



Upstate Update

The Upstate New York Chapter News

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December 2024

Chapter Leaders

Director:

John De Fiore

Asst. Director:

Ed Allmond

Treasurer:

Ken Malette

Secretary: & Health and

Wellness Committee:

Rosemary Malette

Membership:

Chris Timber

Newsletter:

Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Website:

Tom Proulx

Facebook:

Simone Zalewski



Director's Message

By John DeFiore

Greetings friends, and welcome to the "holiday season". I don't know about you but for me the 2024 driving season seemed to just fly right by. Now we are looking at holiday cookies hot out of the oven! Before we know it, Santa will be sweeping in bringing the promises of a New Year. But let's take a moment to wrap up this year's achievements

This past season included many opportunities to get our cars out, and I hope you were able to do so. I managed to get some significant miles on each of my cars this year. With a trip to the BCA National Meet in Ohio in the GS, then a trip to New Hampshire and New Brunswick, Canada, in the Electra, and a portion of road time in 56 going to some local cruise-ins, I believe I may have reached the advertised limits of my classic car insurance policy. I hope to share some of that with you in future issues of our newsletter. And I would like to read about your trips too. It would be great if you could share your trips with all of us through our newsletter. I am sure Lyn would appreciate having your articles to use in future issues.

We had our annual Holiday Party on December 1st at the same location as last year. We are also moving forward with planning for the August 2026 BCA National Meet here in our area. We have been working on tours, event arrangements, and other sundry items to host a top-notch Meet. A BCA National Meet would be very similar to the Regional Meets we have hosted, except quite a bit larger. It will be an exciting event.

For now, however, I want to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

-John D.

Announcements: Club meetings are the 2nd Wed of the month. See ya in January at the Metro 7 Diner. Many arrive early at 6pm to enjoy dinner together beforehand. Don't forget to renew your membership, if you haven't already. Happy New Year 2025 to all!

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 Rosemary

No current announcements!

In this issue:

- Editor's Reflections
- Cruise-In to Summer (CITS) 15 (fifteenth year)
- Club Picnic
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- Mills Mansion
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- Holiday Party



EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS By Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Hey there! Can't believe that in the last issue I was talking about the extreme heat temperatures, and now we talk about the cold weather. We had a "white" Thanksgiving, and the winter hit us with some more snow. Well, that is what we deal with here in Upstate NY and surrounding areas. So, this newsletter is a little later than expected, but it is packed with a lot of fun stories and pictures of our UNYBCA members enjoying doing things together. That is what this club is all about – the members. And speaking of members, if you haven't renewed your membership yet for 2025, please do so ASAP. Well, since the last issue, I have been jet-setting different places and enjoyed a cruise to Alaska back in September. What a fun and exciting time I had with family and friends! I had to take out my winter coat a little early, but well worth it. On the Rivvy news, thanks so much to Ed for coming over to help me, and to Simone and her friend for helping with some things in the garage. My family was here also in Nov – and with a little fresh gas and a few tweaks here and there, Rivvy's sounds of starting were music to my ears! And thank you to all who contributed stories and pictures for this issue! Very much appreciated! Happy 2025 to all! And looking forward to seeing ya around!

CRUISE IN TO SUMMER (CITS) 15 (FIFTEEN YEARS) June 30, 2024

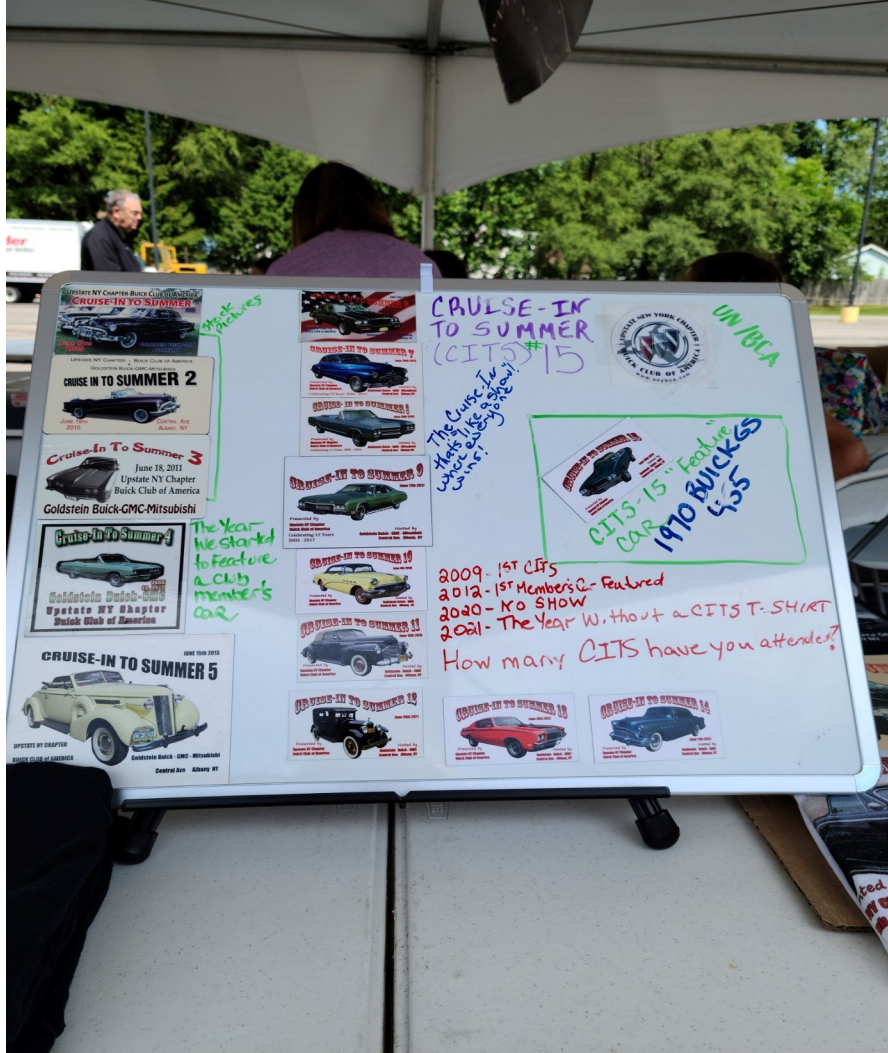
CITS 15, was a great success, and the weather was great. Many thanks to all those UNYBCA members who volunteered their time, as it takes the help of members to have a great show! A special thanks to Glen Taunton and his staff at Goldstein's Buick/GMC for stuffing the gift bags, providing the tent/table/chairs, pop-up tent at the gate, and covering the DJ, Cone Zone, and Mike's Hot Dogs. They also helped with the dash plaques, tickets for the 50/50, and food/ice cream tickets, banners, and advertising the show. They also provided water for the volunteers.

This year there were 47 auction items and 15 door prize gift cards, donated by club members. Thanks to those who helped at the gate, under the tent with the Chance Auction and auction items, and selling the food/ice cream tickets, helping with parking, and taking pictures. A shout out to Boy Scout Troop 278 and Equinox (our charities) for also helping out.

For the 15th CITS, there was a nostalgia display coordinated by Ed Allmond and Lynda Baum-Jakubiak. Ed showed off his collection of past CITS t-shirts and Lynda put together a magnetic board showing the dash plaques from all of the CITS. Lynda also donated t-shirts from her late husband Jim's (former UNYBCA Director) CITS T-shirt duplicates collection back to the club, and then we sold them, and proceeds went to what we raised for the charities.



MORE PICTURES FROM CITS-15 —DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE IN THESE PICUTRES?
Members helping out and fun at the same time. Equinox had a table under the tent! And candid!



Club Picnic

This year's picnic on Saturday 8/24/24 was hosted by Rosemary and Ken at their home. Many members brought their Buicks and it was like a mini show. Everyone brought their lawn chairs and a dish or items to share, including items like the burgers and hot dogs from the club. The weather was great and we were glad we did not have to use the planned "rain date".



Cruise to Massachusettes (By Cruisemaster Ed, and Photos by Ted Sweet)

The Central New England Chapter of the Buick Club of America held their Buicks in the Fall all Buick show on Saturday, October 19, at the Shortstop Bar & Grill in Westfield, MA. This is a revival of their show that was previously held at Cernak Buick in Easthampton, MA until the dealership closed its doors in 2020. After a show last year in a location that didn't work out, a new home was found this year at the Shortstop Bar & Grill and, per event organizers Jim Ramsey and Pay Hayes, it's there to stay.

Upstate members Ken Malette, John DeFiore and Sharon Summer, Dick, Faith and Sara Stewart, along with your author with Ted Sweet riding shotgun, took a ride over together where we met up with old friends and made some new ones. Ken drove his '89 Reatta, John his '56 Super, the Stewarts their '88 Riviera, and I drove my '67 GS400 convertible. Buick & Caddy Club members Frank and Jean Starkes also showed up in their '79 Caddy Coupe DeVille.

There were about 50 cars in attendance on a perfect car show day. I took advantage of the opportunity to promote our upcoming 2026 National event while enjoying some very nice cars. No one in our little group won any of the 10 awards presented, but the Stewarts won a Shell gas card in a raffle drawing. When it was over, it was such a nice day I dropped the top on the GS and took Rte 20 all the way home. Much to Ted's dismay.



Mills Mansion 2024 (by Cruisemaster Ed, Photo Credits to John DeFiore and Ted Sweet)

The Gathering of Old Cars at Mills Mansion on Sunday 10/20/24 was one of the best in recent memory. Beautiful weather brought out over a thousand cars, which caused some chaos when it came to parking them. Our reserved club parking was dotted with GTOs and other miscellaneous non-Buick makes, but we managed to get everybody parked together. Your humble "Cruisemaster" again hosted a tour down from the Albany area, taking our usual path of Routes 9 and 9H to the show location. A total of 8 cars toured down this year, not all club members but I invite anyone who is interested to join us.

Upon arrival we were greeted by other club members who had driven down on their own, plus a couple Buick owners not affiliated with our club. The show field was filled to capacity, and the food vendors did a brisk business. I walked the entire show field, looking at the cars and handing out Save the Date flyers for our 2026 National Meet to all the Buicks I encountered. As in past years, a group of us then gathered at Charlie O's Restaurant in Red Hook for a bite to eat before the ride home.

The Mills show is one of our favorites to attend every year, and I urge you to consider driving down with us next year. It's a beautiful setting and a wonderful scenic ride through the Hudson Valley.

Mills Mansion sits on approximately 192 acres along the Hudson River and is a State Historic Site. The mansion itself was owned by financier and philanthropist Ogden Mills and his wife Ruth. It was donated to the State in 1938 by Gladys Mills Phipps, daughter of Ogden and Ruth. For more information visit <https://millsfriends.org/mansion>.



BUICK AND CADILLAC CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN PARADE

by Cruisemaster Ed,

The 55th running of the City of Schenectady Holiday Parade took place on Saturday, November 23, and members of both clubs were there to help celebrate. Buick Club members Bob and Cathy Martino brought two cars; their '47 Roadmaster and '56 Olds Super 88. Bob, along with Paul Pakan, were in the Olds, while Cathy and her two friends, Margo and Holly, handled the Roadmaster. Caddy Club members Ray and Phyllis Stanton brought their '56 Caddy Series 62, while Don and Debbie Schleicher participated in their '67 Eldorado. Your author and his wife Bonnie, who are members of both clubs, along with friend Danny, rode in their '75 Coupe DeVille.

The weather was good, temps in the mid 40's and very little wind. No precipitation. The crowd was reported to be larger than last year according to those who notice such things. Everyone was in a festive mood and many were decked out in holiday garb. Our cars were also festively decorated and we received a lot of positive reactions to them.

The parade route runs from its starting point of the Schenectady County Community College parking lot and runs up State Street to Lafayette St., where it takes a left and ends after a couple of blocks. The reviewing stand is in front of the Proctor's Theatre. There was also a block party for two hours prior to the start of the parade but, being participants, we didn't see much of the parade or the block party.

We then gathered at the United Buffet in Schenectady after the parade for a bite to eat. Good food and conversation closed out our evening.



photo credits: Ray Stanton, Bob Martino



Holiday Party (photos by Editor Lyn (candids) and Simone Zalewski (up close and personal))

The annual Buick and Cadillac Holiday Party took place on December 1, 2024 at The 19th Hole Café Restaurant at the Birar Creek Golf Course in Duanesburg, NY. This is the same venue as the past few years. Thanks to Tony D’Amelio and Maria Willig for preparing the little candy gift bags to each of the partying Buick and Cadillac Club members. The event started with appetizers of cheese and crackers and boneless chicken wings. This gave everyone time to socialize a little. The dinner buffet included chicken parm, baked ziti, Prime Rib, roasted potatoes, salad and rolls, and cake for dessert.

And it wouldn’t be the Buick Cadillac Holiday Party without some kind of poem or story written by Editor Lyn. But she had been very busy prior to the party and did not have time to write out a whole story. So instead, the members of the clubs, at their tables, had to fill out some words like nouns, adjectives, funny things, types of things, to name a few. Kind of like a “Mad Libs” game, and the words were added to the semi-blank story. What silliness it was when the story was read, and some good laughs and smiles. Next, was the gift exchange, hosted by Rosemary and Lyn, as usual. Again there was a trivia game in which in order to get your gift, you first had to answer a Buick Club or Cadillac Club question correctly. If you didn’t know the answer, you could ask someone from the group. And a few questions were stumpers, and others general knowledge. But as everyone knows, it is best to read your club’s newsletters and meeting minutes as that is where the answers are. And a big shout out to Ray Stanton from the Cadillac Club for providing Lyn with the Cadillac Club newsletters. There were about twenty participants in the gift exchange, and there was some “stealing” that went on as well. That always adds to the fun of the event! And, a 50/50 also!



More Party Pics



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