



The Commander

Potomac Chapter

Studebaker Drivers Club



NOTE: We are on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1846254089018596/>

Vol. 58, Issue Number 1 — February-March 2026



Potomac Chapter, SDC, 2025 Holiday Party

IN THIS ISSUE	
Steering Column.....	2
Chapter Officers.....	3
Planned Activities.....	4-5
B.S. Column.....	5
Holiday Party 2025.....	6
Digital TW.....	6
SDC Int'l Meet 2026.....	7

Birthdays.....	8
For Sale, Free, and Wanted.....	8
Membership Application/Renewal.....	9

Next Meeting
TBD



Steering Column



I hope all is going well in this time of extreme weather. It's bad news for us and our Studebakers but, as always, we shall persevere. Yes, it's your old president writing this column as your newly minted vice president. We held our elections at the December Holiday Luncheon and the slate reflected the last term's officers for the most part. Ron Hoff was elected president but has decided to step down for personal reasons. Our Activities Director, Chris Thomas, has volunteered to be our Acting President until the next opportunity to hold an election for that position. He will continue as our Activities Director as well.

How do you spend your time regarding Studebakers in the winter? Of course, our Chapter's Facebook page is one place to visit almost daily because Ed Lemanski keeps it fresh for us. Another thing I enjoy doing is surfing the internet looking for Studebaker stories. It's amazing what one can find. It's almost too deep a place to go because you may spend way too much time doing it according to yourself and your spouse.

Chris has assembled a terrific series of event for us so I hope you can be part of our 2026 activities.

Steve White



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 (2024-2025)

<u>President</u> Chris Thomas, Acting	<u>Vice President</u> Steve White	<u>Treasurer</u> Dave Farris 852 Baltimore Pike Gardners, PA 17324 240-461-7676
<u>Secretary</u> STILL VACANT	<u>Activities Director</u> Chris Thomas	<u>Membership</u> Stephen Walter 14916 Chestnut Ridge Court Gaithersburg, MD 20878
<u>Historian</u> Ed Lemanski 7875 Red Jacket Way Jessup, MD 20794 301-776-9893	<u>Web Master</u> Bob Johnstone 12161 Holly Knoll Circle Great Falls, VA 22066 703-450-0754	<u>Newsletter Editor</u> Pete Rutledge 5102 Cannon Bluff Dr. Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-853-8209 (C) pjrutledge3@verizon.net

Potomac Chapter Membership Renewal Reminder

The good news is we have had roughly half of the members renew for 2026. Thank you so much for continuing to support your local chapter. The bad news is the other half of the active members have not renewed yet, this is below what is normal for this time in the renewal cycle. I will be sending an email reminder to those of you that have not sent in your renewal. Also please remember to make out your check to **Potomac Chapter, Studebaker Driver's Club** and not to me. Our annual dues remain at a modest \$15 for an emailed newsletter or \$30 for a mailed newsletter. As usual you will find an application form on the last page of this issue of The Commander. Your car/truck is our best advertisement; I cannot drive anywhere these days without getting positive comments and questions. So, carry an application form in your vehicle and you will be prepared to recruit new members. Please contact Membership Director Stephen Walter at stephen.walter1@verizon.net if you have any questions.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
2026 Planned Activities (Tentative)

Event (location)	Date	Details
Burtonsville Cars & Coffee Burtonsville Town Square 15662 Old Columbia Road Burtonsville, MD	Sunday, April 19th 07:30 to 9:30	<i>non-Chapter event in Maryland</i>
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct Vienna, VA 22182	Saturday, May 16th 10:00 to 12:00	<i>Chapter event in Virginia</i> Evite to all members
Bethesda Cars & Coffee at the <i>Corner Bakery</i> 10327 Westlake Drive	Saturday, May 30th 08:00 to 10:00	<i>Chapter event in Maryland</i>
Sully Car Show 3650 Historic Sully Way Chantilly, VA	Sunday, June 21st (Father's Day) 10:00 to 15:30	<i>non-Chapter event in Virginia</i> pre-registration required
Katie's Cars & Coffee Katie's Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA	Saturday, July 11th 06:30 to 08:30	<i>non-Chapter event in Virginia</i> arrive early!
Burtonsville Cars & Coffee Burtonsville Town Square 15662 Old Columbia Road Burtonsville, MD	Sunday, August 17th 07:30 to 9:30	<i>non-Chapter event in Maryland</i>
Drive Your Studebaker Day - vine- Start at <i>Boxwood Estate Winery</i> 2042 Burrland Ln Middleburg, VA	Saturday, September 12th 10:30 to 14:30 drive to	end at Breaux Vinyards 36888 Breaux Vineyards Ln, Purcellville, VA Evite to all members

NOTES:

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

**If you would be willing to organize a cruise or other activity for the chapter, please advise Chris Thomas.

POTOMAC CHAPTER, SDC
2026 Planned Activities (Tentative) (cont'd)

Event (location)	Date	Details
Rohr Car Show Manasseh Masonic Lodge 182 9810 Cockrell Road, Manassas, VA	Saturday, September 19th 8:00 to 15:00	<i>non-Chapter event in Virginia</i> \$25.00 pre-registration
Rockville Antique & Classic Car Show Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD	Saturday, October 17th 11:00 to 15:30 https://www.rockvillemd.gov/667/Rockville-Antique-and-Classic-Car-Show	<i>non-Chapter event in Maryland</i> registration opens July 7th ** always sells out - book early!!
2025 Chapter Holiday Party Veva's on Potomac 38 S Potomac St #1, Hagerstown, MD	Saturday, December 12th 13:00 to 16:00	Chapter annual meeting and holiday party! contact: Dave Farris david.farris@verizon.net

NOTES:

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

**If you would be willing to organize a cruise or other activity for the chapter, please advise Chris Thomas.

B.S. Column ('bout Studebakers)

By Jerry Blount—Member, Northwest Chapter

With thanks to Brenda Scott, Editor, Northwest Newsletter

Several years ago, I wrote a column about original clutch pressure plate assemblies as used on '55 to '64 V-8 Studebakers. The point of that column was to list the various diameters used - 10"; 10-1/8"; 10-1/4"; and 10-1/2" and the rating in pounds for the different model applications. 1545 lbs. to 2050 lbs. with several in the 1700 - 1800 lbs. range.

I wanted to point out that most aftermarket clutches were more like 2200 lbs. and thus could lead to clutch linkage failure, not to mention a tired left foot. Some Studebaker parts dealers were selling a commonly available American Motors/Jeep 10-1/2" clutch pressure plate rated at 2220 lbs. I chose to rarely sell this part (only for heavy duty use) my preference was something close to the original Studebaker listings. So, I sold 10" and 10-1/4" pressure plates whenever I could, since these would be in the 1600 - 1800 lbs. range.

Recently my California wholesaler Studebaker parts supplier chose to discontinue selling remanufactured 10" pressure plates, mainly due to lack of people willing to do the rebuilding process. Fortunately he now has a source for new 10-1/2" pressure plates, rated at 1450 lbs. - noted as "standard duty". The "heavy duty" version is 2000 lbs. '55 - '64 Studebaker V-8 flywheels have a bolt pattern that will accept 10" thru 10-1/2" pressure plates, so a 10-1/2" pressure plate will readily replace a 10" plate. You should either reface your flywheel (good idea anyway) or use a 10" disc.

Potomac Chapter, SDC, 2025 Holiday Party



From left to right:

Larry Pugh, Darlene Pugh, Esta Ragland, Marcos Lora, Chris Thomas, Murray Welsh, Dan Ragland, Dave Farris, Nadine Farris, Pete Rutledge, Irene White, Steve Walter, Steve White, Mary Walter, Ron Hoff.

We had a great time. Congratulations to our 2026-2027 officers, our sustaining members and our new member Marcos.

Digital Turning Wheels Magazine

All issues of Turning Wheels from January 2024 to the present are available online. Members can access them by going to the SDC web site at: <https://studebakerdriversclub.com/>. On that page, click on "Member Area" at top right. On the next page, log in (or create a log-in account). On the next page, which shows your membership details, see the blue box on the right side; click on "View Digital Magazine." On the next page, there is a list of available digital issues of Turning Wheels. Click on any one of them to read it. You will see that SDC has done a pretty nice job of digitizing our club magazine.

Note: The latest digital edition of *Turning Wheels* becomes available on the 25th of every month.



62nd Annual
Studebaker Drivers Club
**INTERNATIONAL
MEET**



Waxahachie, TX
SEPTEMBER 23 - 26, 2026
VISITWAXAHACHIE.COM



December-January Birthdays*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!!!

FEBRUARY

Feb 4 – Dave (Mike) Farris
Feb 8 – Dorothy Grimm
Feb 9 – Bob Johnstone
Feb 28 – Kirsten Thomas

MARCH

Mar 1 – Mary Babkirk
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

NOTHING THIS MONTH

2026

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 above.

This is a NEW Application Renewal/Update

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (primary): _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone (secondary): _____

E-Mail: _____

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

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

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