



# CentreSpoke

September 2020

## RED CENTRE NATS WEEKEND - HAPPY FATHERS DAY



### Club winners

Russ Driver -  
1925 Buick

Steve Vandenberg -  
Toyota swb

Peter Hilliard -  
Montessa Motorbike



**Congratulations from all of us**

**Motor Enthusiasts Club of Central Australia**

Incorporating The Alice Springs Vintage & Veteran Car Club

PO Box 1506, Alice Springs. NT. 0871

Email: [mecca@mecca.asn.au](mailto:mecca@mecca.asn.au)

Web site: [www.mecca.asn.au](http://www.mecca.asn.au)

# MECCA Committee 2020 - 2021

|                    |  |                              |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT:         | Tony O'Brien   | 0438 530 366                 |
| VICE PRESIDENT:    | Trevor Jacobs  | 0417 824 684                 |
| TREASURER:         | Russ Driver  | 0408 002 907                 |
| SECRETARY:         | Allan (Sam) Salmon   | 0409 033 257                 |
| PUBLIC OFFICER:    | Brian Eather   | 0428 758 002                 |
| COMMITTEE MEMBERS: | Carl Blackmore<br>Neville Heness   | 0490 024 102<br>0428 740 964 |
| VEHICLE REGISTRAR: | Col Jarrett  | 0457 297 271                 |
| EDITOR:            | Liz Driver   | 0427 970 744                 |
| WEB MASTER:        | Tony McKenzie  | 0412 853 072                 |
| HISTORIAN:         | Stuart Gear  | 0418 898 361                 |
| CRANKHANDLE:       | Alvina Spears  | 0417 169 452                 |
| CLUB HOSTESS:      | Lisa Heness  | 8952-8564                    |
| LIFE MEMBERS:      | Dave Simpson, Tony Bullock,<br>Walter & Alvina Spears, Stuart & Marie Gear,<br>Col & Vicki Jarrett |                              |



## *Presidents Report*

Another successful run out to Standley Chasm last weekend.

Thanks to all for coming along, the facilities out there now are first class.

With the hotter weather just around the corner we might be able to fit in one more run.

The Nats Weekend also went well, thanks again for members in a position to show their treasures.

Congratulations to Russ and Liz Driver for taking the Classic Car honours.

Peter Hilliard for the Best Sports Bike

and

Steve and Mandy Vandenberg for best 4x4.

Douglas presented his brilliant Jeep display complete with full uniform Regalia and period accoutrements, meal pack etc, a real show stopper.

Sam's E type Jaguar and Col's XY Ford on display next to the Shannon's booth brought serious attention, thanks Sam and Col.

Thanks again Col and many others who put in an amazing effort to make this event successful.

At our last Club Meeting we talked about next year's Calendar of Events, where hopefully this dreaded Virus will be a thing of the past.

Liz is hard at work designing our 2021 Club Calendar, so expect to have her chasing down vehicle pics for display.

One more Club Meeting before our Xmas Meet, details of location to be looked into.

See you at next meeting Sunday 11th October 9.00am Mosanic Hall

Keep Healthy everyone and those Motors running.

Cheers for now.

Tony OB.





## *The Sec's Desk*

### **MECCA**

#### **MOTOR ENTHUSIAST'S CLUB CENTRAL AUSTRALIA Inc**

**Minutes – General Meeting**  
**Masonic Hall, 8 Allchurch Street, The Gap**  
**9.00 am Sunday 13/09/2020**

**Meeting opened:**

9.10 am

**Present:** 24 Members & Nil Visitors

|                 |                |               |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Garry Bentley   | Lisa Heness    | Tony O'Brien  |
| Allan Campbell  | Neville Heness | Derek Poolier |
| Stephen Dinner  | Peter Hilliard | Sam Salmon    |
| Douglas Draeger | Peter Inkster  | Pietje Span   |
| Liz Driver      | Trevor Jacobs  | Alvina Spears |
| Russ Driver     | Col Jarrett    | Wally Spears  |
| Mark Dunn       | Vicki Jarrett  | Mike Thompson |
| Brian Eather    | Aileen Kennedy | Fred Twohig   |

**Apologies:**

Sean Heenan, Michelle Thompson, Stuart & Marie Gear,  
Mandy & Steve Vandenberg

**Minutes of previous 09/08/20 meeting:**

Motion to accept the Minutes:

Moved: Tony O'Brien    Seconded: Alvina Spears    Carried: All in favor



## *The Sec's Desk 2*

**Business arising from previous minutes:** Nil

### **Presidents Report:**

The Red Centre Nats ("RCN") last weekend was a great success. There were 20 more vehicles in the Pavilions during the drive to town there were a few breakdowns (but not Member's vehicles)  
 Sam Salmon's Series 1 E-Type & Col Jarret's XY GT Falcon were part of the Shannon's display  
 On 26/08/20 A Committee meeting was held where the forthcoming 12 months calendar was discussed and drafted.  
 The venue for the Christmas lunch has yet to be decided

#### Motion to accept the President's Report:

Moved: Fred Twohig    Seconded: Douglas Draeger    Carried: All in favor

### **Treasurers Report:**

As per attached as tabled at meeting – August 2020

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Opening Balance             | \$7824.91 |
| Income for month            | \$620.00  |
| Total for month             | \$8684.91 |
| less Expenses               | Nil       |
| Bank Balance as at 13/09/20 | \$8684.91 |

Tony McKenzie is still to be reimbursed \$129 for Digital Pacific Web Hosting

Russ & Liz Driver paid \$916 for Public Liability insurance as a matter of urgency

Russ & Liz Driver paid \$75 for Club badges

#### Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report:

Moved: Tony O'Brien    Seconded: Alvina Spears    Carried: All in favor

#### Motion to reimburse Russ & Liz Driver \$991 (\$916 + \$75):

Moved: Douglas Draeger    Seconded: Tony O'Brien    Carried: All in favor

### **Secretary's Report:**

#### **Correspondence In:**

Nil

#### **Correspondence Out:**

Nil

#### Motion to accept the Secretary's Report:

Moved: Alvina Spears    Seconded: Peter Inkster    Carried: All in favor



## *The Sec's Desk 3*

### **General Business:**

Three MECCA members were awarded prizes at the RCN winner's presentation:

Russ and Liz Driver - Best Classic Car Buick

Peter Hilliard - Best Sports Bike Montesa Motorbike

Steve and Mandy Vandenberg - Best 4wd SWB Toyota

They were acknowledged and congratulated.

Sam Salmon is to continue with the ABN application. Liz Driver advised that Trezona Accounting has offered to submit the application on a pro bono basis. That may well be necessary as Sam has found the ABN website to be slightly confusing

### **Members inputs:**

#### Trevor Jacobs

Series 2 E-Type now has brakes & coolant. It has an electrical problem and so engine is yet to be started.

#### Fred Twohig

1938 BMW motor cycle – used for cattle mustering but had a missing horizontally opposed cylinder head which Tony Forrester found in a smashed condition which is yet to be fixed. Peter Hilliard referred to an Adelaide welder who impressively welded an engine part (sorry, the Secretary couldn't keep up) which Peter will bring to the next meeting.

1956 FE Holden - 12 volt & the first of the curved windscreens Holden's

1929 Triumph motor cycle - from Tobermory Station.

All the above vehicles are about half way through restoration.

There was much animated & humorous discussion about Lucas (The Prince of Darkness) electrics.

#### Peter Inkster

Referred to Landover's and Blackstone single cylinder engines being bulldozed into holes at Swan Hill Station and possibly other Stations



## *The Sec's Desk 4*

### Russ & Liz Driver

1925 Buick – is to be driven in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bay to Birdwood Run on Saturday 27/09/20.

<https://baytobirdwood.history.sa.gov.au/the-event/2020-40th/>

Due to Covid19 this year's Run will include all categories of the previous alternative years of Antique, Veteran, Vintage, & Post War, Vehicles manufactured between 1956 & 1990, Special Interest Vehicles manufactured between 1980 & 1990. Other changes include no personal handling of Badges, a staggered start of vehicles as determined by its category, and no visitors at the Birdwood destination.

Liz referred to the success of the RCN and noted especially Col Jarrett, as well as Bryan Cartwright, Douglas Draeger, Dennis Naughton (who attends every year from down South). Sam Salmon is to draft a letter of appreciation to Dennis, & John Cooper.

Liz asked if the Members would like a 2021 Club Calendar which was unanimously answered in the affirmative.

### Douglas Draeger

Advised of 2 prospective Members both of whom are Prison Officers and who own a wartime Jeep (which was rejected by the Aces & Eights Club) and a least 30 year old Kombi respectively.

### Medical

Aileen broke her leg & tore ligaments

Wally Spears, according to wife Alvina, is on the "... trade in list"

### Christmas lunch

Discussions about possible venues – the Palm Circuit Brewery?

### Calendar

14/02/21 Breakfast suggestions:

Hungry Jacks

Barra on Todd (if not in quarantine) - Tony O'Brien to contact them.

14/03/21 – Trevor Jacobs to arrange the 3 garage visits

11/04/21 – Fred Twohig suggested that due to the potential hot weather, the Corrobooree Rock run could be swapped with the 13/06/21 Tropic of Capricorn run

10/10/21 – BBQ at Simpson's Gap





## *The Sec's Desk 5*

### Douglas Draeger

Advised that he's obtained a Jeep engine block from Darwin to replace his current cracked block.

### Alvina Spears

Advised that her son Jack Spears had made the all the magnificent RCN trophies.  
Sam Salmon is to draft a letter of appreciation to Jack

### **Next Committee Meeting**

9.00am Sunday 11/10/20 at the Masonic Lodge, 8 Allchurch Street, The Gap

### **Meeting closed:**

10.05 am







**MECCA**  
**MOTOR ENTHUSIASTS CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA Inc**  
**CLUB Calendar 2020 - 2021**

Unless otherwise advised, all meetings will be held at the Masonic Hall, Allchurch Street,  
 The Gap.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>11/10/20</b> | <b>9.00am General Meeting</b><br><b><i>Followed by: Barbecue at Sean Heenan's home on Ragonesi Road. Cost \$5 per person</i></b> |
| <b>08/11/20</b> | 9.00am General Meeting with Kris Kringle<br><i>Followed by: Christmas lunch - Venue and cost TBA</i>                             |
| <b>Dec 2020</b> | <b>no meeting</b>  |
| <b>Jan 2021</b> | <b>no meeting</b>  |
| <b>14/02/21</b> | No meeting – <b><u>8.00am</u></b> Breakfast at - TBA   |
| <b>14/03/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by: A garage crawl and end up at Trevor Jacobs for BBQ. Cost \$5.00 per person</i>         |
| <b>11/04/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by: A drive to Tropic of Capricorn then lunch - TBA</i>                                    |
| <b>03/05/21</b> | Bangtail Muster – meet on Gap Rd – time to be advised  |
| <b>09/05/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting - Mother's Day – no run   |
| <b>16/05/21</b> | National Motoring Day <b>9.00am</b> meet at Masonic Hall for drive to Aviation Museum for BBQ lunch. Cost \$5.00 per person      |
| <b>13/06/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by: A run to Corroboree Rock for picnic lunch</i>  |
| <b>02/07/21</b> | Alice Springs Show Day – MECCA stall at Show – times to be advised   |
| <b>11/07/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by: A run to Road Transport Hall of Fame for "Back to the Track" military vehicles.</i>    |
| <b>08/08/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting then AGM<br><i>followed by: Lunch – TBA</i>   |
| <b>28/08/21</b> | Road Transport Hall of Fame reunion – MECCA for Bar Service  |
| <b>05/09/2</b>  | Red Centre Nats & Father's Day – MECCA - to display vehicles – times to be advised   |
| <b>10/10/21</b> | 9.00am General Meeting<br><i>Followed by: A BBQ at Simpson's Gap</i>   |

**A BIG BIG THANK YOU TO COL JARRETT WHO ORGANIZED THE CLUB INTO THE PAVILLION FOR RED CENTRE NATS**

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**WHAT AN EVENT AND TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND HAD THEIR VEHICLES ON DISPLAY - YOU ARE ALL CHAMPIONS**

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Wally and Alvina Spears



Neville Heness



Steve Vandenberg



Trevor Jacobs



Russ and Liz Driver

Red Centre Nats chose these vehicles for the Judging and were put in the Elite Shed - 6 vehicles from our club - we outdid ourselves. YAH



## **RED CENTRE NATS (2)**

Trailer hard at work delivering motorbikes and side cars to Red Centre Nats



Club members hard at work delivering motorbikes and side cars to Red Centre Nats





## RED CENTRE NATS (3)

Club vehicles outside the Judging shed with Shannon's Insurance



Col and Vicki Jarrett  
XY Ford

Shannon's Insurance  
giving members great  
deals on insurance  
premiums



Sam Salmon's  
'E' type Jaguar

## RED CENTRE NATS (4)

M.E.C.C.A display - what a turnout - Excellent



Garry Bentley



Bryan Cartwright



Col + Vicki Jarrett



Raelene Beale and John Cooper



Jared + Katy Bentvelzen



Mandy Vandenberg

## Red Centre Nats (5)



Col Jarrett



Peter Hilliard



Peter Hilliard



Col Jarrett



Peter Hilliard



Mark Dunn



## RED CENTRE NATS (6)



Col Jarrett



Peter Hilliard



Peter Hilliard



Col Jarrett



Douglas Draeger  
Love the kids and the mechanic under vehicle



## **RED CENTRE NATS (6)**



Stephen Dinner



Jasmina Muhic

What an awesome weekend - well done.

A big thank you to Col for organizing event for our club and for all who attended.

Apologies if I got vehicles and names wrong or if I missed photographing your vehicle

# STANDLEY CHASM CLUB LUNCH



Lunch Table 37

Brian Eather  
Tony O'Brien  
Sam Salmon  
Michael Hanrahan



Lunch Table 45

Aileen Kennedy  
Allan Campbell  
Stephen Dinner  
Peter Hilliard  
Vicki Jarrett  
Wally Spears  
Alvina Spears  
Col Jarrett  
Liz Driver  
Russ Driver



Lunch Table 43

Neville Heness  
Lisa Heness  
Megan Heness  
and Friend



## CLASSIC PHOTOS

France, 1959. Kids playing with the guillotine.

*And they say that today's video games are violent!*



A boy and two big lobsters that have just been caught on the New Jersey Coast, 1916.



Thank you Fred Twohig for these classic photos

# JOKE PAGE

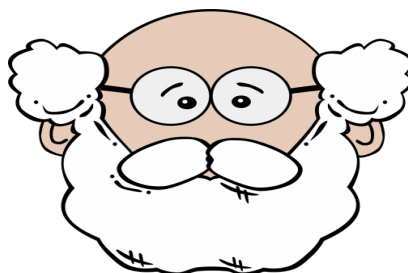


Due to COVID-19, truck dealerships have moved sales of their vehicles out of their buildings and onto the streets.

They are calling the new service: - Curb-side pickup

## My 14 Careers

1. My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory, but I got the sack -  
I Couldn't concentrate.
2. Then I worked in the woods as a Lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so  
they gave me the axe.
3. After that, I tried being a Tailor, but wasn't suited for it — mainly because it  
was a sew-sew job.
4. Next, I tried working in a Muffler Factory, but that  
was too exhausting.
5. Then, I tried being a Chef – figured it would add a little spice to my life,  
but just didn't have the thyme.
6. Next, I attempted being a Deli Worker, but any way I sliced it....  
couldn't cut the mustard.
7. My best job was a Musician, but eventually found  
I wasn't noteworthy.
8. I studied a long time to become a Doctor,  
but didn't have any patience.
9. Next, was a job in a shoe factory.  
Tried hard but just didn't fit in.
10. I became a professional Fisherman, but discovered I couldn't live on my  
net income.
11. Managed to get a good job working for a Pool Maintenance Company, but  
the work was just too draining.
12. So then I got a job in a Gymnasium,  
but they said I wasn't fit for the job.
13. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a  
Historian –  
until I realized there was no future in it.
14. So I retired and found  
I 'm perfect for the job!





## Interesting mechanics of motor vehicles from early last century...

Let's go under the hood of an old car and see what we can find.

What for example is that thing pictured above?

Why would a Mario Brother braze a plumbing part onto a spark plug?

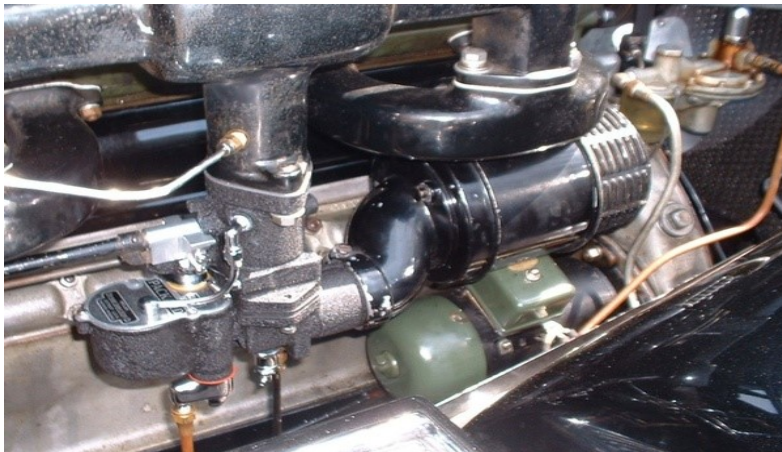
Well, THAT is a **Primer Spark Plug**.

Those were once made by every major spark plug company and you could buy one for any car.

Why would you want a faucet attached to your spark plug?

Early gasoline formulations had a problem with volatility, especially at low temperatures. That made starting difficult on a cold day. The **Primer Spark Plug** permitted you to prime your car engine prior to starting it. You would open those faucets on each of the spark plugs and, using a small funnel, pour gasoline or, better, more volatile liquid ether, into each cylinder.

You could easily buy the ether in small screw top tins at any pharmacy. After closing the valves on the spark plugs you could start the car using that primer fluid. But why not simply pour gasoline into the carburetor? Because of this:



Almost all automobile carburetors in the 1920s were **Updraft Carburetors**. They sucked air, and vaporized gasoline, **up**. you couldn't pour anything into their air horns. So you bought a set of **Primer Plugs**. Note that fuel volatility, or rather the lack of it, was such a problem in the teens, '20s, and '30 that the better carburetors, such as the Rayfield Model G, were water jacketed and heated by the engine.

Cont.



## Interesting mechanics of motor vehicles from early last century(2)

THE AUTOMOBILE November 2, 1914

**Mitchell — RAYFIELD**  
CARBURETORS

**The Magnificent 7500 mile achievement of the Mitchell reliability car was aided by the perfect work of the Model G Rayfield Carburetor.**

It is impossible to over-praise the work of the Mitchell Four which has just completed 7500 miles of road driving with its bonnet sealed.

Under that hood, which for 7500 miles was never raised, there was need for perfect work. All honor to the Mitchell! It has made a wonderful record.

Naturally, then, we are proud to have had the Mitchell Company choose a Model G Rayfield for the supreme test.

Price was no object. The Mitchell engineers trusted the splendid motor they had built and gave it for carburetion the best they knew. How perfectly the Rayfield performed is history.

*Read the driver's telegram*

**FINDEISEN & KROPP MFG. CO.,**  
1017 and Rockwell Sts., Chicago, Ill.

*"The Mitchell reliability car finished the 7500 mile run at Pittsburgh today. The car was equipped with your regular Model G Rayfield carburetor and it being a sealed bonnet run it was impossible to even see the carburetor. Car ran just through all kinds of conditions. Hot and cold weather, dry and wet, mud and water; the performance of the Rayfield was remarkable. Never at any time did the carburetor not sluggish nor fail to respond quickly to the throttle."*

*—MITCHELL RELIABILITY CAR.*  
*(Signed) F. X. Evers.*

And the great thing about this is not so much what the Model G Rayfield did on this searching test—for it did only what was expected of it—but what it had done during months before to give the Mitchell company full confidence that when the test came it would not fail them.

That's the way in which the Model G Rayfield deserves your confidence now and the way we intend that it always shall deserve it.

A little booklet describing the Mitchell test is yours for the asking.



**The Mitchell Four**



**MODEL G**  
**The Rayfield Carburetor**

**FINDEISEN & KROPP MANUFACTURING CO.**  
2117 ROCKWELL STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branches: 1140 Michigan Ave., Chicago    1231 Woodward Ave., Detroit    1902 Broadway, New York

Please mention The Automobile when writing to advertisers

Thank you Fred Twohig

## **Travelling interstate on NT Club Plates - Guidelines**

If you intend to travel interstate MVR needs to be advised as per section 8.2 of the Northern Territory Motor Vehicle Enthusiast Club Registration Scheme Guidelines

### Section 8.2

Club events outside the Northern Territory Interstate travel is permitted on programmed Club events or when the Club, or a Club member, receives a written invitation to attend an event from the organisers of a formal interstate Club event.

The Club Registrar is required to advise the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, in writing, that members of the club intend to participate in an interstate event. This advice should be received by the Registrar at least **one month** prior to the start of the event.

The guidelines can be found online at: [NT.GOV.AU](http://NT.GOV.AU)

Please forward your requests via your club Registrar to -  
[MVR.Rego@nt.gov.au](mailto:MVR.Rego@nt.gov.au) – Attention to Manger of Registration.

To support your request please also send to MVR:  
 Formal Letter to MVR requesting permission to participate in the event,

### **Letter needs to identify:**

The Club member's Full Name,

Club Registration Vehicle Plate Number/Make and Model

Name of the Event

Date/s of the event

Dates required to travel to and from NT to participate in event (travel plan)  
 Flyers / Info Bulletins on Event, Invitation letter / Tickets of entry into event by event organisers

MVR will approve or deny the travel

**If you fail to do this and proceed interstate your vehicle is deemed to be unregistered and uninsured**



Many thanks Allan Campbell





## **SERVICES**

Trev's Auto Repairs

For Rego checks, repairs and wheel alignments etc

Phone **8955-5568**

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## **Club Merchandise For Sale**

Club shirts various sizes \$45.00 each

Club Hats \$20.00 each

Available at Club meetings or contact Col on 0457 297 271

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## EDITORS PAGE



What a month September turned out to be.

Started with Red Centre Nats - what a weekend - plenty of participants and what about the spectators - WOW I know I did not expect the turn out - any one would have thought coronavirus was a thing of the past.

The weather was magnificent, the majority of vehicles were undercover and locked away at night. I don't think the organizers expected such a turnout, merchandise was sold out and there were not enough eateries - especially at Blatherskite Park (in my opinion).

Our club received 3 trophies - congratulations.

Russ has so far received 5 out of 6 Red Centre Nats trophies so our mantle piece looks great.

Our meeting on 13/9/20 was a good turnout and lively discussion was had by all. A fabulous morning tea Lisa provided us - thankyou.

Then off to Standley Chasm for lunch, great atmosphere, great food and great company. Quite a few of the members had a magnificent milkshake with cream on top - we won't say who indulged.....

On our way home we went through Honeymoon Gap and thought the Buick smelt hot even though the temperature guage and oil guage registered correctly. We pulled over to check when the Buick came to a holt and steam appeared under the bonnet. Yep we were right it was hot - the water pump shaft was steaming, blue was appearing on the shaft (not from cold) and it did not look good.

To the rescue the Heness family who were behind us, and Neville took Russ home to get our truck while the rest of us socialized and told stories under the coolabah tree. When Russ and Neville returned we loaded the Buick and headed off to home. We had a great day until that moment.

After a day of what to do we rang Goode Restorations in Clare who just happened to have a part we needed. Still need to rescue the shaft and find out why there was no oil lubrication. Next challenge.

As of Wednesday night we have the Buick going. Unfortunately because of not being able to have adequate time to try out our Buick we have decided it was safer to stay at home and be sure the Buick is fixed - maybe next year.



