

The Copper Starlight

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

November / December 2025

VOLUME 52, ISSUE VI

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11

New Member Application

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/



International Drive Your Studebaker Day

By Larry Northington

"Drive your Stude and turn some heads". And we did. Our annual Drive Your Studebaker Day on September 13th was a great success. The Southern Arizona Chapter held the IDYSD at the Rolling Thru Time Museum in Tucson. Some of us started the adventure by fueling up with breakfast at Denny's near the airport, which turned out to be really good. Then, off to the museum.

I didn't know what to expect at the museum, but wow ohh wow, it was incredible. I had heard that there were a lot of very old Fords. That's an understatement. There were over 250 cars, and yes, most of them were Fords. However, there was a nice combination of other cars and trucks to peak your interest no matter what kind of car you really like, including fire trucks, tractors, and a variety of cars from non-Fords, including a Studebaker Avanti. There was even a submarine (sort of). The submarine was a prop from the spy/action movie xXx, but very cool looking.

One of the highlights of the museum was all the Studebakers that were out front. We had a nice showing from our chapter members, including Randy and Donna Goble with their '50 Champion Starlight; Jerry and June Kaiser with their '59 Pickup Deluxe; Bob Loshbough with his '61 Champ Pickup; Aaron and Belinda Scott with their '63 Champ Pickup; Larry and Dee Northington with their '54 Commander; Lou Fencl with his '56 Transtar; Paul Storm with his '62 Lark; Bob Lanz with his '62 Lark Daytona, John L. Lewis with his '64 Hawk GT, and a beautiful GT Hawk with California license plates. The owners introduced themselves, but I slept since then and I completely forgot their names. If anyone remembers, please let me know.

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



Birthday Wishes

November

2 Tim Stevens 15 Belinda Scott 23 Larry Robinson 23 Pat Robinson

December

- 1 Gail Williams
- 3 Bill Eastburn
- 4 Rosalie Torske
- 5 John L. Lewis
- 6 Janice Noble 19 Chuck Alianza
- 26 Darel Magee
- 28 Russ Ware







Anniversary Wishes

November

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

December

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



Message from Our President:

Dear Studebaker Members:

I hope this note finds you all enjoying the cooler temperatures and getting ready for Halloween! It is so much more fun to drive your Studebaker in the colder weather.

We have had several get togethers in the last few months. On Drive Your Studebaker Day, we had an enjoyable breakfast at Denny's then we traveled in



Ann Pearson

procession to Rolling Thru Time. It was amazing to see all of the antique vehicles, including the farm equipment and machinery. We also had a Board Meeting last week at The Hungry Fox. Paul Storm drove his beautiful New Studebaker truck. Congratulations Paul!

It has been so nice to be able to communicate in a few new ways with Facebook and our website. Thank you to Belinda Scott for navigating Facebook and Bob Lanz for implementing the new website.

We have had two get togethers planned in the next two months. John Lewis will be hosting our Thanksgiving potluck at the Far Horizons' Clubhouse on November 15th, and the Christmas party will be at my house on December 7th.

I do hope to see you all soon,

Ann Pearson

From the Editors:

Dee and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We had friends and family visit from out of state to help celebrate, many who had not seen our Studebaker since it was restored. It was fun to show it off and give rides in it. Some had actually ridden in it over 50 years ago. Such a memory blast.



Dee and I are leaving for a trip to Patagonia in South America in mid November. Unfortunately, we will miss the Thanksgiving Potluck. The potluck is always something we look forward to. We hope to see everyone at our Chapter's Christmas gathering.

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 to Fred Gooch, Belinda Scott, and Steve and Gail Ault for the contributions, and to Donna Goble for proofreading. The quote on page 1 "Drive your Stude and turn some heads" was borrowed from Dan Brown, the president of the Inland Northwest Chapter.

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

February 9

on: November 10,

Board Meetings: 11:30 am, Hungry Fox Restaurant, 4637 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ.

520-326-2835.

(Normally the second Monday of the month, however we are skipping December and January)

November 7-9, 2025

Helping at the Ball-Paylore House Museum: This historic place in Tucson displays a Studebaker Lark. Our Chapter volunteered to assist preparing the Lark for Tucson Modernism week at the Ball-Paylore house, 2306 E Waverly St, Tucson, AZ 85719. Let's help the community learn about Studebakers. If you would like to volunteer, we are going to have a table set up at this location. Contact Paul Storm paulstorm@comcast.net for more information. We could really use volunteers for this.

Saturday. November 15, 2025 12:30 - 4:00 pm

Thanksgiving Pot Luck: Join us at John L. Lewis' digs at Far Horizons East, 7570 E Speedway in the Community Room. Far Horizons entrance is on the south side of Speedway between Kolb and Pantano, where the emergency light is across from the fire station. 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. Please RSVP to Belinda by November 12, if you are attending, so we can give a list of names to the security gate. Please plan on eating great food, and of course winning the 50/50!

Sunday. December 7, 2025 12:00 pm

Christmas Pot Luck: 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.I.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 18, 2026 12:00 pm

The SAC/SDC Annual Banquet: The SAC/SDC Annual Banquet will be held at John L. Lewis' digs at Far Horizons East, 7570 E Speedway in the Community Room. Food will be catered by El Molinito. Cost will be \$15 per person. You can either send in the money to the Club P.O. Box or pay at the banquet, so please RSVP to Randy at dgrg0823@comcast.net by January 12.

See page 10 for other upcoming events of interest.

Reminder: Chapter Dues are due January 1

The dues are only \$19 with a mailed copy of the newsletter, or \$15 with an emailed newsletter.

Mail to:

Southern Arizona Chapter SDC

PO Box 12913

Tucson, AZ 85732

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 International Drive Your Studebaker Day



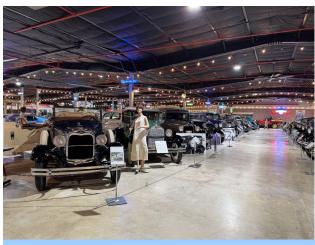
Fueling up for the Big Event



Getting ready to head into the museum



More wood spoked wheels than I have ever seen



Vast and very well done



Three of at least a dozen fire trucks



The tracks on the right represent the assembly line

South Central Zone Meet By Belinda Scott

Aaron and I were visiting my mother, Peggy Thompson, in northeast Oklahoma when the South-Central Zone Meet was held on October 4, 2025. Nancy Kimbrough, the secretary for the Northeast Oklahoma Chapter (NEOC), was kind enough to let us register and join their banquet as late registrants. They had 18 Studebakers, ranging from a 1942 coupe to 1966 Daytona. My mother's favorite car was the 1955 President. Everyone there was very kind and welcoming. We found ourselves sitting with Don and Jesse Sutherland from the Central Oklahoma Chapter, Ray Chartrand from the North Texas Chapter (NTC), another gentleman from Texas, and a couple, whose names I did not get. Ray Chartrand spoke about the plans for the next International Meet in Waxahachie, Texas. The NTC is planning a lot for the four-day meet. Aaron and I won the "Long Distance" award for traveling the furthest to be at the meet. The awards were made by members of the NEOC, with one doing the metalwork and welding, and another doing the plaques, laser cut, and woodworking. While we were at the banquet, we found out the NEOC would be disbanding after the meet. They had four members filling eight officer positions and twelve members total. Even with that knowledge, the NEOC put on a wonderful meet that we enjoyed.







Aaron and Belinda win the award for traveling the longest distance!

The Tucson Classics Car Show By Larry Northington and Belinda Scott

On Saturday October 18, the 19th Annual Tucson Classics Car Show presented by The Rotary Club of Tucson was held at The Gregory School. There were approximately 400 Beautiful Classic and Collectable Cars there, including two Studebakers: Jim Carroll's customized '53 Champion from Sahuarita and Belinda's '63 Champ.





Black Hills Labor Day Event - August 29-31, 2025 By Steve and Gail Ault

Our time volunteering at the Medora Musical in North Dakota is over as is our favorite SDC Labor Day car event, the Black Hills Labor Day Event in Custer, South Dakota. This year's is the 47th Event. Many cars that frequently return to the Labor Day Event were there this year but some new-to-us were there for our enjoyment. The Friday night welcome party was cool but well attended as was the Saturday pancake breakfast, thanks to those club members who work hard to make all this come off smoothly.

The 'Run Through the Hills' started at 10am with only eleven of us (half of those that started) returning by



4pm. The show was on a perfect sunny Sunday and concluded shortly after 2pm with a localized rain shower waiting 'til 2:20pm. There were 889 ballots and 40 cars from seven states and viewers from 36 states and nine foreign countries!! The evening banquet saw many awards presented and included a celebration of the upcoming 96th birthday of Southern Arizona Chapter member Jim Hill.

This small club does such a fine job of the event. With this being the 47th annual I'm hoping we'll be able, and they as well, to celebrate their 50th in 2028!! But - next year will be special and include the Zone Meet, which will hopefully bring even more cars than those shown on Sunday. The 2026 Labor Day Meet in Custer will be September 4-6, so mark your calendars.









A little pre-celebration for Jim Hill's 96th Birthday!



Sob Miles on a side excursion to see Mt Rushmore

\$3,208.45 By Fred Gooch

Can you imagine buying a new car for \$3,208.45? Especially a high-quality desirable car like a STUDEBAKER! Well, a very lucky person bought this 1961 Studebaker Skytop for that price in April 1961, and we were lucky to be able to purchase the same car in Oct 2000 for almost the same price.

Being a fully addicted Studebaker person, I paid First Class postage on our Turning Wheels partly to receive it protected in an envelope but mainly to find cars and parts a few days before anyone else. That strategy paid off when I received the Oct 2000 Turning Wheels with an ad for the 1961 Skytop which we were able to buy a few days later. The car was equipped with 259 V8 (serial # V529606), automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, radio, backup lights, 3:07 differential and several other desirable options.

Previously the Lark had been owned by Orville Ridgeway and then Irby Ridgewood in the Alabama area. I had lived in Leeds, Alabama in 1953 where my father was employed by a garment manufacturing company in the position of Foreman. The industrial sewing machines Must run from 8AM to 5PM or the Foreman must answer to the Big Mucky-Muks. My Father was hired due to his previous experience and because my mom was an expert seamstress who would fill in any vacancy on the sewing machines. Mom told me that after getting the phone call to come to work she could take the child (me) downstairs to the landlady-baby sitter, hail a cab and be at work in less than 20 minutes. Apparently, Superman was not as fast as Mom!

Back to the Skytop. The current owner was Max Self, the Regional Director for SDC in the Alabama area. Being a welder by trade and in the Studebaker hobby, Max was looking for a project. The car was somewhat rare and nicely optioned but had tinworm issues - right down Max's alley so to speak. Max purchased the car in 1999 and began work.

Even though the V8 engine only had 52,677 miles he replaced rings, bearings, gaskets, seals and did a valve job. Other work included rebuilding power brake booster-master cylinder-all wheel cylinders and power steering pump. Then came four new tires-battery-dual exhaust-H20 pump-fuel pump-four door panels-all brake linings-trans front and rear seals and fluid. Also, Max purchased a new Skytop material and door rope.

There was damage on the rear panel between the gas door and taillight plus the tinworn had infected both front floorboards, left rear door skin, both rear fenders and right front fender next to the door. Max cut out those 7 pieces, welded in new panels and repainted the car in the original Autumn Haze. This was a dream come true for me! We had the car shipped and discovered it was better than advertised! While the Skytop looked GOOD, and ran and stopped good, it needed many things to be a good daily driver.

I had forgotten how much Nora helped me on this car. She had just come to the US in 1999, survived my two surgeries and started work helping me on the Lark. We had a party at our place and Ken Mooney met Nora and instantly told me she was a KEEPER! Very true words. We changed all the H20 hoses, PS hoses and fluids but the big job was adding air cond. In order to get the new AC compressor low enough so hood would not hit we had to notch the bracket so it would clear the valve cover. I have seen some aftermarket AC conversions where the installer would put a dent in the valve cover with a large hammer, but Nora decided that was TACKY! While we were mocking up the comp bracket, we realized that there was no way to change the H20 pump small hose so installed a 6"pipe nipple so that hose clamp was accessible. Then we looked at a Lark with AC, measured the firewall and took pics so we could drill our firewall for AC hoses and install rubber grommets. (Continued on next page)

Continued from Previous Page

With the radiator off we installed three fan belt pulleys on crank and H20 pump. Now time to do the evaporator (read under dash piece). I had in stock a 1961 black AC-took it to Az Auto Refrigeration to test for leaks-it was damaged, so we hit pause on the AC project for a minute.

Jerry Kaiser provided us with 5-5" wide wheels from a 1951 Commander which we cleaned and painted and had the new tires from Max mounted and balanced. We were still trying to figure out what to do about AC, so we worked on the oil filter. Studebaker mounts the oil filter right side up so when you change oil you have to put thick rags under the filter to stop oil from draining on the valley cover and front of engine. Very messy. Someone taught me to reverse and raise the oil filter bracket, and the problem is solved.

After all this work we were getting excited to drive the car but needed to finish the AC. The engine only had 10 miles on Max's rebuild and we had started it several times but never driven it out of garage. I had called Dennis at SASCO (Studebaker Sales and Service Company) and he had found a NOS 1963-64 evaporator for \$300. We decided to bite the bullet and get this car on the road.

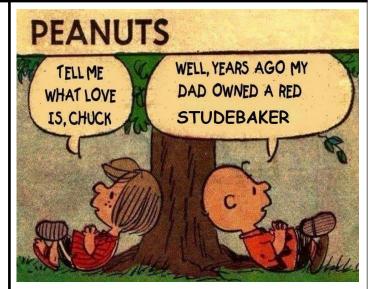
One last job to do, the front suspension A arm bushings. I was not a fan of the stock steel-rubber-steel bushings and had met a retired engineer in Southern California who had designed urethane bushings for Studes. I bought a set for our 1962 GT Hawk several years earlier and was really pleased with the result. Later on, the engineer called me and said he had cancer and asked did I still want to take over his bushing business. Yes. I took an A-arm to a friend who owned a machine shop and discussed the situation with him. He suggested changing material to Delrin, a space age material, and cutting a concentric circle in the center of bushing and drilling for a grease zerk so that shaft would never rust. *Voilà*! We had these bushings installed in some good used A-arms and put them on the Skytop. Next was front end alignment and then charge the AC. To my surprise there were no leaks and AC blew cold. Now we were ready to enjoy the fruit of our labor. And after all that Nora stayed with me and we will celebrate 28 years in January. Go Figure!

On a side note about the bushings, Russ Ware and his Fabulous wife sell those bushings at their Studebaker store.

Ed Reynolds told me that his father Ed Reynolds senior who worked at Studebaker was loaned a 1961 Lark Skytop Autumn Haze as a demonstrator in 1961. Possibly this is the same car.

Fred Gooch







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: '64 GT Hawk

Very late production. Looks and runs great. \$14,000 OBO.

Bruce 520 586-0403

For Sale: '64 Cruiser PS/PB (Disc)/AT, solid, \$4,500 OBO.

Also, a '63 Cruiser (not running).

Superchargers: two good re-built ones, some that need rebuilt - prices vary, two 289 Engines (full flow), manifolds, distributors, transmissions (three OD, and a Five Speed Chevy), several carburetors, 53 Henry J (no engine or transmission). Lots of stuff, just call and I'll see if I have it. Bruce 520 586-0403

For Sale: Studebaker 6 bladed cooling fan. Should fit most V8 engines 1951-1964. \$25 OBO

New in box Magnetic mount towing lights. Wiring harness plugs into your tow vehicle so that you have turn signals & brake lights. \$25 OBO Buick Skylark script-2 pair for different years-good condition all tabs good \$25 for all 4 pieces OBO

Contact Fred Gooch at 520-883-7418 or nora.gooch@yahoo.com for pics or questions.

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

More playing around with AI image creation using ChatGPT. Here are two creations using a picture of Randy and Donna Goble's 1950 Champion: Larry Northington





SPONSORS AND CAR SHOWS AND CRUISE NIGHTS



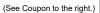








For SAC Member recommended Sales and Services, call our local sponsors first.





Grease Monkey 3355 East Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85716 (520) 323-0779 Telephone (520) 323-0784 Fax

tollar65@outlook.com

Tom Ollar

General Manager



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

November 8: Truly Nolen Car Show: Registration is online only. The cost of registration is a new unwrapped toy the day of the show. Belinda Scott is registered for the car show. Contact her at Belinda.L.Thompson4@gmail.com if you would like more information.

<u>December 14: Truly Nolen Car Show</u>: The 14th Annual Don Medoff Memorial Car Show & Toy Drive, 6151 S Tucson Blvd, Tucson. The cost of registration is a new unwrapped toy the day of the show. Contact Information: Jesus 520-390-3434, or Wallo 520-270-2122



To register, scan this QR Code:

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.

<u>Fridays:</u> 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: https://carnuts.org/, and in the state of AZ: https://carnuts.org/,

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: _____ 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

