



Upstate Update

The Upstate New York Chapter News

APRIL 2022

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tony D'Amelio Director

Greetings fellow Buick Club members, and Happy Spring. Time to start thinking about getting the car out and getting it ready for the warm weather ahead. And that means time to get going on our Cruise-Into-Summer 13. Hard to believe this will be the 13th year for our Cruise-Into-Summer (CITS for short) and this year we need your support more then ever.

This event is a fund raiser only event and your support is greatly appreciated. As always, we need your help the day of the event. So please plan on getting there early (around noon) if you plan on coming.

Here's to hoping the weather warms up and we can get an early start this year to make up for the past two years. Stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Tony

Chapter Leaders

Director:

Tony D'Amelio

Asst. Director:

Ed Allmond

Treasurer:

Ken Malette

Secretary: & Health and

Wellness committee:

Rosemary Malette

Membership :

Chris Timber

Newsletter:

John DeFiore

By the Way

May 4th: Lead Foot Lucy Cruise In begins. Each Wednesday at Kohls Plaza, Colonie

May 5-7 2022: The Rhinebeck Auto and swap meet show. Our Club Tour, on the 7th, departs at 8:30 am, from the Dunkin Donuts at exit 10 off Rt 90

May 14 2022: Saratoga Auto Museum Auto Show. 9am-2pm

June 4, 2022: Cadillac/Buick Lawn Show: at the Saratoga Auto Museum. Hours: 10 am to 2:30 pm.

June 18, 2022: Cruise-In to Summer 13. 2 pm to 7 pm. On site at Goldstein Buick GMC, Central Ave, Colonie. (See Flyer to the left)

(continued on page 5)

Announcements

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:

Greetings friends: This function is to help spread the news affecting our members. If you want us to know about these things, e-mail your announcement to me.

Thank you, Rosemary M.

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& the UPSTATE NY CHAPTER
of the BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

CRUISE-IN TO SUMMER 13
FREE TO ATTEND

Chance Auction 2 to 7 PM
Event Tee Shirts Saturday June 18th
Door Prizes Goldstein Buick/GMC
50 / 50 Dealership
Central Ave.
Colonie NY

Dash Plaques & One Food Coupon Per Car to the First 100 Donations of \$10 or more

FEATURING
Mike's HOT DOGS

FUND RAISER FOR
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BOY SCOUT TROOP 278
Village of Colonie

Information: Ed (518) 456-8909 or Tony (518) 330-5450
WWW.UNYBCA.COM
Visit Us on Facebook @ UPSTATE NY CHAPTER BUICK CLUB of AMERICA

Meet the Members: Pat and Terri Blum

By: Pat Blum

I grew up in a little town called Lock Berlin, in the Rochester, N.Y. area. In fact, it wasn't even really a town. We had one 4-way stop sign, and an 18-hole championship golf course. The Golf course is called Wayne Hills, and I was practically raised there, where my dad was the course superintendent for 35 years. Naturally, my first "job" was working there, at the age of 8, in the summers.

I graduated from the Clyde-Savannah High School, and went on to get degrees in sports turf management, and landscape design, at Delhi State College. And when I graduated in 1994, I became the golf course superintendent at Colonial Acres Golf Course, in Glenmont, N.Y. My studies paid off as it became an award-winning golf course in the USA, especially noted for its environmental attributes. Along the way I also worked for 8 years as a turf consultant for the New York Giants Camp, and a couple landscape companies.

Terri and I met at College. She, being a native of Rotterdam, N.Y had graduated from Mohanasen High School, and began pursuing a course in Education, starting at Delhi and later, earning her Master's Degree in the field at SUNY Oneonta. We were happily married in 1992, and by 1995 we had settled into our home in Niskayuna. Samantha, our first child was born that year. Samantha was my inspiration driving the environmental work at the golf course. And soon she be-



came a national celebrity in the turf industry. Our son Zach was born in 2001, and both of our kids took to sports. Our vacations generally consisted of traveling the East Coast of the USA for basketball, softball, and Tae Kwon Do Competitions. Terri and I were very proud as Samantha became a two-sport athlete in college, and Zach became a 3rd degree Black Belt! But we did have one family vacation outside of sports, Disney World, and ya, it was a blast!

My interest in cars started with my first car show at the age of 19. I had a 1980 Plymouth TC3 that I brought to a car show in Rochester, at a wings place called Carmines. Now

my car was not a collector car, but it was an original, except for my plastic hub caps that covered up the ugly stock rims. Carmine was all about "originality", and would not let any vehicles in the car show that were not stock. So, he told me to pop off the hubs, and I could come in. And, I did. That show was all it took. I was hooked into the car show world. Over the years I've gone to so many shows and I've always had a love for the originals. But, as

we all know, they have become harder, and harder, to find. This turned my attention towards the Buicks. It seemed that at most of the shows I'd go to, the Buicks would be the one line of cars that would either be original, or stock restorations. And the Buicks held a special place in my history besides. Growing up we had 3 Buicks in our family. An Estate Wagon and two other Skylarks. On a side note, we also had a 1977, 2 tone baby blue, 350 Chevy Suburban that I loved. Why? Because my dad would flip over the air filter cap and when he floored the gas pedal, it sounded like a jet engine. He wouldn't do that too much because, you know, that gas needle would drop. But he knew I loved it when he did!



Zach with the Harbor House Trophy in 2015

Type for sale. But as the years went on you saw fewer available, and then none. The total production run for the 3 years was just 15,938, and 1987 had the smallest run at 4,123. In those years these cars were consumable and once done, just went to the crushers. But I just had the itch to get another T-Type, and I couldn't stop scratching.

One day I went on Craigslist and, thanks to the Buick Gods, saw one that had just been listed for about 30 minutes. An all original 1987 Buick LeSabre T-Type with only 32,000 miles on it! Well, the next day my buddy drove me out to see it and I bought it, on the spot. I drove it to my buddies' house, parked it in his garage, and hid it from my family for 2 weeks.

My dream car became the Buick Grand National. It was just that 80's car that everyone could recognize. Unfortunately, or maybe the opposite, it was more than I could afford. But I found the "poor-man's" Grand National in the LeSabre T-Type! In 1991 I bought my first Buick, a 1987 Buick LeSabre T-Type. I loved that car. It had a great body style for its era, and it was all...black. I drove it everywhere, and all the time. After Samantha was born, we would take the Le Sabre on trips to Myrtle Beach every February. That car handled the Pennsylvania mountains in the snow like a champ. It was such a well-balanced car. I had that car up through 1997 when we had to trade it in for a more family-oriented vehicle. But I always had that car on my mind. Through the years we stayed with the bigger SUVs and trucks, more so because, when your 6'4" you need the leg room. Yet I would always keep an eye out for a LeSabre T-



How could I break it to them that dad bought a new toy? I got it! I'll take out to dinner, but I'll surprise them when I pick them up in the T-Type. Yep, you better believe they were surprised. The look on their faces was that of a deer in headlights! Luckily, the dinner diversion plan worked, and shock never set in. To my surprise and relief, they all supported the purchase.

It would be nice to say that my renovation story was one for the ages, but this Buick was in very good shape. I had to replace the headliner, which was sagging about a foot, converted the AC to 134-a, and had to replace the power antenna. Done! It isn't perfect, but pretty close. That's because of one panel.

The one thing this T-Type had that my first one didn't, was the trunk lid spoiler. Most '87 T-Types did not have trunk lid spoilers, which became a fixture on the '88 and '89's. For those later cars the spoiler was made of a composite material. But in '87



Buick did offer a metal trunk lid spoiler. The problem was that the spoiler was too heavy for the trunk hinge springs, and the lid would close by itself, sometimes on

the owner's head. It also had a poor design where, within a short period of time, the metal would separate which would cause the paint to peel. But the car's design just screams for this feature. And, I have one of the few with a metal trunk spoiler. Although it's

not pretty to look at the defective paint, I'm keeping it original for as long as I can.

It has been great going to shows with my son Zach. And he has really gotten the collector car itch. Last year I let him take the Buick and do a show, on his own, for the first time. He ended up winning the award for the "Best Vehicle". Over the years my Buick has won around 15 awards. The first award it won was in 2015, a 1st place at The Harbor House. In 2018 the T-Type won back-to-back "Spectators Choice" at the Curtis Lumber and the Patriots Day shows. But my favorite award, hands down, was the 2017 Buick Northeast Regional for Best in Class. It's nice to win because my car is not flashy or well-known because of its rarity.

I love the shows when I get the time away from the golf course, and especially meeting the other Buick owners. You walk down the aisles, and you see all these other cars, and after about 20 different cars you see a Buick, and your like, "Hey how's it going? Looks great. Talk to me", and they always do. I love being part of the Buick Club. It's just so real, and nice, and everyone is just so chill.

I especially like the shows that do fundraising for charities. I always try to donate NFL, NBA, MLB autograph items to help the cause. We work with the Dan Marino Foundation, Make-A-Wish, Wounded Warriors, Huntington's Disease, and more. I've got former NFL and Miami Dolphins players donating autographs regularly. That's what makes some of the shows so great, the outreach.

When I'm not working or at car shows I coach basketball and softball. I've coached in some form for over 30 years at the travel, high school, and college levels. Let me tell you, when I pull up to a practice and the players see me get out of the T-Type they're like, coach what is that? That is when your like, "Well let me tell you about my Buick,,,,,, while you run sprints." What can I say? I Love my Buick. Be Safe Everyone.



1987 Buick Le Sabre T –Type

By The Way (Continued from page 1) :

UNYBCA Annual Picnic will be hosted this August 2022 at the home of Stacey and Jim Roth. The date will be determined. Thank you Stacey and Jim!!

The BCA National Meet- 2022 will be held in Lisle, Illinois on June 22, 2022 to June 25, 2022.

The Northeast BCA Regional Meet 2023 will be held next summer at Morgantown, PA on June 21, 2023 to June 24, 2023, at the Classic Auto Mall. The car show will be on Friday, June 22 nd .

Editor's note:

As my Homeward Bound story draws to a conclusion in the next issue, I would like to feature other's stories about any special trips you've taken. These stories do not need to be about trips in your car, although those will receive preferential treatment.

If you have an event you'd like to share, please contact me at 518 466 1370

COLLECTIBLE CORNER

Editors Note: The following article is reprinted here with the permission of the author. It was found within one of the many topic threads launched on the Buick Club Forum pages, of the AACA Forums. I hope you find it interesting. Happy Collecting!

BROoM SWEEPS

Buick Riviera Owners of MCUville



Vol 1 Number 2

Box art... almost as old as model kits themselves. For years manufacturers have been enticing kids of all ages to buy their kit based on a slick, cool looking box. Whether it was an artist's rendition of the car, photos of a build of the model itself, or photos of the 1:1 car, box art has, and still does, entertains us to this date.

In this issue of BROoM Sweeps, we'll present the first in a series featuring Riviera box art. In 1963, the Riviera became a regular AMT annual ending its 7-year annual run in 1969. The 1965 has been reissued a number of times, but other plastic manufacturers have also built Buick's finest. This is a summary of the first generation (1963-65) Riviera.

1963-1964

AMT kicked off the Riviera in 1963 by producing an annual 3-1 kit packaged it in its generic annual box where the specific model in the box was not the car illustrated on box top. The kit in the box was featured on the ends of the box. Great for the shelves. (right)



In 1964, AMT gave Riviera its own box top featuring a Gene Winfield design in what is arguably the Riviera's ugliest box art EVER. (left)



Also in 1964, both Renewal and Palmer Plastics produced a Riviera. Renewal included their Riv' as a "Double Header" with two kits in one box packaged with a 1930 Bently Blower. Palmer also packaged a motorized version of their kit, in a white box, but '64 was the only year for both manufacturers' Riviera.



1965

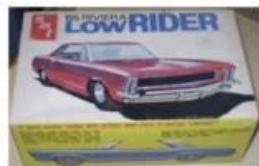
Minor changes in the 1965 marked the last year of the first generation body style Buick Riviera. AMT did adapt to the changes that Buick made and continued to showcase custom car designers on their box art for their 3-1 Riviera kits. Following Gene Winfield in 1964, AMT featured a George Barris designed red "Villa Riviera" on their annual box for 1965. Although an improvement over the disappointing '64 box, Riviera box art was still a little low on the wow factor. AMT turned off shore to add a little interest and up the WOW. A distinctly Cuban flavoured "Che Riviera"



artwork complete with armed militia and incoming aircraft certainly spiced it up. The Che' Riviera box art is far and away AMT's most interesting Riviera box and may well be one of AMT's top political boxes of all time. The '65 has also been boxed as a low-rider a couple of times



including part of the AMT "Cruisin USA" series. The latest releases of the '65 Riviera were in 1985, and in 2004, the only time a 1:1 Riviera was used on the box. Wimpy would be so proud the first generation Riviera lives on today.



BROoM DUST

Current Club Builds in Progress - Riviera Quarter Pounder - Any generation Riviera, gotta run a 10-second quarter mile +/-
New Members Since last SWEEP- Bob Sifferd and his '61 custom '64 Riv. - Mike Painter, '65 Riv - Welcome aboard, guys.

Homeward Bound 2014 Day 15/16: From Hoffman Estates we traveled East, covering the same ground as that on the trip out. We did stay overnight in Ohio and the following day we traveled along Lake Erie water front, to Rochester NY for the last overnight.



I JUST LOVE THIS PHOTOGRAPH ! Courtesy of Bob Martino, we have two pictures this issue. Bob says:

It's a shot of a couple of 1948 Buicks Roadmasters I had in my back yard twenty years ago. The car on the left is a parts car I had since 1966 and had it stored in a lot behind my father's house. It was dismantled to salvage any useable parts . The second picture shows the condition of the car after setting for thirty years. The car on the right is one I bought in 1998 and started to build it until I bought the blue 1947 that I currently drive. I still have it in my garage and keep it to insure I have body parts in case I need them.



NOTE: We need YOUR favorite pictures too!

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