# The Starliner

April, 2005 Vol. 36, No. 8

Kruse Auction at Chicago's Chevy-Vette Fest get's Chapter Help

Dave Reid talking to a couple of Chevy-Vette Fest attendees about this super-clean '65 Pontiac Tempest with 421ci engine





Aven and Chris Brauer and Aven's cousin Greg DID push SOME cars around on Saturday Morning - - Much-appreciated help!

Ron Smith came down to help with Sunday Security [Reid Photos]



The Black Hawk Chapter is the officially chartered representative of the Studebaker Drivers Club for the Northern Illinois area. The Studebaker Drivers Club is dedicated to the preservation of the Studebaker name and Studebaker related vehicles produced by the company during its period in the transportation field. A sincere interest in this cause is the only requirement for membership. Vehicle ownership is not a requirement. The Black Hawk Chapter fully supports the parent Studebaker Drivers Club, and requires membership therein. The SDC provides the membership with yearly national meetings, a monthly publication [Turning Wheels], technical assistance, historical data, assistance in parts and vehicle locating, and a membership roster on a national level. The Black Hawk Chapter provides the same services on a local level, in addition to monthly activities including 10 issues of the Starliner, dinner meetings, picnics, driving events, and fellowship and technical sessions.

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The Starliner is the official publication of the Black Hawk Chapter, SDC, serving Studebaker, Avanti, and other Studebaker related vehicle enthusiasts in the Northeastern Illinois area. Reprinting of any articles contained herein is granted to any other SDC related organization provided *The Starliner* and appropriate author(s) are credited as the source. Neither the club nor the editor is responsible for the accuracy or veracity of want-ads contained herein, although reasonable attempts are made to assure accuracy in everything we publish.

Monthly chapter meetings are *usually* held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, at locations which change monthly. Please see the chapter calendar for the current meeting location. If there is any question regarding directions, call the editor, activities director or president at the numbers listed above.

For membership information, see the applications printed on the back page, and/or call the Chapter President or Membership Director, or call or write to Kris Wheeler at Kustom Registration Information, PO Box 1743, Maple Grove, MN 55311 or at 763-420-7829 or fax at 763-420-7849. The deadline for submission of articles, ads, etc., for the Starliner, is the 15th of the month. We publish as of the 20th, so please try to get your material to the editor sooner, if possible!! - All submissions are appreciated, and will be included as space and relevance allows.

Well the weather is teasing us—it's almost time to get the cars out for another driving season. The temperatures are getting warmer, so now is the time to get your cars road ready for spring. Don't wait until the weather is nice, start a little early. After all, you'll want to be ready to roll when the good weather is here.

Along the lines of having your car ready to go, the Spring Tour is being organized by Al Benning and is set for Sunday, April 10th. He has promised us a trip including lots of "history and nostalgia". See the information elsewhere in this edition of The Starliner for a background about this event.

Dave Reid worked overtime and made the Black Hawk Chapter and SDC look good at McCormick Place a week ago for the Kruse Auto Auction. Dave set up the auto auction for the Kruse folks on Friday, getting the cars in place, verifying VIN's and mileages, etc. They were originally, [on Wednesday, referred to us by new member Charlie Fabian], looking for 15 guys to puch the sale cars thru the sale ring during the actual Auction. Long story short, after numerous changes of plans, the Kruse folks offered to pay our Chapter \$1000 for our efforts, and Dave threw in his \$200 Friday pay. What started out being a lot of car moving on Saturday, turned into light security for both Saturday and a long Sunday. We had ample people lined up for the original Saturday plans, but with the change to Saturday/Sunday, we suddenly had a shortage of help. The Spring Brunch also occurred that same Sunday. Dave stepped up, and worked the show the entire weekend for our Chapter. Chris & Aven Brauer (and Chris's nephew Greg) spent about 5 hours on Saturday, and Ron Smith came down for about 6 hours on Sunday, and gave Dave a hand. Make sure you pat these guys on the back the next time you see them, they did a LOT of work for us, so let them know we appreciate it.

So what can we do with that \$1,200??? Well, how about putting it towards running our 2006 Zone Meet? Linda Sinclair has essentially inked the deal for the Zone Meet to be held at the Hilton in Lisle. The facility is beautiful, and Linda is still working on getting us a great deal. Our plan is to start the Meet on Thursday, and having it run through the following Sunday. That's one day longer than most Zone Meets. But we really want to put on a good, a great show, and we need the extra day to fit everything in. Some of you have already had conversations with either Scott or me as to how you can help. Remember, if we all do a little, the whole job will not be that difficult to accomplish.

The Spring Brunch was fantastic, good friends and good food, not a bad combination. Jay Crites did his usual great job of making the arrangements. Jay, Thank You for you work. I had a great time, and from what I saw, so did everyone else.

Upcoming activities include the spring "Tarp off tour" on April 5th, and the Lombard Lilac Parade and Pot Luck Picnic on May 15th. The annual Studebaker Indiana Swap Meet also comes up on May 6th and 7th.

Our next meeting is on April 5th at Kapteyn's Joliet Studebaker Service; I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Rolf

From Ginger Powell's RRVC StratoVue comes this month's Tech Tip Compilation from their Tech Guy of the Month: STEVE!

If you don't yet have a running car, here are some thoughts: ...first of all, hang out with guys from the club... they'll make you feel stupid AND guilty for not having a running Studebaker..

Put your foot down at home!! Tell her you're going to start a project, and that's that!

My father-in-law always restored parts as he took them OFF... Good advice! What a joy watching a pile of clean, shiny parts grow! Many projects are needlessly abandoned by ignoring this basic premise.

It's best to buy a car that runs [at least that "nearly" runs]. A "basket case" can make a basket case out of YOU!

Try to keep the car driveable as long as possible, disabling it only when absolutely necessary. Rebuild a "spare" engine, trans, rear-end. Multiple "test-drives" sustain interest and comfort the spouse...

If you must own a show car, have a low buck driver, also [you'll have the most fun with the "driver"]!

Don't complain about how much money your wife spends [here's your chance, girls] during the restoration. Nag about that later, when the car is done...

You'll spend about twice the time and twice the money you originally planned. Knowing this ahead of time takes the sting out of it.

#### BLACKHAWK CHAPTER SCHEDULE

Our Activity Director is Scott Stastny. His work number, for "urgent" communications, is 630-293-7750, but would appreciate it if you'd leave a message at his home [630-231-7744] with suggestions for activities or to offer YOUR place for an event or meeting. OR, you can call our Assistant Activities Director, Al Benning, who can be reached at 630-530-7150.

Regular Meetings will continue to be the first Tuesday of each month, EXCEPT AS NOTED IF THE MEETINGS INCLUDE A SPECIAL ACTIVITY.

April 5, 2005, regular membership meeting at Joliet Studebaker Service.[address on page 2] Contact Bob Kapteyn at 815-722-7262.

April 10th, 2005. Black Hawk Spring Tour. Contact Al Benning at 630-530-7150

May 1st, 2005 (Sunday) Black Hawk Chapter will attend the Grayslake Car Show. Contact Scott Stastny at 630-293-7750.

May 6th and 7th, 2005, Studebaker Indiana Annual Swap Meet at SASCO and the 4H Fairgrounds, South Bend, Indiana. [car show at fairgrounds on Saturday]

May 15th, 2005 Black Hawk Chapter will tour in the Lombard Lilac Parade and will have a Potluck Club Picnic and meeting in the Lombard Commons Park afterwards. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

May 19th to 22nd, 2005, Iowa Rock River Tour. Contact Jack Willis at 815-389-2640 or jwillis3767@cs.com

June 7th, 2005, regular membership meeting at the home of Mr. Dick Quinn in Mokena. Contact Scott Stastny at 630-293-7750. More details to follow: when your editor originally talked to Dick about this, he suggested a restaurant nearby for supper and meeting, then going to his place for "the tour", so we'll get it all figured out, and let you know the details ]

June 10th to 12th, 2005, Upper Mississippi Valley Zone Meet in Independence, Missouri (Kansas City suburbs). Then, you can go a "bit" West on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the All Wheels Car Show at Lake Afton [Wichita, KS] will feature STUDEBAKERS, and are inviting any/all who could schedule their vacation or whatever - "no judging or big activity, but a lot of fun" [more info: karing@cox.net]

June 19, 2005 (Father's Day) Annual AACA Car Show at Oak Brook Mall.

June 26th, 2005, Heritage Car Show and Festival in Downers Grove. Contact Bob Markert at 630-852-9893.

July 12th, 2005, regular membership meeting at the home of Ed & Linda Manly in Prospect Heights. Contact Ed Manly at 847-215-9350.

July 13th to 17th, 2005, Pierce-Arrow Society 48th Annual Meet in Springfield, Illinois. Bill Morris is the Meet Chairman.

August 7th, 2005 (SUNDAY), Blackhawk Chapter will attend the Annual Vintage Transportation Show at the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois. Regular membership meeting will be conducted at Union. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

August 5th, 2005, (FRIDAY) Blackhawk Chapter will attend the Downers Grove Cruise Night. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

August 15th to 20th, 2005. SDC National Meet in Spokane, Washington.

August 21st, 2005. Black Hawk Chapter will attend the Annual Orphan Car Picnic near Aurora, Illinois

September 6th, 2005, regular membership meeting at Mr. Beef and Pizza. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

October 4th, 2005, regular membership meeting at Mr. Beef and Pizza. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

October 4th to 8th, 2005: Hershey Car Show & Swap Meet, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

November 1st, 2005, regular membership meeting at Mr. Beef and Pizza in Mt. Prospect. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

December 10th, 2005, Blackhawk Chapter annual Christmas Party and membership meeting. Location: TBA. Contact Rolf Snobeck at 630-514-1867.

June 23-25, 2006 Zone Meet, HERE - exact spot Nearly Determined

2006 SDC International Meet, Omaha, NE [September]

2007 Zone Meet, Rockford, RRVC {SDC Meet either in SB or DesMoines, should know soon}

2007 Int'l Meet JUST awarded to the Studebaker National Museum, South Bend, by the SDC Board.

# Editalk

#### By Dave Reid

Well, folks, we had FUNN at McCormick Place last weekend - - As Rolf noted, there were MANY changes in what the Kruse folks needed from us, but they still paid us what they'd originally agreed to, so that was a BONUS! Their Auction, held Saturday, in conjunction with Chevy-Vette Fest drew about 60 cars for sale, and they sold 20 of them, WITHOUT ANYONE AT THE AUCTION EVERY HEARING THEM RUN!!! [AMAZING!!!] Most of our time Sunday, then, was spent telling folks what the unaccepted high bids were [less than the seller's RESERVEs], and there was a LOT of interest in the cars... don't know if any actually sold Sunday, but I think several may have. We then checked the owner's paperwork as they left at the end of the show. My sincere thanks to everyone who "volunteered" to help push cars, and to the Brauers and Ron Smith, for their actual work Saturday and Sunday. AND, a HUGE thanks to our newest member, Charlie Fabian, who got the original call from Kruse, since he's in charge of the Horseless Carriage Club. Without HIS referral, we'd never have heard about the opportunity.

PLEASE look at the back pages CAREFULLY, and JOIN us for the Dust-Off [Tarp-Off!] Tour on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is DEFINITELY a couples/families tour, so come one and ALL!

I'm pulling out a story that somehow got pushed to the back burner, written by young Rich Volkmer, about the Mecum Fall Car Auction, held at Pheasant Run in October, at which he attempted to sell his GT Hawk [formerly Joe Ammer's, from the White Fence Farm museum, and bought by them years ago at the Labor Day Kruse auction in Auburn, IN.

Sad to report that my Wisconsin counterpart, Pete Wendt, who has been the Regional Manager up there for several years, lost his wife a couple of weeks ago. Here is the address, if you'd like to send a card. Peter Wendt, 3130 W Puetz Rd, Franklin, WI 53132 [sent in by Buzz and Fran Beckman, via Duane Miller].

Looking forward to seeing you at Kapteyn's for the April meeting, and at the Tarp-Off Tour on the 10<sup>th</sup>!

Well, my friends, keep that GREASY side DOWN!! /dave/

"STUDEBAKER... Remembered, not Recalled!"

A Letter to the Editor [of Quad Cities paper] by our Zone Coordinator, Duane Miller, fwd'd by Jack Willis

A few Days ago, Bill Wundram mentioned the "lowly Studebaker" as a thing of the past. Thursday, in a story about John Guenther's retirement, Jennifer DeWitt wrote about "full-service gas stations going the way of the Studebaker".

Yes, it is true that Studebaker has not manufactured trucks since 1964, and discontinued all automobile production in 1966, but they are still around, and traveling the highways & byways. In fact, there is an active local chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club right here in the Quad Cities. Check out the Big 6 River Bend Chapter website at <a href="https://www.studebakerclubs.com/big6">www.studebakerclubs.com/big6</a>. The International Studebaker Drivers Club Inc. is an active organization with over 13,000 worldwide members. Their web site is <a href="https://www.studebakerdriversclub.com">www.studebakerdriversclub.com</a>. There is an existing Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, Indiana (Where most Studebakers were built...since 1852), and a new museum building currently under construction. For more information, check out <a href="https://www.studebakermuseum.org">www.studebakermuseum.org</a>.

Locally, expect to see numerous Studebakers roaming the streets of the Quad Cities in May. There are a group of owners & drivers planning to arrive in the area on the 20th of the month, they will be touring the Isabel Bloom Studios, John Deere Commons, riding on the Celebration Belle on the 21st, and staging a car show in Blue Grass, at Dick-n-Sons Lumber on Friday evening, May 20.

We always enjoy seeing our vehicles mentioned in print, even if not on the front page. The Big 6 River Bend Chapter is always looking for new members (you do not need to own a Studebaker to join) and you can contact any of the club officers listed on the chapter website for details.

Duane Miller, Zone Coordinator for the Studebaker Drivers Club

**WANT AD's** You know the drill, we just print them, it's up to you to exercise "due diligence" - you know, that stuff they're all talking about on TV lately!!!

From Dave Peterson: '53 Studebaker Coupe, rebuilt 350 Chevy engine/350 TH trans, Camaro sub-frame, 8" Ford rear end. Professionally built. Appraised at \$32k. Asking \$22k 630-584-3661 ALSO: Parts from '53 Commander Coupe: front suspension clip, rear end [drum to drum], radio, misc. heater parts, 5 wheels. [offer]

From Carl Meyer: '64 T-Bird Landau, rebuilt 390 & trans, new brake lines/master cyl./booster, rebuilt wheel cyl's, engine compartment painted, one door done, some repair panels included, runs but not driveable: 773-585-8031.

From Wisconsin's Studebaker Spokesman: 289 V8, late '62 production full flow w/ only 35k miles. Engine was disassembled, cleaned and upgraded with new rings, bearings, valves and gaskets. Also included is a '62 GT Hawk. Only \$2,595. For more info and pics, contact Buzz Beckman, 1019 N 17<sup>th</sup> st, Manitowoc, WI 54220, phone: 920-682-6229; stude14@sbcglobal.net

Roger Gorski dropped off this ad: From '59 Hawk automatic torque converter/bell housing \$100; rear window \$5; DG200 auto trans [frozen] \$10; V8 OD trans/short tail \$100; Left & right rear fender for CK body - need some work \$100; '53 sedan grille support 306117 w/ moldings 306108 & 09 - \$20; foam rubber, cotton pad and hog rings to restore bottom of seat \$20 [all OBO] call Roger at 630-257-8765. He also mentioned that he saw a good "20-footer": bulletnose sedan for \$2000 815-325-9080.

Bob "Studillac" Peak has a Dana 44 rear-end with a 4/11 gear that he wants to sell. Call 773-275-6615 or peakphoto22@comcast.net

Frank Lillig wrote: It's time to pass on the Avanti, so here goes: Studebaker Avanti: '63 R1, PW, Am/Fm, Auto, powerful, solid, good interior, needs paint and detailing. Asking \$10,900. Contact Greg Lentini 815-942-8121

Scott Stastny says the following items are still available: '53 Commander "C" rear axle, complete: drum to drum. \$75 [630]293-7750; Also, '58 Golden Hawk hood and "scoop", a little surface rust, but the corners are good \$300; '63 Hawk doors - have rust, but the guts are all there [\$30 each]; Coupe doors with NO guts, but very solid doors, left and right, \$125 each.Call 630-293-7750

The RON HALL COLLECTION: Got a nice email from Luanne Hall, stating that she is planning to move in the spring, and can't MOVE all of the stuff we hauled from West Chicago to eastern Michigan back in '94 or whatever. She has everything from taillight lenses to alternators to radiators; motors, drive trains, carb's and intake manifolds; rocker arm assemblies, and exhaust manifolds. Please call for a complete list 248-625-1953 [6-10pm, EST] or <a href="mailto:stude1953@aol.com">stude1953@aol.com</a>.

1964 DAYTONA HARDTOP. One of the last hardtops made by Studebaker. This like-new California car is an unrestored 3-owner 50K original. 259, Auto, PS, PB, Bordeaux Red by Scott Stastny/Deluxe Auto Works, 200 Watt Kenwood Audio System with 10 disc CD in trunk (no holes cut to install), Electronic ignition, Original wheels and covers. 10K Firm. Ask for video. Photo at studebakerclubs.com/memberprofiles/Don Shannon 800-439-3827 or 708-670-3946. dshannon@televentvideo.com

(v-pix-v) Hi, my husband has a 1954 studerbaker commander >> coupe for sale...It is a V8 3 spd. o.d. rust >> free, 38,000 original miles color is green for >> \$5,000. We can send pictures if you no of anyone >> who might be interested. We live 50.

original miles color is green. for >> \$5,000... We can send pictures if you no of anyone >> who might be interested.. We live 50 miles north of >> St.Louis, Mo. Our phone number is 573-384-5810 >> e-mail is <u>jcreech@socket.net</u>

Downstater George Shirley sent a request for a '64 Wagonnaire gas tank, new or "good used" 217-739-2452 or <a href="mailto:rustybolts@hotmail.com">rustybolts@hotmail.com</a>

'55 Champion 2-dr HT and parts: Restoration of the car is in progress, and the owner of the car [Larry Hasse] moved out of state from Huntsville, AL to WA state. Engine has been rebuilt and the trunk lid and 2 fenders are painted. The underside has been sanded, and about 3/4 of it is undercoated. There is a new windshield and door glass and other NOS

parts ready to be put on. Owner says he has over \$7,000 in parts alone. Wife is still in Huntsville, and can show it. Her number is 256-883-0750. Husband's email is <a href="mailto:ljhasse@juno.com">ljhasse@juno.com</a> and phone is 509-258-8935.

Bill Fortier of Milwaukee is putting a new chassis/drivetrain under his '53 Champion, so it's for sale: runs great, brakes redone, clutch worked good when he last drove it. Make Offer Reasonable. 414-839-4126 or <a href="wfortier@wi.rr.com">wfortier@wi.rr.com</a> 3-spd [no OD], alt/starter are 12v.



From the Hawkeye Headliner: '64 Daytona 2 door hardtop, 259, auto, ps, pb, duals, cloth interior. Many new parts and paint. Drive home for \$3995, or make offer. Jim Ringlein, 308-783-5468. Also have rear bumper w/ all brackets for C-cab PU \$125 and good used wide tailgate for '56-60 PU \$75.



From the North Star Wheel: '50 2door Champion 6cyl. Not running at present, only a couple small areas of rust, has sat outside for a long time, interior in rough shape. Very Solid Body, no parts missing - would like to get \$1350 for it Bruce Haverkamp <a href="mailto:hav@brainerd.net">hav@brainerd.net</a> Or 218-829-5950

#### Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 1, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM by Vice President Ed Manly at Don Shannon's Televent in Oak Park.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as published in the Starliner by Mark van Deventer seconded by Wayne Smida to accept - motion passed.

**Treasurer Report:** Doug Kay missing in action but there was no cash in or out.

**Secretary Report:** Mark van Deventer had nothing to report.

**Editors Report:** Dave Reid took credit for new member Charlie Fabian and than ked everyone for their contributions. Charlie told the story of his 1 cylinder Brush and the trip to Springfield - he has a lot of other interesting stories and will tell them as time permits.

**Activities Report:** Scott Stastny went over the activities for the year (they are in the activities section of the Starliner). He also covered the schedule for the Zone meet.

- Location will be the Hampton Inn
- Start Thursday with the "Welcome" and a "Sock Hop"
- Friday night will have a "Cruise Night"
- Saturday "Car show" and "Swap Meet"
- Tech sessions throughout the meet
- Banquet on Saturday Night
- Sunday Breakfast at Volo
- Other Studebaker related margues have been invited.

Old Business: No old business discussed

**New Business:** Wayne Smida asked that we collect pictures of 4 generations from our local Target stores for him. Don Shannon discussed the retro Studebaker radios that were in Target and told us that he could get them at cost - he passed around a price sheet.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Reid at 8:39 seconded by Roger Gorski

**Attendance:** Chris Brauer, Mike Burke, Jay Crites, Hugh Edfors, Charlie Fabian [joined], Chuck Galauner, Gary Garmisa & Gail Peck, Johnny Gercken, Noble Glaudell, Roger Gorski, Frank Guadagno, Steve Jaffe, Bob Kapteyn, Ed Manly, Carl Meyer, Bill Mitchell, Mike Nikkel, Dave Reid, Paul Reppa, John Shanahan, Don Shannon, Wayne Smida, Ron & Stan Smith, Scott Stastny, Roscoe Stelford, Dick Stewart, Mark van Deventer, Mike Williams.[dr:3-21-05]

[Pics are by Rich Volkmer, from the Mecum Fall Auction]









#### June 10, 11, 12, 2005 INDEPENDENCE, MO

### All Missouri / Upper Mississippi Valley Zone Meet

#### **Tourist Attractions**

Truman Home, Museum & Library Worlds of Fun & Oceans of Fun Steamboat Arabia **Ameristar Casino** Independence Square - Antique Shops

# Kansas City



Hosted By Heart Of America Chapter

Drivers Club, Inc.

2005

#### **Friday**

Saturday

Registration

Hospitality

Swap Meet

Registration **Hospitality Room**  Noon - 9 p.m. Noon - 6 p.m.

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fun Night-complimentary 7p.m.

Snacks only **Host Hotel** 

Hilton Garden Inn

19677 East Jackson Drive Independence, MO 64057

1-816-350-3000

\$74.00 Single/Double

\$84.00 Triple/Quad

(Mention Studebaker Meet to receive discount rates .

These prices guaranteed until May 10, 2005) Free transportation within a 5 mile radius.

Drawing for one nights Free Room at Banquet for

Registered participants only

**Armacost Museum Tour** 

Concours Judging

**Awards Banquet** 

7:30 p.m. (Catered by Kansas City's Famous Herford House)

Sunday - Departure

#### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(last)	First	Spouse	
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone	e-mail		
Chapter Affiliation	National SDC Memb	er No	
Additional Late Fee After Armacost Museum Admiss (All admission fees are do	sion with Registration (no children under 12) \$5.00 earnated to local charities)	\$ 5.00	
Vendor/Swap Space (all ve	Year Year Year Year endors/swap must register)	\$10.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 5.00 \$10.00	
	T	otal Fee	

Please return this Registration Form with payment to: Checks payable to Heart of America Chapter Jane Carpenter, Meet Treasurer (816-537-6814)

1102 Gambrell Road Greenwood, MO 64034

JamesJaneC@aol.com

Additional registration forms and tourist information can be obtained at http://groups.aol.com/studebuHOA Contact Persons: John Crooks, President 816-233-5546 dcrooks45@aol.com; Bruce Fleischer, Vice President 913-361-8588 byfmet@aol.com; Betty Dornhoffer, Newsletter Editor 816-436-6827 bdornhoffer@cs.com

#### Mecum "Fall Premier" Auction Visits Pheasant Run

By Rich Volkmer, with assistance of Mark vanDeventer and Dave Reid

It's a "gear-head" paradise... nearly 500 mostly sweet looking pieces of automotive rolling sculpture, in the MegaCenter or outside in a couple of big tents, with some stragglers under the "stars". The Sale was Friday, Saturday, but we three went for the "preview" on Thursday night.

You name it [especially if it's a Ford, Chevy or Mopar product], and you're likely to find one, two, or 12 of them. Corvettes abound, two-seater Thunderbirds, a SuperBird or two, and the occasional Roosevelt. What the heck is a Roosevelt??

Well, it's a one-year product [1929 only] made by the Marmon company. They have a big old straight-eight, an ash-framed body covered with sheet metal, and Teddy Roosevelt's mug prominently displayed on the radiator. Talk about orphans... this make is enough to make Studebaker look like GM. The one we spotted squatting down on its haunches in the lot had its owner proudly reporting that his Dad had bought it new in 1929, and outfitted with the rare wire wheel option. Whoever wound up with this car [VERY complete, except for several generations' worth of termite damage] would have to be more a Carpenter than a sheet metal man!

Advancing a few light years to focus on rolling stock we can really relate to, we three thoroughly enjoyed the preview: mostly middle-aged guys kicking tires and telling automotive lies... come to think of it, those old guys were our age!

The woodies in the MegaCenter, where the "featured" cars were all housed, caught our eye first, including a '40 Ford, a '39 Chevy and a '34 Chevy. They looked like better furniture than any of us have back at the house. Then there's a '51 Caddy convertible sitting aside a '53 Vette that looks like it's fresh from the Waldorf. Like Buicks? Then bid on a cream-colored '41 convertible. Hot rodder? Go for the '34 Ford 3-window coupe that only a smallish child could squeeze under it's chopped top. Plymouth fan? Choose between the aqua-colored '37 coupe, or go for that yellow '69 SuperBird with a wing only NASA would love. International junky? Check out the '40-ish red pickup with Chevy fenders and Lexus-looking headlights! Something for everyone, even Austin-Healey buffs and Willys fans. Muscle cars abound, sheek by jowl with the cleanest '55 Ford pickup you can imagine and detailed Camaros and Chevelles.

Studebaker? Just two.... a beautiful '52 Champion hardtop, and Rich's '63 GT Hawk. Never did hear if the '52 sold, but the GT came home unsold, for not having reached the reserve mark. The Mecum event was really dominated by Big Three iron, so that class of sellers and buyers have only mild interest in the Studebaker cult, or, for that matter, any of the other miscellaneous orphan obsessions.

Friday and Saturday were the actual SALE days, with about 250 cars each day going on the block until they were [hopefully] sold...coming back for the sale, I found another sub-culture in attendance - - guys in their 20's and 30's who ante'd up \$10 for a bidder's card, to seek bargains. Auction days are less laid-back, but even more social, with lots of speculation [and a few bets] about what this car or that will go for, or if it will even sell.

"Action" is the key word for Auction Days, hyped by the parade of cars, each allotted a few minutes' time to present themselves briefly before the auctioneer and his helpers. Pressure is on! Sell, sell, SELL!!! Squeeze every last dime our of competing bidders...run up the tab, it enhances Mecum's 5% cut!

The average time seems to be three or four minutes per car, with really big-buck stuff taking six to ten minutes in dredging up a couple hundred grand for something like a Corvette pace car with 89 miles on it, mostly from touring the Brickyard. Here's where the Chevy and Ford guys abound, competing for a '63 split-window StingRay or that cherry '57 Thunderbird.

If the hammer goes down on a sale, folks upstairs in the office see to the paperwork and getting your dough from the buyer. Bidders are pre-qualified, and the process seems to work well for everyone...especially Mecum. The seller goes home with fresh cash, or, equally likely, squanders it all on another item wife will dislike. If the car is a no-sale, it's quickly ushered out the other roll-up door and shunted to the parking lot for retrieval by the owner...if he can find where they hid it. There is, fortunately, a Mecum guy patrolling the vast area outside and under the tent, with a golf cart to help errant non-sellers find their steeds. With quick efficiency, the title is given back and the luckless seller can beat a hasty retreat.

All-in-all, the car auction subculture is a hoot, and something every gearhead should attend at least once. It doesn't cost much to attend, but don't bring a pocketful of cash unless you can resist temptation. "Honey, we can really use a '47 Hudson ambulance," you just might find yourself pleading...

# BLACK HAWK CHAPTER SDC "TARP OFF TOUR" APRIL 10, 2005

Spring is near, time to get your Studebaker out for the season!

Come out for a tour that includes nostalgia, history, photo stops and Stude friendships.

Al Benning has put a lot of thought and time into preparing a "mystery" Spring Tour for our collective enjoyment. Let's come out and show our appreciation for his efforts.

Here's a quick run down on what we will be doing:

 8:45 a.m.: Meet at Krispy Kream, 712 East Devon, Elk Grove. 847-472-9500

Have Coffee and Donuts before we leave.

• 9:30 a.m.: Leave Krispy Kream, start our tour.

We are going to make a tour including architectural, historical and nostalgic stops.

We'll stop and eat at "Our Kitchen" for lunch. Average cost is \$11.00 per person. We'll have seating together as a group. They have a great Gift Shop / Antique Shop.

We should cover about 45 miles, and should wrap up after about 4 hours

Let's get out there and have some fun!!



Contact Al Benning with any questions and to sign up. See the Sign-Up Sheet and return to Al.



# BLACKHAWK CHAPTER SDC TARP OFF TOUR APRIL 10, 2005

8:45 AM MEET AT KRISPY KREAM \* 712 EAST DEVON, ELK GROVE 847-472-9500 LEAVE AT 9:30 AM

> \$3.00 BRAND "X" DRIVEN \$6.00 MANY PHOTO OPS.

\* DONUTS, COFFEE, AND LUNCH ON YOUR OWN.

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER SDC TARP OFF TOUR					
"STUDE" PRODUCT \$3.00BRAND "X" \$6.00					

PLEASE MAIL BY APRIL 1, 2005 TO:
ALAN BENNING
712 MICHIGAN ST
ELMHURST, IL 6012
CHECKS PAYABLE TO "BLACKHAWK CHAPTER SDC"



The Starliner Black Hawk Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club Dave Reid, Editor 3212 S Lowe Ave Chicago, IL 60616-3408

> Address Service Requested First Class Mail [Time Sensitive!!]

Studebaker Drivers Club Internation Membership Application Memberships are for one year from inception, and include 12 issues of Turning Wheels. Dues are \$27.50 per year, or \$60.50 for First Class mail. Amount of dues enclosed\$ Vol. Contrib: Museum Fund\$ V.CCar Restoration Fund\$ Make to SDC for Total Amt\$				
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BLACK HAWK Chapter Application
Our membership year runs July thru June, and
includes 10 issues of The Starliner. Dues are \$18
for the [mailed] paper version, or \$15 for the
eMailed version, which you can print off in
"living color". If you want the lower rate, you
must include your email address. If you have one,
but still want the paper version, NO problem! [but
please include your email address for
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Hawk Chapter/SDC and mail to address at top left
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Name
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Phone ()
List Studebakers, with year, model, body style,

Studebaker National Museum 525 South Main Street South Bend, IN 46601

Please send me information about Membership and the Building Campaign for the NEW Museum!

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