



The Copper Starlight

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

MAY / JUNE 2026

VOLUME 53, ISSUE III

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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

All Studebaker Gathering March Madness event

By Larry Northington

The Grand Canyon Chapter hosted our annual event on March 14, and it turned out to be a fantastic gathering. It was a beautiful sunny day which helped inspire members from all over Arizona to show up in their Studebakers. I counted 27 Studebakers in all. Four Studebakers caravanned from the Tucson area: Paul Storm in his Champ, Larry and Dee Northington in their Commander, Bob and Steve Lanz in their Daytona, and Belinda Scott in her Champ. Fred and Nora Gooch also caravanned with the group, and Aaron Scott was the insurance backup a short distance behind with his truck and a car trailer (just in case). Jerry Kaiser drove from Marana in his '59 pickup. There was a swap meet and fun raffle items at the event, and there were monetary prizes for the Studebakers in different categories.



Ready to start the caravan

I won one of the People's Choice awards. Yay. I was amazed at the number of Studebakers, the vast variety, and various stages of originality, restoration, and modification. And it was just fun talking to the people. I don't know who drove the furthest, but Lou Fencl drove his '56 Transtar 173 miles from Pima, Arizona.

There were plenty of choices of places to eat at the event, but Dee and I had lunch at Wally Burger, an "order at the counter" place with a dining area with full size action hero figures geared for kids and kids at heart. I really enjoyed it.

A full hearted **Thank You** to the Grand Canyon Chapter and to the Eastburns for hosting such a great event.



Please enjoy more pictures on page 4, and on the back page.

Birthday Wishes**May**

- 1 Bruce Sandburg
- 3 Randy Goble
- 10 Don McGraw
- 15 Bonnie McGraw
- 15 Keith Graham
- 18 John Noble
- 19 Jack Porter
- 22 Aaron Scott

June

- 2 Lou Fencil
- 7 Steve Ault
- 7 June Kaiser
- 12 Peggy Eastburn
- 22 Donna Goble
- 26 Anne Magee
- 26 Mike Borens

**Anniversary Wishes****May**

- 20 Hugh & Cynthia Adam

June

- 2 Rob & Marla Skinner
- 3 Jerry & June Kaiser
- 7 Chuck & Chris Collins

**THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, AND
GET WELL WISHES**

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

Message from Our President:

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this letter finds all of you well. I had the most interesting meeting on Friday of last week. A woman in her 40's, originally from Australia, drove down to my house from Cave Creek. She came down to do a saddle fit on my new horse. She looked across the drive to my '53 Chevy pickup truck and asked what year it was. She then told me that she had a '51 Studebaker pickup. Now this may be a true friendship blooming! It was also painted John Deere Green! I then pointed out my John Deere tractor! She was aware of the Russ and Sharon Ware's Studebaker Parts business in Gilbert. I encouraged her to join the Grand Canyon Chapter. The world truly is a small place and Studebakers have a bigger place in it!

We have a new member that came to the Board Meeting last week, Joseph (Joe) Wittbrodt. Joe is looking to buy a bullet nose Land Cruiser. Thank you to John Lewis for his constant campaigning for the club! I went to John's Clubhouse for a St Patrick's Day party. He has friends everywhere!

We have a breakfast coming up on May 2 at the Happy Rooster. Randy mentioned that if anyone is interested, he would be glad to give a tour of his workshop.

Hope to see all of you soon,

Ann Pearson



Ann Pearson

From the Editors:

We made it to the Studebaker March Madness event. At a distance of 153 miles, it was the furthest we drove our Commander in decades (or ever???), and the car didn't have any problems. I have to admit though, I wouldn't mind having cruise control on the car. Spoiled much? Thank you to Aaron Scott for following the caravan with a car trailer. It sure gave Dee and I peace of mind.

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 hand written article works great. Thank you Jerry Kaiser for the great article on vapor lock, Paul Storm for the Rodders Days write-up, Aaron Scott for sharing his experience meeting a fellow Studebaker enthusiast in Missouri, and to Belinda Scott for providing pictures and all of her entries to Facebook which found their way to this newsletter. And thank you to Donna Goble for proofreading.

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



Larry and Dee Northington

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Mondays on:
May 11, June 8,
July 13

Board Meetings: 11:30 am, Hungry Fox Restaurant, 4637 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 520-326-2835.
(Normally the second Monday of the month)

Saturday,
May 2, 2026
8:30am

Breakfast at The Happy Rooster: 1114 S. Sarnoff Dr. & 22nd St. 520-298-1752. We have met there thru the years, and always great food. No need to RSVP, just show up if you can make it.

All members are more than welcome to the Board Meetings. Fresh perspectives, different viewpoints and new ideas can really benefit our Chapter. Also the food is pretty good and reasonably priced. Here are a couple of pictures from one of our board Meetings:



See page 5 for information on the upcoming Route 66 Caravan,
and page 10 for 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.



RECENT EVENTS

Additional Pictures from the All Studebaker Gathering March Madness event



Dee Northington relaxing in the shade



A 1941 Studebaker Double Date Coupe



A 1934 Commander



Malcom Stinson's 1928 Roadster, and Lou Fencil's 1956 Transtar

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OUT AND ABOUT IN THE TUCSON AREA

Route 66 Centennial Caravan By Larry Northington

~ From Chicago to L.A. ~

How many Studebakers can we get on the Mother Road?

March 27 update from Turning Wheels:

Studebaker Drivers Club Centennial RT66 Tour. May 11-22, 2026. Join at any place along the way, travel with us as long as you like, and see the Mother Road in her 100th year. Our tour is led by Steve Fitzgerald. His details, hotels, routes, and day-to-day plan are available at this link.

<https://Studebakersiowa.com/sdc-rt66-details>

The link has buttons for Breaking News and Activities, Rt 66 General Itinerary, Rt 66 Town By Town Plan, and Let Us Know You're Coming.

Download the Town by Town detail route guide for easier reading. No registration or fees are required, but we hope you will use the form on this link to let us know you are coming so we can plan parking and seating for the activities along the way. Please use the link's form on the Let Us Know button.



Picture provided by Dan Scott

Steve Ault has volunteered to be our Chapter's contact for the event.

From Steve:

Gail and I have done the Az fun run 3 times. We have a group down in Green Valley who I'll get with and get their plan. Interested parties could email us or someone else in the club to finalize plans. Email: sgajourney@gmail.com

Here's what the Green Valley group has planned for Route 66

We are leaving Green Valley at 7AM on Thursday April 30. Overnight in Prescott. Next day to Williams via Jerome, Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon. Overnight in Williams. Next day Saturday, May 2 Seligman to Kingman. Overnight in Kingman. Sunday May 3 some of us are going to Laughlin via Oatman for a day or two.

Out and about in the Tucson Area: Paul Storm was spotted in town a couple of times.



RECENT EVENTS

Rodders Days 51st Anniversary Car Show By Paul Storm

The 51st Annual Rodders Days Car Show was held on April 11th at the downtown Pima Community College campus. There were hundreds of cars and lots of happenings. In addition to the cars at the show there were tractors, steam engines, motorcycles and even a vintage travel trailer. The event included free tours of the new Pima Community College construction, welding, advanced technology and auto technology learning facilities. These are all new, state-of-the-art and first-class facilities. Here is a link to a YouTube video promotion of the Automotive Technology center, [Pima Community College Automotive Technology Promo](#).

There were four Studebakers at the event. A non-Chapter member named Ron came with a Studebaker 1949 2R truck cab and bed on a custom-built racing frame and drive train. (I gave him a flyer about our Chapter.) Gary Spies brought his awesome red Commander. Jim Carroll from Sahuarita brought a blue modified 1953 Champion. I brought my 1960 Champ. The round Studebaker decals on my doors were something new I tried. I took printed paper decals and stuck magnetic strips on the backs. This allows the decals to be applied and removed. Fred and Nora Gooch also stopped by for the show. The show had a good turnout of classic cars and trucks and lots of entertainment. We all had a great time.



March 7: Gary Spies was at the Diamonds in the Desert Car Show with his beautifully modified '53 Starlight Coupe.



TIPS AND TRICKS

How I Solved Vapor Lock in My Studebaker

By Jerry Kaiser

If you are driving and experience vapor lock and your vehicle will not start, put water-soaked rags around the fuel pump and fuel line. Vapor lock is when the fuel boils and turns to vapor. Vapor lock may occur when you park your vehicle and turn off the engine. Without fuel moving through the gas lines and the engine compartment is not getting sufficient air flow, the temperature under the hood will increase substantially. Here are solutions to help prevent vapor lock.

1. Your radiator should be clean and the correct size for your vehicle. Additionally, be certain that the engine block is clean by pulling out all the engine core plugs and using a garden hose, flush the block until the water runs clear. If this block has not been previously flushed, use a long screwdriver to scrape inside the block to loosen and flush out all the sediment. This is a messy job but worth doing. If you've installed AC, it is a good idea to run an electric fan whenever the compressor is running.

2. Install an electric fuel pump and connect it to a switch on the dashboard. Use it to prime the carburetor after your vehicle has been sitting for a week or flip on the electric fuel pump at the first sign of vapor lock or always just run only an electric pump but use an oil pressure switch which would turn the electric fuel pump off if you lose oil pressure.

3. Add a phenolic, not aluminum, carburetor spacer. This is especially good when using an Edelbrock Carburetor, which is a great carburetor but in hot weather, the gas can boil in the carburetor without a spacer.

4. If you have a heat riser on the right side exhaust manifold on a V8, be certain that it is opening, or eliminate the heat riser altogether.

5. Add a return gas line back to the gas tank. I use a Fram fuel filter G3499. It has a 1/4" tap on the side that you can run back to the gas tank. I remove the gas filler neck and solder a 1/4" tap on the side of the gas filler neck. This keeps the fuel in the gas line cooler. (You can use 1/4" copper or 1/4" steel tubing).



6. This can only be done with the intake manifold removed and having dual exhaust. While the intake manifold is removed, block off the center port on each side of the V8 heads. I use a small piece of stainless steel to block off each center port where the hot exhaust flows under the carburetor.

7. Insulate the fuel line from the pump to the carburetor by using rubber hose slit down the middle and put that over the fuel line secured with a couple of zip ties.

8. If you can find it. Begin using non-ethanol gasoline. The ethanol in gasoline will boil and vaporize faster, because ethanol draws moisture that will plug up your carburetor especially when leaving your car parked when there's fuel in the carburetor. I use non-ethanol gas in my Studebaker truck whenever I can find it. There are two stations out by me that have non-ethanol fuel, such as the Circle K on Tangerine Loop and the Maverick station at the I-10 freeway on Tangerine Road.

If you any have questions, please contact Jerry by email at Studeblu@gmail.com.

(Editors note: I installed a 6V electric fuel pump and use it when vapor lock is a concern.)

JUST FOR FUN

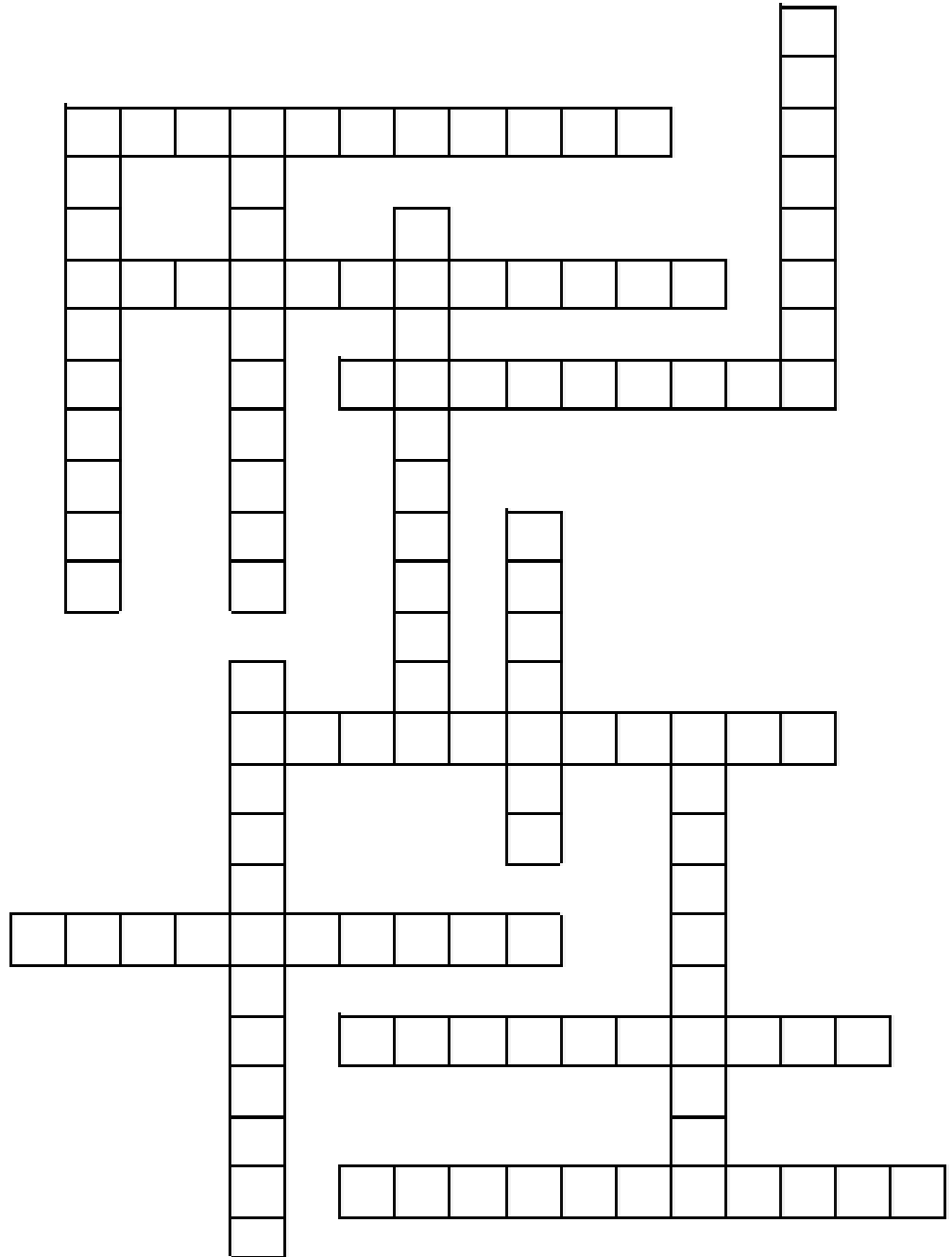
A Clueless Crossword
By Larry Northington

Have you ever done a Clueless Crossword? The challenge is to fill in the spaces with the words provided. All of the words either go straight across or down.

Hint: Match the word lengths where possible, and this will provide some of the letters to continue. Call or email me if you would like additional hints.

The following list of words are Studebaker car colors from 1954.

- ALBERTA**BLUE
- AZORE**GREEN
- CADET**GRAY
- CHADRON**RED
- ELKO**GRAY
- LANCE**GREEN
- MESA**TAN
- NOCTURNE**BLUE
- ONTARIO**BLUE
- SAFFORD**CREAM
- SHOSHONE**RED
- VELVET**BLACK
- VIENNA**BLUE
- VISTA**GREEN





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,

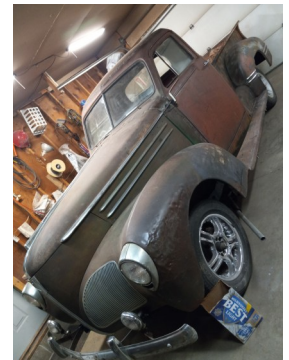
email for pictures. Contact Jerry 520 979-0065

Jim Derringer of the Ozark Chapter By Aaron Scott

I'm sharing my experience meeting a fellow Studey by the name of Jim Derringer of the Ozark Chapter. Belinda and I went to buy the '52 Stude from him, just outside the town of Ozark, and found a treasure trove of Stude history. His garage fridge had SDC magnets dating back to the 70s of events he attended. He informed us his first Stude in high school was a '52 Stude. Since then, he has been a Stude member for 6 decades. Currently he has a 1955 president, a '55 Stude on a '88 Thunderbird chassis, a 1948 2 door roadster convertible, a M5 express and a '57 hawk. Like most Stude owners he is super nice, friendly and helpful. Offered any time we come back thru Missouri to stop in and see him.



Aaron and Belinda Scott's new '52 with a bullet front end



A '55 on a Thunderbird chassis

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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.

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Car Shows and 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, 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**

