



WILDCAT EXPRESS

May/June 2001
Volume 9, Number 4

Affiliate Chapter of the Buick GS Club of America-625 Pine Point Circle, Valdosta, GA 31602 (912) 244-0577



**SAM
DAVIS BOILIN'
THE HIDES
IN THE
"VERY FEW"
GS455
AT
BOWLING
GREEN**



**LEE/KENT/
BENISEK
'73 APOLLO
GSX 455
TAKES THE GS
ELIMINATOR AT
THE GSCA NA-
TIONALS! See
next issue of
"Wildcat Express"
for the full story on
all of our club mem-
bers activities at this
year's exciting
event.**

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Tom Ivo/NHRA Museum - July Club Event	

blue sky. All and all it was a fun and very busy trip.

Now there's the matter of a very controversial go-cart race at the local Bowling Green track and **Tom Jacot** being ejected (unjustly?). We may never know, but we all tried to give him a lot of room.

Thanks for now, and we'll see you soon
Chris Lee

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRAN SPORTS

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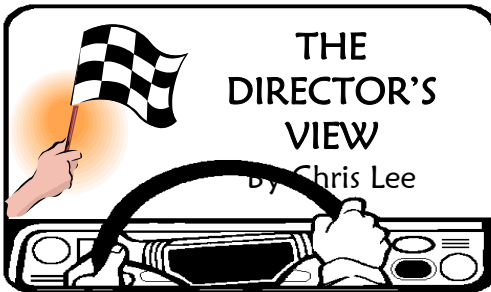
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Well here we are, right in the middle of summer, gas prices up, Edison power down and over priced, but that's all part of the fun of living in SoCal.

I've just returned from Bowling Green and the GS Nationals. What a blast we had! Congrats to **Bruce Kent** for winning GS street eliminator heads up class driving **Dave Benisek's** new Apollo GSX. It was a real nail biter. I've never seen the heads up classes so close. In the second round Bruce won by only .009 of a second. Plus the amount of work that was going on because by all rights the car was not race ready until race day. Qualifying days were used just to make this car go down the track. First the brakes wouldn't work right, then electrical gremlins set in, blowing fuses, pumps not working right, changing all the battery cables, (battery mounted in trunk!) then completely unbolting the rear end to change the pinion angle, aligning the front end using a tape measure, replace the master cylinder and bleeding the brakes, adjusting the cal-track bars and preload, and the worst of all was coming in on race day and finding the steering shaft broken inside the steering column. But team work prevailed and many thanks go out to the following members: **Rod Anstet, Tom Jacot, Bill Kirschner, Bill Moore, Dan and Judy Gerber, Nate Wakefield, Sam Davis and June Cecil.**

I got to see the country driving to Kentucky and one thing I noted was that gas is way cheaper once you leave California. \$1.35 was the average, \$1.29 in Oklahoma. Also driving across I never saw one cloud all the way, just





Assistant Director's View

By Daniel Peper

Well, we had a very successful event at Deer Park Winery in June. Despite its last minute formation we had a good turnout of club members and there were many nice GS and GN cars. I know a lot of our club members could not attend although they wanted to, that is our fault for not planning this event out sooner. I think we can assume that this will definitely be on the agenda for next year in June, so mark your calendars now!

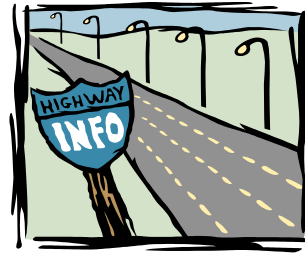
Future events, well, we had planned a racing/show event at Rialto, but I just found out that they have suspended all racing at Rialto until at least the end of the year. We are going to have to come up with another event. Carlsbad raceway seems like a good venue for us, it is a lot closer than Palmdale for most of our club and there's always racing going on there. If you think this is a good idea give myself or **Gary Ryan** (Event Coordinator) a call and let us know so we can get it on the agenda.

We have had many of our club meetings at the Michaelangelo's Pizza in San Dimas. This location seems alright but we have had some issues in the past as far as having a separate room so that we can hear what the person next to us is saying. Because of that our last meeting was almost a bust. Fortunately we have reserved their party room for the next meeting so noise will not be an issue. Incidentally our next meeting will be coming up shortly after this newsletter will be sent out. We encourage EVERYONE to attend these meetings, dinner is on the club! **Our next meeting will be July 12th at 7:00 pm.**

I am still working on the club website. If you would like pictures and information of your car(s) on the site, please contact me. I can scan pictures or even take pictures of your car for you. I will try and have the web page up and running by the end of July. We will probably have our own address which will be easy for all of you to remember: <http://www.socalgs.com/>. What could be easier!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings and events!

Daniel Peper, Assistant Director
562-618-2867 ace486@cyberg8t.com



Recommended Internet Websites

Contributed by Daniel Peper

Here are a few Buick related websites that you should be aware of. Some of these sites are invaluable and can save you a lot of time and money.

(1) <http://www.buickperformance.com/>
This is an absolute MUST. Not only is this where you need to go to sign up for the Buickperformance yahoo group, it is packed full of tech articles and Buick info.

(2) <http://www.classicar.com/bombsight>
This site is full of great Buick info, it covers ALL years of Buicks and has a wonderful Photo Gallery so you can find out what year Buick is sitting in your neighbors yard!

(3) <http://www.atlantabuick.com/>
Here you will find good information and tech articles on GS, GN, Reatta, Riviera, TTA, and 3800SC Regals.

(4) <http://www.skylarkgs.com/>
This site is for '68 and '69 Skylark, GS350, and GS400 Buicks. It is a good resource for hard to find parts for these cars with many one year only parts. There is also an extensive photo gallery of '64-'72 Buicks.

(5) <http://www.paeenterprises.com/>
The president of this company is a great man to deal with, his prices are very fair and he really knows Buicks. He is also well known for his head porting, more than one of our club members are using his heads. (note, click on the picture of the engine to get into the website)

Have fun surfing, and feel free to contribute to this list for the next newsletter!

Daniel Peper, Assistant Director
562-618-2867 ace486@cyberg8t.com



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Here are the two new piston applications from KB Silvolite: One for the 231 V-6 (which also fits the 350, apparently) and the other for the 455. Check them out.

Contributed by Gordon Hanson

SPECIFICATIONS		Part # Ring Pack	NOTES	Head Photo/Effective Head Vol.
5/960" ROD				
C.I.D.	231			
CYLINDER	V-6	KB220*	1) For years 1977-87	+21CC PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME
BORE	3.800"	2-5/64 1-3/16	2) Turbocharge O.K.	
STROKE	3.400"		with fuel to match boost	
ROD LENGTH	5.960"		3) Normally aspirated	
MIN. CLEARANCE	.0015'	Head Vol.-	with the proper cam sel-	
COMP. HT.	1.855"	Comp. Ratio	ection allows this piston	
PIN DIAMETER	.9398"	48cc-9.4	to use pump gas with all	
HEAD TYPE	STEP	50cc-9.2	listed heads	
CRANK CL TO DECK	HEAD	54cc-8.8	4) Will fit Buick V-8	
WT. PISTON/PIN	9.525"		1968-81. Order balanced	
	/g		set of eight.	
C.I.D.	455			
6.6" ROD				
CYLINDER	V-8	KB357*	1) Premium pump gas	+30cc PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.
BORE	4.3125"	2-5/64 1-3/16	with small head and long	
STROKE	3.900"		duration cam.	
ROD LENGTH	6.600"		2) Large head and long	
MIN. CLEARANCE	.0020"	Head vol.	duration cam may work	
COMP. HT.	2.010"	Comp. ratio	with regular fuel-torque	
PIN DIAMETER	.9997"	67cc-09.9	cam requires premium.	
HEAD TYPE	STEP	75cc-9.25		
CRANK CL TO DECK	HEAD		NEW ITEM. CHECK	
WT. PISTON/PIN	10.570		AVAILABILITY	
	/157g			
SIZES: .030, .040, .060				

Part numbers with an asterisk * are not legal for sale or use on pollution controlled motor vehicles.

So Cal Gran Sports
Meeting Minutes May 10, 2001
 Michaelangelo's Pizza

Members Present: **Dan Peper & Sahra, B. Kent, L. Bentley, G. Hanson, J. Cail, Richard Denkelman, C. Lee, S. MacPherson, D. Gerber, T. Jacot and G. Ryan.**

Call to Order: 7:48 p.m.

Reading of Minutes: **Gordon** read minutes of March 3, 2001 meeting-Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: **Jim Cail** reported a balance of \$1,450.11-Approved.

Tee Shirt Report: **Sheldon** reported we have a ready supply of almost all items except size medium tee shirts-more to be ordered.

Membership Coordinator Report: **Dan Gerber** reported that we still have a few members who have not renewed their membership for 201, and a very few have sold their Buicks and may not be back with us.

Events:

(A) NHRA Museum Visitation: (Post-meeting update-per phone conversation with **Gary Ryan**, August 11 looks like a favorable date to visit the museum and convene with **Tommy Ivo**. He would give us an historical overview of his cars which are on display).

NOTE CHANGE IN DATE

(B) Deer Park Car Show: Was discussed, but as of meeting time was thought to be later in June which would conflict with the efforts of the going to the GS Nationals. (Post-meeting update-Upon checking the BGNRA website, the Deer park Show is June 3 and we are on for that event..)

(C) Fuddrucker's-Pasadena Cruisin': Gordon has long been an advocate of a joint Buick-Olds-Pontiac car show. This event will hopefully have that, although the schedule for the Olds people is pretty full already. Date will be Saturday, June 23. If you have a computer, just do search/Pasadena cruisin', and the link should pop up; or key in www.gobananas.net/pasadena/cruisin.

(D) July 21: **Chris Lee** suggested Saturday night drag racing at Rialto. Rialto Drags are cancelled Rialto Airport.

(E) GS Nationals: Bowling Green, Kentucky-June 12-16.

Old Business: It is important to kick in and contribute news items, articles, etc. to the newsletter. We cannot expect Sam to compile and format a newsletter when she has little or no material!

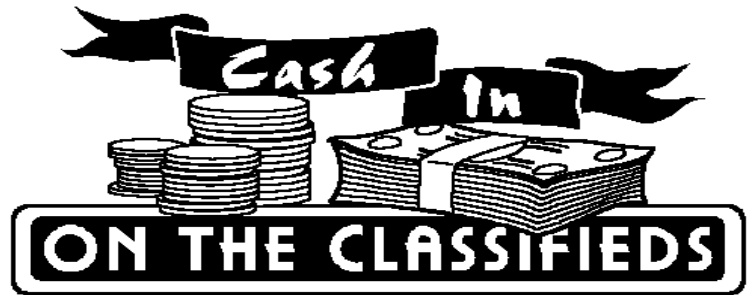
New Business: **Tom Jacot** and **Dan Peper** were selected by club consensus to be Assistant Directors.

Raffle: None held.

Next Meeting Location: Michaelangelo's Pizza, San Dimas, July 12, 2001.

Adjourn Meeting: 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon Hanson, Secretary



FOR SALE

401-425 nailhead factory dual quad intake, \$175. 401" long block, correct (rare) 65 GS code "LR," turns over but not running, \$225. AFB heat shield, \$5. Rebuilt AFB, \$60. 14" open air cleaner and element, black, like new, from Summit, has new "Wildcat 445" decal on it, looks great, \$30 (cost \$48 + decal). Stock 65 GS air cleaner, repainted and has new "Wildcat 445" decal, \$60. 4 blade fan, \$5. Pair rear shocks from Kanter, less than 500 miles, \$20. 4 headlight trim rings, \$5. Engine Stand, \$30. **John Ashworth**, 805-640-1960.

New Remac Transmission TH-350 that's built to take anything your big bad 455 can dish out. Equipped with trans brake and ACI 2,500 rpm stall converter. Never used. \$950.00 takes it all. Contact **Bruce Kent** at <wheelspn@aol.com> or (909) 592-1897

400-455 New Timing Covers \$350.00 each. Two or more \$325.00 each. Get 'em while the supply lasts!
 '70 Buick Sportwagon 350ci, runs, rough vehicle. \$500.00 OBO.

'71 Buick Sportwagon on custom rotisserie-vehicle completely disassembled-rolling chassis only-body work 90% complete-rotisserie costs \$1,800.00. Sell all \$2,400.00 OBO.

2000 Ford Excursion-V-10, 4k miles, fully loaded. \$33,000.00 OBO. Call **Tom Jacot** at (714) 531-0313

'67 GS400, red with black leather interior. Family owned since it came off the showroom floor. A real show stopper. \$10,000.00. Call **Mike Clarke** at (619) 656-8548.

WANTED

For 65 Skylark/GS: steering wheel in very good condition, wheel well moldings, black seat belts (early style). **John Ashworth**, 805-640-1960.

'72 Skylark headlight doors (i.e., surrounds). Chrome must be completely free of rust and pits. Contact **Dan Gerber** at (562) 982-8026, weekdays or (714) 220-1189, evenings & weekends.

The chrome plated box-shaped part of the 1969 GS console-mounted shift handle that the top trim attaches to (identified as a "lever" in the illustrated parts book). Contact **Gary Jacobson** at (323) 255-3484 or route66la@earthlink.net for more information (i.e., a description that makes more sense)

'69 GS grill (preferred) or Skylark grill. Must be in very good to excellent condition. Contact **Larry Brennan** at (714) 632-8430 (weekdays).

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

Compliments of the Rocky Mountain Buick Club
Under the heading of "Rejected Greeting Card
Ideas":

My tire was thumpin',
I thought it went flat.
When I got out to check,
I saw it was your cat... Sorry.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR RIALTO
DRAGS JULY EVENT?**

By Dan Gerber

To tell you the truth, I don't know... other than I received a notice in the mail announcing that the Rialto Airport Drags (RAD) 2001 schedule has been revised to end the racing season on June 24th. The flyer also announced that the July 21st night race (the one we hoped to participate in) has been canceled, and went on to thank the racers, fans, sponsors, etc., etc. for their support.

I called the RAD information phone number to get more details, but all I could do was leave a message. I waited a few days for a response, but to no avail. So, I went to the RAD web site in search of additional information, but the following post (with minor edits) was all that was available at the time. It doesn't sound very good for fans of the Rialto Airport Drags.

NO MORE RACING IN RIALTO!!!

(Posted by Mavrick on 6/21/2001, 9:48 PM)

BRAKES PUT ON AIRPORT RACING: Lack of volunteers, poor attendance cited for suspension of drag racing at Rialto Municipal Airport.

by MARK EDWARD NERO
(San Bernardino County Sun)

RIALTO - Citing a low number of volunteers and lower-than-expected turnout, officials are suspending the monthly drag races at Rialto Municipal Airport. Sunday's scheduled event will be the last for now. The demise of the one-eighth mile races, at least temporarily, leaves Inland Empire race enthusiasts no legal local venue to participate in racing. Airport Director Rich Scanlan said that despite the races turning a profit, they will have to be discontinued for at least the remainder of the year. "It's a combination of things," Scanlan said. "We haven't had the turnout of volunteers to support the project." Scanlan said it takes

about 25 people to coordinate the racing and that the airport depends on volunteers because it can't afford to hire personnel to work the races.

Scanlan said another factor in the decision to suspend the races was the low turnout on June 10. A large turnout was expected because the races were being conducted the same weekend as Run Whatcha Brung, a two-day car show that's one of the city's largest annual events. About 250 to 300 vehicles had been showing up to races over the past few months, but on June 10 "we were really disappointed," Scanlan said. The number of vehicles "was just over 100. The amount of spectators was 600 or 700, and we were expecting about 1,500." Airport officials believed attendance was "on a growth curve," Scanlan said. "We really believed that we would set new (attendance) records. But we weren't even up to our average."

Scanlan said racing at the airport wasn't a failure because a profit of about \$20,000 accrued since the races began last summer. The events proved there's an interest in drag racing at the airport, he said. Construction of a permanent track at the airport's north end remains a possibility, he said. Other alternatives, such as holding the races quarterly, are being discussed, Scanlan said, and a decision is expected in the next couple of months. The only venues currently open to drag racing are quarter-mile tracks in Palmdale and Carlsbad. Another quarter-mile track is under construction at California Speedway in Fontana, where the first races are scheduled for Sept. 8 and 9. The earliest the eighth-mile races at the Rialto airport could resume is March, Scanlan said. Tracy Fischle, a volunteer and racer at the airport, said he's sorry to see the races end because it will lead to more illegal street racing. "Drag racing is an organized sport. Street racing is an illegal act that sends a bad light on drag racers," he said. Fischle, 46, said he used to street race in his teens, until he found a legal place to race. Venues such as the one at the airport are important, he said, because they help curb street racing. "I'm sorry to see it go for Rialto because it was a good, positive thing for everyone all around," he said.

Jerry Lacy of San Diego said that since July he has made the drive north to Rialto in his 1956 Chevy to participate in the races. He criticized the discontinuation of the races. "I think it's a bad move," said Lacy, 50. "The people have to have some place to race. It gets in your blood."



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRAN SPORTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

12th - San Dimas - So Cal GS club meeting. Michaelangelo's Pizza, 552 W. Arrow Highway (Just east of the 215 Freeway in the San Dimas Station Mall, behind Denny's). The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. All club members are encouraged to attend. Free pizza! Can't find it? Call the restaurant at (909) 592-6488 and someone will talk you in.

15th - Pomona - Antique Auto, Corvette, etc. Swap Meet & Car Show @ L.A. County Fairgrounds-Fairplex. 5:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Swap spaces \$30 pre-reserved or \$40 at gate, Adult entry \$7.00. Call (714) 538-7091 or visit www.pomonaswapmeet.com for info

21st - Rialto - CLUB EVENT: Tech Session (?), Pot Luck, Raffle and Drag Racing on the Rialto Airport Raceway 1/8th mile drag strip, Linden Ave. just north of Baseline Rd. Watch for a club flier for more details.

28th - Fairplex Pomona - CLUB EVENT: Meet & greet TV Tommy Ivo at the NHRA Motorsports Museum, (Gate 1) 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, (909) 622-2133. Adult entry \$5.00, Seniors (60+) (6-15) \$3.00. Watch for flyers with additional information, or call John Ashworth (805) 640-1960 or Gary Ryan (714) 841-2231.

29th - Long Beach - Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show @ Veterans Stadium. Sellers spaces \$30, Show & Sell parking \$15, general admission \$7, sellers gates open @ 6:00 AM, general admission @ 6:30 AM. Info & space reservations: (800) 762-9785 or www.toppingevents.com.

AUGUST

1st - DEADLINE (Revised) - To submit material for July/August "Wildcat Express". Send articles/photos to club address or e-mail to socalgs@aol.com. For additional info call Dan Gerber (714-220-1189).

12th - Long Beach - Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show @ Veterans Stadium. Sellers spaces \$30, Show & Sell parking \$15, general admission \$7, sellers gates open @ 6:00 AM, general admission @ 6:30 AM. Info & space reservations: (800) 762-9785 or www.toppingevents.com.

18th - Wrightwood - 7th Annual Mountain Classic Car Show on the streets of Wrightwood. Registration 7-10:00 AM, show 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, \$20.00 pre-registration 'til August 1st, Pre-'73 cars. Saturday pancake breakfast, poker walk, slo-drags, 50/50, open header contest, drawings. Show info: (760) 249-4320.

19th - Costa Mesa - 2nd Annual Endless Summer Car Show & Elvis Fest at Orange County Fairgrounds in conjunction with OC Swap Meet. 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Info: (949) 723-6660.

26th - Pomona - Antique Auto, Corvette, etc. Swap Meet & Car Show @ L.A. County Fairgrounds-Fairplex. 5:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Swap spaces \$30 pre-reserved or \$40 at gate, Adult entry \$7.00. Call (714) 538-7091 or visit www.pomonaswapmeet.com for info.

SEPTEMBER

1st - DEADLINE (Revised) - To submit material for September/October "Wildcat Express". Send articles/photos to club address or e-mail to socalgs@aol.com. For additional info call Dan Gerber (714-220-1189).

1 - 3rd - Costa Mesa - 19th Annual Great Labor Day Cruise by Orange County Cruisin' Association at Orange County Fairgrounds. Open to '72 and earlier domestic vehicles. Live entertainment, vendors, daily drawings, 50/50 on Sat. & Sun. evenings. Pre-registration 'til August 17th: \$40 for OCCA members, \$50 for non-members. Info: (949) 645-8816.

13th - So Cal GS club meeting. Location and time TBD.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Dan Gerber



It's only been a little over a month since the last newsletter was sent out and the club's already gained two new member families. The first, **George and Lisa Horrigan** from Bakersfield, are the proud owners of a Saturn Yellow 1970 GSX. The Horrigan's example of Buick's much sought after muscle car is equipped with a couple of options that go a long way toward easing the stress of long highway drives: Cruise Control and an 8-track tape player. The Horrigan's gave credit to **Sheldon MacPherson** for introducing them to our club.

Los Alamitos resident **Mike Sparkman** also joined our loose knit family. He's bringing a red '66 GS that's equipped with a 401 and a 4-speed into the club. Mike likes to show it and do some cruising', so I suspect we'll be seeing him at some of our events. According to his application form, he hooked up with **Gary Ryan** at a Huntington Beach do-nut shop and decided to join the club on the spot. Well, now we know what Gary's been up to during his spare time.

Now that we know what your cars look like, Mike, George and Lisa, we should be able to pick you out of the crowd at an upcoming club event, shake hands and introduce ourselves. In the meantime... Welcome to the Southern California Gran Sports car club, and thanks for joining us!

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VISIT THE NEW NHRA MUSEUM AND MEET TOM IVO!

"TV Tommy" Ivo will give a special presentation at our club event at the NHRA museum in Pomona.



Mark your calendars now for a once-in-a-lifetime club event. Legendary drag racing pioneer "TV Tommy" Ivo has generously offered to host us and give a personal presentation at a special club event at the new NHRA museum in Pomona. Tom has a special exhibit there honoring his history and racing achievements. This new exhibit is fantastic, and features his twin Buick nailhead dragster and the amazing four engine, four wheel drive nailhead dragster which he toured in the early 60s. Plus lots of memorabilia, photos, and closed circuit TV footage! Tom loves to meet Buick fans and racing fans, and to share stories about the early days of drag racing. Bring the whole family to this special outing, and be sure to bring your cameras and plan to get an autograph. And there's plenty more to see at the museum too. It should be a great time. We've scheduled it for Saturday, July 28th at 10am. The new NHRA museum is near the Fairplex, home of the (former!) street legal drags. We'll send a flyer out in advance with a map and more details. Just to whet your high performance appetite, here are just a few highlights of TV Tommy's career:

- ◆ first to run in the 8s on gas (in the twin Buick)
- ◆ first to run in the 7s on fuel
- ◆ first to run in the 5s on fuel
- ◆ first to run 170 mph on gas (in the twin Buick)
- ◆ first to run 180 mph on gas (in the twin Buick)
- ◆ first to run 190 mph on fuel
- ◆ 9.50 first world record in the 9s on gas (Buick)
- ◆ 9.14 @ 154 mph on gas in unblown Buick [B/GD Std 1320 record]
- ◆ 8.69 @ 180 mph on gas in the twin Buick [AA/GD Std 1320 record]

See you there!