



The Copper Starlight

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

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2023-2024 Officers:

President - Ann Pearson
VP/Tourmaster - Randy Goble
Treasurer - Paul Storm
Membership - Dee Northington
Secretary - Marj Scooros
Past President - Randy Goble
Historian - Bruce Sandburg
Newsletter Editors -
Larry & Dee Northington
Webmaster - Marj Scooros



Website QR Code

The Southern Arizona Chapter Annual Drive Your Studebaker Day

By Larry Northington

Our annual Drive Your Studebaker Day on September 9th was a great success. This year we made the trip to Wisdom's Café in Tumacácori. Established in 1944, Wisdom's has been going strong for three generations and is a fantastic place to eat. The dining room is full of rustic character with antiques hanging everywhere. And yes, Dee and I decided to take home half of our lunch so that we had room to share one of their famous Fruit Burritos. It was soooo delicious. Despite the very hot day, 17 members and quite a few Studebakers made the trip; Lou FencI's '56 Transtar towing a custom Studebaker trailer, Larry and Dee's '54 Commander, Jerry and June Kaiser's '59 Pickup Deluxe, Fred and Nora Gooch's '37 Dictator, and Paul Storm's '62 Lark. Bob and Steve Lanz joined the caravan for a good distance in their '62 Lark Daytona, however they were in the process of moving and therefore couldn't make the luncheon.

After lunch, a few went to see the Mission San José de Tumacácori. It was started around 1700 and is full of rich history. Dee and I skipped the mission as we had been recently, but we did stop at the Santa Cruz Chili & Spice Company and bought some Green Salsa, which is an absolute favorite of mine.

(See Page 4 For additional pictures.)



Birthday Wishes



November

- 2 Tim Stevens
- 3 Kay Keller
- 23 Larry Robinson
- 23 Pat Robinson

December

- 1 Gail Williams
- 2 Char Johnson
- 3 Bill Eastburn
- 4 Rosalie Torske
- 5 John L. Lewis
- 6 Janis Noble
- 8 Jeff Jones
- 19 Chuck Alianza
- 26 Darel Magee
- 28 Russ Ware



Anniversary Wishes



November

- 6 Jay & Gloria Bodle
- 6 John & Janis Noble
- 18 Chuck & Alice Alianza
- 27 Larry & Pam Robinson

December

- 5 Don & Bonnie McGraw
- 12 Marjorie Scooros & Bart Weaver
- 13 Steve & Gail Ault
- 27 Craig & Jennifer Harm
- 27 Joe & Kathy McKee
- 27 Russ & Sharon Ware

THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, AND GET WELL WISHES

Mike Borens
Ken Keller
Mary Powell-McConnell
Jim Nereau
Rosalie Torske

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this letter finds all of you well. It is amazing that another two months have passed. With all of the discord and uncertainty going on in the world at this time, it is comforting to be a part of such a warm and welcoming group along with the togetherness that we all share. I enjoyed being part of Drive your Studebaker Day. We had a very enjoyable lunch at the Wisdom Café in Tumacácori. The food was delicious. Afterwards, Randy and Donna Goble invited me to go to the Mission San Jose de Tumacácori with



Ann Pearson



them. They graciously used their membership to take me. The Mission and surrounding property hold so much history. The original mission was built in 1691 and was an outlying building for Father Kino. The most current mission was built in 1757 by the Jesuits. It is amazing how simple life was, yet so hard to survive at the same time. Walking around the graveyard behind the Mission gave me a sense of community where everyone worked together for the greater good of all. Cisterns were present which provided water for the community. The mud adobe bricks that made the church itself must have taken so much time to build. I recommend visiting this historic site if you ever get the chance.

We have quite a few exciting times ahead. I am looking forward to visiting the Franklin Museum on Saturday, October 28. We have the Thanksgiving Dinner get together at Bubbs Grubb in November and don't forget; I am having the Christmas get together at my house in December. The Gaslight theater is also the place to be with the Club in December. Please consult the newsletter for details.

I hope to see all of you soon at one of our upcoming activities.

Ann Pearson

From the Editors:

From the Santana song "Smooth", "It (was) a hot one - Like seven inches from the midday sun", but our Commander made it to and from our Drive your Studebaker event in Tumacácori without overheating. But, we kept a close eye on the temperature gage, and the electric fuel pump had to stay on the entire way back home. We did get the Commander to the suspension specialists, who replaced most of the front suspension parts; bushings, tie rods, shocks, etc. The car steers so much better, and a surprising bonus is it now keeps straight with heavy braking. Score. Thanks to Russ and Sharon Ware at StudebakerParts.com for supplying the parts.



Larry and Dee Northington

As always, we welcome suggestions, pictures and story submissions. Email is the best way to submit contributions, but even a hand written article would be great. Thank you to Ann Pearson, Gloria Schmetzer and Steve and Gail Ault for the contributions, and to Donna Goble for proofreading.

*Dee and Larry Northington,
SAC/SDC Newsletter Editors
LD54Studebaker@gmail.com*

**A reminder, the deadline for publishing newsletter contributions is the 20th of the even numbered months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Mondays on:
November 20, February
19, and March 18

Board Meetings: 11:30 a.m., Hungry Fox Restaurant, 4637 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 520-326-2835.

(3rd Monday of the month)

Decembers meeting will be a short abbreviated meeting during the Christmas potluck, and for January, the Banquet and Business Meeting will serve as the board meeting.

Thursday,
November 16
4:30 pm

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Bubb's Grub. We will meet at 16010 N Oracle Rd in Catalina 520-825-6510. The turkey dinner will cost \$17.25. We will do a 50/50 drawing as usual. Please RSVP to Randy at dgrq0823@comcast.net by November 14, if you plan to attend. There will be a limit of 30 people.

Sunday, December 10
12:00 pm

Christmas Potluck: Save the date. Ann Pearson is hosting this year's potluck at her house. Dee Northington has volunteered to be the Food Coordinator. Please contact Dee at LD54Studebaker@gmail.com or 520-869-9956. Ann's address and phone number are: 10550 East Old Spanish Trail Tucson Arizona 85748. 520-975-0660. From Houghton Rd and Old Spanish Trail on the East side, East on Old Spanish Trail about one mile to the intersection of Calle Los Reyes on the right side. Ann's driveway comes out right at the corner. Make a sharp right onto a dirt driveway. Go past a white house with brown trim. The driveway goes all the way around the house. Parking is available in the front and in the back of the house. The house is an old ranch house with porches around the house. Please plan on eating great food, and of course winning the 50/50 !

Thursday,
December 14,
Lunch at 12:30 pm
Show at 2:00 pm

"A Smalltown Christmas" at the Gaslight Theatre, 7010 E Broadway, Tucson. Doors open at 1 pm. Ticket prices are \$27 (Seniors, Students and Military), \$29 (Adults) and \$16 (Children 2-12). Lunch will be at Holy Smokin Butts BBQ, 6940 E Broadway at 12:30 pm. The restaurant is in the same parking lot as the Theatre. RSVP to Randy at dgrq0823@comcast.net, and payment should be sent to SAC-SDC, PO Box 12913, Tucson, AZ, 85732. Payment and RSVP need to be in by November 28 .

Sunday,
January 14,
11:30 pm

Our Chapter's Banquet and Business Meeting at the White Stallion Ranch, 9251 W Twin Peaks Road with doors open at 11:30 am, and serving starts at 12:00 pm. We have the use of the room until 3:00 pm. Menu includes hamburgers, grilled chicken, cowboy beans, macaroni and cheese, breads and cookies. There will be a short business meeting, 50/50 drawing and auction. The price is \$32, which includes tax. RSVP a must to Randy at dgrq0823@comcast.net by January 6. Please send in payment to: SAC-SDC, BOX 12913, Tucson, AZ 85732. The Chapter will need pre-pay for the total count on January 6, 2024.

SAC/SDC Contact:

Randy Goble,
Vice-Pres / Tourmaster
520-749-4484 or
dgrq0823@comcast.net

***Notice: A reminder from that everyone should have an approved fire extinguisher displayed at your left front wheel during all meets. As required as of January 1, 2017, the SDC requires a minimum of a LU type 1-A:5B:C, but a 1-A:10-B:C would be much better for added protection.



RECENT CHAPTER EVENTS

Additional Pictures from our Drive Your Studebaker Day

By Larry Northington



We were at two tables next to each other



L to R: Jerry and June Kaiser's '59 Pickup, Paul Storm's '62 Lark, and Larry and Dee Northington's '54 Commander



Fred and Nora Gooch's '37 Dictator



Lou Fencil's '56 Transtar towing a custom Studebaker trailer with a BSA motorcycle, all matching beautifully



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECENT EVENTS**The Challenges of Owning an Old Car**

By Gloria Schmetzer

Wayback in the spring the club had a breakfast at Agua Caliente Park. When I closed the trunk of my Studebaker, after loading the lawn chairs, I had no idea that I would never access them again for the next six months. This summer presented day after day of relentless heat, and I could not bring myself to attempt a backseat removal, crawling over my lawn chairs, and finally the spare tire to access the linkage on the trunk lock.

Finally, last week, the weather cooled, planets lined up, and the crew was gathered for the task. This pic illustrates what it looked like....

**Classic Cars Off Main (Benson Car Show)**

By Larry Northington

I attended the car show in Benson this year with my 1954 Studebaker Commander. The show was well attended with gorgeous cars. I don't know how many, but I would guess 50. Of course, my car was the best looking car at the show (please indulge my fantasies). In addition to my car, Ed Weed from Sierra Vista brought his 1953 highly customized Commander. I must say it was an extremely nice car, and it won the pre-1970 category. Among the many modifications, it had a Corvette engine and custom body work with recessed bumpers. It is the yellow car pictured below.



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Studebaker Proving Grounds Post Top From Then to Now

By Ann Pearson

At the June 2023 Board of Directors Meeting at the Hungry Fox Restaurant, Bruce Sandburg, SDC/SAC Historian gave an interesting present to Ann Pearson, SDC/SAC President. The present was a vintage Studebaker reproduction post top that was made in likeness to the post tops of the entrance to the Studebaker Proving Grounds. This post top had been converted into a lamp.

Evidently, there were approximately 34 original posts, as noted by Ed Reynolds, a Studebaker member, in September 2008 on the Studebaker Drivers Club Forum. The posts were knocked down in 1966 when Bendix took control of the Proving Grounds in 1966. There are two original post tops that are on display at the former Stude Clubhouse at Bendix Woods Park and another on display at the Studebaker National Museum. Below is a photo of an original that the then President Member in St Louis in September 2008, (Bubba Bear) had listed with questions for the membership about the history of the post tops.

Bruce said that Carroll Studebaker, originally from Ohio, commissioned a company to make the reproduction in the 1970's. It was mentioned on the Forum that possibly 18 reproductions were made. The original posts were made of concrete with a terra cotta glaze and were very heavy. The reproductions were not made of concrete, possibly baked clay and were much easier to pick up! Carroll Studebaker's mold was sold at his estate auction and was purchased by Larry Johnson of California (who has since passed away). According to Richard Quinn, then editor of *Antique Studebaker Review*, Carroll said that the mold was worn and that is why more reproductions were not made. Carroll used to visit Tucson in the winters and became a member of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club. Carroll became friends with Bruce and gave him the post top lamp. Carroll was a descendant of Clement Studebaker, co-founder of the Studebaker vehicle manufacturing firm.

I made several visits to the estate sale of Chuck Naugle in 2016 and 2017. I found one of the photos that I saved with three post tops that were for sale. I imagine that these were reproductions. Evidently, Chuck used to have post tops on the tops of his entrance pillars to the Stude Ranch in Vail. Unfortunately, the post tops were stolen. It is unknown if the post tops on Chuck's pillars were originals or reproductions. Bruce said they were very heavy and were made of concrete. The original post tops were made of concrete and were said to be worth \$2,200, as mentioned on the Forum in 2008.

I am so thankful to Bruce for giving me this piece of Studebaker History. It truly is very special and so pretty to have amongst all my antiques in the house.

For an interesting article that goes into more detail about the Studebaker Proving Grounds, see the August 2023 edition of *Turning Wheels* on pages 20-27. The article was written by George D. Krem and titled "Summer Sleuthing In South Bend 1961-1963." The article was dedicated to the memory of Bob Palma .



RECENT EVENTS

Franklin Auto Museum
By Larry Northington

Who knew? I have lived in Tucson/Vail for 29 years, and I didn't know about the Franklin Auto Museum. And what an amazing place. Saturday October 28th, the day started at The Egg Connection where we enjoyed a delicious breakfast at reasonable prices, then we were given a private tour of the Museum. We had a nice turnout of 18 people and 4 Studebakers from our chapter. The museum has over 20 Franklin cars in beautiful condition. Franklin cars were built from 1902 to 1934, so you can imagine how rare the cars are. Most were built with wood frames, and a considerable amount of aluminum, including engine casings and bodies. Because of the aluminum, the cars were lighter than other brands, but more expensive. Check out the pictures below and on the back page.



Chuck and Louise Stanford's Avanti in front of the restaurant.



Who are we trying to fool with "Franklin" in the window! These are Studebakers!



Dee Northington is checking out a 1930 Franklin Pirate Phaeton



Ann Pearson admiring a 1925 Franklin Sedan



The museum has an unusual security lock for it's 1923 Franklin Raulang Coupe (Must be valuable)



Discussing a Franklin Aircraft Engine



Our tour guide expertly enriching us with Franklin history and tidbits



Lou Fencil drove to the museum in his '56 Transtar Pickup



FOR SALE AND RECENT EVENTS



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SDC International
 By Steve and Gail Ault

What great weather, great location with ample show car parking, car trailer parking, RV parking and spectator parking. Many exceptional cars and Glenn's 20 piece band was as always a treat. Fall meets are our favorites, weather weather weather!! Steve n Gail





STUDEBAKER ADS ~ WANTED AND FOR SALE OR TRADE



Wanted: 1957- 1959 Silver Hawk. Contact Connie Olsen: 702-540-6218, house@go-olsen.com

Wanted: Dealership license plate frames, such as, Frost & French or Palm Springs Studebaker. Fred Gooch 520-883-7418, email nora.gooch@yahoo.com

Wanted: About a dozen license plates for a project. Steve Ault. 520-603-5342.

For Sale: 1953 Studebaker Commander 232 CID engine long block. Bell housing, clutch disc, pressure plate and fly wheel are attached to the block and included. The bell housing fits a 3-speed manual transmission. This engine was a running engine when purchased some years ago. The engine turns over freely. The block serial No. is V263234. \$300.00. Call John Noble at 505-670-4180 or email: slowbull1868@gmail.com

For Sale: 1921 Packard Single Six, 1923 Studebaker 2-door Special Six, 1927 Studebaker 4-door and lots of Hawk parts. For more information, call John Nuell, a friend of a member, 289-441-1545.

For Sale: '50 Champion 4-door. 49k miles. This car was in the process of being restored when health issues stopped progress. It is in primer. The engine runs. All chrome is original and in great condition. Restored carb, radiator, fuel tank, seats. New rubber for the hood, trunk and doors. Includes many extra parts from a donor car, including hood. Call Don Senn at 520-290-5623.

For Sale: '54 Champion 4-door. Only one family owned. '62 Lark engine, otherwise all original. Carmine red top over Sandusky beige. Garaged over 65 yrs. Very good condition. \$10,000 and offers will be considered. Call 760-877-4377.



For Sale: '54 Champion Coupe. has rebuilt Commander V8 engine, heavy duty OD transmission, master cylinder. New wiring, brake cylinders, and tires. All glass intact, all chrome trim intact. Needs upholstery, paint, minor body work. Asking \$4000 OBO. Call Chuck at 520-591-3652.

For Sale: Selling body repair tools. Air file, sand paper for same and paper for DA. Misc. Steve Ault 520-603-5342.

For Sale: 1964 Studebaker Gran Turismo Hawk. 91K original miles, original am radio works fine, no air conditioning, excellent original perforated white headliner. Carpet and seats are like new. Has optional rear seat armrest and full tinted glass option. Recent awesome base coat clear coat for that sweet looking wet look. Numbers match in/out called Astro Ivory and blue cloth interior. Also, full black vinyl top in excellent condition, so very sharp 3-tone attractive colors! Good chrome on both bumpers. New headlight and tail light bezels. New weatherstripping and trunk mat. Original jacks, full working gauge package and even clock works. Stock 289 V8. Motor has original correct yellow valve covers. Very rare three speed power shift automatic and center console. Highway gears for cruising. New dual exhaust system and like new radial tires. Looks great and runs great, asking \$25,000.

Wayne
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For all your printing needs, stop in at Creative Printers,
2729 E. Grant Road, Tucson, or call 520.881.6572.
Thanks Randy Goble, SDC member.

Cruise Nights

Wednesdays: Every Wednesday (3-5PM) cars gather at Continental Plaza in Green Valley (exit #63 off I-19). Some winter afternoons up to 40 cars are there. No club, no rules, no board!! It's a little east of the Safeway parking area. Never know what shows up Wednesday!!!

Thursdays: Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburger weekly Cruise-In, 3725 West Orange Grove Rd., Marana, AZ, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., 520-989-0314. If you are wearing a Freddy's cap or shirt, you will receive a free ice cream.

Thursdays: Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburger weekly Cruise-In, 10205 East Old Vail Rd., Tucson, AZ, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., 520-647-9816.

Fridays: Freddy's Frozen Custard Cruise-In & Car Show, Free custard, 11143 N. Oracle Road, Oro Valley, AZ, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. plus, 520-989-0067. They also have a car show the last Saturday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. plus. It is hosted by Obsessions Car Club and trophies are awarded. There is no Friday show when there is a Saturday show of that week.

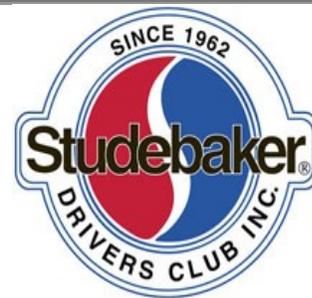
Little Anthony's website for future car shows: <https://www.littleanthonydiner.com/>

Speedway Antique Mall Cruise-In Nights, 5045 East Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona: Cars usually start showing up at 4:30 p.m. Actual start time is 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Second Saturdays of the month.** Call Ray for information at 520-404-5090.

For more fun events go to: <https://carnuts.org/>, and in the state of AZ: <http://www.cruisinarizona.com/>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Southern Arizona Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, pride of owning and the joy of driving fine Studebakers; and to providing assistance on a local level to the National Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc. You DO NOT have to be a Studebaker owner to join; however, for insurance purposes, membership is required in the National Studebaker Drivers Club. SDC was founded in 1962 and has approximately 13,000 members worldwide. *Turning Wheels* is the monthly magazine of the SDC. *The Copper Starlight* is the Southern Arizona Chapter's official publication and is published every other month. Subscriptions are included in club membership dues.



How to become a Member: 1) Complete the membership application below. 2) Write a check or money order for \$15 for a full year, payable to Southern Arizona Chapter, SDC. This includes an e-mailed copy of *The Copper Starlight*. An additional charge of \$3.00 required for a mailed copy of the newsletter. 3) Enclose an additional \$29.00 if you are a new SDC member or the amount for one of the categories below if you are a returning member. 4) Mail to Membership Director:

Southern Arizona Chapter of
The Studebaker Drivers Club
PO Box 12913
Tucson, AZ 85732

Application Form Southern Arizona Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

National SDC Member#: _____
Expires: _____
You must be a member of SDC to join SAC. This application will not be accepted without your Studebaker Drivers Club National Number.

Name: _____
Spouse: _____
Other family members: _____

Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

email: _____
Birthdays: _____
Wedding anniversary: _____
If new member, referred by: _____
Studebakers owned: (Year/Model/Body Style & any comments) _____
I am willing to help my club in the following ways:
 Call people with club information
 Bring cookies or snacks
 Host a gathering
 Call me & I'll help
 Mail out newsletters Other
 Make arrangements for tour/location/meeting

Membership Application

Memberships are for 1 year and include 12 issues of *Turning Wheels*®. You can now join/renew for up to 5 years.

Membership in US	1 year	3 years	5 years
Regular Members w/periodicals:	..	Total	Total
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<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member renewal w/periodical class mail	\$36	\$99	\$161
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member renewal w/1st class mail	\$62	\$183	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Student & Young Adult Membership (To 22 yrs old)	\$29	\$87	\$145
<input type="checkbox"/> SDC Membership WITHOUT <i>Turning Wheels</i>	\$12	\$36	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Turning Wheels</i> subscription WITHOUT SDC membership (Libraries, etc.)	\$29	\$87	\$145

Membership in Canada	1 year	3 years	5 years
Regular Members w/periodicals:	..	Total	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> New Members 1st year only	\$46	na	na
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member renewal w/periodical class mail.....	\$52	\$144	\$236
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member renewal w/1st class mail	\$66	\$186	\$306

Overseas Membership	1 year	3 years	5 years
Overseas Members w/periodicals:	..	Total	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> New Members 1st year only	\$46	na	na
<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Member renewal w/periodical class mail..	\$52	\$144	\$236
<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Member renewal w/1st class mail	\$66	\$186	\$306

- Other SDC Items**
- Donation to SDC Museum Fund\$ _____
 - Donation to SDC Restoration Fund.....\$ _____
 - Donation to National Museum Endowment Fund*\$ _____
 - Donation to Studebaker National Foundation*\$ _____
- (*Tax deductible donation)

Membership Pin - (specify year-pin) Prices in *Turning Wheels*
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To join SDC, complete the application, send with check or money order in US funds to:

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P.O. Box 1715, Maple Grove MN 55311-6715

Or use **VISA** or **Master Card**, call 763-420-7829, or

Fax 763-420-7849 or **Email: sdc@cornerstonereg.com** for information. Or visit: www.studebakerdrivesclub.com

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Member # _____

• Please list your Studebakers, including year, model, body style, serial numbers, on a separate page.



THE COPPER STARLIGHT
OF THE SAC/SDC
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Pictures from the Franklin Auto Museum in Tucson