

The RUNNING BOARD

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER — BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

JUNE 2026

A CAR WITH *Whispers*



*Some Buicks came
with sales records.*

*Others
with rumors.*



THE RUNNING BOARD

Established 1970

June 2026

Orange County Chapter
Buick Club of America

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Turn the page. The journey continues.

10:00 A.M. • Every Third Saturday • ALL WELCOME

Marie Callender's • 307 E. Katella Ave. • Orange, CA

A Note from the Editor

What can I get into next?

Little did I realize what that simple question would lead to — especially when it comes to the wonderful world of “creative license.”

I have always enjoyed writing, drawing, designing, and creating, whether that means building a new company, developing a fresh idea, or bringing the latest edition of *The Running Board* to life. With each issue, I get to dive into the many possibilities, explore what wants to take shape, and see what resonates.

As editor, one of my favorite challenges is taking the stories our members submit and finding the heart inside them. Sometimes those stories arrive fully formed. Sometimes they arrive as a few brief details, a couple of sentences, and just enough information to make me wonder what else might be hiding under the hood.

Some facts are submitted. Some stories are discovered. And some, apparently, require an editor with a vivid imagination and access to a keyboard.

That is where creative license comes in.

When a story is short, I do my best to honor the authentic details while shaping something our readers will enjoy. A little polish, a little structure, and occasionally, a generous sprinkle of editorial seasoning can turn a simple car story into something with personality, humor, and life.

With that said, I hope you enjoy this special feature and publication as much as I enjoyed creating it for you.

Turn the pages and enjoy the journey.

Jessica Chandler
Editor, The Running Board

P.S. A word of "warning" to those submitting photos and ever-so-brief stories of their automobiles: The less you write, the more creative I get to be. Don't be surprised if the action-adventure story you read does not sound familiar. It might just be the soul of your vehicle whispering to me what they might have been in the "wrong" hands, muahahahahahaha.....



The Driver's Seat

Greetings Buick Enthusiasts,

I can't believe it is already June. October 10th — and our main event for 2026, the Western Regional All Buick Car Show — will be here before you know it. Your Board is currently putting the finishing touches on the registration forms, promotional flyer, and advertising campaign for the show. The excitement behind the scenes continues to build, and we look forward to seeing our members participate and play an important role in making this event a tremendous success.

If you missed the May meeting, Ruthie announced that we have officially eclipsed the 50-member mark! This is an incredible accomplishment for our chapter, and with the visibility generated by our new club flyer — beautifully designed by Jessica and distributed by Ruthie at recent events — that number will only continue to grow. The question now becomes: can we surpass the 91-member record set back in 1996?

I encourage everyone to pick up copies of both the club flyer and the Western Regional event flyer at our June 20th meeting and help spread the word at future events and gatherings throughout the summer. Finally, as mentioned during our last meeting, I announced the desire to create permanent Board positions for Membership and Historian, along with a new Public Relations position. Prior to our next meeting, I will provide descriptions outlining these roles. As required by our bylaws, there is a 30-day grace period following the announcement before a vote may take place, so please plan to attend the June 20th meeting and be part of the discussion.

As always, thank you for being the very best part of the OCC BCA.

Warm regards,

Jeff Shugarman

Director

Buick Club of America – OC Chapter





EVENTS ATTENDED

MILES & MEMORIES

DENNIS GRIFFIN'S PETROLIANA COLLECTION

MAY 9, 2026

Michael Kanter, Tony Albin, Diane Reidy, Jeff Shugarman, Mrs. Griffin, Sam Mandlin, Tom Schay, Craig Hughes, Dino Changanqui, Jessica Chandler, Larry (hiding) & Michelle Minery
Seated: Dennis Griffin



Tom Schay, his Packard & Jeff Shugarman



Petroliana Collection - Continued





Driving their 1967 Wildcat hardtop
Front seats: Larry & Michelle Minery
Back seats: Guests





OCC CLUB MEETING

MAY 16, 2026

Brad Myers, Sam Mandlin, Tony and Laura Albin, Rory MacLeod, Michael Kanter



Jeff Shugarman , Director



Tom Schay, Sid Munger, Neil & Amber Matranga, Msgr. Doug Cook, Tony Martinez, Kirk Wells, Larry Minery, Jessica Chandler



Brad Myers' 1971 Grand Sport Convertible



Sid Munger's
1970 GS455
Coupe



Left to right:
Larry Minery, 1967 Wildcat Coupe
Jeff Shugarman, 1965 Skylark Special
Ruthie Truhn, 1965 Skylark

Meeting Minutes

MAY GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER – BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 11:00am, May 16, 2026.
- Pledge of Allegiance completed and sign-in sheet circulated.
- April meeting minutes approved.

Attendance

- 18 members and 3 guests were in attendance, including new member Tom Schay.
- Ernie and Marina attended as guests of Irene and brought their 1992 Buick Roadmaster Wagon. Ernie shared that they felt very welcomed and are considering membership. Great job, everyone!

Director's Comments

- Thank you to the Dennis Griffin family for the amazing Petroliana tour and pizza party.
- Steve Lindemann donated a framed version of our new Buick Club Shield logo — thank you, Steve!
- Proposal introduced to convert the Membership and Historian Chair positions into official Board positions, along with the creation of a new Public Relations Board position. A 30-day waiting period is required before a formal vote. Position descriptions will be emailed prior to the June meeting.
- Alan reported to Jeff that the club remains financially solvent with a current bank balance exceeding \$6,300.

Assistant Director's Report

Sam announced the following upcoming events and shows:

- June 6: Cruisin' at the Beach Car Show, Edison High School, Huntington Beach, 9:00am – 2:00pm; \$35 registration fee. Flyers were distributed at breakfast. Meet-up details to follow.
- June 7: Buicks at Bates Nut Farm Road Trip. Brad Myers suggested attending the Valley Center show to connect with Buick owners from the San Diego area. This is not an official club event. Contact Sam for details.
- July 11: Buicks by the Beach Cruise #2, Save the date. Organized by Michael Kanter.
- August 19–22: BCA National Meet – Albany, New York. At least three members plan to attend. Tony requested club funding assistance to purchase apparel for raffle prizes at our upcoming All Buick Show.
- September 26: Annual OCCBCA Club Picnic, Irvine Regional Park
- October 10: Western Regional All Buick Car Show, Fullerton Airport. Contract finalized!
- January 2, 2027: Holiday Party 2026, 1441 West Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach

Newsletter Report

- Jessica requested Running Board submissions by the 15th of each month. Articles typically appear 30–60 days after submission.
- OCC business card updates are in progress.
- Advertising rates have been finalized.
- Door magnets are arriving soon for members who pre-purchased last July.
- Merchandise is now available.

Membership Report

- Ruthie completed and distributed updated membership rosters for review and corrections.
- Club membership currently stands at 53 members.
- Club information packets have been created and distributed at local shows.
- Car show packets were created and distributed to Board members to assist with organizing future events.
- Reminder: BCA National membership is required to participate in our Western Regional Show.

Old Business

- The proposed purchase of Baron Night's Riviera as a club project is no longer viable.

New Business

- Western Regional All Buick Show Committee Meeting scheduled for May 28 at Alan's shop at 6:00pm. Sam will distribute invitations.
- A work trip to Larry Minery's is being planned to sort through existing club show equipment. Date pending.
- Volunteers are needed for setup, guest greeting, teardown, and additional event support tasks. Experienced show staff especially needed.
- Keith Ealy requested fundraising ideas for the club. Discussion topics included advertising, project car sales, memberships, and car shows.
- Tony Martinez proposed holding a 50/50 drawing during monthly meetings.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.
- Minutes prepared by: Tony A.
- Date: May 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Albin

Secretary

Buick Club of America - OC Chapter



THE RUNNING BOARD

ON THE HORIZON



*HB Car Club &
Edison High School
Present:*



Cruisin' @ the Beach Car Show

Open to All Makes & Models



CRUISIN' AT THE BEACH CAR SHOW

JUNE 6, 2026

DATE: JUNE 6, 2026

TIME: 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: EDISON HIGH SCHOOL,
HUNTINGTON BEACH

Meetup for Members to be arranged.

What to Expect:

- Entertainment: DJ Curt!
- Food by Edison High
- Raffle and Awards

THE RUNNING BOARD

ON THE HORIZON

OCCBCA EVENTS

June 6

Cruisin' at the Beach Car Show
Edison High School, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

June 20

OCCBCA Club Meeting
Marie Callender's, 10:00 am

June 27

Anaheim Car Club 3rd Annual Car Show
La Palma Park, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

July 11

Coastal Cruise
Michael Kanter, Save the date

July 18

OCCBCA Club Meeting
Marie Callender's, 10:00 am

==== MORE THAN METAL ====

A Car with Whispers

*Some Buicks came with sales records.
Others with rumors.*

MACHINE EQUIPMENT CO. 416

SCARS CNETT
MACHINE SALES
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CAR BY
CHINE PARTS





1939 BUICK SPECIAL 41

A CRAIGSLIST FIND WITH A FEW SURPRISES

ROBERT & ELVIA FIGUEROA

Sometimes the right car finds you when you are looking for something else.

That was the case with my 1939 Buick Special Model 41. I found it on Craigslist while searching for a coupe.

When I went to see the car, it was in great shape and the price was right. I figured I could get it on the road pretty quickly.

Boy, was I wrong.

As many prewar Buick owners know, finding parts can take patience. The 1939 Buicks have some parts that were made only for that year, which makes the hunt even more interesting. What looked like a quick return to the road turned into a deeper lesson in old Buick ownership.

The car remains original, with one exception: I added an electric fuel pump while troubleshooting fuel problems. It helps assist the original manual pump and keeps the car more reliable on the road. And that is where this Buick really shines — on the road.

What I enjoy most is driving it and seeing the attention it gets. There is something about a prewar Buick that stops people in their tracks. The shape, the chrome, the presence — it has a way of starting conversations wherever it goes.

Finding parts is one of the first things I mention when people ask about the car. It is also one of the reasons I reached out to the Orange County Buick Club. The club has a wealth of knowledge, experience, and advice. Their support has been invaluable.

As for what comes next, Elvia and I have joked that we have too many kids to decide who should get it. We have considered donating it to charity — or better yet, using it to help upgrade to our next classic.

However the next chapter unfolds, this 1939 Buick Special has already given us a story worth telling.



A Car with Whispers - Editor's Edition

Now, the official story is simple enough: the car was found on Craigslist, the price was right, and it needed more work than expected.

But every old Buick has secrets.

According to a highly questionable trail of garage gossip, mysterious receipts, coded journals (and editorial license), this 1939 Buick Special may have possibly spent part of its early life serving a more colorful purpose than merely Sunday drives and grocery runs.

The previous owner's family allegedly kept the car for years, and somewhere along the way, a story emerged about Grandpa being involved with a certain "unsavory" crowd. The kind of men who moved merchandise after dark, avoided main roads, and preferred cars with fast, strong engines, generous trunks, and very little written documentation.

Bootleg alcohol. Firearms. Cash. Favors owed.
Dirty deeds, done dirt cheap.

This Buick, naturally, was perfect for the job.

Elegant enough to look respectable during the day.
Sturdy enough to handle bad roads and "heavy" loads.
Quiet enough not to announce itself. And a trunk that accommodates at least 4 - bodies that is. Never mind the blood stains.

Rumor has it the driver's side once carried evidence of an "unfriendly" disagreement, but the bullet holes were later repaired and concealed with some midnight bodywork. A slight mismatch in color - barely noticeable. The hidden compartments (alleged) were presumably used to transport "goods" best left out of polite conversation or police scrutiny..

Is any of this true? Who knows. Dead men tell no tales. Only your body man would know...

Look at that car long enough and tell me it's not holding secrets. Besides, there's something undeniable about old cars - they're more interesting when they (may) have outrun both the law and common sense. Thanks, Grandpa.

Editor's Disclaimer

No official records, court documents, confessions, bootleg ledgers, ballistic reports, or hidden-compartment inventories have been produced at the time of publication. Names, dates and other particulars have been changed to protect the guilty. I meant the innocent.

This story does, however, contain a generous application of editorial seasoning.





RARE 1940 MODEL 61

STEVE LINDEMANN

For Steve Lindemann, his Buick isn't just a vehicle—it's a companion in motion, a piece of history that continues to earn its place on the road every single day.

Steve purchased his Buick in Palm Springs in 2018 with a clear vision: preserve its originality and keep it driving. Not tucked away. Not over-restored. Just true to what it is.

And what it is... is rare.

According to Car and Driver, Buick produced only 100 Model 61s with side mounts.

Of those, just 10 are currently known to exist—and Steve's is one of them.

But rarity isn't what defines this car. It's presence.

This Buick has rolled through weddings, cruised in parades, and continues to turn heads wherever it goes. Steve describes it simply:

"It's a driver—lots of fun. Lots of honks and thumbs up."

That's the kind of joy you can't fabricate. That's earned, mile by mile

A Craftsman Behind the Wheel

At 78 years young, Steve is still running his business—six days a week—a picture framer by trade for over five decades.

Since 1976, he's built a life around craftsmanship, detail, and dedication. Early in his career, he worked as the original picture framer for the Oakland Raiders, collaborating directly with the legendary Al Davis.

That same precision and pride show up in how he cares for his Buick.

No shortcuts.
No compromises.
Just stewardship.

Still in the Driver's Seat

Though his schedule keeps him busy, Steve remains a proud supporter of the club and its growth.

“I can't participate as much as I would like—but I support the OC Buick Club and continue to be a proud member.”

And that says everything.

Because this isn't just about cars.

It's about people who keep showing up—in their own way, in their own time.



Final Word

Some stories are about restoration.

This one is about continuation.

A rare Buick.
A lifelong craftsman.
And a road that's still very much ahead.

AWAKENING

THE

TITAN

The Revival Series – Number 11



A WORD TO THE

BRAKE-WISE

The Martini Racing livery is forever etched in my mind.

White body. Red and blue accents. Clean, brutal, unmistakable. To me, it was the definitive race car look of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

And then there was the car itself: the slant-nose Porsche 935/78 with the giant whale-tail wing out back. “Moby Dick,” as it was commonly called.

This thing was ridiculous in the best possible way. A twin-turbo flat-six, 845 horsepower, and a top speed of about 227 mph in 1978. It looked like something that escaped from a wind tunnel, a German engineering laboratory, and a child’s imagination all at the same time.

And according to my Uncle Manvell Aicardi, it had the best brakes of any race car of its time.

Fact.

To him, brakes were the most important thing on any race car. I asked him why.

He said,

“Horsepower and speed are useless unless the driver can trust the car to stop.”

He would know, as I was later to find out.

Finding out your crazy uncle was a pioneer of Panamanian auto racing — and instrumental in Panama fielding a real Porsche 935 in international racing — is pure gold.



A Gift to an Impressionable Boy

My uncle came to visit us in Downey, California, when my sister Claudia was born. I was 10 years old.

He brought with him his travel companion: his super-hot girlfriend from Panama. Rumor had it she was a curandera — a lady involved in the “dark arts.”

I’m pretty sure she was a witch. For sure.

My uncle sure seemed to like her. So did I.

My mother definitely hated her. Not sure why.

During that visit, my uncle gave me a gift: a model of the Porsche 935/78.

It was the best gift ever.

I was already into Hot Wheels, Speed Racer, Evel Knievel, and anything fast, dangerous, or cool. But this was different. This was so far beyond all of that.

Only later in life do you realize how important those little moments are — and how much they shape you.

Years later, I came to understand more about my crazy uncle: race car driver, pioneer of the early racing scene, chronicler of the earliest days of motorsport in Panama, and a legend with numerous accolades attached to his name.



There are photos of him racing cars on absolutely barbaric racetracks.

Safety features?

Hahahaha.

None.

Pearls of Wisdom That Last

A few years later, our family took a trip to Panama to visit my uncle and his family. I was 12 years old.

My first impression?

The airplane came down into what looked more like the rainforest than an airport. Birds exploded out of the trees on both sides of the runway from the shockwave of the landing. We disembarked, and from the top of the gangway, I saw my uncle.

There he was, standing on the tarmac with a big toothy grin, wearing a white Panamanian suit, waiting to pick up the family.

Was that normal in Panama? Not sure.

But it didn't seem to faze my uncle.

We all piled into his normal sedan — five of us plus him — and headed out into what looked like roadway madness. People were racing past, cutting each other off, ignoring right-of-way, honking constantly, and treating traffic lights like polite suggestions.

We were definitely not in the United States anymore.

But my uncle drove a little slower than the speed limit. He was incredibly conscious of everything happening around him. Completely calm. Completely unfazed.

So I asked him, “Tío Manvell, why do you drive so slowly? I thought you were a race car driver?” He looked at me and smiled.

“On the track, you’re dealing with professional drivers who know what they’re doing. I can anticipate their next move. On the street, you’re dealing with savages who don’t.”

And then came that big toothy smile.



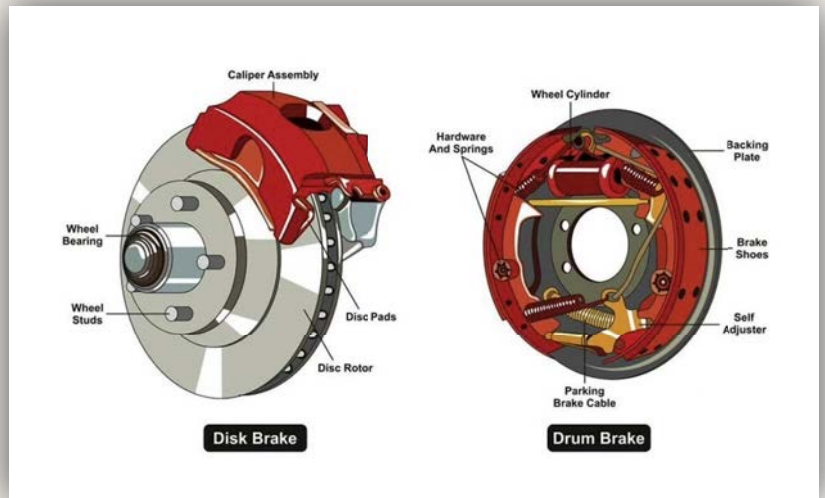
A Word to the Brake-Wise

Have the best brakes you can afford on your car.

Make sure the discs, if you have disc brakes, are in excellent shape and still have plenty of “meat” on them. Same goes if you are running brake shoes and drum brakes.

Check your brake lines. Make sure they are not cracked, broken, or leaking. Replace them all if you are in doubt. It’s cheap insurance.

Check your wheel cylinders and master cylinder. Make sure they are not leaking and that the rubber is not brittle. Confirm the system is filled with the appropriate grade of brake fluid, and make sure the air has been properly purged from the lines.



If you have drum brakes, make sure the adjustments are made correctly so there is a little drag on the drums, but not too much.

Then take the vehicle out for a test drive. Make sure it does not pull left or right when you apply pressure to the brake pedal.

Because horsepower is fun.

Speed is intoxicating.

But none of it matters if the car won't stop.

Sincerely,
Crazy Uncle Dino

P.S. May the crazy uncles and aunts of this world forever bless their nieces and nephews with the kinds of gifts that capture young imaginations — so they can reach higher and go farther than they ever imagined.



THE EXCHANGE

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AVAILABLE

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Got extra parts? Cleaning out the garage?

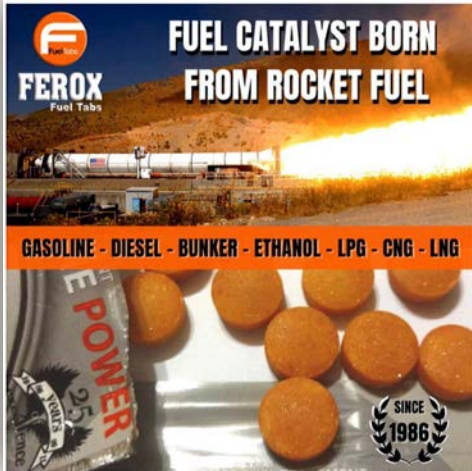
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SEEKING

VINTAGE VLCHER TOOLS

Seeking vintage Vlcher tools, including open and box-end wrenches, ball peen hammers, monkey wrenches, screwdrivers, metal punches, and related items.

The older, the better. Cosmetic condition is not important—functionality is key.

If you have any available, please reach out.
— Dino

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GARAGE HUMOR



BIRTHDAYS

- 12 - Rosalind Kanter (Michael)
- 13 - Lee Wangerin
- 15 - Ruthie Truhn
- 18 - Lawrence Hudack
- 19 - Richard Brewbaker
- 26 - Msgr. Doug Cook



BECOME A MEMBER

For those who know.

Membership in the Orange County Chapter of the Buick Club of America connects you with a community that values craftsmanship, history, and the stories behind every mile.

From local drives to national events, this is where Buick enthusiasts come together—not just to show their cars, but to share them.

Membership Includes:

- Monthly meetings and events
- Access to the national BCA network
- Newsletter features and member stories
- A community built on shared passion

Download your membership form: orangecounty.buickclub.org



Buick Club of America - Orange County Chapter is a chartered chapter of the Buick Club of America (BCA).

For membership in the OC Chapter, you must be a member of the Buick Club of America or have applied for membership.

For BCA Membership information visit buickclub.org

THE RUNNING BOARD

The People Behind the Chapter

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The Running Board

The Running Board is published monthly, on the last day of the previous month.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcomed and should be received by the 15th of the month.

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Crafted in collaboration with the unseen
hand of Aeth3r



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Articles presented in The Running Board reflect the opinion of the authors, not necessarily the views of the editor or the club. The Running Board and its editor seek to publish accurate information but do not assume any liability or responsibility in the event of a claim of loss or damages resulting from publication.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

In order for this publication to continue delivering the level of quality and excitement everyone has come to expect, a certain amount of journalistic homework is required from those submitting material. Respectfully, one or two photos accompanied by a sentence or two rarely provides enough information to create a complete feature story.

I am always happy to “massage” and enhance submissions so they can be properly recorded for posterity. However, even my amazing creativity has its limits — though I will admit, I am improving at producing something from almost nothing.

When only minimal information is provided, the burden falls entirely on me to research, write, fact-check, compile photos, and create a cohesive feature. Simply put, that limits what can realistically be accomplished.

If you would like your stories, victories, restorations, adventures, or memories featured in the publication — and presented in an engaging, entertaining, and visually compelling way — submit a **COMPREHENSIVE STORY** with all **PERTINENT DETAILS**, along with **SEVERAL PHOTOS** (high-quality preferred), no later than the 15th of the month for consideration in an upcoming issue (typically 1–2 months out).

The more information you provide, the stronger the story becomes. The stronger the story, the more creative license I have to elevate and enrich it. Likewise, the more photos submitted, the greater the visual impact and magazine-quality presentation.

Again, provide detailed information and quality photos, and I will be **THRILLED** to memorialize your memories in the most rock-star fashion possible.

