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BCA NATIONAL MEET
Concord, NC
July 23-26, 2025

**Much, much more than Magnolias!
History, culture and fun!**



Thank you to Bruce and Shar Kile and
Ralph and Yvonne Artall
for your hard work and planning.
Exploring in Mississippi and Louisiana
provided new and wonderful experiences!



SAVE THE DATES!
BDE 2025 FALL TOUR
BUICKS IN THE BLUEGRASS
SOMERSET, KENTUCKY
SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2, 2025
Registration with this issue!

BUICK DRIVING ENTHUSIASTS - ELECTED OFFICERS

Senior Director: **Bruce Kile** 2492 Lorrie Drive, Marietta, GA 30066 678.662.6072 sbkile58@aol.com

Co-Director: **Dan Christensen** 44751 250th Avenue, Chariton, IA 55049 641-203-4268 dctrooper268@gmail.com

Co-Director: **Jim Woodall** 8924 Crown Ridge Way, Ft. Myers, FL 33903 502-396-805 JPWoodalltwo@gmail.com

Secretary: **Belva Meyer** 5422 County Road 11A, Auburn, IN 46706 260.927.4309 gsman4551@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Jerry Richstein** 4798 Grants Way, Marietta, GA 30066 404.769.6071 jerry.richstein@gmail.com

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Membership: **Roberta Vasilow** 6186 Torrey Road, Flint, MI 48507 810.655.8277 buickracer@comcast.net

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Passings

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of a long time BDE member and friend. Katie (Kathryn) Montgomery, BDE #27, on March 26, 2025 in Olmsted Township, Ohio. She was 95 years old. We enjoyed the company and good times with her and husband, Bob (d.2016), on many tours throughout the years.

Katie's obituary can be viewed at <https://www.jenkinsfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Kathryn-Montgomery?obld=40083814>

Messages of comfort and sympathy may be sent to: Katie's daughter Leslie and Bill Boomer, 29242 Fall River Drive, Westlake, Ohio 44145 and her son: Bob and Pam Montgomery, 4015 State Route 377, Stockport, Ohio 43787.



It is with a heavy heart that we share our dear friend and fellow BDE member Rich Gibbs, BDE #144, passed away on January 14, 2025. Rich was extremely active in our club, including serving as Director and planning/hosting the memorable Silver Anniversary National Tour (Goin' to Kansas City) in 2019. He was also active in the BCA, Cadillac Club and CHVA. He will be remembered and truly missed by his many friends.

Rich was interred at Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, Kansas. The Committal Service with Military Honors was on Friday, April 18, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to: Tunnel to Towers Foundation, T2T.org, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY, 10306.

Cards and messages can be sent to: Rich's sister, Anita Elsham, 108 Turnberry Drive, Monroe Township, NJ 08831

Rest in Peace Rich. Know that you were loved and will be in spirit at our BDE tours.

Messages

OUR SENIOR DIRECTOR - BRUCE KILE - BDE #11

I suddenly realized that being a BDE director is much like life. Just two years ago I was a "junior" & now I'm a "senior". Anyway, a big thanks to all you who attended the National Tour in Natchez. A HUGE THANK YOU to **Ralph & Yvonne Artall**, our co-leaders, plus another HUGE THANK YOU to **Darrell Brumbaugh** for his 3 YEARS of solid directorship of the BDE.



Many of you heard me say "If we were 20 years younger we would seriously consider relocating there." Loved the city and the nice people we met everywhere we went. Shar & I were even called to a meeting with the Mayor on Friday morning where we were presented a certificate of appreciation for bringing our group (that would be y'all) there.



So now it's time to focus on the Fall tour in Somerset, Kentucky. You probably heard that Somerset was one of the areas struck by a devastating tornado on May 16. Our thoughts and prayers are most definitely with the community and the folks affected. Our sources do report the area hardest hit did not include our host hotel nor any of the venues for our tour in late September. We will continue to monitor the situation however. In the meantime, please register and plan to be there.

Hope to see many of you at the BCA National in North Carolina and in Kentucky in September.

May God Bless you.
Your "Ole Senior" Director Bruce

OUR MID BDE DIRECTOR - DAN CHRISTENSEN - BDE #565

The Natchez, Mississippi tour is in the history books. I thoroughly enjoyed the mansions and the Vicksburg battle field and ship. I had been looking forward to this tour all winter as I toiled lovingly over Emma, "The Pickle", my 1948 Roadmaster. I knew that if she was to travel 850 miles, she had to be tested and put together correctly, with the utmost attention. I strived to learn everything I could about valve lash, carb settings and dwell. I didn't even know what dwell was but I thought it sounded like something all the cool kids knew about. I was even floored when my Dad gave me my very own dwell meter that was my Grandfather's. I still don't know squat about it, but someone showed me how to clip it on the engine and get a reading of "30". I am going to assume that is perfect.



What was not so perfect was that on game day, The Pickle showed a frowny face discharge indicator on the ammeter as I got a half hour to Mississippi. Phone a friend. The Pickle was abandoned at the friend's garage and a futile attempt at running Jezebel, the 38, proved ill-advised as she hadn't properly been resurrected from winter slumber and displayed a slight miss at speed.

Well, we couldn't be separated from our touring friends any longer, so we shamefully got in our dirty Chrysler, sent a broken down picture of the Pickle to Bruce Kile. (The last act done in self-preservation to prove our plight.)

Never the less, we were able to make the tour and shotgun with our wonderful friends, the Hannons.

Back home after the tour, I determined that the Pickle's problem was in a faulty voltage regulator. She is now back on the road and I won't dwell on it any longer!

Daniel Christensen





OUR NEW JUNIOR DIRECTOR - JIM WOODALL - BDE #564

Hello, You Beautiful Buick People!

Thank you, Bruce and Shar, Ralph and Yvonne, for the great BDE tour to Natchez, Mississippi. For me the tour was educational, enlightening and entertaining. The tour was educational by my learning about "King Cotton" and the Deep South before the Civil War. It was enlightening because I also learned about the gear ratios of the rear ends of 1940s Buicks.

More Messages

Our visit to the Dixie Music Museum was entertaining. I have been singing tunes such as "Blueberry Hill" and "You Are My Sunshine" ever since. Lotsa fun! Vicksburg Battlefield and its memorials were a somber experience. A poignant reminder.

If I may offer Brother Bruce a suggestion: "Buy an Eco Friendly electric chainsaw."



Our next tour will take us to Somerset, Kentucky. As you may know, Somerset was hit by a tornado earlier this spring. Jeff, our hotelier, has assured us that the hotel was not damaged and is open for business. So, fellow BDEers we are a "Go" for another great BDE tour!

We are looking forward to seeing you in the Blue Grass State in September.

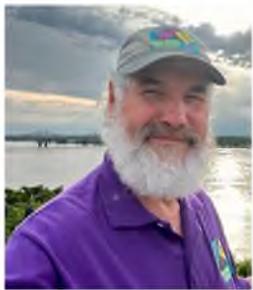
Jim Woodall



OUR PREVIOUS DIRECTOR - DARRELL BRUMBAUGH - BDE #143

Hello BDE Family,

As my last message, now as your past director, I want to thank everyone for putting your confidence in me to serve you for the past three years. I urge you to step up and become a director, as it's not a hard job.



Many thanks to the Kiles and Artells for the great tour in Mississippi and Louisiana. This was our first time visiting . . . a nice change for these Yankees to see our southern states!

The 2026 National Tour is coming closer to reality. Mark your calendars, April 26-30, 2026, as we'll be in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. We plan to have registration forms available at the Fall Tour in Kentucky. Please sign up as soon as you can so we're sure to have hotel rooms for all. We've only blocked 35 rooms at this point. We hope to add more but recent participation is down, so we reduced the block. As long as the hotel has availability, we will be accommodated. So, when registration is open please do so ASAP. This is a conference center so they could book up. A quick peek, this tour includes Thomas Jefferson's estate, a 1784 tavern, floats (and not ice cream), caverns, battlefields, museums, and a lot of beautiful scenic driving with lots of civil war history in this Valley.

We look forward to seeing a lot of you in Somerset, Kentucky in the fall.

Safe travels in those Buicks,
Darrell

Editor's Note: Thanks to those who helped make this issue of The Driving Force possible photographic and content wise. Connie Brumbaugh, Martel Gibson, Bruce Kile, Eric Magayne, Belva Meyer, Inez Norgard, Dennis Snell, Mike Stemen, Joyce Williams and Jim Woodall. Thank you to Roberta Vasilow for proofreading.

We wouldn't have a newsletter without our members help and contributions.
If you have something you would like to share please email me - Kliska@cfl.rr.com
or via snail mail - 1424 Dogwood Court, Kissimmee FL 34744.

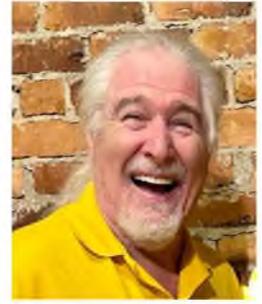
PLEASE NOTE: ALL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE EMAILED TO MEMBERS UNLESS YOU REQUEST OTHERWISE (or do not have an email address). THANKS FOR HELPING US STAY ON BUDGET!

More Messages

OUR TREASURER - JERRY RICHSTEIN - BDE #398

Dear Friends -

It was great seeing so many BDE members at the 2025 National Tour in Natchez, Mississippi. A big “thank you” to Bruce & Shar for putting on another great tour. There was so much to do and see in “Magnolia Country”.



Our next tour will be the 2025 Fall Tour in Somerset, KY. I’m sure that another Bruce and Shar Tour will be another great success. I’ve already given Shar my registration form!

It’s been a while since I’ve written a “message”, but here is the reason that I’ve done it now. Roberta has mentioned to me that occasionally members have asked her about paying dues with a credit card. Those of you that were in Natchez know that this was discussed at the Annual Member Business Meeting. When we were discussing credit cards, there was a comment that it would be convenient for members to also make direct ACH (checking account) payments via Zelle instead of mailing checks. Bruce later mentioned to me that in addition to paying dues, members have requested using a credit card to pay for Club Sales and our Silent Auction.

I’ve been doing a lot of research on Zelle and Square, as well as other payment methods, and have concluded that Square will be the most cost effective way to accept credit card payments. There will be no monthly fee, but there will be 2.5% to 3.6% transaction fee whenever it’s used. The members making the payments will be asked to pay the fees. Square can also process direct checking account payments, but they charge a 1% fee for this, and Zelle will do it for free. Free is always better! 😊

I expect to have all the Zelle and Square details finalized in the next month or so, and will let everyone know when these “modern” payment methods are available. BTW, they will both be tied to the email address BDEtreasurer@gmail.com which I will use for all BDE business, so please make a note of it now. Feel free to contact me with any questions about how to pay with Zelle and/or a credit card.



Love & Peace,
Jerry



SECRETARY - BELVA MEYER - BDE #023

Hi All,

What a great time we had in Natchez. Bruce, Shar, Ralph, & Yvonne did a great job of selecting venues for us to visit. It was interesting to learn the history of several mid-19th century Natchez homes, the battle at Vicksburg, driving scenic roads and of course they managed to have a couple of trees across the road to make the BDE tour complete.

Upon arriving home in Indiana, we quickly mowed the yard and packed for the Buick GS National in Bowling Green, Kentucky. No fallen trees that I saw but a hail and wind storm left damage at the track on Friday evening. Ninety-two cars were on display on Thursday and over 100 were registered for the Friday show. Some nice original survivors and concours cars were present to be judged along with many in the 100 point judging field. Saturday was a full day of drag racing after some clean up from the storm.

We enjoy being with owners of other marks of autos so we returned to eastern Ohio with ACD friends. The touring experiences are similar with getting to see places and things we never would have stopped at. They also enjoy ice cream!

We hope to keep on attending other Buick events during the summer including the BCA National meet in Concord and the BDE Buicks in the Blue Grass in September. Drive Safe and I hope our paths cross again very soon.

Belva

(Ed. The June 2025 Buick Bugle features an article written by Belva about the Gulf Coast Chapter)



OUR MEMBERSHIP CEO - ROBERTA VASILOW - BDE #17

More Messages

Hello BDE Folks!

It was great seeing you in Natchez and the great Mississippi but missed a bunch of you also! Hopefully see you in Kentucky in September.

Some news, Jerry is working on getting a way to pay dues and tours with a credit card, look for more information in this newsletter. And I am working on migrating the website to Wordpress, which may take awhile, been putting it off for years but it's time. So be patient, and if someone would like to take it over, let me know. I'll probably do the newsletter and Chairperson page first then the registrations for the next tours and then any of the historical/old tour pictures next. Stay tuned.

Go Fast and safe in your Buicks,
Roberta

OUR EDITOR - PAULA LISKA - BDE #2



Hello Buick Friends -

I just realized that in July it will be 30 years ago when some Buick enthusiasts gathered in Hot Springs, Arkansas for Hot Springs Heyday, the 1st Annual BDE National Driving Tour. And here we are in 2025 - still driving and still having fun!

Each year I am totally amazed and impressed with the different and innovative tours the BDE hosts. This year was no disappointment! Bruce and Shar Kile with Ralph and Yvonne are to be congratulated on another outstanding event! And surprises, too!

It's always great to see the BDE members travel from near and afar to attend. Not only did we have new and first time members in attendance, we also had some OLD cars. Mississippi was a first time location for a tour and Natchez was a Southern delight! New locations are always fun to explore and we found some unique places while on our own.

I encourage you to read Treasurer Jerry Richstein's message as there are changes in the making. Roberta also has some changes pending.

A new junior director has been elected to the board...welcome Jim Woodall (and Norma too). Jim is a more recent member and we are honored that he is willing to serve. I encourage you who haven't held office before to consider it. There's always someone who is willing to lend a hand to help. Thanks to all our officers for serving this past year, especially our outgoing Senior Director Darrell Brumbaugh. Bruce is finally going to be a senior!

Enjoy your summer with your Buick and see you in Somerset, Kentucky for the Fall Tour.

And always remember to . . .

Paula



75 Years (continued from Page 22)

So what can each of us do to keep this momentum going? The answer is simple. The vast majority of us have more than one antique car. Most of us have more than three antique cars. Many of us have projects that "we will get to that someday." No you won't. Let's be realistic. Granted, most interested young antique car enthusiasts will not walk up to you. But they are out there. You will meet them at car shows, cars and coffee, any place where people drive and display their cars. Ask a fair price for those extra cars that you will never get to and/or don't drive from one month to the next. You will be able to tell if that young man or woman is a real enthusiasts or not. Think back to the person that got YOU started in the old car hobby. Did you start with a ground up restoration? Probably not. Did you learn the hard way how to and how not to fix things on that first old car? For sure. Each one of us has the potential and the means to perpetuate this hobby. Don't miss an opportunity to pass a car on to the new generation that cares about old cars. It is a great feeling, believe me. Happy motoring!



Charlie



Sunday, May 4 - Early Bird Tour

What a great way learn about the history of Natchez - the double-decker, open-top Hop-On/Hop-Off bus! Established in 1716 by the French as Fort Rosalee, Natchez is the oldest continuous settlement on the Mississippi River. It is home to more than 600 examples of historical architecture - more than any other city in the South. The historic homes and buildings, along with churches and other heritage sites, make Natchez a must see location for history buffs.

For more information check out:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Natchez,_Mississippi





Monday, May 5 - Antebellum Day - Part 1

Antebellum means "before the war," but it wasn't widely associated with the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865) until after that conflict was over. Today BDE members visited three of the many surviving examples - Rosalie (1823), Longwood (1859-1861) and Melrose (1840-1845).

Rosalie Mansion- Our Lady of the Bluff

Rosalie was built between 1820 and 1823 for Peter and Eliza Little. The magnificent mansion, an outstanding example of ante-bellum architecture, was purchased in 1857 by Andrew and Eliza Wilson.

In 1863 Rosalie became headquarters to the Union Army under General Walter Gresham who protected the house and its contents, including furniture, toys, books, scrapbooks, and clothing. Rosalie Mansion is unique to Natchez because of its historical context and preserved state. Many of the items in the mansion are original to its owners.

For more information: <https://rosaliemansion.com/about/>



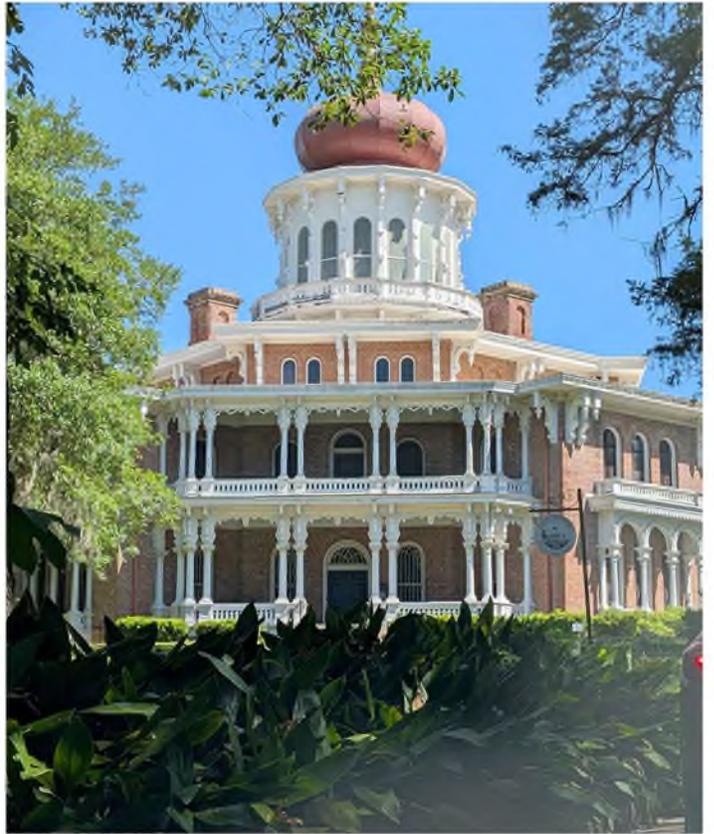
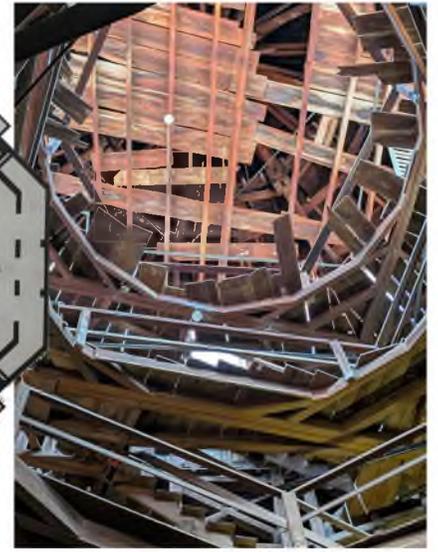
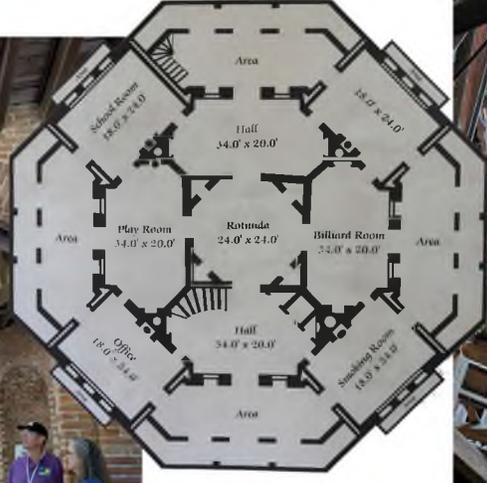
Monday, May 5 - Antebellum Day - Part 2

Longwood Mansion - Nutt's Folly

Longwood, a historic mansion, is the country's largest octagonal house. It's also referred to as Nutt's Folly, attributed to its original owner, Haller Nutt, who unluckily found his mansion's upper floors unfinished in 1861 when his builders returned north in the build-up to the Civil War. He moved into the finished basement level with his wife and eight children. Nutt died in 1864, but his family lived in the unfinished mansion for many years.

For more info go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-uSk7bdUoQ>
Left: The road leading to Longwood.





Monday, May 5 - Antebellum Day - Part 3

Famished from touring, Roux 61 was on the next agenda. Roux 61 is known for its Southern-inspired dishes and seafood specialties which aligns with the flavors found along Highway 61.

Properly refueled, it was on to explore another mansion.

Melrose Mansion - the epitome of Greek Revival design

The Melrose estate, one of the best-preserved estates in the Deep South from the mid 1800s, helps tell the American stories of an economy based on growing cotton and the world of chattel slavery.

More into at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melrose_\(Natchez,_Mississippi\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melrose_(Natchez,_Mississippi))





Tuesday, May 6 - Cotton and Blues - Part 1

Over "Ol Man River" via the Natchez-Vidalia Bridge, Tuesday's adventure took us to Louisiana and the Frogmore Plantation and Gins.

Rich in history from its founding in the early 1800's to the current ranking as a working cotton plantation.

More than 18 historic structures on the property help define the story of planters and their enslaved workers.

<https://www.frogmoreplantation.com/historical> for more insights



Tuesday, May 6 - Cotton and Blues - Part 2

From Frogmore to Ferriday, the Delta Music Museum and Arcade Theater being the destination . . . from bluegrass and gospel to blues and rockabilly, all these music genres are preserved and celebrated at the Delta Music Museum and Arcade Theater in Ferriday.

<https://deltamusicmuseum.com/>



Three Ferriday cousins who rose to national prominence Jerry Lee Lewis, Mickey Gilley, and Jimmy Swaggart.



Kudos to our caterers for our cajun inspired lunch!

Wednesday, May 7 - Natchez Trace to Vicksburg

Beginning in Natchez, Mississippi, the Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile recreational road and scenic drive through three states. It roughly follows the "Old Natchez Trace," a historic travel corridor traversed by American Indians, "Kaintucks," European settlers, slave traders, soldiers, and many famous Americans.

The Trace provided the perfect scenic 2-lane roadway enroute to the Vicksburg National Military Park.

<https://www.nps.gov/natr/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

<https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks/vicksburg-national-military-park>



Vicksburg National Military Park contains more than 1,300 monuments and markers, honoring the soldiers who fought on

both sides of the Civil War at Vicksburg.

These monuments range from small, individual markers to large, state-sponsored memorials.



You're on a BDE Tour . . .
leisurely cruising down the Natchez Trace . . .
heading to a "mystery spot" for a possible photo shoot.
You are the leader and there's a whole lot of Buicks,
filled with BDE members, following you . . .

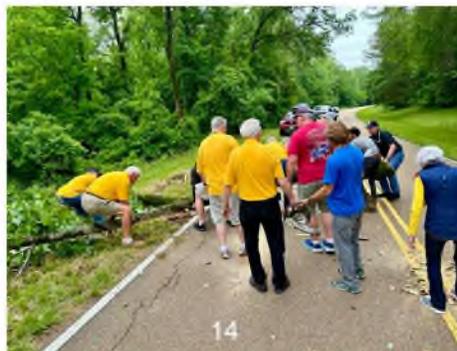


WHAT CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG?



"When the weather has been wet, inches of rain at a time, the wind easily uproots trees. We encountered this on Wednesday. Approximately a minute before we reached this spot, a tree fell right in front of a pickup. Scary to think we could have been in this location at that time!!! The guys (*and Tammy - ed.*) tried to move it but the tree was more than they collectively could move. Someone had service and was able to call the management of the Trace. In the meantime, a local pickup approached from the other direction. He had a chain saw. A few mins later, the guys were able to move the upper portion off the road. The locals used a chain and the pickup pulled the rest of the tree trunk to the side of the road. We were able to move forward and not look for a detour." - *Eyewitness account from Connie Brumbaugh*

"Not very far up the road we came upon a tree that had fallen across the road just minutes in front of our Buick caravan. All the men in gold BDE shirts were not able to move it. A man from a nearby campsite tried to use his ax to chop the tree in two. A few minutes later a man with a chain saw and chain appeared. He quickly sawed the tree in half and pulled half of it off the road with his truck and chain. All the men in gold shirts removed the other half so we could proceed to a surprise stop at the Windsor Ruins. The park district crew arrived with special equipment as we were leaving!!" - *Eyewitness account from Inez Norgard*



Wednesday, May 7 - Mystery Spot - Windsor Ruins

It's always a nice surprise to experience a "Mystery Spot: when touring with the BDE, but this one was over the top and warranted a group photo. Windsor Ruins, one of Mississippi's most iconic places, is the historic site of the Windsor plantation, where twenty-nine enormous columns were left standing after a fire in 1890. Windsor Plantation was the largest antebellum mansion built in the state of Mississippi, completed in 1861, it covered 2600 acres, was four stories and overlooked the Mississippi River.



Thursday, May 8 - Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

As the week of touring is coming to an end, the last, a visit to Natchez Indian Museum and Burial Mounds was on the agenda for the day. Becky Anderson, Historian II/Educator, with her dynamic personality, made the presentation not only extremely informative, but entertaining, too. Three prehistoric Native American mounds, including the Great Sun's Mound and the Temple Mound, are located on the site.



Alas, all good things must come to an end. The farewell banquet and annual meeting were held Thursday evening. The new Junior Director, Jim Woodall, was elected. Current Senior Director, Darrell Brumbaugh passed the gavel to Bruce Kile.

The 2025 Founders Award, which honors the member/s who exemplify the spirit originally brought by the founders of the BDE, was presented to Frank and Jan Blizzard.

A rousing round of applause was given to Bruce and Shar Kile and Ralph and Yvonne Artall for hosting this fantastic National Tour.

BDE members bid a fond farewell and wishes for safe travels, knowing that more Buick Driving Enthusiasts events are on the horizon.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We're Glad You Decided to Join us!

PERKINS, STEVE & JENNIFER (GIN) - BDE #585 BCA #5101 3924 Couchville Pike, Hermitage, TN 37076 USA
615-606-9312 53tngator@gmail.com

CARUSO, DANIEL & SANDRA - BDE #586 BCA #53806 931 Harvest Drive, Seymore, TN 37865 USA
847-658-5550 87GN6PACK@gmail.com

FLEGAL, GERALD & PAMELA - BDE #587 BCA #52134 426 Robin Road, Waverly, OH 45690 USA
740-835-8002 419-217-0418 stude1950@gmail.com

MAGAYNE, ERIC - BDE #588. BCA #53015 3355 London Way, Marion, IA 52302 USA
319-310-4516 eric.magayne@gmail.com

The BDE is in belief of the following philosophies: 1) Promotion and driving of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division, 2) Encouraging the maintenance, preservation and restoration of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division following philosophies: 1) Promotion and driving of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division, 2) Encouraging the maintenance, preservation and restoration of all models of Buicks produced by the Buick Motor Division and 3) Providing the exchange of technical, historical and other information about Buick automobiles for all members and other interested persons. We welcome **ALL Buicks** on our tours, but in this issue, featured are the **antique Buicks - 50 years or older that were on the tour.**



1938 Special Sedan
David Wettersten - Wisconsin



1941 Roadmaster Convertible
Bobby & Margaret Minis - Georgia



1949 Roadmaster Convertible
Eric Magayne - Iowa



1950 Roadmaster Sedan
Chuck & Betty Lesnewski - Wisconsin



1954 Super
Steve & Gin Perkins - Tennessee



1959 Invicta Hardtop
Walt Ehrenfeuchter - Georgia*
Walt anxiously anticipating the return of his Buick from a mechanical mishap!





Another perk of touring with the BDE was having free time to explore the area. Historic sites and homes, cathedrals, century old cemeteries, great restaurants, trendy shops, local museums, quirky places and more - Natchez was amazing!



What a wonderful experience - unsurpassed beauty and craftsmanship. A moment of peace and reflection - St. Mary Basilica, formerly St. Mary Cathedral, is a Catholic church rich in history in Natchez. Known for its Gothic Revival architecture, it has been a spiritual home for the Catholic community for centuries.

<https://www.stmarybasilica.org/history/>
<https://www.stmarybasilicaarchives.org/archives-desk/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Mary_Basilica,_Natchez

Are you a taphophile?

The word "taphophile" stems from the Greek words taphos (meaning tomb) and philia (meaning affinity or love).

A taphophile is someone with a deep appreciation for cemeteries, gravestones, and the art, culture, and stories they represent. For many, this interest isn't morbid but rather a celebration of history, art, and remembrance.

From our editor: "I enjoy exploring historic cemeteries, and usually find some fellow BDE members who share my interest. In our free time we visited the Natchez City Cemetery. Established in 1822, this incredibly historic and beautiful graveyard features many fascinating headstones and monuments, with stories to be told. Several of those we sought out are shown below."

Florence Irene Ford was born on September 3, 1861. She passed away from yellow fever in 1871 at the age of 10. When the little girl died, her mother named Ellen had a small window installed at the head of her daughter's casket, and a narrow stairway built six feet down to the level of the window at her grave in the Natchez City Cemetery. Florence was terrified of storms and every single time one rolled in, she would run to her mother, who would comfort her. When the girl passed away, her mother couldn't bear the thought of not being able to comfort her daughter anymore. Because of that, she wanted the grave to have these unique alterations that would allow her to feel closer to her daughter.

The glass window was covered to prevent any potential acts of vandalism in the 1950s.

The Turning Angel watches over the graves of five young women and girls who were killed in a blast at the Natchez Drug Company on March 14, 1908. The owner of the company placed to have the angel, also known as a scribe angel, over the headstones of those who lost their lives in the explosion.



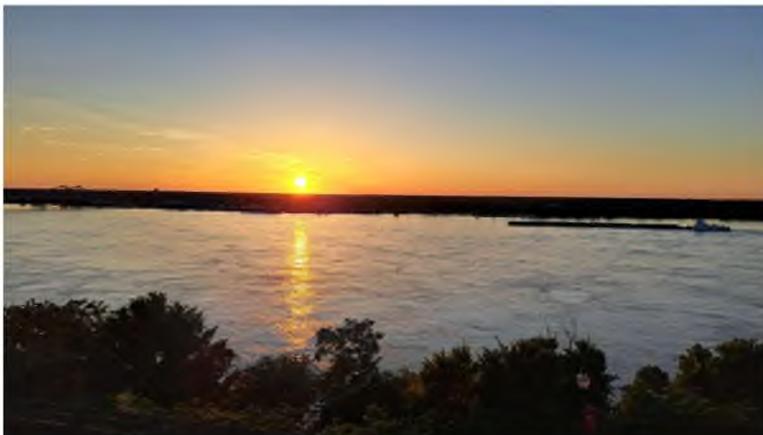
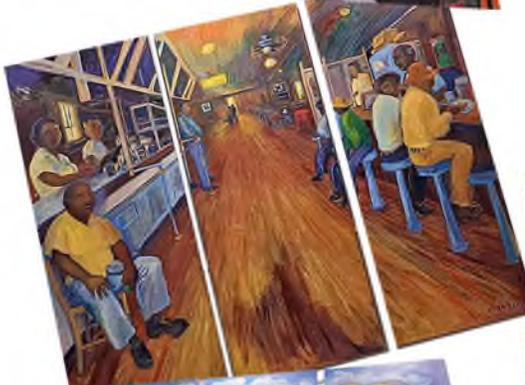
Modified from Mississippi Memories



Lunch at the landmark Arcade Theater, performance space for the Delta Music Museum and the exhibition of Grantham Molnar's art really enhanced the experience.



The Under the Hill Saloon, is a treasure trove of historic photos and memorabilia, in 200 year old building, located below the bluffs and overlooking the Mississippi River. Not everyone's "cup of tea" but replete with local characters, it's a fun place to visit even if you don't want an adult beverage!



About 7 miles south of Natchez on Highway 61 lies Mammy's Cupboard, a 28' highway icon built in 1939 to attract travelers. Originally a café, the structure housed various businesses, but now a restaurant serving lunch and homemade desserts under the hoop skirt. Kitsch for sure, political correctness questionable, but it is something you won't see everyday.



**ENJOY TOURING WITH THE BUICK DRIVING ENTHUASTS?
SAVE THE DATES - APRIL 26-30, 2026**

Join the BDE for the 2026 National Tour and enjoy the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The fun begins on Sunday with tours Monday through Thursday. Enjoy the beautiful scenery between the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountains. We'll explore Civil War history, visit Jefferson's Monticello, and enjoy floats.

BDE tours are noted for ice cream stops, but this venue is not of the ice cream variety though!

Drive your Buick, no matter what year, bring your working fire extinguisher and CB radio.

Enjoy the fun and fellowship of touring and nightly hospitality activities. Email Darrell Brumbaugh - Broomie66@aol.com for more information or call 814-832-2108. Rooms are limited so don't wait.

We promise a good time awaits you in Virginia.

75 Years

By Charlie Steffy - BCA #27089, BDE #374

75 Years. A lifetime. Certainly a long time to own an automobile. But indeed, that is how long my family owned our 1919 Buick. First, a little background on this particular automobile. Picture it...the small town of Elizabethtown PA, right after WW I. A son returns home from the War to End All Wars and his father buys this new Buick to be used to deliver groceries from Keller's Grocery, the family business. This Buick served the family well for thirty years but after World War II the Keller's decided it was time for a newer car. The 1919 was advertised for sale for the astronomical sum of \$200. My father looked at the car and, more importantly, passed the scrutiny of the Keller's and proving that he was worthy of the car.



The 1919 moved into a back stall at our family Buick and Chevrolet dealership in Lititz, pretty much out of the way. That is until the day my grandfather walked through the shop and spotted the 30 year old car just sitting there. "Whose car is this?? What is it here for?" My father stepped forward and explained the car. Not too impressed, my grandfather asked the purchase price. Upon hearing the outrageous sum his son had paid for the car, my grandfather let loose with quite a tirade. Keep in mind, right after the war, large touring cars were bringing \$50. Model Ts were practically worthless. Model As were not much better. Four times market (trade in) value was outrageous!

Undaunted, my father kept the 1919 Buick. Of the many other cars that were traded at Lititz Springs Garage, he only kept the Buick. He was courting my mother at this time. Mom was a high school English teacher in Carlisle PA. They met when she was teaching in Lititz but she transferred the following year to Carlisle. After a seven year long distance courtship they wed. And the Buick came along as part of the deal. My sister was born two years later and I came along in 1963. Our childhoods were filled with rides in the antique Buick to go for ice cream, check out the Christmas lights in town during the holiday season, watch my father proudly take the WW I veterans in our annual Memorial Day Parade, and going to local car shows. The culmination of each year's activities was the drive up to the AACA Eastern Fall Meet each October. Hershey!

Ever since I was old enough to walk the fields my Dad and I made that drive each October. Some years we were bundled up like arctic explorers. Other years a sweatshirt was all that was necessary. Dad never bothered with the side curtains! Back when the flea market was all dirt (or mud) and the show cars were parked in front of the stadium the folks at HERCO would have a few rides open on a pay-as-you-go basis. As soon as the 1919 Buick was parked in Class 16 it was off to catch a few rides on the Comet. I could tell by the look in his eye, when the lap bar came down he was back in those carefree post war days when GIs could relax and have fun again after serving their country. One day stands out as less than fun filled. Dad was a cigar smoker. Each year he had his day's supply in his shirt pocket. Well, for those of you who know the Comet, the first two drops after the initial climb are lift you out of your seat awesome. Lift you out of your seat and also toss every cigar you had for the day right into Spring Creek. Dad was not happy about that. But I digress.



My last ride to Hershey with Dad was October 1992. We had another wonderful day with the old cars but everything changed two months later. The man who introduced me to the antique car hobby died of a massive heart attack just two months later. As was his wish, I inherited the Buick. It was quite comforting to fire up the 1919 and go for a drive in the countryside around Lancaster County, PA. I could feel his presence beside me and he always made me feel that everything was going to be OK. Each summer there was the list of local community car shows that I still supported. One in particular stands out in my mind. The small village of Landisville, PA has a nice car show and fall festival each year. It was the late 1990s or early 2000s. I was living in Florida at the time but the 1919 Buick still lived in my garage in Lititz, PA. I entered the Buick as usual and, after strolling through the classes of cars I sat behind the Buick to rest. An elderly man approached the car, read the owner's card on the windshield, studied the interior and the top more carefully than a casual observer, looked at the windshield card again confused by the Florida address and then looked back at me. Rather timidly he approached me and asked if I was related to Eugene Steffy of Lititz. I said yes, Eugene was my father. He smiled and told me that he was the one who had replaced the top and interior for my Dad in 1958! Quality workmanship because up that top and interior is still in the car today!

(Continued on Page 22)

75 Years *(continued from Page 21)*

I continued the annual trip to Hershey each October. When my Mother passed away in 2005, my sister and I decided to keep the family home in Lititz, PA. I had moved to Fredericksburg, VA and then to Altamonte Springs, FL so having a place to come to, and a place to store cars and parts was pretty handy. A four bedroom home also allowed me to host many international car enthusiasts each fall. Ivan and Graham from New Zealand and Dan from Denmark bundled up one year for the coldest ride to Hershey that I can remember. Even the ride home after judging was completed necessitated leather coats, scarves and gloves!



(Left - Cold Ride Crew: Ivan Horn front, Dan Vertergaard and Graham Henry back)

In 2019 I decided to throw a party for the 1919 Buick. She had just gotten her Centennial Badge from AACA President Mel Carson.

Buick friends from far and wide came to Class 16 at 2 pm for a birthday toast to the guest of honor. It was such a good feeling to see how a car, and the old car hobby, can bring people from all over the world together for a week of camaraderie.

The love of old cars is, to me, the best hobby one could ever choose. *(Right - Annie and Rolf Meyer from Paris, France and Zurich, Switzerland. Dimitri and Johnnes Dagevos from the Netherlands)*



Fast forward a few years to 2023. Time marches on and even though the mind is willing the body reminds us every day that we are not 21 anymore. I knew my mobility was decreasing. Climbing in and out of the Buick, double clutching, every aspect of driving the car safely was becoming more difficult. On that sunny day on the last day of Hershey 2023, I was sitting behind the Buick in Class 16 when I heard two young men approaching. For those who walk the show field at Hershey, Class 16 is surrounded by many impressive brass cars on one side and the incredible classics just across the roadway. A simple 1919 Buick is not outstanding by any means. I heard one of the young men tell his friend, "I would love to have a Buick touring car like this." I looked up and saw he was wearing an Elizabethtown College shirt. My niece is an E-town alumni. That was the ice breaker to start the conversation that would change both of our lives.

The two young men introduced themselves as Nick Seiber and Jason Cunningham. Nick is the one who expressed interest in the Buick. The conversation led to "what cars do you have?" A 1916 Studebaker, 1928 Buick, 1940 Buick and a Model A. Hmm. I have a 1941 Studebaker and two other Buicks. "Where do you live?" Elizabethtown...where the 1919 lived the first 30 years of her life!

"Are you serious about wanting a Buick touring?" "Yes" Nick replied. Ok...call it Divine Intervention or pure coincidence but I have found the best possible caretaker for the Buick! We agreed on a price and sealed the deal with a hand shake. One stipulation though. The car passed ownership at Hershey 2024...she was 105 years old and the Steffy family will have cared for her for 75 years. And so, in October 2024, in Class 16 on the show field, Nick Seiber drove home in his new car.



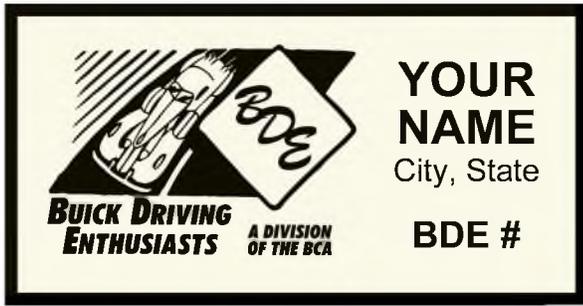
Nick is 25. He drives and enjoys old cars. His friend Jason has a 1924

Packard touring and a 1925 Cadillac touring.

I had the honor of meeting more young car enthusiasts at Hershey this year. They tour, they drive, they repair, they learn to love old cars just like we did. For the nay sayers crying "the antique car hobby is dying!" my reply is Hell No! The AACA has a very active region called the Greenhorn Region. They tour. They enjoy old cars. They build antique cars into their daily lives.

*(Continued on Page 6 - Yes, we are really going back to page 6!
Poor planning on the editor's part!)*





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----- CUT HERE -----

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#7

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT **BUICKS IN THE BLUEGRASS**



2025 BDE FALL TOUR - SOMERSET, KENTUCKY -- SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2, 2025

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28: Yep, there will be an (optional) “Early Bird Tour”. Around 2:30 we’ll take a short drive to the **Mill Creek Battlefield & Cemetery National Park**. We’ll stop at the visitor center watch an informative short film about the history of the area, then mosey on down the road to **Haney’s Appledale Farm**. Check it out at: www.haneysappledalefarm.com

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29: We’ll take the leisurely drive through the rolling hills to Renfro Valley (Mt. Vernon) to the **Kentucky Music Hall of Fame**. After touring the museum we will enjoy a delicious BBQ buffet and entertainment (music & comedy) by one of Kentucky’s top entertainers.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30: This will be a “first” for BDE tours. We’re visiting the **Trifecta Houseboat Mfg. Co.** to “see how they do it”. Lunch will be at the **Black Stallion** in Monticello, then a visit to one of the more interesting historic museums located in a 150+ year-old hotel building that was cooled from an underground cave.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1: Today we drive south to Stearns, Kentucky to board the **Big Fork Scenic RR** for a 45 minute ride through the Kentucky hills to the area of **Blue Heron Coal Mining Camp**, a National park, (bring your National park pass book) Lunch will be the “box variety” to eat on the train or in one of the pavilions.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2: Another 1st for BDEers! We’ll see how vehicle batteries are built at one of the largest private label builders, **Superior Battery Co.** in Russell Springs. Next on the agenda will be a visit to one of the largest private car collections in their brand new 36,000 sq. ft. facilities.

The banquet will be catered at the hotel Thursday night featuring a fantastic buffet of roast turkey, roast beef with all the extras, plus a Kentucky staple- peach, apple or mixed berry cobbler for dessert. And of course, the current King Jerry & Queen Jean, will be crowning our new BDE royal couple.

All of this for only \$192 per couple, or \$101 single member.

BUICKS IN THE BLUEGRASS

2025 BDE FALL TOUR - SOMERSET, KENTUCKY -- SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 2, 2025

The host hotel for this event is located a couple of miles from historic downtown, one restaurant within walking distance & others within a mile. Amenities include breakfast buffet, guest laundry, fitness center, business center, unlimited wireless internet & a large meeting/hospitality/banquet room that easily accommodates us for all our needs, including the banquet.

Our BDE (negotiated) rates for 9/28/25-10/3/25 (check out) are \$129+tax for single or double.

Hotel info will be sent immediately upon receipt of registration. Our Hotel Block expires (midnight) Aug. 28th

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____ BDE# _____ BCA# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Email: _____

First BDE Tour? Yes () No () Will Trailer Parking be needed? Yes () No ()

Buick Planning to Drive on this Tour: Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____ Color _____

Note: This info is for the arrangement of the tour groups. If you need to change cars please notify us ASAP.
Buicks only on BDE Tours.

So if you don't have a Buick, we will place you in one as passengers. Will you need a ride? Yes ()

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 28, 2025

REGISTRATION FEE:

BDE Member-Spouse/Guest (Tour Packet/DashPlaque/Hospitality).....\$30 _____

BDE Member Only (Tour Packet/DashPlaque/Hospitality).....\$20 _____

Additional Guests (Family, Friends, etc.) Riding in Members Car.....# _____ @\$10 ea.= _____

SUNDAY, SEPT 28 - Early Bird Tour" Mill Creek Battle Field/Cemetery National Park.....
_____ Attending @ NO CHARGE

MONDAY, SEPT 29 - Kentucky Music Hall of Fame/Entertainment & BBQ Buffet.....
_____ @\$25 ea.= _____

TUESDAY, SEPT.30 - Factory Tour of Trifecta Houseboat Mfg.....
_____ Attending @ NO CHARGE

Lunch @ the Black Stallion Rest. (Order from menu/separate checks).....# _____ Dining

Super Interesting Wayne Co. Historical Museum.....# _____ @\$3 ea.= _____

WEDNESDAY, OCT 1 -Big South Fork Scenic RR to Blue Herron, Kentucky Coal Mining Camp.....
_____ Riding @\$18 ea.= _____

Box Lunch - Sandwich (choices tbd later), Fruit, Cookie & Drink).....# _____ @\$15 ea.= _____

THURSDAY, OCT 2 - Factory Tour of Superior Battery, Russell Springs.....# _____ Attending @ NO CHARGE

Lunch @ Coe's Steak House (Order from menu/separate checks).....# _____ Dining

Fabulous 100+Car Collection of Terry Stephens, Russell Springs.....# _____ Attending @ NO CHARGE

CLOSING BANQUET: Tasty Buffet featuring turkey, roast beef, veggies & Cobbler.....
_____ @\$20 ea.= _____

Special Vegetarian Dish? # _____ @\$20ea.= _____

(over)



TOTAL COST PER COUPLE FOR ALL EVENTS & PRE-PAID MEALS IS \$192.....\$_____

TOTAL COST FOR 1 PERSON FOR ALL EVENTS & PREPAID MEALS IS \$101.....\$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED : \$_____

REFUNDS: Should it become necessary to cancel from this event every effort will be made to refund the full amount pre-paid unless the notice of cancellation is past having given a final (non-refundable) headcount to any venue, restaurant or caterer. Therefore that amount would not be refundable.

PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATIONS (A BDE Requirement)

I certify that the Buick I will be driving on this tour is covered by (at least) the minimum bodily injury and property damage insurance required by the state or province in which the vehicle is registered.

All participating vehicles are to be properly licensed & insured. I further agree not to hold the Buick Driving Enthusiasts, the Buick Club of America, any officers, chairpersons or members responsible for any bodily injury, property damage, lost or stolen property.

I further understand that if my Buick should become disabled during the tour, the tour hosts &/or other BDE members will assist in securing a ride to any remaining activities for myself &/or my passengers.

I do also acknowledge & accept the BDE requirement to have a working CB radio in my Buick while touring & the BCA requirement to have a fully charged, operable fire extinguisher in my Buick while participating in this event.

SIGNED_____DATED_____

Make checks payable to BDE & mail to:

**Shar Kile
2492 Lorrie Drive
Marietta, GA 30066**