



# BRICKYARD BULLETIN



Vol. 36 Issue 2 A Monthly Publication of The Indy Chapter of The Studebaker Drivers Club February 2011



## CAR NUTZ

### Cruising in a Studebaker



**Joe Bacon** met his future wife, **Nancy Drews**, in 1969. Little did he know at the time that it would lead him to become a Studebaker nut. Around the same time, Nancy's parents, **Earl** and **Helen Drews**, bought their first Studebaker, a '63 wagon, for cheap, reliable

Thanks to Big Dan Pfeiffer for writing the article, taking the photos, and for permission to reprint from the Southsider Voice newspaper's Sept. 29, 2010 Issue.

transportation. But they really liked it and Studebakers in general and began collecting



them. At one time they had as many as 15 cars sitting all

around their house on the northwest corner of Madison and Mills avenues. They became involved with the Studebaker Drivers Club and soon began to restore their first car, a '57 Golden Hawk. Throughout the years, 75-plus Studebakers would flow through Earl and Helen's collection!

Joe and Nancy were married in 1971, and Studebaker fever soon spread to them as well. They bought a red '60 Silver Hawk, driving it for several years and refurbishing it along the way. They, too, joined the Studebaker Drivers Club, and the iconic cars became the brand the couple drove until 1983. During that time, from the early '70s until they started their family in the early '80s, Joe and Nancy bought and sold more than 100 Studebakers!

Raising their children, **Joanne** and **Tony**, became a top priority, causing them to give up the old-car hobby from 1983 to '93. Then Joe bought a red '70 Corvette for Nancy's everyday driving use. By the fall of '93, they began to realize that not only was it not going to be a practical car with two young children, it wasn't going to be a good choice for winter either. So they were back in the hobby after buying an additional everyday car for Nancy.



Joe's love was always the old Hawks, so in 2002 he began his search for one and found a 1956 Golden Hawk on eBay. It belonged to a Boston man who had owned it for 20 years. As it turns out, the old cruiser had quite an

interesting history.

It was one of only nine Golden Hawks built in South Bend in

1956, with

the Glenbrook Green and Seafoam Green two-tone paint scheme. Three others were built at the Los Angeles factory, making it the rarest color of the '56 model year.



In 1982 the man found the car languishing in an Arizona junkyard, where it had been for years. He bought it, hauled it back to

Boston and began a yearlong restoration,

driving it very little before displaying it in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum for 10-plus years before selling it. Upon sitting idle for more than a decade in the museum, the seals, hoses, etc. had dried up, causing the Hawk to spring a leak almost every time Joe and Nancy took it out.

They drove it for two years and then began a three-year body-off frame restoration, which resulted in an award-winning show quality. The car is powered by its original 352 Packard V-8 engine and equipped with a four-speed Ultramatic transmission. 1956



was the only year that Studebaker used a non- Studebaker engine. Studebaker and Packard merged in 1955, and the powerful 352 Packard V-8 was chosen for the Golden Hawk, making it one of the fastest production cars of 1956.



Joe and Nancy's Golden Hawk is driven as often as possible from spring through the fall and turns heads everywhere. On really nice days, Nancy drives this beauty to work at Kridan Business Machines on Troy Avenue. Keep an eye out for it. Until next week, keep on cruisin'!



## President's Message

Submitted By Indy Chapter President **Brian Reeves**

Hi All,

Well, January flew by and now we are only a couple months from warmer weather. Let all our prayers be with our members that are not well and hope they have a speedy recovery so we can all greet them at our future events. Sorry I couldn't make it to our January meeting but I had prior commitments and had to fulfill my obligation. I hope to see everyone at our February meet. Thank you, Howe and Charlotte for setting up our January event.

Take Care and keep warm.

Brian R

## Indy Chapter Classifieds

*Submit your Classified ads before the 15<sup>th</sup> to your Bulletin Editors at Richard and Rose Poe, 5192 State Road 46 E, Nashville, In. 47448. Or email [roserichpoe@att.net](mailto:roserichpoe@att.net). Ads are free to all members.*

For Sale 1940 Commander four door, mostly original. Runs, new wiring, tires, and has an original interior in great condition. It's overall a nice original car. Call Cliff Snedeker on his cell @ 317-809-0778

Ohio Region member Chester Bealles is now selling Brad Penn Racing oil, for vehicles 1975 and older. Call (724)899-3141.

# "What's Happening?"

## The Indy Chapter Events Page.

If you have an Event coming up in the next few months **Contact Raymond Reeves** and send your event information to the **Brickyard Bulletin** so we can include it here.

**February 11-13 is World of Wheels Motorama in Indianapolis.** They have a Studebaker section. This is a real fun event and a chance to show off some of our beautiful Studebakers. We need as many entries as we can get. Contact Chuck Kern for more information. Phone 765-349-1520

**February 27th meeting and auction** will again be at *Studebaker International* with **Ed and Heidi Reynolds** hosting. Bring a covered dish and an auction item. We will eat at 1:00. Studebaker International Inc. 97 N.150 W. Greenfield, IN 46140

**March, Dave and Diane Elmore** will be our gracious hosts for the **March meeting**. Saturday, March 26 @ 1:00 p.m. MCL Cafeteria in the Speedway Shopping Center. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

**April,** Marvin and Berniece Snider are doing something in April. More info in later newsletters.

**May 6-7 is the annual Crossroads Zone Meet in South Bend.** Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, is swap meet and car corral, and Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> is swap meet, car corral, and car show judging. This is always a great event to catch up with friends, and find those car parts you've been searching for!

**May 28<sup>th</sup> is the fourth annual Studebaker/Orphan Car Drag Race held in Bean Blossom.**

This is getting more popular each year, so "Be there or be square." Bring your car to race, or not, and come to beautiful Brown County and enjoy the day with us. There's a snack bar at the track, or bring your own picnic lunch. Also, the night before the race, Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>, we meet at the "Holy Cow" restaurant in Nashville for dinner. See more information about this event on line or call Richard Poe at 812-988-2008.

**June 19-25, The 47<sup>th</sup> SDC International Meet is being held June 19-25 in Springfield, Missouri.** There are lots of interesting seminars and other things going on this year. Hopefully lots of Indy Chapter folks will attend, since it's relatively close to home.

**As of yet, no local event has been scheduled for June or July.**

**August we will be having a cookout at the McNutt home—more info in later newsletters.**

**September 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 will be International Drive your Studebaker Day!**

# Secretary's Report

Submitted by **Nancy Bacon**



**T**he Indy Chapter's Christmas Party Meeting was held Dec. 19th at Augustino's Italian Restaurant. This was the third year we had our Christmas Party there and as always the food was great! We had around 50 members and guests in attendance.

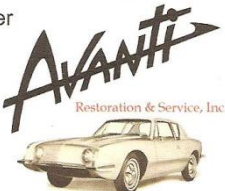
Incoming new **President Brian Reeves** held an informal meeting. Outgoing **President Chuck Kern** was not able to be at the meeting due to being in the hospital. **Treasurer Tom Flynn** stated that we had \$3660.78 in the bank as of 11-15. He also reminded everyone that dues for 2011 are now due!! Please send them in now!



**Raymond Reeves** is trying to fill in dates for our years activities, so if you would like to host a meet contact him. The meeting was adjourned as everyone wished each other Merry Christmas and a Happy Studebaker filled New Year!

Thanks to outgoing secretary **Nancy Bacon** for her work as Indy Chapter Secretary.

Mike Baker



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# News and Views from around the Indy Chapter

## New Members

**Robert and Janeen Younce** are our newest Indy Chapter members. Robert tells me they have a 1950 Ford, but do not yet own a Studebaker. He is looking for a 1950 or 1951. Bob and Janeen live near Studebaker International. After seeing all the Studebakers show up for our fall meeting at SI along with a recent trip to the **Studebaker National Museum** and talking to SDC members they decided to join us in the **Indy Chapter**. We should get to meet them at the February SI meeting, so be sure and say Hi. Robert and Janeen Younce 2109 Melody Lane Greenfield IN 46140, 317-326-2493

one safe dry location. His dog seems to like it too.

## Indy Chapter Member's Newly acquired Lark

We received this from **Jack Warble** after he bought his new 1961 Lark.

RICHARD; THANKS TO YOUR ADVERTISING THE LARK THAT WAS IN CHICAGO I NOW OWN IT... AND HOPE TO HAVE IT IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER.

THANKS  
JACK WARBLE  
SHELBYVILLE, IN

## Jim and Carol Roberts' new Garage!



Jim and Carol Roberts finally got the large new building they have needed.

This new building will allow Jim to consolidate his car collection in

## From Your Editors:

We would like to report that it was good to see **Tom and Judy Lawlis, Dale and Barbara Mcphearson** along with **Chuck and Linda Kern** at the Indy Chapter's January meeting after the recent health issues they have been dealing with. We hope and pray they stay on the road to recovery along with



others in our Studebaker family and friends also dealing with trying issues at this time.

Well it's dues time in the Indy Chapter. Please send in your local chapter dues to our **Treasurer Tom Flynn**. We would be disappointed to lose any of you as members.

During our time as Editors we have tried to do a series of articles on our current members. We feel it's important to get to know more about each other, kind of like we

do with new members. We have directly asked some of you to send in some history about yourselves and your interest and experiences with Studebakers. We have no responses so far. So we will send out a few more requests but if you would like to send something in let us know. We would like to do one or two a month so let me know in advance so we don't get them all at once.

We also need your story submissions, hopefully with pictures.

## Ask Buddy

*Dear Buddy,*

I hope you can help me with a nagging problem I have. I own a 1963 Avanti and when I take it out we often have people come up and tell us all sorts of stuff that is incorrect, or I think is incorrect. For example one guy at a car show told me that his uncles' neighbor's friend's cousin by marriage's step dad had an Avanti just like mine, but it was blue with a bench seat and had a Packard engine with a turbo and the body was made from aluminum! It was a prototype built in 1956 and had a bullet nose! It was given to President Eisenhower by the original Studebaker designer's wife and Eisenhower gave it to Vice President Nixon. Nixon gave it to this guy's uncles'

neighbor's friend's cousin by marriage's step dad who was the door man at the Watergate building. This car sat in an old chicken coop with a cover that still had the Presidential seal at the guy's uncles' neighbor's friend's cousin by marriage's step dad's grandma's house. It stayed in the old chicken coop until rare aluminum eating termites ate it. The remainder of the car was confiscated by the Secret Service and now is stored somewhere near Dayton, Ohio.

The Studebaker designer's wife told the uncles' neighbor's friend's cousin by marriage's step dad that her husband who is now deceased was General Eisenhower's driver in Europe during WW2 and one day he was driving the General somewhere in France

when they saw a French car that General Eisenhower took a liking to. General Eisenhower instructed this guy, who was the General's driver at the time to make some drawings of the car so he did. As the wife tells it this was the start of her husband's career as a car designer.

After the war the General helped his driver get a job at Studebaker working as a designer with instructions to build this car they saw in France. It took years but he got it done as a prototype and when Raymond Loewy saw it he recognized it as a car he designed and built as a young man in France and left behind many years before.

According to the designer's wife, Lowie ordered the car destroyed and fired her husband for stealing his design. Her husband got the car out the back gate and called Eisenhower who then took the car from him and gave him a job as Mamie's driver.

Loewy was then so obsessed with the car that he wanted to produce it here in the US and in 1961 he had his chance, and the Avanti was born but without the bullet nose.

OK Buddy, is any of this true? It sounds like a true story to me, but I don't know for sure.

Thanks for the help. From, *I'll believe anything.*

Dear **I'll believe anything,**

As an Avanti or Studebaker owner you will hear all sorts of things from some of the Studebaker experts that you will run into at car shows and most of it is not true. I try to respectfully correct the things I can but sometimes people can be so set in their ways it's just not possible. I guess one way to look at it is these people have a genuine interest and mostly good memories they want to share about Studebakers.

But in this case the story is absolutely correct and by the way I have the original car cover with the Presidential seal from that very car! My grandpa was on the Secret Service detail that removed the car from the chicken coop and he held on to the cover as a souvenir.

I'm planning to sell it on Ebay but if you want it I can make you a good deal on it, but it will not be cheap. Give me a call and we'll talk. By the way, the Presidential seal is worn off, but it's real as you know, trust me. I also have the Bullet nose that President Eisenhower had made to look like the Presidential seal, but I want to hold on to that and it's not for sale, sorry.

Buddy





## The Brickyard Bulletin

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

We hereby give permission to other S.D.C. chapters to use information from the newsletter when proper credit is given. "Reprinted or

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Editors: **Richard and Rose Poe**

The Studebaker Drivers club is an organization dedicated to the preservation of vehicles produced at any time in the history of the Studebaker Corporation. Anyone owning a Studebaker, Erskine, Rockne, Flanders or EMF, or anyone interested in such vehicles is invited to join S.D.C. and the INDY Chapter. Members enjoy sharing information, history, fellowship and driving. S.D.C. bylaws require all chapter members to be members of the National S.D.C.

### INDY CHAPTER OFFICERS

President: **Brian Reeves**: 914 Cameron St, Indianapolis, IN 46203 E-mail: [breeves@mac.com](mailto:breeves@mac.com) 317-946-4339  
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Treasurer: **Tom Flynn**, 4531 S CR 500 E, Plainfield, IN 46168 E-mail: [tom\\_and\\_trudy@yahoo.com](mailto:tom_and_trudy@yahoo.com) 317 837 5671  
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Editors: **Richard & Rose Poe** 5192 State Road 46E Nashville, IN 47448 E-mail: [roserichpoe@att.net](mailto:roserichpoe@att.net) 812-988-2008

### National Officers

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Secretary: Nita Ketchum [niketchum@aol.com](mailto:niketchum@aol.com) Treasurer: Jane Stinson [jestinson@aol.com](mailto:jestinson@aol.com)

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Regional Manager Indiana: Bob Henning, [rhenn15090@aol.com](mailto:rhenn15090@aol.com)

### NATIONAL SDC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 are available.)

Mail application and check to:

Or Email [sdcc@cornerstonereg.com](mailto:sdcc@cornerstonereg.com) for information.

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### INDY CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**National SDC membership is a prerequisite.** Renewal INDY Chapter dues are \$18.00. Renewals payable January each year (after March a \$5.00 late fee will be added.)

Mail application and check to:

**Tom Flynn**

**4531 S CR 500 East**

**Plainfield, IN 46168**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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# BRICKYARD BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2011



**Indy Chapter SDC  
Richard & Rose Poe, Editors  
5192 State Road 46E  
Nashville, IN 47448**



**To**