

# The Hillholder

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March 2005

## Time stops at 1966 for Studebaker lovers

*The glory days of Avanti, Lark, Champ and Grand Turismo Hawk revisited*

The five people sitting around Jim Ford's dining room table are all more than 50 years old. Some are retired, and all drive cars that went out of production in the days before color TV was in every home.

They say things like "back in my day" wear cardigan vests and listen to 1950s jazz music.

But their discussion also centers around style and innovation. They all love the Studebaker automobile.

"Style, that's why we admire Studes," says Scotia resident Ken Hayes, newsletter editor for the Mohawk Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club, a 13-year-old local club with a dozen or so dedicated members. "You put an old Studebaker next to a 1957 Chevy and they look 10 years different."

No one is going to argue with Hayes. Different is an understatement.

In the 64 years the company produced cars, the independent automaker embraced the unusual – over-size windows, peculiar, bubble-shaped fenders and even bullet noses were staples of the Studebaker line.

Which is why the car is considered an avant-garde by

a rust bucket and a death trap. When the Studebaker Starlight Coupe was unveiled in 1947, its wrap-around rear window made it nearly impossible to tell which end of the car was the front. Skeptics scratched their heads



Studebaker Stamp to be issued in August by the USPS.

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## BARBEQUE IN SNELLVILLE HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY MEETING

Place: Famous Dave's cuisine: Barbeque

Occasion: February Meeting North Georgia SDC

Some 42 Studebaker fans and friends attended the February meeting which was held at Famous Dave's.

Don Smith, President, asked for a special recognition of two of our members, Vern McCarty and Lenny Major, who had been ill and missed a few meetings.

Chuck Lampman updated the Georgia State Meet pro-

gress by asking for all to register for both the meeting and directly to the hotel for accommodations. A special \$72 rate is being held for the show. Check with Chuck for more information.

### Studebaker Drivers Club of North Georgia

**President:** Don Smith 706 354-4600 dhsmith@bellsouth.net

**Vice President:** Dan Miller 770 932-1615 alexmil@adelphia.net

**Secretary:** Don Smith

**Treasurer:** Chuck Lampman 770 926-7142 chuck@lampman.com

**Membership Sec'y:** Chuck Lampman 770 926-7142 chuck@lampman.com

**Newsletter Editor** Don Smith

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From page one

# Time stops at 1966 for Studebaker lovers

and remarked: "Which way is it even going?"

It seems paradoxical, but the dissenting opinion is more or less accurate as well. The Studebaker has seen more highs and lows than an airplane. Forget a cowboy-hat-wearing Clint Eastwood – Studebaker epitomized the good, the bad and the ugly.

It began in 1852, when Henry and Clement Studebaker began building farm wagons, including the famed Conestoga, helping to pioneer the West. During the Civil War, Studebaker became the largest producer of wagons in the world. It made the transition to electric cars in 1902 and produced its first gas-powered car two years later.

Studebaker survived in the petroleum era until 1966. Popular models included

the Grand Turismo Hawk, Lark and the sporty Avanti. The company also helped developed a number of features found on today's cars, which club members are quick to point out.

"Studebaker developed the sliding roof," says Altamont resident Chuck Scott, the

club's vice president. "It was on the 1964 Stude and GMC is still making a big deal of it today."

"And the Hill Holder," Hayes adds, "you know, the device that made it so you didn't have to use the brake on a hill. Subaru acts like they invented the thing. Not to mention, Studebaker was the first independent with an automatic transmission."

Part 2 will be in the April issue of the Hillholder.

By Davis Filkins, Staff Writer

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From wagons to cars, Studebaker was in business longer than any current automobile manufacturer.

## TECH TIPS FROM NIMESH

The Studebaker timing cover seal is notorious for leaking. Studebaker used a felt type seal for the crankshaft snout. In reality, the felt material was

not really a "seal," it was just an absorbent type material to absorb the residual oil and drop it down in the oil pan. Obviously, this did not work too well. Why? Because the oil gets

dirty; the felt gets dirty and clogged up. This clogging up of the felt

"seal" does not allow the oil to drip down into the oil pan. Solution: drill a 1/8" pilot hole in the bottom center of the steel retainer that holds the "seal" in place. This hole will allow the oil to drip down from the felt "seal" into

the oil pan as intended. You can also use the Neoprene front seal. This is probably the best way to go since it is an actual SEAL and is fitted snug around the crankshaft snout. It has a small retaining spring that keeps the neoprene seal snug.

Next newsletter tech tips will be on rear main seals.

leaks and gaskets.

*Stop that leak! Studebakers aren't supposed to leak oil despite what many think.*

## STUDE CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

**Four Studebakers from Ray Downing:** Snellville, GA., 770-979-2465:

1955 Speedster, new interior & paint, \$22,000

1954 Champion 6 cyl., interior very good, needs paint in spots, looks good, \$7,000

1958 Scotsman 4DR., 6 cyl., 15,000 original miles, excellent condition, needs nothing, \$10,000

1963 Champ Pickup 6 cyl. Needs paint, \$7,000.

### Avanti for sale

● 1964 Avanti ● R1 Automatic, P/S, P/B, A/C, Radio. Gold with Black

Interior. Mint Condition always Garaged. Asking \$12,500. Call Tom Ryan @ 631-741-



This retro sign is popular with Studebaker enthusiasts, sold on eBay.

5933.

Wanted: **50 Commander** stuff to get my Starlight coupe on the road. Need brake stuff, hub-caps, rare goodies. John Poulos (410) 757-5147,

avanti@erols.com

# WHEELBARROW JOHNNY

## The story of John Mohler Studebaker



In 1853 John Mohler Studebaker, one of the five founding brothers of the Studebaker Corporation, arrived in a village of Hangtown (now Placerville), California with a wagon train he had joined in South Bend, Indiana. A wagon built by John and his brothers was used as payment for the young man's passage across the country to the gold fields of California.

Upon arrival, with just 50 cents in his pocket, John was approached by the local blacksmith who needed a man familiar with wood working to build wheelbarrows for the miners. After some deliberation, he took the job and thus proceeded to build the first Studebaker crafted "vehicles" west of the Rockies. After five years in California, John got the urge to return to

South Bend and help his brothers in the wagon making business. With \$8000 in California gold, he returned to South

Bend in 1858 to invest all his earnings in the fledgling H & C Studebaker Company.



Top left . Peter and Jacob . bottom left , Clement, Henry and John .

In 1912, when the name Studebaker was nationally known, John returned to Placerville for an official homecoming. As he stepped down from his car he was welcomed by a group of old friends, some of who shouted out "Welcome home Wheelbarrow Johnny."

## UPCOMING EVENTS, MONTHLY

**March 12, 2005**  
Middle Tennessee Chapter  
33rd Annual Car Show  
Studebaker Vehicles & Toys & Swap Meet  
Orphan Cars Welcome

**April 15 & 16, 2005**  
Georgia State Meet  
Atlanta Marriott Northwest (770) 952-7900

**May 1 Monthly Meeting**  
Melears Barbeque 770-461-7180  
Hwy 85 Fayetteville, GA 30214  
Hosted by Tom and Maureen Elliott 770-460-1727

**May 7th, 2005**  
Orphan Show, Snellville Days

**June 5 Monthly Meeting**

Hosted by Dan and Barbara Miller  
1691 Flowery Branch Road, Auburn, GA 30011-770-932-1615

**July 10**  
Journey's End Restaurant  
4319 Atlanta Highway  
Loganville, GA 30052 770-554-1770 Harry & Margaret Parnell 770-207-1149

**August 14**  
Picnic Ft. Yargo State Park  
Sponsored by Billy and Charleen Carey  
(770) 867-7186

"When was the last time anybody had the chance to buy an R3 tach at any price before Nimesh opened the door. My Thanks to Nimesh and the handful of guys that push OUR hobby forward.

Thumbs up !!

"Tom Kazale"

tkazale@convenience-concepts.com

## MARCH MEETING IN SNELLVILLE AT FOLKS

Bob Lytle is hosting the March 6, 2005 meeting at Folks in, guess where, Snellville. He has set up a fixed charged of



\$11.35 each which includes two meats, four vegetables, drinks, dessert, tip and tax. He also has a private room so we can hold out meeting without the interference of non-Studebaker beings. Di-

rections are simple to Snellville, just get on the Stone Mountain freeway (Highway 78) and keep going ). Address: 2277 East, Main St., Snellville, GA. 30078, Telephone: 770-972-3060

Right, Crazy Ray and Diane Smith at Famous Dave's Barbeque.



## MARCH 2005

160 Tanner Bluff  
Athens, GA 30606

Phone: 706-354-4600  
Fax: 706-369-1829  
E-mail: dhsmith@bellsouth.net

## Different by Design

We are on the web:  
[www.studebakerclub.com/NorthGeorgia/](http://www.studebakerclub.com/NorthGeorgia/)



### President's Message:

The turnout for the last two meetings has been good. About 80% of our members attended which means we have a very active membership or that we don't maintain members who don't participate. However, we have had a large number not renew their dues. At \$15 annually,



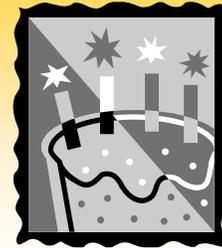
we know it's not because of the cost. We are trying to keep better contact with those who do not make many meetings where the dues can be collected directly. I mailed letters to members whose dues expired and don't have email for contact. I enclosed an addressed letter for mailing the dues. As a member, you get the monthly newsletter along with a monthly email (for those with email addresses) reminding you of the next meeting. Some other announcements are sent, but we try to keep this email infrequent to keep your inbox less cluttered. Recent numbers show that 70% of email is spam. Some of you have asked me to make clear in the subject head that the information is Studebaker related. I will try to do that on future emails.

### Birthdays & Celebrations

Hobo Bodkin 3/17  
Dave Comstock 3/17  
Mike Byrd 3/22  
David Carlson 3/28  
Crazy Ray Smith 3/27  
Bob Lytle 3/30

### Anniversary

John & Arlene Hollier 3/4



# CAROLINA TROPHY SEPTEMBER 6-10

The Carolina Trophy is the first North American road rallye in the grand European tradition, taking place over five days and nights between September 6-10, 2005.

Its home is the Grove Park Inn - one of the oldest and most historic properties in the Carolinas - and the breathtaking mountain roadways that surround her. The twisting and serpentine tarmac of the Blue Ridge mountains provide the ideal setting for road rallye stages that total almost 1000 miles.

The Trophy is strictly limited to 120 cars of distinction, manufactured on or before December 31, 1973. Each will be manned by a crew of at least two people, and although the stages are timed and scored, the Trophy is a road rallye, not a race.

### The Carolina Trophy

13532 Waverton Road  
Huntersville, NC 28078 USA, Tel: +1 (704) 351  
2087 Fax: +1 (425) 663 6464



The emphasis is on driving precision and navigational expertise, so no special equipment or licenses are required to participate. Five days of driving, enjoying and experiencing classic motorcars and championing the lifestyle that surrounds them, all in a magnificent mountain setting. That is what the Carolina Trophy is all about. From start to finish, the Carolina Trophy is designed to make sure you enjoy yourself and your car to the fullest. If you've never been on a road rallye before, have no fear - they provide expert assistance at all times to ensure that first-timers and old hands all enjoy themselves equally.



Ed Burris enjoys the sunny day in Loganville.



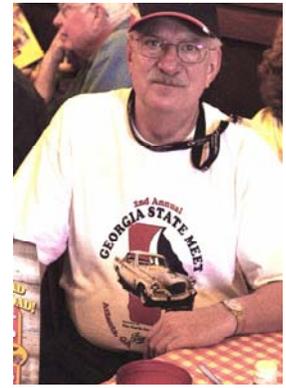
Jackpot drawing winner **Gwen Moore**



- ATTENDEES**  
**February, 2005**
- Dan & Barbara Miller
  - Pete McCaffrey: 62 Champ
  - Don Smith & daughter Fleming
  - Mike Byrd: 62 Hawk
  - Ina & Billy Greene 64 GT Hawk
  - Fred & Paula Martin: 47 M5 Truck
  - Ray & Linda Downing
  - Crazy Ray & Diane Smith
  - Solon Couch, Jr.
  - Buddy & Dot Hunt
  - Bob & Barbara Hughes
  - Rick Kamen & daughter, Brighton
  - Maureen Elliot & Gwen Moore
  - John & Dorothy Brown
  - Hobo & Brenda Bodkin
  - William & Doris Cope
  - Harry & Margaret Parnell
  - Billy & Ina Greene: 64 GT Hawk
  - Chuck Lampman 84 Avanti
  - Nimesh Solanki
  - Raymond Priest 62 GT Hawk
  - Mike & Sharon Dziakik
  - Dave & Marty Comstock 58 - Golden Hawk
  - Terry Smith 63 Studebaker F-2



Welcome back **Terry Smith!** Smith!



**Pete McCaffrey** likes the 'cue at Dave's Famous Barbeque, left. Right, **Dave Comstock** sports the new T Shirt celebrating the Georgia State Meet scheduled for April 16 in Marietta. For details on the meet, or to volunteer, go to our website: <http://www.studebakerclubs.com/NorthGeorgia/>

MEMBERSHIP FORM -  
**NORTH GEORGIA CHAPTER**

To join our chapter, please, complete this form and send with

your \$15.00 check or money order in US funds to:

North Georgia Chapter SDC  
c/o Chuck Lampman  
4141 Lynette Ct NE  
KENNESAW, GA 30144

Note: you must be a member of the National SDC to join us.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ ex. 4/12

Spouse or companion \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Studebakers you own (Year, Make & Model)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP FORM  
**NATIONAL SDC**

Dues: US & CANADA Periodicals class mail - \$27.50

US & CANADA-1st class mail - \$60.50

Young Adult (18-22) \$22.00

Student(12-17) \$20.00

To join SDC, complete this application and send with check or money order in US funds to the following-

SDC, c/o K.R.L.S.

P.O. Box 1715

Maple Grove, Minnesota 55311-7615

Or use VISA or MasterCard and call toll free

763-420-7829 or fax 763-420-7849

Call or write with change of address. **DO NOT SEND ADS** with your membership. Ads must be sent to Turning Wheels editor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or companion \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Studebakers owned