



June 2024

The Upstate New York Chapter News

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Director's message

Greetings friends! Summer is upon us, and I hope you have been driving your Buick (s) . The Buick-Cadillac Lawn show on June 1st was a very nice event, with 14 Buicks in attendance. And we have the "Cruise In To Summer" show, our charity fund raiser, coming up on June 30th.

Speaking of driving, I would like to know if any are interested in visiting the Glenn H. Curtis Museum, in Hammondsport NY, with friends from the Finger Lakes Chapter, on August 18th. It is a wonderful collection of early motor vehicle developments by the Curtis-Wright organization and others. Realistically, this is a 5-hour ride, so plans include an overnight stay either the night before or that day. There is a Best Western very close to the museum site and another smaller yet highly praised hotel nearby. I am planning to drive out on the 17th and come home on the 19th, to just make a small vacation of the whole experience.

Plans are also being developed for this year's Chapter picnic. That will be in August as well.

So, I look forward to seeing everyone soon, or at some point this driving season. Remember, your Buick was built to be driven, and it is always great to show them off by attending our events.

John D.

Announcements:

CITS-15: Sunday June 30th

Club Picnic: August 24 (rain date 8/25)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS:

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 Malette!

No current announcements! Stay safe and healthy!

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

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EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS By Lynda Baum-Jakubiak

Greetings all! You may think that I am writing this while at the beach and enjoying the palm trees! Unfortunately, that is not the case. I'm here in Upstate NY with the rest of you, surviving the recent extreme heat temperatures, and all that! But we have had opportunities during the spring (and now summer) to get our rides out there. Well maybe not me, as I again await help with the Rivvy. On a bright note, I was cleaning inside the Rivvy last month, and was getting rid of a few things in the console that were no longer necessary. And guess what I found? Yes, more of the money left to me in that Rivvy. I wonder why I didn't find it before. I was very excited to find eleven fifty this time. Or maybe eleven and 75. In any case, over \$11.00 in quarters. And I know I looked there before over the years! There is a message there. I just know that! So far this year I've been able to enjoy Leadfoot Lucy on Wednesday nights, and my little pup enjoys it too. She actually tells me to hurry up and let's go on Wednesdays after finish working for the day. Oh, so my other Buick, needed some work, and Goldstein's reminded me of my discount as a Buick Club Member. That was a nice, and I had totally forgotten that.

So what have you all been up to? I know some have ventured to shows and other cruise-ins. We are hoping you would like to share some of your adventure stories with us for upcoming issues. In the meantime, sit back and enjoy this issue of the Upstate Update.

Cruise-In to Summer 15, on Sunday, June 30, 2024
at Goldstein GMC, from 11 am to 3 pm.

Club members to be there at 9am to assist with set-up.

Many have already volunteered to cover various areas during the show—entry, parking cars, the auction, door prizes, 50/50, etc.

Please, if you haven't signed up yet, we still need your help during the event. We even need help covering for others, so they can have opportunities to take a break, and get something to eat!

If you don't know what to help with, just ask the members who will be under the tent!

Bring your auction donation items with you to the event! Remember this is all for charity.

We also need help at the end with clean-up at 2:30 pm.

Please assist and help make CITS-15 a success!

(Rain Date: Sunday, July 28th)

CITS 15– Our Charity Fundraiser: Boy Scout Troop 278 and Equinox

Submitted by Rosemary Durso Malette

At our April 10, 2024 UNYBCA meeting, we decided to choose a new charity for CITS 15. We agreed to use the proceeds from our Cruise-In to donate toward Equinox, in addition to Boy Scout Troop 278 of Colonie.

Equinox is non-profit community organization in the Capital Region, serving the needs of those who are suffering from domestic abuse, substance abuse, mental health issues, and the youth of the Albany Region.

So recently, Ed Allmond and Rosemary Durso Malette visited with the staff of Equinox in order to introduce ourselves and describe CITS 15 for them.

They were very receptive and excited to be a part of our fundraiser for their community

They will also circulate our flyer among their staff and constituents, as well as advertising their participation in various media outlets.

Rosemary will be the point person, and we will have a table specifically for them to set up their posters and promotional materials. Equinox staff will cover the table for the entire event.

This is a win-win opportunity, as we will benefit by having Equinox as part of our Cruise-In, and they will have exposure for their community services.

Our other charity fundraiser, Leadfoot Lucy , is in full swing on Wednesday nights. There's our Ken Malette leading the cruise-in with help from others in parking cars. The donation jar is always out for our support of Ronald McDonald House. Here's some pics from the first LFL of the 2024 season!



**UPSTATE NEW YORK CHAPTER
VFW CLUB OF AMERICA**

**Leadfoot
Lucy
Cruise-In**

KOHL'S PLAZA
1814 CENTRAL AVE, COLONIE

.....

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT
WEATHER PERMITTING

**FIRST WEDNESDAY IN MAY
THROUGH LAST WEDNESDAY IN SEPT.**

5-8PM

• **STREET RODS** • **ANTIQUES**
• **MUSCLE CARS** • **CLASSICS**

.....

**DONATIONS TO BENEFIT
THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE**

**DOOR PRIZES
SPECIAL PARKING FOR PARTICIPANTS**

.....



Rhinebeck 2024

FIRST TIME VENDING AT RHINE-BECK By Cruisemaster Ed

Picture caption: "In the middle of setting up"



My first time as a vendor at the Rhinebeck Car Show & Swap Meet didn't turn out so good from a financial standpoint, mostly because there were few buyers. I had great stuff, but nobody wanted it. I vended Friday and Saturday as Sunday was reserved for our annual cruise to the show (Didn't happen. Thanks Mother!). Friday morning was for setup, with the gates opening at noon. I borrowed a pickup truck from a friend and, after replacing both rear brake lines (I knew about one, and the other one blew as soon as the first one was replaced), and building some wooden side slats for the truck, I managed to load all my stuff into it. My good friend John DeFiore travelled down with me in his own vehicle as he also had some stuff to sell, and I offered him the use of my space. I sprung the extra money for an indoor spot in case the weather was bad.

Upon arrival Friday morning the first order of business was to move John's parts from his car to my truck, as only one vehicle was allowed entry. There was just enough room. Then we went to find the vendor spot. They gave me what I thought was a pretty good spot, an end location in Building C. We were able to unload the truck in short order, then I had to park it far enough away I almost needed UBER to get back to my spot. The good thing about that is John had made great headway in organizing our stuff. We were able to get things set up in time for the noontime opening. It took a while for the first sale of the day, and by the end of the day I had recouped my vendor fee and truck repair expenses. But not much more. At 5 O'clock it was time to head home. Rhinebeck provides security overnight so I had to trust that my stuff was safe.

Saturday the swap meet opened at 8am and I was there with time to spare. John and Sharon, who John is dating, showed up around 10 or so to hang out with me and take in the day's activities. They periodically wandered off to check out cars, parts and buy food. I pretty much stayed put except to use the bathroom or buy food. The funny thing was, every time I left John sold some of my stuff. Maybe I should have disappeared for the whole day! Bob and Cathy Martino also came down and hung out for the afternoon. Cathy brought some stuff to sell and did pretty good – even selling a pair of shoes! Bob also has some stuff to sell, and he did pretty good as well. Unfortunately, John took home everything he brought down. Club member Bob Sampson had also given me something to sell but he had the same luck as John.

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Other friends also stopped by Saturday to say hello, including Matt from Pennsylvania whom I was pleasantly surprised to see. That, and talking to lots of nice people, made it an enjoyable day. The weather was also ideal, bringing out lots of people, even if they didn't buy a lot. Around 5pm we packed the truck up for the ride back home. I had lots of help, with John, Sharon, Cathy and Bob all pitching in to make quick work of it. They all then went to the Village Pizza for a bite to eat. I was pretty beat and wanted to get home so I passed.

Overall, it was a fun experience. Even though I was disappointed I didn't sell more, I had a good time. Thanks to everyone who helped and stopped by. ***Would I do it again? We'll see.***

Shown here is a display of collectible baseball caps from 1974 sold by Convenient Food Marts, a chain similar to Stewart's that was popular back then. The picture is not the clearest, but it was pretty cool, per Cruisemaster Ed! It is not only car parts that you will find at a Swap Meet! You never know what you will find!



Rhinebeck: A Blast from the Past (from editor LBJs Buick Club Archives)

We were hoping for pictures of everyone's rides for Sunday this year, but it was a wash out! So instead, I searched high and low and found the following pictures from Rhinebeck 2015. It was a nice day then, and a lot of fun. As you see in the pictures, we miss two special people who are no longer with us.



2024 BUICK/CADILLAC LAWN SHOW

By Cruisemaster Ed

Photos by Tony D'Amelio

The Buick/Cadillac Lawn Show was held Saturday, June 1st at the Saratoga Auto Museum. It was an absolutely beautiful day resulting in a total of 44 cars registered. As in past years, it was dominated by the Cadillacs; 31 Cadillacs and 13 Buicks. Besides some beautiful cars on display, there was a 50/50 raffle and a small 'chance' auction. There was also a food vendor to feed the hungry. Top 5 plus Best of Show awards were handed out for both Buick and Cadillac. At the end of the day, four of the Top 5 Buick awards went to club members; Ken Malette for his '69 wagon, Tom & Dianne Proulx for their '66 Electra, Vince & Pete Riggi for their '53 Special, and yours truly for his '67 GS400. The other Top 5 Buick award went to a '63 Special convertible owned by Steve Kurtz. Buick Best of Show went to Terry Plante for his '66 Wildcat GS. Buick Club members Frank & Jean Starkes, also members of the Caddy Club, took home the Cadillac Best of Show for their '59 Coupe DeVille. Top 5 Cadillac awards went to Joe Roglieri for his 1960 Eldorado Seville, Don Rancotti for his 1949 2Dr Coupe, Peter Clark, showing a 1976 Eldorado Convertible, Bob Kowalczyk, with a 1952 60 Fleetwood and Joe Murdico, who brought his 1956 Coupe De Ville. All award winners were also given \$20 Stewart' gas cards. The 50/50 winner took home \$145.

One car I found interesting was a 1966 Cadillac Sedan (can't remember what model) that sported not only power vent windows, but power quarter windows in the rear!. The driver has 8 power window switches to play with. This same car had real wood trim on the doors as well, something I thought was gone in American cars by then.



My trip to the GS Nationals, by Ken Malette

Recently, I traveled to the Beech Bend Raceway for the 43rd GS Nationals in Bowling Green, Kentucky. I caravanned with two car friends and their vehicles. It was a 2000 mile round trip, so it took us two days to just get there.

My intention was to race my 1969 Special Wagon over the four days, but due to rain outs on two days, I could only enter 4 time trials on Thursday, and raced two rounds on Saturday, winning the first round, but red-lighting on the second.

Additionally, I entered the Car Show on Friday, and was honored with a trophy, a Special Award from the Veteran's. Many remembered their family wagons growing up as kids, so my vehicle received many looks with happy memories.

But the best part, as always, was meeting up with old friends and even some new ones. The car hobby has been my passion since I was a kid, and since retiring in 2019, I am able to embrace it even more fully. **Wheels Up!!**



Congratulations to Ken on his Trophy!

1936 BUICK CENTURY

Story by Frank Starkes

Twenty Eight years before what is known as the “Birth of the Muscle Car Era” with the iconic “1964 Pontiac GTO,” Buick hit the road running with the brand new Buick Century. It soon garnered the Nickname of “The Bankers Hot Rod.” Buick put the 320 cubic inch Roadmaster engine in the base model Buick Special, and the name Buick Century was born.

Midway between 1929 and 1939 America was in bad financial shape, known as the Great Depression. Millions of people across the Country were struggling to just exist; so this was a very brave and bold move from Buick. I have owned four Buick Roadmaster convertibles over the years with this gigantic straight eight engine, and I can personally attest to its powerful smooth and quiet operation. I can only imagine the top end speed and power, compared with all the other cars of the period. It sure had to turn heads, based on its long hood, and sporty coupe lines.

My first car back in 1951 was a 1937 Chevy Sport Coupe, much like the above Buick. The color appears to be Beryl Green, as it was the same as my Chevy. Notice the Rumble Seat, the long hood to cover the big engine, the spare tires encased in the front fenders with mirrors on top, the parking lights atop the front fenders, and the Artillery wheels which were in vogue in 1936. The lines of the car, and the overall appearance are perfect; and speaks “Buick” from bumper to bumper. **NOTE: The content of the story may not be perfect, but as best my memory can do.**

The Next Issue of Upstate Update will focus on CITS-15 highlights/pictures and the Picnic. If you have anything to submit (and please do), send to Editor LBJ by early September 2024. We want to hear about your stories and see your pictures!



Join us..
Sat., August 24th
With a rain date of
August 25th

The Buick Club PICNIC

Hosted by:
Rosemary and Ken Malette

22 Velina Drive
Albany, NY 12203

2 pm to 5 pm

Don't forget to bring your Chairs!!

Please RSVP By: August 18th
to Rosemary at rdpascone@gmail.com

Or
By calling us at 518-369-2287

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