



# BRICKYARD BULLETIN



**VOL. 43, ISSUE 10 A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, OCTOBER, 2016**

It is hard to believe the summer has come and gone! I hope everyone has enjoyed all the car shows and cruise in in your area. My sister Annette and I took the 1956 Golden Hawk to the Bicentennial Celebration in Franklin, In. last Friday. They were wanting Indiana built cars at their event. Larry Hopkins and his 62 GT, Bob Palma and his 64 Wagoneer, Bob Parker & his Lark were also there. The bicentennial torch ran right in front of where we had our cars on display! We plan on taking our 64 GT to the end of the year cruise in Oct. 7th at the Southsider Voice Newspaper, 6025 S Madison Ave, Indpls. 46227. This is always a fun event and would love to see some other Studebaker's there!



Hope to see everyone at the October Meeting!

Nancy Bacon  
Indy Chapter President

The Griffith pitch-in was rained out two weekends in a row so the club didn't have an official get together. But that didn't stop members from other activities. We start with the Bicentennial Motor Muster in Kokomo, Drive your Studebaker Day, the Michigan Drags and lastly the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration Car Cruise in Franklin.

## Grand Indiana Bicentennial Motor Muster, Kokomo, Indiana

Well, it all started with the notice from Becky in the Brickyard newsletter. The car show sounded interesting and not too far away. Along with their '27 Studebaker, I was planning on taking Annie, my '62 Lark Daytona Convertible. I sent in the registration along with a photograph, so things were all set, or so I thought.

The weather on August 22 was nice so I drove Annie to work to check things out and make sure she was ready for Kokomo. She wasn't. By the time I got home the engine was making quite a grinding noise and there wasn't time to get her fixed before the show. I contacted the shows coordinator and asked if I could switch and bring the truck instead



Charlie Griffith's 1927 Dictator



Jeff and Kathy Westcotts "Annie"

So on 9/11 the morning of the show, Kathy and I loaded up the Champ and drove to the show. Driving a ¾ ton empty pickup for an hour was quite the experience.

I bottomed out the seat a couple of times, I should have worn the old motorcycle kidney belt! We arrived right about 8AM and found the location, but the registration table wasn't set up yet, so we parked and walked around to find out where we were supposed to be. While waiting, several spectacular Stutz cars arrived, absolutely pristine cars from the Kokomo Automotive Museum were arriving and I'm standing there next to my '61 Champ looking like Tow Mater [from the Cars movie](#).



Steve Ortman's 1962 Hawk GT coupe

After getting the registration packet I was given a couple of choices for parking, I decided to park at the far end of the field and let others fill in as about 100 cars were expected. Needless to say I think the other drivers were afraid to catch something from the Champ. It wasn't until the Kokomo Automotive Museum 1968 Corvair Coupe arrived and parked next to me so I wasn't alone.

All that said, we still had quite a large showing of visitors and some saw the truck, smiled and walked straight over to talk about it. Others did their best to pretend we weren't there. It was fun to watch.

We were the only vehicle there that visitors were allowed to touch, lean on, and sit in.

The other cars at the show ranged from a 1987 Lincoln, to a 1959 Fleetwood, to a 1936 Cord, a 1914 Apperson Speedster, all in excellent concourse condition. It was quite the show.



1956 Lincoln Premiere convertible owned by the Griffith's friend Phil Schaefer

overview of the Studebaker Automobiles. Kathy and I stayed as long as we dared, but I wanted to get back before it got too dark, so we don't know who won any of the awards.

Cheers,  
Jeff Westcott



1931 Studebaker 80-W-4 five passenger sedan owned by Craig Pearson

The Studebaker family was well represented with Becky and Charlie's '27 Dictator, Jim Lewis and his '64 Hawk, Bob Pollock and his '64 Lark Daytona. There was also a '57 Golden Hawk, a '62 Hawk GT, my '61 Champ Pickup and of course the 1932 President St. Regis Brougham from the Studebaker National Museum. I have to say Andy Beckman certainly brought the "best in show" from my standpoint.

After the car show wrapped up, the awards dinner was held at the Kokomo Automotive Museum. Andy Beckman gave an excellent

Photos by Charlie Griffith



## International Drive Your Studebaker Day Saturday, September 10

Larry Hopkins 1962 Studebaker Hawk and Dennis Rumley's 1972 Avanti II on International Drive Your Studebaker Day, 2016.



## Studebakers at the 2016 Pure Stock Muscle Car Drags

Bob Palma

Here's a brief report of the goings-on at The 2016 Pure Stock Muscle Car.

Drag Race held at The Mid-Michigan Motorplex near Stanton MI September 15-17, 2016. Full report later with Official Stats in an up-coming *Turning Wheels*. That article will contain many more photos and the usual assorted commentary.

We had ten Studebakers competing....again, more than the total number of **Fords**! I'll have to count the Fords for sure, but I can't remember more than eight off hand.

Chuck Kern and son John returned with Chuck's white R2/Powershift Avanti (R). His best ET and Speed in practice was 14.119 and 101.03.



The famous Plain Brown Wrapper (L) was there in all its glory, with Ted Harbit driving. Ted got the "Wrapper" down to 12.875 @ 111.78 MPH. On one run, the "Wrapper" posted its best 60' time ever: 1.874 seconds!



Ted Harbit and The

Stude Tomato (R) won their shootout by beating the Old, her in the first two of the three shootout races. Yes, it was this close in Round Two(!) just after the 1,000-foot post...less than 300 feet to go in the quarter-mile! In practice and qualifications Friday, Ted and The Tomato posted a best of 13.524 and 111.66 MPH.



Richard and Rose Poe with "The Plain Brown Wrapper"

Much more to report in *Turning Wheels*, of course, including the upshot of the drag strip being drenched with the most rain we've ever seen overnight Friday. It kept raining on into Saturday morning, negating any possibility of practice racing Saturday morning, but the sun broke out right on cue and they got the track dried off for Saturday's shootouts in plenty of time.



Indy Chapter Local SDCers, L to R, John Kern, Chuck Kern, and Ted Harbit visit with Chicago-area SDCer Ed George, right.



# Indiana Bicentennial Celebration Car Cruise in Franklin Friday, September 23



Bob Palma's Wagonaire and Daytona



Larry Hopkins 1962 Gran Turismo



Bob Palma, Bob Parker, Nancy Bacon and her sister Annette.



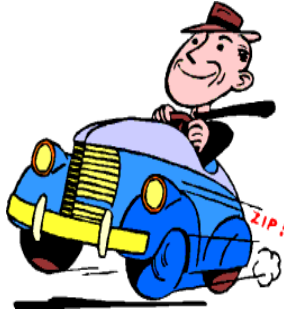
## Welcome New Members

Lynn Geiger  
1480 Maple Ave  
Noblesville, IN 46060

317-773-6767  
[GeigerLynn@aol.com](mailto:GeigerLynn@aol.com)

DOB: 10/2

'63 Avanti



Dan & Lisa Wisniewski  
4923 Forest Ave  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46815

260-615-6252

DOB: 9/25

1950 Champion 4-door  
1958 Silver Hawk  
1960 Lark 2-door wagon

I will have a small table set up near the start line of the Hill Climb at Main and the "Brick Street" in the Lions Club Community lawn on Saturday and Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'll be there doing some PR work for the International Vehicle Appraisers Network. Thought I'd let you know in case you or other club members would like to meet me if attending. Thanks. **Tony Keeler**



For Sale: Fiberglass Tonneau Covers

**Fits Studebaker Pickups 1949 to 1955.** No long beds. Made in Indiana, \$900.00

Contact Information:

Dan Wisniewski @ 260/615-6252 Fort Wayne or email [lgwisniewski@frontier.com](mailto:lgwisniewski@frontier.com)



Is this someone who was a former SDC member? Do these cars look familiar?

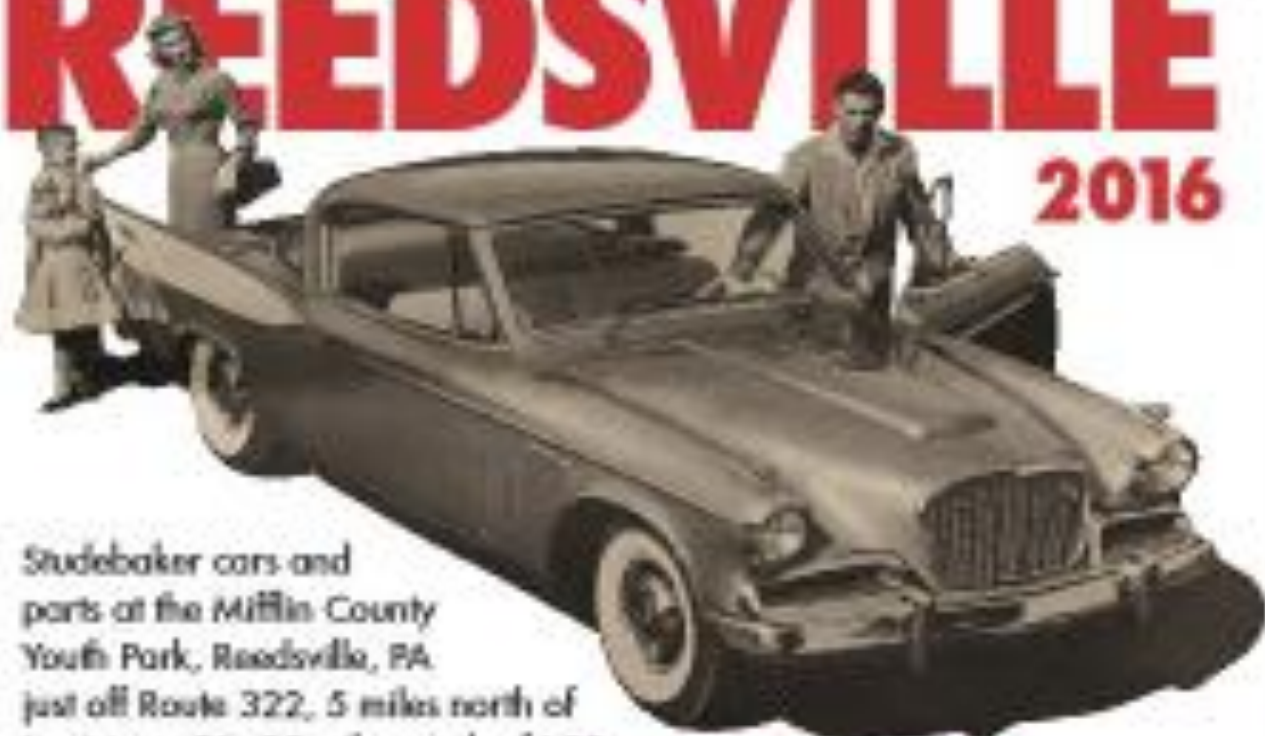
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[indianapolis.craigslist.org](http://indianapolis.craigslist.org)

BULK BUY OFFERS ONLY..... 5 Studebakers For Sale \*1948 Truck  
\*1949 Truck \*1955 Commander (4 door) \*1963 Lancer (4 door)  
\*1966 Daytona (2 door) THE STORY ...

# REEDSVILLE

## 2016



Studebaker cars and parts at the Mifflin County Youth Park, Reedsville, PA, just off Route 322, 5 miles north of Lewisburg PA, 25 miles south of I-80



### **VENDOR SPACES \$40.00**

Indoor space is limited, so reserve yours today. For flea market reservations, information, motel listings, camper facilities and parking, contact Max Corkins 717-513-8251

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

Flea market 8am - 5pm (Vendor set-up available Thursday by appointment only) Friday night: Open house and jam session at Max's new, larger location!

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**

Flea market 8am - 5pm. Flea market breaks up early. Don't plan to arrive on Saturday!



Sponsored by the Mifflin County Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club





# Another Spooky Stude Story

I'm sure almost all the Studebaker Drivers Club members mourn the demise of the once mighty Studebaker Production Complex. The craftsmen, who worked in these beautiful brick buildings, manufactured parts, built engines and assembled our beloved automobile brand. That these buildings have been systematically demolished (and erased from the South Bend skyline) is a sad, sad chapter in automotive history.

After production ceased in the mid-60s (except for the Avanti), most of the buildings started their slow decent into oblivion. Neglect and lack of use led to decay, vandalism, and deterioration. History tells us that many Studebaker workers felt betrayed and held a grudge against the company for the loss of their jobs and the negative effect this had on their families. But still the buildings stood...as a reminder of greater days and of the pride these workers took in the product they produced. So gradually...as the buildings started to collapse, the community of South Bend began to embrace their heritage and were proud to claim Studebaker as a positive influence on the lives of many northern Indiana and southern Michigan families.

But sadly, this reversal of attitude was too late...the buildings were beyond restoration (at least in the eyes of the South Bend political machine). The Studebaker Stamping Plant was permanently closed in 1999 and sat decaying for 7 years. In 2006, after stories that the building was haunted were told throughout the community, the building was demolished. Were those stories of ghosts and goblins roaming the Stamping Plant true? The picture shown below was taken just weeks before the demolition of the building. If you look closely, you can see the "shadow" of someone peering out of an office window. Could it be a long-dead Studebaker employee who just couldn't leave the work-place he loved? Or is it one of the Studebaker brothers coming for one last look at their former business? What do you think...was the Stamping Plant building haunted?





# Upcoming Events

**Sunday, October 9 at 1:00 pm** - On Sunday, October 9 we will be having lunch at "The Blue Bird Café" in Morristown, Ind. We will meet at the McDonalds in Shelbyville that is located at the Interstate 74 EXIT 113. It is where State Rd. 9 crosses Interstate 74. From there we will caravan to The Blue Bird. If you prefer to meet us there, it is located at 158 E. Main Street, Morristown, Ind., which is Highway 52. We will leave here at 12:00 (noon) for a nice fall tour (about 30 to 45 minutes) of our beautiful Indiana country side, which takes us east on Highway 52. Our reservation is for 1:00 PM.

The Blue Bird has a Sunday buffet that is excellent. They have a dessert table that makes the trip worthwhile even before you have a piece of fried chicken! The cost is \$11.95. I will need a head count to give to the restaurant as we will have both the Studebaker Drivers Club and the Historical Auto Club in attendance.

Please call me at 765-341-1010 or 765-318-9738 or email [msnider33@comcast.net](mailto:msnider33@comcast.net). There is street parking and a public parking lot across the road from the Blue Bird, also there is a bank and post office across the street with a lot of parking spaces available there, so parking will not be a problem.

This will be a very leisurely tour with a very tasty treat at the end. We look forward to seeing all of you.

Marvin & Berniece Snider



**Mark these dates on your calendar:**

**November 6 – 1:00** – Pitch-in at Studebaker International, hosted by Ed Reynolds. Meat will be provided, just bring a side-dish and your table service. Ed's address is 97 N 150 W, Greenfield, 46240

**December** – Christmas Dinners. Details in the November Brickyard

As you can see there is little planned past the end of the year. If you would like to sponsor a month where we can meet for a meal and fellowship, contact Charlie Griffith at 317-353-8287 or [chazwork@smn.com](mailto:chazwork@smn.com)



# The Brickyard Bulletin

## Published by the Indy Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

The Brickyard Bulletin is published monthly. The deadline for summations is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

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Crossroads Zone Coordinator: Joanne Hamblin

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Updated 01/01/2016

### National SDC Membership

Regular membership dues in the National Studebaker Club are \$24.00 for new members 1<sup>st</sup> year only. Renewals are \$31.00 per year, which includes 12 monthly issues of *Turning Wheels*, the National SDC Magazine. (Other memberships

### 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.

# Brickyard Bulletin October, 2016



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Becky Griffith, Editor  
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**To:**

