

Buick Club of America, Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 2002, Kokomo, Indiana
Minutes

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

Others present: (see attached list)

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by President Jeff Brashares. Members of the audience introduced themselves. Roy Faries, of the North Texas Chapter, was thanked by Meet Chairman Ralph Colter for last night's computer system repairs for car show registration.

MINUTES. The minutes of the Board meeting of April 20, 2002 were reviewed. MOTION by Bill Schoening, seconded by Paul Meyer, to approve the minutes as submitted. All voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Paul Meyer reviewed the balance sheet that was handed out at the general membership meeting last night. It was noted that the club has \$50,000 in cash on hand.

NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT. Mike Book, Office Manager, stated that the club needs a Statutory Agent in California, now that Cecil Don has died. Book reviewed a proposal from CT Corporation, which will act as the Club's statutory agent for \$275 per year. There was general consensus that this should be done. Book added that we have 9538 members as of June 30, 2002, for a net gain of 83 over last year. This is the first time that we have had a net gain in 5-7 years.

BUGLE REPORT. Robert Snowden, Editor, reported that one issue of the Bugle this spring will be replaced by the new membership Roster. Therefore, current addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are needed for all members. Jeff Brashares asked Roberta Vasilow and Rick Schick to work on an address reporting card to be inserted in the Bugle for this purpose. Snowden suggested that the Board consider hiring a professional photographer to photograph cars at the National Meet for feature stories. To offset this expense, he suggested selling the photo package back to the owner after the article appears. No official action was taken on this. Snowden noted that the literary awards would be given out this year for the first time, to encourage the submittal of articles. Ken Liska, of Florida, suggested the club purchase a good used camera for quality cover photos. Paul Clark, Southeast Michigan Chapter, stated that they had a professional photographer at their regional meet, but only 2 or 3 people took advantage of it, and the whole thing was a flop. Clark suggested getting the word out better, if this is to be done. Brashares asked Snowden to submit a formal proposal at the next Board meeting in Hershey. Terry Dunham stated that the Bugle looks good.

CHAPTER COORDINATOR REPORT. Judy Leets reported that the North Jersey Chapter is still having problems, with Chapter Director Ed Natale not having followed up on things he was going to do to get the chapter going again. Another member there wants to take over running the chapter, but there is a question of control over the chapter treasury. After more discussion, Leets agreed to work with the interested member to get things going again.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR REPORT. Phil Strassner handed out the proposal for a new Eastern Region, to replace the Mid-Atlantic Region. 8 area chapters will be included and Dennis Snell of the Free Spirit Chapter will be the Regional Director. A member of the Appalachian Chapter spoke up from the audience and stated that their chapter director is not aware of this regional proposal, and added that they wish to abstain from it at this time. Other people in the audience spoke out or raised their hands to indicate that they were not aware of this either. Mike Book stated that most of the chapters are not aware of it, and there has not been enough time to consider it. At this point, Strassner made a MOTION to approve the new Eastern Region, seconded by Pete Phillips. There was more discussion in the audience, and Strassner replied that he had received five letters back from chapters in support of the idea. There was more disagreement in the audience, and at this time, Phillips made a MOTION to table this item until the Board meeting at Hershey in October. This was seconded by Schoening, and all voted in favor.

Brashares stated that one person needs to be responsible for chapters as well as regions, and he suggested Chapter Coordinator Judy Leets. There was a MOTION by Schoening, seconded by Jerry Bodden, to combine the two positions. A suggestion was made that the National Office should handle this. Bruce Kile, Dixie Chapter, stated that he was Chapter Coordinator for 10 years, and that it makes sense to combine both positions. Judy Leets stated that it is better to have a grassroots effort, rather than having it all done by the National Office. Office Manager Mike Book agreed. At this point, Schoening revised his MOTION, adding that Judy Leets should do both jobs. This was seconded by Roberta Vasilow. Pat Brooks stated that we do not want to put too much work on the National Office. Vasilow asked how long Leets could do this, stating that she needs an assistant and also limits on her term. Schoening replied that there are two more years remaining in the 5-year term. Strassner asked why this was being combined. The vote to approve the motion was 7-1 (Strassner opposed).

INTERNET REPORT. Vasilow stated that the number of topics and posts on the BCA website discussion boards continues to grow. The Buick discussions are more active than any of the others on the AACA discussion sites.

TECHNICAL ADVISOR REPORT. Schoening reported that there are 72 or 73 advisors and all of them are working hard. He has asked a new person to take over this program, but it has not been discussed enough yet, so there is nothing to report. Schoening asked if there were any other volunteers for this.

CHIEF JUDGE'S REPORT. Rick Schick stated that he would be working on the update of the Judging Handbook in the coming year. He reported that he has sold 45 out of the

80 Buick truck models on Ebay, and that he will return the remaining 35 trucks to the Club Office. The returns cannot be sold due to damaged boxes. A total of \$1249 has been taken in on these Ebay sales, and the Board needs to decide how to dispose of the 85 trucks that remain in the inventory. Bruce Kile said the Buick Driving Enthusiasts will accept them as a donation. Pat Brooks suggested giving them away as prizes to attract children to our events.

At this point, Roy Faries of Denton, Texas, entered the room, and was publicly thanked for his computer work on the 2002 National Meet registration problems.

Rick Schick reviewed the judging changes this year: Archival cars are together in class "U", to be judged for authenticity only. Senior judges will not be required to attend judges' training. Keith Bleakney has complied the judging credit numbers and will give out the recognition pins. New grille badges will be given out to new Senior and Archival cars at this meet. Previous winners will be able to exchange their old badges for new ones later. Jim Terruso, Sr., is unable to work on Senior car record keeping, so Schick and Mac Blair will take this over. Brashares offered his office staff to help with the work. Schick and Mike Book will work together to correct records of previous awards. There will be an update of the Judging Handbook and an update of the Archival judging form.

Paul Meyer stated his concern over the lack of judging recruits, saying that the owners' recourse policy is killing the Head Judge. We need to end the time period for owners' recourse arguments to be presented and stop the second-guessing of the judges. He noted that the same complaint from the same owner is still being pursued nearly two years after the meet. David Corbin, N. Texas Chapter, stated that he has been a BCA judge and has taught judging seminars. We need to give our appointed Chief Judge the authority to make final decisions. There should be one recourse to the Chief Judge, and that is all. If your car is restored differently from what the data plate calls for, you must prove that a car was actually built or did exist like that. Pat Brooks stated that Rick Schick's decisions need to be final. Mac Blair, Chief of Judges' Training, stated that the number of recourse complaints are very few, but more people use it as word gets around. The rules call for a final decision by the Chief Judge, and there is no further appeal. Workmanship and Condition issues should not be appealed—only authenticity. The purpose of recourse is so the judges can learn. It is a valuable tool. At this point, Meyer made a MOTION that there be a one-shot owner's recourse with a 90-day time limit. This was seconded by Vasilow, and more discussion followed. Schick stated that the recourse provision helps our credibility when the judges make an error and correct it, but it undermines the judges' authority, the number of appeals has increased since this began in 1999, protests cause more hard feelings, and if the owner doesn't like the decision, they go elsewhere up the ladder. Phil Strassner stated that some people have abused the recourse opportunity, and he is in favor of repealing it. An unidentified person from the Chicagoland Chapter asked how many authenticity appeals have been submitted and how many resulted in a change. Schick replied that about 12 have been filed and less than half resulted in changes. Katie Montgomery, Northeast Ohio Chapter, stated that she sits by her car while her husband is judging elsewhere, she has authenticity information with her,

but the judges don't bother to ask for it. Virginia Dilts, Gulf Coast Chapter, stated that she is brand new to car judging, has never seen a handbook or judging form, and asked how she could get help. Schick replied that the handbooks are not being sent out to new members now since they are about to be revised, but some are still available for sale from the National Office. Bob Leets, Buicktown Chapter, stated that the National Office will send you a copy of your judging form if you ask for it. Kris Syrdal, Gopher State Chapter, suggested that the judging information should be put on the BCA website. Pete Phillips stated that he is not in favor of any owner's recourse provisions because it undermines the judges, takes too much time and resources away from the Board, the club, and the Head Judge to respond to this, it places too much emphasis on winning a prize, some people abuse it, and the club survived for its first 33 years without owner's recourse. Phillips asked that the MOTION be amended to eliminate the owners' recourse provision, starting with the 2004 National Meet. Paul Meyer agreed to this amendment of his original motion, to repeal all owners' recourse provisions. The motion passed, 7-1 (Brooks opposed).

NATIONAL DRIVERS' AWARD PROPOSAL. Pat Brooks reviewed this proposal for cars that are at least 25 years old and driven to the national meet (not trailered). The cars will not be judged on cosmetics, but must have a period-correct Buick engine. They will not be eligible for 400-point judging. Brooks added that the judging procedure will be simple, and he will take responsibility for this group of judges. He noted that the AACA has a "Participation Class" with a "walk-by" check for basic originality, and that is all. Phillips asked what would become of this judging class after Brooks is gone or no longer involved. Bruce Kile stated that he feels this is long overdue, and suggested a gold, silver, or bronze award according to the age of the car, with extra pins being added for multiple years of the award. Joe Taubitz, Buicktown Chapter, suggested that a wooden plaque be given out, with a new badge and a date stamp each year. Brooks added that the method of displaying the plaque could become a chapter project. Taubitz added that his '72 has exhaust headers, and asked if that would be okay. Brooks replied that it would not, because this is a modification. Paul Clark, Southeast Michigan Chapter, stated that he lacks the time and funds to do a 400-point restoration, and suggested a Buick "National Driven Award". Judy Leets, Buicktown Chapter, suggested a "we drove here" bumper sticker, plus allow the car to compete in the 400-point judging. Rick Schick stated that he supports the driving of cars to the meet, but he is concerned about yet another category of judging, administration, and record keeping to be administered by the Chief Judge or someone else. He does not suggest having gold, silver, and bronze driving awards in the same category as gold or silver frame-off restoration, 400-point awards. Schick questioned the length of the awards banquet if 100-150 more awards are added to the program. Brooks replied that the award might be given out through Administration or on the show field. Someone in the audience asked who would pay for the awards—the host chapter or the national BCA? Brooks replied that the cost would be covered in the show registration fee. Phil Strassner stated that he agrees with Rick Schick about the length of the awards banquet and the slowing of the judging. He suggested Greg Field's idea of a driven award to be checked at the pre-qualification check, and awardees be given a ticket to receive the award. MOTION by Brooks, seconded by Schoening, to approve the concept of doing the Driver's Award, and include

it in the 2004 national meet and thereafter. Brooks asked for a show of hands from audience members in favor of this (most of the audience raised their hands). Phillips suggested increasing the number of long distance awards that are given out at the national meet, such as one for each judging class. Brooks stated that we will see a lot of cars move into this new class of judging, and it will solve some of the judging problems. Bob Leets asked if the 400-point-judged cars will therefore be considered elitist. Bob Montgomery stated that he doesn't like the idea of picking one type of judging category or the other. Mac Blair stated that he was asked to contact the Buick Driving Enthusiasts to see about administering this, but the BDE had no interest. The MOTION passed, 4-3 (Brooks, Bodden, Schoening, and Meyer in favor; Phillips, Strassner, and Vasilow opposed).

BOARD ELECTION. The results were announced by Nancy Book: 533 valid ballots; 97 invalid ballots due to no label or the wrong label attached. Paul Meyer: 480; Cecil Don: 439; John Ball: 438; Al Eichelberger: 374. It was noted that of the nearly 10,000 members, this is very poor participation. Katie Montgomery asked if it is still possible for the voting to be slanted. Mike Book replied that it is possible that one active chapter or region can get the voting loaded up, but it is not illegal to encourage voter participation. Book added that the postmarks on this election were from all over the country, and there was no odd or unusual distribution of ballots. Mac Blair stated that there is something wrong with the process where 20% of the returned ballots are invalid. Bob Montgomery agreed, saying that the requirements should be revised when 20% of the ballots are thrown out. Brashares asked Bob Montgomery and Robert Snowden to take the assignment of revising the voting procedure.

LIFETIME DUES. Joel Gauthier discussed his calculations on the cost of providing lifetime BCA membership, depending on the life expectancy of the member. He calculated the cost of the magazine plus 2% annual inflation, along with average life expectancy. Based on this, a 35 year-old will cost the club \$1800; a 65 year-old will cost the club \$405. An unidentified person in the audience asked why the interest on the dues and future value of funds had not been factored in. Gauthier replied that he could refine the calculations and report back at Hershey. He recommends a range of lifetime dues prices, based on a person's age. No further action was taken on this.

HEMMINGS CALENDAR. Nancy Book reported that Hemmings Motor News is planning to do a Buick calendar for 2-3 years, and according to our agreement, we will get a percentage of the sales if we promote it. Hemmings will arrange the photography sessions.

INSURANCE. Mike Book stated that Grundy will not renew the club's policy due to their September 11th losses elsewhere. We have a bid from J.C. Taylor for \$6686 for property and liability insurance, and \$1220 for directors and officers insurance, for a total that is \$400 more than we paid last year. We also have a quote from Hagerty Insurance that is much more expensive at \$19,000. Pat Brooks made a MOTION to accept the J.C. Taylor quote. This was seconded by Pete Phillips, and all voted in favor.

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS. Jerry Bodden stated that the BCA lost 1033 existing members last year, and we need to do something to attract and retain members. He suggested a letter in the Bugle to explain the problem, and asking the general membership for ideas, especially on attracting younger members. Bruce Kile, Dixie Chapter, stated that the model car contest at the Atlanta National Meet went over well, but in Richmond there were only 2 or 3 entries. It needs more support and publicity, and Kile is willing to help. Al Storrs of Pennsylvania stated that he is involved with the AACA's youth program. At Hershey, Doug Drake takes kids under and around the cars and explains what each component is and what it does. It is very successful. Storrs suggested looking up the AACA website under Youth Programs. Storrs volunteered to help set this up. Judy Leets suggested having "junior judges" just to look and learn. Ron DeGroff and Robert Snowden also volunteered to help.

HOST CHAPTER SEED MONEY. Pete Phillips stated that the \$2500 national BCA contribution to the National Meet host chapter has not been changed for several years. Also, it is tough to get a chapter to bid on hosting the National Meet. At the February Board meeting in Texas, the Board voted to begin charging the host chapter for all national awards, including Archival and Senior awards. Since there can be 20 or 30 senior and archival cars at a national meet, and the Board increased the cost of this, the host chapter seed money or national contribution should be raised to \$3000. Phillips made a MOTION to this effect, and it was seconded by Strassner, who amended the motion to give the funds out at the time the National Meet bid is awarded. Bob Leets, Buicktown Chapter, asked if a \$500 increase would be enough to make any difference. Phillips replied that it may not, but it is better than no increase at all. Strassner suggested that meet revenue figures need to be published more widely, to interest more potential host chapters. The MOTION passed, 6-0 (Phillips abstains, since the N. Texas Chapter will be bidding to host a National Meet).

2004 NATIONAL MEET. Frank Lyle, of the Pikes Peak Chapter in Colorado Springs, described their proposal. The host hotel would be the Wyndham Hotel, with a \$109 room rate per night. There are 300 paved parking spaces, and a vacant lot next door with more room for trailers and vendors. The awards banquet would be limited to 400 seats. There are other hotels with different prices within 3 miles. Tours and activities could include Pikes Peak, the Royal Gorge, Cripple Creek gambling, and a working cattle ranch with chuckwagon dinners. John Ball of Pennsylvania asked how many members the Pike's Peak Chapter has. Lyle replied that they have 15 active members, but they have also solicited help from the Mile High Chapter and from a local antique car club. The date of the meet would be announced later, but approximately this date in mid-July. A Head Judge has not been selected yet.

Pete Phillips of the North Texas Chapter presented their bid. The dates will be June 16-20, 2004 in order to take advantage of June's somewhat cooler temperatures. The location will be the Plano Convention Center, which is where the 1996 National Meet was held. It has 750 parking spaces and 86,000 square feet of air-conditioned meeting rooms. The host hotel will be the Harvey Hotel in Plano, Texas, with a room rate of \$84 per night. There will be constant shuttle van service between the hotels and the

convention center, as there was in 1996. Jack Welch of the Minute Man Chapter will be the Head Judge. The banquet room holds up to 1000 people. Possible tours and activities are a tour of the Arlington G.M. Assembly Plant, the Mesquite Rodeo, the Ennis, Texas Motorplex Drag Strip, and a tour to the Auto Ranch salvage yard in Sanger, Texas, which has over 1500 cars. Roy Faries and David Corbin were introduced as the Meet Co-Chairmen.

At this point, Faries, Corbin, Phillips, and Lyle were asked to leave the room while the Board deliberated (minutes taken by Bill Schoening). After some discussion, Schoening made a MOTION to accept the North Texas Chapter's bid. This was seconded by Jerry Bodden. Pat Brooks asked if the Board should accept the Mile High/Pikes Peak bid for 2005. Phil Strassner stated that he likes the North Texas bid, and we should not award the 2005 bid yet, as others may still wish to bid for that. There was general agreement that the 2005 meet should not be awarded yet. Mike and Nancy Book were asked to work with the Pikes Peak Chapter for 2005. The MOTION passed unanimously to award the 2004 meet to North Texas. The bid presenters were asked to return to the room. Brashares stated that there is lots of interest in Colorado for 2005, but that year is still open for bid.

FOREIGN MAILING COSTS. Pat Brooks stated that the club is spending, in some cases, the entire cost of the dues just for Bugle postage at first class rates to Canada and Mexico members. Canadian and Mexican dues are only \$49, and postage alone to Canada is \$2.10 per member per month (\$25.20). We have 126 Canadian members and 153 international mailings—should we adjust the dues cost or continue the mailings? Paul Clark, Southeast Michigan Chapter, asked why we should even consider absorbing this cost. Brooks proposed that we send everything by periodical rates unless the member pays more—but we cannot start this now until the dues structure is changed. Mike Book stated that there is a 1st class rate and a 2nd class rate for all countries other than Canada and Mexico. He suggested changing Canadian and Mexican dues to \$115 for 1st class mailing. There was much more discussion. Bob Montgomery asked what the hard costs are now, and stated that we should wait until we know this. Pat Brooks stated that we should approve a concept now, and get the numbers later. Joe Fullerton stated that the fee needs to be raised, but not until January 1st. He asked if any Canadian members were present in the room, to comment on this (no one spoke). Bob Leets stated that there were lots of complaints last year when dues were raised. Dick Taylor of Baker Press stated that it is a postage cost issue, not a Bugle cost issue. The Bugle cost per unit has not changed. A show of hands from the audience indicated that most of them are in favor of adjusting the dues cost, but no formal action was taken on this.

BOARD VACANCY. Brashares noted that Cecil Don was elected to the Board last month in spite of his death. He added that some of the current members have suggested that the next runner up (Al Eichelberger) be appointed for one year, until the next election can be held. At that time, 4 places on the Board will be up for vote: 3 for a three-year term; and 1 for a 2-year term. Brashares asked for feedback on this. Joe Fullerton said he thought this was a good idea. David Corbin, N. Texas Chapter, agreed. Most of the audience appeared to be in favor of this. Scott Mich, Chicagoland Chapter, asked what

the other option was. Brashares replied that we could hold a special election before next spring. Phil Strassner made a MOTION that Al Eichelberger sit on the Board in Cecil Don's place until the next regular election. _____ seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS. Brashares announced that the spring 2003 Board meeting would be held in Seattle, Washington, either on April 25-27 or May 2-4 (new BCA President to work out the date). The February meeting will be in Tucson, Arizona.

BUDGET. Brashares asked if the new Board members could participate in the budget. Joel Gauthier handed out copies of the proposed budget, and explained it. Dues are being left unchanged; a 2003 membership roster in place of one issue of the Bugle is assumed; the cost of a mailing wrapper is being added to the roster; \$4250 is being added for Board meeting expenses, which was covered in the past by Jeff Brashares, who will no longer be on the Board. The budget shows a \$4600 profit above expenses, which is not much. Wray Kniffen, Finger Lakes Chapter, asked what state and federal taxes does the club have to pay. Gauthier replied that we have to pay tax on the investment income, and also on certain types of Bugle ads. Jerry Bodden made a MOTION to approve the budget. This was seconded by Paul Meyer, and all voted in favor.

OFFICER ELECTIONS. At this point, John Ball took his seat on the Board (3-yr. Term) and Al Eichelberger took his seat (1-yr. Term). Paul Meyer (already on the Board) began his first full term (3 years). Bob Montgomery and Bob Leets (Nominating Committee members) conducted the officer election. Leets noted that the Board was polled three times this spring for officer nominations. Nominations are as follows: President, Bill Schoening; Vice President, Pat Brooks and Phil Strassner; Secretary, Jerry Bodden; and Treasurer, Paul Meyer. Montgomery asked if there were any additional nominations. There being none, ballots were passed out, marked, and returned. Leets announced the results: Schoening, President; Brooks, Vice President; Bodden, Secretary; and Meyer, Treasurer.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS. Schoening stated that he wants to push three items this year:

1. Youth programs, such as the AACA does. Ideas are welcomed.
2. Better contact between the Board and the chapters. A list of chapters for each Board member to contact was handed out.
3. More technical articles in the Bugle.

Jeff Brashares was thanked for his work as President for the past two years. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Phillips, BCA #7338
Secretary