

# The ECHO



Newsletter of the  
Grand Canyon State Chapter  
Studebaker Drivers Club

Volume 49 Issue 11

December 2021

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## 1929 ERSKINE MODEL 52 CABRIOLET



### THE ERSKINE AUTOMOBILE

The 1929 Model 52 was ... introduced at the Paris Auto Show with a one-of-a-kind Erskine sedan featuring tapestry upholstery, bronze lacquered hardware, three shades of French violet for exterior paint, a silver roof and window reveals, and running board shields and belt painted in a futuristic pattern. It was a real show stopper and a gentle reminder to onlookers that the Erskine was one with the new world of modernist art.

A world away, the Erskine was being advertised for the "modern farmer", too, since it was "beautiful, sturdy, dependable, economical," and "ideal in every way". It was a car that stood up to the road, and testimonies included those from the Tennessee State Highway Department that used fifty Erskines in its fleet and a North Dakota rural mail carrier who ran it on snow-covered and muddy roads. The annual average cost for replacement parts was low, too, less than one dollar per car.

A testament to the times, the 1929 Owner's Manual reminded owners to lock their car. It also spelled out the very real dangers of running a car in an enclosed garage, encouraged drivers to carry a fire extinguisher in the car, and provided self-help tips for resolving problems of an engine stopping, overheating, missing, or failing to start.

Body styles were more limited with this version and amounted to variants of a tourer, sedan, or cabriolet. Prices ranged from \$860 to \$1045. About 11,500 units sold in 1929, representing 12% of Studebaker's total sales. Sales were definitely down for Studebaker—and for the rest of the country, for that matter, after October's stock crash.

Excerpted from an Erskine article at [www.secondchancegarage.com](http://www.secondchancegarage.com)

**From the Editor's Pen.....**

Scott Grainger had his newest car, Ms Kipp, a 1929 Erskine, at the November picnic which tells me he has a fondness for Erskines as this is his second one. It will be interesting to see the two cars side by side - Ms Kipp is a Cabriolet, and Indy is a 1928 4-door sedan. So, what is an Erskine? You can read a brief history in the adjacent column and on the cover or on Wikipedia and elsewhere on the internet.

Your editor will certainly miss Richie Fein as he was another of the members behind the scenes who helped make things happen. Richie volunteered to assist me with mailing the newsletter a couple of years ago and his help was greatly appreciated, as was that of Dolores who would pick up the newsletter to take home for Richie to fold, tab, label and stamp. We'll also miss his sense of humor - he was good at making us laugh. RIP, Richie.

Thank you to this month's contributors: Michell Eastburn, John Rodhouse, Sherry Watson (be sure to read about her 50 years of SDC membership), Dan Kuhl, Dennis Lynde, Rick Melms, Denny Lockmon, Steve Fein, Richard Dormois and Claudia Robinette.

Happy Holidays! *Chris*

**ABOUT THE COVER**

The Erskine was introduced by Studebaker in 1927 with the Model 50 and was built in Detroit. It received its name from Albert E. Erskine, president of Studebaker at the time. The Erskine was given an European flair with the sweep of the fenders, hood and general body lines by the design studio of R.H. Dietrich. Studebaker hoped to enter the European market, however, due to the price of the Erskine the orders from European buyers never materialized. The line was absorbed into Studebaker in 1930.

**DID YA KNOW? .....**

Did ya know... that there are more chickens than people in the world?

Did ya know... that on a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American Flag?

Did ya know... that all 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$ 5 bill?

Did ya know... that almonds are a member of the peach family?

Did ya know... that Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.

The *ECHO* is the official newsletter of the Grand Canyon State Chapter, SDC and is published 11 times per year. Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Please submit articles, tech tips, etc. by the 20th of the month preceding publication. Other newsletter editors are welcome to use any material with proper credit given.

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# STATE OF THE CHAPTER

By Michell Eastburn, President

I hope my wish from December 2020 came true and that no matter your differences, be they cultural, political or ideas, that you found common ground to be civil. And that we can all were able to find some "Peace on Earth". Also, I am confident that we were all able to give someone a smile and a "have a nice day" and that we are coming to the realization that we are slowly returning to pre-pandemic ways and we are able to gather, hug, and share once again.



We all have to admit that this "Modified" year has been pretty awesome for our Chapter! Our "Modified" Winter Gathering and March Madness were well attended and Chapter events throughout the year have been a great mix of venues with a greater mix of people and cars. It has been amazing to see so many new faces this year, and as I've written and stated several times this year, thank you to the members and families for participating, volunteering, supplying, hosting and supporting the Grand Canyon State Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club.

Our 2021 season will be coming to a close this Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at our Holiday Party/Membership Meeting hosted by Larry Polhill and our 2022 season will be starting with our Winter Gathering on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Martin Auto Museum. The board continues to plan new and fun activities for 2022 and we are excited to get the new year started. Well wishes for the final month of 2021 and warm wishes for the new 2022 year, make sure you are getting your Studebaker and/or other classic ready for the New Year and new events!

*A brand new year 2022 Is knocking at the door  
and a memory full year is going to end.  
Let's say goodbye with smiles,  
Let's say hello with cheers.  
Bye Bye 2021 & Welcome 2022.*



Photo courtesy of Claudia Robins

Chapter President Michell and Chapter Secretary Richard at the Member Appreciation picnic November 14th.

## In Memory .....

It is with sadness we inform you three GCS Chapter members passed away recently.

**Frank Williams** - Frank lived in the desert outside Eloy and liked working on his three Studebakers and other collector cars and enjoyed attending the March Studebaker gatherings. He died October 7th.

**Lee Wolff** - Beloved wife of Paul Wolff, Lee died October 17th in Evergreen, Colo. She enjoyed many artistic endeavors and traveling. In recent years, she and Paul spent time in Casa Grande during the winter and often attended Chapter events.

**Richie Fein** - Husband of Dolores and brother and sister-in-law of Steve and Paulette, Richie passed away on November 2nd. He took pleasure in his association with the Chapter, serving on the Chapter board and assisting any way he could at Chapter events, especially helping with the 50/50 raffle. Please read the tribute to Richie by Richard Dormois on page 7.

**Richie's service will be held on December 6th, 2021** at 1:30pm and will take place at National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, 23029 N Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, 85024 (north of the Loop 101).

If anyone wishes to make a donation in his name, the preferred charity is:  
Canine Companions  
P.O. Box 446  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446.

*The Chapter sends its deepest condolences to the families of the members who have left us. A donation in each member's honor has been made to either the Studebaker National Museum or the Studebaker National Foundation.*

### CHAPTER NAME BADGE

Order your Chapter name badge with a pin back by contacting Chris Collins at [ccollinsaz@cox.net](mailto:ccollinsaz@cox.net) or 602-995-2146. The price is \$5.00 each.

If you wish to have a magnet back on your badge, the price is \$6.00 each.

The name badges are available in the traditional brass and black with the SDC logo or a blue plastic with the Chapter logo.

THE  
**Studebaker**  
DRIVERS CLUB INC.



## MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Forty two GCSC members and several guests enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon on November 4th at Falcon Field Park in Mesa visiting with Chapter friends, watching planes fly over from Falcon Field, admiring members' cars and trucks and eating pizza. The Picnic in the Park was hosted by the Chapter Board as a Member Appreciation celebration. Among the Studebakers was Scott Grainger's newly acquired 1929 Erskine 52E Cabriolet, just brought in from Buffalo, New York. Door prizes were given, a driver's prize was won by Scott Grainger for driving Ms Kipp and a 50/50 drawing for \$72.00 was won by one of the guests. The drawings were preceded by a short meeting conducted by Michelle with information about upcoming events in December and January and Chris Collins gave a brief update on Studebaker National Foundation news.



Photo courtesy of Steve Fein.

Thank you to Kent Musgrave and Jerry Day for picking up and delivering the pizza for the event, to Gwen Eastburn for assisting with set-up, serving pizza, and break-down, to Carl Reid who also assisted with set-up and break-down of the event and to Russ and Sharon Ware for showing up early to the hold extra cabana space.

Attending were Jim & Gerry Carr (Prescott Valley), Butch Summers, 1964 Daytona (Sun Lakes), Denny Lockmon (Sun City), Larry & Ruth Cushing (Peoria), Gwen Eastburn (Waddell), Steve & Paulette Fein, 1966 Cruiser (Phoenix), Paul & Phyllis Setaro, 1962 GT Hawk (Glendale), Scott Grainger, 1929 Erskine 52E Cabriolet, "Ms Kipp" (Mesa), Jim Pruitt, 1947 M Truck (Apache Junction), Garry Klingner and Truman the dog, 1952 SLC (Tempe), Jim Clever (Phoenix), Tim Phillips, 1955 Commander (Surprise), Russ & Sharon Ware, 1951 Land Cruiser (Gilbert), Chuck & Chris Collins (Phoenix), Norman & Janice Marineau (Sun City), Al Riedel (Sun City), Lenny & Barb Olsen, 1937 Coupe Express (San Tan Valley), Jerry & June Kaiser, 1959 Transtar (Marana), Michell Eastburn, 1902 Goat Wagon (Phoenix), Carl & Esther Reid, 1963 GT Hawk (Phoenix), Adam DeRosa, 1972 Avanti II (Scottsdale), Richard Dormois (Mesa), Claudia Robinette (Mesa), Dennis Lynde & Linda Saar, 1963 GT Hawk (Mesa), Kent Musgrave & Jerry Day, 1966 Nova and 1958 Custom 300 Ford (Mesa), Carol & Bob Westfall, 1950 Ford (Phoenix), Bill & Peggy Eastburn and 7 guests (Phoenix), John Rodhouse (Chandler), Gordon Richmond (Alberta, Can.) and Mat Thompson (Apache Junction).

Thank you, all, for your participation in our celebration!



Photo courtesy of Steve Fein.

L: Paul and Phyllis Setaro

R: Scott Grainger and Ms Kipp

Below L: Kaisers' Transtar

Below R: Sharon and Russ Ware



Photo courtesy of Steve Fein.



Photo courtesy of Steve Fein.



Photo courtesy of Claudia Robinette.

More photos on page 13 and the Chapter Facebook page.

## GRAND CANYON STATE CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DECEMBER 4**      **GCSC HOLIDAY PARTY** HOSTED BY LARRY POLHILL AT HIS PRIVATE STUDEBAKER COLLECTION, 7856 NORTH GLEN HARBOR BLVD., GLENDALE AT 11:00AM WITH LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE CHAPTER AT NOON. MEMBERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE 50/50 AND CAN RAFFLES TO WIN \$\$ AND PRIZES. PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO DONATE TO LOCAL FOOD BANK. INFO: [peggyeastburn@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyeastburn@hotmail.com) or 623-936-6116
- DIRECTIONS:** FROM THE LOOP 101, EXIT NORTHERN AVE., PROCEED WEST ABOUT 1.5 MILES TO THE TRAFFIC LIGHT AT GLEN HARBOR BLVD./103RD AVE., PROCEED SOUTH (LEFT); LOOK FOR THE STUDEBAKER FEATHERS IN THE MEDIAN. THE ROAD WILL WIND SOUTHWEST, FOLLOW IT TO JUST PAST THE COCA COLA SIGN ON THE RIGHT TO 7856 N. GLEN HARBOR BLVD. ON THE RIGHT. FROM THE EAST ON NORTHERN AVE. PROCEED AS ABOVE TO GLEN HARBOR BLVD.
- JANUARY 9, 2022**      GCSC BOARD AND OFFICERS WILL MEET AT 2:00 PM VIA ZOOM CALL OR VIDEO. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. TO JOIN IN THE MEETING CONTACT PEGGY AT 623-936-6116 or [peggyeastburn@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyeastburn@hotmail.com) TO BE INCLUDED IN NOTIFICATION LIST FOR MEETING DETAILS.
- JANUARY 22, 2022**      **GCSC WINTER GATHERING AT MARTIN AUTO MUSEUM** AT 43rd AVE. & THUNDERBIRD RD. (NORTHWEST CORNER), PHOENIX FROM 10 AM TO 1:00 PM. CAR SHOW & PEOPLE'S CHOICE WITH AWARDS, SILENT AUCTION, SWAP MEET FROM 10-NOON IN PARKING LOT, CATERED LUNCH (DETAILS TO FOLLOW) AT NOON IN MEETING ROOM. WHEN YOU ARRIVE PLEASE REGISTER WITH PEGGY AND HER HELPERS AND RECEIVE A DASH PLAQUE. IF YOU DROVE YOUR STUDEBAKER FILL OUT AND DISPLAY YOUR WINDSHIELD CARD. TO RSVP FOR LUNCH, TO SPONSOR AN AWARD AT \$20 OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PEGGY AT [peggyeastburn@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyeastburn@hotmail.com) OR 623-936-6116. GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO TAKE SELF TOURS OF THE MUSEUM THROUGHOUT THE DAY. VISIT [www.martinautomuseum](http://www.martinautomuseum) TO PREVIEW MUSEUM.
- JANUARY 23, 2022**      GCSC MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER ((SAC) FRIENDS AT THEIR ANNUAL BANQUET AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, 5151 E. GRANT RD., TUCSON. \$35.00 PP BUFFET LUNCH TO BE SERVED FROM NOON UNTIL 1:00PM. COME EARLY FOR VISITING AND TIRE KICKING. PROGRAM FOLLOWS LUNCH. RSVP TO BOB MILES W/CHECK TO P.O. BOX 12932, TUCSON, AZ 85732 BY JANUARY 15. INFO: [mc61coupe@aol.com](mailto:mc61coupe@aol.com)
- FEBRUARY 5, 2022**      ORPHAN CAR SHOW AT GILBERT CARS & COFFEE EVENT AT SWEETZ COLD BREW COFFEE CO, 835 N. GILBERT RD., SUITE 101. FROM 8AM-11AM. ATTEND WITH YOUR STUDEBAKER OR OTHER ORPHAN CAR. SHARE THIS EVENT WITH OTHER ORPHAN CAR OWNERS. GILBERT CARS & COFFE IS HELD EVERY SATURDAY OCTOBER-MAY. INFO: DANIEL METCALF AT 480-286-4813
- MARCH 12, 2022**      ALL ARIZONA STUDEBAKER GATHERING HOSTED BY THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER AT FREDDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD/STEAKBURGERS. 3725 W. ORANGE GROVE RD. MORE INFO TO FOLLOW OR CONTACT JOHN LEWIS AT [lewishoot@cox.net](mailto:lewishoot@cox.net)
- MARCH 17-20 2022**      ASC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER HOSTS 2022 PALM SPRINGS MEET. HOST HOTEL: TRAVELODGE, 1269 E. PALM CANYON DR., PALM SPRINGS 760-323-2775. RATES: \$105/NIGHT BY FEB. 17. MENTION ASC. MEET & GREET, GROUP MEALS, DRIVE TOURS. \$25PP, PAYABLE ON ARRIVAL. RSVP TO FRANK AT 760-774-3377

**FOR ALL UNDERLINED EVENTS LISTED ABOVE VISIT THE CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE STUDEBAKERS GRAND CANYON STATE CHAPTER TO ADD THE EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR. OR CONTACT PEGGY 623-936-6116 or [peggyeastburn@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyeastburn@hotmail.com) FOR INFORMATION.**

## CAR SHOWS WE'VE ATTENDED

### Cars & Candy Fall Festival

October 24th, the Red Mountain Community Church in Mesa held its annual Cars & Candy Fall Festival and participating in the no-cost car show were **Dennis Lynde and Linda Saar** with their 1963 GT Hawk, **John Rodhouse and Ainsley** showing their 1950 SLC, **Jim McDonald** with his 1951 SLC, **Gary and Sandy Keating** displaying their 1934 Commander and **Carol and Bob Westfall** with their 1950 Ford. Jim McDonald coordinated the event.

Reported by Dennis Lynde

### Denim & Diamonds Scottsdale Fashion Square Rooftop Concours d'Elegance

This was an invitational show as a fundraiser supporting The Scottsdale Charro Foundation held November 13th. An assortment of cars were invited by the show's promoter. He found cars at various shows around the valley and my 1964 Avanti was spotted at the Sanderson Ford Rockabilly show.

The show was very organized and featured the exotics including Lamborghinis, McLarens, Ferraris, etc. We were treated very well and the food was outstanding. It was a pleasure to attend this event.

Submitted by Denny Lockmon

Contact editor at [ccollinsaz@cox.net](mailto:ccollinsaz@cox.net) with your news about shows you've attended.

### Goodguys Southwest Nationals

The Goodguys 24th Southwest Nats car show happened on Nov. 19-21. Known club members in attendance were **Denny Lockmon**, 1964 Avanti, with friend Duane Pascoss, **Rick Melms**, 1988 Avanti convertible and **Eric Washburn**, 1949 Commander.

Special congrats to **Denny** for receiving the Restored Award. Where were the rest of the club members? You all missed the biggest and best car shows in Phoenix twice a year!

Submitted by Rick Melms



The award for the Avanti is called the Restored Award. I've been attending Goodguys events for 25 years and this is first time I have been picked for an award. There were a few Studebakers but not as many as I would like to see.



Submitted by Denny Lockmon

### Studebaker — Builder of Champions

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Questions? Call Chris at 602-995-2146			1	2	3	4
5	6 Hanukkah ends	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9 1963 Studebaker announces closing of SB plant	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	



### REMEMBERING RICHARD HOWARD FEIN

By Richard Dormois

Richie has left this life much too early. That becomes so serious because Richie had planned to give much more to the Studebaker Drivers Club, to his American Legion Post and to his family. I feel qualified to pen this missive to you because I enjoyed speaking to him in person, on the telephone or by email several times a week for the last two years.



Richie looked festive at a Chapter holiday party. Photo by Steve Fein.

Richie Fein was a devoted husband, father, brother and friend to many. I have yet to meet a person who didn't establish a lasting friendship with Richie Fein as soon as they met him. A close friend of mine, Charles Fisher, 80, of Mesa, Arizona, first encountered Richie at a Studebaker car show in 2020 and spoke with him for nearly an hour. "We talked about everything. Our service time. We talked about our disabilities, cars and people we knew. He was just a good dude. I miss him."

Richie was so thoughtful and generous. When he heard of discounted tickets to Phoenix Mercury, Phoenix Suns or Arizona Rattlers games, he bought them and gave them to me. When Dolores was out of town or not feeling well I always got to go with him to see the Arizona Rattlers Indoor Football team play. He introduced me to Rattler's management who told me I was lucky to have such a good friend.

Richie was a dedicated member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Canyon State Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club but wanted to contribute more so he helped Editor Chris Collins with distribution of the ECHO newsletter. He survived his service in combat to serve in civilian life. He was very proud of his American Legion post and rose to Commander and bought advertising in local media to solicit members.

We remember as Richie found light hearted levity describing his leg amputation, "I was just trying to think up another amputee joke, but I'm stumped"

Dolores, we can never experience the depth of your pain, but the memories of Richie will live in our hearts forever.

Heidi Wills wrote "A GOOD PERSON IS A GIFT TO THE WHOLE WORLD". Thank you Richie for our gift.

**Reminder: To be a member of the GCSC you must be a member of the Studebaker Drivers Club.** If your SDC dues are not current, please visit <https://sdc.cornerstonereg.com/> to renew or use a membership application on the back page of *Turning Wheels* or send your SDC dues with your Chapter dues.

## CELEBRATE! December Birthdays



- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Alan Tudor         | 16 Larry Malmstrom  |
| 2 Pat Swanson        | 17 Kathy Parkey     |
| 3 Bill Eastburn      | 17 Linda Saar       |
| 4 Rosalie Torske     | 21 John Zimmerman   |
| 4 Arlene West        | 24 Kevin Studebaker |
| 5 John Lewis         | 27 Cynthia Phillips |
| 5 Dennis Lynde       | 28 Russ Ware        |
| 10 Don Parkey        | 31 Elaine Wright    |
| 12 Maryanne Eastburn |                     |

### December Anniversaries

- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| 2 Tim & Joyce Wright    |
| 3 Dana & Meridith Tietz |
| 27 Russ & Sharon Ware   |



### Children's Birthdays

- |  |
|--|
| 18 Sydney Tietz<br>(daughter of Dana & Meridith) |
|--|

### 2022 CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE IN DECEMBER

Your Chapter dues for 2022 are due in December and can be paid with a check or cash to the treasurer at a Chapter event or by sending a check to the PO box (see page 12) or using Pay Pal (see the Chapter website [www.grandcanyonsdc.com](http://www.grandcanyonsdc.com) for a link to Pay Pal).

There are two membership options - \$18.00 for membership with a mailed copy of the Chapter newsletter and \$15.00 for membership with the emailed newsletter.

Everyone with an email address is currently receiving the ECHO by email including those who receive a newsletter in the mail. Please consider renewing at \$15.00 to receive your newsletter exclusively by email to help save shipping and printing costs as well as the labor involved in USPS mailing. Thank you for your consideration.

Please be sure to update your information for the roster, if necessary, with Chris Collins, membership chair, at [ccollinsaz@cox.net](mailto:ccollinsaz@cox.net)

### CHAPTER FUNDRAISING



T-shirts featuring the Studebaker script, saguaros and a buzzard, \$15.00 ea in many sizes. **T-shirts will be available at upcoming Chapter meetings and events.**

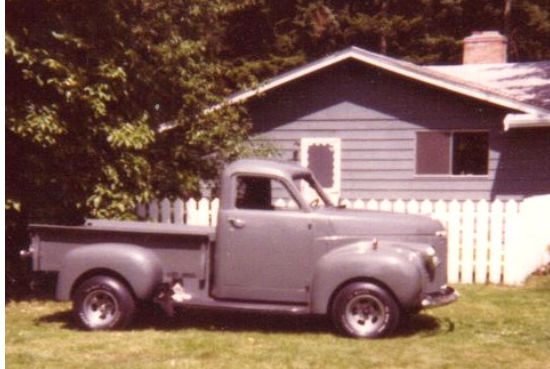
## What a fantastic ride it has been...now on to many more enjoyable years.

By Sherry Watson

2021 closes out 50 years of my membership with the Studebaker Drivers Club. The memories are plentiful, the friendships over the years and of course the many Studebakers Ron and I owned are treasured and will forever remain in my heart.

It all began in Brawley, California in 1970. We were planning a move to Bellingham, Washington for a new job for Ron. After packing all our belongings in a U-Haul trailer attached to the back of our car, Ron decided we still had a pickup truck worth of goodies we just had to take. Off he went in search of a cheap truck to purchase that would make the trip from one end of the map to the other. He found two for sale. An old Dodge and a 1948 M5 Studebaker. He liked the looks of the Studebaker and after the owner assured him it would make it the whole way, he bought it. The truck was not beautiful, it had been an old Navy truck and looked pretty rough. It had a hole the size of the Grand Canyon in the drivers seat, and difficult to shift without double clutching...(to this day I still don't know what that means) but after stuffing the seat full of old pieces of carpet and tinkering with the transmission, we were off..with me driving the truck. No ac, no heat, no radio and a 2 year old chattering the entire way and telling everyone he saw at rest stops, his mom was a truck driver! That began our involvement with Studebakers. Little did we dream it would last 50 years..

On a beautiful spring day in Bellingham, a newspaper article caught our eye. Anyone interested in forming a Studebaker Drivers Club chapter please attend a picnic in the park. That picnic, attended by about 20 people, was the formation of the Whatcom County Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club. We were all young,, had small children and our cars for the most part were not show quality, they were daily drivers. We all helped each other. If a car had problems, the whole club would show up to help get it back on the road. Cars were sold and bought for a hundred bucks, passed on from one Studebaker lover to the next. Over the years we acquired a few more M5s, a few Hawks, Commanders, one of every model except Larks and Avantis. Not sure why, guess the opportunity never arose.



After a couple of more moves, one to Pocatello, Idaho and the last to Arizona, our stable of cars dwindled. Ron's passing in 2011 sort of zapped my interest in the cars for awhile. Not in the chapters we belonged to and never the many friends we made, but just interest in the ownership of the cars. I sold our last Hawk, my 1960, to Drew and Gail Peterson. I knew they would enjoy that car as we had. Only one Studebaker out of the 20 or more we owned over the years remains in my garage. The original 1948 pickup that made the trip from California to Washington. For some reason i can't part with that piece of our history that began our 50 year relationship with Studebakers.



### GRAND CANYON STATE CHAPTER TREASURER'S REPORT 1/1/21 - 6/30/21

Submitted by John Rodhouse

#### Checking Account

Ending Balance as of 12/31/20 \$2893.90

#### RECEIPTS

2020 Chapter Dues	3.00
2021 Chapter Dues	1,699.00
Chapter dues paid through Pay Pal	1,236.04
SDC Dues	322.00
2021 Zone Meet Recoup	531.25
(1080.74 returned less 549.49 for 2021 calendars, paid 12/21/2020)	
January Meeting Food Sales	185.00
ECHO Ad	125.00
T-Shirts	175.00
Poster Sale	15.00
March Madness Can Raffle	150.00
March Madness Food Sales	377.00
Avanti Club March Madness Donation	50.00
50/50 - March	110.00
Name Badges	43.00
Donation	3.00
	<u>\$4,899.29</u>
	\$7,918.19

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Transfer to Money Market	2,000.00
SDC Dues	269.00
ECHO Printing & Postage	779.54
January Event Food and Supplies	258.00
March Madness Food and Supplies	431.15
March Drivers Awards	127.23
Website Hosting	110.26
Website Software	99.00
Name Badges	47.10
SDC Meet Trophy Donation	100.00
Zone Meet Trophy Donation	<u>100.00</u>
	\$4321.28
Ending Balance as of 6/30/2021	\$3,596.91
Cash on Hand	\$260.00

#### MONEY MARKET

Ending Balance 12/31/2020	\$5,327.08
Transfer from Checking	2,000.00
Interest @.05%	<u>.28</u>
Ending Balance 6/30/2021	\$7327.64

Grand Total 6/30/21 \$11,184.55

The report was previously printed in the October newsletter and is re-printed with amended and additional information.



# MAZDA

By Dan Kuhl

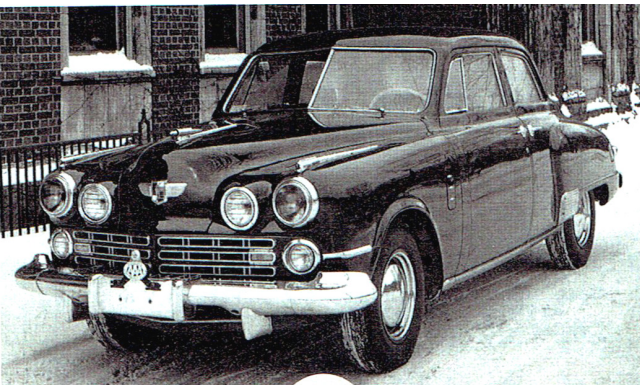
Everyone has heard of the Mazda automobile. I do not know, but assume, that it was named after the Persian god of light, which is a fitting title for this article about early headlight development for automobiles.

In a past article information was provided about the many developments associated with Charles F. Kettering of Delco, who developed the electric starter, that more than anything else influenced women into driving automobiles. Just as important, if not more so, was the development of headlights that permitted driving anytime of the day, and under not so ideal weather conditions.

The early (Brass Era) history of kerosene and carbide lighting devices is well documented in many other articles. This article will provide details on the development of the electric headlight by General Electric (GE).

Prior to 1940 there were a myriad of methods employed in the construction of electric headlights. The early lights can be best described as a spotlight or search light in construction (unsealed), with optics in the inner reflective surface or the light lens. Glare from oncoming traffic using these lights was a real problem. These lights often required frequent bulb replacement. Spare lamp kits became popular and were carried in the car for easy bulb replacement. In 1910 the Mazda bulb kit was introduced. These types of repair kits were sold to car owners through the early 1940s (collectible examples are available for purchase on eBay; the photo displays a kit from my collection).

In the 1930s research into sealed lights began. In 1936 the crudely built "custard cup" light set the stage for sealed beam light development. In 1939 David K. Wright received two patents that would lead to the sealed beam headlight found in our Studebakers in 1940. The 1939 cars came with the old style headlights that could be removed and replaced by sealed beam lights. A sealed beam headlight kit was offered by Studebaker dealers and is the reason why most 1939 Studebakers are found with sealed beam headlights.



In 1940 all American auto manufacturers except Willys began to use the sealed headlight. Research into the best sealed beam headlight continued throughout the 1940s and into the 50s. In one example Val Roper, an engineer for GE, used his personal 1947 Studebaker to test polarizing lenses. See the darkened outboard lenses in the photo. Also, early in its development sealed lights came with a metal back; moisture collected on the metal surface causing a decreased light output. By 1955 all sealed beam headlights were manufactured using the all-glass technology.

In the 1950s many changes occurred. In 1953 GE came out with an all-weather sealed beam light that incorporated a filter for the low beam filament that permitted better vision under foggy conditions. Thousands of functional headlights were replaced

with the all-weather units because of the remarkable difference in visibility. In the early 50s many states prohibited more than two headlights. In 1956 extensive testing began on the four headlight system that proved it was safer than the two light system. In 1958 new laws permitted four lights in all states, resulting in the remarkable switch by most auto manufacturers in their 1958 new car lineup.

## References:

Ebrabrant, Ralph "Early Days of Automotive Lighting." *Vintage Truck Magazine* Vol 26. No 6 (Jan/Feb 2019). pp 32-37.

Fox, Fred K. (October 1990). "1939 Presidents and Commanders." *Turning Wheels*, Vol , No10, pp. 6-16.

Note: All but the last paragraph came from this reference. The last paragraph came from a history of automotive lighting on the web.


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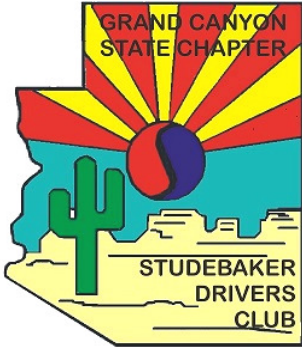
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# The *ECHO*

Newsletter of the Grand Canyon State Chapter, SDC  
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## REMINDERS FOR DECEMBER

See page 5 for details.

4 Holiday Party

Watch your email for event updates.



Christmas display on turntable at Stewart Motors Studebaker dealership in Phoenix circa 1950 or '51.  
Thanks to Dan Kuhl for photo.



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