

The Dixie Valve Chatter

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 12

JANUARY, 2011

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Director's Message

By: Bob Stone

Happy New Year!

Well 2011 is here and a fresh slate of BUICK activities awaits! Since I last met with you we had a nice time at the Woodstock, GA Christmas parade. Several BUICKS and one 55 Chevy made it, and the crowd reaction was great. Either from the great cars or the candy we tossed to them.

This New Year we have several events and one milestone to celebrate. Our annual Holiday Party is in a few weeks, the Annual Bowl-A-Rama in February. The 30th annual BOPC show hosted by our chapter in April; Our 3rd Annual over night tour in May lead by Tour veterans Bruce and Shar Kile, and the BCA national meet in Danvers, Mass in July. If this is not enough to keep you busy, stay tuned for the second half of the year!

See you at the Holiday Party, will save you a piece of Craig's Great chicken.

Happy Motoring!
Bob Stone, BCA#37843
Director, Dixie Chapter of the
BCA

Annual Christmas Parade, Woodstock, GA



Photo: Bob Stone

Christmas lights glitter on Dixie Chapter cars as they line up for the Annual Woodstock Christmas parade. First in line is Bob & Glenda Stone's 1973 Centurion Conv., followed by Bill & Nancy Hansen's 52 Roadmaster. Next, Lisa Patrick's 71 Skylark Conv. Next in line, a Stage 1 GS, and a 1955 Chevy driven by Mark Reeves & Wanda Reeves. Not the most favorable condition for a parade, but the rain made the lights sparkle and glow.

Bragging Rights

By Don McClair

The January 2001 issue of the *Buick Bugle* featured my 1966 Wildcat Gran Sport. It was a real treat to have my car and article featured in that publication.

Now ten years later I am privileged once again have to have a car in print. The 1966 Skylark Gran Sport that Cliff Dillingham and I restored is the centerfold in the January 2011 issue of *Muscle Car Review*. Then and Now Auto Restorations that is owned by our own Mark Reeves did the body and paint work.

I would like to once again thank Cliff, Mark and all the guys at Then and Now for making the GS what it is - which made it possible to appear in print! If you would like to read the article, check you local newsstand for a copy before they are gone.
Don McClair #26502



The Timing Chain

January 15, 2011 (Saturday) Annual Holiday party. Held at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 571 Holt RD, Marietta, GA. 3:00PM Arrival and reception/socializing. 4:00 PM Dinner, followed by opening presents. \$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 Connie Bergeron no later than [noon, January 7th](#) with the number of people in your party. 770-951-1411

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 13, 2011. 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. \$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 7th by phone or email to Bruce or Shar 770-977-7924, 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.

Quotable Quote

Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, "Where have I gone wrong?" Then a voice says to me, "This is going to take more than one night."

Charlie Brown (Character from Peanuts comic strip)

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome **James Jr. & Sarah Thomas** to the Dixie chapter. They live in Harlem, GA and own a 1986 Regal 2 Door Cpe. We are glad to have you join us.

January Birthdays

1/3	Gerald Hendrix
1/4	Gary O'Neill
1/14	Rita Valeri
1/17	Diana O'Neill
1/24	Kevin Link
1/29	Betty Gillen

January Anniversaries

1/14 Terry & Bernice Page

Grit In The Gearbox



Buicks and Drag Racing

Taken from an article that appeared in the June 1, 2006 issue of Hemmings Muscle Machines.

Some people are destined for greatness. You could say that, by age three, a precocious tot named Tommy Ivo had shown he had what it takes to be a star. Although his focus shifted from acting to drag racing, for nearly 50 years, "TV Tommy" was the ultimate showman, delighting fans all across the country.

It was after his family moved to Burbank, California, from Colorado in 1943, that seven-year-old Ivo got his big break. He became a popular child and teen actor who appeared in nearly 100 movies and 200 TV shows over the next 19 years. "There was a lot of downtime when I was filming," he recalls. "We were in the hub of the hot

rod industry, and I was pretty mechanically inclined. I started tinkering with cars to pass the time. How much better could it get--I was a kid having fun, and they were paying me!"

A day spent racing his new 1955 Buick Century set him on an unforeseen path. "That car went like crazy—I won my class at Pomona and set a track record. I won two trophies that day, and I was hooked," he smiles. Between takes on the movie and television sets, Ivo fueled his new passion for speed by building a stylish '25 Model T rod powered by a Buick V-8, and it earned him kudos on both the drag strip and car show circuit. "I started winning trophies. My buddies had a dragster chassis, so [in 1958] I slid a Buick engine into that, and it became Top Eliminator. I didn't just want to win my class—I wanted to be the big dog of Top Eliminator," he laughs.

See Hot Rod Page 3

Hot Rod From Page 2

NHRA rules dictated gas cars in the late 1950s, and when he felt his single-engine car had reached its potential, Ivo decided to double up. "I wanted to be the baddest bear in the woods," he smiles. "I wasn't afraid of speed, and I figured this was the only way to get more horsepower."

He conceived and built a twin-Buick V-8-engined gasser that was the first to reach 170 and 180 mph. He made the rounds with this car because his acting schedule allowed him the freedom, and his celebrity made him a drag strip draw. "I was the first to tour the country as a professional racer," he says.

Always thinking outside the box, he created a four-engine monster that was dubbed the 'Showboat' by *Hot Rod*, due to its feature photo shoot on the set of the TV series *Margie* in which Ivo was then starring. "I didn't like that name," he says; "I'd have probably called it the Four-headed Dragon." The NHRA banned that Showboat in competition because they were afraid their guardrails wouldn't contain it; it became the first exhibition car.

Ivo takes pride in knowing that he, like his honored racing rival and friend Don Garlits, is from the old school. We built and tuned our cars, booked the appearances and drove ourselves. We were one-man armies," he remembers. "Driving against Garlits was always a challenge, and after we'd race, we'd take over a restaurant and have a great time. It's not like today, when everyone is afraid of trading secrets. Back then I did it all, and got much satisfaction."

It wasn't all smooth sailing, as Ivo had a life-threatening crash two years after switching to a rear-engine nitro-burner. "It was a brand-spankin' new car on my fourth run in the 1974 Winternationals. The engine exploded so fiercely that it turned into a fireball and punched a hole in the wing. I was running 240 (mph) upside down, backwards--I hit the guardrail, and the car came apart like a two-dollar watch. It was worth the price of admission. I thought it was curtains, and when I felt that, I became euphoric--the scare went away. . I was mad at myself because I'd closed my eyes and missed the show." He walked away without a scratch. "TV Tommy" Ivo retired in 1982, this forever-young 70-year-old continues to follow his beloved

motor sport and to be recognized for his contributions to its history. "I still go to the races to get my smell and concussion fix, and I've been inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame and the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America," he smiles. "I've had three wishes in life--to be in movies, to race, and to live long enough to know that I've stood the test of time. I'm happy to say they've all come true."

The name Tommy Ivo may not ring a bell for most of you. Perhaps you will best remember him as "Tommy" on The Mickey Mouse Club". Ed.



Photo: Hemmings Blog

Tommy Ivo, with his brawny dragster with four nailhead Buick V-8s and four-wheel drive.

2010 In Review

Holiday Party, January



Annual Bowl-A-Rama



BOP&C (Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac & Cadillac Show) And the rain came down



Dixie Chapter Overnighter “Mentone Or Bust”



CHVA Winners



Annual Picnic



Southeast Regional Tour



Deals For Wheels

For Sale

CB radios, antennas, slide mounts, transmission hump mounts, extension speakers and accessories. New replacement microphones for many sets. Will test your CB for proper operation.

For all you tourers! In addition to my usual radios, I have several deluxe CB radios including:

- **Cobra 40X** with chrome face and new deluxe mike. Like new!
- **Kraco** with woodtone face. New in box!
- **Midland 13-830** "top view". Like new!
- **3 Midland "hide away"** radios. All controls on mike sized handset; main unit can be hidden under seat, under dash, or even in trunk with included optional extra long cord. New in box!

Have splitters so you can use your car antenna for your CB. Be ready for tours! Call or e-mail and I will be glad to talk and send you pictures of any or all radios. **Contact Roddy Pearce 404-371-1999 or roddypearce@mindspring.com**

For Sale

New Old Stock Monroe Max-Air Air Shocks. Fits 73-77 Century, 77-90 Estate Wagon, 73-77 Regal and 91-96 Roadmaster, as well as many other GM cars. A list is available at <http://www.oreillyauto.com/site/c/detail/MON3/MA717.oap?keyword=ma717> When you get to the O'Reilly web page, you are required to enter a zip code and select a store, it will then bring up a screen showing this set of shocks. Just click the "Compatibility" tab to see the complete list of cars that these will fit. The Max-Air Part Number is MA-717. \$25. **Contact Jerry Richstein 770-924-4779, or jerry.richstein@juno.com**

For Sale

Original Buick Owner's Manuals for 1949, 1952, 1956, 1973, and 1978. Also original Reference Book for 1926 Buick Standard Six and Master Six. **Contact Rich Fink, 770-459-4098 or richfink@gmail.com**

For Sale

Buick Reference, Specifications, adjustments and Shop manuals for 1924,1926,1927,1928 1929 & 1931. Contact Jene Van Arnam, Harrison, TN 423-344-4706.

Parts For Sale

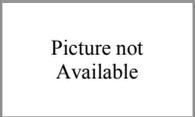
1953-56 Buick V8, two NOS Delco-Remy Distributor Breaker Plate Assemblies - which include the plate, points, condenser and primary wire. They are part number 1923257 and are in opened Delco Remy boxes. \$15 each plus postage. **Contact Jay Friedman, jaysfriedman@yahoo.com**

For Sale



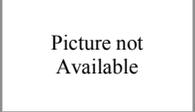
1959 Buick LeSabre Sedan. Silver Birch/Arctic white, green interior. 83k mi. It's all original and runs great. Asking \$9,000 firm. Prefer to sell to a local chapter member. **Contact Chip Wright 770-932-0178 or 59deltawingpilot@gmail.com**

For Sale



1989 LeSabre wagon. It has power everything and it all works. The motor was replaced about 40 K miles ago. All new brakes (around \$600), tuned it up, had the ac services, new alternator, new sound system with disc player, all new suspension all the way around, steering gear box rebuilt. - on and on and on. The car was repainted before I got it, but it has oxidized and some of the paneling is blown off. otherwise it is in good condition. This is not a show car, but a dependable daily driver. Asking \$1,700 **Contact Ken Hendrick 404 409 3423 klhendrick2002@yahoo.com**

For Sale (New Listing)



1974 Estate Wagon. Green with Wodgrain. 89,00 miles. Non-working ac. Good interior except for driver's side. Manual windows. Fair to good body. 455 turbo 400 runs. \$3,00 OBO **Contact Robert Causey 478-923-2737**

Club Store Items For Sale

Item	Price
BCA Logo Patch	\$2.00
BCA Logo Decal	\$0.75
Buick Trash Bag	\$0.50
Dixie Chapter Button/Pin	\$0.50
Large number of Dashboard Plaques from prior years - from 1984 to 2001.	

Contact Jack Horvath: 770-934-0127 or pjhorvath@bellsouth.net

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.

The year 2011 Dixie Chapter Officers are:

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