

There IS air under Phil Erikson's tire!  
(See Odds 'N Ends article)



Dan Peper warming up the tires.  
(See Goodbye Pomona article)

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**INSTALLING A REAR OIL PRESSURE GAUGE**

by Skip Ylhainen

While building the 340 motor for my '67 California GS I watch for hints and tips from the buick-performance e-group. Finding one that seems to have merit, I contact the person(s) that put it forward and try to find out the specific details. I got this one from Dave Knutsen, a long time Buick Guru from Washington State. As a 10 to 15 lb. difference in oil pressure exists between the front and rear of a Buick block, it makes sense to take your reading at the rear.

There is a simple process for doing this that can be done easily with hand tools.



**Figure 1**

Drill about a 3/4" diameter hole in the flat web section at the center rear of the block angled towards the passenger side oil gallery. Using this hole as an access, drill and tap a hole for a 1/8" NPT in the passenger side oil galley just in front of the rear threaded 1/4" pipe plug, which has been removed during this process. **(Figure 1)**

Clean out any chips then replace and seal the plug. Insert a 3" or 4" pipe nipple.

**(Figure 2)**

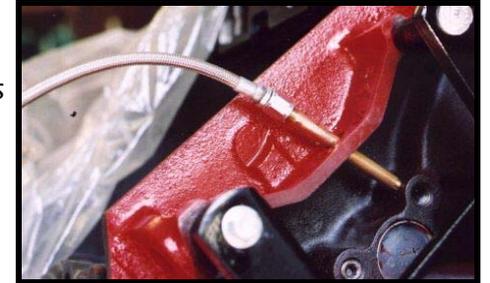
Seal this with a good pipe sealant or Teflon tape. You can then adapt a number 4 braided stainless steel line to the pipe for a mechanical gauge or you can attach an electric sending unit.

**(Figure 3)**

I added a right angle fitting and ran the line out the driver's side hole in the web of the 340 block. This will give you an accurate reading of the oil pressure going to the #5 main bearing. Make sure you remove all the burrs and chips before re-assembly.



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

by Chris Lee

Well, let me start by apologizing to all club members. I had to cancel the Christmas party due to the sudden illness of my father and his passing on December 7. It's been a terrible time for myself and my family but we now must move on with our lives

I am hoping our 2001 year can be a success. Club participation in 2000 was great! Let's keep it up. The car show turn out was at an all time high.

I would like to keep the same meeting place in San Dimas at Michaelangelo's Pizza, it seems to be fairly local to most people and the accommodations are good.

Our yearly dues are due also at this time, we need to renew ASAP. This club depends on you! We want to do more color pictures in the newsletter. So for now, lets keep those Buicks running and shined up. See you in 2001!

## CLUB MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2001

**LOCATION:** Michaelangelo's Pizza Restaurant, San Dimas, CA

**CALL TO ORDER:** Director **Chris Lee** called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM. In attendance were Chris, **Dan Gerber** and **Judy Kincade**, **Bruce** and **Jean Kent**, **Sheldon MacPherson**, **Dan Peper** and **Sahra Hernandez**, and **Nate Wakefield**.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes were not taken at the last meeting.

**TREASURY REPORT:** Our current balance is \$775.72. (Given by Dan Gerber for Treasurer Jim Cail).

**T-SHIRT REPORT:** Complimentary T-shirts have been sent out to the latest new members (**Doug Van Kalker** and **Brad Myers**). Club logo merchandise inventory is adequate for club's needs. (Given by Sheldon MacPherson for T-shirt Coordinator Marv McQuown)

**EVENTS:** February 24 & 25th, Big-3 Swap Meet at Qualcomm Stadium, Spaces X20—X22.

March - (Tentative) NHRA Museum.

April - (Tentative) Drag racing at Banning Raceway.

May - Open

June - Deer Park Winery Car Show with BGNRA (Specific dates TBD).

June 12 - 16th, GSCA Buick Nationals at Bowling Green, KY. Miscellaneous: Chris Lee to investigate possibility of drag racing at Rialto Airport Raceway in March, April or May. It was also suggested that the club would enjoy a few hours of "SpeedZone" (in City of Industry) as an activity.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Dan Gerber brought up the issue of "incorporating" the club. A discussion by the club members indicated that there is no need to do so at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- (1) Deadline for submitting articles and ads for the March/April "Wildcat Express" will be March 1st.
- (2) Bruce indicated that he and Dave Benisek will attend. Chris, Dan & Judy indicated "maybe". Dan commented that hotel and flight reservations must be made ASAP for reasonable rates and availability.
- (3) **Tommy Ivo** was granted honorary membership to the club in recognition of his contribution to the performance image of Buicks. As such, he will receive complimentary "Wildcat Express" issues.
- (4) The next club meeting will be held at

Michaelangelo's on the second Thursday of March (8th).

**RAFFLE:** A total of \$30.00 was collected. Bruce won the drawing, but returned all but his original contribution. The club received \$28.00.

**ADJOURN MEETING:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Gerber (for Gordon Hanson)

## GOODBYE POMONA

By Dan Peper

(from the Buick Performance Club e-group)

Date: Sat, 09 Dec 2000 23:31:27 -0800

I'd just like to take this time to reflect on what a great place Pomona Raceway is. I've only been there for the Street Legal drags for the last year but I had a lot of fun. My car has gone from 16.3 @ 89 mph to 14.99 @ 92 mph. I've never run at any other tracks but I have been impressed with the organization and professionalism of the track personnel. I was very surprised when I heard that they would be opening the track this weekend for one final street legal drags. I got there at a little before 6:00 AM and there was already at least 200 cars... By 9:30 I think there must have been over 500 cars, it was insane... Most of the cars were Chevy / Ford but there were 20ish Grand National's/T-Types.. Four So Cal GS members showed up with their cars, including the Twin Supercharged GSX. The GSX blew the trans after the first run and called it a day. I ran a 15.272 @ 90 and a 15.221 @ 92. And I got some good video of it too... There were a few incidents on the track too, someone dumped oil down the right lane, another car went up in smoke after the traps, and I think that about the time I left there may have been an injury... Despite all that, they were still able to get everyone through at a reasonable pace... I am really gonna miss waking up early in the morning and getting into my Buick half asleep and driving to the track freezing my butt off (no heater) and waiting and waiting and racing and racing!

So if we could all bow our heads in silence for 14.990 seconds and remember the Street Legal Drags at Pomona Raceway.

Dan  
ace486@cyberg8t.com

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

**1-4th - Pomona** - NHRA Winternationals at Pomona Raceway.

**4th - Long Beach** - Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show @ Veterans Stadium. Sellers spaces \$30, Show & Sell parking \$15, general admission \$7, sellers gates open @ 6:00 AM, general admission @ 6:30 AM. Info & space reservations: (800) 762-9785 or [toppingevents.com](http://toppingevents.com).

**24 & 25th - San Diego - CLUB EVENT:** Big Three Swap Meet, Membership Drive and general membership meeting at Qualcomm Stadium, spaces X20, X21 & X22. Bring your Buick, money and parts to swap or sell. Watch for an event flier with the directions, map and other details.

### MARCH

**1st - DEADLINE** - To submit material for November/December "Wildcat Express". Send articles/photos to club address or e-mail to [socalgs@aol.com](mailto:socalgs@aol.com). For additional info call Dan Gerber (714-220-1189).

**8th - San Dimas** - So Cal GS club meeting. Michaelangelo's Pizza, 552 W. Arrow Highway (Just east of the 215 Freeway in the San Dimas Station mall, behind Denny's). The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. All club members are encouraged to attend. Free pizza! Can't find it? Call the restaurant at (909) 592-6488 and someone will talk you in.

**9, 10 & 11th - Bakersfield** - Goodguys 42nd March Meet at Famoso Raceway. Muscle Cars, Racecars, Rods, Customs & Classics thru 1972. Drags, Show 'n shine & Exhibits. Call (925) 838-9876 or visit [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) for info.

**TBD - CLUB EVENT:** NHRA Museum tour (Tentative)

### APRIL

**7 & 8th - Banning** - CLUB EVENT: 1/8th-mile drag races at Banning Municipal Airport. Gates open at 8:00 AM, test & tune starts at 9:30 AM, (Saturday only) Night of Fire drag show 6:00 - 10:00 PM. Spectators \$5, test & tune \$10, (Saturday only) GAMBLER Bracket entry additional \$10. Additional information will be sent out.

**21 & 22nd - Sonoma** - Goodguys 13th Nitro Nationals Nostalgia Drags at Sears Point Raceway. Muscle Cars, Racecars, Rods, Customs & Classics thru 1972. Drags, Show 'n shine & Exhibits. Call (925) 838-9876 or visit [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) for info.

### MAY

**1st - DEADLINE** - To submit material for November/December "Wildcat Express". Send articles/photos to club address or e-mail to [socalgs@aol.com](mailto:socalgs@aol.com). For additional info call Dan Gerber (714-220-1189).

**10th - So Cal GS club meeting.** Location TBD.

**25-27 - Palmdale** - 11th Annual Buick Shootout & Team Challenge.

### JUNE

**3 - Escondido - CLUB EVENT:** Buicks at Deer Park Car Show with BGNRA.

**12 - 16th - Bowling Green, KY** - 2001 GS Nationals at Beech Bend Raceway. Contact Bennett Jones @ (229) 263-7935 for questions, suggestions or comments.

### A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

by Dan Gerber

The year 2000 was a banner year for increasing our membership. My records show that a grand total of 13 Buick families joined our club. I believe that's a record for a single year gain.

I don't know how many of you are familiar with our application forms, but there's a line near the bottom for the applicant to specify who referred them to the club. I haven't paid a lot of attention to that in the past, partially because it's seldom filled out. This past year, however, I've been highlighting that line on the forms that I send out so I could "give credit" to those folks who bring new members into the club.

So, out of 13 year 2000 application forms, seven included the name(s) of their referrals. Of those, **Sheldon MacPherson's** name was in the "Referred by" slot on three forms. The **Sam Dority/Marc Zimpelmann** team was named on one of the forms, while **Gordon Hanson, Skip Ylhainen** and **Marc Zimpelmann** (solo, this time) received credit for one new member each.

Just for grins, I also checked out my somewhat incomplete 1999 records. **Sheldon**, along with **Sam Davis, Phil Erikson** and **Bill Kirschner** were credited with adding some of those members to the club roster during that time period.

What's the point of all this? Well, two things: (1) To remind you (and myself) to make sure the appropriate club member's name is written in the "Referred by" slot of the application form (and Prospective Member Packet cover letter) and, most important, (2) Thank you all for introducing new member families to our club!

Oh yes, another thing... Keep up the good work, folks. We're depending on you to help our club grow.

### CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SALE

'77 Buick Skyhawk V-6, 4-speed, Ex Kenne-Bell record holder, very consistent bracket car. Runs 13.80 in 1/4. \$2500 obo

Auburn posi unit for a 12-bolt in excellent shape 4 series 30 spline. \$200, Call **Chris Lee** at (909) 946-5595

400-455 New Timing Covers \$350.00 each. Two or more \$325.00 each. Get 'em while the supply lasts!

'70 Buick Sportwagon 350ci, runs, rough vehicle. \$500.00 OBO.

'71 Buick Sportwagon on custom rotisserie-vehicle completely disassembled-rolling chassis only-body work 90% complete-rotisserie costs \$1,800.00. Sell all \$2,400.00 OBO.

2000 Ford Excursion-V-10, 4k miles, fully loaded. \$33,000.00 OBO.

Call **Tom Jacot** at (714) 531-0313

'67 GS400, red with black leather interior. Family owned since it came off the showroom floor. A real show stopper. \$10,000.00. Call **Mike Clarke** at (619) 656-8548.

### WANTED

'72 GS grill, or plastic Skylark look-alike grill. Also, '70-72 Skylark 2-door hardtop or convertible doors. All must be in very good to excellent condition.

Contact **Dan Gerber** at (562) 982-8026, weekdays or (714) 220-1189, evenings & weekends.

## THE FINAL POMONA STREET LEGAL DRAGS (FOR REAL, THIS TIME)

By **Dan Gerber**

(Yes, I know that I reported on the "final" Pomona Street Legal drags a couple of issues ago, but I really mean it this time. According to the track announcer on Saturday, December 9th, permission to run this particular drag racing event was an unexpected Christmas gift from the LaVerne city council. Maybe they aren't so bad after all (Hmmm...). There's no reason to believe that there'll be any more "gifts", though.

Apparently the L.A. area racers realized that this really was the last shot they'll have at Pomona, for they came out in force. That meant long, slow moving lines in the tech and staging lanes, and only enough time to take a couple of passes down the drag strip. In fact, the first run for the So Cal GS racers didn't take place until after 11:00 AM.

Our racers made the best of what opportunities they had, though. **Bruce Kent** drove his "GS Eliminator" down the strip to the tune of a best ever (?) 10.32 second e.t. at 129.7 mph. Ollie, behind the wheel of the twin supercharged GSX, came out of the hole like gang busters on his first run, only to have the transmission second gear sprag go away. What a disappointment...for that pass started out with his best 60-foot time to date. **Dan Peper's** '69 GS350 was also a little off its pace at a best for the day of 15.221 seconds at 92 mph.

**Gary Giessen** decided to up the ante for this race by installing the 200-horsepower jets in his nitrous system. He almost paid the price of having all that power on tap by getting out of shape just out of the gate on his first run. He made up for it on his second run, though, by turning a best-ever 10.44 seconds at 127 mph. Gary tells me there's more performance in that set up, but he has yet to completely dial it in. We'll just have to wait and see.

**Neal Steward** was also having a great day with his '87 T-Type "BRUTAL6". He turned a best ever 10.23 e.t. at 134.02 mph, then backed it up with a 10.25 second run at 133.31 mph. After the second run he figured that things were going so well that there was no reason to press his luck any further. So he turned his stereo on and drove his T-Type back home to San Diego. Amazing!

That's it for the Pomona Street Legal drag racing program. Now the only question is "Where do we go from here?"



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**ODDS 'N ENDS**

by Dan Gerber

**JUNE CECIL** is now the proud owner of what was **Phil Erikson's** beautifully detailed '70 GS455, Stage 1 car. The car not only looks like new with its straight body, red paint, and white vinyl top and interior, but it's also an excellent example of a street/strip machine. A strong running engine, tall gears and Gear Vendor's overdrive unit allowed Phil to drive it to the strip and then run consistent mid-12 second times on pump gas. Phil made a good choice when it came to finding a buyer for it, too. You can be sure that June (and **Sam Davis**) will take excellent care of it while still "going fast with class".

**GARY GIESSEN** is the latest club member to get his name in a national magazine. You can find a good size write-up and picture of his '65 Skylark convertible (with him behind the steering wheel) on page 36 of the February issue of *Car Craft* magazine. It's a good action shot of his car lifting the left front wheel off the ground at the Carlsbad Raceway starting line. The article, titled "50 Readers' Rides", also features a couple of other Buicks. So pick up a copy and check it out. Congratulations, Gary, for the recognition.

**COVER CAR:** While we're on the subject of magazine coverage of Buicks, the cover car for the March issue of *Rod and Custom* magazine is a mildly customized '55 Buick Special. The 18-year old owner isn't a club member, but I am impressed that he, with the help of his dad and grandfather, rebuilt the original nailhead engine and did the custom work. If you come across the magazine, check out the pictures and write-up on pages 26 through 29. I think you'll be impressed.

**Night of Fire**

On January 11th the Banning Chamber and Drag City agreed on April 7 & 8th as the official date of the Banning Spring Drags.

There will also be another Night of Fire on Saturday evening starting at 6pm-10pm with Fuei Alterededs, Dragsters, Outlaws. and more.

RACERS: \$10

SPECTATORS: \$5

KIDS Under 12 - FREE

The best drag show you'll see for the money. Bring the whole family!

ADRA and IHRA will be present to talk to all the racers and fans.

Come to Banning and see the last race at the airport before we start racing at the new Drag City Facility that will be opening in Summer 2001.

BE THERE! For more info on the race visit [BANNINGDRAGS.COM](http://BANNINGDRAGS.COM) this WEEKEND

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

by Dan Gerber

The year 2001 is has just rolled around and we've already gained three new club members. The first, **Doug Van Kalker**, currently resides in Michigan. It's not that Doug is trying to win some kind of long distance award, it's just that he wanted to establish a few Buick-nut connections before his planned move out here to California. Doug is sort of a "muscle car" celebrity, as I recently discovered quite by accident. I was reading the "2000 Pure Stock Drags" article in the March issue of *Muscle Car Review* when I noticed a familiar Buick racers name. When I checked my records I realized that this guy doing battle with what was reported as the quickest Oldsmobile 442 at the Pure Stock Drags was one of "ours". Even though the 442 got the best of Doug's '71 GS455, Stage 1, you've got to give him a lot of credit for mixing it up with the "big boys".

While we're on the subject of "credit", Doug indicated on his application that **Sheldon MacPherson** was responsible for getting him involved with our club.

A couple of weeks ago I also received an application from **Brad Myers**, the proud owner of an orange 1971 GS350 convertible. Brad listed his occupation as "VP of the Single Action Shooting Society", so I suspect that those of you who have more than a casual interest in firearms will have someone new to compare notes with. It sounds like Brad is a real lucky guy: his "occupation" is the kind of activity that most people can get involved in only during their spare time. Brad, by the way, credits **Marc Zimpelmann** with his referral to our club.

The application for new member number three, **Morgan Hayden**, barely made it in time for me to include in this issue. Morgan is the proud owner of three Buicks, one of which (his 11-second '87 GN") was on display at our Westminster Buick car show. His primary Buick, as far as this club is concerned, is a documented one-of-544-produced '67 GS California. He mentioned on his application that he's interested in meeting folks who have swapped 455's into '67 Skylarks. Well, that's one of the reasons for our existence, so anyone who fits the bill is welcome to call Morgan at (714) 288-9026. By the way, we can thank **Neil Steward** for bringing Morgan into the club.

Now that we know who you are, Doug, Brad and Morgan, I hope we have a chance to shake hands at one of our events and do a little bench racing. In the meantime... Welcome to the Southern California Gran Sports car club, and thanks for joining us!