The Copper Starlight

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

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2026 VOLUME 53, ISSUE VI

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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
Facebook Administrator –
Belinda Scott
Webmaster – Bob Lanz
Website: https://soazsdc.org/

Website QR Code

International Drive Your Studebaker Day

By Larry Northington

The IDYSD was celebrated by our Southern Arizona Chapter with a luncheon at the Coyote Grill of the San Ignacio Golf Club in Green Valley. The IDYSD is usually our best chance of the year for our Chapter to have a nice caravan. And it was great. We had 7 Studebakers in our caravan traveling from Corona De Tucson to the restaurant. Most of the drive was along the scenic Sahuarita Rd, concluding at the golf course which offers great views of the Santa Rita mountains and desert landscape. We had a nice area to park, showing off the Studebakers, nine in total. The restaurant provided a semi-private area for us, and the food was delicious. Dee Northington was the lucky winner of the 50/50 of a little over $120, of which she donated $60 to the Chapter. All of the cars seem to be running good, except my radiator cap developed a crack. A local auto parts store had a universal one that fit, but then Fred Gooch gave me a more period correct radiator cap. Thank you Fred.









Birthday Wishes



November

2 Tim Stevens
15 Belinda Scott

December

3 Bill Eastburn
4 Rosalie Torske
5 John L. Lewis
6 Janice Noble
26 Darel Magee
28 Russ Ware





Anniversary Wishes

November

6 Jay & Gloria Bodle
6 John & Janice Noble

December

5 Don & Bonnie McGraw
13 Steve & Gail Ault
27 Craig & Jennifer Harm
27 Russ & Sharon Ware

Thoughts, Prayers, and Get Well Wishes

Stan Luczycki

Mary Powell-McConnell

Message from Our President:



Ann Pearson

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this letter finds you all well. It is that time again for the Letter from the President! Time goes so fast. Fall is in the air, and it is so nice to work outside during the day now! Speaking of Fall, next week is Halloween. I hope all of you have your decorations out and are planning on dressing up! Haha! I am going to be a witch and go with my granddaughter and grandson. So much fun! We also have Thanksgiving to look forward to. We are having our annual Thanksgiving Potluck for the Club on November 14 at John Lewis's Clubhouse. See page 3 for the details. And don't forget, we are having the annual Christmas Potluck at my house on December 13. Many of you know how to get here, if not, the details are on the next page. A bit of business, we will be electing new officers in January at the Annual Banquet, which will be at John Lewis's Clubhouse as well. So far, positions that will be open will be President and Vice President/Tourmaster. There are so many talented people in the Club that I know we have someone that can fill those positions. Randy and I can help with mentoring. Please let the Board know if you may be interested or would like to nominate someone. As a special note, I am so touched by Lou Fencl's drawing of myself. He gave this to me at Drive Your Studebaker Day. I sure wish that I still looked like this. Thank you Lou! You just don't know how much this meant to me. That was so kind of you. Hope to see all of you at the Thanksgiving Potluck!!



Ann Pearson

From the Editors:



Larry and Dee Northington

Dee and I just returned from an incredible two-week adventure in South Africa with multiple Wildlife safaris and other adventures including seeing South African penguins and staying two nights at a nice hotel / vineyard. Not surprising, we didn't see any Studebakers. I was going into Studebaker withdraws, so I drove our Studebaker as soon as we got home 😉.

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 to Aaron Scott for his article on attending the SDC International Meet in Texas, and to Bob Miles and Fred Gooch for their articles on Studebaker history. 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: November 9, February 8.	**Board Meetings:** 11:30 am, Hungry Fox Restaurant, 4637 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ. 520-326-2835. **(Normally the second Monday of the month, skipping December and January)**
Saturday, November 8, 2026 9:00 am – 3:00 pm	**Helping at the Ball-Paylore House Museum:** This historic place in Tucson has a Studebaker Lark on permanent display. Our Chapter volunteered to support Tucson Modernism week which includes a tour of the house, located at 2306 E Waverly St, Tucson, AZ 85719. Let's help the community learn about Studebakers. The Chapter plans on having a table with Chapter information and *Turning Wheels* to hand out. If there are Chapter members who are comfortable and knowledgeable speaking about Studebakers and would like to volunteer their time on November 8, please contact Randy Goble.
Saturday, November 14, 2026 11:30 am – 4:00 pm	**Thanksgiving Potluck:** Join us at John L. Lewis' digs at Far Horizons East, 7570 E Speedway in the Community Room. Please plan on attending with one of your favorite dishes. Belinda Scott is coordinating the event and can make suggestions for what to bring. Her phone number is 520-732-8527, and her email address is belinda.l.thompson4@gmail.com. And there is always extra food, so don't worry if "life gets in the way", and you can't bring a dish. Entering the event couldn't be easier, when entering Far Horizons East, stay in the left lane and let the person at the booth know that you are here for the Studebaker event. The attendant will direct you to the building straight ahead.
Sunday, December 13, 2026 12:00 pm	**Christmas Potluck:** Ann Pearson is hosting this year's potluck at her house. Belinda Scott has graciously volunteered to be the Food Coordinator this year. Please contact Belinda at belinda.l.thompson4@gmail.com or 520 732-8527. 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!
Sunday, January 17, 2027 11:00 am – 4:00 pm	**Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet:** Will be held at Far Horizons East, 7570 E Speedway in the Community Room. There will be a short business meeting, with the election of officers, 50/50 drawing and auction. The price is TBD. Please RSVP to Randy Goble at dgrg0823@comcast.net by January 7. Randy is planning on having Mexican food catered for the event.

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

Reminder: Chapter Dues are due January 1

The dues are only $22 with a mailed copy of the newsletter, or $15 with an emailed newsletter.
Dues can be brought to any of our Chapter gatherings, or mail to:
Southern Arizona Chapter of the SDC
PO Box 12913
Tucson, AZ 85732.

***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.



Member Contributions

The Annual Studebaker International Meet

By Aaron Scott

The Annual Studebaker International Meet in Waxahachie, Texas has come and gone. Belinda and I chose to attend both the Antique Studebaker Club and Studebaker Drivers Club meets this year. We got there to pick up our ASC packets on the evening of Sunday, September 20th. As this was our first time at the ASC International Meet, we got to make new ASC friends. We had a good few easy days with the ASC, attending the board meeting, going to the Ellis County Museum, and having good laughs at the ASC auction night. There were 7 Studebakers for the ASC, two Express Coupes (one blue & one yellow), '37 custom panel van, '35 Rockne, '51 Stakebed truck, '53 Commander and '50 bullet-nose. It was wonderful meeting the 15 year old that brought the '35 Rockne. His grandpa was a Stude fan, and his eyes would light up when we talked about doing repairs on their cars. He started a YouTube channel to track the repairs and updates.

The SDC International Meet was an awesome event. We attended the Welcome Meet and Greet at the Railyard Park, listened to The Studebakers band, and caught up with Paul Storm there and a great many other friends. The swap meet was a pretty large event, picking up several parts we needed for our Studes. We also went on the tour of the Silos at Magnolia and the Dr Pepper Museum in Waco. At the banquet, Robert Swope gave a presentation of racing his '63 GT Hawk in the Hong Kong to Beijing race, and Paul was presented with 2nd place in watches. He also took 3rd place for his 1960 Champ in the Truck Division. There were a lot of Studebakers!

Hundreds of pictures of the International Meet are posted on the facebook site (20+) Southern Arizona Studebaker Driver's Club. website: https://soazsdc.org/ | Facebook Check it out!







See more pictures on the next page

Member Contributions

The Annual Studebaker International Meet (Continued)







Attendees from our Chapter (L to R): Aaron and Belinda Scott, Paul Storm, and Linda and Ed Smith

Sadly, the Tucson Auto Museum will permanently close on January 1, 2027. There are so many amazing cars on display. Holding our Chapter's 50th Anniversary there was fantastic. Time for one last visit.

4825 N Sabino Canyon Rd
Open Wednesday - Sunday
10am-4pm

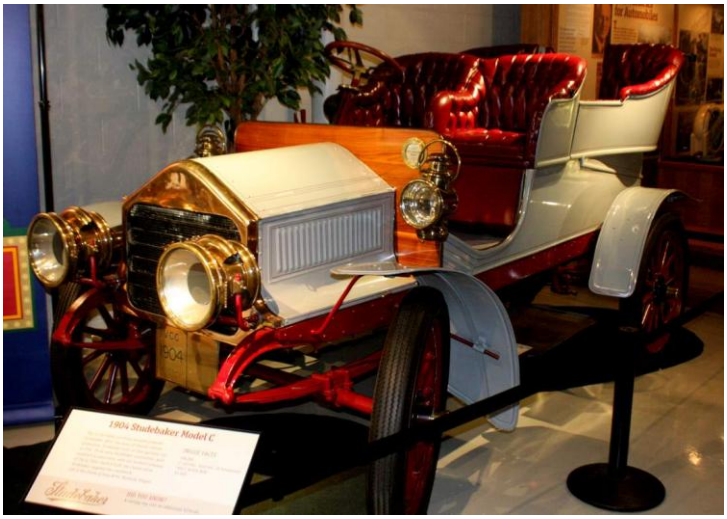


Tucson Auto Museum

Member Contributions

Studebaker: 1904 The Dawn of the Gasoline Age

By Bob Miles



1904 Model C on display at the Studebaker National Museum

This 1904 Model C is the oldest known surviving gasoline-powered Studebaker automobile. It was built in partnership with General Automobile Company of Cleveland, Ohio, as Studebaker slowly entered the automotive market. Most historians list the gas power Studebaker in 1904 as a Studebaker-Garford. This is in error.

In October 1903, Studebaker financed the purchase of the General Automobile Company of Cleveland from its receivers by a group of people headed by GA Gaston. General, the 1902 successor to the Hansen Automobile, had built several hundred cars and a few trucks, but failed to get a license from the holders of the Selden Patient, so its investors refused capital and the company went into receivership.

Studebaker thus entered the gasoline automobile market in 1904, with its Model A built in the ex-General Plant in Cleveland, Ohio. The car was powered by a 16hp 2-cylinder located under the front seat with nothing but the radiator and the gas tank under the hood. A two-speed transmission operated a chain drive.

When Studebaker's first car was rolled out, the press was naturally invited. As reporter's interviewed officials and looked over the new Studebaker General, a man walking down the street became interested and asked Fred Fish the price of the car ($1,000). He happened to have the right sum on his person, so an impromptu cash transaction took place in the street in full view of the assembled reporters, and the buyer drove away in his new car. The buyer was H.D. Johnson of South Bend, a son-in-law of J.M. Studebaker, having married his oldest daughter, Lillie, in 1881. The sale was a publicity gimmick, staged entirely for the benefit of the press. Production continued at the General plant in Cleveland until November 1905. The two-cylinder engine was inadequate, and Studebaker went looking for alternatives.

Studebaker-Garford was a 4-cylinder engine with a three-speed transmission. The Garford was in a different market than the General.

Metric	Value
1904 Value	$3,500.00
Equivalent Value Today	**$132,504.49**

Continued Next Page

Member Contributions

Studebaker: 1904 (Continued from previous page)

Total production up through 1912 was 1,841 Electrics and 2,481 Studebaker Garford cars.

Studebaker had an advantage over many automobile startups: adequate capital, and large worldwide dealerships The conservative nature of the management of Studebaker may have been the reason for the slow startup. The wagon business was a large part of the reason, but with Fred Fish and other forward-thinking managers, eventually won out. The association with EMF was another part of early history with many players involved. Studebaker for a time was listed as fourth in the industry behind Ford, Buick, Willys-Overland. It is an interesting story, but beyond the scope in size for our newsletter.

References: Studebaker and the Railroads. Volume 1. Jan Young

Classic Cars Off Main car show in Benson

By Larry Northington

The annual Classic Cars Off Main car show in Benson, Arizona, took place on Saturday, September 19, 2026. It was a near record show for Benson, with 97 cars. There were three Studebakers on display; James Askew from Sierra Vista brought his 1952 pickup, Jim Carroll from Sahuarita came in his modified 1953 Champion, and I was there with my 1954 Commander.







Call for Officer Nominations

By Larry Northington

Being in a club like ours can be fun and rewarding for so many reasons. And it works best if everyone contributes when they can. Our Chapter has its annual Banquet and Business Meeting in January, but the upcoming meeting is much more than that because it is also going to be our bi-annual election for Chapter Officers. So far, positions that will be open will be President and Vice President/ Tourmaster. These positions are critical for the Chapter to continue. There are so many talented people in the Club that I know we have members that can fill those positions. Ann and Randy can help with mentoring. If you would like to volunteer for one of these rewarding positions, please put your hat in.

Member Contributions

THE HISTORY OF STUDEBAKER IN TUCSON: 1920-1966

By Fred Gooch

(The following article is reprinted from the Copper Starlight, January / February 1982 edition)

1920-21: Studebaker started selling cars in Tucson in 1920 at Ronstadts, 70 N. 6th. I received a letter from Mr. Ronstadt confirming that they had sold cars in 1920-21, but that he did not recall handling any other Studebaker products. Studebakers were sold in Tucson for almost 46 years, yet 1920 was the only year there were two dealerships...the other dealer was Ryland & Olcott at 355 Toole Ave.

1921-24: In 1921, Ryland & Olcott separated, and the Arthur N. Olcott Co. became the Studebaker dealer for 1921, 22, & 23 at 185 E. Broadway.

1924-26: For these three years, Studebakers were still sold at the 185 E. Broadway address, but by a new dealer, Tucson Auto Company.

1927-29: In 1927, Bowen & Sims Co., Inc. bought the dealership and moved to the corner of Broadway and Fifth. In 1928-29, they also sold Erskine.

1930-31: Bowen & Sims parted company in 1930, and Mr. Maxwell joined with Bowen to form Bowen-Maxwell, Inc. They sold Studebaker, and Pierce-Arrow at the Broadway/Fifth location through 1931.

1932-33: Now, Bowen & Maxwell parted, and Mr. Jensen joined Bowen to form the Bowen Jensen Motor Co. They moved to 114-116 E. 6th, and sold Studebaker, Pierce-Arrow, and Rockne through 1932/33. In 1934, Mr. Bowen decided to go solo, and formed the Bowen Motor Co. He added another building to the dealership (114-120 E. 6th), and took on Plymouth and Desoto as well as Studebaker and Pierce-Arrow. In 1935, he dropped the Pierce-Arrow line, but continued with Studebaker, Plymouth and Desoto at the same address.

1934-35:

1936: As far as I can determine, there were no new Studebakers sold in Tucson during 1936.

1937: The new Studebaker dealership this year was Modern Motors; they sold cars at 509 N. 6th Ave.

1938: Mr. Simms decided to get back into the Studebaker business at this time. He had been half of the 1927-29 dealership; Bill Sims Studebaker was located at 135 S. 6th Ave.

1939: Amos C. Cliff Motors had been the Graham/Willys dealer, and in 1939 he added Studebaker to his line-up at 208-218 E. Broadway.

1940-58: For these 19 years, stability arrived for Studebaker; they were sold by Jack Erny and Bill Edel at J & B Motors, 616 N. Stone. This is probably the dealership most Tucsonans remember best. After Studebaker moved from this location, the city used the site for bus barns. After J & B closed, Pete White sold Packard one door to the north.

1959-60: In 1959, the Lark was introduced. The dealership moved north two blocks and to the west side of the street. Here, for two years, Studebaker would be sold by Beaudry Motors, at 847 N. Stone.

Continued Next Page

Studebaker Ads ~ Wanted and For Sale or Trade, and Member Contributions

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: 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

Avanti For Sale: This is a lead from Mike Borens: Mike has a neighbor in his former neighborhood who is selling her Avanti. Aldee, the lady offering it for sale, is the second owner; the first was her father. She is asking $33,933 for it. Please call or text Aldee at 239-784-7922.



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: 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.

THE HISTORY OF STUDEBAKER IN TUCSON: 1920-1966

(Continued from the previous page)

1961: Studebaker crossed the street again and went another block north to 950 N. Stone. Owned by three men: one Frank Giles, a Jack Nood, and another whose name could not be located, the dealership was operated as Oasis Motors.

1962-64: The next two years for Studebaker in Tucson were at the Oasis address...however Ed Comitz had bought the dealership and renamed it Ed Comitz Studebaker.

1965-66: While we have little data on what could be called "the last gasp", it appears that a Guy Burns briefly marketed the last production cars coming from the Canadian plant, most of which were Chevy-engined.

Studebaker had Tucson dealers for 45 of the detailed 46-year span. The longest span for one dealer was the 19 years of J & B Motors. In all, a total of 16 dealers existed, four of them located on North Stone Avenue.

Researched and submitted by Fred Gooch. References: Tucson Public Library, telephone and city directories, Charlie Hall, Bruce Sandburg, Chuck Naugle, Lee Beaudry and Frank Ronstadt.

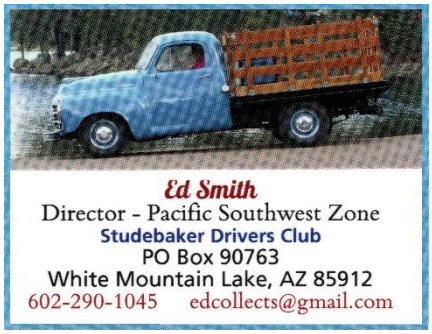
Sponsors and Car Shows and Cruise Nights

StudebakerParts.com
The Online Studebaker Parts Store
Russ & Sharon Ware
2700 E Magnolia Dr.
Gilbert, AZ 85298
P: 602-995-5311
F: 602-635-1921
russ@StudebakerParts.com



Your Business Card Here!
$20 / Year

For SAC Member recommended Sales and Services, call our local sponsors first.



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.

Car Shows and Cruise Nights

November 7, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: 8th Annual Red, White, & Blue Car Show is at VFW Post 549 in Tucson (8424 E. Old Spanish Trail). Registration is online only and is $30.00. Email homelessveteranheroes@gmail.com to request the registration form This event raises money for Operation Thanksgiving Feast at Esperanza en Escalante, a homeless veteran transitional facility in Tucson.

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/

Reminder: Chapter Dues are due January 1
(See Page 3)

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 $22 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



Reminder: Chapter Dues are due January 1
(See Page 3)