

The Commander

Potomac Chapter

Studebaker Drivers Club



Vol. 56, Issue Number 1 — February - March 2024



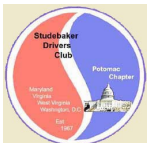
Jeff Bradel and Bob Palma with Jeff's 1963 Super Lark Daytona convertible, full package R2, 4 speed; one of five made. Bob sat in the car when it was new on the Childers Studebaker dealership lot in Indianapolis, IN, in 1963. The dealership drag raced the car to drum up business and Bob followed it at the drags in late 1963 and 1964. Sadly, Bob passed away last year.

IN THIS ISSUE

Steering Column.....	2	Memories from Steve White.....	13
Chapter Officers.....	3	Odds 'n Ends.....	14
Officer Vacancy.....	3	Great Race.....	15
Planned Activities.....	4	2024 AOAI Int'l Meet.....	16
Membership Renewal Reminder.....	4	What Did You Do to Your Stude- baker???	17
Meeting Minutes.....	5-6	Birthdays.....	18
Digital Turning Wheels.....	7-9	For Sale, Free, and Wanted.....	18
Holiday Party.....	10-11	Membership Application/Renewal.....	19
A Studebaker (Love?) Story.....	12-13		

Next Meeting

TBD



Steering Column Steve White



I begin the new year thanking Pete, for getting the Potomac Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club off to a good start. Pete consistently produces a fine newsletter that has become the glue that keeps us bonded together. I also appreciate the attention Ed Lemanski pays to our Facebook page and attracts so many of us to it. Please think of hitting the "Like" when you see a new post on the Potomac chapter site if you find it of interest.

My goal for 2024 is to have at least two new Chapter planned activities. Larry Pugh and I want to have a visit to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick and would like some other members to join us. We figure we can get a discount on the admission, and we can have lunch nearby after the touring the museum. I'm hoping we can get a discount if we have enough people joining us. Please let either Larry or me know if you'd like to be part of that visit. Dave Ferris will be looking into our Spring Picnic at a Maryland State Park. He needs to know if you have any favorite location.

The above leads me to the next request: would you please consider volunteering to be our Activities Director. It's not the difficult and shouldn't overwhelm your home schedule. Actually, I'd appreciate it if you would not only consider becoming our Activities Director but you would do it. There's another open position too - our Secretary. I don't think you want me to be both so please help us with stepping forward and taking down the important things that our said at our meetings.

To change gears for a moment I should mention the reason I'm part of this Chapter. My GT Hawk is resting in our garage for the winter. I'm hoping that there will be a break in the weather that allows me to take it out for a drive. That's why I'm here - I like to be with others who enjoy Studebakers. My car guy friends always warn me to wait until the salt is off the roads and I will do that. Do you take your Studebaker out for a drive in the winter? I'm also considering getting the defroster hose replaced and doing some other under the dashboard work. I'm not the handiest guy around so I may be taking the Hawk into a shop for the work.

Please let me know if you would like to see something for us to do this year.

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 (with emailed newsletter) or \$30.00 yearly (with mailed hard-copy newsletter). Canada/Mexico \$20.00 (with emailed newsletter), all other countries \$25.00. (with emailed newsletter). 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. 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](#).

Chapter Officers (2022-2023)



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VACANT

Potomac Chapter Volunteer Needed ASAP

A volunteer is needed as soon as possible to assume the duties of **chapter secretary**. Please apply to our Chapter president, Steve White.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
2023-2024 Planned Activities
(Updated 1/30/24)*

Event (Location)	Date	Contact
Chapter activities to be determined	2024	
Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show	Oct 19, 2024	

*NOTE: Members will be notified of any future updates separately by email and/or in the next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would be willing to organize a cruise or other activity for the chapter, please advise Ron Hoff.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER (updated 1/29/24)

As of 1/27/24 we have had 23 renewals and two new members. Thank you to those who have renewed. The new members include Chris and Kirsten Thomas and Rafael and Barbara Andrino. We welcome the new members and hope they will become actively involved. We currently have roughly only a 50 percent renewal rate. That means the rest of the current members need to do their job and renew for 2024. I will be sending an email directly to those that have not renewed as of yet. So please don't let your club down. Our annual dues remain at a modest \$15 for an emailed newsletter or \$30 for a mailed newsletter. If you joined as a new member after July 1, 2023, no additional dues are needed until January 1, 2025. As usual you will find an application form on the last page of this issue of The Commander; carry one in your car/truck. Your car/truck is our best advertisement, I cannot drive anywhere these days without getting positive comments and questions. Please contact Membership Director Stephen Walter at stephen.walter1@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Minutes

2023 Potomac Chapter SDC Holiday Luncheon Meeting

Bulls and Bears, Hagerstown, MD, Saturday, December 9, 2023

Attendees: Skip Lackie, Peggy Comer, David Farris, Nadine Farris, Ron Hoff, Darlene Pugh, Larry Pugh, John Sartorius, Anne Mortensen, Sasha Sartorius, Mary Walter, Steve Walter, Irene White, Steve White

President's Report - Steve White thanked everyone for their attendance with special appreciation to Mike for arranging the luncheon at Bulls and Bears. Steve discussed the problems the chapter is having because no one is volunteering to be Activities Director. He encouraged the members to contemplate assuming the office. Steve said that the Director does not have to organize the events only to assist those who have an idea for a good tour, luncheon or other activity. We also need a secretary, and the primary duty of that person is to take minutes during the meetings or other events.

Elections - Steve volunteered to continue as president for another two years but said that he doubted that he would go beyond that time. Other officers at the meeting re-elected (volunteered to continue) were:

Ron Hoff, Vice President

Dave (Mike) Farris, Treasurer

Pete Rutledge, Editor (Pete had agreed to do so prior to the meeting)

Steve Walter, Membership Director

The president said that he would ask Ed Lemanski (Historian) and Bob Johnstone (Webmaster) if they would continue in their positions. Ed agreed to continue as Historian and Facebook Administrator and Bob Johnstone responded positively to be our Webmaster.

Editor's Report - Pete Rutledge requested that photos from today's event be submitted to him. He will continue to request that members submit stories regarding (1) work on their Studebakers and (2) classic car events or cruise-ins in which they participated.

Treasurer's Report - Mike: Chapter balance is now
The current total of the treasury is \$1344.13.

Membership Report - Steve Walter: As of December 9, 2023, we have 47 members. Fourteen members have submitted their 2024 membership renewals. Steve distributed the membership list. He also collected membership renewals.

Activities Director Report - Again, there were no volunteers to serve as Activities Director. Members discussed possible activities for 2024 including a tour of the of the

Minutes (cont'd)

National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Steve White and Larry Pugh both supported the idea. Ron Hoff said he would contact Artie DiCasimirro, president of the SDC Keystone Region in Pennsylvania to see if we can join them during an activity that would occur close to Maryland/Virginia/DC/West Virginia. We also discussed the location for next year's December meeting. We may return to Bulls and Bears because they have a much better private room we can use rather than the indoor patio. Other locations can be suggested. Apparently, there were December meetings at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, MD, in the past.

Steve White gave a report on the 2023 Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show, one that we have sponsored for quite some time. The show only had 150 of the 650 registered cars on the field because of inclement weather. Three Studebakers were on display and attracted considerable attention from the public. A 1955 Lotus MK IX was the Mayor and Council Award winner.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve

Steven White, President

Special SDC Board Meeting

December 6, 2023 4 PM EDST: Call to Order and Roll Call

Attendees: Denny Foust, President; Don Jones, Vice President; Jane Stinson, Treasurer; Cindy Foust, Secretary; Tom Curtis, Past President; Don Cox, South Central Zone; Mark Carson, Pacific Can Am Zone; Allan Dias, Southeast Zone; Tom Sexton, Upper Mississippi Valley Zone; Frank Philippi, Atlantic Zone; Ed Smith, Pacific Southwest Zone; Chuck Donkle, North Central Zone; and Carl Thomason, Parliamentarian. Steve Grant, Northeast Zone; and Harvey Snitzer, Crossroads Zone were absent.

Dues Increase; Offering for Digital TW: Jane Stinson; Don Jones

Jane presented her analysis of historically increasing production and postage costs. Jane explained the contract with Sheridan includes fixed costs, which include mostly set-up charges for the production of Turning Wheels; and variable costs, which are increases to the following: per unit production cost, ink, paper, and postage. Jane also explained that the membership dues include both costs incurred by Cornerstone and Sheridan. Jane incorporated anticipated costs for 2024, which include the 2024 contract with Comerstone and the January postage increases, into her recommended changes to the membership dues structure.

The New offering of Digital Turning Wheels will also be available on the SDC Membership Application options. Notice of the dues increase and the offering of Digital Turning Wheels will be placed in the January issue of Turning Wheels. Digital issues will be available as of January 1, 2024; increases to the membership dues will become effective February 1, 2024.

Don Jones made the motion, incorporating both the offering of Digital Turning Wheels and the membership dues increase. Mark Carson recommended voting on each change separately. Don Jones withdrew this motion. Don Jones made the motion for the membership dues increase, based on Jane Stinson's recommendation, to become effective February 1, 2024; Mark Carson seconded the motion.

The motion passed by all board members present.

Don Jones made the motion for the offering of Digital Turning Wheels to become effective January 1, 2024. Ed Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed by all board members present.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 EDST

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Foust, SDC Secretary

Next meeting dates:

Executive Committee: January 7, 2024

SDC BOD: January 14, 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!



TURNING WHEELS®

ANNOUNCES:

NEW DIGITAL MAGAZINE



- Each member who receives a paper copy will also have access to the digital copy
- Each Digital magazine will remain available on the site for three years
- Articles can be printed from the site
- Includes zoom, grid display and search functions
- **Save Money!** Membership with digital magazine only now available for \$29 /yr.

So, how do you get to this new digital magazine?

- Start at studebakerdriversclub.com, select: [Member Area](#)
- Select : [LOGIN – I am already a member](#)
- Enter your Membership ID & Password, Click: [Login](#)
- Select: [View Digital Magazine](#) from the side box or the first line menu
- Select the magazine you would like to read. **ENJOY!**

An Explanation of the Digital Membership

From SDC Webmaster Mark Wheeler

A little background:

When the SDC Board decided to make Turning Wheels available on-line, there were some conditions stipulated:

1. It could not be downloadable and shared. This eliminated the possibility of using a PDF file.
2. It had to be accessible on multiple devices (PC, Mac, tablet, smartphone).
3. Only active SDC members in good standing should have access to the magazines.
4. A new "digital membership" option should be available to those who only want to view the magazine on-line (no physical magazine delivery).

Because of these conditions, I am using a third-party service to present the magazine in a digital format. I have used this service for many years for my other clients. However, this service comes as a cost to the SDC. This cost is based on the number of publications hosted on their service. Obviously, the more publications hosted, the more expensive it becomes. In fact, it becomes exponentially expensive, not geometrically expensive. To keep the cost reasonable, it was decided that only 3 years of Turning Wheels magazines would be made available. For those that want digital versions of past magazines, the SDC offers a "Digital Library" available on a flash drive. The flash drive contains Turning Wheels magazines from 1963 - 2023. The magazines are presented in a PDF format on the flash drive. The Digital Library can be purchased for \$99.00 US.

- Mark Wheeler, SDC Membership & Webmaster
Cornerstone Registration, Ltd.
Tel: 763-420-7829

**2023 Potomac Chapter SDC Holiday Luncheon Meeting
Bulls and Bears, Hagerstown, MD, Saturday, December 9, 2023**



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A Studebaker (Love?) Story for Valentine's Day

By Bob DeVore

I attend a Silver Sneakers Senior Exercise Class. About 7 years ago, I was asked to write a story for its newsletter about the subject "Love." This was the Valentine's Day edition and a lady asked me to write as to why "I loved Studebakers?" I wrote the following:

A Studebaker (Love?) Story

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote "In the Spring a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love." So why is Valentine's Day in the middle of February? Probably because the word "love" is the most misused word in our language. Love is not a fuzzy feeling. It is a fact! Love cannot exist without sacrifice. Love is not a fleeting feeling but endures despite difficulties.

I have been asked many times, "Why do you love Studebakers?" The answer is: "Well, I don't." I do have an affinity for them because they have been a part of my life. To begin, my older brother Don was a "car nut." He was nine years my senior and I was "his shadow." From the time he bought a '37 Studebaker until he enlisted in the Army and WWII, we were a car team. Every time he worked on that car, I handed him the tools. After Don left, I did a lot of maintenance on Dad's Model A Ford. My dad was seriously injured in a work accident when I was two years old and what he could do was limited. Don eventually went overseas in the Pacific, but we did not know where at the time. He landed on Okinawa in the invasion in the Spring of 1945. No one knew much at the time except for the Newsreels. I will never forget the joy of VJ Day, knowing that Don would be coming home.

The one thing all returning veterans wanted was a car. In the Summer of 1946, Studebaker introduced its all new 1947 cars. They were so modern and beautiful. Several years later, Don bought one of those '47 Studebakers and when I graduated from High School and was working, I began looking for a car. Don heard about someone who was trading in a nice '49 Champion and I became the new owner. I drove the wheels off that car before trading it in while in Texas in the Air Force.

Now fast forward thirty years, when taking a drive near Williamsport, Maryland, I spotted an identical model of my first car. It was a mess with all of the tires flat, seats were only springs with wads of cotton here and there and, of course, not running. The brakes were seized, making the car hard to load onto a trailer, but I bought it anyway. I had always wanted to bring a Studebaker back to life and this one would be a big challenge. A journey lasting twelve years began. The Studebaker was taken apart piece by piece but one thing that I lacked was time. Body work, brakes, wiring, engine, glass, and upholstery all needed much work.

I took a night class in upholstery and rebuilt all of the seats. I painted the car in the same Concord Blue that my first Studebaker wore. Most of the 12 year restoration was limited by other family requirements. Only the last two years, I seriously went all out; I retired, my

A Studebaker (Love?) Story for Valentine's Day (cont'd)

youngest was finishing up college and parent's final affairs were settled. In October 1995, I drove it to the big National Hershey Meet and it came away with a First Junior. The following year it won its Senior Award at Johnstown, PA, meet. In later years, it received many trophies.

When my brother Don and wife from Florida visited us, I took them for a ride in the Studebaker. The following year, Don lost his battle with cancer.

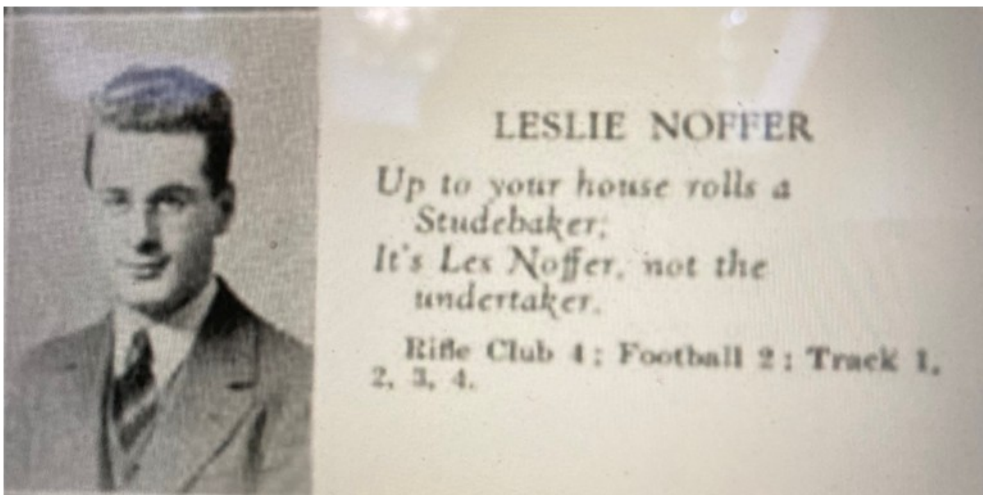
When my wife Anne and I visited the newly opened Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, we made a decision of love. We donated the 1949 Studebaker to the museum as a tribute and memorial to brother Don. It is now being shown and cared for along with historical vehicles and Presidential Coaches manufactured by a company that represented a great American success story lasting 114 years.

Yes, I did do another Studebaker, a Hawk, and, by the way, I like it a lot, but, "I don't love it."

Bob DeVore

Memories from Steve White

My mother, Evelyn Lonis, graduated from Ilion (NY) High School in 1938. One of her classmates was Les Noffer, whose father had the Studebaker dealership in the village. I thought you might enjoy the poem his classmates wrote for their senior yearbook. Here, too, is an old picture of Noffer Studebaker from the Internet. Ilion was best known as the home of Remington Arms and Remington Typewriter. Its population was approximately 8,900 in 1940.



ODDS 'N' ENDS (courtesy of Pete Yuan)

Friction and Your Car

Friction to a car is not unlike medicine to us when we need it. Like medicine, has side effects. There is one big difference though. We use medicine only when we need it but for a car, in order to operate and drive it, it requires friction.

There are times that we need friction when operating a car and then there are functions of a car in which we try, as much as we can, to reduce the amount of friction. For this, bearings and lubrication are used.

There are 2 reasons that a bearing reduces friction. -1- It reduces the area of contact and, 2 - It rolls. It is noted that bearings are durable, only if they are properly lubricated. Without proper lubrication, friction will cause the bearings to be destroyed by heat and the ensuing galling because of the heat. Galling is when the metal from 2 different sources bond to each other. If there is galling in any of the wheel bearings of a car, it can still be driven until the wheels eventually lock up or it sets the car on fire due to the heat.

On a standard, manual gear shift car, it is the friction of the clutch disc and the flywheel that allows the car to be propelled when the engine and the drive line are connected by engagement of the clutch.

However, on an automatic drive car, it is the transmission fluid being pumped that drives the car.

After the wheels of a car are set in motion, it will not go anywhere without friction of the tires on the road. Then, to stop the car, it is with the use of the brakes. On drum brakes, it is the friction of the brake shoes against the drum and on disc brake equipped cars, it is the brake pads rubbing against the brake rotor. There are several factors involved when we are trying to stop a car by braking and we really do not think about it. These factors include the road conditions, the effectiveness of the car's brake system and then, how much friction can the tires provide. Further, it is up to the driver to determine just how much pressure to apply to the brake pedal to control the amount of friction of the braking system.

On cars without power-steering, gears in the steering box are used to increase friction. Without the gears, there would be a couple of shafts rubbing against each other. Not much enough friction to steer the car with.

With friction comes wear, even with lubrication. Gears, bearings brake shoes and pads, brake drums and rotors do wear. Engine parts such as bearings, camshaft, pistons and the cylinder of the engine block. The upholstery gets worn due to friction also by car's occupants' movement on the seats. Without friction, the occupants in a car would slide off the seats when the car has the brakes applied. With this in mind, **do not use ArmorAll on the plastic or leather seat upholstery**. It reduces the friction between the occupant and the seat.

For cars without power windows, the lubrication of the gears that lift and lower the windows are out of sight and out of mind, still, they need to be lubricated from time to time. It is a time consuming job but it should be lubricated to reduce the wear on them.

Fellow member, John Bainbridge of the B.C. Coastal Chapter provided me with the following tip:

When you are doing a brake job, it is important that the parking brake cable be oiled. Many brake issues are caused by the friction between the cable and the sheath. This includes NOS brake cables as they are nearly 60 years old and dry. Some NOS cable will be more than 60 years old.

Thanks to John Bainbridge for the tip

Food for Thought: Possible Venues for a Chapter Event in June 2024

2024

HEMMINGS MOTOR NEWS

GREAT RACE

OWENSBORO, KY TO GARDINER, ME

PRESENTED BY COKER TIRE

2024

VINTAGE RALLY!

2024 Great Race Route

June 22-30, 2024

Owensboro, KY to Gardiner, ME

OVERNIGHT STOP LUNCH STOP

HEMMINGS

HAGERTY Drivers Club

COKER TIRE

McCollister's Auto Transport

Roco FASTENER CO., INC.

SOUTHERN STAR

SAMUEL SMITH

Get ready, Get set..Go!..mark your 2024 calendars now!

AOAI returns to Metro Detroit

The Motor City

...1995: last in The Motor City

- **What:** Avanti Owners Association International's Annual Convention
- **Who:** All with interest in classic cars, having fun, making friends & having a plain ol' good time



- **Where:** Embassy Suites Detroit-Livonia
- **When:** September 17-20, 2024
 - **Special:** Media Day on September 21
- **Why:** Avanti Owners want you (!) to see and know about Avanti and us !

Contact Co-Chairs

Harvey Snitzer: 734.634.2285

hjs66@yahoo.com

Bill Krueger: 248.348.1768

wckrueger@yahoo.com

What Did You Do to Your Studebaker?

Pete Rutledge — '64 Studebaker Avanti R2, 4-speed

Since the last time I updated you, I have installing the new body panels to replace poorly repaired collision damage (see below in the "BEFORE" pix) that my Avanti suffered while driven by its original owner's wife (a school teacher) in the 1960s. The NOS front end panel was given to me by a generous AOAI/SDC member in Pittsburgh (all I had to do was to pick it up, which I was happy to do). The fender patch was cut from one of Jon Meyer's donor Avantis. I cut out the old damaged fiberglass, cut/trimmed the new panels to fit, fabricated (from the old panel scraps) and installed bonding strips where two panels met, and, after careful alignment, glued the new panels in place with fiberglass adhesive/filler (and held them in place with screws until the adhesive cured). Next step will be filling the seams and screw holes with fiberglass and/or filler, as appropriate; then the whole car will receive a coat of primer/filler. I'm hoping to paint the car this year (although my hopes are often optimistic). At least it is starting to look like a whole car again.

BEFORE



AFTER



December-January Birthdays*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!!!

February

Feb 2 — David M. Farris (Mike)

Feb 8 — Dorothy Grimm

Feb 9 — Bob Johnstone

March

Mar 7 — Kathy Hermann

Mar 16 — Robert Winokur

Mar 23 — Jan Rutledge

***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.

FOR SALE, FREE, and WANTED

None this time. Send any ads for future issues to your newsletter editor.

2024 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.
National Membership # _____

☐ I am joining SDC International at this time.
*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, EME, Avanti)

Year	Make	Model	Body Style
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

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