



The Commander

Potomac Chapter

Studebaker Drivers Club



Vol. 52, Issue Number 8 — August-September 2020



Studebaker work truck recently spotted in western Montana by Steve White's daughter Jessica and son-in-law Justin

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Next Meeting: TBD
Start Time: TBD
Location: TBD



Steering Column Steve White



So many events are being cancelled that you might wonder what I have to write about. There is still joy in enjoying other ways to be in our Presidents, Commanders, Hawks, and other model Studebakers. We can take solace in knowing that our Studebakers are still here and begging to be driven. Yes, it is hot out and some of our cars get so unbearably red-hot during the day that there is not much joy in taking them out for a ride. At least there is early morning for us when it is still in the 70s and we can get out on the road and have the wind blow in our faces. I find it comforting to drive through neighborhoods and hope to see at least one soul who appreciates classic car enough to give a wave.

We've had two actual Potomac Chapter events: one for the officers and one for all members. We had our first officers meeting on Wednesday, July 1, at 7:00 PM with a full agenda. The primary purpose of the meeting was to see if "Zoom" videoconferencing was plausible as a mechanism to see and hear one another. It was. Ed called it our "Pandemic War Room" and he was right on the money. My purpose here is not to provide minutes of the meeting (Murray is doing a great job with that) but to assure you that we can still get together thanks to technology. The Internet, our cell phones, and video communications tools like Zoom can bring us to be together to develop strategies that will allow us to enjoy each other's company and bring our Studebakers together.

The main conclusion of our July 1 Zoom meeting was that we should hold another one for all members. We did that on July 18 and I ask you to read Murray's minutes in order to learn what we said and where we may be going next. Believe me, it is difficult to schedule anything where we might be endangering each other by getting too close. Well, our cars seem to provide social distancing if we stay in them and, if we get out of them, we can wear our facemasks and keep at least six feet of separation from others. Take a look at the events schedule and see if there is anything there that you can attend safely. An aside, I often use our web-site to check things because Bob keeps it current with all the Studebaker news that's fit to report.

I hope you are all happy with our new newsletter format. I can tell you that our new editor, Pete Rutledge is excellent and continues a super tradition for us. Our relatively new membership director, Steve Walter is doing a great job too and is starting a recruitment campaign. Speaking of officers, our activities directors Terry and Shirley are staying on top of things ensuring that we cancel when we must and find alternative venues when possible. The last officer I need to mention today is our historian. Ed keeps our Facebook page sharp with new additions almost every day. Ed and I encourage you to post something there too. I'm also pleased to report that we had an excellent turnout of our officers for both Zoom meetings.

Two other important things: Mike (I now refer to him by his original nickname: Dave) is keeping an eye on our bank account and our VP Ron always offers great suggestions and never misses a meeting.

I will close with a request: please participate in our next Zoom meeting. Do not worry about how to sign on or anything else related to Zoom. Every group or club that Irene or I participate in is using this platform and, even though we all make mistakes with the new technology, it's still the best thing for us all so we can see and hear one another. I'm not sure when the meeting will be but you'll be notified in plenty of time.

The Commander is the bi-monthly publication of the Potomac Chapter, Studebaker Drivers Club. Subscription is by membership to the Potomac Chapter at \$15.00 yearly. Canada/Mexico \$20.00, all other countries \$25.00. Direct all membership correspondence to the Membership Director. Direct all correspondence relating to The Commander to the Editor, who retains the right to edit or modify any contribution. Deadline date is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. The Commander is also an internet publication.

The Potomac Chapter is an officially chartered chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc.; its by-laws were approved, and charter granted by SDC in June 1967. Membership is recruited from the States of Maryland, West Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Washington, DC. And those from other areas wishing to join the chapter are welcome.

Potomac Chapter, Studebaker Drivers Club

The Potomac Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club, was chartered in April 1967. It encompasses the area of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Current membership approaches one Hundred. Our members hail from as far away, as New Zealand, the states of Hawaii, Florida, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Our mission is well defined in our [Chapter Bylaws](#).

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Pandemic Survival Tip

There may not be a lot we can do with other people, but your Studebaker will not give you COVID-19. So, you can still wash it, polish it, vacuum it out, admire it; repair, improve, and maintain it (if you do it yourself); and drive it (take precautions when refueling). You can also read about Studebakers (in The Commander, Turning Wheels, Avanti Magazine, and Studebaker books in your library) and write about Studebakers (consider writing an article for The Commander or other Studebaker publication). You can also participate in Potomac Chapter Zoom meetings (it's really not hard). And finally, you can look forward to the day when we get back to normal Studebaker-related activities.

Minutes of Potomac Chapter Officers' Meeting, July 1, 2020

Attending: Dave Farris, Ron Hoff, Ed Lemanski, Pete Rutledge, Steve Walter, Murray Welsh, and Steve White.

President Steve White called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Use of Zoom for Potomac Chapter meetings was discussed and the consensus was that it is an excellent format for meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Editor Pete Rutledge reported that he would be publishing "The Commander" bimonthly in 2020. He will include a copy to Susan Lusted, who prepares the "What's Happening" column for "Turning Wheels."

Pete will be disseminating the next issue on the last day of July. Any input for publication in the newsletter should be provided to Pete not later than July 29. Pete asked about the distribution of hard copies of "The Commander" (Murray said he had helped to mail through USPS as many as 16 copies in the past). Murray said he would be happy to assist. There was discussion of the mailing cost of \$.55 per issue (if we limit the newsletter to 12 pages or 6 sheets of 20 lb. paper) plus copying and envelope costs to those who request a hard copy. We decided to discuss this with the membership at the next general meeting.

Membership Director Steve Walter said that current membership is at 36 including those who have been in contact with him recently. He is using a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format in order to update our data quickly. He will distribute the updated version to the officers this month.

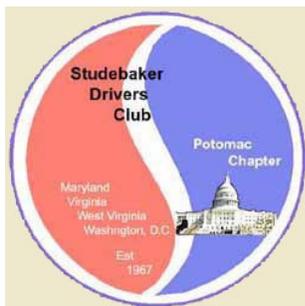
Activities Director Terry McDaniel submitted a report regarding the latest calendar published in the May-June issue of "The Commander." There is a Fall Tour scheduled for September 11 and 12 coordinated by Chuck and Toni Stroh. A Fall Picnic is also being planned by Dave Farris.

The officers discussed the effects of the pandemic on our scheduled events and the consensus was to cancel them in favor of the health of our members. The possibility of day tours or parades was discussed because they could be conducted using social distancing.

Historian Ed Lemanski described his efforts with our Facebook page. He has been working diligently to get the history of the SDC Potomac Chapter onto our FaceBook Page. He said that we now have approximately 1,000 pictures and quite a few back years of records. Please know that the Administrator has the ability to transfer this data onto a memory device. These records can be used by anyone. The purpose of Ed's project is to ensure that our history can be transferred and reviewed in the future.

The officers agreed that our Chapter should hold a general meeting using the Zoom format. We will ask the membership to determine the best date among July 16, 17, or 18, and times hourly between 2 PM and 7 PM.

The meeting was concluded at 7:40 PM.



Minutes of Potomac Chapter Membership Meeting, July 18, 2020

The meeting was held electronically using ZOOM technology and went fairly well. Not as good as in-person but okay. The meeting was called to order by President Steve White at 4:05pm.

It was announced that we have a new Newsletter Editor, Pete Rutledge. He plans to issue the newsletter via e-mail the 1st of every other month. No decision has been reached, as of the meeting, on how the paper copy distribution will be done.

After being introduced, the first request made for the newsletter is for members to submit a "Memorable Studebaker" story that would include information on the vehicle and, if available, a picture. He would like to make this a regular feature of The Commander.

Steve Walker, our Membership Director, then reported that he has made a list from the National SDC membership list of all members in our geographic area and sent each a recruiting letter inviting them to join our chapter.

Drive Your Studebaker Day is September 12th this year which coincides with our proposed fall tour weekend of Sept. 11th and 12th. The original plan for was an overnight tour to Capon Bridge, WV, but with all the concerns about the virus, an alternative of a one-day trip just going to a restaurant in that area, Farmer's Market Restaurant & Butcher, for lunch. More to come on this as it develops.

Steve is planning another ZOOM meeting for sometime in September.

It is now definite that the Rose Hill show and the Rockville show are both cancelled.



POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
2020 Planned Activities
REVISED 07/18/20

<u>Event (Location)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Fall Tour	Fri. 9/11 & Sat. 9/12 (CANCELLED)	Toni & Chuck Stroh
Drive Your Studebaker Day (Details on page 7)	Sat. 09/12	Toni & Chuck Stroh or Terry McDaniel
Fall Picnic (Location to be announced)	To be determined by 10/1	Mike Farris, Steve White
Hershey Fall Meet (Hershey, PA)	Wed. 10/06 - Sat. 10/10 (CANCELLED)	non-SDC
Rockville Antique & Classic Car Show (Rockville, MD)	Sat. 10/17 (CANCELLED)	Bill Morgan & Murray Welsh
Mifflin County Studebaker Swap Meet (Reedsville, PA) (formerly Reedsville Swap Meet)	Fri. 10/23 & Sat. 10/24 (CANCELLED) (rescheduled for 10/22-23, 2021)	Long Island Chapter, SDC
Chapter Activities Planning Meeting (Lutheran Parish Hall, Harpers Ferry, WV)	Sat. 11/07 OR Sat. 11/14 (exact date TBA de- pending on availabil- ity)	Karen & Paul Johnson
Christmas Party (Hollywood Casino, Charles Town, WV)	Sun. 12/06 (tentative) (Should be able to confirm by Mid- October)	Mike Farris

POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
DRIVE YOUR STUDEBAKER DAY
Saturday, September 12, 2020

The Fall Tour previously scheduled for September 11 and 12 has been cancelled. However, the Potomac Chapter, SDC, will observe a **Drive Your Studebaker Day** on Saturday, September 12. We will meet at McDonalds, 1887 Amherst Street, Winchester, VA, at 10:30AM and depart there by 11:00AM.

Directions to McDonalds: From the North: I-81S to Route 37S to Route 50E, Winchester; From the South: I81N to Route 37N to Route 50W, Winchester.

Destination: Scenic drive on US 50 with lunch at Farmer's Daughter Market and Butcher, Capon Bridge, WV, featuring their World Famous Hamburgers. Picnic tables are available and social distancing will be practiced.

Questions: Call Toni and Chuck Stroh at (410) 925-1028 or Terry McDaniel (304) 671-6704.

CANCELLED: Francis Scott Key Car Show
From Ed Lemanski

Francis Scott Key Antique Car Club, Inc., June 18

Frederick County has announced that major events in County Parks would not be held in August, thus the annual Francis Scott Key Antique Car Clubs Rose Hill Manor Car Show is cancelled.

CANCELLED: 45th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet
From Jon Battle

The Bull Run Region has cancelled the 45th Edgar Rohr Memorial Car Meet, which had been scheduled for September 19, 2020. The fear was that the coronavirus pandemic -- which has already lasted much longer than originally anticipated -- would still be around in September, endangering the health of show participants, spectators, and show personnel. We do plan to be back with the Rohr show in September of 2021!

Harbor Freight Recalling Replacement Jack Stands - Second Recall
From Ed Lemanski

This may affect one or more Potomac Chapter members, Several models of jack stands from Harbor Freight have major safety issues resulting in multiple recalls. Some have gearing issues and more recent ones have weld issues. If you are using one of them please be careful. This is a serious safety issue. For more info, follow the link below:

<https://www.roadandtrack.com/car-culture/buying-maintenance/a33235534/harbor-freight-replacement-jack-stands-recalled/>



The North Carolina Studebaker Drivers Club

"Anything Else Is Just Too Common"



Tri-State and AutoFair 2020 (SUSPENDED)

Important Notice - The Tri-State Meet, sponsored by the North Carolina Studebaker Drivers Club, is being suspended for this year due to uncertainty surrounding Covid 19 rules in North Carolina.

Instead the club is suggesting that this time be used as an "unofficial" opportunity for a two day Tri-State Cruise In at Smoky Falls Lodge.

There will be no scheduled events or registration, so that we will not be an "official" gathering. We encourage anyone who would like to bring your Studebaker to Maggie Valley on Friday evening and Saturday. This will allow us to support our meet location at Smoky Falls Lodge, get to hang out with our Studebaker friends but be in compliance with whatever restrictions may be in effect in September.

We will be handing out dash plaques to anyone who brings a Studebaker. We will also have Studebaker themed face masks available for purchase.

Your club leadership has been following the rapidly changing status regarding Covid and are encouraging everyone to use your own judgment as to your own personal safety.

The next AutoFair is scheduled for October, we are planning on meeting there on the 24th.

CANCELLED: Studebaker-Packard Show at Summit Racing, Tallmadge, OH
From: Larry Sherer, Ohio Region SDC

Because of the recent increase in the severity of the COVID-19 situation in Ohio, our club has been forced to cancel our 28th Annual Studebaker-Packard-Orphan Car Show on August 22, 2020 at Summit Racing in Tallmadge, Ohio.

How You Can Make a New, Reliable, and Economical "1964 Studebaker Battery"

By Pete Rutledge

For the 1964 model year, Studebaker began offering a car battery with their name on it. Among other applications, it was used to fill the newly-redesigned battery tray in the '64 Avanti, a space formerly designed for and filled by the unusually-shaped (long and narrow) 3EEE battery. While I haven't researched it, I'm pretty sure that Studebaker did not actually manufacture the battery. Although the new battery looked pretty much like any other car battery, it did have a couple of distinguishing features. It had a nice big Studebaker battery label on top and it had six colorful white and orange filler caps. One of these original batteries is on display at the Studebaker National Museum (according to the Avanti Authenticity Manual). Pictures of it can be found in the Avanti Authenticity Manual and the 1964 Avanti Accessories Manual.

For some of the more popular collector cars (e.g., Corvettes), you can actually buy reproductions of the batteries originally in these cars (or even a false topper that makes most any battery look like an original). Probably needless to say, reproductions of vintage batteries are quite expensive, and I've read that they often don't last all that long. One cannot, however, buy a reproduction of a 1964 Studebaker battery. But you can easily and economically make your own. The Studebaker battery label is readily available for only a few dollars from Studebaker parts sources like Studebaker International and others. But the best, and most surprising part is that you can also get reproductions of the distinctive filler caps. One day recently while searching for vintage battery reproductions on ebay, I noticed a seller in Belgium, of all places, offering stick-on battery caps for Mopar muscle cars that looked strangely familiar. He sells them complete with a Mopar battery sticker so that a Mopar muscle car owner can dress up a modern battery to look like the one originally in their car. All they need to start with is a flat-top battery, i.e., one with no protruding filler caps. Then they can stick on the Mopar sticker and the stick-on filler caps and, *voila*, a "vintage Mopar battery" with the reliability and affordable price of a modern battery. It's the best of all worlds.

Well, the Belgian battery caps looked familiar because they look exactly like the Studebaker battery caps—orange center, white periphery, and the words "Fill to Indicator" embossed on each cap. So if we start with a new flat-top battery, add the Studebaker battery sticker in the right location, and then add the Belgian stick-on caps in the right places, *voila*, a "1964 Studebaker battery."

For a '64 Avanti, there is probably any number of flat-top group 24 batteries to choose from. But the case needs to be black, which rules out some batteries that have white, green, or some other color case. And it should be devoid of any embossed brand names or other words on the case. In other words, it's a battery that can be made completely anonymous by simply removing its brand name stickers. It should also have a conventional and simple cubic shape with relatively plain edges. I shopped on-line and based on appearance and price chose a Ray-O-Vac battery from Batteries and Bulbs. Unfortunately, Batteries and Bulbs is discontinuing Ray-O-Vac batteries and replacing them with Duralast. I preferred the Ray-O-Vac because based on the on-line picture its case design was simpler, like the Studebaker battery case. My local Woodbridge store had none of the Ray-O-Vac batteries, but I found that one was available in Springfield. And it was even cheaper (about \$85), so I went there and got that battery. As it turned out, the battery case did not match the on-line picture. Instead, the Ray-O-Vac battery case looked just like the Duralast battery case, even though it was labeled Ray-O-Vac. I guess there are fewer battery manufacturers than we think. Oh, well, the battery bracket in the car covers most of the edge of the case that has the frillier appearance. So I went home with what was essentially a Duralast battery in Ray-O-Vac clothing. If you follow my example, you will most likely end up with a Duralast-labelled battery with the same case as mine.

How You Can Make a New, Reliable, and Economical "1964 Studebaker Battery" (cont'd)

By Pete Rutledge

I had previously ordered and had on-land a Studebaker battery sticker from Studebaker International and the six stick-on battery caps for about \$23 from the Belgian ebay seller (https://www.ebay.com/usr/weskcar?_trksid=p2047675.l2559). The first thing I did in transforming my new Ray-O-Vac battery into a 1964 Studebaker battery was to remove the handle. Then I removed all the manufacturer's stickers and cleaned the battery with grease/wax remover solvent. That left me with a pretty simple-looking, clean, black, flat-top battery. Comparing what I had with the picture of the Studebaker battery in the Authenticity Manual, I trimmed some white off the Studebaker battery label for a better fit and applied it in the proper location on the top of the battery. Conveniently, this battery has six small, flat (flush), filler ports in the top that are in the same locations where the six filler caps on the Studebaker battery were located. I used these as guides, together with a paper template that I made, to locate where the stick-on filler caps should be installed. I carefully applied the stick-on caps. For a total cost of about \$111, I had a new, reliable, "1964 Studebaker battery." After installation in the car, I was pleased to notice how the orange in the caps nicely complemented the orange radiator fan and the orange supercharger, to add just a little more bling to the engine compartment.

I also like the fact that when this new battery gets old and needs replacement, I will be able to remove the stick-on filler caps and use them on my next "1964 Studebaker battery." Of course, I might have to spend another \$3 on a fresh Studebaker battery sticker.



A Special Thank You to Melissa Kidwell

By Steve White

The late Chris Kidwell's 1963 Studebaker Lark was featured in the September 2019 issue of "The Commander." Chris's widow, Melissa, was selling the Lark after having it tuned and ready to cruise. The car was an exceptional one and she sold it not too long ago. She appreciated the help Chuck McDonald, coordinator of Maryland Cruisers, and we provided. As a result, she donated \$150 to the Potomac Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club and we are very grateful for Melissa's generosity.

One of My Memorable Studebakers

By Bob DeVore

(The 2nd in a series of new articles by Potomac Chapter members)

Usually our first car is a great experience. That is if it was a dependable one. I had graduated from high school in 1953 and started working and looking. My very first was a Concord Blue '49 Champion Regal Deluxe. At eighteen, most kids would not want a four door sedan, but it made up for it in many ways. After buying it and driving it on two trips to Massachusetts, to visit my sister, I started to work in Newark, New Jersey. Every month it took me back and forth to my home near Cumberland, Maryland. I entered the Air Force and when I received my permanent assignment, I drove it to Amarillo, Texas. That '49 Studebaker was as dependable as anyone would want. The one and only exception was the West Texas Winds. A head wind would really work that 170 cu in. engine with overdrive to reach the speed limit. The next year, I traded for a '54 Ford Y block V8. However, I missed getting the consistent 26 mpg with the Studebaker. Even though gasoline was only 24 cent per gallon, my pay wasn't much either. My Studebaker story did not end there. In 1983, I bought an exact model of that "first car" and took the next 12 years to restore it. From my first car, I kept the original license plate, owner's manual, and the "original build sheet," which I found under the rear seat. That was over 66 years ago. My second Studebaker is now in the Studebaker National Museum. And as Paul Harvey would say: "And



August-September Birthdays*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!!!

August 2 — Stephen Walter
August 13 — Steve White
August 13 — Anne Devore
August 16 — Ken Davidson
August 21 — Darrel Carr
August 21 — Eric Christensen
August 23 — May Powers
August 25 — George Hamlin
August 30 — Paul Bjarnason

September 8 — Lisa Wilson
September 15 — Marie Lemanski
September 20 — Richard Honafous
September 21 — Donna Johnstone
September 26 — Steve Lichtman
September 28 — Dwight Fitzsimons

***Please Note:** If we fail to list your birthday or anniversary, it may be because we don't have your dates in our membership database. If you would like to see your birthdays/anniversaries listed in the future, please let Stephen Walter know just the month and day of your events.

FOR SALE

1956 President Classic survivor in tangerine and snow cap white, 80 K miles, V8, dual exhaust, correct bias-ply wide white walls, owned since 1998, 3rd owner, car located in Greencastle, PA, asking \$11,500.

Contact Marty Long, 301-461-3929,
LNGMRTY@yahoo.com



More for sale cars at: <http://potomacsd.org/psdcsale.html>

NOTE: Send you ads for Studebaker-related sale items to the editor, Pete Rutledge, for publication in the next issue.

2020
Potomac Chapter SDC Membership
Application or Renewal

Please complete this form and mail a check for \$15.00, payable to POTOMAC CHAPTER SDC.
Send the completed form and check to:

Stephen Walter
14916 Chestnut Ridge Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
stephen.walter1@verizon.net

Yearly dues apply from Jan 1st to Dec 31st of each year

I am a member of
SDC International National
Membership #

I am joining SDC International at this time-
Upon receipt of your national membership #,
Please send information to the address to
email above.

This is a NEW Application

Renewal/Update

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/ST/ZIP: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____ Spouse cell: _____

Birthday: Month ____ Day ____ Spouse: Month ____ Day ____

I own the following Studebakers (including Rockne, Erskine, EMF, Avanti)

Year	Make	Model	Body Style

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL SDC IN ORDER TO JOIN ANY SDC CHAPTER



We invented Cool!!

The Commander
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

