



The Commander

Potomac Chapter

Studebaker Drivers Club



Vol. 53, Issue Number 5 — October-November 2021



**OUR FALL PICNIC IS
TOMORROW, OCT 2
See Flyer on p.5.**

Tire Repairs for Paul Bjarnason's '57 Golden Hawk

(see article, p.13)

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Next Meeting

At picnic, Oct. 2



Steering Column Steve White



Our Potomac Chapter SDC keeps busy even during the covid pandemic. As 2022 approaches we need to ensure we have all of the offices filled. Most everyone is willing to continue on in their present position. However, we need someone to volunteer to be our next Activities Director. Please contact me if you have the slightest inclination to do so. You could also speak with Terry and Shirley McDaniel to learn how they were able to coordinate the events over the past so many years. They have been terrific as our Activities Directors for so many years that I can only remember them in that role. Please thank them when you get an opportunity to do so.

Our annual year-end event, the Holiday/Christmas Party is being coordinated by Mike Farris and he is very near letting us know where it will be. Our Fall Picnic will be help this coming Saturday at Fort Frederick State Park. Vice President Ron Hoff will be conducting our Chapter Meeting so be sure to attend. Irene and I will be up at our Ithaca College Reunion. Yes, there will be no Studebakers for me this Saturday and Sunday but I'll be at the chapter party in December for sure.

My big Studebaker news flash is that my GT Hawk now has four new Uniroyal Tiger Paw tires. It sounds and handles much better than it did with the tires that had been on the car for heaven knows how long. I had a great coincidence at Radial Tire Company on Wednesday, September 29, The car in front of me in the waiting line was Paul Bjarnason's magnificent '57 Golden Hawk. I'm unashamedly submitting four photos of our cars during this process. The last one shows the tire tread that, I imagine, only I can find so remarkable.

Like most of you, I'm going to really miss this year's Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show. It's held only six miles from our house and always attracts fabulous cars from all over the area.

We've always had a good showing of Studebakers and can relax and talk about many things including our cars. We'll all have to wait until next year and, maybe, look for some extra cruise-ins and shows.

I can't believe October is here when this arrives in your email box. Enjoy your Studebakers before it gets too cold. I hope to see you at the Activities Planning Meeting in November.

Steve



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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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

The Potomac Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club reminds you that it is time to renew your membership for 2021. Our annual dues remain at a modest \$15 for an emailed newsletter or \$30 for a mailed newsletter. If you were a new member in 2020 and joined after July 1, 2020, no additional dues are needed until January 1, 2022. As usual you will find an application form on the last page of this issue of "The Commander." Please contact Membership Director Stephen Walter at stephen.walter1@verizon.net if you have any questions.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
2021 Planned Activities
 (Updated 9/27/21)

Event (Location)	Date	Contact
Potomac Chapter Picnic	Sat. 10/2	See flyer on next page
Hershey Fall Meet Hershey, PA	Wed. 10/06 - Sat. 10/09	Non-SDC event
Rockville Antique & Classic Car Show https://www.rockvillemd.gov/667/Antique-Classic-Car-Show	CANCELED	Non-SDC Event
Chapter 2022 Activities Planning Meeting	Sat. 11/06 (To be discussed at picnic, 10/2)	Volunteer needed
Christmas/Holiday Party (location to be announced)	Sun. 12/05 (To be discussed at picnic, 10/2)	Dave Farris

2021 Potomac Chapter SDC October Picnic Event

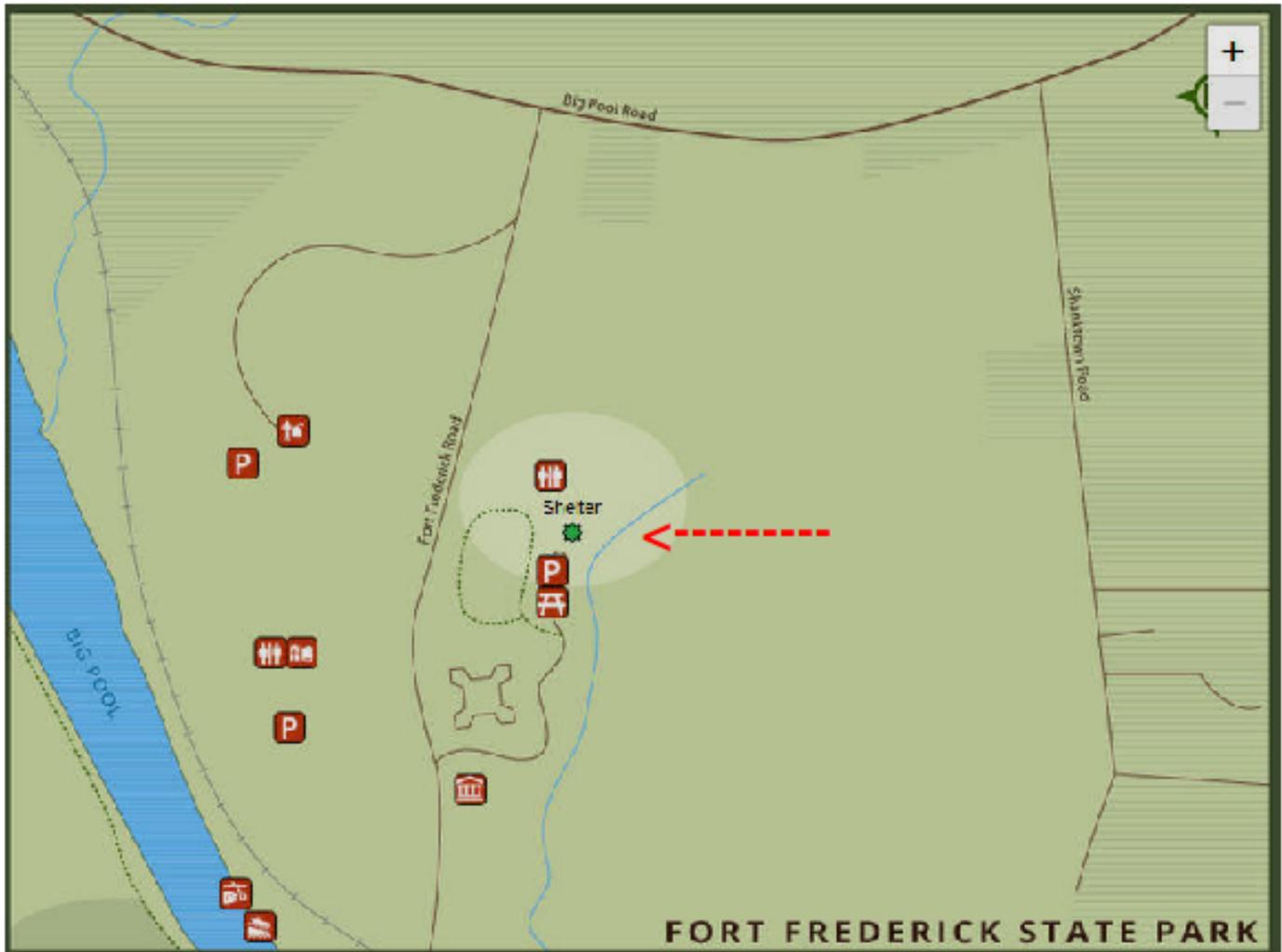
We are going to a new facility. Fort Frederick State Park, 11100 Fort Frederick Road, Big Pool, MD 21711
The date is October 2, 2021. Dave (Mike) Farris will be there at Noon, Lunch at 1:00 pm

THIS IS A Bring Your Own Food, drinks, and Supplies.

For Vaccinated Members, do what you are comfortable with.

For Unvaccinated members, We WILL be Social Distancing AND Wearing Masks !!!

NO SHARING



Directions: Follow I-70 to Exit 12 (Big Pool). Travel one mile east on State Route 56 to the park's entrance. Almost immediately turn left. Go just past the Fort and turn left on small road. It looks like 1 lane, BUT it is TWO-way traffic. Go past play ground (on the right) and turn right at the next road into the picnic pavilion area.

Park Entrance Fees: For Maryland residents, there is a \$3 per CAR fee, collected at the picnic site. If you have the MD Golden Pass, fees are covered. Out of state visitors the fee is \$5.00 per CAR (VA, WV & all others). Retired (or active) Military, try showing them your ID Card.

Potomac Chapter Members Participated in Francis Scott Key Mall Car Show, Frederick, MD, Aug 20, 2021



Photos from Ed Lemanski

Potomac Chapter Members Participated in the Fall Tour, Sep 26, 2021

Sunday afternoon, September 26, made for a fabulous day for our Fall Tour. Ron Hoff of Cumberland, Md, arrived in his 1965 Sports Sedan and Larry and Darlene Pugh of Mt. Airy, MD, brought their 1962 Lark Cruiser. We led the scenic tour in our 1963 Lark Regal from Martinsburg, WV, on secondary roads of WV and VA (Rt. 259, Rt.50 and Apple Pie Ridge Road). We arrived at the KaKaPon Restaurant in Wardensville, WV, at approximately 4:00 p.m. in time for an early dinner and in plenty of time to talk about Studebakers.

Upon departing, Ron headed home via Corridor H and the rest of us headed for Winchester, then Route 11 to Martinsburg where Larry and Darlene headed East toward Charles Town on Route 9.

While Larry and Terry were filling up with alcohol-free gas at the Wardensville 7-11, a young man approached Terry and asked if there was a chance he and Larry didn't know each other. Terry said, "No," and the young man said, "I didn't think so."

It was a lot of fun caravanning in our Studebakers on a beautiful Fall day!

Terry & Shirley McDaniel

(Photos from Shirley McDaniel)

Photo below was taken in the McDaniels' driveway before the Tour.



Potomac Chapter Members Participated in the Fall Tour, Sep 26, 2021 (cont'd)

Larry and Darlene Pugh in the parking lot of the restaurant.



Ron Hoff and his Stude taken at the restaurant



Potomac Chapter Members Participated in the Fall Tour, Sep 26, 2021 (cont'd)

Members who went on the tour (Ron Hoff, Larry and Darlene Pugh & Terry McDaniel) at the restaurant having a conversation mostly about Studebakers.



Our Studebakers parked up against the restaurant.



STUDE SPOTTER

An(other?) Alice Cooper Avanti on History Channel's "Counting Cars" Show

By Pete Rutledge

George Hamlin tipped me off about "Counting Cars" having an episode on Alice Cooper's Avanti. When I investigated it, I found there were actually two episodes; they are Season 9, Episode 10 and Season 10, Episode 1. "Counting Cars" is a continuing series of 1-hour shows on the cable channel known as The History Channel.

According to Wikipedia, "Alice Cooper (born Vincent Damon Furnier, February 4, 1948) is an American singer, songwriter, and actor whose career spans over 50 years. With a raspy voice and a stage show that features numerous props and stage illusions, including pyrotechnics, guillotines, electric chairs, fake blood, reptiles, baby dolls, and dueling swords."

Thanks to Bob Johnstone's web site, we know about one of Cooper's Avanti, a black '64 model. Follow this link for more on this car:

<https://studebaker-info.org/AVDB1/R5000/64R5203/64r5203.html>



In Season 9, Episode 10 (original air date of 10/21/20), Alice brings another Avanti, a white '63 model with turquoise interior, to the auto shop, Count's Kustoms, featured on "Counting Cars." It appears to be all original, at least externally (apparently it is an R1, lacking a "Supercharged" emblem on the side). He explains that he's had the car for about 10 years after he found it in Portland, OR. He explains that, according to the FBI, the car was once involved with a Soviet spy. He wants to make the car a reliable daily driver. He asks the shop guys to replace the 289 engine (because "you know they overheat like that") and to preserve its original exterior good looks. He gives them no time limit for the makeover. Between this episode and the next one, all the work takes place.

STUDE SPOTTER



In Season 10, Episode 1 (airdate 9/15/21), we learn that the shop technicians initially proposed to put a Chevy engine in the car, but their boss advised them that Alice is a hardcore Ford guy (it seems to me, he's also a Studebaker guy), implying that a Ford engine is the only option. The trouble is that the lower part of the Ford small block engine is right where the Avanti's front cross-member is located. The solution is to *cut off the front of the Studebaker frame* (oh, my) and graft on the front of a Ford frame. This *sacrilege* (my opinion) will make the Ford engine a perfect fit, as well as providing a modern front suspension, brakes, and steering.

The body was stripped with paint remover and repainted white. Can you believe that *they left the "Studebaker" nameplate off the trunklid?* (Another *sacrilege!*) The interior was completely reupholstered in the original pattern in turquoise (they said that the original upholstery, while looking reasonably nice, was not repairable). Chrome wire wheels and white wall tires replaced the original wheels and wheel covers (in my opinion, the rear wheels have too much offset and protrude too much from the rear wheel wells). The engine was replaced with a 302 Ford producing about 330hp. The original automatic transmission was replaced with a Ford overdrive transmission. They lowered the car (2" in front and 3" in rear) and it appears to have disk brakes all around. They left off the elegant Strat-O-Vue mirror (another *sacrilege*). Cooper says he may call it "The Countess" (a reference to a vampire in white). During the discussion with the shop people, Cooper says that the designer of the Avanti also designed the Barbie Doll and the Lear Jet (false as far as I know). Throughout the "Counting Cars" adventures about this car, Cooper never mentioned owning the Avanti we have on Bob's web site; in fact, it's more like he talks about this car as his first and only Avanti. (Interesting.)

STUDE SPOTTER



NOTE: I have Verizon cable TV. The newer episode is available On Demand for free. The older episode is available On Demand for \$1.99. They may be available from other cable providers, as well. The newer, free episode would be well worth watching (even if it cost \$1.99).

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

SDC International Meet 2021 Pictures

For those of you who didn't go to this year's Int'l Meet and don't use Facebook, below is a hyperlink (you can click on it) to what you missed in September at the International Meet. (It is from SDC member Cindy Sale.)

<https://youtu.be/J6qly7IxQQI>

AND, ON THE LIGHTER SIDE....



Harpo Marx marveling at the new 1947 Studebaker

What Did You Do to Your Studebaker???

(since the last issue of The Commander)

Robert Johnstone — '64 GT Hawk

As we know, Bob sent his Hawk to France. Follow the link below for more adventures of 64V-2488 in Dinard, France. Rubbing shoulders with some of the finest European iron:

<http://s191550748.onlinehome.us/2488DINARD/2488dinard2021.html>

From Murray Welsh (9/19/21)

I have been to two local car shows in the past 3 weeks. I was the only Studebaker in both of them. The first one was in Middletown and the second was the Alzimers Benefit at the Frederick MVA on the 19th. There are several club members in the area and the weather was good for both shows. Where is everybody?? (Editor: Could it be COVID?)

Pete Rutledge — '64 Avanti

Well, I've been deep into the rebuild of the engine in my '64 Avanti. I took a bunch of engine parts to my local machine shop (by the way, there aren't many local machine shops anymore and those that still exist are likely to have significant backlogs). As I write this report, I am expecting to get a call from the machine shop saying that all my parts have been finished. The block has been bored and honed 0.010" oversize. The crank has been turned 0.010" undersize. New camshaft bearings have been installed. The heads are getting a valve job, including three new valves, new valve springs and keepers, and new valve guide seals (the type that require machining of the valve guide bosses). While waiting for my work at the machine shop, I've been ordering new engine



parts, including new pistons, rings, re-ground camshaft, and bearings. And while the engine is out of the car, this is the perfect opportunity to clean, repair, and repaint the engine compartment. I used paint remover to remove the old paint down to the original red primer; then cleaned, sanded, and made minor fiberglass repairs. Hopefully, in the next couple of months everything will come together and things under the hood will look great and work like new.

What Did You Do to Your Studebaker???

(since the last issue of The Commander)

Paul Bjarnason, '57 Golden Hawk, and Steve White, '62 GT Hawk

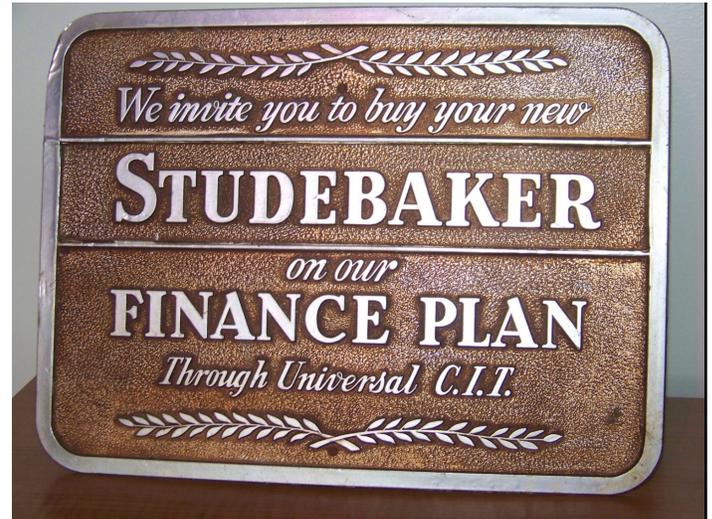
Wednesday, September 29, 2021 two Club members, President Steve White, with his GT Hawk, and member, Paul Bjarnason, with his Golden Hawk, visited the Radial Tire Company in Silver Spring, Maryland. We were both helped by "Paul," the owner of the company. Steve got a set of UniRoyal Tiger Paws for his GT Hawk and Paul got his Coker wide white wall radials shaved round. This was necessary because, as received from Coker, they were not exactly round. Radial Tire Company has a machine to shave tires so that they are perfectly round. Also, the Radial Tire Company employees were very careful with both of our classic Studebakers, using rubber pads on the hydraulic jack perches to be sure there was no marring of the finish on the frames of our cars. Both Club members came away very satisfied with the quality and cost of the services provided by the Radial Tire Company.



Studebaker Memories

From Paul Johnson

Back in '61 we were buying our first Studebaker. I noticed the plate (or whatever) on the salesman's desk. They were selling Studebaker insurance as well. I didn't buy that, but I found one of the same thing a few years ago and it is in good shape.



Next one is a plaque that may be one of a kind. Back in the late '80s I wrote of our trip to England and Ireland and I ended up buying a major Studebaker purchase (two 40-foot containers). I never tried to put my very long writeup until recent years. My old friend Greg Diffen, an Australian, then a Canadian and finally an Englishman and a long time Studebaker owner and more. He found my old writeup and I agreed for him to publish it in the Stude Examiner, a very good bulletin that began in England in 1997. Anyhow, Greg won the Best Chapter Newsletter Article- International in 2015. I told him that it was Greg's effort, but he sent the plaque to me by Air Mail anyhow.



A "First Studebaker" Story My Two-Tone Green Commander

By Steve White

Most, if not all, of the cars I've owned provide me with good memories. The first car I had was one I didn't have to buy. My stepfather (called my father from this point on) had a good friend who was selling his 1955 Studebaker Commander two-tone green 4-door. We lived very close to my father's scrap yard so there was always a great deal of commotion during the day. I remember looking out the window and seeing this car that was unlike anything I had seen before. I don't think I saw too many Studebakers around town even though there was a Studebaker dealer in Iliion, New York, the village where I was born and only four miles away from where we lived now in Herkimer. The previous owner (my Dad's friend) was an FBI agent and took very good care of the Commander. I don't recall it having any rust or dents. That is, it was a really good car for a 16-year-old guy who was a junior in high school. It looked substantial too and this would prove to be an important part of the story.

My walk to high school took about 30 minutes but it was void of any hills so it wasn't too bad. Walking was something we Iliion and Herkimer kids got used to in the late '50s and early '60s because we lived in villages that were easy to get around because of sidewalks. I want you to understand the walking aspect because driving to school took only six or seven minutes. What a great thing for a guy who liked to sleep late.

I didn't make too many modifications to the Commander. A friend and I found an abandoned car that had two four barrel carburetors with separate air cleaners. One of them fit the Studebaker's carburetor perfectly and looked great. I was also able to mount spinners on the hubcaps. Spinners were the things to have on your car in those days.

Guys, especially teenaged ones, like to have cars that accelerate quickly (as some of you might know). The Studebaker was fast off the mark even though it was a heavy 4-door with an automatic transmission. These past two sentences are the major prelude to what happened next. I think I had the car about a year when I did a stupid thing. One of my friends had a Plymouth (I think it was a Plymouth). Early one afternoon we decided to have a race down a stretch of a road between Herkimer and Iliion. It was a warm and sunny day with no other traffic as I remember. The Studebaker took the lead off the light and maintained a sizable advantage until I

A "First Studebaker" Story

My Two-Tone Green Commander (cont'd)

saw smoke coming out from under the hood. I hit the brakes and the car veered off to the side of the road and tipped on the passenger side as it scraped along the ground as it went up a hill about ten feet.

Seat belts were not common in the early '60s and, of course, I didn't have one. Some of you know that '55 Studebakers had steel dashboards. The right cheekbone of my face learned how hard that dashboard was during that brief period as the car went up the hill on its side. When the car came to a stop I jumped out of the car and opened the hood and saw fire coming out of the carburetor. Somehow I was able to get the air cleaner off and started thinking what I should do next. My friend had stopped his car and ran over to me and said he's run down the road to a gas station and get a fire extinguisher. Off he ran. Meanwhile I didn't like the idea of a fire in my car's engine so I scooped up some dirt with my hands and threw it in the carburetor. It worked. Of course, dirt in one's carburetor isn't a good thing in the long run but this was short-term thinking.

Okay. The car was no longer smoking under the hood but the passenger side of the car looked like it had slid up the hill. Yes, it had slid up the hill. My friend and I walked down to the gas station and I called one of my older brothers who was working at the scrap yard. Ron was great. He said something like, "don't worry about it because I'll be down there in no time with the wrecker." I remembered that Ron had had a few car accidents in his day so had sympathy for me. He also knew that my father's reaction wasn't going to be a good one.

My Studebaker got towed home and parked between our house and the scrap yard. My parents were good about the whole thing and let me rest and said we could talk about the accident a little later. My father surprised me because he didn't get excited at all. Of course, I had a black right eye that was a doozy. This is what my punishment was: that Studebaker sat in the lot next to our house for a year as I, once again, walked to school. I could see the car when I left our house and I could see if when I got near home. I learned a great deal about cars that day and the days that followed. The Studebaker never looked the same. I honestly can't remember what happened to it. I was able to buy a '57 Chevy after that year and I had a string of cars starting with my senior year in high school and through college. I can't remember seeing another Studebaker in those five years. Actually, I can't remember seeing a Studebaker until the 1990s when I attended a car show near Dulles Airport.

A "First Studebaker" Story My Two-Tone Green Commander (cont'd)

I only have two photographs with the Studebaker Commander in it. One is in my high school yearbook and, as you can see, it is not a great picture of the car because you can hardly see it. It was taken at a summer event at one of my classmate's camps near a lake (New York is loaded with lakes). One of the young men on the left side of the photo and looking right at you is Frank Canastar. He's a good friend of mine who, coincidentally, also lives in Maryland. We still get together and have a good laugh when remembering our high school hijinks.

The second photograph is of my sister on her First Holy Communion day. She's leaning against this cool two-tone green Studebaker. I couldn't find it for this article for the life of me. My only solace is that the picture is faded considerably so you wouldn't have been able to see my car very well. I'll let you know when the photo surfaces again.



Studebaker rear roofline

Studebaker front left fender

Studebaker left rear tire and wheel cover

Odds 'N' Ends

by Pete Yuan

Warning: Vaccination

This happened recently and is important information for our age group.

A friend had his 2nd dose of the vaccine at the vaccination centre after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home.

When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor, or be hospitalized.

He was asked to immediately return to the vaccination centre, as he had left his glasses behind.

Remember

Remember to spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember to say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember to say, 'I love you' to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again.

Remember to give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

And always **remember**, life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by those moments that take our breath away.

Hmmmmm

Whatever you do, always give 100% unless you're donating blood.

A friend had an electrical problem with her car: The car would only start when the battery is fully charged. The battery terminals were checked and cleaned and still, after the car was sitting for a few days, it would not start. It was a poor ground that caused the problem.

When the battery was fully charged, there was enough current to get through a poor ground but when the battery was not fully charged, the poor ground did not allow enough power to get through to complete the circuit.

FOR SALE, FREE, and WANTED

FREE: Turning Wheels magazines: About 5 lbs. of past Turning Wheels; they are free to whomever will take them; in Arlington, VA. Call Karl Veit at 703-979-4763 or email him at karlveit@verizon.net.

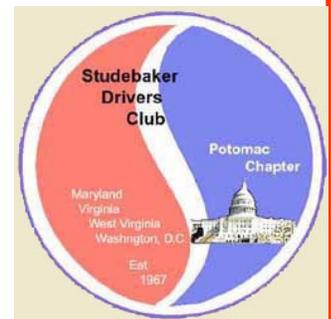
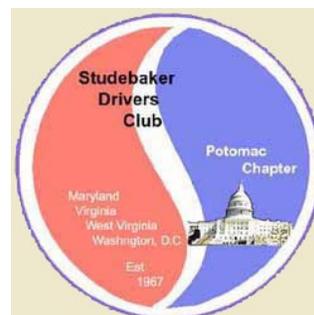
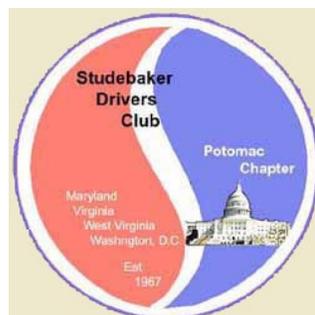
FOR SALE: Avanti II Rear Bumper — For mid-70s Avanti II with new show-quality chrome and the two holes for the rubber bumperettes. I bought it by mistake. You pay exactly what I paid — \$600. No core required. Contact Pete Rutledge: (703) 590-2468; pjrutledge3@verizon.net.

WANTED: Copy of Dick Datson's "Studebaker Technical Tips, Book One." Contact Pete Rutledge: (703) 590-2468; pjrutledge3@verizon.net.

FOR SALE: Wheel Covers — \$75 for the set of four. They are in excellent condition and are suitable for 1959 through 1962 (each year is different but they can be modified easily), Email Bob Devore at lumyvan2@frontier.com. Pick them up (Martinsburg, WV) or Bob can ship them with prepayment. Free shipping to the lower 48.



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



*October-November Birthdays**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!!!

Oct 1 — Tom Powers
Oct 3 — Heather Christensen
Oct 22 — Murray Welsh
Nov 2 — John Sartorius

Nov 5 — Larry Merhaut
Nov 9 — Martin Frye
Nov 18 — Larry Koenig
Nov 19 — Terry Kraus

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

2021

Potomac Chapter SDC

Membership Application or Renewal

Please complete this form and mail a check, payable to POTOMAC CHAPTER SDC.

\$15.00 Electronic email copy of Commander newsletter

\$30.00 Mailed hardcopy of Commander newsletter

Send the completed form and check to:

Stephen Walter (For questions, email: stephen.walter1@verizon.net)
 14916 Chestnut Ridge Court
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878

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

I am a member of SDC International.

I am joining SDC International at this time.

National Membership# _____

Upon receipt of your national Membership#, please send the membership # to the address or email above.

This is a NEW Application Renewal/Update

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Cell: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Spouse Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

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