The Copper Starlight

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

JULY / AUGUST 2026 VOLUME 53, ISSUE IV

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Studebaker

2025-2026 Officers:

President – Ann Pearson

VP/Tourmaster – Open

Randy Goble (Acting)

Treasurer – Paul Storm

Membership – Dee Northington

Secretary - Belinda Scott

Past President - Randy Goble

Historian – Fred Gooch

Newsletter Editors –

Larry & Dee Northington

Webmaster – Bob Lanz

Website: https://soazsdc.org/

Website QR Code

Breakfast at the Happy Rooster

By Larry Northington

May 2nd was such a fun day as twenty two of us with six Studebakers met for breakfast at the Happy Rooster Café, and after breakfast, Randy Goble offered to anyone interested to head to his garage to see his on-going Studebaker project.

The Happy Rooster Café is one of our go-to restaurants for breakfast. It's a unique restaurant on the East part of Tucson with walls painted with a common farm theme. It is impressive but also sets the mood of a small café that you happened upon while driving through the countryside. The food was delicious, and the service was pretty good considering the large group.

A few of us followed Randy and Donna to their house, where we got to see Randy's progress on his pick-up truck. The body was off the frame, and in primer. Randy described the project and some of the steps and challenges that he has faced. I think Gary Spies soaked in every word, as he is doing something very similar. I was impressed with Randy's expertise, and I am looking forward to the day that I can see his truck on the road.

Thank you to Randy and Donna for opening up their home to us.









Birthday Wishes

July



5 Maggie Crowdes
6 Gene Schreiner
7 June Kaiser
11 Robert Lanz
13 Mary Powell-McConnell
13 Ann Pearson
17 Sharon Ware
20 Alan Michaels

August

9 Chris Collins
13 Fred Gooch
15 Charlotte Luczycki
17 Tory Cowan
21 Michael Hodges
26 Mary Jane Schreiner





Anniversary Wishes

July

1 Earl & Opal Pickles

August

17 Alan and Lari Michaels
23 Randy & Donna Goble
30 Larry & Dee Northington

Thoughts, Prayers, and Get Well Wishes

Mike Borens
Michael Hodges
Stan Luczycki
Mary Powell-McConnell
Chuck Stanford

Message from Our President:



Ann Pearson

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this letter finds all of you well and surviving the heat. I am so lucky, I have been invited to go to a friend's cabin in Flagstaff this weekend. I am looking forward to the cooler temperatures.

We have had a few get togethers over the last two months. Breakfast at The Happy Rooster was well attended. My sister, Joanie, was here for the event. She so enjoyed looking at all of the old cars in the parking lot and listening to everyone's stories. Thank you Randy for arranging the breakfast. We have also had two Board Meetings on the second Mondays of the month. Please remember that all members are invited to the Board Meetings.

A bit of news: Our Facebook page has been getting quite a bit of traffic. Thank you Belinda Scott for managing the account. Randy Goble, our Tourmaster, has arranged an outing to the Coyote Grill at San Ignacio Golf Club in Green Valley for Drive Your Studebaker Day in September. See the next page for more information. And, we will be doing an official vote for the revised Bylaws at the next Board Meeting for those attending and the remaining members will be able to vote by mail. A mail in ballot will be sent to members along with the revised Bylaws.

Remember, take your jugs of water everywhere with you and have extra for the cars when they overheat or vapor lock occurs!

With warm regards,

Ann Pearson

From the Editors:



Larry and Dee Northington

We are well into the high temperatures. Unfortunately, my car does not do well with anything over 100°. So, most of my near-term driving will be around the neighborhood. I do plan on attending the Father's Day Car Show at the Park Senior Villas at 844 N Houghton on June 26. Wish me luck.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. As always, we welcome suggestions, pictures and story submissions. Email is the best way to submit contributions, but even a handwritten article works great. Thank you Belinda Scott for the great article on your upholstery class adventure. And thank you 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

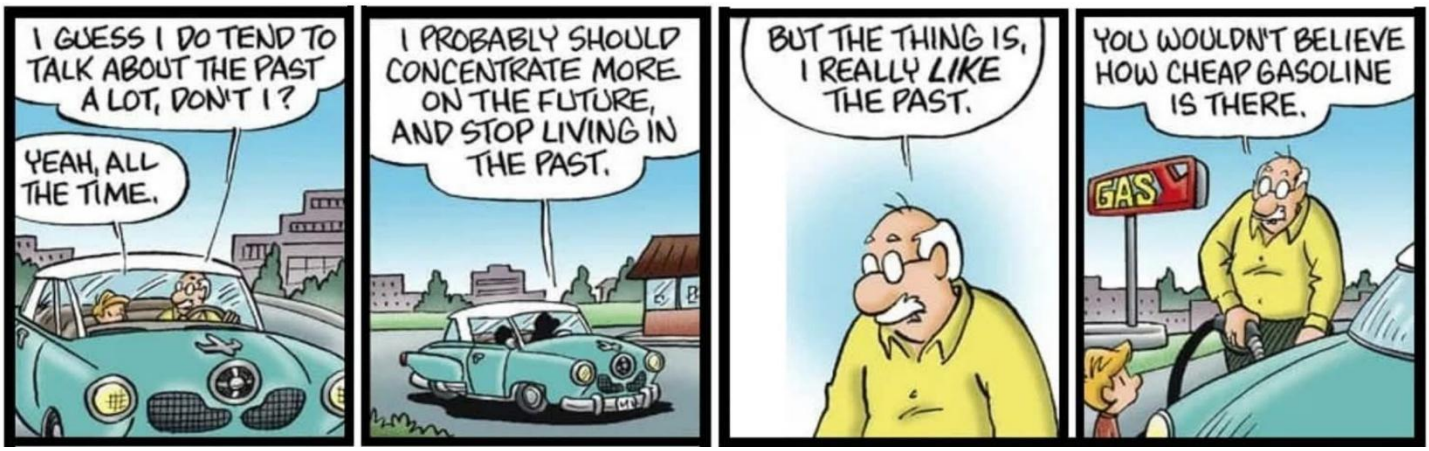
Upcoming Mondays on: July 13 and August 10	**Board Meetings:** 11:30 am, Hungry Fox Restaurant, 4637 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 520-326-2835. **(Normally the second Monday of the month)**
Saturday September 12, 2026 11:00 am – 2:00 pm	**IDYSD (International Drive Your Studebaker Day):** Coyote Grill at San Ignacio Golf Club, 4201 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley, AZ 85622, 520-822-8313. We will meet there at 11:00 and kick the tires and will start the food ordering at 11:30. We will caravan to Green Valley. The East siders and Benson members will meet in Corona de Tucson at the gas station at Houghton and Sahuarita Rd. at 10:00 and depart for Green Valley at 10:15. For those that aren't caravaning: South I-19 to West Continental Rd exit. Turn left and take the Frontage Road south to West Camino Encanto and turn right. Heading west take it to Camino del Sol, then turn left (south) at the Golf Club. Please RSVP by September 8 to Randy Goble at dgrg0823@comcast.net or 520-749-4484. If you want to check out their menu go to https://www.coyote-grill.com/food/.
Saturday, November 14, 2026 11:30 am – 4:00 pm	**Thanksgiving Pot Luck:** Join us at John L. Lewis' digs at Far Horizons East, 7570 E Speedway in the Community Room. More details coming soon.

See page 10 for Cruise Nights and other upcoming events of interest.

SAC/SDC Contact:
Randy Goble,
Vice-Pres / Tourmaster
520-749-4484 or
dgrg0823@comcast.net

***Notice: A reminder 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.





Pickles By Brian Crane

Member Contributions

The Journey for Affordable Automotive Interiors

By Belinda Scott

Sometime in early 2024, Aaron and I had two bench seats and two bucket seats reupholstered. After several quotes, we ended up going to a place that charged $2,400 for all the seats to just be recovered. At that time, we had eleven classic cars, of which six were Studebakers. Thinking about the cost of having full interiors done for these cars was completely out of reach. Aaron started researching automotive upholstery schools and proposed that we attend the Hot Rod Institute (HRI) in Rapid City, South Dakota. Unfortunately, I was still working and unable to take three months off.

Fast forward to October 2025, I had retired and noticed some of the trim panels in my 1963 Champ were peeling. I asked Aaron how easy he thought it would be to repair them, and he reminded me about the upholstery class at HRI. We started making plans to attend the Spring 2026 class. During the process, we had spoken to John Lewis about our plans for going to South Dakota, and he put us in contact with Tom Cantral, the North Central Zone Director and Coordinator and Treasurer for the Dakotas Chapter.

By the time the Spring 2026 class arrived, our classic car collection had grown to 14, of which eight were Studebakers. We did not think that we were allowed to bring our own vehicle to work on during the class. However, during day-one introductions to the class, we were told that we needed to find our own project for live work. So, Aaron and I went to search for a local Studebaker. Aaron got in touch with Tom, who provided multiple options from various people in the area who were selling Studebakers. Ultimately, we decided on a 1965 Commander that Tom was willing to part with from his collection, bringing our Studebaker collection to nine.

Our 1965 Commander is a Canadian produced model with Midnight Black enamel and blue interior. At some point, Tom had the inserts redone for the two bench seats. The interior was nice enough that it did not really need to be redone. However, Aaron and I were here to learn how to reupholster a whole vehicle, and Jared Gilseth, our upholstery instructor, believed it was possible to complete a whole interior during the eleven-week class.







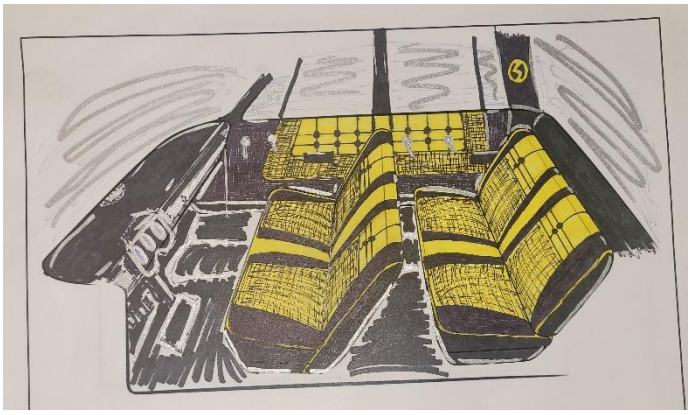


Member Contributions

The Journey for Affordable Automotive Interiors (Continued)

We arrived for the upholstery class with only our 8th grade home economics knowledge for sewing. During the first three weeks of the class, Aaron and I learned how to use and maintain an industrial sewing machine. Aaron also learned how to repair the sewing machine, as his machine kept breaking down. At the same time, we were trying to decide upon what interior we wanted to go with. We did want a traditional style material in the inserts, like tweed, plaid, or houndstooth. However, after sewing our comps, I did not believe plaid would be good for a first custom interior project because the plaid would need to be cut a certain way to have the pattern line up. Aaron and I discussed color options. We both wanted to add black to the interior to bring the outside color of the car to the inside. I decided on yellow as the secondary color because I have an affinity for yellow, which is the color of my 1963 Champ. Jared showed me a sample of yellow houndstooth, to which Aaron and I agreed on the houndstooth.

Aaron thought it would be best to keep the same pattern for the seats and doors that the original interior had. We both started sketching our ideas with black and yellow, until we agreed on a final sketch. Finally, we started the tear-down of the interior at the beginning of week four and ordering our materials for the project. When we went to order the yellow houndstooth, we found out that it had been discontinued. We started to make plans for a black and blue interior with blue houndstooth. Despite the yellow houndstooth being discontinued, Jared was able to find one supplier that was still selling the yellow houndstooth. So, our plans moved forward with the black and yellow.



While waiting for our supplies to arrive, we took a class trip to Little Slims Trim Shop, owned by Brian Powell. We got a tour of how an upholstery shop runs and the equipment needed. While there, we saw that they had an embroidery machine. Aaron and I discussed the possibility of getting the “lazy S” embroidered on the door panels in the same location as the original door panels. Brian, his brother Roy, and his son Aaron assisted us with the fit and finish process for our design and did the embroidery that is now inside of our car.



Member Contributions

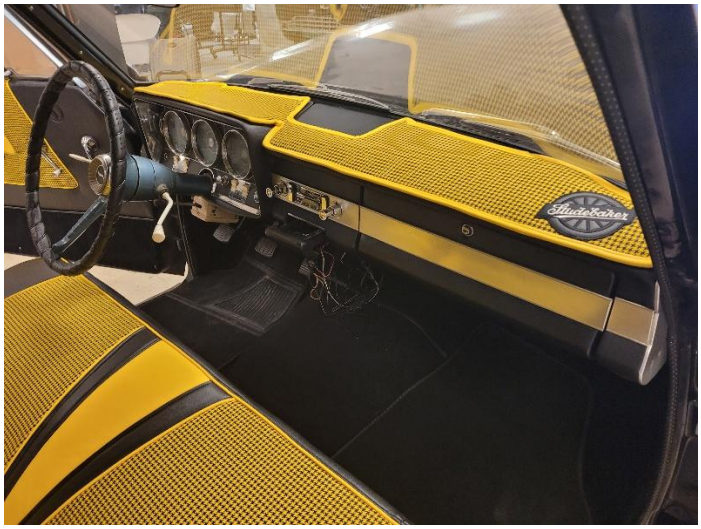
The Journey for Affordable Automotive Interiors (Continued)

Jared, Aaron, and I broke down the tasks for completing the whole interior; sun-visors, headliner, carpet, front and rear glass installed, dash, package tray, sail panels, quarter panels, kick panels, A & B pillars, front and back seats, four door panels, embroidery, wind-lace, buttons, and welt. We estimated five weeks and three days to six weeks. Due to the estimated timeline and our materials not arriving until week five, we decided to order a carpet kit in order to cut down on patterning and sewing time.

Aaron and I went to work. It was surprising to see that our one car with the two bench seats and four door panels removed from the car and our upholstery materials stacked, took up the entire workspace for six students. Some things went fast and other things took longer than estimated. We did finish the whole interior in five weeks and three days. This allowed us a free week to pattern and make the dash mat, cover the inside of the glove box, and sew our semi-custom floor mats.

Honestly, we were fortunate to be the only two students for upholstery because this enabled our instructor to focus the course on our personal needs to complete the entire interior of the 1965 Commander, as Aaron and I have now learned how to upholster the entire interior of classic cars.





Editors Note: I think doing something like this is amazing.

I can't wait to see the car. Larry

Member Contributions

Movies with Studebakers

By Larry Northington

One of the recent events in the Studebaker world is the restoration of the car used in The Muppet Movie. It gets you to think about what other movies have had Studebakers in them. Sometimes it's the main vehicle for the movie, and then sometimes it's just a quick passing that gives visual interest to the movie. Do you remember Studebakers in the movie American graffiti? There were a 1955 President and a 1962 Lark. James Garner drove a 1930 Studebaker Model 53 in the movie Murphy's Romance. Kevin Spacy drove a 1953 Coupe in LA Confidential. In Rainman, Tom Cruise passes a 1957 Golden Hawk on the highway, and describes the vehicle to his brother, played by Dustin Hofman. In the 1994 movie The Mask, Stanley Ipkiss (Jim Carrey) is given a clunky Studebaker as a temporary loaner car by the auto shop while his own vehicle is in the shop. The car is famous for repeatedly breaking down, specifically stalling on the bridge into Edge City. Actually, the movie used two Studebakers, representing the same vehicle, and they weren't even the same year. The one he drove was a 51 Champion, and the one that fell apart when he kicked it was a 1950 Commander. In the 1985 classic movie Fright Night, a 1962 Lark is driven by the character Peter Vincent, the washed-up horror movie host turned reluctant vampire hunter, played by the late actor Roddy McDowall. The car appears throughout the film as his primary mode of transportation during their vampire-hunting escapades with teenager Charley Brewster.



Studebaker in the movie American Graffiti

In Back to the Future, Marty McFly is reading a newspaper as he realizes he's back in time. The newspaper has a Studebaker ad for the local dealership. A Studebaker can be briefly seen in the sequels.



Back to the Future Part 2



The Car from the Movie Tucker

Sometimes the Studebaker in a movie is not so obvious. The movie Tucker modified a 1950 Studebaker to create a Tucker “Body Double” for a roll over scene. Supposedly the movie wrecked about five bullet nose Studebakers, which is a shame. In the movie Killers of the Flower Moon, the Studebaker is a key plot device and symbol of status. William Hale (Robert De Niro) assigns Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) as the Studebaker chauffeur for his oldest daughter. A Studebaker dealership is clearly shown in the movie, and a Studebaker was driven in the book, but it is questionable if there is actually a Studebaker in the movie.

On the next page is a list of some movies and TV shows with Studebakers:

Member Contributions

Movies with Studebakers (Continued)

American Graffiti - 1955 President and 1962 Lark
Back to the Future Part 2 - 1953 Starliner
D.O.A - 1948 Commander Regal Deluxe Convertible
Enigma (2001) - 1940 Commander
Fright Night - 1962 Lark
Fright Night Part 2 - 1959 Lark
Gattaca - 1963 Avanti
Grease - 1948 Studebaker Commander Regal
Grease 2 - 1951 Champion
Halloween - 1957 Provincial Wagon
Inventing The Abbotts - 1947 Commander
Iron Giant - 1950 Champion
Mask - 51 Champion and 1950 Commander
Mischief - 1950 Champion
Mr. Magoo - 1951 Commander
Murphys Romance - 1930 Model 53
Porky's - 1949 R-Series
Quicksand (1950) - 1948 Commander Starlight and a Champion
Rainman - 1957 Golden Hawk
Ray - 1951 Commander Land Cruiser
Spontaneous Combustion - 1951 Champion Starlight
Superman - 1959 Silver Hawk
The Color Purple - 1935 President Roadster
The Hot Spot - 1959 Silver Hawk
The Muppet Movie - 1951 Commander

TV Shows:
Adventures of Superman - 1954 Champion Starliner
Mister Ed - 1962 Lark Daytona Convertible
Home Improvement - 1953 Commander Starliner
MythBusters – Avanti
And many of the car restoration shows



Superman Stops the Bad Guy



1954 Studebaker Champion Starliner

Studebaker Ads ~ Wanted and For Sale or Trade

Wanted: 1957- 1959 Silver Hawk. Contact Connie Olsen: 702-540-6218, house@go-olsen.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: Studebaker 6 bladed cooling fan. Should fit all V8 1951-64 $10 OBO
Contact Fred Gooch at 520-883-7418 or nora.gooch@yahoo.com for pics or questions.

For Sale: 1964 Daytona 2-Door Hardtop, V8, Flightomatic, runs, good project $1750.
1961 Lark 2-Door Hardtop, rolling shell, very solid, $750.
1963 Hawk, Wrecked, restorable, $1750. Has unique steel sunroof.
Parting two 1963 Avanties.
Lark, Hawk, 1956 Sedan sheet metal available.
Keith Graham, Apache Junction. 602-818-8376
Leave Message

For Sale: V8 cylinder heads bare $20 each
2 reground V8 cams $50 each
Several used V8 cams $20 each
Several Fiber cam gears $10 each
V8 exhaust manifolds - $20 left side, $30 right side
259 Crankshafts $20 each
V8 water pump manifolds $15 each
Truck V8 water pump manifold $25
V8 intake 2 bbl manifolds $15 each
Hawk rocker moldings $10 each
Champ truck grill painted $30
GT Hawk headliner bows, very nice $30 for full set.
'56 1/2 ton C-Cab truck back glass $30.
Studebaker V8 Valley pans $5.00 ea.
'62 Lark grill $20. very nice.
'53 sedan trunk lid $20.
'62-'64 GT Hawk complete set good glass in chrome frames wing
windows, side glass.
Lots of other parts, if you don't see what you want, call me. I may have it. Large items for pick up,
email for pictures. Contact Jerry 520 979-0065

For Sale: '54 Champion Coupe. Has a 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 $4,000 OBO. Call Chuck Alianza at 520-591-3652



Advertisement from the 50's

Sponsors and Car Shows and Cruise Nights

StudebakerParts.com
The Online Studebaker Parts Store
Russ & Sharon Ware
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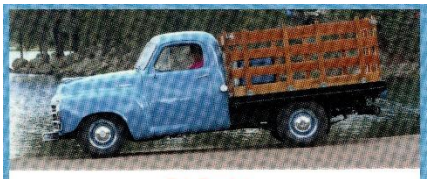
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520-955-0428

James "Jack" Gillespie
Owner/Manager
520.326.7224
jack@ramsowersauto.com
www.ramsowersauto.com
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Ed Smith
Director - Pacific Southwest Zone
Studebaker Drivers Club
PO Box 90763
White Mountain Lake, AZ 85912
602-290-1045 edcollects@gmail.com

Thanks to *Creative Printers*, for printing this newsletter.
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.

Your Business Card Here!
$20 / Year

Car Shows and Cruise Nights

June 26: Father's Day Car Show, 6pm-8pm, hosted by the Park Senior Villas at 844 N Houghton. No entry fee, just show up.

Editors note; Sorry for the late notice, but the date was still in flux when the last newsletter was published!

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, 7010 E Broadway, 520 296-0456. Car shows are usually twice a month: https://www.littleanthonysdiner.com/ for information.

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) Join the Studebaker Drivers Club if not already a member. The application can be found on line at: https://studebakerdriversclub.com/?page_id=24654

2) Complete the membership application below.

3) Write a check or money order payable to Southern Arizona Chapter, SDC. (The price can be prorated for a partial year)
for $19 for a full year, which includes a mailed copy of The Copper Starlight newsletter.
or $15 for a full year, which includes an e-mailed copy of The Copper Starlight newsletter.

4) Mail to:

Southern Arizona Chapter of the SDC
PO Box 12913
Tucson, AZ 85732

Application Form
Southern Arizona Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

National SDC Member#: _____ Expires:_____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Other family members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Birthdays (month and day): _____

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
__ Mail out newsletters
__ Make arrangements for tour/location/meeting place
__ Call me & I'll help
__ Other _____

The Copper Starlight

of the SAC/SDC

8935 S Placita Pastura

Vail, Arizona 85641



Picture from March 2021