

**Buick Club of America
General Membership Meeting Minutes
1998 BCA National Meet
Danvers, Massachusetts**

The meeting called to order at 8:15 PM. by President Eichelberger.

President Eichelberger introduced the Minute Man Chapter members, the hosts of the 1998 National Meet. He introduced Meet Chairman Dave Buckman who welcomed everyone to the National Meet.

The President introduced the Board members.

Three retiring Board members were recognized for their contributions to the BCA. These were Board members: Carol Derbin, Richard Bury, and Terry Dunham. Each was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Presentation by Bill Anderson:

Bill Anderson gave a financial report which gave an overview of the BCA budget and illustrated how dues dollars are spent. The charts presented at the meeting are attached to this document. Bill next introduced the surveys that have been done and showed some of the data which gives an idea where the BCA is and where it should be going based on the responses received. There were three surveys done: a chapter director survey, a bench mark survey distributed to other marque clubs, and the membership survey which was included in the Bugle. A summary of the data will be published in the August '98 *Bugle*

The vision, the mission and the strategic goals for the BCA were presented. Bill listed what the administration and services for the club should be. This data was based on the survey responses.

Bill Anderson illustrated the new proposed budget for the BCA for the next year.

President Eichelberger introduced the new Board members, Jack Jones, Ken Liska, Rich Gibbs, and Bugle Editor Chuck Koch, and Office Manager Val Ingram to the members.

Technical Advisors plan

The survey by Bill Anderson rated the area of Technical advisors as one of the most wanted items by the members. This is a proposal for implementation in FY 1999. It is not intended for discussion at this time by the Board, but to be looked over for comment at the next meeting in July 1998.

Models, years, cars, to be covered:

The selection of the years, cars, models, to be covered will need to be determined by the person's expertise. As a database is set up, a listing can be done. Example: we might have a person who will cover years 1957-58 and a different person who will cover the Reatta's .

Selection of advisors:

I am recommending that two people select the advisors. Each candidate that is applying for a tech advisor position will present a list of their qualifications to the two people doing the selections. I am recommending we provide a standard form to be filled out by anyone who is applying to make the data entry into a database easier. This form will be simple and easy to fill out. Some of the members who are doing the "Fact sheets" may wish to be tech advisors. A request for advisors will be advertised in the Bugle. Each advisor will fill the position for two years, which can be renewed, or a new person appointed as the need comes up. The two people making the selection will be responsible for approval of each advisor.

What the advisors should provide:

The advisors should be able to provide any technical advice based on Buick factory literature or the knowledge they have gained from doing restorations. I am recommending that each advisor write a technical article for the *Bugle* covering some aspect of cars they represent. This should not "cover all parts of the car", but a selected subject, such as: paint codes. I have discussed this with Chuck Koch, and he will print all technical articles he receives.

Contacting the advisors:

It should be up to the individual advisor as to how they are contacted. Contacts could be by mail, fax, email, phone, or all. I have contacted Chuck Koch about publishing a list of the advisors in the *Bugle*. He is willing to do this when we have a list and will adjust the layout for the listing as required. This listing should contain all information on how to contact each advisor and what is needed to do so, such as self addressed envelopes etc.

The Web page:

We are seeing more requests for information on the BCA web page. Many of these could be answered by the advisors and will need to be addressed.

Advisors Profiles:

I would like to have each Technical Advisor write a short profile of their accomplishments, including, what cars they have and other details of interest. This information would be published in the *Bugle*.

Future needs:

As we set up the program we should consider adding a new budget item for covering the mailing costs for the advisors.

Getting this started:

This plan was approved at the Board meeting in Michigan. I will be heading up the program for the start. The BCA chief judge is to be the second person to help select the advisors. The two people that do the selection will keep this position for a three-year term, subject to renewal as the Board wishes.

Technical Advisor plan summary

1. Board appoints two people to select the advisors. (Three year appointment) Done.
2. Advertise in the *Bugle* for volunteers.
3. Send out a form to be filled in and returned by each candidate.
4. Enter the information from each form in a database.
5. Select the advisors and publish the list in the *Bugle*. Note how they wish to be contacted.
6. Request for articles from each advisor to be published in the *Bugle*.
7. Request profiles from each advisor to be published in the *Bugle*.

Bill Schoening schoen@noao.edu

**The Buick Archive and Foundation:
Presentation by Terry Dunham**

Terry expressed his thanks to BCA Foundation President Bill Anderson for all the work he has done in helping establish and promote the foundation. Terry gave an overview of the Buick move discussed what will happen to all of Buick's Historical Records when the Buick administrative team moves to Detroit's Renaissance Center in November 1998. No Historical Records will be restored. Those documents not retained by Buick will be housed at the Sloan Museum as part of the Buick Gallery at the Sloan Museum. The Buick Gallery has no direct connection with the BCA Foundation, although the Foundation expects to support its activities in many ways.

Terry discussed the Foundations founding and history. In addition, he stated that the Foundation had been granted provisional IRS Code 501C3 status as a charitable foundation which can accept donations while providing a tax deduction to the donor. The Foundation will have control of any items donated. The present officers for the BCA Foundation are:

Chairman of the BCA Foundation Board: Terry Dunham
President, Bill Anderson,
Vice President, Al Eichelberger
Treasurer/ Secretary, Roberta Vasilow

These officers will remain in effect until an election for BCA Foundation Board members is held in 1999. All members of the BCA are automatically members of the Foundation. Fund raising has begun.

**BCA Technical Advisor program:
Presentation by Bill Schoening**

A plan was presented to get a tech advisor program started for the BCA. This program will begin this fall. The outline of the plan, as presented at the meeting, is attached. Bill requested that members who feel they have the qualifications to be a Tech advisor for a year or car model contact him and fill out a form for the database. There were a number of responses from those attending the meet.

Questions and comments from the members:

Due to the setup of the meeting room, the secretary's back was to the audience. Comments from the floor are recorded below. However, names have been omitted, as I am unable to record each comment by name. Many of these comments and suggestions will be considered by the Board at future meetings.

The BCA needs to encourage more women members to participate in the judging process.

Can items donated to the Sloan museum be sold by the Sloan Museum? It was noted that yes they could be if given to the Sloan. Items donated to the BCA Foundation could be loaned to any facility for display, but would remain under the control of the Foundation.

What is being done to attract younger members to the club? Board member Ron DeGroff noted that he is chairing a subcommittee of the Board to explore ways in which younger members can be encouraged to join the BCA. More information on this topic will be coming in the future.

How can chapters and individual BCA members assist in attracting new members to the BCA?

The suggestions was made to contact the local dealers and let them know about your chapter. Provide them with a contact person that to whom they can refer Buick owners. Contact the Dealer Ad groups in your area. Get to know the local zone officer and put him/her on your mailing list. Invite local dealer(s) and zone officials to your events.

The BuickTown Chapter has been having raffles to help raise funds for the Foundation. Putting a chapter web site on the BCA web site is one way to increase the chapter's visibility. The North Texas chapter is selling mouse pads (for computers) to raise funds and help promote the BCA.

Pete Phillips asked for clarification on the radial tire issue in judging. President Eichelberger asked Chairman of Judges Training, Rick Schick, to explain the revised policy to those present. Rick explained the current policy clearly and concisely.

Some members expressed some concerns were expressed about how non-working items were being handled in the prequalification check. Rick explained that owners were given time to return to the field and fix malfunctioning horns, lights etc and then could bring their car back through the prequalification check. Items repaired to working order should receive no deduction.

Wray Kniffen, the Finger Lakes Chapter member who coordinates the BCA booth at Hershey, reminded members to stop by the tent. Wray also requested additional volunteers to help man the tent. On behalf of the BCA Board, President Eichelberger thanked Wray and the Finger Lakes chapter members for their work making the BCA tent at Hershey such a phenomenal success.

Judy Leets thanked the Minute Man chapter and the BCA for including the wives in events. She also expressed her thanks to the BCA Board for seriously using member suggestions via the membership survey, the road board meetings and the general membership meetings as the board sets policy for the BCA.

Bruce Kile gave a short update on Mick and Sharon Whiting from Australia. They were unable to attend the meet this year.

Carol Derbin announced the Chapter Director forum to occur on Friday morning.

Keith Horsfall mentioned he put an ad about the BCA in the papers in his area and had a number of responses.

Debby Sweeney would like to board to take steps to clarify the issues pertaining to joint membership in the BCA for spouses.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Schoening
Secretary 1997-98