



# Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals

By Jerry Bernard, BCA #47403, Pendleton, Oregon  
 Photos by Mike Sobotka, Jeffrey Sobotka & Dave Knutsen



We were trailing four Buicks to the MCAEN show in Rosemont, Illinois. The road trip started in Anacortes, Washington; Pendleton, Oregon; and Jerome, Idaho. Participating in the trip were Dave Knutsen and Keith Padgett of Anacortes, Jerry Bernard of Pendleton and Mike Sobotka of Jerome, including his son Jeffery and granddaughter Isabella. We met Monday in Jerome at Mike's home and prepared to leave Tuesday morning. Tuesday took us to Sidney, Nebraska; Wednesday to Davenport, Iowa; and Thursday to Rosemont.

Arriving in Rosemont at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, the preregistered vehicles are checked in. Verifying check-in time and fuel levels at ¼ tank or less, you are then given a pass to enter the building. You are guided to where to

*Above; The 1970 Buick Gran Sports were the featured cars in the Buick display.*

unload and park your vehicle by the show team members. With over 640 participants and vehicles this year, it can be a long process.

Bob Ashton is the Managing Member of MCAEN, LLC. He, with the help of his wife Vicki and valuable team members, will greet you and make sure your time there as enjoyable as possible.



*1970 GS Stage 1 owned by Michael Sobotka.*



*This 1970 GS has a four-speed floor shift.*



*455 Stage 1 engine compartment is immaculate.*



*1970 GS interior door panel.*

Ajesh Parikh is in charge of the Buicks and the Buick display. This year's display took in the 1970 GS and GS Stage 1. You can tell how much of a Buick lover he is by the way his face lights up when talking to a fellow Buick enthusiast or about any Buick. Ajesh won the show's best display for 2023.

Friday is also a move in day, open to participants and vendors only. The indoor show with its wide assortment of cars is amazing. There are multiple examples of cars you may only see once in a lifetime: Hemi Dodges, Super Birds, Yenko and Copo Chevrolets, Ford Shelby GTs, Corvettes and did I mention BUICKS, there are just too many examples to list them all. It is a great time to see all of the fantastic vehicles and talk to the participants before the crowd on Saturday. Friday night there is also a dinner put on by Ajesh. It is walking distance from the show and is where all the Buick participants gather.

Saturday the show opens to the public and judging begins. The Buick display was fully assembled and shining. There were GS and GS Stage 1 convertibles, many with four speeds. GS and GS Stage 1 hardtops, also with many four speeds. In total there were 23 Buicks. Ajesh and his team had done their magic. The display of Buicks was fantastic.



*Interior of the 455 convertible, Dave Knutsen, owner.*



*1970 GS 455 convertible owned by Dave Knutsen.*

Adam Martin is into Buicks and restoration. I have seen the results of his labors on several Buicks he has done for Mike Sobotka. His knowledge of Buicks is unreal. With the help of Adam and Ajesh, the team of judges started early Saturday morning doing their work. In total they judged 14 of the Buicks to Concours level standards. The judging system is based on 1000 points. As a result, it typically takes around an hour to judge each car. They were able to complete their work in seven to eight hours. Not only some of the displayed Buicks were judged, but there were Buicks scattered throughout the show to be judged.

The BCA was represented at the show with a booth to promote the club and recruit new members. They were also taking renewals for current members. This has become one of the most successful membership drives the club does. Thanks to those in the Chicagoland chapter, and others, who managed the booth the entire weekend.

Sunday, the show opens again, with the award ceremony in the afternoon. After 3:30 the awards start, and with all the cars entered it takes some time. For the 14 judged Buicks there were 12 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze. Mike Sobotka won two gold awards on his two Buicks. Dave Knutsen won gold on his. I won gold on my '63 LeSabre that was not part of the display. I also



*1970 GS 455 convertible with the top up.*



*1970 GS 455 convertible from Massachusetts.*

won the Buick judges' choice Platinum Award. The Platinum Award is given to the highest scoring Buick at the show. After the awards they start removing the vehicles. Some owners chose to remove them on Monday. Our choice was for Monday.



*1970 GS 455 two-door hardtop from California.*

Monday you would think would be a sad day after the show is over, but it isn't. You have the memory of all the great Buick owners you just met and the ones you were able to meet again. The fantastic Buicks at the show will be remembered for a life time.



*Stage 1 nameplate.*



*A pair of blue two-door hardtops.*



*1970 GS Stage 1 two-door hardtop.*



*Console with four-speed shifter and the standard steering wheel.*



*Sign for the 1970 GS-455 display.*



*Jerry Bernard's 1963 four-speed LeSabre.*



*The 425 V-8 was a mid-year option in the 1963 full-size Buicks. This is Jerry Bernard's LeSabre. The silver and red paint scheme is correct for the 1963 425s.*



*Factory four-speed floor shift in Jerry Bernard's 1963 LeSabre.*



*1974 Electra 225 two-door hardtop.*

Mike Sobotka, thank you for letting us meet at your home prior to the road trip. Thanks for giving us an introduction to your family, taking the time to show us your collection of amazing Buicks (40 plus), then leading us to Rosemont and back. ♦



**Mark Your Calendars for  
the 2026 Muscle Car &  
Corvette Nationals  
November 21-22, 2026**



*The Buick owners got together for a group photo at the show.*