

RIVIERA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ROA Australian Region Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 5

March 2012

More News on Tony's '65

The restoration of Tony and Barbara Gentilcore's '65 GS continues. Here is some helpful information on the Heater Core Replacement sent in by Tony.

“It's not until it's your turn to swap out the old heater core on a 1st Generation Riviera that you'll start to sit up and listen and search the manual or tech bulletins on tips on how to do this with the minimum amount of work and head aches.

I heard it was possible to take a big short cut by extracting the core from the engine side of the firewall. It requires the opening up of the hole by 1/4" all round so the core can fit through. I tried this but could not see how to fit any cutting tools to do this with the engine in place.

The Procedure I Used

On the Engine Side

1) Remove 7 speed nuts around the air inlet assembly on the engine side. There is a 8th speed nut below the assembly cover which can be removed after the cover is off and out of the way.

To help ease the cover off you should loosen the “outside air door and case assembly”. Also remove the “suction throttle valve support bracket”.

Tools Required

7/16" ring & open ended spanner and a deep 7/16" socket and ratchet wrench for the speed nuts and various spanners and sockets for the rest.

Removing the distributor will give you a bit more room to work but is not essential.

Tip: If you do this remember where the rotor is positioned so you can re-insert it in the correct way and not 180 deg. out.



On the Interior Side

1) Start by removing at least the passenger seat and the console, radio and centre air vent and rectangular duct.

Tip: Gear knob screws off to enable console upwards. (I removed both seats as I like space to work and I was having new carpet installed anyway.)

2) With the console out of the way, the wiring loom in the console needs to be unclipped from the cardboard ducting and set to one side.

-2-



3) Pull all the cardboard ducting rearwards and set aside.

4) Remove the metal duct from the bottom of the heater box (2 screws).

5) Detach left outlet duct and move “plastic distribution duct” leftwards to disconnect from the evaporator.

6) Detach the blue ended cable from the heater box.



- 7) Remove the glove box liner and disconnect the RH duct going to the eyeball outlet or do it from underneath.
- 8) Remove the two brackets supporting the “evaporator box” located under the glove compartment and pull the box down to the floor and as far right as possible. This will give you the clearance to manoeuvre the heater core box out from under the dash.
- 9) As you pull on the heater box from under the dash there will be resistance from the firewall insulation pad so try to pry the material away from the joining face and studs to minimise damage to firewall insulation material. You will need it in best condition for a good seal later.



- 10) Once it comes away a few inches, remove the left and right discharge outlets to minimise their damage and space required to flip the heater box and get it out.

11) Flip the box onto it's back and manoeuvre to the right as shown below.



On the Bench

1) Remove the two screws on the left and right side of the outer box.

- 2) Separate the core box from the outer box.
- 3) Remove all the screws holding each end of the core in place and extract the old core.



Reverse the procedure at this point for installation of new core.

Tip: Instead of using messy caulking compound, I bought a roll of self adhesive rubber stripping used to seal gaps around windows which worked very well.”

Tony Gentilcore

ROA #10107

ROA Australian Region 2012 Meet

Overview - 2012 ROA Australian Region Meet

We've added some more information on this meet.

The inaugural ROA Australian Region Meet held in 2010 in Coffs Harbour was extremely well supported with around 50% of Australian members attending the Meet. With such enthusiasm from members, how could we not plan a great event for 2012!!

The 2012 ROA Australian Region Meet will be held in the Riverina city of Griffith in New South Wales. Griffith was selected for our ***“Rivieras on the Riverina”*** event so as to be accessible to a greater number of our members Australia wide. The Riverina area is widely known for its agricultural industries particularly wine growing, citrus farms and rice fields. Griffith lies within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) - a system of canals which, thanks to the forward thinking of the early pioneers around 1904, has for many years provided water for the variety of farms in the area.

As many members will have travelled a long distance to the event and in response to expressions of interest from some members, it is planned to hold a 3 day event this time.

However, if you can't make it to Griffith for the Thursday night, you will be most welcome to arrive on the Friday.

Our Meet will commence on **Thursday, 6th September 2012** with a casual evening of Meet and Greet Welcome Drinks and Pizza night at our host hotel. (Details of host hotel listed below.) Registration will be available from 3.00 p.m.

On **Friday, 7th September**, we will tour to Leeton where we will tour a citrus farm and packing shed, then take in a slice of history at the art deco Roxy Theatre. Lunch will be at the Historic Hydro Motor Inn - the original accommodation centre built for the Water Commission officers and visitors in 1919.

Our trip back to Griffith will also include a visit to a popular winery who are offering specials to our group. Souths Leagues Club which is a short walk from our host hotel, is a great location for our evening meal.

Saturday, 8th September will see us heading off to a gourmet food outlet where you can browse the many varieties of "gourmet produce from the heart of the Riverina." Morning tea will be a short drive away at a Lavender Farm where the ladies can browse the lavender goodies and the boys can browse their collection of vintage tractors and sports cars.

After here, we will visit a boutique winery with elevated vistas of the vineyards and the nearby National Park, on our way to lunch at a historic country pub.

Other places of interest will be optional to visit on the way home to Griffith. Dinner on Saturday night will be a buffet at the Leagues Club.

-5-

For those early starters, the Griffith Rotary Markets start at 7.00 a.m. on **Sunday** morning. The Leagues Club have very kindly offered us space in their grounds for our Show and Shine on Sunday morning from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. If you wish, you can park your car at the Show and Shine early, then walk to the markets (it is only a short distance) before returning to the Show and Shine.

After the Show and Shine we will drive up to the nearby Pioneer Village where we can enjoy the displays of yesteryear and also have lunch if you wish. Please note on the registration form whether you wish to just visit the Park or visit the Park and have lunch there (2 lunch options available- Sandwich lunch includes sandwiches, cakes, fruit, tea and coffee, Salad lunch includes cold meat and salad, fruit, tea and coffee - both lunch prices include entry to the park as well). Also please note that prices at the Pioneer Park are \$2 less for pensioners and seniors. The rest of the afternoon is free time for you to explore the many other features of this area.

Our Presentation Dinner will be held at the Leagues Club on Sunday evening before we all head home on Monday morning.

The Souths Leagues Club has been chosen for the evening meals for the three nights due to their generous support and the Club is within easy walking distance to our host hotel. There is a huge variety of good quality food available so you won't be bored with your meals.

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.

Run notes for all drives will be in your Rally Bag along with information about the area.

Commemorative Polo Shirts



The polo shirts to commemorate this event are white cotton with pocket - event logo on the back, small Australian ROA logo on front. Sizes are generous. Here are measurements.

	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest (cm)	118	122	126	132	136
Neck (cm)	46	47	48	49	50

Centre back length (cm)	74	76	78	80	82
Sleeve length (cm)	27	28	29	30	31

Other Notes

Please remember that the MIA is a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone - fruit (including tomatoes) should be dumped in the bins provided as you enter the area.

Please note that the Riviera Owners Association (ROA) is an organisation specifically for the Buick Riviera 1963 to 1999. In accordance with the rules of the ROA, the 2012 ROA Australia Region Meet is open to ROA members and Buick Club members with a Riviera of this age group.

Also, please note that the Australian Region of the ROA has been made a Division of the Buick Car Club of Australia Inc. (Qld.) so that members cars are covered for Australian states Special Vehicle Registration and Insurance whilst driving to and from and attending this event.

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 mark your calendar now and make your plans to come to Griffith in September for a great weekend of ***“Rivieras on the Riverina”***.

Registration form attached.



ROA Annual Meet

The ROA Annual Meet for 2012 will be held in the picturesque coastal town of Monterey, California, June 4 - 7 2012. For those able to make the trip to the US, the Meet provides a great opportunity to see some really great Rivas and meet some really great people. Toronados are also on show as the Toronado Owners Association will join the ROA Meet.

The host hotel is a hacienda-inspired hotel in old town and is within walking distance of shopping, dining and many sites, including Fisherman's Wharf. Nearby attractions include Pebble Beach, Carmel by the Sea, Big Sur, numerous wineries and countless golf courses.

We know some Aussies are going to the Meet and if you would like to go too, the Registration form and Schedule of Events are on the back cover of the *Riview*, or just go to the ROA website - rivowners.org - and click on International Meets.

N.B. If you are going and would like to contact other Australian ROA members who are also going please let us know at brianhall.hall@gmail.com and we will put you in touch

Have a Laugh

Ten Commandments for the Riviera Collectors

Thou shalt not store thy Riviera out of doors - outside is reserved for thy wife's modern iron.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's Riviera, nor his garage, nor his battery charger.

Thou shalt not love thy Riviera more than thy wife and children; as much, but not more.

Thou shalt not read thy Hemmings on company time, lest thy employer make it impossible to continue thy Riviera payments.

Thou shalt not despise thy neighbour's Edsel, nor his De Sotos, nor his 1947 Plymouth.

Thou shalt not allow thy daughters nor thy sons to get married during the holy days of Hershey.

Thou shalt not deceive thy wife into thinking that thee is taking her for a romantic Sunday drive when, indeed, thou art going out to look at another Riviera.

Thou shalt not tell thy spouse the entire cost of thy latest restoration, at least not all at the same time.

Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to the house and then use it to store Rivas: thou shalt not store Rivera parts in the lounge room.

Thou shalt not buy thy wife a floor jack for Christmas, anniversary or birthdays.

Letters to the Editor

Tim Harper writes -

“I can’t recall if I mentioned the dramas I have had with valve stem heights in the Nailhead? If not you might like to pass this info on to newbie Nailhead owners: with the unique crossed pushrods the valve tip height is absolutely critical.

When the heads were ported and new TA valves fitted they were set deeper for better flow. This resulted in a taller tip height which then mucked up the rocker/pushrod geometry with the pushrod touching the valve spring.

The (expensive) fix was to start again and port new heads. The alternative was to find new tall valves (Caterpillar) and cut them down then machine new collect grooves (only slightly less expensive). The Rule is CHECK VALVE TIP HEIGHTS!!

Re shockers I have just received the new Koni shocks for my '65.

The Koni book only starts at 1970 for Rivieras and the guru in Melbourne said they would work on a '63-'65 but when received the length was way out and the double ended 'fork' at the bottom of the front shocks were too small and short.

The original Monroe Gas shocks (nothing listed in Australian book) were then sent over and he matched them up with the following variations:
Front shock needs old bottom fork pressed out and pressed into new Koni (haven't tried yet but might need rubbers with larger hole?) I believe these might be to suit a Volvo (?) Part No. 8040 1017.

Rear shock bodies are 58 mm dia compared with Monroe's 48 mm. I still have to check they will clear the springs etc. These shocks are to suit a leaf spring Pontiac rear end so am hoping they are not too heavy for the Riv. Part No. 822247.

Some time ago Peter Brunnthaller and I bought reconditioned quick ratio steering boxes from a vendor in the Riview. The ration want from 19:1 to 13:1 so look forward to seeing how they feel in conjunction with the new shocks. Hope stock Rally wheels and tyres mean I don't end up with a harsh ride.

Cheers.

Tim”

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

1972 Riviera - LHD, 455 ci Turbo 400 - Solid rust free, strong motor - \$29,990 ono.

NSW Historic Rego 34622H showing 8,780 miles on the clock but I would add 100,000 miles to that. Column auto imported in 2007 from Phoenix Arizona. The previous owner had the interior beautifully custom trimmed. Absolutely rust free with good paint and chrome. Drives beautifully with plenty of power, no smoke or fluid leaks. New tyres, new brakes including rear wheel cylinders, rebuilt distributor and custom exhaust. This is a very reliable car you can drive anywhere or just enjoy around the city.

Contact Tony Canella, Frenchs Forest. NSW 0409 524 248 susancannella@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

Brian Hall ,
P.O. Box 383,
Cleveland, Qld. 4163

Ph. 07 3829 2222,
e-mail : brianhall.hall@gmail.com
