



# BRICKYARD BULLETIN



VOL. 39, ISSUE 3 A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, MARCH 2014

## From Our President

HI FRIENDS

I'm running a little late in getting my article to Becky, however, I wanted to wait until after the meeting. Speaking of the meeting I thought things went rather well yesterday. I want to thank Nancy for setting things up and all that showed up, really a good turnout. I was glad to get the ok on donations for the two adopt a car at the Museum. It would have been a shame had we not adopted David Neitzel's hearse, plus Bob and I were on the hook, also ok for the Zone & International meets trophies. Trying to track down the guys in charge of the meets hasn't been easy. After a lot of phone calls I finally have the names and forms I need. I have been in my office about 4 hours trying to get in touch with these guys; looks like they could publish forms or phones # for people to contact.

Your INDY CHAPTER was also well represented in Kokomo at the Andy Beckman report on Avantis "DRAWINGBOARD TO DRIVEWAY" I think we had 8 members there. Bob Palma has a report on this seminar, I really enjoyed it; Andy had a very good presentation and is a wonderful speaker.

Now for the fun lunch at Stude International with auction to follow. Bring your item and "lets get it on", bidding that is. Hope we have a good turn-out as this is a lot of fun, I can't wait.

YOUR FELLOW STUDE GUY  
CHUCK

I would like to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and cards you sent after the death of my father. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Tom Flynn



## Daylight Saving Time Begins



Mark your calendar. We will be observing Daylight Saving Time beginning Sunday, **March 9**. Don't forget to set your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

# Indy Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club

## Minutes

February 16, 2014

**Place:** Don Pablos Mexican Restaurant, 8150 US 31 S. (Stop 11 and US 31)

**Host:** Nancy Bacon

**Attendance:** 31

**Guests:** Rick, Stephanie, and Lily Haskell, Larry Hopkins' daughter and family

Following lunch, the meeting was called to order by president Chuck Kern at 2:35 PM.

**Old Business:** Members Bob Palma, Chuck and John Kern, and Jim Turner traveled to The Kokomo Automotive Museum. There they met members Darryl Lahr, Dave and Connie O'Neal, and Jim Turner to hear Andy Beckman, archivist of the Studebaker National Museum present a program entitled, "The Studebaker Avanti: From Drawing Board to Driveway." We are happy to have had that great representation of the Indy Chapter.



Judy Lawlis (L) with host Nancy Bacon

**New Business:** Bob Palma reported that he checked with The Studebaker National Museum regarding the availability of cars that donors can adopt at the \$250.00 level, which was discussed at last month's meeting. He found that David and Barbara Neitzel's 1922 Child's Hearse, Bob Bourke's 1953 Starliner prototype car, and President Eisenhower's pony cart were available. A vote was taken, and we agreed that we would adopt the Hearse and the 1953 Starliner. This is a fund raiser plan by the Museum. There is a contract for one year. After that, we would decide whether we want to continue with this kind of support. The hearse is owned by Hershal Murphy, a member of The Historic Auto Club, who bought it from the Neitzels' estate and has lent it to the museum. We are grateful that it is where we can see it from time to time, and know that others will enjoy and be amazed at this relic Studebaker, and David's and Barbara's beautiful workmanship.



Once again this year we discussed whether we want to sponsor any trophies for the Crossroads Zone Meet which is being hosted by the Western Lake Erie Chapter, in Dundee, Michigan, the week of August 9. We will see what support we gave for this in the past and talk about it again next month. We have sponsored trophies in the past.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Flynn reports that our bank balance as of 1/1/14 was \$5,834.49. Forty-nine members have renewed, meaning 20, or so, have not. Please ask yourself whether you have remembered to renew your membership, which is due January 1 of each.

**Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Newsletter Editor:** Needs articles and photos to add to The Brickyard Bulletin.

50/50 Drawing: \$87 was collected and the winner, Nancy Bacon received \$44. Congratulations! Thank you, Nancy, for arranging this meeting for us.

Judy Lawlis, Secretary

## SDC INDY CHAPTER ADOPTS TWO STUDEBAKERS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM

By Bob Palma

The Indy Chapter SDC voted unanimously to adopt two vehicles at The Studebaker National Museum during the regular chapter meeting Sunday, February 16. Adopted for the coming year, with first right to re-adopt in subsequent years, are late Indy Chapter member David Neitzel's white, 1922 Bix Six Children's Hearse, and Studebaker/Lowey stylist Bob Bourke's personal, customized 1954 Commander Starliner.

The Chapter had discussed how to help The Studebaker National Museum during the regular January chapter meeting at The Pit Stop in Brownsburg, arranged by host and hostess Howe & Charlotte Clark. At that meeting, it was decided that a contribution of \$500 would be appropriate. This could be done by adopting vehicles through the Studebaker National Museum Vehicle Adoption Program.

The vehicle adoption program has been in place several years. Vehicles in the museum may be adopted at various levels: \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 per year, depending on the vehicle. (Cari and I have adopted the 1920 Light Six for several years. That is a significant car because it was the first Studebaker automobile to have been produced entirely in South Bend. Earlier Studebaker automobiles had been partially or entirely assembled elsewhere, including Detroit.)

For the Indy Chapter donation, it was thought that two of the \$250 adoption vehicles would be appropriate, for a total annual donation of \$500. I researched the vehicles still "adoptable" at the \$250 level, with an eye toward one prewar and one postwar. Fortunately, our own David Neitzel's Children's Hearse was still available! It was a "natural" that the Indy Chapter would adopt that vehicle. A second vehicle was desired from the postwar era, and the only one remaining was the personal car of stylist Bob Bourke, who customized it as a proposal for Studebaker's 1955 facelift. His facelift ideas were



David and Barbara Neitzel with their 1922 Studebaker Children's Hearse, at Glendel Wilson's funeral, October 1995. It is white with a lavender velvet interior.

Tom Lawlis Photo



rejected by Studebaker's Board of Directors, but at least the car remained intact and is now in The Studebaker National Museum.

Conversation with Indy Chapter President Chuck Kern right after the January meeting indicated the chapter just "had" to adopt the Neitzel Hearse. The Bourke Starliner was appropriate for our postwar selection because it represented what had arguably been the most beautiful Studebaker ever designed, especially among postwar automobiles. A quick call to Drew Van De Wiele, Studebaker National Museum Curator of Collections, confirmed both vehicles still being available for adoption.

Drew agreed to hold the vehicles for our adoption pending Chapter Approval at the February 16 Chapter Meeting. However, Drew had to prepare a current Museum Adoption Report for the April Turning Wheels, the deadline for which was before the Indy Chapter February 16 meeting!



Studebaker designer Bob Bourke's 1955 prototype which was his personal automobile. Bourke is the man on the right in this photo. Car was on display at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway when the International SDC Meet was held in Indianapolis in July 1986.

Tom Lawlis Photo

Chapter President Chuck Kern and I were so certain that the chapter would approve these adoptions that we told Drew to go ahead and put down the Indy Chapter in his Turning Wheels report, as having adopted those two vehicles. Chuck agreed to cover the cost of adopting the Neitzel Hearse and I agreed to cover the cost of adopting the Bourke Starliner if the chapter rejected the proposed adoptions. Thankfully, the chapter approved the adoptions, so Chuck and I resumed our regular evening meals of steak and caviar.

In all seriousness, it is wonderful that The Indy Chapter can adopt "one of our own" and in so doing, remember our dear friends David and Barbara Neitzel, who contributed so much to our Indy Chapter through the years. Even if we decide to not adopt two cars next year, we will still have "first dibs" to continue adopting the Neitzel Hearse for as long as we want, one year at a time. (The hearse is owned by Hoosier Auto Club member Herschel Murphy, a friend of David Neitzel. Herschel bought it from David's estate and placed it on permanent loan to The Studebaker National Museum.)

Next time you are at The Studebaker National Museum, look for the adoption plaques in front of each of "our" two vehicles. The plaque in front of the Neitzel Hearse will read:

**Adopted by Indy Chapter SDC**

**In Memory of David Neitzel**

We should also thank Drew Van De Wiele at The Studebaker National Museum, for "taking our word on it" that formal adoption approval would be forthcoming at our February Indy Chapter Meeting, that he would hold the vehicles for us & go ahead and put us down in his Turning Wheels report before the fact. Thanks, Drew.

BP

# KOKOMO AUTO MUSEUM LECTURE FEBRUARY 7 – INDY CHAPTER WELL REPRESENTED AT ANDY BECKMAN PRESENTATION

Article and Photo By Bob Palma

The Kokomo Auto Museum sponsored Studebaker National Museum Archivist Andy Beckman for a lecture on Friday evening, February 7, at the museum's campus on the northeast side of Kokomo. Our Indy Chapter SDC was well-represented among the several dozen people attending despite the inclement weather central Indiana had been experiencing.

Indy Chapter members making the trip and enjoying Andy's fine presentation included Chapter President Chuck Kern and son John, Jim Turner, Dave and Connie O'Neal, Jim Lewis, Frank Petru, Daryl Lahr, and yours truly. President Kern had transported John, Jim Turner, and me in the Indy Chapter Presidential "Popemobile," his Cadillac Escalade. We had an enjoyable supper at McAlister's Deli in Kokomo before proceeding to the Museum for the evening's edification.

Andy's presentation concerned the original Studebaker Avanti's styling, development, and early production. Andy had several dozen slides to accompany his talk, all of which was well-received. A Question & Answer session followed in which several folks asked questions about the Avanti and its successors.

This was a good opportunity to meet The Kokomo Auto Museum's Jeffrey Shively, with whom I had corresponded regarding the "Fabulous 55s" display they planned to open at the museum, highlighting various makes from 1955. Unfortunately, after arrangements were made to include Marvin Snider's '55 President Coupe, the entire display had to be cancelled due to the terrible weather we've been experiencing. That prevented the cars from being safely driven or transported to the museum. Jeff allowed that it was probably the last time he'd try to arrange a fresh display in the middle of winter!

It was also a good time to visit the museum itself. Many Indy Chapter members have been there, but I had not. It is a fine museum with many more cars than I expected to see, and a good deal of history on Elwood Haynes

of Kokomo, rightly credited (in my opinion) with having produced the first marketable, regular "production" automobile. Lots of Haynes-Apperson material, too; all very interesting

Studebakers on display included a black / white roof 1964 Gran Turismo Hawk, a red M-series stake bed truck, and a cute, light blue 1960 Lark VIII hardtop (L). It is well-worth the time to visit, and one should plan a full morning or afternoon to do so.



# 2014 Studebaker Drivers Club Crossroads Zone Meet

August 8-9, 2014  
In Historic Dundee, Michigan



Dear Fellow Studebaker and Avanti Drivers,

As you may know, the Western Lake Erie Chapter is hosting the 2014 Studebaker Drivers Club Crossroads Zone Meet August 8 and 9 at the Holiday Inn, Dundee, Michigan.

The host hotel is located next to Cabela's, Michigan's number one tourist attraction, and compliments the "great outdoors" feel of the world's foremost outfitter. The Holiday Inn features 163 themed guest rooms and suites, newly renovated lobby, indoor heated swimming pool, 24/7 workout room and new business center. Located in Historic Dundee, MI, the hotel is next to US 23. You may also visit one of Dundee's many local shops like Silver Bells, Swan Creek Candle Co., St. Julian's Winery and Russell Stovers Candy. The Holiday Inn is 100% smoke-free and only service animals are allowed.

At this time we are asking Crossroads chapters to sponsor trophies for the meet. Trophy sponsorship is available for \$35 per trophy or \$100 per class. Please send checks made payable to Western Lake Erie Chapter, c/o Linda Costell, 5831 Balfour Road, Sylvania, OH 43560.

You may also want to mention to your members that outdoor swap meet spaces will be available for \$25 each. Advertising space in our Meet Program will be: full page (8.5" x 5.5"), \$100; half page, \$65; quarter page, \$35; inside front cover, \$125; inside back cover, \$125; outside back cover, \$150.

We hope that you will be able to sponsor trophies and that you encourage your members to attend the Crossroads Zone Meet.

Sincerely,

Harvey Snitzer - 734.634.2285





In Memory of Floyd R. Ganassi

Come tour the Target Chip Ganassi Race Shop

Indy Honor Flight & Indy Car Racing...what a perfect connection!

Help send our Hoosier Heroes of WWII to visit their Memorial!

This is an opportunity to see behind the scenes at one of Indy Car's most successful teams. A rare chance to see how an Indy Car is assembled and the teamwork it takes to be successful. The employees at Target Chip Ganassi racing respected and loved Floyd R Ganassi. In honor of Floyd's service to his country and his love of racing, the team would like to invite the public to the race shop.

**Tours (donation requested)**

**Live & Silent Auction**

**Drivers Autographs**

**Meet Real Heroes**

**Our WWII Veterans**



WWII veteran Floyd Ganassi, his son, Chip, and Indy car driver Scott Dixon.

**2-7 pm May 15, 2014 at 7777 Woodland Drive, Indianapolis, IN**

Indy Honor Flights is a non-profit organization that exists to provide free transportation to America's aging veterans so that they may visit the Memorials that stand in their honor at our Nation's Capital.

To learn more call 317-559-1600 or visit [www.IndyHonorFlight.org](http://www.IndyHonorFlight.org)

# Upcoming Events

## Sunday, March 2 – 1:00 PM

**Pitch-in Lunch and Auction at Studebaker International** in Greenfield at 1:00 pm. The address is **97 N 150 W, Greenfield**. Ed and Heidi will provide ham and rolls for sandwiches. Bring your favorite dish and table service.

Bring an item for the auction. This could be a Studebaker related item, automotive related, or something fun. This is a great fund raiser for the Club and makes for a fun afternoon.

## April 19 -12:00 PM



### "BEST CATFISH BY A DAM SITE" Driving tour from Avon to Monticello



Details on start time and location for the driving tour will be in Aprils Bulletin. We have a private room for our lunch/meeting. Check out the menu @ [oakdaledaminn.com](http://oakdaledaminn.com).

Get your cars ready to go. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bob & Sandy Fox

## May 2 and 3 - Annual Swap Meet in South Bend

## May 23 – 5:30 pm

Dinner at the "Artist Colony" restaurant in Nashville at 5:30 and dessert/open house at Richard and Rose Poe's home. <http://www.artistscolonyinn.com/> in

## May 23 and 24

Studebaker Nationals and Orphan Car Drag Race, Bean Blossom Indiana. This is getting more popular each year. All performance and skill levels welcome. Racing will be Saturday the 24th so bring your car to race, or not, and come to beautiful Brown County and enjoy the day with us.

Nashville, Indiana, is about 40 miles south of Indianapolis and is a popular vacation destination with entertainment, shopping, camping, and motels close by so you will enjoy the visit. There's a snack bar at the track, or bring your own picnic lunch. For more information about this event call Richard Poe at 812-988-2008, or [roserichpoe@att.net](mailto:roserichpoe@att.net).

## Mark these dates on your calendar:

**June 29 – July 5** – 2014 International Meet in Dover, Delaware. See details in your *Turning Wheels* Publication.

**July 26** – Grissom Air Base combined meet with Michigan Chapter, Indy Chapter and Avanti Club

**August 8 and 9** - Zone Meet at the Holiday Inn, Dundee, Michigan. See page 6 for more information.

**December 27** – Christmas lunch





## **Published by the Indy Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club**

Editor: Becky Griffith

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Regional Manager Indiana: Bob Henning at [rhnn15090@aol.com](mailto:rhnn15090@aol.com)

## **National SDC Membership**

Regular membership dues in the National Studebaker Club are \$24.00 for new members 1<sup>st</sup> year only. Renewal is \$31.00 per year, which includes 12 monthly issues of *Turning Wheels*, the National SDC Magazine. (Other memberships are available.) Application is available upon request or e-mail [studebakerdriverclub.com](mailto:studebakerdriverclub.com).

## **Indy Chapter Membership**

National SDC membership is a prerequisite. Renewal INDY Chapter dues are \$18.00. Renewals are payable January each year. After March a \$5.00 late fee will be added. Application is available upon request. Applications will be published in November and December newsletters.

# Brickyard Bulletin March 2014



Photo of the **1920 Light Six** in the Studebaker Museum that Cari and Bob Palma have adopted for at least three years.

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**To:**

