



# Orange County Chapter Buick Club of America **The Buick Running Board**

December 2024

**Merry Christmas !!**

**Happy Holidays !!**

**Happy Chanukah !!**

Happy 2025 New Year !!

*We have a few activities this December.*

Good Evening Buick Members, hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. This is just a reminder that we will not be having our regular Buick meeting on Saturday, December 21 since we are having our Holiday Party, Saturday, December 28.. Please see info below from Msgr. Doug Cook.

Hope to see you there.

Irene Martinez, Secretary 😊

**Welcome to the Orange County Chapter BCA Holiday Dinner!**

**Saturday Evening, December 28**

Happy Hour begins at 6:30 pm  
Dinner at 7:00 pm

Held at Mount Carmel Catholic Church  
1441 West Balboa Blvd. on the peninsula in Newport Beach

We will be serving Tri Tip, mashed potatoes and a selection of beverages.  
Kindly bring a green vegetable, salad or desert to share.



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If you wish to participate in the White Elephant please bring a wrapped gift of \$20 or less.

I am happy to welcome you all to Mt. Carmel once again.  
There is ample and safe parking, so bring your Buick!

**RSVP text or phone call to Msgr. Doug Cook at 714-488-1664.**  
Spouses, family and car friends are most welcome too.

**Laguna Niguel 2024 HOLIDAY PARADE ON  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 10AM**

*This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> year driving Grand Marshall in 1934 Buick 68C*







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***Congratulations*** to Ryan Hadley who won...

"Best in Show" @ the Newport Beach Car Show





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## History of the Orange County Chapter n' where we've been since

By: Lee & Linda Wangerin

### **The BCCA/BCA**

**IN THE BEGINNING:** In 1963 a group of Buick enthusiasts formed the Buick Collectors Car Club of America in Pennsylvania with 120 members, but by the end of the year they numbered 310 (35 from California). By early 1966 they folded, but a chapter of the BCCA had been formed earlier in California by Greg Fallowfield BCCA #208. This California Chapter of the old BCCA since it was no longer, went on to form their newly changed club name to the Buick Club for Californians, then a month or more later changed to the Buick Club of America (BCA), primarily to include Buick Enthusiasts in other states and elsewhere. A call for leaders was made in October 1967 asking for an East Coast Regional Director, New England Chapter Director and Chapter Organizer of Greater New York City, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. The BCA Rules of Organization were published in December 1967 for forming regions and chapters. July 1968 The New England Chapter came about, followed by the Northern California Region and Chapter formation in 1969. In late 1969 the Southern California Region was formed and this created the Orange County Chapter (Feb. 1970). The Los Angeles Chapter may have filed for a charter some time later in March 1970. Up until March 1970 in the BCA, there is no mention of the existence of a chartered L.A. Chapter. BCA membership by 1969 had grown 3 fold to 754, 1978 roster shows it was at 7,000, 1984 was now at an outstanding 15,000 and growing more yearly. At 2014 per the BCA Roster it's 47,000 and a # not to be sneezed at.

In April of 1966, the official title of the BCA was adopted and used ever since, thanks to folks nationwide wanting to join in, hence the Buick Club of America was born for the future. Greg Fallowfield (Field) became member # 1 and the membership grew from there. From this start, the BCA signed and filed for Corporate Charter with the State of California in 1968. May 1966 there were 17 of the 36 members of the old BCCA residing in Southern California (NOW BCA), but 6 months later there were 129 and of those initial members, (17) will go on to become the founders of the future Orange County Chapter. The following are the founding Buick enthusiasts of the O.C. Chapter of the BCA. Late 1969 the OCC folks filed for recognition as a chapter and on February 20, 1970 it was granted by the National Office (See page copy from March 1970 issue of the Bugle).

They are:	John Gerstkemper (15)	Leonard Hayes (5)	Marvin Lewis (4)	Ed Rommel (38)
	William Snyder (16)	Jack Freckleton (19)	Wallace Harks (26)	Lon Simon (35)
	George Townsend (68)	James Shaffer (91)	George Hopper (93)	Jim Morris (92)
	Al Neuman (92)	George Ittner (105)	Claire Gore (108)	Ralph Adams (112)
	Richard Brewbaker (1929)	Bill Colson (1928)	Jim Buote (597)	Louis Schuchart (1146)

The BCA at first was struggling thru getting organized, the membership was low but growing, and the Bugle was in a world of hurts (9 X 14 folded in half), no reference input, organization, technical library expertise, and no in-depth reader interesting articles. By 1969 the Bugle was enjoyable to read, of great interest to all members, better coverage of the BCA organization, great articles and plenty of technical documentation with pictures.

It's interesting to note that Volume 1, Issue 1, is Richard Brewbaker requesting help with his 1929. Richard held out for membership # 1929 (year of his car), likewise Bill Colson had a 1928 and did the same and that's their number today. Later Sid Munger (2257), Dave Powers (17499), Boll Yochem (708) and Gary Offstein (1431) became members. Many of the above held office not only at the national level but also at the OC Chapter level. On several occasions throughout the 1970's, the BCA officer positions were 60-70% O.C.C. members. We have seen many notable OCC Members play outstanding roles in the functioning of our Buick Club thru their individual sharing and in active participation, we thank and admire them for this. Many Orange County Chapter members also served as BCA officers up into the late 1990's.

**The Orange County Chapter:** The BCA created a Southern California Region in 1968. Hence in late 1969 The Orange County Chapter requested a charter and this was granted in February 1970. Orange County Chapter in the BCA was now off and running. Boy did we make ourselves known throughout the 70's, and it went on thru the 80's, 90's and on to the 2000's. July 1979 was the first example of the Running Board found and shows we had a Progressive Dinner/White Elephant sale at Gary & Lois Offstein's. A July 27 th OCC Meeting at the Sunkist Library, 901 So. Sunkist St. Anaheim. Wear your badges or get fined \$.25 (BCA badges were sold nationwide by the O.C.C.). Car Show and Swap Meet at LaPalma Park. The Runningboard was printed on (2) 8.5 X 11 paper single sided initially, and later developed into a multi-page booklet complete with the O.C.C. Logo on the cover (O.C.C. Logo created by Pam Beebe). The chapter has supported almost every Buick Car Show both local and out of state shows, but our favorites are the West Coast Regional



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Meets, also it's interesting to note that our O.C. Chapter members have been in attendance at almost all of the Buick National Meets since the BCA was founded. We often formed caravans or joined in with other chapters as a group in attending National Meets, helping one another in getting there. (Strength in numbers).

Thru our activities and support of the BCA chapters we made a outstanding name for ourselves, both at the shows and with the fine cars we presented, but I believe it was thru our cars we met and enjoyed the company of some of the finest folks ever met and it's that camaraderie we found in these lifetime friends and memories. Sometimes I wonder if we have the most fun with the friends or the cars, but that doesn't really matter much as we're together. The O.C.C. became known as the touring-eating chapter, but also we became quite active in many BCA events. For the next 40 years we supported local and out of state shows, Western Regional Meets, National BCA Meets, joined in on tours of various chapters, hosted or co-hosted many West Coast Regional Meets. We also within the chapter started the Chapter Progressive dinner with a White Elephant Auction, and annual Christmas Dinner which was carried on thru the 70's to presently.

Wish the guests and entertainers some fun

## *Joke Corner:*

How do you make a small fortune with Buick? Start with a large fortune

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*How do you double the value of a Buick? Fill it up with gas 😊*

Why do Buick's have large back windows? So the whole family can push.



**Tony Martinez      12-31**





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**Orange County Chapter 2023 Officers**

Director: Bruce Borneman (310) 467-2333

[bruce@bornemannla.com](mailto:bruce@bornemannla.com)

Assistant Director: Robert Figueroa

[bomberorobt@yahoo.com](mailto:bomberorobt@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Alan Clark (310) 459-1289

[awc13@earthlink.net](mailto:awc13@earthlink.net)

Secretary: Irene Martinez (410) 299-4134

[Onefifigirl46.im@gmail.com](mailto:Onefifigirl46.im@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Robert Winters (714) 397-2809

[natdash1@yahoo.com](mailto:natdash1@yahoo.com)

Membership: Larry Minery (714) 639-1137

[wildcatminery@socal.rr.com](mailto:wildcatminery@socal.rr.com)

Historian: MSGR. Doug Cook (714) 488-1664

[msgr.dcook@rcbo.org](mailto:msgr.dcook@rcbo.org)

Please stay current with yearly membership dues...

Dues due January 2025, but can be paid any month prior !

Its greatly appreciated and helps club sponsor events and activities.



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## ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER, BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

### Membership Registration – Required Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ New or Renewal (circle one)

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

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

National BCA Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

For insurance purposes, all members of the Orange County Chapter must be members of the national organization, the Buick Club of America. Chapter members are entitled to participate in all chapter activities and vote on all initiatives. Annual dues of \$20 include newsletter email communication. Please make checks payable to Orange County Chapter, BCA.

### Optional Information

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

Birthdate(s) for you and spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership of a Buick or Opel is not required. If you own car(s), please list below:

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model # \_\_\_\_\_ Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Body Type \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model # \_\_\_\_\_ Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Body Type \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model # \_\_\_\_\_ Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Body Type \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model # \_\_\_\_\_ Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Body Type \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this form with payment to:

Alan Clark, Treasurer  
OCCBCA  
PO Box 11238  
Newport Beach, CA 92658