

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TONIGHT AND FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU PROVIDE THE BUICK HERITAGE ALLIANCE.

OUR PURPOSE IN HOSTING THIS DINNER IS PROVIDE SOME FUN AND RAISE A LITTLE MONEY IN THE PROCESS. THE AUCTION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 9 PM. SO, YOU HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO GET IN YOUR BID. GLEN McKENZIE AND THE ROAD KINGS WILL PROVIDE SOME MUSIC FOR YOUR REMINISCING AND DANCING PLEASURE AS SOON AS THIS AWARDS PROGRAM CONCLUDES.

AND, IF DANCING MAKES YOU THIRSTY, THE BARS WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL THE MUSIC STOPS

BHA AWARD

WE CREATED THIS AWARD 4 YEARS AGO TO RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANT BUICK AUTOMOBILES SHOWN AT SOME VENUE IN THE U.S. AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT IN BUICK HISTORY.

TO COMMEMORATE THIS AWARD, WE CONSTRUCTED A 100-YEAR TROPHY TO ENSURE THAT THESE AWARDS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. THE BRONZE CASTING AT THE TOP HAS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE – IT IS AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE CASTING THAT GRACED THE MANUFACTURER'S TROPHY GIVEN BY BUICK IN THE 1971 AND 1972 BCA NATIONALS

The Buick Heritage Alliance Award is presented annually to recognize an individual's notable accomplishment that helps to fulfill the BHA's purposes that include the promotion of historical research, and the educational dissemination of information concerning the origin and development of the Buick automobile and the individuals who contributed to its history.

THE WINNER FOR 2015 IS

McCLELLEN G. "MAC" BLAIR

FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO
MAINTAINING OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF BUICKS
IN THEIR AS-MANUFACTURED CONDITION
BY RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF ORIGINALS

MAC'S INDOCTRINATION WITH BUICKS BEGAN IN HIS EARLIEST DAYS. HERE A VERY YOUNG MAC IS IN THE FAMILY'S 38 BUICK.

AS SOON AS HE COULD TALK, HE WAS AGITATING FOR HIS OWN CAR. THE RELENTLESS NAGGING RESULTED IN HIS OWN 41 BUICK CONVERTIBLE – POWERED BY TWO LEGS INSTEAD OF THE ICONIC TWIN CARBS.

MAC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AUTOMOTIVE HOBBY ARE HIS AOVICATION. BUT HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT. LET ME BRIEFLY HIT THE HIGHLIGHTS

HE GRADUATED FROM YALE WITH A BS IN MATHEMATICS, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS. HE RECEIVED A FELLOWSHIP FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER WHERE HE EARNED A MASTERS AND PhD IN SOLID STATE PHYSICS.

AFTER GRADUATION, HE WAS RECRUITED TO WORK AT WHAT BECAME ARCO MEDICAL. HERE HE HELPED DEVELOP BIOMEDICAL DEVICES. MAC'S GROUP IN ARCO WAS INVOLVED IN MANY OTHER RESEARCH PURSUITS. ONE OF THOSE THAT SUCCEEDED WAS A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROCESS. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THAT TECHNOLOGY LED ARCO TO CHOSE HIM TO LEAD ITS NEW DIVISION. IT PROVIDED DESIGN BUILD SERVICES TO CONSTRUCT THE PATENTED TREATMENT SYSTEM WHICH REMOVED NUTRIENTS FROM WASTEWATER.

LATER, ARCO DECIDED TO DIVEST ITS ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT AND MAC ACQUIRED IT IN A LEVERAGED BUYOUT. THIS COMPANY, AQUEONICS INC CONTINUES, BUT IN RECENT YEARS MAC HAS TAKEN A LESS DEMANDING ROLE AS A CONSULTANT ON TECHNICAL MATTERS TO THE COMPANY.

BACK TO CARS. AS HIS CAREER PROGRESSED IT OFFERED HIM THE RESOURCES TO INDULGE HIS LOVE OF AUTOMOBILES. HE JOINED THE AACA AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE BCA IN THE EARLY 1970s (MEMBER # 2702). ALTHOUGH HE WAS A BUICK AFICIONADO, HIS FIRST RESTORATION WAS A 1946 DODGE.

ONCE HE WAS INVOLVED, HE BEGAN HIS QUEST FOR 32 BUICKS AND IN PARTICULAR FOR THE RARE LARGE SERIES MODELS. TO AID HIS SEARCH FOR CARS AND PARTS HE ESTABLISHED THE 1932 BUICK REGISTRY. THE REGISTRY LED TO AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF PARTS AND EVENTUALLY PRODUCTION OF UNIQUE, NO LONGER AVAILABLE PARTS FOR THESE CARS. THIS ENDEAVOR HAS BECOME SO SUCCESFUL THAT IT EXPANDED TO

INCLUDE PARTS FROM 1925 TO 1935. THE REGISTRY AND MAC ARE KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE HELP HE CAN PROVIDE.

HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTRIGUED BY THE MODEL 98, A 5-PASSENGER 2-DOOR CONVERTIBLE PHAETON. ONLY 268 WERE ORIGINALLY PRODUCED AND BY THE 1970S THEY WERE VERY SCARCE; TODAY THERE ARE ONLY 5 KNOWN TO EXIST. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TELL THE MANY FASCINATING STORIES ABOUT HIS SEARCH FOR THESE CARS, BUT HERE IS THE FIRST CAR HE FOUND.

AS THIS PHOTO AND THE NEXT ONE SHOW THIS CAR ALONG WITH ANOTHER HE ACQUIRED OF SIMILAR CONDITION DEFINITELY PERSONIFY THE TERM "BASKET CASE" AND POSE MANY CHALLENGES FOR RESTORATION. ONE OF MAC'S QUALITIES IS DOGGED PERSERVENCE. HE NEEDED ALL OF IT. AND, BEING A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT HE RESTORED BOTH.

BOTH RESTORED 98s ARE TOP AWARD WINNERS IN BCA, CCCA, AND AACA. MAC IS ESPECIALLY PROUD THAT BOTH HAVE RECEIVED THE BCA'S BENNETT TROPHY. THEY ARE ALSO WELL KNOWN ON THE CONCOURS CIRCUIT.

MAC HAS ALSO PRESERVED CARS. THE 1955 MODEL 48 IS HIS GRANDMOTHER'S CAR. IT HAS RECEIVED BCA ARCHIVAL AND AACA HOPF AWARDS. IT IS NOT A TRAILER QUEEN HAVING MADE THE TRIP FROM PENNSYLVANIA TO PLANO TEXAS WHEN THE BCA HELD A NATIONAL MEET THERE. HE ALSO HAS WELL-PRESERVED 1932 MODEL 56S.

MACS DEVOTION TO AUTHENTICITY EXTENDS BEYOND HIS BELOVED 32s. In 1988, AFTER GUY BENNETT PROPOSED THE 400-POINT JUDGING SYSTEM WE USE TODAY AND THE BCA BOARD APPROVED, IT FELL TO MAC TO MAKE THE SYSTEM A REALITY. HE PREPARED THE JUDGING MANUAL INCLUDING THE SEVERAL APPENDICES CONTAINING AUTHENTICITY DETAILS. HE ALSO

SERVED AS THE BCA'S CHIEF JUDGE FOR 13 YEARS, THE JUDGES TRAINING CHAIR 7 FOR YEARS, AND THE EVENT HEAD JUDGE AT SEVERAL BCA NATIONALS.

THE BCA JUDGING SYSTEM HAS UNDERGONE SEVERAL CHANGES OVER THE YEARS – MODIFIED CARS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED; ARCHIVAL CARS ARE JUDGED; AND THE ORIGINAL 400-POINT SYSTEM WAS MODIFIED TO ENABLE MORE EFFECTIVE JUDGING OF MODERN CARS. IN THESE EFFORTS, MAC WAS AN INSTRUMENTAL CATALYST.

THE FOREGOING HIGHLIGHTS ARE SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT LED BHA'S BOARD TO SELECT MAC FOR THE BHA AWARD IN 2015 JOINING LARRY GUSTIN, TERRY DUNHAM AND DENNY MANNER. PLEASE JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING MAC ON THIS ACHIEVEMENT.