



RIVIERA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ROA Australian Region Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

July 2012

Monterey Magic - Riviera National Meet

Doug & Kay Hawkins were joined by Geoff & Lynn Walker as entrants this year

at the Annual Riviera National Meet held at Monterey Bay, California. We all arrived in LA on Friday June 1st and had an eventful 3 days in LA joining in some great automotive cruise nights & car shows followed by a hasty departure and under armed police escort as we exited from our motel in Canoga Park due to an armed person holdup in an adjoining private house. "Welcome to LA" has a whole new meaning to us quiet country folk.



S.W.A.T officer guarding lil ol Me Mobile"

Doug & Kay beside "Munster's

After escaping LA, we enjoyed a pleasant cruise up to Monterey Bay on the scenic coast road (Hwy 101), however due to the late departure; time was against us doing too many touristy things that we had planned. Geoff and Lynn also had some initial trouble following our rented F150 as there were many on the road and once followed a stranger that turned off behind us and ended up in a "Male Prison" parking lot. Out came the Aussie flag to wave at them as they found their way back to us...



Late lunch stop at interesting eatery
On way to Monterey Bay



Nice Riviera passed us so we knew
we're heading in the right direction

We arrived finally at destination at about 5.00pm and checked into host accommodation which was wonderful, and the car park was already filling up with Riviera's.

The event organisers were extremely welcoming to us Aussies and we have to commend them on a great Meet and for choosing a picturesque venue for us to enjoy, only negative was that someone forgot to book the summer weather. Brrrrrrrrr.



View from Marina Restaurant enjoyed
"Decisions" By Kay & Lynn
(easy)



Lynn Walker- "Decisions"
Kay Hawkins – Clam Chowder

We were later joined by Ron & Beverly Noonan from NSW, who also drove up from Canoga Park, and our QLD member of the Buick Car Club Jack Gerstkemper from Brush Praire OR, dropped in also for a cold ale and say "g'day".



Kay Hawkins & Jack Gerstkemper

Have a lack of photos of actual vehicles as Lynn & I were out sightseeing most of time and boys unable to work out camera, so they say!!! But we had a great 3 days there before having to head off to Sacramento to complete some more car related business. (more wrecking yards, more Buick parts) of course. Highly recommend that if you can travel to USA in their summer, try and include ROA National Meet, you will thoroughly enjoy the company and the large selection of vehicles you will see.

Kay Hawkins

Rivieras at the BCA Nationals, Concord NC

The Carolina Chapter of the Buick Club of America hosted the 2012 National Meet in Concord, North Carolina in July.

Of the 472 entrants (17 of these were International Registrations and included 7 couples from Australia) 47 Rivieras graced the showfield. The Rivieras ranged from three 1963's to three 1999's. The most number of the same year were 1965, 1983 and 1995 each with 4 cars in these years.

23 of the Rivieras entered were 1983 to 1999 - cars which we don't see here in Australia being less than 30 years old. So it was nice to see some 'modern' Rivieras on show.

Whilst there was always Buick people walking around the hotel car park admiring all the Buicks that had come to the Meet, the most impressive site was at the Showfield which this year, was held at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, about 1 mile from the host hotel. Here all the Buicks were grouped in their categories for judging or just on display in the centre of the track.

To add to the fun of the day, some Nascars were taking people on joy rides around the track. This was a lot of fun for those who went for the ride (and for those watching them) however, it was not for the faint hearted. In 115 degree F heat (46 degrees C) it was pretty hot waiting your turn to go around, particularly when you were suited up with driving suit and helmet.

The guys were pretty sweaty when they got out (not sure if it was only the heat - I'm sure there were some white knuckles also!)

Despite the heat, it was a great show with lots of great Buicks to drool over.

Rivieras on the Showfield at Charlotte Motor Speedway



ROA Australian Region 2012 Meet

Not long now to the 2nd ROA Australia Region Meet in Griffith in September.

We are very pleased with the number of entries received so far and would encourage all Riviera owners to come and join the many other Riviera owners who have already registered for the Meet. By the time September comes, we are hoping there will be at least 30 Rivas making the trip to Griffith.

Don't forget the special ROA rates at the Kidman Wayside Inn are only available till the end of July, so if you haven't already booked you need to do that pronto. **Please mention you are with the Riviera Owners Association when you make your booking.**

Full details of the event are attached together with Registration form. If you need more information, please contact us.

Accommodation

The host hotel is the **Kidman Wayside Inn**. The Kidman offers a variety of good quality accommodation all with reverse cycle air-conditioning, satellite TV, fridges, mini bar, hair dryer, ironing facilities and direct dial phones. The hotel is set on spacious grounds with good parking for our large cars and a pool should you wish to have a swim. Wireless broadband and guest laundry are also available.

The Kidman have generously offered us a group discount for a minimum of 10 rooms and are holding a variety of rooms for our event. Group rate prices are -

Standard Queen Room - \$98 per night
Superior Queen Room - \$108 per night
Deluxe Room - \$118 per night.

These discount rates will apply for either a 3 night or 4 night stay and will be available until July 2012 but they would appreciate earlier bookings. There may still be rooms available after this date but discount rates may not apply.

Contact for the Kidman Wayside Inn for bookings is Phone: 02 6964 5666 Fax: 02 6962 4436 Email: kidman@inet.net.au

Sabrina is the lady looking after our booking.

Please mention you are with the Riviera Owners Association when you make your booking.

The ROA Australia Region Meet in 2012 will be a lot of fun with great food, great wine, great cars and even better fellowship.

So make your bookings now to come to Griffith in September for a great weekend of ***"Rivas on the Riverina"***.

This article appeared in the Mar/Apr 2012 edition of the Riview and has been reprinted from that article. Thank you, Riview.



On Riviera Lane

by Tom Kunek #3845 & Brian Crummy #6061
Melbourne, Australia

Left to right: Brian Crummy and Tom Kunek

Tom's Story: My 1965 Riviera was originally ordered in 1965 by a doctor from Sydney who saw a Riviera on a visit to California in late 1964. He was so eager to get hands on one that he placed orders with two different GM dealers. My 1965 was the second to arrive in Australia, so he placed it back into the motor trade. The car was converted to right hand drive and sold to Lloyd Ireland, who owned the largest cinema in Queensland. At that time, all imports had to be converted. Today, you do not need to convert American cars to right hand drive if they are over 25 years of age. In 1969, Ireland sold the car to a Queensland Senator, who bought it for his wife as a birthday present. Wanting the car to perform at its best, he had the engine completely rebuilt, even though it had only 30,000 miles. In 1993, I bought the car from the then-Vice President of the Buick Club of Australia (see *Riview* vol. 14 #4).

When I bought the car home, my neighbor Brian said, "What the hell is it?" He had never seen one before, but he grew to like the Riviera, and, to my surprise, three years later, he asked me to keep an eye out for one. Brian's story, which follows, will explain how we found his several years later.

Brian's house and garage are directly behind me and there is a lane that runs between the two properties. As coincidence would have, the name of the lane that divides our garages is called Riviera Lane. I lay down a challenge that there is no other place on Earth where two white 1965 Rivieras are owned by next door neighbors who are located 30 feet apart and share a common roadway called Riviera Lane. For those of you who use Google Earth, enter "Riviera Ln Blackburn" and see for yourself.





Tom's was converted to right hand drive



Brian's Gran Sport with the rare deluxe white interior

Brian's Story: The first time I ever saw a Buick Riviera was when Tom bought his 1965. Tom would often ask me to assist by bleeding brake lines or with other mechanical work. I soon gained respect and admiration for the quality and realized that a 1965 Riv is the car I would like to own.

Tom and I kept an eye out for a 1965, preferably a restored car in good condition. It soon became obvious that we would not find the car I was looking for in Australia. So, the search for my Riv went "Stateside."

In 1996, Tom was going to attend the annual ROA Meet in Mesa, Arizona. Two weeks before leaving, Tom decided to give Ray Knott just one more phone call to see if he knew of any local cars for sale. "Yes," said Ray. "Colin Grubb, a member in Denver, has just decided to sell his 1965 Gran Sport."

Well, as luck would have it, this was a car that was known to Tom. He met Colin Grubb and saw this GS at the 1994 Meet in Denver, where it won third place and had left a lasting impression on him. Since Tom and Colin were both

attending the Meet in Arizona, Tom very kindly offered to negotiate the purchase of the car. Everything went as planned and Colin handed over the keys. The car was finally mine. In the meantime, the car received second place in the GS class. With advise and assistance from ROA member Dick Sweeney, the car was driven over to San Diego, where we were able to ship it back. Four weeks later, it was delivered to Melbourne (see *Riview*, vol. 13 #2).



The car was basically fully restored, with the mechanicals, paint and interior all done. I have had the door skins off and there is not a speck of rust. With 95,000 miles, it was fully loaded except for four-note horns and electric eye. The deluxe

interior is in a rare white vinyl, which was available only in the latter half of 1965 and was not initially listed in the dealers' color and trim book.

The search was as enjoyable as the final conquest, but this would not have been possible if it weren't for the ROA and its network of friendly, cooperative and trustworthy members.



The Riview Mar / Apr 2012

Have a Laugh

Another Irish one!!

Brenda O'Malley is home making dinner, as usual, when Tim Finnegan arrives at her door. "Brenda, may I come in?" he asks. "I've somethin' to tell ya".

"Of course you can come in, you're always welcome, Tim. But where's my husband?"

"That's what I'm here to be telling ya, Brenda. There was an accident down at the Guinness brewery..."

"Oh, God no!" cries Brenda. "Please don't tell me."

"I must, Brenda. Your husband Shamus is dead and gone. I'm sorry."

Finally, she looked up at Tim. "How did it happen, Tim?"

"It was terrible, Brenda. He fell into a vat of Guinness Stout and drowned."

"Oh my dear Jesus! But you must tell me the truth, Tim. Did he at least go quickly?"

"Well, Brenda....no. In fact, he got out three times to pee."

Suppliers and Repairers members have been happy with

If you have had a job well done from a repairer, then why not let others know about it. Send in details of your good experiences so they can be printed here.

Dan's Classic Auto Parts of Portland OR - www.dansclassic.com

Rob Croxford has had dealings with this firm and advises their prices are reasonable, their communication is terrific and they are very good to deal with.

BJ Panel Restoration and Fabrication,

Thornlands. Qld.

Bill - 0403 120 921

(panel beating, rust repairs, fibreglass repairs, modifications)

Bill works in conjunction with -

Carr Creation Auto Refinishing,

Graham Carr - 0411 588 272

Thornlands. Qld.

(spray painting specialists).

Annvid Auto Upholsterers,

24 Smith Street,

Capalaba. Qld. 4157

Tel: 07 3390 3444

Mt. Cotton Auto Electrics,
57A Island Street,
Cleveland. Qld. 4163
Mob: 0429 193 815

Spectrum Rubber and Panels Pty.Ltd.
P.O. Box 328,
St. Marys. N.S.W. 1790
Tel: 02 9623 5333 Fax: 02 9833 1041
Email: sales@spectrumrubber.com.au
Website: www.spectrumrubber.com.au

Tim Harper advises they list specific gear for the '63 - '65 Riv as well as '72. Thanks, Tim.

Tim also advises that he has been able to purchase a new K & N E-1360 Aircleaner and HP-2003 Oil Filter from his local Repco dealer who had them in the SA Warehouse. The Aircleaner has quite a range of Buick and Riviera applications.
<http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=E-1360> and the HP-2003 oil filter has hundreds of applications including the Nailheads.
<http://www.knfilters.com/search/applications.aspx?Prod=HP-2003>

Note: This is not in any way an endorsement of these businesses. It is just giving members leads to businesses that other members have had a good experience with.

Market Place

Please note: I will continue to leave For Sale and Wanted ads in unless you advise me otherwise.

For Sale

1972 Riviera - only 3rd owner - have replaced exhaust with stainless and all belts, hoses and tyres, overhauled the carby and dissy - 90,000 miles believed to be genuine. Ill health forces sale of this car. \$25,000 negotiable. Test drive any time. Car is located in Caboolture, Queensland. Dennis Jennings - 0417 291 290 email: wildsiderv@hotmail.com

For Sale

Parts for 1964 Riviera

Good door sill plates alum., horn, door window crank (vents), seat belt sleeves (black), door panel chrome that holds switches for window left and right, two L brackets that fit around headlight, inside door handle, centre cap with tri shield, windshield hoses and metal nozzles that fix under hood for spraying on windshield, cigarette lighter for console, trunk lock with key and inside latch, hood ornament, dimmer switch, choice vacuum pull off, head light switch, distributor cap, front and back stainless wheel well trim, right hand chrome door trim bottom 375-298RT.

John Williams, Charleston, IL. jjwilliams@consolidated.net

Parting Out

1968 Riviera, complete car, was weekend driver before rear end smash.
Car is in USA but can be dismantled and parts posted to Australia or packed in my next container coming over for nominal shipping fee.
Ring Doug Hawkins. 0418 631 233 or 07 5543 6927

For Sale: 1 x 1968-69 n/s fender with small marker light, excellent cond., no rust or damage.
1 x 1966-67 headlight motor, good working order, includes one flexible coupling.
3 x 1968 rear side marker lights (tri shield design).
1 x 400-430-455 waterpump used or will trade on any 1965 parts.
Steve Moore 02 6884 9904 Email: riviera.1965@hotmail.com

For Sale Riviera Parts

66-67 hood lip chrome in one piece
66-70 3.07 open diff
66-67 Rear window exterior louvre (smooth and for vinyl tops.)
66-67 Riviera Tow Bar- very hard to find.

Tony Gentilcore. 0408 964 217 e-mail tonyg@mako>com.au

For Sale: Riviera parts

1966-67 door shells R,L, straight, no rust \$300 each
1966-69 door window glass R,L \$90 each
Electric window motor \$120
1966-67 air grille panel (base of windscreen) \$30
1969 RH front mudguard straight, no rust \$300
1969 rear window guides \$25
1969 sun visors (black) \$80 pr
1975 tail light assemblies \$90 each
NEW - Riviera script, the one with large R, early 60's ? \$80
1963-65 lower chin parking light assemblies VGC \$250 pr
1975 bonnet emblem (new) \$70
Riviera Sales brochures -
1963 - 8" x 10" colour 6 pages \$40
1966 - 10" x 10" colour 6 pages \$40
1968 - 10" x 10" colour 8 pages \$40
1995 - 5" x 10" colour 4 pages foldout \$20

Ron Noonan 02 9631 4763 Email: buickron1@bigpond.com

Articles Wanted

Our thanks to those members who have very kindly sent in stories or information for our Newsletter. Articles about you or your Riviera are always of interest to other members. Please help us put the next Newsletter together by sending us news of your Riv. How did you acquire your Riv? Got a story about your Riv? We'd love to hear from you and other members would love to read your story. We welcome Australian R.O.A. members stories and photographs. Please e-mail to us at : brianhall.hall@gmail.com or post to : Brian & Linda Hall, P.O. Box 383 Cleveland Qld.4163

Membership

Please encourage any Riviera owners you meet to join the R.O.A.

It's simple, just log on to the R.O.A. web site :- www.rivowners.org

Australia Regional Coordinator

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