



# BRICKYARD BULLETIN



VOL. 48, ISSUE 12, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE INDY CHAPTER OF THE STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB, DECEMBER 2023



The Indy Chapter gathered for our annual November Thanksgiving meeting and elections at Mike Bakers Avanti Restoration Shop. The turn out for this meeting was great and the food was awesome. Thank you to Larry Kennedy who volunteered to be the new Vice President. Along with the Avanti Club, guest speaker Arlene Kusek who talked about her fathers Studebaker dealership, long time Indy member Bill McDowell who we had not seen in some time and the Maxey family from South Bend it was a wonderful Studebaker Friendsgiving!

This year, each month a club member has told their story of "Why Studebaker". I hope everyone has enjoyed these stories as much as I have. If you have not told your "why" please let Becky know you would like to share your story with the club.

Our next meeting is the Annual Christmas Party at Green Street Station in Brownsburg. Be sure to RSVP to Sandy Fox or Diane Elmore. They always have a fun time planned. Hope to see everyone there!

Nancy Bacon  
President, Indy Chapter

## Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Sunday, November 12

A Deluxe Thanksgiving Turkey and Ham Dinner with all the trimmings was served to 77 Studebaker and Avanti members and guests. Guests came from Illinois, South Bend, St. Louis, Ohio and Florida.

Nancy Bacon held a short Studebaker meeting before dinner. Nancy thanked Mike and Yvonne Baker for hosting our Thanksgiving Celebration.

The Treasurer's report had a balance of \$14,084.10. Last year, Indy Chapter Members tallied 81. Renewal notices have been mailed out, so please pay your yearly dues for another successful year. Tom Flynn has agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Election of Officers was finalized. Larry Kennedy agreed to accept the Vice President position. So, Nancy Bacon – President, Larry Kennedy – Vice President, Beth Doran – Secretary, Tom Flynn – Treasurer were voted upon. It was unanimous except that Sue Kennedy objected to Larry being Vice President.

The Amendment to the By-Laws was reviewed by all.

Amendments to the foregoing by-laws of the Indy Chapter may be proposed by the Executive Committee or a member in good standing.

Changes may be introduced to the general membership at any monthly business meeting.

Thereafter, the amendment will be published in the newsletter and voted on by the general membership at the following monthly business meeting.



The vote was a unanimous decision to accept the new Amendment.

Christmas meeting will be held on December 9 at 12:30 pm at Greenstreet in Brownsburg.

January and February meetings are open for suggestions.  
Mark Enlow is our new Activity Director.

Larry Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Griffith seconded the motion. Time to eat.

Submitted,  
Beth Doran, Secretary

After Dinner, there were 13 new members of both Avanti and Studebaker Drivers Club present.

Remember to make your reservations for Dubuque, Iowa. Many have already.

Arlene Kusek, who's dad owned the largest Studebaker dealership in Colorado, KING STUDEBAKER, and her two brothers – GW was present and the other sent his story for her to share. They shared their story of their dad, his business dealings along with his personality and wit. Everyone received the new color copy of the SDC Studebaker Story brochure. More are available for members to share at meets.



Host, Mike Baker with speaker Arlene Kusek and brother GW.





# Your 2024 Indy Chapter SDC Officers

President – Nancy Bacon [nancyjb1701@aol.com](mailto:nancyjb1701@aol.com)

Vice President – Larry Kennedy\* [indyhudson@comcast.net](mailto:indyhudson@comcast.net)

Secretary – Beth Doran [doran68ba@hotmail.com](mailto:doran68ba@hotmail.com)

Treasurer – Tom Flynn [tom\\_and\\_Trudy@yahoo.com](mailto:tom_and_Trudy@yahoo.com)

Activities – Mark Enlow\* [menlow@indyrr.com](mailto:menlow@indyrr.com)

Editor – Becky Griffith [becinin@msn.com](mailto:becinin@msn.com)

\*New Officer

Editors Note: I want to thank all those who contributed to the *Brickyard* in 2023. It makes my job so much easier when items are sent to me. Please keep it up in 2024! And have a very Merry Holiday Season.

Becky Griffith, Editor

## Tech Tip From Rock Auto

Is that prized car tucked away for the winter? The oil changed. Fuel stabilizer elixir added to the gas tank. The car up on jack stands. Each spark plug removed, and a little oil sprayed into the cylinders. A trickle charger attached to the battery. A car cover carefully fitted. The garage alarm system activated. Time to put on the slippers and curl up by the fireplace. Wrong! It is time to panic! As I learned last week that car is at risk!

The season for storing classic cars is also the season when millions of vermin look for a safe, snugly winter home. My 1992 Dodge van is not (yet) a classic. I did not even put it away for the winter. I happily drove it on Sunday and on Tuesday I discovered the check-engine light was on and a rough running motor. When I pulled off the engine cover, I found evidence a rat had decided to bring a few tree leaves and move in next to a valve cover. Was he watching with bags packed when I backed the van into the carport on Sunday?

Rat (and mouse) incisor teeth grow continuously. They gnaw on things to keep those teeth from getting too long and probably just to pass the time. My rat gnawed the wires off one of the van's fuel injectors. In less than 48 hours, a rat disabled the Dodge. Imagine what gnawing, pooping, peeing rats or mice could do to a vehicle sitting quietly for months. A car could be totaled. I am now nervously popping the hoods on my entire fleet almost daily. The carport area is fitted with three spring loaded rat traps, two poison bait boxes and an ultrasonic thingy that supposedly makes a noise rats don't care for. I plan on redoing the fence so our dog can patrol the carport along with the yard (with poison and traps out of reach).

So far, a spring- loaded rat trap has killed one rat. His teeth had that just polished with Mopar copper wire sheen. However, I am not under the delusion that he/she was the only one. Rats breed several times a year, around ten to a litter. It is a never-ending, worldwide battle.

Frequently check on any stored car. The good news is this could be another excuse to spend more time in the garage than the house. It could be another reason to adopt a cat or dog. More good news is that my van is back on the road and I discovered Dorman makes replacement Bosch type fuel injector connectors.

*By and thanks to Tom Taylor, RockAuto.com*

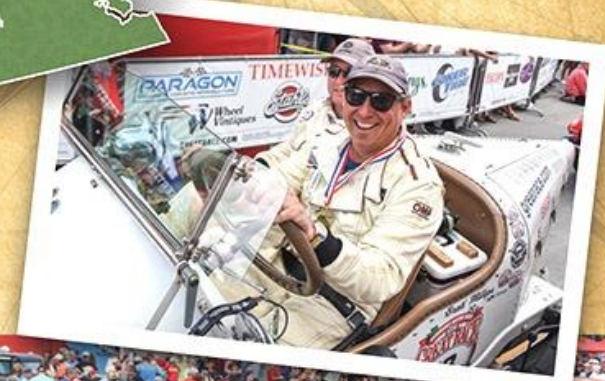


2024  
HEMMINGS MOTOR NEWS  
**GREAT RACE**  
OWENSBORO, KY TO GARDINER, ME  
PRESENTED BY  
COKER TIRE



# 2024 Great Race Route

**June 22-30, 2024**  
**Owensboro, KY to Gardiner, ME**



# Why Studebaker

By Marvin Snider

I believe my Studebaker addiction started early in life. I don't remember much about the early part. Dad became a Studebaker employee at the South Bend Studebaker plant during 1939. By 1943 and working at Studebakers during the war effort, he had heard of a fellow employee that had a 1942 Skyway for sale. When he made the purchase of this 1942 Skyway this was the first Studebaker that he had ever owned. Me at the age of five was very impressed with this big car, especially the large back seat and fender skirts. There were many family trips made in this amazing automobile. Many memories still remain with me.

During the late 40's, there were many functions that took place at the Studebaker union hall - union meetings, Saturday night bingo, etc. Of course parents brought their children with them and these were great times that have left memories of these years for my brother and I. My uncle, Bill Ogden, was quite involved with the Studebaker union. Between him and my Dad, I was able to attend many functions. Studebaker as a company held many functions thru the years for Studebaker employees. At Christmas time there were always some type of entertainment and gifts for all the kids. These functions were held at various locations around South Bend, John Adams High School, Notre Dame Stadium, and naturally the Studebaker union hall. Studebaker as a company was all about cars, but at the same time, it was a very employee friendly company. (This is another reason why Studebaker.)



During 1947 my dad decided that the fantastic 42 Skyway had to go, and he ordered a new 1947 Champion. Of course he got his company discount. This Champion was a small 4 door, no radio, no fender skirts, and a very small back seat. I never understood as a kid why he would get rid of the Skyway for a Champion. 1948 brought a new Land Cruiser and 1950 another new Champion, which was his last Studebaker. After this, he started purchasing Brand X automobiles (Dodge).

much like the one my Dad had purchased new - no radio, no fender skirts, and a small back seat, somehow my opinion changed about Studebaker Champions. My '47 had a few things that my Dad's didn't. Paint chips, dents, and a very weak front spring, but I was very happy with it at the time.

Along came a 1951 Commander 2 door sedan. At the same time I gained a girl friend named Berniece. A lot of miles were put on this car, many in a DRAG RACING mode. Then there was a 1953 Commander Starliner to replace the '51, but Berniece was still with me.





After dating Berniece and driving a lot of miles in these Studebakers, there are a lot of memories. The '53 was the last Studebaker while living in South Bend. We got married in 1958 at which time I had switched to a Brand X (Oldsmobile). During the years to come, there were a lot of Oldsmobiles along with many other brands.

Thru the years we have enjoyed a little bit of all American made automobiles. Studebakers have always been in the back of my mind. I told Berniece a few years back that I wanted to get another Studebaker. At the time, we had been in this old car hobby for quite a while. Guess what? In 2006 this came true

along with a few more to follow. They are listed below:

- 1941 Commander
- 1952 Commander
- 1955 President Coupe
- 1962 GT Hawk

Currently - 1950 2 Door Commander and 1965 Cruiser. Why only 2 in the garage? My garage is a 3 car garage and my energy level is only two Studebakers at a time Thru the years we have enjoyed quite a mixture of automobiles. Although the Studebaker Corp. has been gone for many years, Studebakers and the memories of the 1950's in South Bend will always remain a big part of our lives.

### **DRIVE ON STUDEBAKERS**





# All I Want For Christmas

Twas the 1941 holiday season and all over town the twinkling Christmas lights sparkled in the falling snow. Trees were being put up and lovingly decorated in homes and businesses. In the Toy Department of the town's biggest department store, Santa Claus sat listening to the children recite just what they wanted to see under their family's tree on Christmas morning. Tinkertoys topped the boys' lists, while most of the girls were still begging for a Shirley Temple doll.



It was shaping up to be a perfect Christmas until Mr. Sims decorated the showroom window at his Studebaker Dealership. Within just a few days, the line to talk to Santa had undergone an unusual transformation. Now fathers were holding their youngsters hands and standing in the long line with the children. As the children inched closer to Santa, you could hear the Dads whispering and coaching their progeny. Most of the conversations went something like this: "Now, Joey and Susie, after you tell Santa what you want for Christmas, be sure to tell him that your Daddy would LOVE to have one of those new Studebakers in Mr. Sim's window." Yes...that was a year that has gone down in North Pole history books. 1941 was the year that fathers started to believe in Santa Claus again!

**HO! HO! HO! and MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



# Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 9 at 12:30 p.m.** – Annual Christmas Luncheon at Green Street Station, 911 N Green St, Brownsburg, IN.

We will have our own private room and be ordering off the menu. There will be NO gift exchange, however you have a great chance to win a prize by participating in a game or two. If you enjoy good food and love to visit with your Studebaker friends, make plans now to attend this annual holiday bash.



**Sandy & Diane need a headcount by December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Their contact info is:

SANDY- [bsfox@att.net](mailto:bsfox@att.net) or 317-439-4747

DIANE- [delmore44@hotmail.com](mailto:delmore44@hotmail.com) or 317-386-8357



## Mark Your Calendar

**Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.** - Larry and Sue Kennedy will host a joint Winter Meet with the Indy Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club and the Southern Indiana/Kentucky Chapter of the Hudson Club. This joint meet will be held at the Franklin Township Civic League, 8822 Southeastern Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46239 (located two houses beyond the Ordinary in downtown Wanamaker). Hosts will provide a meat dish, water, coffee and iced tea. Bring your place settings and a dish or dessert to share. This facility is handicapped accessible and has a handicapped restroom, but no kitchen facilities. There are lots of electrical outlets for crockpots and plenty of parking spaces. If you have questions, contact Larry Kennedy at 317-862-2020



## National Directors

President: Dennis Foust - [studeguy54@gmail.com](mailto:studeguy54@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Don Jones  
Secretary: Cindy Foust - [cfoust1966@gmail.com](mailto:cfoust1966@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Jane Stinson - [jestinson@aol.com](mailto:jestinson@aol.com)  
Past President: Tom Curtis - [tomnancurtis@aol.com](mailto:tomnancurtis@aol.com)

## National Board of Directors

Crossroads Zone National Board Director: Bob Henning at [rhnn15090@aol.com](mailto:rhnn15090@aol.com)  
Crossroad Zone Coordinator: Dave Hamblin  
Regional Manager Indiana: Bob Henning

## National SDC Membership

Regular membership dues in the National Studebaker Club are \$29.00 for new members 1<sup>st</sup> year only. Renewals are \$36.00 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).

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.

Updated January, 2023

Indy Chapter SDC  
Becky Griffith, Editor  
1526 S. Hunter Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46239

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## Indy Chapter Officers

**President:** Nancy Bacon, 1701E. Lawrence Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46227 at [nancyjb1701@aol.com](mailto:nancyjb1701@aol.com) or 317-440-2786  
**V. President:** Danny Taylor, 4083 Primrose Path, Greenwood, IN 461432 at [dgtaylor8888@gmail.com](mailto:dgtaylor8888@gmail.com) or 317-294-6177  
**Secretary:** Beth Doran 2717 E 75 N, Lebanon, IN 46052 at [doran68ba@hotmail.com](mailto:doran68ba@hotmail.com) or 765-891-2704  
**Treasurer:** Tom Flynn, 4531 S CR 500 E, Plainfield, IN 46168, at [tom\\_and\\_trudy@yahoo.com](mailto:tom_and_trudy@yahoo.com) or 317-837-5671  
**Activities:** Charlie Griffith, 1526 S. Hunter Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46239, at [chazwork@msn.com](mailto:chazwork@msn.com) or 317-538-1538  
**Editor:** Becky Griffith, 1526 S. Hunter Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46239, at [becinin@msn.com](mailto:becinin@msn.com) or 317-966-9817

## In addition

**Web Designer:** Jeff Westcott at [www.indychaptersdc.org](http://www.indychaptersdc.org)  
**Facebook:** Larry Hopkins at Studebakers in Indy or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/634984973222050/>

To:



December