

The ECHO



Newsletter of the
Grand Canyon State Chapter
Studebaker Drivers Club

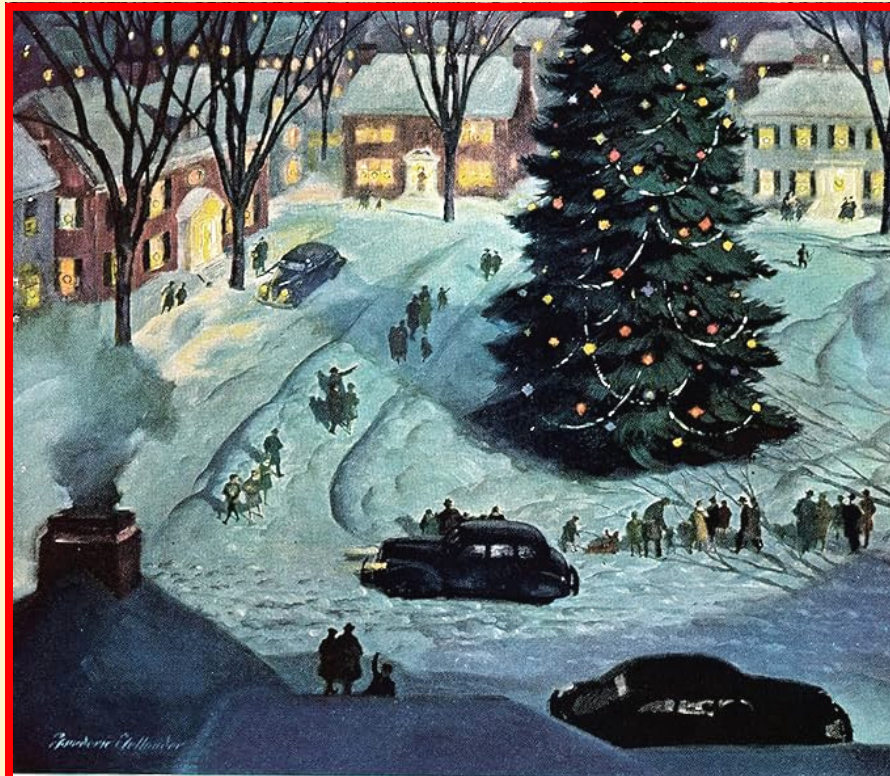
Volume 51 Issue 11

2022 Golden Quill Winner

December 2023

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A Christmas to remember...

This year, the beautiful old Yuletide sentiment — “peace on earth” — means something far more real to most of us than it did at any previous Christmas . . . In this ever-memorable year of 1945, peace is a dearly won and precious acquisition we know we must treasure vigilantly . . . And so, as the lights of this inspiring Christmas twinkle at our hearthsides, as carolers sing their joyous roundelays and community trees gleam with friendliness, our nation hopefully, confidently and resolutely faces the opportunity to shape its destiny.

★ STUDEBAKER ★

Builder of cars worthy of America's homes

Happy Holidays!

From the Editor's Pen

Our cover is an advertisement that has been there in the past and is one that is always evocative of the post-WWII feeling of peace and the beauty of Christmas, a feeling we long for today.

Bill Simmons is happy to report the GT Hawk he advertised for sale is sold and it is going to South Dakota for the enjoyment of member John Lewis who recently moved there. When you sell the Studebaker you had for sale be sure to let the editor know so it can be removed. It's always fun to know where it went, too.

Also, your ad is seen throughout the country as the editor exchanges newsletters with SDC Chapter editors around the county and world. You never know who will be interested in what you have to sell.

Reprinted in this issue is an article from *Old Cars Weekly* about the two 1963 R2 Champ pickups built by Studebaker. Do you know where they are now?

Thank you for the contributions this month: Michell Eastburn, Dan Kuhl, Pete Yuen, *Old Cars Weekly*, Aubrey Eastburn, Chloe Eastburn and Mike Jones.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Chris



NEW MEMBER CHALLENGE

When a Chapter member recruits a new member to join SDC and/or the Grand Canyon State Chapter he/she will have Chapter dues paid for 2024. Just ask the new member to mention your name on the application where it asks "Referred By".

Two family members have earned 2024 membership: Paul and Phyllis Setaro and Don and Sheri Engstrom. There is still time for you to also have your membership comp'd for 2024 when you recruit or refer a Stude aficionado to join SDC and/or the GCSC by 12/31.

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. Dues are \$36.00 for one year, \$99.00 for three years or \$161.00 for five years. If you no longer wish to receive *Turning Wheels*, there is a membership option without the magazine at \$12.00 per year.

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

"December is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and to embrace the opportunities of the coming one." - Oprah Winfrey



Here we are in the 12th month of the year, and you are still here reading my States of the Chapter. Seems as though this year has flown by, but then again don't they all. So many great memories over the past year as we have tried to slip out of that pandemic slump. I would like to thank the chapter members and families for participating, volunteering, supplying, hosting and supporting the Grand Canyon State Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club this year, it has been a pleasure serving as your President, once again.

Our 2023 season will be coming to a close Saturday, December 2nd, at our Annual Holiday Party hosted by Larry Polhill. Can't wait to catch up with you all and enjoy some unique Studebaker memorabilia and history. Looking to the near future, this year we will be gathering at Larry Polhill's private Studebaker collection for our Winter Gathering on January 20th. This event will surely start off 2024 with a bang, don't miss it. Hoping for a beautiful morning to allow for a beautiful showing of cars where people's choice awards will be presented. Don't forget there will be swapping at the event, along with a membership meeting, 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and lunch.

The board continues to plan new and fun activities for 2024 and we are excited to get the new year started. January 14th the GCSC is welcome to join the Southern Arizona Chapter at the White Stallion Ranch in Tucson for their annual Banquet. Our Chapter will proceed into February on the east side of town at The Queen Creek Olive Mill on the 25th. Keep an eye on the ECHO calendar for details on our upcoming events.

Well wishes for the final month of 2023 and warm wishes for the new 2024 year, make sure you are getting your Studebaker, and/or other classic, ready for the New Year and new events!

MISTLETOE

Sitting under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
One last candle burning low,
All the sleepy dancers gone,
Just one candle burning on,
Shadows lurking everywhere:
Some one came, and kissed me there.
Tired I was; my head would go
Nodding under the mistletoe
(Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
No footsteps came, no voice, but only,
Just as I sat there, sleepy, lonely,
Stooped in the still and shadowy air
Lips unseen—and kissed me there.



– Walter de La Mare

CHAPTER SECRETARY NEEDED

After many years serving as Chapter Secretary extraordinaire, Richard Dormois has chosen to retire from the position and now there is an opening for another member to step up and perform the job. Duties include recording minutes at monthly board meetings, which are currently held on Sundays, and at Chapter events of the activities and actions that take place.

The next board meeting is January 7th at 1:00 pm and will be held via Zoom. The president sends out a notice a day or two prior to the meeting with an agenda and the call-in information. You can participate with or without video.

If you attend most Chapter events, have a spare two hours each month for the board meetings and are interested in helping with the planning of Chapter activities, this may be the job for you. Contact Michell or another officer or board member if you need more information or to volunteer.

Thoughts and Well Wishes to

Bill Cervini	Brian Millette
Sue King	Jim Nereau
Denny Lockmon	Rosalie Torske
Mary Powell-McConnell	Richard Dormois

2024 CHAPTER DUES

Grand Canyon State Chapter dues are due in December and 2024 dues for all members are \$20.00 yearly. Among the many benefits of Chapter membership is the newsletter and you have the choice of receiving it through the mail or electronically via an email but **please consider having your newsletter sent by email only. This will help contain the increasing costs of printing and stamps as well as cut down on the labor involved in mailing. Your consent to receive an email copy only would be appreciated.**

Dues can be paid by cash, check or via Pay Pal - <https://www.grandcanyonsdc.com/membershipSDC.html> Please complete the application on page 12 if paying by mail or send the information by email if paying via Pay Pal. Your up-to-date information keeps the Chapter roster current.

MEETING HOSTS WANTED

If you would like to host a Chapter meeting or event in 2024, please contact a board member and tell him/her what you have in mind.

MEMBER APPRECIATION GATHERING

A very enjoyable and well attended gathering on November 4th at the home of Tim and Cynthia Phillips was highlighted by the camaraderie among the members along with the delicious pulled pork lunch prepared by the hosts and the sides and desserts provided by members. The Phillips' neighbors were thrilled to see our collector vehicles on the street, asking Tim about them and satisfying their curiosity about years, makes and models.

After the yummy lunch and plates of cakes, pies, cookies and other sweets were consumed, Michell led a meeting with updates on upcoming events in December, January and February. Then, door prize drawings were held with many receiving gift cards and various other interesting goodies. Before all left to return home, the hosts were given a hearty Thank You for their generous hospitality.

Attending were Steve & Paulette Fein; Bill & Judith Barker; Bill & Cheryl Simmons, 1953 Commander; Jim Fischbach & Gloria Erdos, 1953 Champion Starliner; Chris & Rachel Eastburn, Aubrey & Chloe, 1963 Lark; Dan Kuhl, 1959 Scotsman; Dennis Lynde & Linda Saar; John Rodhouse, 1972 Porsche; Will Eastburn & Gwen Eastburn, 1963 GT Hawk; Domenica Eastburn; Chuck & Chris Collins; Carl & Esther Reid, 1963 GT Hawk; Jim Clever; Michell Eastburn; Bill & Peggy Eastburn; Jim & Gerry Carr; Ed & Linda Costell; Walt Jazwinski and guest Jim Jazwinski; John Kroulik; Kolton Kroulik; Norman & Janice Marineau; Larry Polhill and guest Esther Fuchita, 1963 Wagonaire; Carol Westfall, 1950 Ford; and our hosts, Tim & Cynthia Phillips, 1955 Commander. ~ Chris Collins

A huge thank you to our hosts Tim and Cynthia Phillips for graciously letting our Studebaker family into their home with open doors. Also, thank you to Patrick & Brischell Eastburn for supplementing table and chairs for our event. Events like these wouldn't be as successful without our set-up and break down-down crews; thank you to Carol Westfall, Carl Reid, Gwen Eastburn, and Domenica Eastburn. ~ Michell



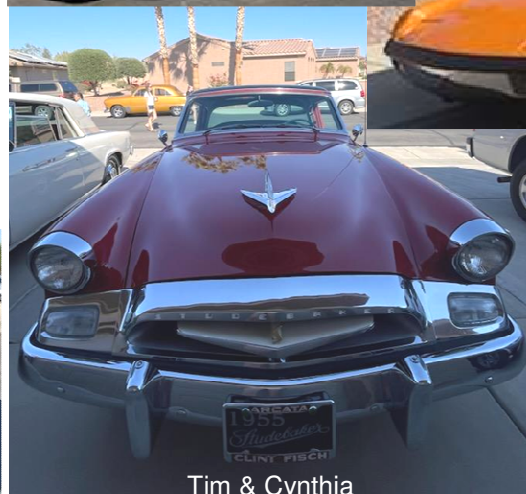
Jim & Gloria



Carol



John, Will



Tim & Cynthia



Carl & Esther



Bill & Cheryl



Chris Eastburn Family



Dan

Photos courtesy of Aubrey & Chloe Eastburn.

GRAND CANYON STATE CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DECEMBER 2**
Saturday **CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY AT LARRY POLHILL COLLECTION, 7856 N. GLEN HARBOR BLVD., GLENDALE FROM 11AM TO 3PM QUESTIONS: PEGGY AT 623-936-6116 OR peggyeastburn@hotmail.com**
- JANUARY 7, 2024**
Sunday **GCSC BOARD AND OFFICERS WILL MEET AT 1:00 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 TO BE INCLUDED IN NOTIFICATION LIST FOR MEETING DETAILS.**
- JANUARY 14, 2024**
Sunday **SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER'S ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD AT WHITE STALLION RANCH, 9251 W. TWIN PEAKS RD., TUCSON WITH DOORS OPEN AT 11:30am, SERVING STARTS AT NOON. MENU INCLUDES HAMBURGERS, GRILLED CHICKEN, COWBOY BEANS, MACARONI AND CHEESE, BREADS AND COOKIES. LUNCH IS \$32 AND INCLUDES TAX. BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS, WITH 50/50 AND AUCTION. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING AN ITEM FOR AUCTION. MUST RSVP TO RANDY GOBLE AT dgrg0823@comcast.net AND SEND PAYMENT TO SAC SDC, BOX 12913, TUCSON, AZ 85732 BY JAN. 6. CHAPTER MUST PRE-PAY FOR TOTAL COUNT ON JANUARY 6.**
- JANUARY 20, 2024**
Saturday **WINTER GATHERING AT LARRY POLHILL COLLECTION, 7856 N. GLEN HARBOR BLVD., GLENDALE FROM 10am - 2pm WITH LUNCH AT NOON. \$10 PP ENTRY FEE WHICH INCLUDES LUNCH. CAR SHOW WITH PEOPLE'S CHOICE JUDGING. SPONSOR AN AWARD FOR \$20. SWAP FROM TRUNK, TRUCK OR PARKING SPACE. SILENT AUCTION, 50/50 RAFFLE, DASH PLAQUES. RSVP BY 1/15/2024 OR TO SPONSOR AN AWARD TO PEGGY AT 623-936-6116 or peggyeastburn@hotmail.com**
- FEBRUARY 25, 2024**
Sunday **CHAPTER WILL MEET AT QUEEN CREEK OLIVE MILL, 25062 S. MERIDIAN RD., QUEEN CREEK. MEET AT 1:00PM FOR LUNCH AND MEETING. OLIVE MILL TOURS AND OLIVE OIL AND OTHER OLIVE PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. VISIT <https://www.queencreekolivemill.com> FOR TOUR SCHEDULE AND LUNCH MENU. QUESTIONS: PEGGY AT 623-936-6116 OR peggyeastburn@hotmail.com**
- JUNE 25-29, 2024** **60TH INTERNATIONAL SDC MEET, DUBUQUE, IOWA. SEE NOVEMBER *TURNING WHEELS* FOR INFORMATION OR VISIT WWW.SDC.COM. REGISTRATION IS OPEN.**

FOR ALL UNDERLINED EVENTS LISTED ABOVE VISIT THE CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE STUDEBAKERS GRAND CANYON STATE CHAPTER TO ADD THE EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR.

If any event plans change we will let you know with an e-mail or phone call and through the Chapter website or Facebook page.

NON-CHAPTER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 2023** **REMEMBER WHEN CRUISE ASSN. TOYZ FOR TOTZ CRUISE**
From 9am to 1pm Cops Who Care welcome the Remember When Cruise Assn. to the Wickenburg Community Center for a car show. Admission is free to spectators and car owners are asked bring one new, unwrapped toy for the toy drive. Awards for cars. For info contact Lt. Lutkiewicz at 928-668-0511.
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023** **MARTIN AUTO MUSEUM CHRISTMAS CAR SHOW**
Martin Auto Museum, 4320 W. Thunderbird Rd., Glendale, from 9am to 2 pm. \$10 entry includes Christmas stocking with goodies, T-shirt and dash plaque. Bring a new toy for museum entry. Contact: Nancy at 602-843-3515
Visit for registration: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dGPc1XTFKUfO7FzSGmdDYqqj7h98aSR/view>
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024** **ARC SUN CITY WEST 12TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW**
RH Johnson Rec Center, 19803 RH Johnson Blvd, Sun City West from 8am to 3pm. \$25.00 pre-registration by 2-1, \$30 at the gate. For more info visit: <https://arcofscw.com/home/12th-annual-car-show-information/>

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

DECEMBER 2 HOLIDAY PARTY

Time: 11 am - 3pm with lunch at 12 noon
 Location: Larry Polhill's Private Collection
 7856 N. Glen Harbor Blvd., Glendale

JANUARY 20, 2024 WINTER GATHERING

When: Saturday, Jan. 20th 2024
 Time: 10:00am-2:00pm with lunch at 12 noon
 Location: Larry Polhill's Private Collection
 7856 N. Glen Harbor Blvd., Glendale

Our chapter's annual winter gathering will be hosted by chapter member Larry Polhill at the home of his private Studebaker collection. This will be an indoor/outdoor event, please plan accordingly. Members are welcome to vend at this event. There will be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. We are looking for sponsors for our five people's choice trophies, let Peggy know if you would like to sponsor for \$20ea. Participants are asked to pay \$10pp for this event that includes lunch of a variety of pastries, sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverages. Don't forget your chairs. See map on page 13 for parking suggestions.

Please RSVP by 01/15/24 to Peggy at 623-936-6116 or peggyeastburn@hotmail.com

Visit the Chapter Facebook page Studebakers Grand Canyon State Chapter to add Chapter events to your calendar.

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING



Need a gift for the special Studebaker person on your holiday gift giving list? You can always do a search on Google but a really good place to start is the *Turning Wheels* magazine where you will find a host of vendors who sell everything from t-shirts, calendars, raffle tickets for a chance to win a Studebaker, puzzles, mugs, caps and even parts from many sources (don't forget our local vendor Studebaker-parts.com for quick delivery and friendly service - see their ad on page 10).

Order soon so your gifts arrive in time.



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Questions? Call Chris at 602-995-2146					1	2 Holiday Party
3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day 1st Day of Hanukkah	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Last Day of Hanukkah	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice 	22	23
24 HO! HO! HO! New Year's Eve 31	25 	26	27	28	29	30

NOISES AND CAUSES

By Pete Yuen

At one time or another, most motorists have heard some type of noise coming from their cars. They are often an indication of a problem that can be nipped in the bud. Some of the problems are:

Vibration noise

If the car vibrates at moderate speeds you should check to see if your wheels are in balance. This is a common cause. If the front wheels are out of balance, you will feel most of the vibration in the steering. When the rear tires are out of balance, you will generally feel it in the back seat. A bent drive shaft will also give vibration but it will be noiseless. The vibration will be felt more on the back seat also.

Thumps

If you hear a steady "thump" when you are driving, check your tires. You may have a foreign object like a stone that is wedged in the tread. **You may also have an air bubble on the tire surface, which is critically dangerous.** If it is an object, just remove it carefully so that you do not damage the tire. If it's a bubble, **change the tire immediately as it is unsafe to use.** Bubbles mean that the tire is very thin and it could explode while you are on the road.

Bangs on bumps

If your car 'bangs' while going over a bump, it means that the suspension is hitting bottom or bottoming out. This may be the result of worn-out shock absorbers or broken springs.

Grinding

When the brakes are applied, sometimes you will hear a grinding noise like metal being scraped together. It may mean that you have worn brake shoes or pads in the case of disc brakes. It is a problem of gradual wear. **It is a problem that should not be ignored. Things are not going to get better, only worse things happen.** When this happens, have it checked out by a competent mechanic.

Chattering

If you turn on the ignition and hear a chattering noise, you may have problem with the starter. Check the battery and the cable connections first. A bad connection of the battery cable on the battery terminals may cause insufficient amount of current flow to the starter through the solenoid. The solenoid chatters. A low charge on the battery also gives the same effect. In this case, get the battery charged up. Some batteries will not charge directly from the charger that you may have. You may need to connect the charger to another battery, then have jumper cables attached to the battery that needs to be charged. If this does not work, then you consider in buying a new battery.

Squeaks

Squeaks are often caused by the rubbing of metal-to-metal surfaces. Movement or vibration can cause this to happen. In some cases, the source just needs to be located and oiled or greased. In other cases, an insulating material such as rubber can be placed between the metal to keep it from squeaking.

Squeaks can also come from mice that have found a home in your car. Solution? . . . Get rid of them.

CELEBRATE!



December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Pat Swanson | 17 | Kathy Parkey |
| 3 | Bill Eastburn | 17 | Linda Saar |
| 4 | Rosalie Torske | 20 | Marlene Stearn |
| 5 | John Lewis | 21 | John Zimmerman |
| 5 | Dennis Lynde | 27 | Cynthia Phillips |
| 10 | Don Parkey | 28 | Russ Ware |
| 12 | Maryanne Eastburn | 31 | Elaine Wright |
| 16 | Larry Malmstrom | | |

December Anniversaries

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



Children's Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 18 | Sadie Tietz |
| | (daughter of Dana & Meridith) |

STUDEBAKER EXECUTIVE and DEMONSTRATOR CAR SALE

STUDEBAKER

V8 CRUISER

4 Door Sedan—FLITE-O-MATIC, Reclining Split Seats, Tinted Glass, Avanti Jet Thrust Engine, P/S, Disc Brakes, Factory Refrig., Undercoating, Twin Traction, Firestone 500 W/W Tires, Climatizer, Wheel Discs, Radio W/Rear Speaker. Rose Mist W/Matching Broadcloth Interior. Approx. 3,000 Miles. Mr. Tanner's personal car.

\$815 DISCOUNT OFF FACTORY LIST

DAYTONA

V8 HARDTOP

FLITE-O-MATIC, Tinted Windshield, Bucket Seats, P/S, Disc Brakes, Undercoating, W/W Tires, Climatizer, Elec. Windshield Washer, Wheel Discs, Factory Refrigeration, Radio, Ermine White With Blue Vinyl Interior. Approx. 4600 Miles. Factory Executive car.

\$700 DISCOUNT OFF FACTORY LIST

DAYTONA

V8 HARDTOP

Avanti Jet Thrust Engine W/Super Charger, 4 Speed Floor Shift, Bucket Seats, Tinted Windshield, Power Disc Brakes, Twin Traction, Undercoating, Firestone 500 Nylon W/W Tires, Wheel Discs, Champagne Gold, W/Blue Interior. Approx. 1200 MILES. Sales Mgr's. personal car.

\$481 DISCOUNT OFF FACTORY LIST

STUDEBAKER

REGAL V8

4 Door Sedan, FLITE-O-MATIC, Reclining Split Seats, Tinted Windshield, Undercoating, W/W Tires, Wheel Discs, Deluxe Steering Wheel, Green Mist Finish W/Chestnut Interior. Approx. 3500 Miles. Ass't. Sales Mgr's. demonstrator.

\$514 DISCOUNT OFF FACTORY LIST

Ray Tanner

OPEN SUN. 12-6
1500 N. CENTRAL
AL 2-6844

LARK • HAWK • AVANTI • STUDEBAKER TRUCKS • JEEPS

NINETEEN EIGHTY FOUR

By Dan Kuhl

1 984 is a novel written by Gorge Orwell in 1949. The book describes a future totalitarian society under the watchful eyes of "Big Brother." I read the book in high school and wondered how different it was really going to be in 1984. I had my Model A and drove Chrysler products to school. Studebakers were not even on my radar.

As Frank would say, 1949 "Was a Very Good Year" with every Studebaker manufactured sold to soldiers streaming home from the war; later these cars, and trucks for that matter, would be our prized possessions to restore and enjoy. However, Otto Klausmeyer, a plant engineer at Studebaker, speculated in the December 1983 *Turning Wheels*, that 1949 was merely a fluke in a downhill sales curve that was initiated in 1909. If extrapolated forward according to Otto, the curve ran off the graph in 1962, one year before Studebaker ended production in South Bend. Sadly, it was a prediction that came true!

In 1975 I left Minnesota to attend a Nuclear Medicine training program at the University of New Mexico. There I met a soon to be friend who invited me to Silver City for Thanksgiving. Upon arrival he showed me his two Studebakers. One was 1964 Commander and the other, OH MY!, it was a 1963 Daytona that was supercharged with a four speed. He took me for a ride that I never forgot.

By 1983 I was into Studebakers hook, line and sinker. I read the car magazines, but needed more. The decision was made to contact a Studebaker club member. The contact was made in 1984 which was a really big year as my wife and I were still celebrating our first daughter's birth, we joined the GCSC of the SDC, and met Bill Eastburn who turned me on to my first Studebaker, a 1963 Daytona Wagonaire, that had sold new in Berkley, Calif. (no rust). The wagon was part of the Hugh Aycock estate, was not drivable, and could be had for a mere \$300. I jumped at this great opportunity and the rest is history. Since then I have owned five Studebakers, and more importantly learned a great deal about Studebaker's colorful history.

In closing, I would like to make two points. First, the December, 1983 issue of *Turning Wheels* has been the most reread issue in my TW collection having read it at least 10 times, and second the Daytona's provenance is a big deal to future owners. The ownership of it is as follows: purchased from me by Scott Cawley, it then went to Scott Benson, who sold it to Bill Cervini. Today, the Wagonaire and I have come a long way, the car is the restored dark green Daytona in the Larry Pohill collection and I proudly wear my 40 Year SDC membership pin on my favorite hat.



Dan's former Wagonaire today.

References: Klausmeyer, Otto (Dec 1983). Otto Klausmeyer. *Turning Wheels*, Vol. 15, No. 12, p. 6.

ADOT

Reminder: Holiday season a great time to get your AZ Travel ID

Many things slow down a bit during the holidays, including business at Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division offices. That makes this an ideal time to make an appointment to get your Arizona Travel ID. The federal deadline is May 7, 2025, for those who wish to use their state-issued credential for air travel. Without the Arizona Travel ID or other form of federally compliant identification such as a valid U.S. passport, fliers risk missing domestic airline flights because Arizona's standard driver license, which will remain valid for state purposes, will not be accepted at TSA checkpoints.

The Arizona Travel ID requires added proof of identification to ensure that your license or identification meets strict requirements of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005. A gold star on the card shows that you've provided this additional information.



Supercharged '63 Studebaker Trucks?!

Two Studebaker R2 pickups were built — where are they now? By Angelo Van Bogart, OCW

Studebaker had a brief but prolific period of offering superchargers on its cars, the first being the Golden Hawk. In 1957 and 1958, the Golden Hawk was Studebaker's top dog in price, sportiness and performance, and as such, it was equipped with a McCulloch supercharger as standard equipment atop its Studebaker 289-cid V-8. Superchargers would become optional on several Studebaker passenger cars in the 1960s, but would you believe there were two Studebaker trucks built with superchargers?

Robert Paxton McCulloch, who founded the company that originally built McCulloch superchargers, sold McCulloch Engineering in the 1940s to Borg-Warner. He continued to dabble in superchargers and even continued to file new patents, and by the 1950s, had new superchargers to offer. He eventually put his new supercharger efforts under the Paxton name. By 1958, McCulloch had sold Paxton to Andy Granatelli who, four years later, sold Paxton to Studebaker Corp. of South Bend, Ind. Incidentally, Granatelli was head of Studebaker's racing division at this time.

Beginning in 1963, Studebaker began offering the Paxton supercharger atop its 289-cid V-8 on some passenger car models and gave these supercharged cars the R2 designation. Production records exist for the 1963 R2-powered Avanti (1,552 R2 cars built), Lark (327) and the Gran Turismo Hawk (278) — but we've never seen mention of an R2-powered Studebaker truck. That is, until the accompanying documents were uncovered by the Studebaker National Museum and sent to us via *Old Cars* reader Mason Maynard. The period documents — Studebaker Truck Production Order forms — show two 1963 Studebaker Champ 8E7 Series 1/2-ton trucks built with the Paxton supercharger of the 289-cid V-8-powered R2 passenger cars. Not surprisingly, these documents show one of the trucks was delivered to the Paxton Products Division of Studebaker; the second shows the destination as "Indianapolis, Ind. Snider" — likely Snider Auto Service, an authorized Studebaker dealer in Indianapolis. The R2-powered truck with the earlier serial number (E719327) and earlier order form date (Oct. 18, 1962) is the truck that went to Snider in Indianapolis. The 1/2-ton truck was built on Studebaker's 122-inch wheelbase, making it a long wheelbase/longbox truck, and it was painted "Parch. White" for Parchment White with trim 1316A. It was further fitted with five Firestone 500 series 8.00-15 nylon blackwall tires, an automatic transmission and 3.73:1 gears in a Twin-Traction differential. Under "Special Options," the production order form says "Avanti Jet Thrust 289 Engine with supercharger — Dev. 5338" (a regular-production 8E7 Series Studebaker truck had a 259-cid V-8). Truck E719327 had a final assembly date of Nov. 7, 1962.

One day later, on Nov. 8, 1962, the R2-powered Studebaker truck built for the Paxton Products Division of Studebaker underwent final assembly. According to its two Studebaker Truck Production Order forms, it was built on the Studebaker 112-inch truck chassis, making it the short-wheelbase/shortbox version, and it was painted Velvet Black with the same trim (1316A) as the white R2 truck built for Snider. While the tires were also Firestone 500s, they were smaller in size (6.70-15), and a handwritten note on the earlier form states the tires are to have narrow-band white sidewalls. This truck's forms also differ by noting a three-speed transmission and 4.55:1 gears in its Twin-Traction rear differential. It was fitted with a radio and given VIN E719345 (see production order on page 13).

The second truck is unique for having two separate Studebaker Truck Production Order forms. Both show a final assembly date of Nov. 8, 1962, but the dates the orders were written are almost two months apart, the second form having a "date written" entered as Dec. 17 — more than one month after the truck was built. However, both forms agree with each other, though the later form dating to December 1962 provides more detail in the "Special Options" section of the production order form, probably to reflect changes to it after it left the assembly line.

Under special options, the Dec. 17, 1962, form for the black shortwheelbase Studebaker truck outlines many special features: the Jet Thrust engine with supercharger (R2), of course, but also a T10 passenger car four-speed transmission, dual exhaust, gauges, a radiator with an oil cooler, a special propeller shaft, disc brakes and power steering, all of which were to be added by the engineering department. It appears this truck had an engine change from the Oct. 30 to the Dec. 17 production order forms. Both forms mention the engineering department, with the earlier form identifying a Mr. P. Deblumenthal as the person to whom the truck should be directed. The second form identifies this man as M. P. Deblumenthal, presumably Studebaker engineer Michael P. de Blumenthal.

In 1963 and now, these would be fast, powerful trucks — especially the shortbox/four-speed pickup — and both would certainly be worth remembering 60 years later. So, where are these hot supercharged '63 Studebaker trucks now? If you recall the trucks, or know of the present location of either one, email oldcars@aimmedia.com.

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The *ECHO*

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

- 2 Holiday Party
See pages 5 & 6 for details.



Studebaker dealership in 1950s Bisbee owned by Chapter member Sid Rosen's father, Fred.



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DATE WRITTEN 12-17	APPROX SHIP DATE	SHIP VIA		TIER NO.	FIRST BOOK	ENGINE NO. JTS 1407	
MODEL, WHEELBASE, CAB & BODY 8E7-112-T6 BOX		MODEL CODE	PAINT 6350 VELVET BLACK		TRIM 1316A	CONTROL	APPROD. 4192^D 1399
FRONT TIRES 2 6.70-15 4		REAR WHEEL SINGLE/DUAL	REAR TIRES 3 6.70-15 4		SPECIAL TIRE WHEEL & RIM EQUIP. 5 FIRESTONE 500 NYLON TIRES WHITE SIDEWALL-NARROW BAND		FINAL ASSEMBLY DATE 11/8/62
ABLE DATE 4.55	TWIN TRACT. X	TRANSMISSION 3 SPD		H. H. PEAR	FINED GLASS WYS ALL	I. H. MIRROR SHORT/LONG	R. H. MIRROR SHORT/LONG
N. D. SPRINGS FRONT/REAR 2 STAGE REAR		R. D. BAR	SHOCK ABS. FRONT/REAR	HILL HOLDER	BRAKE BOOSTER	R. D. HATS	REAR BUMP
QUAT TAG HUBS		WET AND CLEAN	4-BBL. CARB.	AIR BRAKE	DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS CLASS-A FRONT		CLASS-B FRONT & REAR 3244
SPECIAL OPTIONS AC 327, RADIO, JET THRUST ENGINE WITH SUPERCHARGER, T10 PASS CAR 4 SPD TRANS., DUAL EXHAUSTS, DIR HEADING AMP & OIL GAGES & RADIATOR WITH OIL COOLER-ALL INSTALLED BY ENGRG. DEPT., SPECIAL PROP. SHAFT, DISC BRAKES & POWER STEERING-ALL FURNISHED BY ENGRG. DEPT. & TO BE SHIPPED LATER (PER M. P. DEBLUMENTHAL).							TAS: CHANGE ENGINE NO. FROM JE-19418. ADD SPECIAL EQUIP. BY ENGRG. DEPT.
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