

# The Dixie Valve Chatter

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### Director's Message

By: Bob Stone

Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday to all!

Time to fine tune the letter to Santa! Tell him what you want for your beloved Buick! We will not be meeting this month but will be together at our annual Holiday party in January! See all the details about this event and our February Bowl-A-Rama event.

A meeting follows the bowling along with plenty of food! Well, got to get back to my Santa letter. Hope every one has a great holiday. See you next year!

Bob Stone, BCA#37843

### Prepare for Winter Driving

This time of year, the holiday season, (according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) is the most dangerous time of the year to be on the road. In statistical order of increasing driving danger they are; Christmas Eve, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve. In addition, other holiday dangers driver must consider with winter coming is; fewer daylight hours, colder weather, and increased chance of precipitations, especially when they hit all at once.

## The "Burgundy Bomber" in Veterans Day Parade



Photo: Jack Horvath

**Jack Horvath (LTC- Retired), center, along with The Blues Brothers, line up for the 2011 Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Atlanta. We are grateful to, and appreciative of Jack, and Pat for the many voluntary hours they spend assisting the men and women in our armed forces. They are almost permanent fixtures at the Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.**

### Prepare the Passengers

- Aside from making sure everyone's gone to the bathroom, here are some things to remember before setting out on the next family journey.
- Obey all local and state laws regarding seat-belt laws and distracted driving (texting, cell phone, etc.).
- If you have children in safety seats or boosters, make sure they're in the proper seat type, and be sure the seats are properly installed. If you have questions about their installation, find a trained technician who can check your car-to-car-seat hook-up. Also check to see whether your car seat has been recalled.
- On longer trips, bring activities that can keep children content. Hand-held video games,

DVD players, and even something as simple as a coloring book and crayons can make a huge difference.

- For those prone to motion sickness, there are alternates to over-the-counter drugs. Canned ginger can help prevent a queasy stomach.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

If you want to avoid accidents, your chances are better if you can see them coming.

- The key to good visibility includes clean glass, especially the windshield. Clean the windshield with a good glass cleaner, and wipe things clean with a microfiber towel or a newspaper to eliminate lint.
- Even though not exposed to the elements, the glass inside

**See Driving Page 2**

## The Timing Chain

### December No Meeting

**January 14, 2012. (Saturday) Annual Holiday party.** Held at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 571 Holt RD, Marietta, GA. 3:00PM Arrival time for reception/networking, and gift exchange. Followed by Dinner 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Cost of dinner will be \$10.00 per person, the club pays remaining cost. Our caterer will be the same. We will have our usual gift exchange; men bring a man's gift, and women bring a woman's gift. Please limit your purchase to \$15.00. Call Roddy Pearce no later than Tuesday, January 3rd with the number of people in your party in order that we provide enough food and arrange adequate seating. 404-371-1999.

#### Directions:

Take **I-75 North to 120 Loop** (Exit 263).

Take the **GA-120** ramp toward Roswell. Follow **Roswell Rd** for 0.7 mi.

Turn **right** on **Robinson Rd** for 0.4 mi.

Turn **right** onto **Holt Rd.** for 0.4 mi.

**571 Holt Rd** is on the right.

**February 12, 2012. Annual Bowl-A-Rama.** Held at **AMF Woodstock Lanes, 108 Woodpark Blvd. Woodstock, GA.** Be there, get your shoes, etc. and be ready to bowl at 12:30 PM. \$12 adults (over 12 yrs), \$9 for under 12 yrs, price includes 3 games bowling (league style) shoe rental & lunch. \$6 for lunch only. Please RSVP by Feb 6th by phone or email to Bruce or Shar 770-977-7924, [sbkile@juno.com](mailto:sbkile@juno.com) This is another of our truly family fun events. Bowling ability is not required, as a matter of fact with our "handicap system" good bowling ability could be a detriment. Naturally there are awards & prizes. Weather permitting, be sure to drive those Buicks, there will be ample secluded parking. Directions will be provided later.

**March meeting will be announced later.**

**May 4—6, 2012. 31st Annual BOPC. Held at the Atlanta Marriott North-west.** The actual car show date will be May 5th. Details later.

### Driving from page 1

the vehicle gets dirt also. A good glass cleaner and microfiber towel work well there also.

- If the windshield wipers are more than a year old, replace them. And be sure to fill the washer fluid reservoirs (some vehicles have separate containers for the rear window).
- Check you headlights to make sure they're illuminating. If they are more than three years old, consider replacing them. New halogen bulbs are significantly brighter than older bulbs, and improve nighttime vision.
- Though it is not related to visibility, tires are also important to safe driving. Keeping them properly inflated improves fuel economy and optimizes vehicle performance.

### Clean out the clutter

Think about how your vehicle's interior might fare in an accident. Is there anything rolling around in the back seat that could be dangerous in a rollover or a crash?

- Remove empty bottles, cups, CD cases, and anything that isn't essential to driving. Items can get jammed under pedals in an accident.
- Clear off the dashboard and rear package shelf. Anything not secured could become a dangerous flying object during an evasive maneuver or collision.
- Secure everything you choose to leave inside: Sunglasses, cell phones, etc. Doing this reduces distractions that can pull a driver's attention from driving.

### Prepare Yourself

Today's vehicles do a better job of protecting their occupants than ever before. As good as modern vehicles are, the driver is still the key to safety on the road.

- Here's something to think about after a high-calorie holiday dinner rich in sleep-inducing tryptophan: Driving while over-tired or exhausted is risky. Although not illegal like drunk driving, tired driving puts drivers, and passengers and other motorists in danger.

## December Birthdays

12/1	John Sincere
12/2	John Watkins
12/7	Glenda Stone
12/13	Chip Wright
12/18	Janet Bass
12/18	Maynard Cash
12/23	Lisa Patrick
12/28	Ron Bergeron

## December Anniversaries

12/18	Roy & Janet Bass
12/20	Paul & Penny VanNortwick
12/29	John & Beth Watkins
12/31	Len & Letinna Wilson

- Additionally, auto racers know that a proper seating position is key to safety at any speed. Seating position impacts outward visibility and the control a driver can exert on the vehicle.
- Driving in a reclining position might look cool, but dramatically reduces a driver's vision close to the vehicle. Driving with arms and legs outstretched also forces drivers to use "dumber" large-motor muscles to turn the steering wheel and operate the accelerator and brake pedals. When a driver sits closer to the wheel, he uses "smarter" small motor muscles that enable more precise control that is critical to avoiding accidents.

*Excerpts of an article by Rex Roy, AOL Autos*



# Buick Century, The Name and Story

From: "Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia"

I recently came across a bit of Buick history which told of General Motors choosing the name Century for it's new product line in 1936, and the changes made through the six model generations. Here are excerpts; the entire article can be found on Wikipedia. *Ed.*



1936 Century

**Buick Century** is the model name used by the Buick division of General Motors for a line of full-size performance vehicles from 1936 to 1942 and 1954 to 1958, and from 1973 to 2005 for a mid-size car.

The model name Century came about when Buick was designing its first production automobile capable of reaching a speed of 100 mph. The division needed to come up with a name. One of the Buick executives had returned from a recent trip to the British isles and told the other executives that the British referred to going 100 mph as "doing the century". The executives liked the Century name and it stuck.

## 1936–1942

Buick renamed its entire model lineup for the 1936 model year to celebrate the engineering improvements and design advancements over their 1935 models. Buick's Series 40 model range became the Special, the Series 80 became the Roadmaster and the Series 90-Buick's largest and most luxurious vehicles, became the Limited. The Century took the place of the Series 60.

The basic formula for the 1936 to 1942 Century was established by mating shorter wheelbase Buick Special bodies to Buick's most powerful eight-cylinder engine. While the Special was powered by Buick's 233 in, it was rated 93 hp at 3200 rpm, Centuries produced between 1936 to 1942 were powered by Buick's 320 cu in inline-8 at 165 hp, making them the fastest Buicks of the era and capable of sustained speeds of 95 mph plus, earning the Century the nickname "the banker's hot rod."

The Century was discontinued at the end of the abbreviated 1942 model year, during which total model production only accounted for about ten percent of Buick's total output.

## 1954–1958

In 1954, Buick reintroduced the Century using the same formula of mating the smaller, lighter Buick Special body to its largest and most powerful 322 cubic inch V8 engine with the intent of giving Buick a performance vehicle. Included in the model lineup during this period was a station wagon model, a body style that had been unavailable during the Century's first production period of 1936 to 1942.

In 1955, the California Highway Patrol placed a large fleet order for Century 2-door sedans, a body style unavailable to the general public. It combined the Special 2-door sedan body shell with Century powertrain and trim. Broderick Crawford was shown driving a 2-door Century sedan during the first season of his popular syndicated TV series "Highway Patrol".

(In later seasons he'd drive a four-door Century, like his real life counterparts in the California Highway Patrol.)



1958 Buick Century series 60

The Century remained Buick's performance line, with engine power rising from 200 hp in 1954, to 236 in 1955, to 255 in 1956, and topping out at 300 from a bored-out 364 cu in (6.0 L) engine in 1957-58, the last model years for the full sized Century line. Because the Century was considered the senior "small Buick", the model received GM's only hardtop station wagon, the **Century Caballero**, from 1957 through 1958. The Caballero's expensive tooling, plus its limited sales appeal, caused GM to abandon the hardtop station wagon body style going into its planned 1959 divisional-wide new design program.

For 1959, Buick renamed the Century the Invicta.

## 1973–1977

The Buick Century nameplate returned the rear-wheel drive intermediate A-body, shared with other GM product lines like Grand Prix, LeMans, Cutlass Supreme, and others. When all of GM's intermediate models were redesigned in 1973, the Century name replaced Skylark on Buick's mid-size sedans and wagons and some coupes. Beginning at this point, Century was a mainstay of Buick's smaller line, along with the new upmarket Regal coupe

With the vanishing of the Skylark coupe after 1972, the Century inherited the potent Gran Sport performance option. While the Stage I, 455 in V8 was somewhat diminished from its performance heyday due to emission controls, the Century GS coupes of 1973 to 1975 remained strong performers by the standards of the time. At the other end of the power spectrum, to meet fuel economy regulations, some later models of this generation were equipped with 231 in V6s.

In 1973 and 1974, the Luxus high-end trim level was offered for the Century, but for 1975 that line was renamed the Century Custom. Also beginning in 1975, the new 110 hp 231 V6 was installed as standard equipment, and the optional big-block 455 was now exclusive to the station wagon. After the 455's demise, the Oldsmobile 403 was available on 1977 Century wagons. GM intermediates got a facelift for 1976, giving the Century quad rectangular headlamps and a taller, flatter grille.

Between 1975 and 1977, a Buick Special coupe was marketed as part of the Century model lineup as an entry-level vehicle. Called the "Century Special" in Buick literature, the coupe was based on the 2-door fastback body style but had a special landau roof that covered most of the quarter glass, giving it the appearance of the higher-lever formal roof cars. 1976 and 1977 models had a unique body-color header panel.

### 1978–1981

In 1978, a downsized, redesigned Century appeared in the form of a fastback coupe ("aeroback") and sedan, as well as a more traditionally styled station wagon. The car was over a foot shorter, several inches narrower, and several hundred pounds lighter than its predecessor. V6 engines were still standard due to fuel economy regulations. The base engine was Buick's new 196, introduced specifically for the Century and Regal. The 231 and the Chevrolet 305 were options. The Pontiac 265 and 301 replaced the Chevrolet engine for 1979.

One of the more rare models of this time was the 1979 to 1980 Century **Turbo Coupe**, powered by a turbocharged version of the 3.8 L V6, which offered V8-like performance with more reasonable fuel consumption. The Turbo Coupe was not nearly as popular as the similar Regal Turbo Sport Coupe of the time, and total production is estimated to be less than 2,500.

The fastback sedan also did not sell well (in common with the similar Cutlass Salon sedan) and it was revamped as a more conventional notchback in 1980. The "Limited" coupe was also dropped this year. For 1981, the fastback coupe was dropped. With the introduction of the new front wheel drive Century in 1982, the existing notchback sedan and wagon models were transferred to the Regal line.

### 1982–1996



**1986 - 1988 Buick Century Estate Wagon**

In 1981, another downsized Century arrived, this time on the front wheel drive "A" platform, in coupe and sedan form. In 1984, a station wagon was added to the lineup to replace the departed Regal wagon. 1984 also saw an Olympic version of the Buick Century, commemorating the 1984 games in Los Angeles, California. In 1986, all versions were "freshened" with a new, more angular front fascia. Wheelbase was 104.9 in, with 189 in overall length. Both four-cylinder and diesel V6 engines were offered in this generation, although neither became popular. Performance versions of several Buick models, including the Century coupe, were offered in the mid 1980s under the T-Type name. With Buick's 181 in (3.0 L) V6 producing 110 hp, the Century T-Type's performance was modest, but the 3.8 SFI engine, producing 140-150 hp, offered spirited performance in this relatively lightweight vehicle.

In 1985 and 1986, Hess & Eisenhardt/Car Craft of Lima, Ohio converted 124 finished Buick Century Coupes into coachbuilt convertibles. Although these convertibles were sold as new cars through Buick dealerships, these convertible conversions were not factory authorized.



**1985 Buick Century coupe**



**1986–1988 Buick Century sedan**



**1989–1990 Buick Century sedan**



**1991–1993 Buick Century sedan**

## Deals For Wheels

### Parts For Sale

Extra parts from the restoration of a 1972 GS. Too numerous to list. If interested Contact Chris Crocker NAPA Merchandise Center, 3100 Windy Hill Road, Atlanta, Ga. 30339. Office: 770-850-2496 or [chris\\_crocker@genpt.com](mailto:chris_crocker@genpt.com). If you are interested in seeing a very fuzzy video of the parts (no audio), contact Cliff Dillingham [cliffdillingham@att.net](mailto:cliffdillingham@att.net)

### For Sale

**1990 Buick Reatta Convertible** 35,000 miles, white / white top / burgundy interior –Shown at BOP-new headlight arms-Beautiful car \$14,000

### Parts For Sale

- Double Pumper 4BBL Holley Carburetor – came off my '69 Riviera--not pretty but works fine \$35.00
- Complete MSD Ignition System –removed from my '69 Riviera—works great \$125.00 (have MSD Distributor and coil for 430 engine as well)

Contact John Link [linkltrs@bellsouth.net](mailto:linkltrs@bellsouth.net) or 404-578-8973

### For Sale

#### Buick Engines For Sale.

**455 – 1973.** Includes block, heads, stock intake & exhaust manifolds & valve covers. \$400 or reasonable offer.

**430 – 1968-69.** Complete with intake & exhaust manifolds, distributor, fuel pump, air pump, starter, Rochester carb, valve covers and more. \$400 or reasonable offer.

**Nailhead** – Believed to be a 1953. Block, heads, valve covers, timing cover, flywheel. Make offer.

**Turbo 400 Transmission.** Make offer. All need to be rebuilt.

Contact Paula Liska (BC A #6396, BDE #2) at [kliska@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kliska@cfl.rr.com) or call 407-873-7262. Located in Central Florida



### For Sale

**1960 Buick Trailer Hitch** made by Draw-Tite (my family sold and installed this brand of hitches during the late 1950's to the early 1970's). It is a class I rated, chrome plated hitch. Asking \$150 plus sales tax (if sold to a Georgia resident), and shipping if wanted. Contact Joe Poole, Jr 770-597-5992 Cell or [info@fergusonpoolemarine.com](mailto:info@fergusonpoolemarine.com)



### For Sale (New Ad)

**1994 Roadmaster Limited Sedan**, the ultimate road car for touring or daily use, 133K (well maintained) miles, loaded with creature comforts including near perfect leather interior - asking \$3995. Selling for widow of Dixie Chapter member. Contact Bruce Kile for details &/or pictures. 770-977-7924 or email [sbkile@juno.com](mailto:sbkile@juno.com)

The Dixie Chapter is one of over 60 chapters of the Buick Club of America; a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of automobiles built by the Buick Motor Division of the General Motors Corporation.

The Dixie Valve Chatter, DVC is the official publication of the Dixie Chapter.

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