

BCA General Membership Meeting
Thursday, July 12, 2001
Buffalo, New York

Board members present: Jeff Brashares; Bob Leets; Pete Phillips; Roberta Vasilow; Ken Liska; Jack Jones; Cecil Don; Bill Schoening

Others present: See attached list

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Brashares at 7 p.m. Outgoing Board members Leets, Liska, and Jones were thanked for their service. Incoming Board members Bodden, Brooks, and Strassner were introduced. New office managers Mike and Nancy Book were also introduced. Bugle Editor Bob Snowden and Publisher Dick Taylor were introduced next. Taylor stated that they have now been doing the magazine for one year. It goes to all 50 states and 34 foreign countries. The August issue will be printed next week. The Bugle has just received the "Golden Quill" award from Old Cars. Snowden reviewed the past year and appealed for written articles, particularly if someone's car was photographed last year at the Richmond meet. Ken Liska will be getting more photographs at this meet. Snowden closed by saying he hopes to continue to provide a unique and exciting Bugle.

An unidentified person in the audience asked if the next membership roster could be set up with a 3-hole punch. Dick Taylor replied that it would be hard to open the pages properly if the roster was placed in a 3-ring binder. Jeff Brashares noted that the roster was a \$33,000 expense (printing and mailing), and there has only been one request for pre-punched holes in it. Holes would increase the expense even more. Brashares thanked Ken Liska and Roberta Vasilow for their work in getting the roster information together.

Tom Gestwick, Niagara Frontier Chapter, stated that the next roster needs to be printed sooner in the year, so as not to lose critical National Meet advertising the month before the meet is held. Norman Van Ness, Fireball Chapter, asked what the price would be for shipping the roster in a protective plastic wrapper. Dick Taylor replied that it would be \$3000 additional. Taylor added that only 9 rosters were damaged or destroyed in the mail. Greg Field, Los Angeles Chapter, complained about the lag time on classified ads, noting that the technology is available to speed it up—look at Hemmings, for example. He suggested a "too late to classify" section. Dick Taylor responded that the August Bugle was put together between June 27th and July 12th, and will be in the mail in five more working days from today.

FINANCIAL REPORT. Club Accountant Joel Gauthier, Central Indiana Chapter, was introduced next. He passed out a one-page financial summary and a proposed 2002 budget. He stated that the Club lost money in 1999 and 2000. Dues were raised last year and there was a corresponding drop-off in membership. We are expecting more memberships next year. The BCA Store has always lost money, and it has been eliminated, which should save us about \$5000. The new office manager contract should

save about \$20,000 in 2002. The roster replaced one issue of the Bugle in the past year, and that saved \$18,000. The membership database will no longer be maintained by Mail Unlimited, and that will save money. There was a \$16,000 turn-around last year, but we still lost money. For 2002, a \$30,000 profit is expected, and that will be used to replenish cash balances which are needed to service the multi-year memberships. A cash balance of \$214,000 is required to pay for all of the multi-year memberships.

Joe Fullerton, Free Spirit Chapter, asked why today's report says the Club lost \$12,000 last year, when the April Bugle reported a \$4000 gain. Gauthier replied that the April article was written before the membership roster was printed and paid for. Brashares added that in 1999, 12 Bugle issues plus a roster and a judges' handbook were printed, and the Club lost \$50,000. The questioner replied that the financial reports in the magazine are misleading because they are not well dated.

CHAPTER COORDINATOR'S REPORT. Coordinator Judy Leets appealed for attendance at Friday morning's scheduled meeting of chapter Directors, saying that assistant directors, regional directors, and newsletter editors should all attend.

CHIEF JUDGE'S REPORT. Chief Judge Rick Schick reviewed the judging procedural changes since the Richmond meet. The pre-qualification safety check has been brought back for all judged cars. Dick Schoppe is National Chairman of the Pre-qualification check. A Chief of Judges Records has been appointed, to keep track of judging experience and judging assignments each year. This person is Keith Bleakney. A Chairman of Senior and Archival Records has been appointed, to maintain records of all cars receiving Senior or Archival awards, including Senior Preservation awards. This person is Jim Terruso, Sr. Beginning with next year's national meet, senior awards will be handed out at the awards banquet. The requirement to fill out senior registration forms before receiving the award has been eliminated. However, the meet registration card with the VIN is required. There is a new owner's recourse policy which allows the owner 90 days from the date of the meet to protest the judging results—but only if the protest is an authenticity issue and its resolution triggers a change in an award (for example, from silver to gold). Someone asked about the difference between an "archival" car and an "unrestored" car. Schick replied that an unrestored car is one that is being judged for the first time in the archival class, while an "archival" car is one with a green windshield card that is being judged in that class for the second or third time. This confusion in terms will be eliminated next year.

Arnie Carson, Long Island Chapter, asked how someone would know if a judging error would change their award, especially within 90 days of the meet. Mike Book replied that the National Office will respond quickly to all requests for copies of judging results, and will mail them out rapidly, due to the time limit. Steve Ledger, Heartland Region, asked that the judges write legibly on the forms, so the comments can be understood.

BUICK FOUNDATION REPORT. Foundation President Pat Riley stated that the Board is working on a plan to solicit more contributions and members. He invited anyone interested to come to the Foundation's Board meeting at 5 p.m. Friday, July 13th.

BUICK STORE REPORT. Bob Leets reported that the Buick items (as opposed to BCA items) have been delivered to the Sloan Museum in Flint, and the Club has been paid for these. The Museum has hired a full-time store keeper, and will soon be enlarging the gift shop. The BCA National Office will still handle all BCA items. Bill Biche, Finger Lakes Chapter, asked if the Club would receive any future financial gain from the Sloan Museum. Leets replied that we would not receive any, but that the financial losses have been stopped. Jeff Brashares thanked Cecil Don for packing and shipping the Buick items from California to Flint at his own expense.

REATA DIVISION REPORT. Bob Neumann, Buicktown Chapter and Reatta Division, reported that Reatta parts are extremely hard to find and expensive when available. Only 21,750 of these cars were made in the four-year production run. He noted that 58 Reatta Division members and 30 of the cars are in attendance at this meet. With over 500 members in the Division, this has also increased the BCA's membership.

PERFORMANCE DIVISION REPORT. Roberta Vasilow reported that this division is currently stagnant, but should pick up soon with Mike Book's help. She announced that there will be racing next year at the National Meet in Kokomo.

HERSHEY REPORT. Wray Kniffen reported that the BCA tent will be on the white field this year, as it was last year. 310 BCA members stopped by the tent last year. Volunteers are needed to help staff the tent in 2-hour shifts. Chapters and individuals should consider making donations to help with the associated expenses. Joe Fullerton, Free Spirit Chapter, asked why the BCA had no presence at the All-GM meet in Carlisle last month, noting that we are missing a great opportunity. Kniffen replied that he is only one person who cannot do it all, and the only thing needed is more volunteers.

ARCHIVAL & SENIOR AWARD BADGES. Ken Liska displayed the proposed new grille badges for these awards, but noted that he does not like the way they came out. More work and ideas are needed. Bill Schoening suggested that a good chapter project would be to design and sell the mounts for the badges.

CLUB INSURANCE POLICY. Brashares reported that Grundy is now charging individual chapters for each insurance rider for local BCA shows. This is not acceptable, so the insurance policy is being re-bid, since the current policy expires in August.

REGIONAL VOTING. Phil Strassner, Regional Coordinator explained his proposal to recruit and elect BCA Board members by regions, with each region electing one Board member every three years. He argued that this would increase regional activity and interest, would result in more voter participation, and would ensure that each region has a voice on the Board. Currently, one region has four of its members on the Board. When asked by someone in the audience how members in foreign countries would be able to vote (since they are not in an official region), Strassner replied that they would vote in whatever regional they are closest to. Judy Leets, Buicktown Chapter, said she failed to see the benefits of this proposal, since you would only vote once every three years. Joe

Fullerton, Free Spirit Chapter, stated that the BCA is a national organization, not a regional organization, so why change it? Joe Taubitz, Buicktown Chapter, noted that one of the regions does not have a director. Also, there are population disparities between the regions. John Forette, Reatta Division, asked about voting for members of non-geographical regions, such as the Reatta group. Bob Montgomery stated that 2/3rds of the membership is being disenfranchised, and this is the worst idea he has ever heard. Pat Brooks, Hawkeye Chapter, asked for a show of hands for those in favor of this proposal and those against it (only two or three hands went up in favor of the proposal).

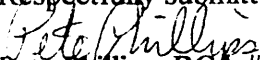
2001 NATIONAL MEET REPORT. Head Judge Ron DeGroff stated that 355 cars are registered for judging in 29 classes for this meet. He appealed for more judges on Saturday. Joe Fullerton, Free Spirit Chapter, complained that modified car owners are poorly treated and differently treated at the meet and in judging. Jeff Brashares replied that at the Columbus, Ohio national meet there were 35 modified cars and awards were given. Tom Gestwick, Co-chairman for this meet, explained that a local custom/hot rod car club will be judging the modified cars this year. Joe Taubitz, Buicktown Chapter, added that if a car owner wants to get treated badly, they should take an original antique car to a street rod show.

2002 NATIONAL MEET REPORT. Ralph Colter, Central Indiana Chapter, reminded everyone that next year's meet will be a judged show. All activities will be at the Civic Center. There will be a shuttle bus between the Civic Center, all of the motels, and local attractions, with free admission to the attractions included in the meet registration.

MISCELLANEOUS. Editor Bob Snowden stated that this year's national meet will be covered in the October issue of the Bugle. Jeff Brashares stated that the minutes of Board meetings are being distributed faster than before, with help from Secretary Pete Phillips and the new office managers. The Club's articles of incorporation have been revised to allow the office and the Board meetings to be in any state—not limited to California. Brashares thanked the newly elected and current Board members, noting that the job is a lot of work, and there is only a \$200 travel reimbursement for three meetings. JoAnn Jones, Central Indiana Chapter, said she wanted everyone to be aware of an excellent program that Bob Waller is running in New Hampshire, where he is teaching school-aged boys and girls about car restoration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Pete Phillips, BCA #7338
Secretary