

# The Driving Force



**A happy bunch of Buick Driving Enthusiasts on the final day of touring**

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*Ride along as the BDE roars ahead*





## Shifting gears with the Directors

**Skip Petsch, , Senior Director  
Fellow BDE Members,**

**Sorry I missed the Nags Head Tour. I got a lot of reports that everyone had a good time. I'm glad they did and wish I could have been there too. I could not attend because of having Spinal Surgery. I'm recuperating well at home now. Doctors have not released me to drive at this time. I can't wait to get back on the road again in my wagon. However, before that can happen, I have got to get the motor and transmission back in the car. Back surgery can mess up everything! I Congratulations Frank Cwikla on becoming a junior director, glad to have you on board. I have about 90% of the tour for next May, Georgia On My Mind, worked out with just a few more details to finish up. I think everyone will enjoy this one. Keep the rubber on the road and hope to see ya'll soon.**

**John Daily, Middle Director**

**Hope you all had a great time in Nags Head, NC national tour. Thanks Rhett. Kathy & I enjoyed all the scenery & comradery with everyone that was able to attend. The tropical storm turned out to be one day with rain. We stopped by our son's family in Charlottesville, VA on the way home for a couple of days. The newest "tradition" of model car racing looks to be a hit, with four cars, & more on order per conversations. Next years national tour in Georgia looks to be lots of fun, as we have all come to expect each year. We were home two days before we headed up to northwest MI to begin setting up our 2017 tour. We were able to rough out the individual days events & begin to establish some of the routes we will use. Our chosen hub location in Bellaire, MI ( Shanty Creek Resort ) looks better and better. The cherry blossoms were out all over the area as we had hoped, & the wild flowers were in full bloom everywhere we went. We were even able to find a local ice cream event, not just a stop.**

**John**

**Frank Cwikla, Junior Director**

**We had a great time in the Outer Banks, N.C. Great job, Rhett. We toured to N.C. with the Williams and Norgards. We enjoyed being with them and our picnic stops. Going home it took us two day. They were long days. No problems with the car. For our National tour in 2018 we are looking into the Reedsburg-Wi. Dells areas. Will try to go a different way every day. Went with our local club to Richard Munz car collection in Madison, Wi. All Fords, but nice place. Only problem their is parking. Hope to see some of you at the Buick National. Thank you for electing me Junior director.**

**Frank Cwikla.**

### **An Important Announcement from the Board of Directors**

**Our Board of Directors have directed me, as editor of the Driving Force, to distribute our newsletter electronically. This change is a direct result of the high postage costs in relation to our low membership dues. Of course if you, as a member, do not have e-mail or do not wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail, we will continue to send it out by U.S.P. This issue is being distributed both ways. Please confirm that you received it by e-mail and inform me if you do not wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail. There may be an additional charge to receive it by U.S.P. in the future.**

***Isabel Lenny, Membership chair***

***Ed and I have just returned from the BDE National Meet on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We had a great time and enjoyed seeing everyone.***

***The membership report was given at the business meeting. At the start of the year we had 132 members, 1 resignation, and 8 who did not renew.***

**PLEASE NOTE: Future issues of The Driving Force will be emailed to all those members with a valid email address. Please email me your current email address. This request is to make sure we have the correct address and spelling. Should you change your email address at any time, please notify me of any change. My email address is: lugnuts36@icloud.com. IF you do not have email, you will receive your copy of the newsletter via the mail.**

***I hope everyone has a great summer.***

***Isabel Lenny  
Membership chairperson***

THE CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Hello BDE'ers,

**I must start by apologizing up front for this "Corner" being mostly about Barb and me. So many** thoughts, and putting some of them to print, I think just might be good therapy. Three months just has not lessened the grief. Please keep me and family in prayer, as we are still having a hard time with Barb's passing.

I don't know if this will get into the second quarter edition or not, but I will write it as though it will.

The past four months have been hard on BDE members. We have lost four prime folks in that short period of time. I suppose at the age most of us are, we can't realistically think that we aren't going to have members pass on pretty regularly. Certainly James, Barb, Alverta, and Brian will be consciously missed by family, friends, and Buick lovers all. For sure God knows what He is doing, and when He gives the nod for one of His own to come to him, then those of us left must thank God for the time we had with each of them.

It is my belief that our four loved ones and friends are really so much better in their new homes. I know Barb was having such a hard time physically with the Diabetes and all the complications from that horrible disease. I also believe that God has a good sense of humor, and he wants us to be happy in Heaven. I can just see James, Barb, Alverta and Brian driving around Heaven in a nice 1953 Skylark convertible.

Barb loved the BDE from our first tour in Door County, WI. Ellen and John Cavanaugh took us as guests, and the rest is history. Barb could usually be found (when not on a daily tour) back in a corner with several other ladies putting together 1,000 piece puzzles. I think they got most of them completed during the week. Of course don't give Barb the chance to go shopping, because that is right where she would be. She also loved anything to do with decorating, and when Ellen asked Barb to help with putting together the Fredricksburg, TX tour she was all in. I'm bragging on her, but the decorations were great. You can't imagine the wine that had to be consumed to have bottles for table decorations.

I personally want to thank all of you that wrote cards, letters and called. The support was felt and appreciated. BDE is not just a club, it is a family and it is sure good to have so many sisters and brothers all around the country. My biggest thanks goes to Connie & Darrell B. for filling in for me as to the duties of Chaplin. I thank you and love you for your stepping up to the plate in my absences. I'm ready to now be active in carrying out the duties again. Please if any of you have concerns about members of BDE, or families thereof, let me know. My email address and **phone number are in "The Driving Force". Heaven forbid we have anymore go to meet the Lord** for a while, but if so, please let me know. You can reach me at email [guy\\_greene@yahoo.com](mailto:guy_greene@yahoo.com), 210 674 2817 or 210 347 7283.



## **2015 BDE National Tour at Kill Devil Hills N.C.**

Wendy and I always make a holiday out of our trips to Buick events and this year is no different. On Friday, May 8, I played 18 holes of golf, (94) for those who care, came home for a light lunch then loaded up the Riviera and departed for our destination, Niagara Falls, Ontario. We spent our honeymoon there in 1965 and have visited there many times over the last 50 years. Our trip there this year was taken over back roads. We do not drive highways unless we have to, nothing to see and mostly a bunch of wild drivers. We arrived safely at the Best Western Cairn Croft, where we usually stay on visits to the area. It is a nice hotel and we were upgraded to a beautiful suite complete with large whirlpool tub. We walked to a close Red Lobster for a nice dinner (too much food) and then back to the hotel to relax.

Saturday morning after a quick breakfast at McDonalds, we packed up and drove along the Niagara Parkway to Fort Erie, then a stop at the Duty Free to pick up some cheap beer, would you believe \$20.00 for 24 Coors Light, (\$39.95 at home) then over the bridge, used our NEXUS cards and a quick chat and on our way. We traveled down RTE 5 to 179 then over to Blasdell, NY where we gassed up (\$2.73 a gal), and then to Office Max, where we dropped off 10 empty ink cartridges for credit. We will receive a voucher via email by the end of the month. Then a very nice scenic drive across New York State on back roads, into Pennsylvania and more back roads, up and down steep hills and through many small old towns, with beautiful old houses and lots of flowers. We noticed how low the water is in the creeks and rivers along the way. Our hotel in Shillington, PA, was another nice Best Western who had upgraded us to a nice King Room. Out for an inexpensive dinner at a Greek restaurant on the hotel property, out for gasoline (\$2.69 a gallon), then back to the room to relax. The weather network was forecasting a tropical storm "ANA" one of the earliest storms to come ashore, calling for 2 feet water surges on the Carolina Shores. This was a cause for concern for us, and we had to think about turning around and heading home.



Sunday morning we turned on the weather network again as well as the computer and called the host hotel in Kill Devil Hills. It seemed that the storm was going to be a long way south of our destination so we packed up and head-



ed out via the PA Turnpike and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel. What a construction feat that must have been. Opening on April 15, 1965 as a single lane bridge, on April 19, 1999 the second bridge opened, now 2 lanes each way on

the bridge part and one lane each way in the tunnel. Over 116 Million vehicles have crossed the bridge/tunnel.

We departed at 8 a.m. and arrived at the hotel at



4:30 p.m. after 383 miles. The parking lot was full of Buicks and our BDE Family welcomed us as usual, lots of familiar faces and some new ones. Our host, Rhett and his son Rhett had a tent set up in the parking lot and had welcome drinks for us. After a visit to the hospitality room, more hugs! we unloaded the car and unpacked. At 6 p.m. there was a "low country boil" held in the parking lot, where we enjoyed Shrimp, potatoes and sausage. The "boys" had their electric race cars out on the parking lot getting in some practice for the races.

Monday morning we awoke to RAIN, what a dampener for our day. After a nice light breakfast in the hotel dining room we had our drivers meeting under the entryway. We had a short drive



to the Wright Brothers National Memorial where we wandered the exhibits until 10 a.m. when we were

entertained by Kevin, a National Park Service employee who told us the story about Orville and Wilbur Wright and how they worked on the principle of flight. They were born in Dayton, Ohio and owned a bicycle shop there and made the trip to Kitty Hawk many times. It was a 9 day trip each way back then. This park is a wonderful tribute to the Wright Brothers. There is a sculpture depicting the first flight, a monument atop a tall sand dune to the brothers, the "runway" area is marked 1,2,3, indicating the distance the plane travelled on a rail from start to flight. After the visit to the memorial we were on our own until our dinner/dancing plan at Kelly's Outer Banks Bar so people split up and headed on their way to find lunch, then relaxed and dried out for the afternoon. Some of us went to Kelly's early and had a great meal. The group drifted in from about 5:30 p.m. and we filled the area which was

set aside for our group. It rained on and off all day, heavy at times.



Tuesday morning was bright and sunny, down went the tops on the convertibles ready for our long drive down the Hatteras Island to Ocracoke Island. We departed on time and headed out in our groups. What a nice drive, between the high sand dunes, with dust being whipped across the road and the salt spray coming at times too. One car, a 1963 Special, owned by the Grants developed a problem and had to pull over. Our Tail-gunners, Connie and Darrell Brumbaugh, pulled over and stayed with them until a tow truck arrived. The rest of us had a delightful one hour





ferry ride to reach Ocracoke Island where we had a short drive to Howard's Pub and Raw Bar where we had reservations for our large group. I had the nicest shrimp salad I have ever had. Everyone enjoyed their lunch and the prices were easy to live with too. After lunch we toured into Ocracoke Island to check out the sights, some of us stopped for ice cream. We returned to the ferry and Wendy and I were just in time to board before it pulled out. Another hour ride, then a return drive back to the hotel. Around 7:30 p.m. a local car club came to the parking lot with their cars, Corvettes, a Camaro, a Cobra, a 1939 Packard powered by Chevrolet small block, a Charger and a 1968 Buick Skylark, not in good shape. There was a serious contest going on at the same time between John Dale and Bobby, with their battery powered race cars, lots of fun, boy do those cars fly. The first part of the silent auction was held this night also.

Wednesday morning, again bright sunshine but cool. We had a wonderful thunderstorm last night out over the Atlantic but only a little rain fell on the cars. After our drivers meeting, at which Lynn was trying to round up the people who said they wanted to fish, also Ernie Grant thanked Darrell and

Connie for staying with them after their breakdown and helping

them contact a tow truck. We were also given a warning to keep our cars locked as people are walking around checking for unlocked cars and stealing stuff.

Some of our members drove north to visit a wild horse herd and there was a charge to ride in 4 wheel drive vehicles out on the sand. (See Ed and Isabel's story on Page 12)

Our destination this day was the Hatteras Light House, to which we had to follow the same route as the day before. This lighthouse is the tallest in the USA at 208 feet. It

needed to be moved to avoid the encroaching tide and the move took 23 days. In one of the buildings there was a short film about the Lighthouse and the move.

From the light house we had to drive 10 miles to the ferry area and visit the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum which was fairly interesting.

Wendy and I found a new "deli" on the way back and had a nice sandwich lunch, then stopped in Avon at "Cones and Cups" ice cream store located and a bright pink building. Arriving back at the hotel early, I took

the time to wash off the salt and sand deposits from the Riviera. We had our general membership meeting that evening followed by the last of the silent auction.



Thursday morning we finally were able to get our group picture, right after the drivers meeting. We had tried on two other occasions but could not get everyone together. Our destination that morning was "Gravedigger Garage" about a 27 mile drive north from our hotel. This was an interesting place, mostly for the men, though some of the gals were into these "Monster Trucks". We had a semi-guided tour through many buildings



where employees explained how these trucks are built. The company has 68 monster trucks with over 68 drivers on staff. From there we were on our own for the rest of the day, except for the people who had signed up to fish on Jennette's Pier. Wendy and I drove down to the pier and had lunch

while we waited for the fishermen (and Joyce) to arrive. Boy it was cold in the wind on the pier.

That evening we had our banquet and said our goodbyes until the BCA National or the BDE Fall Tour in Orlando.

On Friday morning we had a quick breakfast at the hotel after loading the Riviera up ready



for the drive to our next stop, the home of fellow BCA and McLaughlin Buick Club of Canada members, Dean and Les Tryon in Wake Forest, NC about a 4 hour drive along Rte 64. We crossed over Roanoke Island where in 1587, Virginia Dare was born, the first Christian borne in Virginia. Our BDE host hotel was located on S. Virginia Dare Trail in Kill Devil Hills.





Arriving in Wake Forest in time for a nice lunch before unloading the car and having guided tour of the Tryon home and garages, checking out Dean's 1916 McLaughlin, 1929 Buick, 1959 Special and a 1949 Pontiac Woodie wagon. They took us on a driving tour of the area and showed us some of the highlights, then back for a nice chicken dinner. On Saturday morning we headed to Cary, N.C. to take in a car show in a lovely setting. Dean was to take part in a demonstration of taking a Model T Ford



apart and reassembling it. The team took only 7 minutes to put it back together, not a record, but still a good time. It was



the first time Wendy and I had seen this done. There was a nice

selection of cars on display, and the trophies were going to be awarded to the best car of each decade from 1900. There were a lot of Corvettes and a few Buicks. After the car show Dean and Les took us to "Chick Fila" where we had a good lunch (our treat) then on to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham N.C. A beautiful place to spend a few hours, lots of flowers and trails with ponds and trickling waterfalls. We went home for a glass of wine and a chat, then out for a nice dinner.



On Sunday morning we mounted up and departed the Tryon mansion at 8:30 a.m. on our way to Berkley Springs, WV, driving all on beautiful scenic back roads, arriving at our hotel at 3:00 p.m.

On Monday morning we started out on our 5 hour drive to North Royalton, Ohio to visit with Bob and Katie Montgomery. Bob is doing OK, but sure is not the healthy bag-piper we all know so well. We had a nice lunch and a good visit before heading over to Hudson, Ohio and the home of Doc and Donna Anderson, who graciously invited us to stay overnight before heading for the border and home.

Tuesday morning, after a good breakfast, we began our drive home, arriving at 5 p.m. We only saw one accident in our 2,458 mile round trip and it was on a highway west of Toronto. We spent \$40.00 in tolls on this trip.

**Earlier this year I was approached by Nicholas Maronese, a writer for an internet magazine called Autofocus. He wanted to interview me about an article he was going to write about Buick Portholes. I did some research in my library and The Buick a Complete History by Terry Dunham and Larry Gustin prior to the interview.**

**The article came online on March 3, 2015. You need to see it online @ <http://www.autofocus.ca/news-events-features/design-icons> and look for the Buick Porthole story. I know you will find it interesting. I tried to reproduce it for the newsletter but could not.**

Coming events for Buick People

August 12-15 - Manitoulin Island, Ontario, 44th Annual MBCC Homecoming

September 18-19, Leamington, Ontario, MBCC Fall Tour

October 18-23, Orlando, Florida— BDE Fall Tour

May 14-19, 2016 BDE National Tour—Callaway Gardens, Georgia

July 27 - 30, 2016, Allentown, Pennsylvania, BCA 50th Anniversary

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**'I would sincerely like to thank those BDE members who have very kindly contacted me by email or sent cards following Brian's passing. Your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time is very much appreciated - thank you all. Linda Hall BDE227'**

**BDE Members: May 9th-15th 2015 Nags Head, N. Carolina**

**Thank you all for allowing me to attend with my Brother Guy that week. It was an adventure I won't soon forget, as the entire club works so hard to see the outcome. Wished I could have meet and spoke with more of you, but time didn't permit. For those in which I did it was truly my pleasure.**

**Your club is the best organized group I've seen in years if ever, and to put on such an event and have it work, is spectacular. Words don't come close to how well you work together. The respect for God, Country and each other is over the top, as is the love of the Buick line of cars you drive and enjoy.**

**As I sat in on your meetings I could tell each of you play a significant roll in the functions and future of the club and its activities. I also witnessed true caring and compassion for members of your group who have experienced tragedies in their lives. For me this shows you folks are more than just a Club. You are indeed members of a close Family living in different parts of this beautiful country of ours.**

**God bless you one and all, Do hope I have the opportunity to see you again.**

**Sincerely,**

**That Mopar (Chrysler) Fellow**

**Bob Greene**

**John Horvath, BDE 373 asked if I would put this link in the Driving Force, it has to do with his time in the military, quite interesting. [TwoMillionMilesOfBadRoad](#)**



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John, where are your shoes?



This is a sculpture of the Kitty Hawk Plane



Our docent Kevin speaks to a fascinated audience



## THE WILD HORSES of COROLLA

The BDE National Tour, hosted by Rhett Spencer, to the Outer Banks of North Carolina held an unexpected surprise for a number of BDE members. Once we became aware that tours were available to see the herd of untamed Spanish Colonial Mustangs living on the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, we planned an afternoon to do so.

With Margaret and Bobby Minis, we headed north from Kill Devil Hills to the village of Corolla, NC. We had made a reservation with Back Country Safari Tours because their name is sooo cool. As it turned out, our guide was a young man named Terry who proved to be very knowledgeable. The four of us, and four others we didn't know, piled into Terry's four wheel drive pick-up with extra seats in the bed. Soon we had left behind paved roads, and were motoring on the beach. There was no extra charge for the sand that blew into the truck covering our clothes, and more importantly worked its way into some of our eyes.\*

This herd is the remains of the combat horses the early Spanish explorers brought to this area. Once their number was in the thousands, but now the herd is estimated at about eighty-five. The Corolla Wild Horse Fund is a non-profit organization founded to preserve and protect the herd. The horses must find their own food and water. It is not permissible to feed them, or to even approach within fifty feet. The herd feeds on the scrub grass found on the dunes, and in areas behind the dunes, and drinks from pools of water with low salinity. The Refuge is bounded by fences north and south, and by the Currituck Sound on the west, and the Atlantic Ocean on the east. Terry had explained that two foals had been born within the last 7-10 days. No one can be certain when the births occurred, but watchers know when the foals were first observed. The horses roam in small groups with several mares and a stallion who protects his mares from unattached stallions. We were told that fights are common when one stallion challenges another. Kind of sounds like Kelly's Lounge on a Saturday night. The "harems" walk along with the stallion always at the rear, and ever watchful. Well, this must have been our lucky day, because we saw almost the entire herd at various places and were fortunate to see not just one foal, but two! The slightly older foal had been named Rosa, and the younger foal was named Chabella. It is amazing to realize that these Mustangs are descendants of those who roamed here nearly five hundred years ago. All of us in our 4 Wheeler were surprised to learn that there is a whole development of homes behind the dunes. There are no paved roads, only deep sand paths, and travel into and out of these homes can only be accomplished with a 4 Wheeler. We saw an electric utility truck back there, and some contractors working, and all were using 4 wheel drive vehicles. We were told if you order a pizza, it comes via 4 Wheeler with a substantial delivery fee. To live there we imagine that you must plan very well and home school your children. We certainly enjoyed the entire Outer Banks tour and thank Rhett Spencer for all of his efforts, and we will remember our wild horses visit for a long, long, time

Ed and Isabel Lenny BDE #222 BCA # 7534

\*Ed has seen an ophthalmologist, and his sight should recover before the next BDE National Tour

