

BHA BRINGS ONE-OF-A-KIND BUICK GS TO MUSCLE CAR AND CORVETTE NATIONALS, NOVEMBER 23 & 24, 2024

Nineteen Seventy was the pinnacle of the muscle car era that began in 1964 when automakers discovered they could stuff their biggest engines into mid-size cars and sell them in droves to young baby boomers. The horsepower wars peaked at the end of the decade as GM's divisions unleashed "big block" 400, 454, and 455 cubic inch engines; the most powerful of all was Buick's 1970 GS (Gran Sport) Stage 1, with an advertised (but underrated) 360 horsepower and a stump-pulling 510-foot pounds of torque. No other muscle car could match it.

To help Buick break out of its image as a "doctor's car" and sell more Gran Sports, Buick pulled two identical white Stage 1 hardtops off the production line and turned them into eye-catching show cars for the 1970 Chicago Auto Show. One became the forerunner to the well-known GSX. The other was painted a unique color - fireglow red pearl - complemented by a unique all-white interior complete with white "angel hair" shag carpeting (an extremely soft, very fine, type of fiber).

This striking show car is now owned by the Buick Heritage Alliance, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of all things Buick. In this role, the BHA accepted an invitation to share the GS with the thousands who attended the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals indoor show at the Donald E. Stephens convention center in Rosemont, IL, near Chicago. November 23 & 24th.



Held the weekend before Thanksgiving for fifteen years, this show is often referred to as the "Pebble Beach of Muscle Cars" because it draws 500 of the finest restored and original cars from the Muscle Car era. Along with Mopars, Fords, Chevrolets and Studebakers is a carefully curated collection of performance Buicks. This year there was a special display of 1968/69 Buick GS and GS Stage 1 cars, plus a handful of rare 1987 GNXs. Just feet away from that display, the BHA's '70 GS caused a minor sensation. Since 1970, the car has rarely been available for public showing, and performance car enthusiasts of all marques - not just Buicks - stopped to look and ask

questions about it. They pored over it, under it, inside it, and crouched over into the engine compartment. After the questions about the car's history came questions about the BHA: what is it? What does it do? How did BHA acquire the car?

The GS is highly optioned with a Stage 1 455-V8 pumping out 360 horsepower and 510 lb-ft of torque, coupled with a turbo-hydramatic automatic transmission and a 3.64 positraction rear end. Options include power steering, disc brakes, power windows and locks, AM-FM radio, 15x7 rallye wheels, and Goodyear Polyglas G60-15 GT tires. It has absolutely clear window glass, because any window tint would cast a blue glow on the white interior. Originally built with the white angel hair carpet, a subsequent owner replaced it with standard black carpet as it now appears.



This first public showing of the GS under BHA ownership was a success, demonstrating the ageless appeal of Buick's design and engineering from the Muscle Car era, and engaging hundreds of spectators in the mission of the BHA.



B u i c k H e r i t a g e A l l i a n c e

You can learn more about the BHA, and help in its mission to preserve Buick history, at <https://www.buickheritagealliance.org/>