 years ago by Frank Moore from Cedar Lake, Ind.

I feel this combo is pretty durable & some of this success goes to Tim Merchant from Performance MotorSports from Sandwich, IL. Tim is a very meticulous machinist, he stays up to date with technology, he even built his own in house Dyno which some day I hope to occupy.

I have to say that if it wasn't for the Buick community both local & nationally, I would probably be racing a different brand of car. The long time friends we have made since the 1985 era, the kindness and the comradely keeps me loyal to Buicks... Going fast with Class.... Mike Zafino



Slightly fuzzy, but you get the point Mike likes wheelstands

Directors Garage Loyd Bonecutter  
The slightly fuzzy picture above is from late Saturday at the 2011 Midwest Buick Challenge. Here Mike Zafino, and Jeff "Wild" Strickle are performing side by side wheelstands for our members to the amazement of the track staff.

Here we are a couple of weeks before the start of winter, in relatively warm weather waiting for the hammer to drop. Cars are put away with winter projects planned, but waiting

for a quiet time to start, unfortunately the work that pays the bills has gotten very busy interfering with my fun work.

For those of you who missed our meeting. at VFN Fiberglass in Addison (630-543-0232) missed a very gracious host who gave us a great tour of his facility and processes, plus had fiberglass pieces out for many of our cars. The mold warehouse is quite impressive and explains the quick turn around of parts after ordering except during the busy season.

When you are ready to lighten the load to go quicker down the track give these guys a call.

The fall GS Nationals this year met with unusually cooler weather in the middle of two quite warm weeks. Wednesday had a very stiff wind from the west and just enough sprinkles to keep the racers away. Lots of folks to visit so ignored the weather and had fun. Thursday purchased a tarp to cover the west wall of the tent to keep the wind at bay, the rain subsided and racing commenced, what a great day at the track. With the cool weather in spite of the head wind a lot of records were broken. On Friday the car show judging went great with most of us done early enough to enjoy the rest of the much warmer day with less wind. Saturday started out with frost on everything, but turned out to be a perfect day for racing and enjoying the folks we go down every year to see.

We have just started putting together our event calendar for 2012. If there is any improvement in the economy and fuel prices do not take a turn for the worse, this should prove a

great year to enjoy your Buick. We really appreciate our members coming out to support our chapter. We are blessed with so many places that open their doors for our members.

Hope to see you at multiple events in the coming year.

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Rich Diaz continues to support our Chapter

Take a look at the Club Membership Discount Rally Insurance is offering, give Ellen or Lars a copy of your membership card when renewing your classic car insurance.

### Membership Scribblings

Shari Bonecutter

Season's Greetings! As I'm typing this, our cold weather is starting to settle in. Fortunately Loyd was able to get the outside Christmas decorations up while it was a tad warmer over thanksgiving weekend. Now it's time to start on the indoors, after the newsletter is done!

Fall was pretty busy for Loyd and I, traveling to different Buick events. In September, we tried for the second time to go to the Northeast Chapter's event, racing and a car show in Cecil Co., MD. Again, we were just going to watch, no towing through the mountains. And again the entire event got rained out! This happened to us two years ago, and it was the first time they had to cancel the entire event. So we're thinking they will tell us to stay home in the future! We all hung around the hotel for a couple of days, and went to the Baltimore Aquarium for an afternoon. I want to thank John and Nancy Csordas for being such gracious hosts, and scoping out stuff for us to do. And thanks to Doug, Cathy, and Phil for the good company!

October was super-busy. The club hosted it's last official race of the season the first weekend of the month. The weather gods smiled on us, and we were able to get a good group together. Thanks to Dave Leonhart for the awesome doughnuts, and thanks to Dan Rocco, Joe Garcia and Dan's wife, Debbie for getting the food and cooking it for a late lunch for all of us. Somehow Joe was able to keep track of the racers, and race himself! He does a great job of it. Paul

Brelie was able to hang on to the title this year – congrats to him for coming in first place, and congrats to all who raced!

The second weekend was the B-O-P race in Cordova, IL. This is one of our favorite race spots and at this time of year, it's a very cool ride. The trees are usually starting to change, so driving to the Mississippi River area is somewhat scenic. Unfortunately, it's not Loyd's "lucky" track – I'm not sure that he's ever completed a race here. This year was no exception – he thought his alternator crapped out so it was on the trailer after one pass. Most of our guys did ok, although Buick did not win. And then there's Joe "Cool" Eichendorf, who blew up his engine. Fortunately Loyd's car was not an alternator and turned out to be an easy fix, so Joe got towed home. Maybe at the Christmas party, we'll tell you the rest of the story!

Then came the GS Nats in Bowling Green, KY. In 2010, we had awesome weather for this event; not so much for 2011. Wednesday it rained; Thursday it was COLD but we did manage to sell tee-shirts. Friday was warmer and sunny, so the car show went well. And they were able to race both days, since it didn't rain. I think Denise Plencner was hot lapping... Saturday was even warmer, to they got in all the racing and the bracket racing. We pretty much sold out of our tee-shirt by later Friday, except for a few larger sizes. I want to thank Steve Iedger and Steve Kelly for their help with the tent and running the judging part of the car show. Mark and Barb Holda were troopers, too. Barb was my right-hand person this week! Flo Woodmancy and Bonnie

Calef did a great job of running the tent, too. We could not have done it without your help – we sold out of teeshirts later that day! Best of all, we got to visit with many of our out-of-town friends. I heard a lot of folks complain about the cold, and say they weren't coming back next year if it's in October, again. We'll see what happens, since it'd been announced that the dates next year are October 10-13, 2012. I know Loyd and I will be there.

Our tech session in November was pretty well-attended. This was at VFN Fiberglass. The guys there gave a fantastic tour of the facility, even pulling out all their Buick stock for us to see. They were very hospitable to our members. I want to thank Linda and Paul Brelie for their help with setting up the food for lunch, and helping Loyd with the coffee pot. You guys were a big help!

So we have a few tech sessions scheduled for over winter. January will be at Casper's; Sunday, January 22, to be exact. This will again feature Jimmy's Transmissions, along with a cast of who's-who in the turbo world. Aside from being at Casper's facility and seeing all that they have to offer, I've heard that Cal Hartline and Paul Ferry will be there. Those two are confirmed, and we're waiting to hear from a few others. Please look for the flier elsewhere in the newsletter, and please remember to bring your own chairs!

The next Saturday, January 28th, is our Christmas Party. The party starts at 6:00 pm, with dinner served at 7. Midnight Mike will be providing our music once again – and will take requests, so be prepared. I heard that we might have another paper airplane fight/contest again – maybe for a prize this year! And I've already started getting raffle prizes – not as many as last year, so it won't go on for as long, I promise! Please please please RSVP to me at either [sharib@chicagolandbuick.org](mailto:sharib@chicagolandbuick.org) or at 708-485-8477. I REALLY NEED A HEAD COUNT!! Don't just assume that I will know that you are coming – if I don't hear from you, I'm not including you in the count and there might not be a place for you to sit or eat. So please let me know by January 21st at the latest! The cost will once again be \$10 each for a member, and \$10 for their first guest. \$20 a person will be charged for more than one guest, or for a non-member. And yes, you can re-new that night at the party. We also have a block of rooms across the street at the Best Western. Please see the flier for this information. I hope to see many of you there!

February might be at The Parts Place, which is in DeKalb, IL. I know this is a bit of a hike for most of you, but what else do you have to do on a February day? I'm sure we'll

see a cool bunch of stuff, get to bench race with our fellow Buick buddies, and eat some good grunts.

February 26th is the Buick-Oldsmobile-Pontiac-Cadillac Swap Meet at Kane County Fairgrounds, St. Charles, IL. This was a new venue for us last year and it was a nice place, until the power cut out! We'll be there with our club table, and I'm sure some of you will be vending. Please see flier elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sunday, March 11 is our usual chili contest, being held in Darien, IL at the Park District. I'm pretty sure that we can get Mike Phillips up here for a q-and-a session, and maybe another surprise – we'll have to see. Paul Dubois will be giving up the traveling chef's hat award – maybe and we'll have some gift cards for the winners. Please bring a slow cooker of your best chili, and prepare to wow the rest of us! Bowls, spoons, sour cream, and shredded cheese will be provided.

Member News – I want to congratulate Larry and Bonnie Calef on their marriage in October. They make such a cute couple, I was very happy to hear this. I don't think I have any bad news this time – thank goodness!

I want to welcome the following new members: Andy Felle, South Milwaukee, WI; Kevin Holder, Byron, IL; Steven Stults, Rockford, IL; and David Scott, Morganton, NC. Welcome back to Larry Calef, Galva, IL; Benny Galvan, Chicago, IL; Dennis Kann, Chana, IL; Brad & Jamie McCumber, Linden, IN; and Deborah Novotny, Orland Park, IL. Something you all might not know – you can use your membership card towards a 10% discount on collector insurance from Rally Insurance Group. You can find their ad towards the back of the newsletter. Thanks to all for joining!

And one last thing to make note of – a lot of the dates of the Buick events have changed this year. Buick Race Day in Norwalk, OH has changed to June 15-17, 2012. This was the earliest date that the track would give them! The BPG at National Trail, near Columbus, OH has been shortened to a 2-day event, with Sunday as a rain date if necessary. The dates are August 3 & 4, 2012. And lastly – the dates for the GSCA Nationals in Bowling Green, KY are October 10-13, 2012.

So I think that's about it from me. Please think about helping us out at something this coming year. We can always use more volunteers! Or if you have a venue you'd like us to check out or an event, please let one of us know. We're pretty open. Have a great winter, everyone! I hope that you get all the work on your cars accomplished!

Thanks to all of you who volunteered for Friday's Car Show at the GSCA Nationals.



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- Accumulator. \$20
- Mounting bracket. \$5
- Engine fan with newer fan clutch.
- Downpipe. \$40
- Ignition coil pack. \$40
- Rear bumper shock. \$10
- Quarter panel "limited" emblem. \$2
- 6 green stripe fuel injectors. \$100

Please email me at [bd1320on11@gmail.com](mailto:bd1320on11@gmail.com) – Bruce