

MINUTES
BCA General Membership Meeting
Kokomo, Indiana, 7-11-2002

Board members present: Jeff Brashares; Bill Schoening; Pete Phillips; Jerry Bodden; Roberta Vasilow; Paul Meyer; Phil Strassner; Pat Brooks

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Jeff Brashares, who introduced the Board members. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Board member Cecil Don, recently deceased. Members of the audience, present for the 2002 National Meet, introduced themselves. Head Judge, Rick Schick, reminded everyone of the pre-qualification check hours, and noted that the vehicle ID numbers were missing from a few registration forms, which is required for a Senior or Archival car to be judged.

2003 NATIONAL MEET. Denny Meyer, Buicktown Chapter, spoke about plans and preparations for the 100th anniversary meet next year in Flint, Michigan. Over 900 rooms are already booked and 1500 or more cars are expected. Wray Kniffen, Finger Lakes Chapter, asked where the \$30 registration fee was going, since there are no trophies to buy and no judging. Meyer replied that the registration packet would be more than worth the \$30 for anyone bringing a car.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Joel Gauthier, Central Indiana Chapter Director and BCA Accountant, reported that unexpected computer glitches, including a power failure earlier this week, were making this meet registration difficult. Gauthier passed out a financial summary, comparing this year with the previous fiscal year. On 6-30-2002, the club had \$237,000 in the bank and \$226,487 in deferred dues liability (for multi-year dues). A year ago, we had \$188,639 in the bank and \$214,111 in deferred dues liability. Total revenue is up to \$391,350, versus \$343,968 in the previous year, thanks mainly to the dues increase. Our largest expense, the Bugle, was \$227,371 this year, versus \$209,577 a year ago. For this fiscal year, we had \$36,010 in excess revenue over expenses. A year ago, the club was running a \$12,186 deficit, due mainly to the production and mailing of the membership roster that year (not done this year). An unidentified audience member asked why corporate expenses increased so much this year. Gauthier replied that it was primarily due to audit expenses from the closure of the BCA Store. Joe Fullerton asked if there had been a roster this year, would the club have experienced a loss? Brashares replied that it would not, because the cost of the roster is partly offset by the reduction of one issue of the Bugle. Fullerton congratulated the Board for controlling expenses. Phil Strassner asked what the chapter and regional expenses were. Brashares replied that chapters and regions are reimbursed \$50 for chapter and regional shows, plus there is the \$2500 seed money for the National Meet host chapter, and it all depends on when the reimbursement requests come in.

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT. Mike Book, Office Manager, stated that the year has been smooth, thanks to everyone's cooperation. For the first time in several years, the BCA has had a net increase in membership numbers, including some early members who have come back after dropping their membership for several years. Book mentioned the

permanent membership card, which will be instituted starting in August and September of this year, for an annual savings of \$2000-3000.

BUGLE REPORT. Editor Robert Snowden said he was excited about his third National Buick show, and he appreciates the members who send in articles. He stated that he is trying to cover a wide variety of Buicks, including one modified car issue. He is very short on feature articles and photos. Members should give him their input on what they like and do not like. An unidentified audience member asked that more letters to the editor be published in the magazine. Snowden stated that space is getting to be a problem. Judy Leets, Buicktown Chapter, suggested that people write articles not just about their car, but about someone else's car in their chapter. Jeff Brashares stated that the National Meet issue of the magazine should be October, rather than November. Dick Taylor of Baker Press, stated that Baker Press appreciates the opportunity to publish the Bugle.

HERSHEY TENT. Wray Kniffen reported that the BCA tent will be in the same White Field space that it was in last year. 38 new members were recruited last year. Donations to defray the cost of the space rent and the refreshments, will be appreciated.

TECHNICAL ADVISORS REPORT. Bill Schoening stated that he has 72 technical advisors, and some of them are working very hard. Mike and Nancy Book have been asked to keep up with the name and address changes of the advisors. One of the advisors has been asked to take over the supervision of the program from Schoening, but a reply has not been received yet, so there is nothing to report on this.

JUDGING REPORT. Mac Blair was not present, so there was no judges' training report. Head Judge Rick Schick reviewed the changes in judging since last year. Among these is the placement of all unrestored archival cars in Class "U", where they will all be judged by one team of judges. Another change is that Senior Judges (those with more than 10 judging credits) will be exempt from having to attend the judging school on Friday. The training session is being reduced to 90 minutes on Friday. Keith Bleakney has completed the tally of judging credits, and Senior and Master judging service pins will be handed out accordingly. New grille emblems for new Archival and new Senior cars will be given out, starting with this meet. Soon, owners with older badges will be given the option to exchange their old badges for the new ones, at club cost. Mike Book, Ken Liska, and Bill Schoening were thanked for their work on this.

On the issue of owners' recourse for challenging the judging results, it was noted that Rick Schick has taken on this very tough job (audience applause).

REGIONAL COORDINATOR REPORT. Regional Coordinator Phil Strassner stated that David Corbin, South Central Region Director, has started a new chapter in Texas. A new Eastern Region will be submitted to the Board tomorrow. Ron Stebbins was introduced as the new Director for the Great Lakes Region.

CHAPTER COORDINATOR REPORT. Chapter Coordinator Judy Leets spoke about the Chapter Directors' meeting that she is holding tomorrow. All chapter officers are invited, and a Chapter Directors' procedural manual will be started.

FOUNDATION REPORT. Foundation Vice President Larry Driscoll spoke in the absence of President Pat Riley. Driscoll reported that the Foundation had approximately \$8000 in revenue, but there is no support from Buick Motor Division or General Motors, despite the fact that BCA members probably drive more new Buicks than any other group in the U.S. The Foundation needs a centrally located museum to preserve Buick's history. Possible locations will be discussed at tomorrow's Foundation Board meeting. All BCA members are invited to attend and help.

BUGLE BID. Pete Phillips, chairman of the committee to re-bid the Bugle, spoke briefly, saying that copies of previous bid requirements have been received. We hope to have specifications out and open for bidding by late this year. Ken Liska from Florida cautioned against comparing apples to oranges in the use of previous bid documents. Elmer Gerbrecht, Niagara Frontier Chapter, stated that the Bugle is much better now than before, and said we should just leave it alone.

An unidentified audience member asked why the membership roster had to be printed, and suggested that it just be put on the BCA web site instead. Roberta Vasilow responded that this is possible, but we have to be careful who can get access to it. Paul Meyer added that not everyone has a computer with web site access. Jeff Brashares noted that Rich Schick and Mac Blair will have the job of updating the Judging Handbook next year. An unidentified audience member suggested that two issues of the Bugle be substituted for one issue of the roster, in order to reduce costs.

ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR. Ken Liska asked when the BCA would have honest elections. He added that a few people and chapters try to control the elections. Pat Brooks suggested that this issue be saved for the Board meeting tomorrow. Mike Book, Office Manager, noted that the latest election was decided by only 580 voters, out of 10,000 members. Greg Field, BCA #1, suggested that a plaque needs to be made that any member can have, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Buick next year. He added that he is willing to work on this. Pat Brooks stated that he likes this idea, and noted that his Driver Participation Award is similar, and will be discussed at the Board meeting tomorrow, for cars 25 years old and older, which are driven to the meet. Joe Fullerton asked why the 25-year age was a requirement, noting that he has a Reatta. Brooks replied that there has to be some type of cut-off; most states use 25 years for antique car registrations, and we need to get the older cars involved. An unidentified person suggested color-coded awards for different years of driven cars. Joe Taubitz, Buicktown Chapter, stated that driving a 1991 car to the meet is like driving a new car to the meet. This resulted in comments and discussion about when to hold the meet, to encourage older cars with no air-conditioning to be driven. It was noted that there can still be snow in northern states in May. The host chapter decides the date of the national meet. Terry Dunham asked if Buick Motor Division was still interested in providing the type of participation award that is being discussed. Brooks replied that he is not sure of this.

Another questioner asked if the Board had ever considered the idea of holding two national meets each year—one in the East and one in the West. Brashares replied that it is not easy to find enough judges or enough chapters that are willing to host one national meet.

David Corbin, N. Texas Chapter, thanked President Jeff Brashares for “herding a bunch of cats” and trying to lead a group as diverse as the Buick Club for the past two years (applause). Joe Taubitz added that the Great Lakes Regional Meet was a success last week due to Brashares’ efforts. A member from the Pikes Peak Chapter in Colorado asked how many of the members present would consider coming the long distance to Colorado if a national meet were to be held there (about 80% of the audience held their hands up).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Phillips, BCA #7338
Secretary