The Copper Starlight

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

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026 VOLUME 53, ISSUE V

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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

Father's Day Car Show at the Park Senior Villas

By Larry Northington

The car show at the Park Senior Villas is far from your normal car show. This is a small car show solely for the purpose of allowing seniors that live in the villas to get out and reminisce about some of the older cars, with a nice variety of classic, newer, stock, and modified vehicles. Three members from our Chapter attended the event: Randy Goble with his 1950 Champion Starlight, Larry and Dee Northington with their 1954 Commander, and Paul Storm with his 1960 Champ. The villas are an Assisted Living facility in a picturesque part of East Tucson. It was a joy to see the residents as they enjoyed the show.







Birthday Wishes



September

6 Jim Hill
11 Steve Lanz
22 Chuck Stanford
27 Paul Storm
30 Gail Ault

October

1 Bob Loshbough
2 Gloria Schmetzer
4 Dee Northington
10 Violet Borens
15 Larry Northington
22 Gloria Bodle





Anniversary Wishes

September

9 Chuck & Louise Stanford
10 Mike & Violet Borens

October

22 Aaron & Belinda Scott

Thoughts, Prayers, and Get Well Wishes

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

In Memory

Chuck Collins

Message from Our President:



Ann Pearson

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this letter finds you all well and surviving the heat. I am happy for several recent rains; however, the rain has caused some minor flooding in my dining room. Adding gutters and digging a long trench are the solution. There is always something to repair at the old homestead!

Since the last newsletter, there have been two Board Meetings at The Hungry Fox. Belinda Scott has been instrumental in providing the Board revised By-laws. Much discussion has been made to determine where and how the Club will vote on the By-laws. Randy Goble is having the response cards printed for voting. At Drive Your Studebaker Day on September 12, members attending the luncheon at The Coyote Grill in Green Valley, Arizona, will vote to accept the new By-laws. Copies of the revised By-laws will be available as well as a response card for each member to turn in at the luncheon. Members not attending the luncheon will be mailed a copy of the By-laws and a response card to return by mail. A big thank you goes out to all those that have helped with producing the revised By-laws and for determining how the vote will take place by the members.

Randy Goble has been working on arranging activities for the Club and Belinda Scott has been actively listing various shows for members to attend with their cars. Please see the information in the newsletter. Don't forget to reply to Randy with your RSVP for the IDYSD luncheon. The Club is helping to pay for member's lunches.

I hope to see all of you at IDYSD!

Ann Pearson

From the Editors:



Larry and Dee Northington

We drove our Commander to the Father's Day Car Show at the Park Senior Villas on June 26. It was a nice little gathering. Now we are looking forward to the International Drive Your Studebaker Day, which is right around the corner.

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 Belinda Scott for suggesting including our Chapter's first Secretary Report, to Bob Miles for this article on Studebaker Electric vehicles, and to Mike Borens for the pictures from the museum in Laughlin. 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.

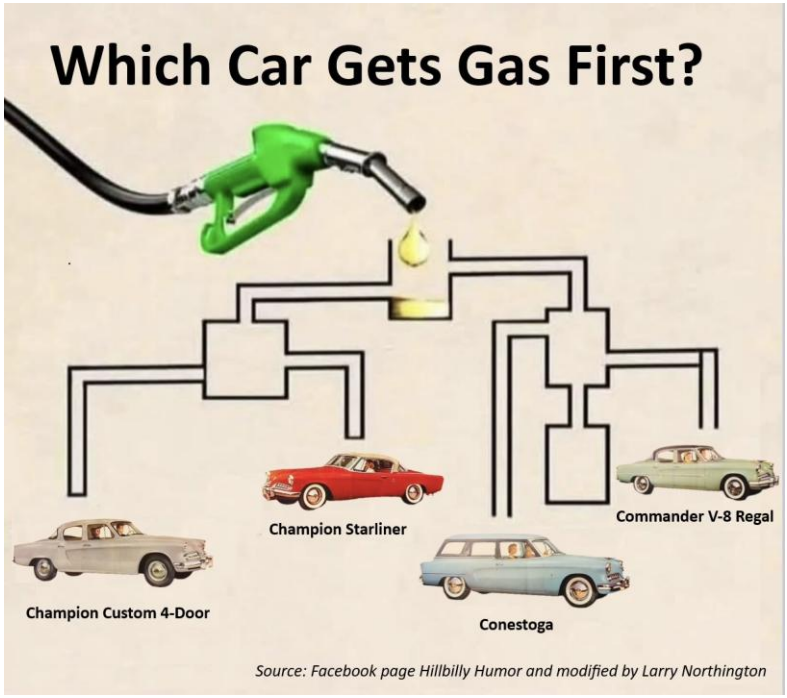
Upcoming Events

Upcoming Mondays on: September 14, October 12 and November 9	**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, including the car show in Benson on September 19.

***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

1902 Studebaker Electric

By Bob Miles

The beginning of the auto age, of course, cannot be precisely determined. Ransom Olds first primitive machine first ran in 1886, the Duryea bothers demonstrated their first car in 1893, and Packard began production in 1899 (after a disagreement with Alexander Winton) but for the purposes of this article, the year of 1897 is a good starting point. On May 12 of that year Studebaker's Board of Director's first discussed progress on an experimental horseless carriage. This may have been precipitated by a meeting with Fred Fish and the U.S Postal Service. Studebaker learned that the Postmaster General had begun experiments with horseless wagons. Since Studebaker was the Postal Services' larger supplier of wagons, the implications were big and that meeting may have influenced the Studebaker Board's decision to begin its own experiments.

In April 1899, J.M. Studebaker took delivery of a Winton automobile, the 29th produced. Two other Winton's were delivered in the South Bend Area to Mishawaka residents James Eberhart and Martin Beiger.

Studebaker actually first entered the auto industry as a supplier. The minutes of the Studebaker Board of Director on July 10, 1899 and again on September 12, 1900, comment on the sale of Broughams to the Electric Vehicle Company, located in Harford, Connecticut, part of the Pope Hartford combine. Studebaker's sale was occasioned by the award to Pope of an order for 1,600 electric taxis in New York City. The New York taxi was the first commercial use of the horseless carriages and resulted in the first commercial automotive business.

Studebaker's first auto, an electric, was sold during the 50th anniversary of the company in 1902. Plans had been made for the golden anniversary of the company celebration, but were canceled due to the recent deaths of Peter and Clement Studebaker.

Car number one was purchased by a Mr. F.W Blees of Macon MO. and car number 2 by Thomas Edison.

The picture on the right shows Thomas Edison (left) with George Meister, a business associate. There are some newspaper accounts from a later date that list the man on Thomas Edison's left as Albert Erskine. This is incorrect as Albert Erskine had not joined the company until 1911. Thomas Edison drove Studebaker until 1927. This model is a deluxe version known as the Stanhope, a step above the Runabout. This photo was sent by Charles Edison to Albert Erskine in 1930.



Member Contributions

1902 Studebaker Electric (Continued)

The first Electrics used a chain drive with the motor mounted on the body to reduce shock and unsprung weight. The car used a Westinghouse 1.7 horsepower motor which could propel the car to 13 to 16 mph. Batteries were by Exide with the optional Edison batteries costing $175 more. Chassis are believed to be made by a company called the Automobile and Cycle Parts of Ohio run by a man named Arthur O. Smith. In 1904 the Automobile and Cycle Parts Company was transformed into the A.O. Smith Corporation, which then grew into the world's largest independent manufacture of automotive and truck frames.

Total electric production in 1902 was 20 and made in Ohio. J.M. Studebaker preferred Electric cars over gasoline cars but in later years accepted the need for volume production to be gasoline powered cars.

At the time, Studebaker's primary business was wagons. The electric machines were adapted to the chassis of wagons the company made. There were two electric motors, one for each wheel. Top speed was 15 mph and range was 15 miles, depending on weight of the wagon. These wagons had a 1 ton to 5 ton capacity.

In 1909, Studebaker produced two custom electric cars for a very specific purpose: emission-free travel in an underground tunnel that connected the Capitol to the new Russell Senate Office Building. The cars were named Tommy and Peggy, and sold for almost $3,000 apiece. Tommy and Peggy were unlike any other electric cars offered by the company. Studebaker needed to eliminate the need to turn around in the tunnel. With that in mind, Studebaker built the two cars with a pair of driver's seats apiece – one facing forward and one in reverse – both equipped with tiller steering. A single driver would operate the Studebakers over the 1/5-mile-long tunnel at a blistering 12 to 15 MPH top speed, unload his passengers, and then switch to the other seat to make the return trip. Seating both fore and aft of the driver's seats accommodated up to 12 passengers at a time.



Custom U.S. Capitol 1909 Studebaker electric car under restoration at Pennsylvania College of Tech.

Member Contributions

1902 Studebaker Electric (Continued)



One of two 1909 Studebaker electric cars built for underground use [Architect of the US capitol]

Studebaker produced a total of 1,841 Electrics, ending production in 1912.

Acknowledgements:

Studebaker and the Railroads Volume 1
Jan B Young
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James H Moloney 1994 Crestline Books

Studebaker Drivers Club, 2017 Forum

Member Contributions

The following is the first secretary report from when our Chapter was formed. Thank you to Belinda Scott for suggesting putting it in our newsletter.

September 7, 1975

On Sunday, September 7, 1975, about 40 people gathered in Randolph Park, Tucson, to organize the Southern Arizona Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club. Some members from the Grand Canyon Chapter and the Avanti Clubs were also there.

The weather didn't look too promising, but we had a pavilion, and spread out our food on a long table and enjoyed it. It was excellent pot luck and plenty of beverage. Before we had quite finished eating, the clouds opened directly above us. Soon it was slanting under our roof and forming a lake on the northwest side of our meeting place. We rearranged ourselves; however, and proceeded with election of officers. Chuck Naugle presiding the following officers were elected.

Arlyn Ballinger, President
Bill Treuman, Vice President
Marian Haswell, Secretary
Steve Stoner, Editor

Membership in the new Chapter is open to anyone in the State who is interested in joining. Membership dues are $6.00 a year. It is planned to have a Bulletin or a Newsletter every other month and as frequent meetings as the members desire.

By the time the business was finished, the sun came out, so we gathered up our dishes, admired each others cars and left for home, content that we started something good.

Marian B. Haswell,
Secretary.

Member Contributions

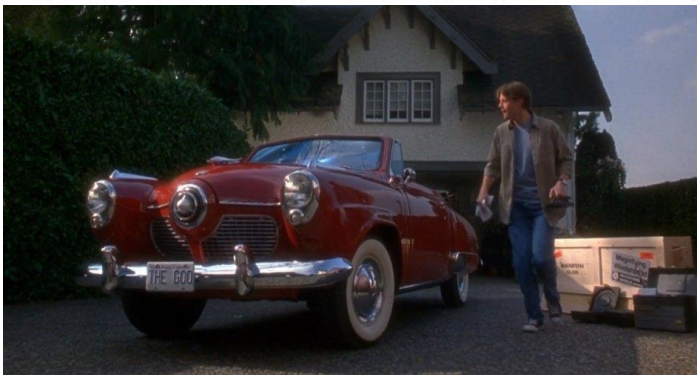
Word Search

By Larry Northington

Here is a special word search based on movies and TV shows with Studebakers. Sometimes the Studebaker is 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?
This word search is a little on the difficult side, with a lot of words with spaces removed.
Every word here is contained within the letter grid. Words in the list can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Words may be either forward or backward. Have fun!

AMERICAN**G**RAFFITI
ENIGMA
FRIGHT**N**IGHT
GATTACA
GREASE
HALLOWEEN
HOME**I**MPROVEMENT
INVENTING**T**HE**A**BBOTTS
IRON**G**IANT
MASK
MISCHIEF
MISTER**E**D
MR**M**AGOO
MURPHYS**R**OMANCE
PORKYS
QUICKSAND
RAINMAN
RAY
SUPERMAN
THE**C**OLOR**P**URPLE
THE**H**OT**S**POT
THE**M**UPPET**M**OVIE
SPONTANEOUS**C**OMBUSTION

S	T	D	Z	Q	T	E	B	B	M	S	I	Q	R	P	T	T	Q	W	M	S
A	P	K	F	M	G	N	L	N	W	V	N	B	H	F	Z	H	D	K	E	O
M	D	O	Z	Z	N	J	E	P	A	M	D	O	F	N	D	I	T	W	Q	R
E	N	E	N	V	K	I	G	M	R	M	A	G	O	O	X	A	B	E	Y	E
R	A	I	R	T	W	S	G	C	E	U	N	Y	R	V	Q	M	N	E	Y	Q
I	S	M	O	E	A	O	Y	B	P	V	P	I	J	E	O	Y	G	J	P	O
C	K	T	I	B	T	N	M	K	S	G	O	R	A	P	A	W	J	G	Z	F
A	C	G	P	S	N	S	E	U	R	M	A	R	O	R	L	S	K	M	C	W
N	I	V	C	Y	C	E	I	O	R	O	Y	T	P	L	A	U	E	Y	S	F
G	U	A	M	U	T	H	E	M	U	P	P	E	T	M	O	V	I	E	Q	I
R	Q	R	X	E	M	J	I	W	M	S	H	S	X	A	I	C	H	A	K	D
A	J	L	A	U	E	C	V	E	O	T	C	Y	O	S	C	E	E	O	R	Z
F	O	W	B	H	N	N	S	M	F	L	J	O	S	K	G	A	M	H	C	K
F	R	I	G	H	T	N	I	G	H	T	L	C	M	R	N	W	U	O	T	N
I	N	V	E	N	T	I	N	G	T	H	E	A	B	B	O	T	T	S	H	R
T	N	A	I	G	N	O	R	I	M	Q	N	B	H	M	U	M	G	Q	G	A
I	M	Z	I	R	X	G	A	K	N	A	M	R	E	P	U	S	A	A	J	H
C	O	J	Q	F	Y	K	F	T	O	P	S	T	O	H	E	H	T	N	D	P
E	K	A	T	O	B	F	C	Y	Z	F	A	P	A	Q	N	D	H	I	C	J
Z	F	U	S	Z	F	T	H	J	E	Y	A	N	Y	L	G	U	J	R	O	E
L	K	M	G	Z	Z	G	T	M	X	R	A	A	N	H	A	V	C	V	V	N



From the movie Mr. Magoo

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: 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

Don Laughlin's Classic Car Museums

By Larry Northington and Mike Borens



Did you know there is a beautiful car museum in Laughlin, Nevada? It is at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort Hotel and Casino. It is divided into two showrooms. The First Floor Showroom is home to an exciting collection of Desert Racing machines. The main showroom is located in the South Tower on the third floor and is home to the impressive Classic Auto Exhibition. Spanning approximately 30,000 square feet, this expansive gallery features a stunning glass curtain wall with commanding views of the Colorado River, creating a one of a kind backdrop for around 80 automotive masterpieces. And among the classic beauties are four Studebakers; a 1930 Four Door, a 1949 Champion Convertible, a 1963 Avanti R3, and a 1964 Avanti R2. Thank you to Mike Borens for passing these photos along from his trip to Laughlin.







Sponsors and Car Shows and Cruise Nights

StudebakerParts.com
The Online Studebaker Parts Store
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2700 E Magnolia Dr.
Gilbert, AZ 85298
P: 602-995-5311
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russ@StudebakerParts.com

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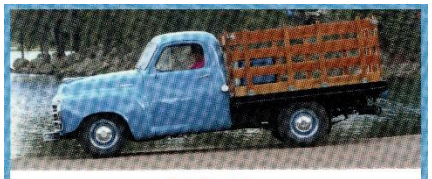
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Your Business Card Here!
$20 / Year

Car Shows and Cruise Nights

Sat, 19 Sep, 2026: Benson Classic Cars Off Main Car Show - 08:00 am to 02:00 pm at Lions Park, 435 N Adams St, Benson, AZ 85602. Email BensonCandB@gmail.com for a registration form. Early registration is $20.

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

