

The Copper Starlight

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

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2021-2022 Officers:

President - Randy Goble

VP/Tourmaster - John L. Lewis

Treasurer /Membership & Contributions- Bob Miles

Secretary - Marj Scooros

Past President - Chuck Stanford

Historian - Bruce Sandburg

Newsletter Editors – Larry & Dee Northington

Webmaster – Marj Scooros

Website: https://soazsdc.org/

THE RETURN OF THE DWARF (AR)

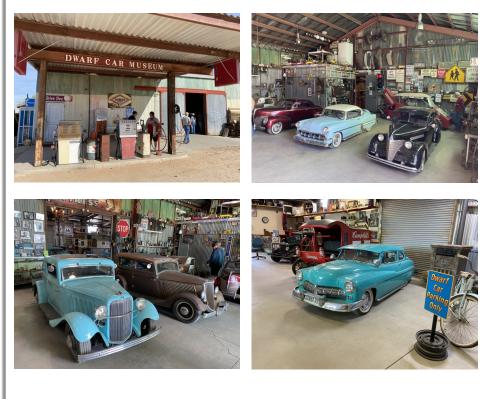
By fred Gooch

I have been driving the '37 about once a week, plus it ran good on the Thanksgiving trip to John Lewis' home so we decided to drive it to The Dwarf Car Museum outing. We got up at 6:15-started '37-packed & off we went to Cracker Barrel. Traffic was bad in Green Valley and not '37 friendly in Tucson but with help of navigator Nora we made it to the Cracker Barrel. Twelve of us showed up for Great food-Better conversation plus all the wall art!

Today was my first chance to model my new Levi-Studebaker jacket. I had an old one that Nora put car patches on but after years of service it wore out. Nora bought me a new Levi jacket-removed the car patches from other jacket, and she & her sister Charina sewed patches on the new jacket. WOW!

We bought the '37 in 1995 with 97,620 miles. On the way to the museum we passed 127,620 miles. For many years we did not have any modern cars & put 100 to 150,000 miles on four old cars. I can only imagine what Nora must have thought when she married me in 1998. Her first car was a 1964 Avanti which took 3rd place at Bakersfield Studebaker show.

(Continued on Page 8)



Randy Goble

Birthday Wishes



January 1 Delores Shurtz 3 Hugh Adam

- 5 Nora Gooch 8 Dan Enwright 16 Bob Miles 16 Lenny Olsen 18 Brian Kovac 21 Bart Weaver 25 Leann Storm
- 31 Jim Thompson
- 31 Sherry Watson

February

4 Stan Luczycki 5 Linda Smith 20 Cynthia Adam 23 Kathy McKee 25 TJ Johnson 27 Gilda Eneboe 27 Carol Witherspoon 29 Carl Holmberg

Anniversary Wishes

January

Jim Hill and Virginia Stuart
 Rosalie Torske and Jim Nereau
 Richie and Delores Fein
 Stan and Charlotte Luczycki
 Ed and Linda Smith
 TJ and Char Johnson
 Fred and Nora Gooch
 Rosalie Torske and Jim Nereau

February

8 Robert and Eileen Loshbough



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Greetings,

The weather cooperated nicely for both of our chapter holiday gatherings. Big thanks to our host John L. Lewis and Ed Nelson for welcoming our bunch into their homes. Also, thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen for all the great sides to go along with our turkey. I think that Gloria Schmetzer did a fine job of coordinating the menu, thank you. On a personal note, I put away enough food for a week at each of our dinners. It's a good thing I have projects going on (foreign and domestic) to burn up those extra calories.

What's coming up for next year? First up is the annual Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel on east Grant Road. We plan to

have a raffle, door prizes and awards during the meeting after the buffet dinner. Just like last year, a smaller group is anticipated. So, at this time no auction has been planned. That being said we are required to have around 50 people prepaid one week prior to date in order to avoid having to cancel the event with the hotel. Costs and information included in the newsletter calendar. Also, in the calendar you will find information on the March Gathering at Freddy's on Orange Grove Road.

I conclude my message by being optimistic, that next year will only get better. As our last few gatherings can attest, we have so much comradery surrounding an automobile manufacturer that will probably be forgotten in another 2 decades.

Hope your holidays were great.

Randy

PS. Who knew that pickled herring was a traditional Norwegian Christmas appetizer?

From the Editors:

Dear Members:

Our second newsletter brings a closure to 2021. Happy New Year! We hope you find this newsletter informative and a little entertaining, especially for those that could not make it to any of the events. Sadly, our outing to the Gaslight Theatre was postponed until December 27th, so the event wasn't included in this newsletter.



If all goes well, our next newsletter will have an article of our '54 Commander back on the road.

Thank you to Donna Goble for proofreading and to Fred Gooch, and Gloria Schmetzer for submissions and Photos. Also included is an article from Pete Rutledge, Newsletter Editor of the Potomac Chapter.

Dee and Larry Northington, SAC/SDC Newsletter Editors

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual SAC Banquet: Our annual meeting and buffet luncheon will be held this year at the Sheraton, 5151 E Grant Road. Meet at 11:00 AM, and eat at noon. There will be a salad, 2 Main Course entrees, 2 Side dishes, and 2 desserts. Gluten free will be available. A fantastic bargain at \$35 per person, and we are looking for a great turn-out this year. Just send a check to the following:	
Southern Arizona Chapter, SDC	
PO Box 12913 Tucson, AZ 85732	
Please RSVP by January 17, 2022.	
Plan ahead, the banquet is a good time to renew membership; \$15.00 for email and \$18.00 for hard copy of the newsletter.	
Lunch At The Mesquite Grill At SaddleBrooke : We'll have a lunch at The Grill at 11:30. Address is 38691 S. Mountain View Blvd. 520-825-0191. Best way to get there is exit off of Oracle Rd. at Golder Ranch Rd. East to Lago Del Oro and turn North. Go until you come to the SaddleBrooke sign, and turn left, go West just a short distance and you will see the Mesquite Grill sign on the right, and you are there. Any questions contact John L. Lewis lewishoot@cox.net.	
<u>Studebaker March Gathering:</u> Calling all Studebaker's, come one, come all. The Southern Arizona Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club will be hosting Studebaker March Gathering at Freddy's Frozen Custard / Steakburgers, located at 3725 West Orange Grove Rd., Marana, Az. in the Marana Marketplace located at Orange Grove and Thornydale Rd. Convenient access from the I-10 exit at Orange Grove. In addition to the cars and food, Freddy's will have complimentary frozen custards, There is also shopping available. Start time will be at 10:00 A.M. and expected to go until 2:00 P. M. Prizes for cars, peoples choice and raffle items, and 50 /50 cash prizes.	
Contact John L. Lewis at lewishoot@cox.net or 520-954-0904.	
Bring your valve cover race car and compete to win a trophy. Please bring your own chairs.	
<pre>***Notice: John L. Lewis sent around a reminder that everyone should have an approved fire extinguisher displayed at your left front wheel during all meets in the future. 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.</pre>	

RECENT CHAPTER EVENTS

Thanksgiving Potluck November 14, 2021

On November 14, 2021, forty-one members attended the potluck lunch hosted by John L Lewis (Thank you John L!). It was a picture perfect day, with a turkey cooking in the deep fryer, and a tremendous amount of food brought by the members. The driveway was filled with Studebakers, and more on the street. Everyone had a full belly and a smile on their face. Members in attendance included: Keith and Marie Ambs; Steve and Gail Ault; Duane Cowan; Tory Cowan; Deb Crooks; Lou Fencl; Randy and Donna Goble; Fred and Nora Gooch; Mike Hodges; John L Lewis and Barbara Bemer; Bob and Eileen Loshbough; Stan and Charlotte Luczycki; Bob Miles; Ed and Joshua and Breanna Nelson; John and Jan Noble; Larry and Dee Northington; Gary and Connie Olsen; Ann Pearson; Gary and Pam Pryor; Bruce Sandburg and Delores Shurtz; Gloria Schmetzer and Alice de Buhr; Gary and Gayle Spies; Chuck and Louise Stanford.

See the back page for additional pictures of the beautiful Studebakers



A beautiful day for a Studebaker gathering



What a spread!



Conversation before the feast



Not so much conversation during the feast



Nora's smile says it all



RECENT CHAPTER EVENTS

Christmas Potluck December 12, 2021

Wow, two great potlucks a month apart. And, thanks to the fantastic Tucson weather during the last part of the year, we thoroughly enjoyed eating outside. Twenty six members and friends attended the potluck lunch hosted by Ed Nelson and his family (Thank you Ed!). The variety of food was incredible, and everything was delicious. (The rum balls would knock you off your feet). The driveway was lined with Studebakers, and at least one passing car stopped just to admire the beautiful old vehicles. There was a generous 50/50 won by Nora Gooch, and a Door Prize of a slip on gas pedal won by Chuck Stanford. Members in attendance included: Deb Crooks; Lou Fencl; Randy and Donna Goble; Fred and Nora Gooch; Mike Hodges; John L Lewis; Bob and Eileen Loshbough; Bob Miles; Ed and Joshua and Breanna Nelson; John and Jan Noble; Larry and Dee Northington; Ann Pearson; Gary Pryor; Bruce Sandburg and Delores Shurtz; Gloria Schmetzer and Alice de Buhr; Chuck and Louise Stanford.



Gathering near the food



Gloria Schmetzer's '63 Hawk, Bob Loshbough's '61 Champ Pickup, and Fred Gooch's '37 Dictator Coupe



Ed Nelson and Bob Miles with Ed's '58 Golden Hawk, and Bob's '57 Golden Hawk



What a beautiful day for an outdoor feast!



Ann Pearson with her `62 GT Hawk



Most members made it in the group photo

See the back page for additional pictures of the beautiful Studebakers

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

An Alice Cooper Avanti on History Channel's "Counting Cars" Show by Pete Rutledge

George Hamlin tipped me off about "Counting Cars" having an episode on Alice Cooper's Avanti. When I investigated it, I found there were actually two episodes; they are Season 9, Episode 10 and Season 10, Episode 1. "Counting Cars" is a continuing series of 1-hour shows on the cable channel known as The History Channel.

According to Wikipedia, "Alice Cooper (born Vincent Damon Furnier, February 4, 1948) is an American singer,

songwriter, and actor whose career spans over 50 years. With a raspy voice and a stage show that features numerous props and stage illusions, including pyrotechnics, guillotines, electric chairs, fake blood, reptiles, baby dolls, and dueling swords."

Thanks to Bob Johnstone's web site, we know about one of Cooper's Avanti, a black '64 model. Follow this link for more on this car:

https://studebaker-info.org/AVDB1/R5000/64R5203/64r5203.html





In Season 9, Episode 10 (original air date of 10/21/20), Alice brings another Avanti, a white '63 model with turquoise interior, to the auto shop, Count's Kustoms, featured on "Counting Cars." It appears to be all original, at least externally (apparently it is an R1, lacking a "Supercharged" emblem on the side). He explains that he's had the car for about 10 years after he found it in Portland, OR. He explains that, according to the FBI, the car was once involved with a Soviet spy. He wants to make the car a reliable daily driver. He asks the shop guys to replace the 289 engine (because "you know they overheat like that") and to preserve its original exterior good looks. He gives them no time limit for the makeover. Between this episode and the next one, all the work takes place.



In Season 10, Episode 1 (airdate 9/15/21), we learn that the shop technicians initially proposed to put a Chevy engine in the car, but their boss advised them that Alice is a hardcore Ford guy (it seems to me, he's also a Studebaker guy), implying that a Ford engine is the only option. The trouble is that the lower part of the Ford small block engine is right where the Avanti's front cross-member is located. The solution is to cut off the front of the Studebaker frame (oh, my) and graft on the front of a Ford frame. This sacrilege (my opinion) will make the Ford engine a perfect fit, as well as providing a modern front suspension, brakes, and steering. (Continued next page)

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

(Continued from the previous page)

The body was stripped with paint remover and repainted white. Can you believe that *they left the "Studebaker" nameplate off the trunklid? (Another sacrilege!)* The interior was completely reupholstered in the original pattern in turquoise (they said that the original upholstery, while looking reasonably nice, was not repairable). Chrome wire wheels and white wall tires replaced the original wheels and wheel covers (in my opinion, the rear wheels have too much offset and protrude too much from the rear wheel wells). The engine was replaced with a 302 Ford producing about 330hp. The original automatic transmission was replaced with a Ford overdrive transmission. They lowered the car (2" in front and 3" in rear) and it appears to have disk brakes all around. They left off the elegant Strat-O-Vue mirror (another sacrilege). Cooper says he may call it "The Countess" (a reference to a vampire in white). During the discussion with the shop people, Cooper says that the designer of the Avanti also designed the Barbie Doll and the Lear Jet (false as far as I know). Throughout the "Counting Cars" adventures about this car, Cooper never mentioned owning the Avanti we have on Bob's web site; in fact, it's more like he talks about this car as his first and only Avanti. (Interesting.)



Incidentally, I have Verizon cable TV. The newer episode is available On Demand for free. The older episode is available On Demand for \$1.99. They may be available from other cable providers, as well. The newer, free episode would be well worth watching (even if it cost \$1.99).

(Re-printed by permission from Pete Rutledge, Newsletter Editor of the Potomac Chapter, SDC)

RECENT CHAPTER EVENTS

THE RETURN OF THE DWARF CARS by Fred Gooch (Continued from Page 1)

I believe this is the club's 3rd trip to The Dwarf Car Museum & it was Great! Ernie Adams & Gene Tweedy were our hosts & put up with all our questions. The inside of the museum walls were covered with hubcaps-tools-signs & everything an old car nut could dream of.

Gene was building a dwarf 1964 Chevrolet Impala convertible which brought back memories of the 1964 Belair my wife & I redid for her father back in the 70's. Gene's 64 used leaf springs from a yard trailer & for power-a 4 cyl Toyota engine with a split exhaust manifold & dual pipes.

Ernie's first car was a 1928 Chevrolet which he started in 1962 & finished in 3 years. It used parts from 9 reefers (read fridge) & was powered by a 18 HP Wisconsin air cooled engine.

In 1962 Ernie started collecting parts for his first car now named Grampa Dwarf & now at 80 does not seem to be slowing down. After leaving the museum we toured a few miles to the Gift Shop. Good thing we all had gas as our hard earned cash disappeared at the gift shop.

Next on the agenda was lunch at Raceway Neighborhood Bar & Grill. The inside of the Bar was decorated with many car parts & signs including a V8 head hanging from the ceiling. Glad I was not sitting under it. The Grill had set our table up prior to our arrival but another large group came in just before us & commandeered the table. Oh well-another table was set up quickly so we did not starve; again we enjoyed Great food-service & conversation. After lunch Nora & I asked John Lewis to lead us to I-10 & then he could head on home at a faster speed in his 1961 Hawk. After John left we decided to get gas & the radiator rewarded us by emptying our new antifreeze on the ground. Apparently I did not do as good a job on flushing the cooling system last week as I thought. The car temp went up over 212 degrees so we let it cool down & then headed home. Sure felt good to get back to Green Valley after 11 hours & 256 miles.

A super shout to John Lewis for another great outing.



Three Studebakers made the long trip: Lou Fencl's '56 Transtar, John L Lewis's '61 Hawk, and Fred and Nora Gooch's '37 Dictator Custom Coupe



A 1942 Ford Deluxe Convertible (Dwarf Replica)

John L puts the size of the car in perspective.

Most of the car was hand fabricated by the owner.

Amazing!



Checking out the cars:



The hungry travelers

STUDEBAKER ADS ~ WANTED AND FOR SALE OR TRADE (AND MISC)

<u>Wanted:</u> 1957- 1959 Silver Hawk. Contact Connie Olsen: 702-540-6218, <u>house@go-olsen.com</u>

<u>Wanted</u>: Dealership license plate frames, such as, Frost & French or Palm Springs Studebaker. Fred Gooch 520-883-7418, email nora.gooch@yahoo.com

<u>Wanted</u>: Two Studebaker emblems or letters (don't care about year or model) for plaque. Contact Steve Ault: email gsajourney@yahoo.com or phone or text 520 603 5342.

For Sale: Studebaker models: Beautiful '57 Studebaker Golden Hawk model in original box like new, \$60.00. Call Joyce Mooney at 520-977-7864.

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: 1953 Studebaker Commander 232 CID engine long block. Bell housing, clutch disc, pressure plate and fly wheel are attached to the block and included. The bell housing fits a 3-speed manual transmission. This engine was a running engine when purchased some years ago. The engine turns over freely. The block serial No. is V263234. \$300.00. Call John Noble at 505-670-4180 or email: <u>slowbull1868@gmail.com</u>

For Sale: 1950 2 door Champion. Garaged for the last 25 years. \$3,000.00. Call Bill Mc Learran at 520-400-0522.

For Beautiful Studebaker Steering Wheel Covers Contact Marj Scooros

marjsbaubles@yahoo.com One for \$20.00, two or more \$15.00 each.

For orders, the diameter of the steering wheel is needed along with the year, model and color of the car.



For Sale: Two New Tan Studebaker seatbelts with Studebaker emblem, with all hardware. \$30.00 each. Email John L. Lewis at, <u>lewishoot@cox.net</u> or call 520-954-0904

For Sale: 1931 Studebaker Commander Model 70, 8 cylinder, 4door Regal sedan. It has the 3-speed manual freewheeling transmission. It has six color matched spoked wheels, and two new billet machined rear drive axles. It also has a new custom fuel tank, and has huge ovaloid headlights. Included is also a huge wooden

trunk. \$20,000 obo. Contact Annette Young at 951-258-6021, or email: nettie1119@gmail.com



For Sale: 1947 4 Door Champion. Wheels powder coated, new Firestone tires, rebuilt carburetor, new fuel pump, rebuilt starter, and new radiator core. Motor runs. Needs radiator hoses, only run

engine for a few minutes to hear it. No brakes, Paint not good shape, and windows are there but broken.

\$4,500. Call Maxx Decruz in Benson, Az 520-254-2422 or email <u>xdirsadc@att.net</u>



Hawk with a broken wing (or Bah Hum)

Not for sale (yet?), but what's wrong with this picture? The wheel is off the car, and the hubcap is still on. The wheel is laying on the ground, but not flat! Poor Bob Miles' '57 Golden Hawk has a broken axle. Hopefully back on the road soon.



SPONSORS AND CRUISE NIGHTS



Car Shows and Cruise Nights

Saturday January 6 is the Casa Grande Thunderfest Car Show - Visit www.crossroadscg.com/thunderfest21 for details

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.

<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 website for future car shows: https://littleanthonysdiner.com/car-shows

Arizona Car Shows | AutoCarShow.Events https://autocarshow.events/car-shows/united-states/arizona/

For more fun events go to: http://www.carnuts.org And in the state of AZ: http://www.cruisinarizona.com/

Speedway Antique Mall Cruise-In Nights, 5045 East Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona: Cars usually start showing up at 4:30 p.m. Actual start time is 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Second Saturdays of the month. Call Ray for information at 520-404-5090.

The Gaslight Music Hall in Oro Valley. Please check the website for future dates, email <u>heather.gaslight@gmail</u>. Nothing scheduled at this time for car shows.) Concerts will be held on selected evenings outdoors at 5:30 p.m. Please check the website. Bring your own blanket.

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) Complete the mem- bership application below. 2) Write a check or mon- ey order for \$15 for a full year, payable to Southern Arizona Chapter, SDC. This includes an e-mailed copy of The Copper Starlight. An additional charge of \$3.00 required for a mailed copy of the newslet- ter. 3) Enclose an additional \$29.00 if you are a new SDC member or the amount for one of the categories below if you are a returning member. 4) Mail to Membership Director: Southern Arizona Chapter of The Studebaker Drivers Club PO Box 12913 Tucson, AZ 85732	Application Form Southern Arizona Chapter Studebaker Drivers National SDC Member#: Expires: You must be a member of SDC to join SAC. T application will not be accepted without your St debaker Drivers Club National Number. Name: Spouse: Other family members: Address:State:Zip: Phone:	Wedding anniversary:
Membership Pin - (specify year-pin) Prices (10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50 years)	1 3 5 year years years Total Total \$29 na na class mail \$36 \$99 \$161 nail \$62 \$183 \$300 o 22 yrs old) \$29 \$87 \$145 Wheels \$12 \$36 \$60 T SDC \$29 \$87 \$145 \$46 na na \$ class mail	To join SDC, complete the application, send with check or money order in US funds to: The Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1715, Maple Grove MN 55311-6715 Or use VISA or Master Card, call 763-420-7829, or Fax 763-420-7849 or Email: sdc@ cornerstonereg.com for information. Or visit: www.studebakerdrivesclub.com Call or write with change of address. • DO NOT send ads with your membership; • ALL members of local SDC chapters must also be national SDC members. lame (first) (last) pouse city State masterCard Discover new member, source of referral : renewal, month due: Please list your Studebakers, including year, model, body style, serial numbers, on a separate page.



HIC (OPP(R ∫TARLIGH) OF HIC ∫AC/∫DC 8935 S PLACITA PASTURA VAIL, ARIZONA 85641

Additional Photos of the Studebakers at the Potlucks

<image>

L-R: John L Lewis's '61 Hawk, Bob and Eileen Loshbough's '61 Champ, and Stan and Charlotte Luczyski's '63 Avanti



Gloria Schmetzer's '63 Hawk



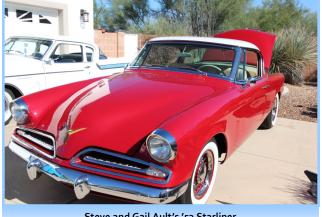
Fred and Nora Gooch's 1937 Dictator Custom Coupe



Bob Miles's `57 Golden Hawk



Lou Fencl's `56 Transtar



Steve and Gail Ault's '53 Starliner