

Buick Club of America, Board of Directors Meeting  
October 11th, 2002  
Hershey, PA

Minutes

Board members present: Bill Schoening, President; Pat Brooks, Vice-President; Jerry Bodden, Secretary; Paul Meyer, Treasurer; John Ball, Pete Phillips, Roberta Vasilow; and Mike Book, National Office Manager, Joel Gauthier, BCA accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM by President Bill Schoening. Members of the BOD and the audience introduced themselves.

Bill Schoening updated the audience on the funeral of Greg Field, and circulated a memorial brochure in tribute to Greg. A memorial fund has been established in Greg's memory at the Sloan Museum.

Minutes – The minutes of the General Membership Meeting of July 12, 2002 at Kokomo, IN were reviewed. Motion by John Ball, seconded by Paul Meyer, to approve the minutes as submitted. All voted in favor.

Minutes – The minutes of the Board meeting of July 13, 2002 at Kokomo, IN were reviewed. Motion by John Ball, seconded by Paul Meyer, to approve the minutes as submitted. All voted in favor.

Wray Kniffin and Ron DeGroff joined the meeting, and were recognized by Pete Phillips for the great job they both do in organizing the BCA tent at Hershey. They received a well-earned round of applause from the board and the audience.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Meyer reviewed the Balance Sheet. The checking account balance on hand at Oct. 09, 2002 was \$57,845.00. Joel questioned the process of preparing both the monthly re-cap of checks, prepared by Mike Book, and the monthly financial statement prepared by Joel. After some discussion, it was agreed to continue with the check re-cap; it is considered a "working" tool, while the monthly statement is the official financial record of the BCA. Joel mentioned that the trophy inventory figure shown on the report might not be up-to-date. Mike Book said he will prepare a trophy inventory for the Feb. 2003 BOD meeting. Motion by Pete Phillips, seconded by John Ball, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. All voted in favor.

National Office Report – The Office is working with Greg Field's family and the Sloan Museum to set up a memorial fund to honor Greg. At this time, the Sloan has received

\$730.00 in donations. The Office has assisted the Buick Motor Division with the Heritage Tour stopover in St Louis at the Museum of Transportation. The Gateway Chapter members, along with Paul Meyer, participated. In September, the Office implemented the new BCA membership card. Previously the BOD approved a one-time card, which members are urged to laminate. Significant savings to the BCA will be realized going forward with the use of the one-time card.

The Office has sent to the winners all of the awards, grille badges, date tiles, and certificates that were not presented at Kokomo. The Office has deposited the "Seed Money" and trophy money so promptly received from Joanne Jones, Central Indiana Chapter. New membership growth continues, and the Office continues to reduce the "drop-out" rate through the mailing of reminder cards; the Office has seen a 25% increase in the renewal of "drop-outs". The Bugle again has received the "Golden Quill" award from "Old Cars Weekly". The editor will be notified to put this recognition in the "Bugle". The Office has received several complaints about Bugle advertiser Bob Waller, money received, goods and services not delivered. Pete knows Bob and will contact him in an attempt to find out what may have happened, and report to the Board. The Office has received a request from Charlie Wright of the Rivertowne Roadmasters to use the BCA and Buick logo on a tent topper, as a personal endeavor, not as a Chapter project. A motion was made by Pete Phillips to have a letter sent to Mr Wright informing him that the BCA would not grant his request, seconded by Pat Brooks.

Discussion took place regarding the "seed money" procedures, money given to the National Meet host chapter to fund up-front expenses. Roberta read "rules & regulations" on page 213, # 8 which referred to this issue. It was agreed this read rather vague and since a National Meet Coordinator is in the discussion stages, the "seed money" issue should be part the Coordinator discussion; the topic was tabled for further review and discussion.

Bugle Report –Bill reported that Baker Press responded in an excellent manner regarding the passing of Greg Field, holding up the Bugle publication to accommodate tributes to Greg. The proofreader has been in place just recently, Bill mentioned that when one looks critically at other car-related publications, there are many more errors than we are seeing in the Bugle.

Coordinator of Regions and Chapters – Mike Book read the report submitted by Judy Leets. Two new Chapters may be forming; Alabama and Memphis, TN. The National Office will be providing the organizers with member lists covering these geographical areas. The New Jersey Chapter and the Rivertowne Roadmasters, officers have not responded to numerous inquiries regarding the Chapter's existence. The Office will be sending Chapter surveys in October, requesting officer & member updates, including officer e-mail addresses. A few folks are interested in re-organizing the Rivertowne Roadmasters (Cincinnati,OH) Chapter. Mike Book just talked with Dick Krampits of Cincinnati, director, who said the Chapter has 25 members, has tours and other functions. The Books plan to attend the next Chapter meeting to see what may be going on there. John Ball had talked with Mr Natali of the New Jersey Chapter and asked that he contact Mr Geltcher who expressed an interest in continuing the NJ chapter. John will follow up to be certain the two gentlemen work this out.

Wray Kniffin had a few folks stop by the BCA tent who stated that they belong only to a chapter, not to the BCA. The National Office will work with Judy Leets to request chapter rosters and compare to the BCA membership list in an effort to enforce National membership.

Internet Report – Roberta stated that the Reatta page has the most “hits” by far, over other discussion formats. Numerous “for sale” posts lack required data, i.e.: selling price, phone number, color of car, etc. Peter Gapriey, who runs the web page for AACA, BCA and other clubs has upgraded the server and the discussion page, has asked for some compensation. The last time he was paid was two years ago. The payment will come from the BCA Corporate budget for now, and a new line item tagged “internet” or “media” will be worked into next year’s budget. Motion was made by Roberta to pay Mr. Gapriey \$600 over the next two years for his services, seconded by Pete Phillips, all in favor. Roberta led a discussion about putting the membership roster on the website, and will continue to investigate its feasibility, along with membership renewals via the internet. Ron De Groff has digital pictures of the BCA tent, and will send to Roberta to put on the BCA site, and in the Bugle.

Technical Advisor Report – Bill stated that Barney Eaton, known for his connections with the Reatta Division, will head up the Technical Advisor position. Bill has sent the Advisor data to Barney.

Wray Kniffin voiced his opinion that Senior cars cannot be entered in the Archival class. This issue was generally agreed to, and will be discussed in more detail in the Judging Report.

Chief Judges Report- Bill stated since the report was lengthy, the report will not be read, especially since Rick Schick was not present, and asked if anyone had any questions or comments. Pete stated his opposition to the proposed National Meet Coordinator as it has been presented by others, but added that he thought Rick Schick’s proposal was a good compromise in which this person’s only job is to operate the computer at the National meets. This matter will be discussed further in this meeting. The BOD will add the Modified Cars Judging Form submitted by Keith Horsfall to the Feb. 2003 agenda for further review & discussion.

#### Old Business

2003 Flint National Meet. – 504 cars pre-registered, 1,200 rooms booked, 1,000 banquet reservations. In an effort to handle foreign registrations, the National Office will use their credit card machine to process these reservations, facilitating the currency conversion for Flint. The 3% fee will be netted from the funds sent to Flint.

Foundation Report – Pete Phillips gave the report on behalf of Larry Driscoll. A repository has been established at the historical museum at Canton, OH. It has received several pieces of literature. Attorney Richard Sills is handling the donation paperwork regarding a 1927 Buick coming over from Europe to the Foundation.

Bugle Bid Update –Pete Phillips has completed the bid specs. following the specs.used previously, raising the number of Bugle pages to 44, the number of pages used prior to Baker. Pete stated the reasons for uncoated vs. coated paper, costs, etc. Bill addressed previous shipping costs between the editor, printer, mailer, etc.as “hidden”costs, which proved to expensive and not part of the bid process.

Pete would like to go out for bids soon, so that we might be able to decide at the Feb. 2003 BOD meeting. We may want to have bids only for an editor, and let the editor handle print bids, and submit them to the BOD. Motion by Pat Brooks, seconded by John Ball, all in favor; Pete will submit the bid specs.to the BOD, allow two weeks for its review, and poll the BOD for its decision.

Lifetime Memberships – Joel distributed a worksheet showing that the BCA loses money on all life members except those members who would become a life member at age 65 or older. A sustaining membership was discussed. The BCA has 66 life members, of which approx. 30 are paid life members, the balance are past BCA presidents, honorary members, etc.

A motion was made by Pete Phillips to eliminate the BCA Life Membership effective the next fiscal year, except for existing Life members, whose membership will continue to be honored. The BCA will offer members a \$150 annual Sustaining Membership, all voted in favor.

Attracting Younger Members – Bill passed out some of the AACA publications directed to youth, talked about Fran Shore’s involvement with AACA and youth.

Jerry handed out an outline for attracting younger members to the BCA. Youth - less than eighteen years of age. Young Adult - eighteen to forty years of age. Suggestions to attract the Youth might include these Immediate steps: A Bugle column, Junior Literary Award as part of the existing BCA Literary Awards.

Long Term: Junior Judging, Buicks and its Parts, various games and contests at Chapter, Regional and National Meets; winners might compete at the BCA National.

To attract Young Adults: Immediate actions: Ads in Hemmings, etc., ads in “performance” magazines re: BCA performance Division.

Long Term – Young Adult – the proposed BCA Driven Class.

BCA Members who volunteered to participate in this program are: Al Storrs, who wants to put on a Buick and its Parts program at Flint, 2003 for the youngsters. Jerry Reid, who called Jerry and offered his assistance; Bruce Kile, Ron DeGroff. Pat Brooks suggested a Bugle page, perhaps titled “Buick Family”. Jerry will submit an article to the Bugle editor, ask the membership to submit articles for a “Buick Family” page, written by a member and their youngster’s involvement with their Buick, written by the youngster about the family Buick, or their own Buick, etc. .

Contacting Chapters – Roberta contacted Bill Salisbury from the Buicktown Chapter, talked about Kokomo, satisfied with the BCA and the BOD.

Pete- Ed Brandt, Alamo Chapter, 27 members, one other member & himself are running the chapter, reluctant to host a Region Meet;

Bill Stoneberg, Lone Star Chapter, 40 members, things going well, but membership is dropping off.

Jerry talked with three chapters, the BDE and the Reatta Division. Stan Leslie, appreciative of the BOD keeping in touch, said Mike Book keeps him informed of National events.

Pat contacted four Chapters, none had anything to bring up to the BOD. The general feeling of the BOD is that the Chapters are generally satisfied with the BCA, the Bugle, and the BOD. All Chapters were appreciative of being contacted.

Driving Class Award – Two decisions needed, 1) Age of the Buicks, Pre-war, straight eights, 25 years. 2) Grille medallions.

No minimum distance requirement, including overseas shipment, no disqualification for halogen headlights, radial tires, etc.

Pat made a motion for 25 years, Pete suggested pre-war only; and mentioned the extra time needed to hand out awards at the Awards ceremony. Further discussion covered topics: long distance awards by Class, 60s & 70s car also break down, the award is not a “given” due to age. The BOD could not reach a consensus on the year cut-off, 25 years, pre-war, only straight eights, or 12 years. Bill suggested the decision be delayed until the spring BOD meeting, along with the medallion design.

Foreign Mailings- Various suggestions were discussed; a first class & second class option to all foreign members. The cost to send the Bugle, regardless of which method is employed, should be only the postage cost added to the base price of the Bugle, and it must be a member option. A motion to raise dues to cover postage for foreign mailings was made by Pete, Roberta suggested we hold off raising dues until we have a better idea of possible future postal increases. The motion was tabled until the Feb. 2003. BOD meeting.

New Business-

Chief Judge and Judges Training – Update

Bill wanted to set the record straight; there were some assumptions that these positions were to terminate in 2003, however, there was nothing in writing. Both Rick Schick and Mac Blair understood their positions were to continue until 2005. Both Rick & Mac are willing to continue in these positions until 2005. Pat Brooks will send around an e-mail to all interested parties regarding the forthcoming transition of the Chief Judge and Judges Training positions, to get folks talking about it, get suggestions & ideas on the table.

Val Blazer-re-instate BCA advertising privileges. Motion by Paul Meyer not to re-instate his advertising privileges, seconded by John Ball, All voted in favor. Bill will inform Val of BOD decision.

Feb. 2003 BOD meeting, Tucson, AZ

The next BOD meeting will be Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003 in Tucson, AZ. Lodging will be at 4 Points Sheraton, 1900 East Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ. 85719. For reservations: 800/325 3535. Identify that you are with the Buick Club of America. The hotel has floors

for non-smokers. The BOD meeting will be at the National Optical Astronomical Observatories office, two blocks from the hotel. Location maps will be in the hotel lobby. More details will be in future issues of the Bugle. Those who arrive before Friday, Feb 21 or early Friday can take a tour of the Franklin Foundation collection or the Pima Air Museum. There will be a reception at Bill's house Friday evening.

SOP on BOD - Paul Meyer read the specifics from the BCA by-laws regarding length of service terms, all agreed it was ambiguous, and needs to be clarified. Pat will amend this portion of the by-laws and submit it to the BOD at the Feb. BOD meeting,

National Meet Coordinator - Proposal to assist the host Chapter in areas such as Registration and handling the monies, Trophies, Awards Ceremony, & Judging. Pat Brooks suggested an article be placed in the Bugle asking for member/chapter input. Pete Phillips has placed an article on the BCA web site discussing the proposal of a National Meet Coordinator. Mike Book will fine tune his proposal and re-submit it to the BOD. This topic will be on the agenda at the Feb. 2003 BOD meeting.

Handicap Issues at Nationals – An incident at the Kokomo banquet -- We all must be aware of the handicap issues, i.e.: hotel, banquet facilities, show field access, etc. going forward.

Travel Costs for Board Members - Pete Phillips proposed the travel expenses be raised to \$400.00. Roberta made a motion to raise the travel allowance to \$400.00 from \$200.00 for BOD meetings, starting with the Feb. 2003 BOD meeting. Allowed expenses would be transportation (airfare, mileage, parking & tolls) and lodging, not meals. Paul Meyer seconded the motion, all members voted in favor.

Questions for Board Election - BOD Candidates would respond to certain prepared questions from the BOD, in addition to their biography, which would then be published in the Bugle. The prepared questions would be placed in the Bugle in advance of any solicitation for new Board members. Bill asked that the BOD submits relevant questions to him and he'll circulate the questions to the Board for comments.

Mike Book asked the Board for direction regarding the disposal of old BCA financial records. Pat made a motion to have the National Office destroy all records ten or more years old, after securing a Letter of Opinion from Joel Gauthier stating that the BCA is operating within IRS rules. Pete Philips seconded the motion, all members voted in favor.

BCA copy machine at the National Office - Mike & Nancy Book also handle the office affairs for the Cadillac/LaSalle Club. The Cadillac/LaSalle Club has offered to pay the BCA \$100.00 a month to cover the operations of the BCA copy machine, plus pay one half of any repair costs incurred. Roberta made a motion to accept this proposal, Paul seconded, all members voted in favor.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.