



Vol. 5 No. 7

July 2014

The Mile High Buick Club

The Mile High Buick Club was founded in the Denver area in 1973 as a chapter of the Buick Club of America to encourage the interest, use, preservation and restoration of Buick automobiles. The club encourages educational presentations and dissemination of technical and historical information through fellowship at monthly business meetings and social gatherings throughout the year. These gatherings include a monthly breakfast or lunch planned at a local eatery on the last Saturday of the month, holiday get-togethers, a summer time picnic, and encouragement of group attendance at local car related events or tours. Information regarding the business meeting and upcoming events is sent to our members via "Portholes", our monthly newsletter, by our editor Connie Hill.



During the last year the club has gone through reorganization and has formed a sponsorship with Auto Nation Buick GMC Park Meadows. Our monthly meetings are now held at their dealership at 8101 E. Parkway Dr. in Lone Tree, CO on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7P.M. to 8:30 P.M. In connection with this partnership, the Mile High Buick Club held it first All Buick Car Show last September with approximately 50 registrants, and hopes to continue and expand this show again this September.

The milehighbuickclub.com web site has also been developed during this last year. The site includes information regarding the club, calendar of events, pictures and short stories regarding member's cars, and links to the Buick Club of America, Forney Museum of Transportation, and the Collector Car Council of Colorado among others. If you are interested in our club and would like more information or a registration form, please visit our web site.

If you own a Buick or have an interest in Buicks old or new, please consider joining our group of Buick enthusiasts at any of our meetings or social gatherings for we always welcome new members.



Ed Hendrick's 1958 Buick Roadmaster finds a new home

In December of 2012, I featured Ed Hendrick's 1958 Buick Roadmaster as our Car of the Month. Unfortunately, Ed passed away earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. Before he passed, Ed made arrangements to donate the Buick to the Sloan Longway Museum in Michigan. The following is the story of how the Buick made the trip to Flint, Michigan. Story written by Nathan Adlen.



The Fast Lane Car and TFLClassic had the unique privilege to cover the epic journey of a 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 – in time, distance and the ethereal bonds of love. No kidding, the journey of this particular 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 bounds past time fantastic into the realm of historical love.

Stay with me. Edwin (Ed) Hendricks of Englewood, CO painstakingly restored the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 from a rust-bucket to the pristine vehicle you see here. He didn't do it for the return on investment, he did it out of love for the car. After he passed away, his widow Barbara donated it to a special museum in Michigan. There was a caveat: rather than strap it to a car carrier, Ed's handsome '58 Buick was heading to Detroit in style.

We gathered in Englewood, CO (about 10 miles south of Denver, CO) and we're heading to the Sloan Longway Museum's Buick Automotive Gallery which is located at the Flint Cultural Center Campus, (303 Walnut Street, Flint, Michigan 48503). That's about 66 miles outside of Detroit. The Curator of Collections at the Sloan Longway Museum, Jeremy Dimick, made arrangements with Barbara to drive the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 under its own power following routes that existed back in 1958. Along the way, the convoy (Barbara followed with her friend in a 2002 Ford T-Brid) would cruise highway diners, motels and gas stations. And The Fast Lane Car (TFLCar) is going to chronicle the journey on-line and on video!

Our first leg: Englewood, Colorado to Columbus, Nebraska.

After departing precisely at 8:54ish, we used back roads to connect to Colorado Route 36. The 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 drove great and we soon glided on to Interstate 30. I-30 would be our main route for the duration. Honestly? Nearly every roadside diner and motel are either gone, closed or vanished in the vortex of commuter indifference.

Over 500 miles past before we pulled into Columbus, NE. Closing out day one: more people have gawked and commented at the 58 Roadmaster than when I drove apurple Bentley. Honestly.

Second leg: Columbus, Nebraska to Dixon, Illinois

The 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 flashed its chrome despite the morning mist in Columbus, Nebraska. Loading up my 2014 Buick Regal GS support/camera vehicle, we set out for another long drive on Interstate 30. Along the way, I conducted an interview inside the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75, got some greasy 50's diner grub and watched the nostalgic ruins of the past melt away.

Third leg: Dixon, Illinois to Flint, Michigan

One of the problems that made filming the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 cross country a challenge was the constant worry of mechanical difficulties. I need not have worried. On the final leg of the journey, the big Buick performed beautifully. Despite the wet weather, the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 was stable, dry and reliable.

We departed Dixon at around eight in the morning and pulled into Flint after eight at night. It rained most of the way, making filming problematic at best. Still, video was taken when Mother Nature took a breath and footage of the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 pulling into its new home. And what a home it is.

When we arrived at the Sloan Longway Museum's Buck section, my jaw nearly dropped to the floor. The restoration building contained some of the most iconic General Motors concept cars from the past.

Jeremy Dimick, the Curator of Collections at the Sloan Longway Museum, piloted the 1958 Buick Roadmaster 75 the entire 1,300+ miles. You could see him grow more attached to the big Buick as our journey progressed.

Capping off our final drive day, Barbara placed Ed's ashes in a lake he visited often.





2014 Auction Dates and Locations:

October 18

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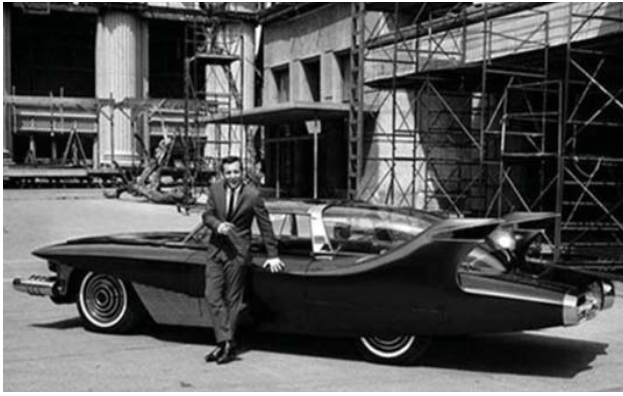
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1960....The Bobby Darin "Dream Car"



The 1960 DiDia 150 was a luxury, custom-designed iconic, handmade car also known as the "Dream Car" forever associated with its second owner, singer Bobby Darin. The car was designed by Andrew Di Dia, a clothing designer, who Bobby Darin had met whilst on tour in Detroit in 1957. Darin telling Di Dia at the time that he would purchase the car if he ever "hit it big". For seven years, from 1953 to 1960 the DiDia 150 was hand-built by four workers, at a cost of \$93,647 but sold to Darin in 1961 at a cost of over \$150,000 (1.5 million today). At the time the car was listed as most expensive custom-made car in the world by the Guinness Book of Records. The body was hand-formed by Ron Clark and constructed by Bob Kaiser from Clark Kaiser Customs.

Its metallic red paint was made with 30 coats of ground diamonds for sparkle. Built in Detroit, Michigan, only one example was ever built.

It has a rear-wheel drive, the body and chassis is hand-formed from 064 aluminum with a 125-inch wheelbase alloy tube frame. It has a glass cockpit in back, a squared steering wheel and thermostatically controlled air conditioning system.

The design included the first backseat-mounted radio speakers and hidden windshield wipers, that started themselves when it rained. Other features include retractable headlamps, rear indicators that swivel as the car turns, "floating" bumpers and a trunk that was hinged from the driver's side. Each of the four bucket seats have their own thermostatically controlled air conditioning, individual cigarette lighters and ashtrays, as well as a radio speaker.

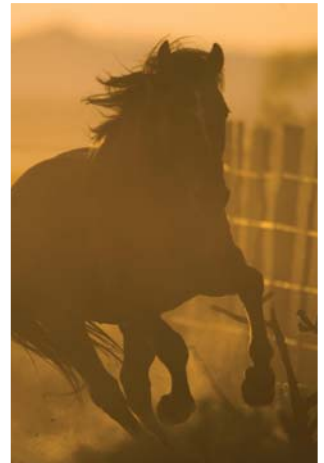
Darin drove his wife, Sandra Dee, in the car to the 34th Academy Awards in 1961. When Bobby drove the car to the Academy Awards, Andrew Di Dia and Steve Blauner followed behind him in a limousine.

Di Dia toured the car around the country, when Darin wasn't using it for public appearances. After publicity and film use, Darin donated his 'Dream Car' to the St Louis Museum of Transportation in 1970 where it still remains.



Andrew Di Dia with the "Dream Car"

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CAN'T MISS VIDEOS OF THE MONTH

The ultimate rat rods

You have just got to watch this video to see what one guy is doing to make old cars new again. I have to admit, I don't always watch these videos beginning to end. I spent 13 minutes watching this one, and I am happy I spent this part of my life being entertained.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIh1Sm4DyAE>

Tesla assembly plant video

Robotics are amazing.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/8_lfxPI5ObM?rel=0

Lost in the 50's video

Take a 4 minute look at your past. This video will certainly bring back fond memories of the 1950's. What a wonderful decade.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjj9VKKSV2g&feature=player_detailpage

270 mph

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https://www.youtube.com/embed/gWAavCjVQvM?feature=player_detailpage



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http://www.youtube.com/embed/Y0XbqHUIA-0?feature=player_detailpag

Crusin' Havana Video

Gayle posted a video of the 2014 Havana Cruise on the On Havana Street website. Check it out.

www.OnHavanaStreet.com

More Jay Leno's Garage

I'm not sure what this is, but it's cool.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4frzQdh6GE>



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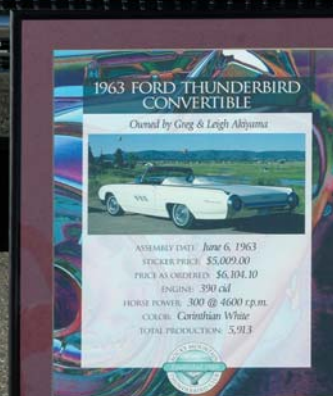
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Rates subject to change without notice

Colorado Collector Car News

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This is a monthly publication dedicated to the enjoyment of the collector car hobby in Colorado.

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ED: I am looking for other Cars of the Month. These cars do not have to be concours award winners, just cars that have owners who are proud to own them. (Don't we all feel that way?) To nominate a car and owner, please contact me at gakiyama@earthlink.net. Thanks.

ED: I am always looking for more subscribers. If you know someone who you think would enjoy getting my newsletter, please have them send me an e-mail complete with their name, club affiliation and phone number. I ask for a phone number because when (not if) an e-mail stops working, I can contact that person for an updated e-mail address rather than just stop sending them the newsletter. My e-mail address is: gakiyama@earthlink.net. Thanks.

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