



# The Driving Force

*Driving, Touring & Just Having Fun!*

A Publication of the Buick Driving Enthusiasts  
Division of the Buick Club of America  
Roaring into the 20's Issue  
Winter 2020



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**REGISTER NOW!**

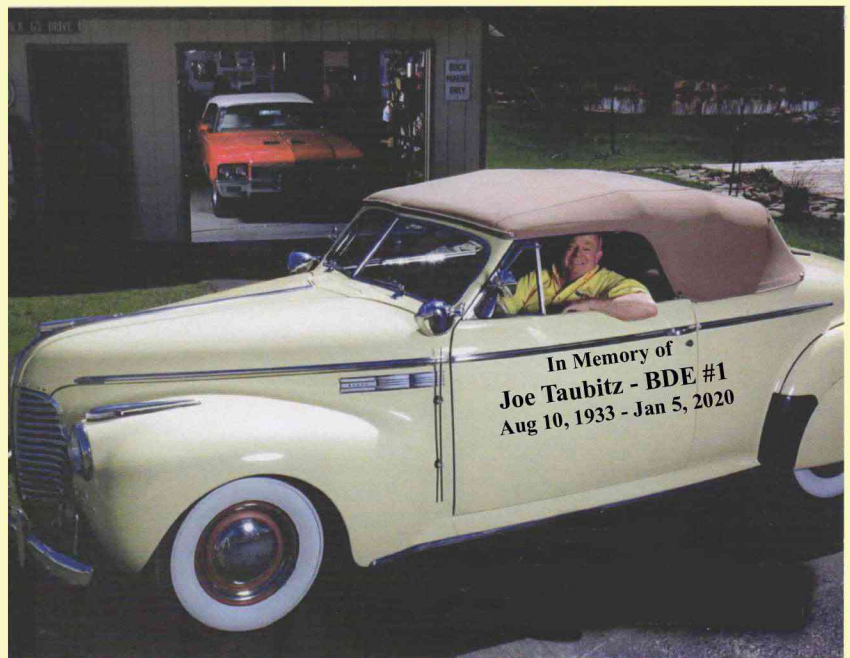
A gentleman has left the hobby. A legend has departed.  
BDE #1, Joe Taubitz, passed away  
Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Joe was the catalyst that triggered the inception of the Buick Driving Enthusiasts. "Buicks are meant to be driven" was Joe's mantra and fortunately BCA members followed through and made his dream come true.

From what started in Hot Springs, Arkansas 25 years ago, the BDE has grown to what it is today.

What a great tribute to an incredible man! Joe was so much more than the BDE - he was a Buick Superstar! Honored by many and respected by even more.  
RIP Joe - love you dearly and miss you more.

Paula Liska - BDE #2



If you wish to send a card to Bernice and the Taubitz family, the mailing address is:  
5267 W Reid Road, Swartz Creek, MI 48473



Before Buicks (1958) . . .  
Joe and his '51 Chevy



Joe's 1932 Buick pulling his "Covered Wagon"  
He drove them all over the US - even up Pikes Peak!



Joe driving the  
1910 Buick Bug.  
Left: At the first  
BCA National  
in Flint, 1971  
Right: During the  
2003 National at  
the Milan  
Dragway, 2003



Above: Just a few of Joe's adventures before the Buick Driving Enthusiasts!



Above: Bernice & Joe - Hot Springs  
Heyday - 1995 - Inaugural BDE Tour



Right: Bob Beaton (BDE #3) presents  
Joe with his #1 BDE membership card



Left: Bernice & Joe, Ken Liska (BDE  
#2), and Marie & Bob Beaton (BDE  
#3) plan Black Mountain Mania for  
1996

Above:  
Bernice & Joe brought their '72 GS  
Convertible to the planning weekend



Above far left: Joe brought his '40 Special to Black Mountain Mania in  
North Carolina - 1996  
Above left: Joe wins a door prize in Oklahoma at the 1998 BDE  
National




Above right: Colorado 1999 Fall Tour - they are always over too soon  
Above far right: Joe cooks hot dogs for members at the barbecue at  
the 2003 National in Helen, Georgia



Left: Joe 2003 - Helen, Georgia (one of my favorite photos of him)  
Right: Joe in his golf cart volunteering at the 2008 100 Years of GM,  
105 Years of Buick Celebration in Flint (Photo by Alicia Vasilow)



Some of the 1000's of memories of Joe -  
it won't be the same without him!



**THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and kind words.  
The Joe Taubitz family

Dear Friends in the BDE

To know you are with us in our time of *Sorrow* Sharing our prayers, Today & tomorrow

*God* gives us comfort in the form of family & friends.  
May His peace be with you,  
His *love* never ends.



On August 12, 2019 at Back to the Bricks, **Joe Taubitz** was presented with the coveted Harlow Curtis GM "Hometown" Memorial Trophy. Awarded by the Mid-Michigan branch of the Society of Automotive Engineers, it's given to the car (and owner) that most represents the spirit of Harlow Curtice, the General Manager of AC Spark Plug.

Another thank you was received from the family for the donation to the Juvenile diabetes foundation. Joe & Bernice have two grandchildren with Type 1 diabetes which is why that organization was chosen.

**BDE After Tour Openings:**  
This year's After Tour will depart from the site of the BCA National Meet in Strongsville, Ohio on July 19th & conclude in Athens, Ohio on July 23rd.  
We have a few spots open.  
Call Bruce or Shar Kile (BDE #11) for details/register. 770.977.7924 or email sbkile58@aol.com

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**The Buick Driving Enthusiasts Fall Tour** will be held in **Huntsville, Alabama** starting **September 28, 2020**  
**Details and Registration Forms** will be available soon.

# Messages

## FROM OUR SENIOR DIRECTOR - CHARLIE STEFFY - BDE #374

Welcome to the Roaring 20's again!

I hope all of you had a safe and healthy holiday. Up North is has been a mix of three seasons every few days. Down here in Florida we continue a bit warmer and wetter than usual. It was great to see quite a few who came down to the huge Mecum Auction in Kissimmee. Record crowds and outrageous prices (both high and low!) One sad note during the Mecum madness. We got word of the passing of our founder BDE #1 Joe Taubitz.



I met Joe on my second BDE tour. Joe was hosting it in Ohio. I learned a lot about him during the roast at the closing banquet on that tour. He was a friend to all and he really loved driving Buicks! As we start a new year and a new touring season, I would like to thank Joe for having the chutzpah to go against the flow and create the Buick Driving Enthusiasts twenty six years ago! I know for myself, the friends I have made on our BDE tours have become a very important part of my life. And yes, as the years go by, we have had to say goodbye to some wonderful friends. But our club presses on. Our membership is strong. We continue to get together twice a year and do what we love...touring in our Buicks to parts of this great country that we have not seen before.

So as you get your Buicks ready for the National Tour in June take a moment to remember Joe and our other departed friends. But don't be sad. They are with us always in our hearts and in our Buicks.

2020 National Tour - Gettysburg PA. KEEPING IT CIVIL (WAR) June 1-4, 2020  
Our rate is \$99.99 a night and includes breakfast. The host hotel is: Comfort Suites  
945 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg, PA 17325 - 717.334.6715  
Arrival Date: Sunday, May 31, 2020  
Registration form in this newsletter

See you in Gettysburg!  
Charlie

## OUR MID-DIRECTOR - ROBERTA VASILOW - BDE #17

Well, my second favorite Buick guy is now talking about me with my first favorites, DR (Mom) and RJ (Dad), my parents, as they had Buicks as their first cars before they even met. And you wonder where that problem began?? I'm sure JT and RJ are talking about compound carburetion on Straight 8 Buicks and their dad's telling them no, too fast. Well, they probably already had that conversation in person at some time, but this time it is really unique. I will miss JT as much as I miss RJ. My brothers had a thing, call RJ when they can't figure something out. Now we have call RV (me) when we need a Buick question answered or whatever! JT started that as he wound down, he had Buick people call me! And they still do!



I missed "The Old Guy"'s, as we (I) called him, funeral 'cause I was on my way to Florida to meet the Buick Driving Enthusiasts Member #2, Paula, for the week of the Mecum Auction in Kissimmee, FL. And the rest is history. It has become somewhat of a tradition after 4 years, we enjoy looking at the cars and watching the auction, not to ever buy anything, but then seeing friends and sharing meals also adds to the fun. Then there's the other tradition now - attending the Gulf Coast BCA Chapter meeting at Captain Eddie's and spending some time with Ann Bell. It's always a great time. Then they wonder why I don't stay longer, well, 'cause Paula kicked me out, LOL! No, not really, had to come home to cold and snow and all that goes with it, but maybe someday.

So, some of you have asked me about my tour next year. It will be in Michigan. In fact it will be called the Homecoming Tour because 2021 will be the 50th Anniversary of the First BCA National Meet in Flint in 1971. But since the BCA won't have the National here, it will be in Charlotte, NC, we can still celebrate although many of the venues are now gone or will not be available, like the Sloan Museum. The Sloan is in the midst of a major \$26 Million renovation and will probably not be open until early 2022. Hopefully the cars will still be on display at their temporary location for all to see. There are many other venues all over Michigan and you won't be disappointed, haven't picked a date yet. But see you all in Gettysburg, go safely in your Buicks.

Roberta  
BDE Co-Director- 2018-2021,  
BCA Board of Directors 2018-2021, BCA Chapter/Region/Division Coordinator 2019-2024

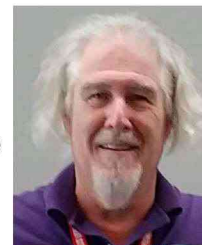
## AND OUR JUNIOR DIRECTOR - JERRY RICHSTEIN - BDE #398

I hope everyone is surviving the winter. Here in the Atlanta area it's been warm and wet so far.

I don't have anything new to report regarding the 2022 National Tour yet. It will be based in Roanoke, Virginia which is known as the "Star City of the South". There are lots of things to see and do in and around Roanoke, and some beautiful roads to drive. We will be driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway on at least 2 of the days of the tour; South of Roanoke 1 day, and North on another day.

I'm looking forward to the spring and seeing everyone in Gettysburg at the 2020 National Tour.

Love & Peace,  
Jerry



## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON - ISABEL LENNY - BDE #222

Hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season and we hope every one's New Year started off well.



As of January 10th, there were still 35 members who had not renewed their dues for 2020. I have sent reminders to everyone and hopefully, by February 15th, we will have received those outstanding member renewals. Please note: \$5 members, your membership is valid until December 31, 2020

On a sad note, for those who have not heard, Joe Taubitz, BDE #001, passed away in January. Joe's big personality has been missed for the past few years and we extend our sympathy to Bernice and all the Taubitz family. If you wish to send a card, their mailing address is 5267 Reid Road, Swartz Creek, MI 48473.

Also we were informed by Linda Hall of Australia, that she is seriously ill. I am sure she would love to receive a card or email from you. Her mailing address is 6 Kalmia Drive Redland Bay, Queensland, Australia 4165. Her email address is Lindamh4@bigpond.com

The good news is that Connie Brumbaugh is now retired from the post office. They will be leaving on an extensive driving trip to Alaska. Congratulations, Connie. Hope you and Darrell have a wonderful time.

In case you are unaware, I am resigning as membership chairperson of the BDE effective at the BDE National Meet in Gettysburg in June. I have enjoyed my tenure as membership chairperson for the past 10 years, but it is time for someone else to take over this position. The new membership chairperson will be Maryann Snell. Her address is 4390 Eisenhower Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18020; her cell number is 610.390.7072 and her email address is: ddsnell@ptd.net. Until June you may still send me your dues or contact me with any questions you may have.

Isabel

### BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - ELECTED OFFICERS

<b>Senior Director:</b>	<b>Charlie Steffy</b>	103 Larkspur Lane, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701	407.261.9318	chas1963@hotmail.com
<b>Co-Director:</b>	<b>Roberta Vasilow</b>	6186 Torrey Road, Flint, MI 48507	810.655.8277	buickracer@comcast.net
<b>Co-Director:</b>	<b>Jerry Richstein</b>	4798 Grants Way, Marietta, GA 30066	404.769.6071	jerryrichstein@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Connie Brumbaugh</b>	145 Oak Lane, Williamsburg, PA	814.832.2108	broomie66@aol.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Shar Kile</b>	2492 Lorrie Lane, Marietta, GA 30066	770.977.7924	sbkile@comcast.net

### BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - APPOINTED POSITIONS

<b>Membership Chairperson:</b>	<b>Isabel Lenny</b>	1008 S Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18103	610.434.2430	lugnuts36@icloud.com
<b>Chaplain:</b>	<b>Judy Brushaber</b>	11315 Windy Ridge Trail, Fenton, MI 48430	810.629.4950	judybrush@hotmail.com
<b>Co-Chaplin:</b>	<b>Darrell Brumbaugh</b>	145 Oak Lane, Williamsburg, PA	814.832.2108	broomie66@aol.com
<b>Club Sales:</b>	<b>Bruce &amp; Shar Kile</b>	2492 Lorrie Lane, Marietta, GA 30066	770.977.7924	sbkile@comcast.net
<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Vacant - Position Open</b>			
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Paula Liska</b>	1424 Dogwood Court, Kissimmee, FL 34744	407.873.7262	kliska@cfl.rr.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>Roberta Vasilow</b>	6186 Torrey Road, Flint, MI 48507	810.655.8277	buickracer@comcast.net

# And Yet Another Message

EDITOR - PAULA LISKA - BDE #2



Each year the World's Largest Collector Car Auction roars into Kissimmee in January. This year it was 10 days long and featured some 3500 vehicles including 61 Buicks! Since I live only 2.3 miles away - when those tents go up in late Fall the excitement starts. And with Mecum comes Roberta Vasilow - our record is 3 years now! Some shenanigans are on the left: Colonial Sanders, Mecum's Chicken George, Bonneville Salt Flats Record Holder Danny Thompson, and Roberta!

The hype and insanity of the Bullitt car was unreal. The auction was standing room only, probably packed beyond legal capacity. Green strobe lights flashed and music blasted as it rolled onto the block, accompanied by members of the Mustang Club. You couldn't even see the car! The auctioneer climbed on top of the podium to see over the crowds! The hammer dropped on the unrestored vehicle at an incredible \$3,400,000!

We spotted a few BDE members - Frank Cwikla & Diana Lindsey, Colonel John & Jennifer Hannon, Sid & Belva Meyer, Alan & Joy Oldfield, Mike Stemen & Nancy Taber - with the crowds at Mecum we probably missed others. It's great that BDE friendship extends beyond our tours - so much fun to hang out.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this issue of The Driving Force - **Ann Bell, John Cover, Bruce Kile, Ed Lenny, Isabel Lenny, Jerry Richstein, Charlie Steffy, Mike Stemen, Nancy Taber, Bernice Taubitz, Alicia Vasilow, Roberta Vasilow** and those I who accidentally missed. If you have something you would like to share, something to sell or buy - just email me at [Kliska@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Kliska@cfl.rr.com) or via snail mail - 1424 Dogwood Court, Kissimmee FL 34744. members help we wouldn't have a newsletter!



So as 2020 roars on, I hope to see you at the BDE National in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Details and registration are in this issue.

Paula - BCA #6396, BDE #2





## Attention Quilt Lovers and Buick Memorabilia Collectors

This year a special item is being featured at the annual silent auction held at the Buick Driving Enthusiasts National Tour as a fundraiser for the club. The highlight 2020 event, KEEPING IT CIVIL (WAR), in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, June 1-4 is this commemorative 100th Buick Anniversary quilt.

Featuring Buick logos from 1908 to 2003, the quilt was designed and created by Maxine Bunker of the Mile High Chapter (Colorado). This one of a kind quilt is approximately 2.5' x 4' and in excellent condition. (Colors may be different to those appearing here due to newsletter or computer printing issues.) Surely a treasure to both Buick and quilt aficionados, the BDE is offering the opportunity to submit a sealed bid if you are unable to attend the tour. Please note that packing and shipping charges will be added if you are the successful bidder.

Bids may be made via mail to:

Charlie Steffy

103 Larkspur Lane, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

or via email to:

chas1963@hotmail.com

The deadline for bids is Friday, May 15, 2020

**Swap  
Space**

Something to Sell? Swap? Buy?

Send your information and photos to Paula Liska, Editor - Kliska@cfl.rr.com

Ads run free for BDE members for 3 editions and photos will be included as space permits.

Be sure to include contact information in your ad. Ad may be edited due to space constraints.



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Pick up in Central Florida.

Also '71 Skylark/GS bumper (excellent core quality)

'71 Skylark/GS stainless sweep spears, '67 Skylark/GS console with tach. Email for details: Kliska@cfl.rr.com



## Hey Waffle House fans . . . Charlie Steffy:

The first Waffle House? Circa 1900-1916.

The Two Girls Waffle House was located in the tent city on the north side of Ship Creek in what is now Anchorage, Alaska.





*In Honor of Joe Taubitz:  
his 1993 letter  
that was the catalyst which  
triggered the Buick Driving  
Enthusiasts!*



10280 S. Linden Road  
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439  
August 27, 1993

Dear Chapter Director,

The Buick Club of America (B.C.A.) in the last five years has changed completely from the organization I joined in 1969! The B.C.A., in the early years, was populated with members who drove and enjoyed their Buicks.

The early National Meets showed this, as the camaraderie and fellowship was much more evident, and the Buicks, though not all perfect, were driven to the meet.

With the introduction of the 400 point system and the Senior status, a subtle change has become increasingly evident. Restorers and investors, under the cloak of authenticity and originality have taken over our National show.

The backbone of the B.C.A. is the Chapter. The Chapter is made up of primarily people who drive and enjoy their Buicks, whether on a tour or an outing. It is the exception when an active chapter member places at a National meet.

A poll was taken at the Buicktown Chapter meeting on August 25, 1993 with 72 members present. It was unanimous that something be done to return our club to the membership and make our National fun again, rather than a tool for investors.

I too believe in originality and authenticity, and I know what must be done to make my cars right. T3 headlights, bias ply tires and tar top batteries are expensive. If the car is driven, regardless of articles in the Bugle to the contrary, the headlights and radial tires can be looked upon as safety items.

The judges handbook is very comprehensive and if a member wishes to do his car 100% properly, the information is there.

If you look at a recent issue of the Bugle, you will find ten other Buick Clubs listed. Four of these are on different continents, but six are on the North American continent and are spin offs of the B.C.A.

There are two other clubs not listed here! The Gran Sport Club of America and the Buick Street Rod Club.

The Studebaker Club went through a similar problem years ago and resolved it by becoming two distinct clubs! The Studebaker Owners Club and the Studebaker Drivers Club. Perhaps this is the way we should approach the problem.

I am asking you as Chapter Directors, to poll your members and see if they would be interested in a "Buick Drivers Club".

I would appreciate the results of the poll, both for and against, as quickly as possible.

As you undoubtedly know, the Buicktown Chapter, because of our location, has very close ties with Buick Motor Division. If the "Buick Drivers Club" were headquartered here, I am sure we could count on Buick for support, as the driven cars are the ones the general public sees.

If we, the majority of the members, stand by and watch our National show become a display for the "trailer queens", then we deserve the consequences.



*In Honor of Joe Taubitz:  
his 1993 letter  
that was the  
catalyst which triggered  
the Buick Driving Enthusiasts!*

Continued from Page 8

Please do not treat this problem lightly, as I believe it is time to let the National Board know who this club belongs to, and to whom they owe allegiance.

The B.C.A. is experiencing more and more difficulty in finding a Chapter that will host the National Meet. The main reason for this problem is the cost of the trophies and judges breakfast and pins. If we could show the National Board, the Chapters are solidly behind the drivers rather than the show cars perhaps the "Buick Drivers Club" will not be necessary, and any Chapter can host a National that has on its agenda; tours, seminars, hospitality and fellowship.

Our Chapter just hosted the Great Lakes Regional. It was a non-judged show, but it had triple the cars and 5 times the vendors, that they had at the National in Phoenix.

Admittedly our location has something to do with this, but it still proves that a non-judged meet is a viable alternative to the 400 point shows.

The members who strive for "perfect" Buicks could attend seminars and perhaps have a panel of "judges" inspect his car. He would then know immediately what was wrong. The system as it is today, requires the the car be judged, and the judging form be sent for, which takes 60 days plus, and then you try to figure out why the deductions were made.

I feel we should satisfy a larger portion of the membership, by reverting to what the B. C. A. was rather than continuing down the path it has chosen.

Enclosed is a stamped self-addressed envelope and a form. I would be very pleased if you would poll your membership regarding the direction the B.C.A. is moving, fill in the form and return it to me.

If the remaining Chapters feel as ours, I will have enough ammunition to at least let the National Board know they are not representing the majority of the members, but allowing a very aggressive minority to dictate the policies of the B.C.A.

Thank you.

*Joe Taubitz*  
Joe Taubitz

## Coincidence?

Contributed by Nancy Taber

In April 2019 while driving our golf cart home from the mailboxes, we noticed a restored 1948 Chevy truck in an open garage. A couple was power washing their driveway, so, of course we stopped to talk to them. Mike (Stemen) asked the man, Chuck Johnson, about his truck and also asked "What other cars do you have?" Chuck's response "A 1941 Buick Convertible Phaeton." Stunned, Mike pulled up a photo of his '41 on his phone and asked, "Does it look like this? Chuck, too, was stunned. Only 467 of this model were produced. And here we are with a few of the remaining ones garaged four streets from each other.

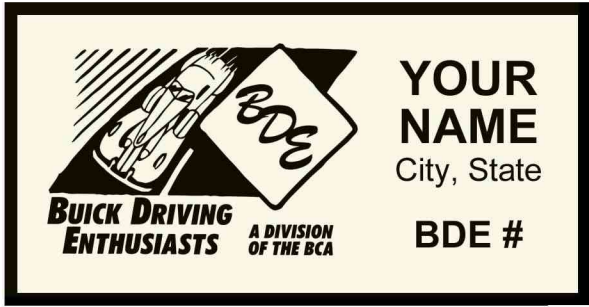


The two cars were shown together at two events in Florida - Saturday, January 18 at the Spanish Springs Town Square in the Villages and Sunday, January 19 at the Grand Oaks Resorts in Weirsdale Florida.



*Mike Stemen -  
BDE #119  
(left) and  
Chuck  
Johnson with  
their 1941  
Buick  
Convertible  
Phaetons*





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City, State  
**BDE #**

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BADGE #1 (Please print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

BDE # \_\_\_\_\_

BADGE #2 (Please print)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_

BDE # \_\_\_\_\_

Where would you like your badges sent?

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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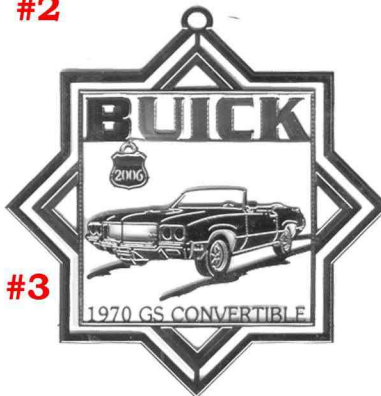
Indicate which ornament (# and car) you want and quantity.  
Send your name & address with check or money order made payable to:  
**BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS**  
2492 Lorrie Drive  
Marietta GA 30066-5720



#2



#5



#3



#6



#1



#4



#7



# KEEPING IT CIVIL (WAR)

BDE National Tour 2020

Gettysburg, PA

June 1-4 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

BCA Number: \_\_\_\_\_ BDE Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

First BDETour?? \_\_\_\_\_ Any birthdays or anniversaries at this time?? \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet Registration Total \$206 for an individual or \$402 for a couple

Your registration includes the \$30 per car (\$20 single) BDE registration plus the following:

	Amount:	
Monday: <i>Bikers and Bottles</i> Tour of:		
Harley Davidson Assembly Plant	\$10	_____
Lunch at the Shiloh American Legion	\$20	_____
Jay Crist Milk Truck Collection	\$0	_____
Tuesday: <i>Battles: In the field and on the track</i> Tour of:		
National Civil War Museum	\$11	_____
Lunch at Duke's Riverside	\$26	_____
Eastern Museum of Motor Racing	\$6	_____
Wednesday: <i>Below the Mason Dixon Line</i> Tour of:		
Antietam Battlefield	\$10	_____
Civil War lunch at Leiter's Catering	\$32	_____
Tour of the Don Bowman Collection	\$0	_____
Thursday: <i>A Different View of Gettysburg</i> Tour of:		
Cyclorama	\$14	_____
Eisenhower Farm	\$8	_____
Lunch and the afternoon on your own		
Farewell Banquet with Special Guests	\$49	_____

## TOUR PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the Buick I will drive on this tour is covered by at least the minimum bodily injury and property damage liability limits as required by my state or province of residency.

My insurance company is: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**>> A CB Radio and Fire Extinguisher are mandatory to tour with the BDE <<**

Please sign this form and send it and the payment made payable to **Buick Driving Enthusiasts** (\$206 or \$402) to:

Charlie Steffy  
103 Larkspur Drive  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-5208

Any questions, please contact me at [chas1963@hotmail.com](mailto:chas1963@hotmail.com)  
or 407-261-9318.