

General Membership Meeting
Buick Club of America
Thursday, July 24, 2003
Flint, MI

Bill Schoening welcomed everyone to the General Membership Meeting, and mentioned that this meeting will include some of the events normally reserved for the BCA Awards ceremony. The existing board members introduced themselves. Bill then introduced the new board members:

Bill Darrow, Fireball Chapter, MN. Barney Eaton, TX, Dick Sweeney, San Diego, CA. Dick Sweeney will be on the board for two years, completing the term of office after Cecil Don's death. Pete Phillips has been re-elected to the board for a second three year term.

Bill introduced Mike & Nancy Book from the National Office, Rick Schick, National Chief Judge, Judy Leets, Chapter Coordinator, Robert Snowden, Bugle editor, and Dick Taylor. Bugle publisher. Dave Corbin introduced the family of Walter Marr; Walter invented the overhead valve engine.

Bill asked Mike & Nancy Book to present the Chapter Newsletter awards. Nancy presented the Small chapter award to the Central Michigan chapter, "Bugle Jr" publication. Medium chapter: Western Michigan chapter, "Valve-in-Head". Large chapter, Fireball Chapter, "Exhaust Valve".

Bill asked Terry Dunham and Robert Snowden to present the annual Literary Award. Terry Dunham presented the Historical award, named after Terry, to Dave Corbin, for his research of the 1937 & 1938 serial numbers. Robert Snowden presented the Technical literary award to James D. Brothers for his article on the Buick chrome road wheels, 1964 thru 1987.

Robert Snowden presented the Travel & Adventure award to Pat Brooks, for his articles; Inca Trail, part 1, 2 & 3.

Mike Book presented the Barbara & John Gertskemper Award for recruiting new members, a tie: Bill Salisbury, Buicktown Chapter, 12 members, and Roberta Vasilow, also 12 members. Roberta accepted the award for both Bill & herself.

Mike Book recognized Roy Faries for his assistance in resolving the computer issues regarding registration at the BCA meet last year; Mike presented Roy with a plaque of appreciation from the BCA National Office. Mike Book also presented Russ Dent with a plaque of appreciation for his work with the Buicktown Chapter, handling the registration and administrative work needed to allow this 2003 meet to run smoothly.

Pete Phillips asked that the BCA recognize Nicholi Bulgari, from Rome, Italy, who brought several Buicks to the Meet. Pete made a motion to re-instate Mr. Bulgari's original BCA number 178, a member since 1966. Dave Corbin seconded the motion, all in favor.

Judy Leets read the names of the countries that were represented at the Meet: Austria, Australia, France, Germany, UK, New Zealand, Spain, Italy, Canada, Switzerland, Netherlands, and Sweden. Judy then read the names of the states represented at the Meet.

Bill Schoening highlighted some of the events that took place over the past year. The Bugle bid publication was awarded to Baker Press. The Board approved the Driver's Participation Class. Pat Brooks reviewed the concept of the new class, and has heard from several members at the Meet who spoke in favor of this class. The medallion design will be decided upon at the Board meeting on Sunday.

Jerry Bodden discussed the new Attracting Younger Members program called: The Buick and its Parts; which will take place on the show field on Saturday afternoon. The program will be focused on youngsters age six thru twelve. The Buick 's operating systems will be explained to the youngsters at a level they will understand and appreciate. The children will be given a Winross truck for their participation in this event. A question from the audience, "Why not include the teenagers in a program?" We intend to initiate a Junior Judging program in the near future for those thirteen thru eighteen. Since there was no judging at this meet, this type of program will be developed for a future judged Meet.

Mr. Thomas Hansen of the Buick Club of Germany, member #26995, and president of the Buick Club of Germany, presented the BCA with a plaque of appreciation and "Thank you" for putting on the wonderful Centennial Meet.

Pete Phillips invited all to the 2004 BCA National Meet in Plano, TX. The Meet will be June 16 thru 20 at the Plano Convention Center. Many events are planned, the aquarium, Texas Book Depository, Age of Steam, and several other activities. The host hotel is the Harvey. The North Texas Chapter has a booth in the hospitality tent and Pete invited everyone to stop by and review all that the 2004 BCA National meet in Plano, TX will offer.

Bill Schoening discussed the Senior Preservation awards. They are being depleted, and now would be a good time to consider making a change. Mike Book then discussed the background of the existing awards, the cost is \$60 each and 40-45 are awarded at each National Meet. Mike passed around two new designs of this award for review and comments. The acrylic award would cost \$43, the wood award, \$53. Two comments from the audience, they preferred the existing glass block design. The majority of the audience preferred the existing award design. Mike will follow up with the award companies to continue with the existing award.

Bill reviewed the concept of the National Meet Software Coordinator and its benefits to the BCA. Both Terry Dunham and Jeff Brashares expressed their support of the concept.

Bill then asked for a round of applause and an expression of gratitude to the Buicktown Chapter for hosting this Meet. Bill stated that they have done a wonderful job in putting this Meet together and all involved are to be commended. Bill asked Roberta Vasilow to announce the drag racing event which will take place on Friday afternoon at the Milan Dragway. She gave directions, and mentioned that the Buick Bug and the Blackhawk are scheduled to make runs down the track.

Bill asked if there were any questions or comments from the membership. Dave Corbin expressed his appreciation on behalf of all the members of the BCA for the hard work and dedication of the outgoing board members.

Pat Brooks presented Bill Schoening with a plaque, which represented the Board's appreciation of Bill's hard work and dedication to the BCA over the time Bill served on the Board, and also as its President.

Pat also presented awards to outgoing board members Al Eichelberger and Roberta Vasilow for their terms on the BCA board.

With no further business, Bill asked for a motion to adjourn, John Ball made the motion, seconded by Paul Meyer. All in favor.