



RIVIERA OWNERS ASSOCIATION

ROA Australian Region Newsletter

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April 2011

Rivs Spectacular at Autospectacular

The Buick Car Club display at the recently held *Shannons Queensland Autospectacular* boasted a number of Rivieras in their display.

The Autospectacular was hosted by the Buick Car Club of Australia Inc. (Qld.) and was held at Willowbank Raceway. The event attracted a large number of show cars including over 430 cars in 20 clubs booked for Club display sites. There were around 100 cars entered for judging plus a further 400 cars on individual display. This was truly a feast of beautiful machinery on show.

The Autospectacular, generously supported by major sponsors Shannons Insurance, City of Ipswich, Ross Llewellyn Motors, Titan Garages and Sheds and Cruzin' Magazine/Gasoline Magazine, is Queensland's largest combined Car and Bike Show and Swap Meet. A large swap meet has become a feature of the Autospectacular and grows each year with swappers arriving as early as Saturday afternoon to set up for the Sunday event.

This year the Autospectacular also included the Australian Rocker Cover Racing Championships, a large Trade Site area where over 60 traders offered their wares to a very enthusiastic crowd, and a Test'n'Tune event where participants could run their car or bike down the famous 1/4 mile Willowbank Drag Strip. All these features were very popular and drew large crowds to watch the action.

Whilst most of the Rivieras were content to be on display at the Buick Club site, ROA member Adrian Dearling ran his 1965 down the drag strip (driven by son Paul.) The Riv fared very well and out-ran Adrian's 1938 Buick Hot Rod.

The fine sunny day was a welcome change to the rainy conditions of recent months in this part of Queensland. It seemed like everyone had come out to enjoy the sunshine, the fantastic array of beautiful cars and bikes and the excitement of the Test'n'Tune event. Great music and a variety of food stalls added to the day's enjoyment.

Presentations of the trophies to the worthy winners was made by the Mayor of Ipswich, Cr. Paul Pisasale, who is a great supporter of this event.

Rivs at the Shannons Queensland Autospectacular



Recent History of a 1965 Clamshell Buick Riviera

By David & Diane Rundle (continued)

Time passes and a Franklin Rally is planned for the Napa Valley, a wine growing area NE of San Francisco in a picturesque setting, for a week of vintage driving, followed by vintage wine tasting.

Diane and I have been promised a fantastic 1929 silver Franklin convertible couple for the rally, so its off from Australia to Phoenix where we pick up the Batmobile outfit to drive to Frisco, picking up both the Franklin in Los Altos and Geoff and Leonie from the airport.

At the rally's conclusion we headed in the Riviera for Yosemite National Park for a 3 day booking. Alas about 60 miles short the battery failed to start the 401 cc V8. Whoops! - alternator's history and its Saturday afternoon. OK. Drop the girls at this Walmart store entrance - HANG ON, NO BRAKE. With the foot brake to the floor, and a stretched cabled hand brake useless, I piloted the beast to a rolling stop. Houston, we have a problem?? It's time to find John, (the Mexican) for a full brake rebuild and alternator, hire a car, go to Yosemite for 3 days while John fixes the Riviera. Sounds like a plan to me!

A phone call from Yosemite in 3 days led me to believe that John may have the Riviera completed by our return. Unfortunately this was not the case. Nappa in Fresno had the only alternator but we had missed the delivery, could we drive there please to pick it up as well as a new brake master cylinder. I felt another long night coming.

With all that completed the new alternator and separate voltage regular would not charge, no matter what we did, so it was another 3 hour return drive to Fresno for replacements only to find the new alternator would not fit because it was incorrectly clocked, so no holes matched.#\$%*

That was the time we found RELIGION, in the form of a white haired old Mexican called, (YES, YOU GUESSED IT) Jesus! Working out of a rotten old dirt floored tin shed, or was it a manger. Anyhow, Jesus was faster than "Clarence the Clocker" so once again in the late hours the Batmobile purred again as Geoff and I tore up the bitumen to catch our girls and mates at Carmel.

Back to Las Vegas, then lonely desert roads across beautiful Utah, down the Mo key Dug way to the painted desert of Arizona and back to Phoenix for a rebuilt gearbox and linkages, but wait, some paint on the boot if lifting and its a 4000 mile round trip to the painters, Oh well, new adventure.

Ultimately after driving back to Minnesota, John the painter was good to his word. He stripped and resprayed the Batmobile, repaired the damaged door, replaced the screen for very little money.

The job was so good that I decided a vehicle with that many memories deserves to come to Australia. While back in Tyler Mn. I had friend Terry, (best mechanic I have ever met) to pull the motor for a full rebuild, install additional oil and water temperature gauges.

Terry and Bob drove the Batmobile back 2000 mls. to Phoenix for me to take it to the shippers at Long Beach California via another trip to Vegas.

The shippers received the Batmobile in pristine condition. Within 15 minutes of my departure from their yard she was in the container with bare metal scratches covering the roof. It helps if you measure roof heights when you install Jet ski racks above cars for shipping.

The Batmobile sits in our garage in Sydney once again looking beautiful. Our thanks to the Australian Rivera club who awarded it with “People’s Choice” at our inaugural rally in Coffs Harbour.

David and Diane Rundle.

After an adventure like that, the Batmobile deserved to win People’s Choice. Ed.



Buick Club East Coast Meet

For those ROA and/or Buick Club members who are intending to go to the Buick Club's East Coast Meet in the small town of Nundle (near Tamworth) from 9 - 12 September 2011 but who have not yet booked accommodation, I can advise that the entire town of Nundle has been booked out with the exception of the basic accommodation section at The Dag Sheep Station or the Pony Club.

There are some basic rooms at The Dag Sheep Station. The ensuited rooms here are all booked out but the Shearers Quarters has rooms still available. These are queen or twin rooms with fans, heaters, electric blankets and shared facilities. Cost is \$60 per room per night. The Dag is 10 kl. out of Nundle, 7 kl. of which is a good gravel road. For those people staying at The Dag, the host club will provide a small local bus to bring people to and from the Saturday and Sunday evening functions. Contact - 02 6769 3486 www.thedag.com.au

The Pony Club accommodation is basic but clean and comprises 15 bunk rooms with 2 bunk beds - \$20 per night. Shared facilities - male and female shower and toilet blocks. The pony club is 1 kl. from the town centre then 400 m up a good dirt road. Contact - Janine Miles 02 6764 2281.

At the time of writing this Newsletter, I have found that the small country hotel at Dungowan (approx. 30 kl. north of Nundle) has 4 double rooms available with shared bathroom. But if you want this, you will need to book quickly. Contact - 02 6769 4206.

As entries are now flowing in for this event, we thought it may be useful to give an update on the situation with accommodation. Contact us for further information.

It will be a fun weekend in the quaint little town and its surrounding areas - we look forward to seeing many ROA and Buick members in Nundle in September.

Brian and Linda



The Dag Sheep Station

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.

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

For Sale

1967 Riviera, 430 ci, 117,000 miles, Buick factory rally wheels, zero rust, restored cosmetically and rebuilt mechanicals late 1990s by previous owner, little use since, recent new brakes, water pump etc. Drives beautifully. Original excellent interior. RHD conversion by Bill Buckle, Sydney. Been in Australia since new. Drive anywhere. Champagne Ice colour with black interior. Club Reg. \$26,500 Redcliffe Qld.
Geof Miller 0407 153 218 or 07 3284 5814 or email: gdmrmiller@optusnet.com.au

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: '67 Riviera grille assembly with lights, motor and valance panel - \$200

'66 - '69 Riviera rear louvre mint condition - one for Vinyl Top one plain - \$75 each

NOS '66 425 Buick Quadrajete Carburettor - \$600

'66 - '67 Riviera Tow bar bolt-on - \$250

'71 - '73 OEM Power Steering Pressure Hose - \$70

'71 GM Delco horns high and low - \$150

'71 - '73 New Park Brake Cable - \$30

Tony Gentilcore Email: tonyg@mako.com.au 02 9453 9199

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

Wanted: 1965 Riviera in good condition. Andrew Plowright ph.0418 416 123

Have a Laugh

An old gentleman in his mid-nineties struggles to get up from the couch then starts putting on his coat. His wife, seeing the unexpected behaviour, asks, "Where are you going"?

He replies, "I'm going to the doctor."

She says, "Why, are you sick?"

He says, "Nope, I'm going to get me some of that Viagra stuff."

Immediately the wife starts working and positioning herself to get out of her rocker and begins to put on her coat.

He says, "Where the heck are you going?"

She answers, "I'm going to the doctor, too."

He says, "Why, what do you need?"

She says, "If you're going to start using that rusty old thing, I'm getting a Tetanus shot."

Letters to the Editor

Send in your letters with any Riviera news in your area. We'd love to hear from you.

Ed.

Thank you for your support - much appreciated. It is encouraging to see ROA Australian membership increasing since the Australian Region has been started. *Brian and Linda.*

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.

The final episode of David and Diane Rundle's 1965 completes the story of the Batmobile. Thanks Dave and Diane.

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

We welcome new Australian Member: Stewart Garland of Richmond, Victoria with a 1963 .

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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