



The Commander

Potomac Chapter

Studebaker Drivers Club



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

Vol. 58, Issue Number 3 — June-July 2026



9 (2 are in 2nd row, right) Potomac Chapter Studebakers at our May 16 event (more pictures inside)

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Next Meeting
TBD



Steering Column



Greetings all,

Thanks to everyone who attended the Potomac Chapter meeting at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in May! We had nine Studebakers show up, and apparently an Avanti II that arrived too late for the fun. I was really pleased to see members show up even without their cars. The weather cooperated and the venue didn't disappoint. It's always gratifying to get a good turnout - and motivating for planning the next event. Next year's Spring event will be held on the Maryland side and I'm open to suggestions as to "where."

As I was driving home in my Avanti from the Bethesda Cars & Coffee meeting on Saturday (05/30) morning, I was musing just how nice people are within our hobby, and how the right mix of cars, people, and weather can make a day memorable. While crossing the American Legion Memorial Bridge, I managed to hit a pothole dead-on at 60 mph and watched a hubcap fly off my car. Ughh...! But a reminder that even on the best of days, it's best to take care in traffic with our vehicles so that the memories are good ones.

I hope to see you at the Sully Car Show on Father's Day. Don't forget to register early.

Happy motoring,

Chris

P.S. - Anyone got a spare Avanti hubcap?




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	<u>Vice President</u> Steve White	<u>Treasurer</u> Dave Farris 852 Baltimore Pike Gardners, PA 17324 240-461-7676
<u>Secretary</u> 	<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>Newsle er Editor</u> Pete Rutledge 5102 Cannon Bluff Dr. Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-853-8209 (C) pjrutledge3@verizon.net

Potomac Chapter Membership Renewal Reminder

The current membership count for 2026 is 40 active members, we have had 39 members renew and one new member for 2026. Please welcome our new member Jason Pence from Woodstock, VA. Jason has three Studebakers and a few Hudsons. We have lost a few memberships from last year, but not too bad. Thank you so much for continuing to support your local chapter. 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
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 pre-registration required</i>
Ka e's Cars & Coffee Ka e's Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA	Saturday, July 11th 06:30 to 08:30	<i>non-Chapter event in Virginia arrive early!</i>
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 - vineyard tour <i>Start at Boxwood Estate Winery</i> 2042 Burrland Ln Middleburg, VA	Saturday, September 12th 10:30 to 14:30 <i>drive to</i>	<i>end at Breaux Vineyards</i> 36888 Breaux Vineyards Ln, Purcellville, VA <i>Evite to all members</i>
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 \$25.00 pre-registration</i>
62nd Annual Studebaker Drivers Club Int'l Meet, Waxahachie, TX	September 23-26	<i>National SDC event</i>
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>Chapter event in Maryland registration opens July 7th ** always sells out - book early!!</i>
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.**

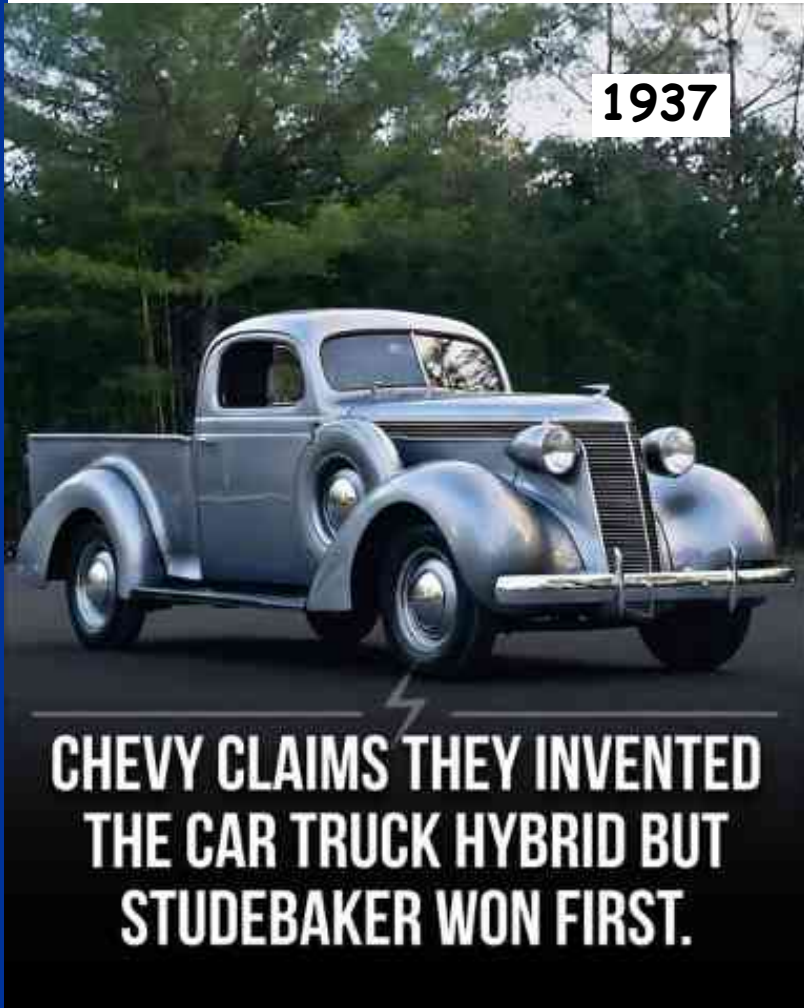
Potomac Chapter Visits Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA, May 16, 2026



Potomac Chapter Visits Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Vienna, VA, May 16, 2026 (cont'd)



Studebaker Car Trucks from George Hamlin



Late-entry Ford & Chevy car-trucks, above, from your editor

1948 Studebaker M5

Odds 'N' Ends

From Pete Yuan

May you always have Love to Share, Health to Spare and Friends that Care.

Have you noticed if you add IRS to the word, THE, it becomes "THEIRS"



A smile - - - A smile cost nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. - - - It takes but a moment but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good- will in business and is the countersign of friendship . . . It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet, it cannot be bought, begged borrowed or stolen for it is something of no value until it is given away.

Some people may be too tired to give you a smile . . . Give them one of yours as no one needs a smile so much as one who has no more to give.

The grand essentials in life are something to do, someone to love and something to hope for.

**Life ends when you stop dreaming.
Hope ends when you stop believing...
Love ends when you stop caring.. and
Friendship ends when you stop sharing!**

Tires

Check wear pattern and look for checking, cuts, nails etc. If tires have uneven tread wear, the wheel alignment may be necessary to correct the problem. Tires deteriorate with age. Some older tires may have a lot of tread left on them but still, they may be classified as unsafe.

Check with your tire shop. When purchasing a new tire, get the shop to identify the age of the tire that they are selling. There is a 4 number code on one side of the tire. The first 2 numbers indicate the week of the year that the tire was made. The other 2 numbers indicate the year that the tire was made. **Don't buy an old, "New" tire.**

* A study in New York found that the majority of unnecessary auto repairs were the result of incompetence rather than dishonesty. Now that you know, doesn't it make you feel better? . . "Not really?"

* There is a saying:
"One person can make a difference"
You can be one of those people! Get involved,
Participate!

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.

Silicone

From Pete Yuan

Through chemical research and development, we have Silicone products for a multitude of uses for homes, cars cosmetics, medicine, cookware, electronics, textiles, personal care products, laundry detergents as a foam regulator and as a release agent for the baking industry.

Use of silicone in the automotive industry includes insulation for the high tension, spark plug wires, for paint, in areas for high heat protection and for gaskets.

During the time that the silicone products were introduced to the automotive industry as gasket substitute for cork and other gasket materials, many mechanics were reluctant to use it. Since then, the silicone has likely been reformulated and many mechanics do use it nowadays, if perhaps for no other reasons than as a time saver and that there is no need to stock a multitude of gaskets.

Specifically, however, silicone should not be used as a gasket substitute for the seal between the gas tank and the gas level sending unit. The use of silicone for that particular application would and should be considered indiscriminate as it could leave you walking after parking your stalled car on the side of the road. . . . "How so?" you ask.

When the silicone is applied around the opening on the top of the gas tank, droplets of silicone could fall into the tank. In time, the silicone droplets works its' way into the fuel pump and jams the valve. With the valve jammed, the engine runs out of gas and quits. There are many things in life that are more fun than to have that happen.

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51st Sully Antique Car Show! – June 21, 2026

The George Washington Chapter, Inc., Model A Ford Club, and the Fairfax County Park Authority will jointly sponsor the 51st Sully Antique Car Show on Father's Day, June 21, 2026 at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, VA.

Bring your Model A Ford Hot Rod or antique vehicle (2001 or earlier) to show (must pre-register by June 17) and win a trophy. There are thirty show classes with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies, and a trophy for Best in Show and a Sully Staff choice. Or, just bring your family to enjoy the show where you will see approximately 350 - 400 classic and antique cars; special displays including Hit 'n Miss engines and a "take-apart Model T Ford"; food vendors; a kids' tent with free coloring books; live music; and a Century Class Display of 100-year-old cars. Historic grounds information session included with admission (weather permitting), which online is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children. Trophies will be awarded at 3:00 pm.

SHOW CARS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED BY JUNE 17!

See GWCMoDeLA.com mid-April for registration information.



A portion of show entry proceeds will be donated to Fisher House



2025 Arthur Ault Award winner
1973 AMC Javelin AMX
Owned by Steve Deitz



Saturday, September 19, 2026

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

(registration closes at 11:00 AM)

Location: Historic Manassas Rail Depot

9431 West St. Manassas, VA 20110

**Free Spectator Admission & Parking * Free Trailer Parking * Dash Plaques * Trophies * DJ Chrome Dome *
Door Prizes * 50/50 * Vendors * Model T Ford Demonstration * Nearby Food Festival & Restaurants**



Three ways to register for your convenience:

Pre- Register online by
September 17th - \$20.00
(click QR code)

Pre- Register via mail \$20.00
(must be received by September 17th)
fill out form below

**The first 150 pre-registrations will receive
a limited-edition town hall print.**

Register Day of Show \$25.00

Visit our website for complete details, rules, and award categories BullRun.AACA.com or click this QR code

General Information: Randy Higgins 703-853-2235 or rfh24@yahoo.com



NOTE: ALL show vehicles MUST enter on Prince William Street, from Grant Ave., and proceed to check-in per Manassas City Police for safety and entry control. No exceptions.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

E-mail _____

Vehicle #1 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

Vehicle #2 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Color _____

Car Corral X _____ cars @ \$30.00 each (no for sale signs allowed unless registered in the Car Corral) Not eligible for awards.

Flea Market Vendor X _____ spaces @ \$35.00 each (10'X15')

Pre-registration fees are non-refundable unless the show is cancelled by Bull Run Region

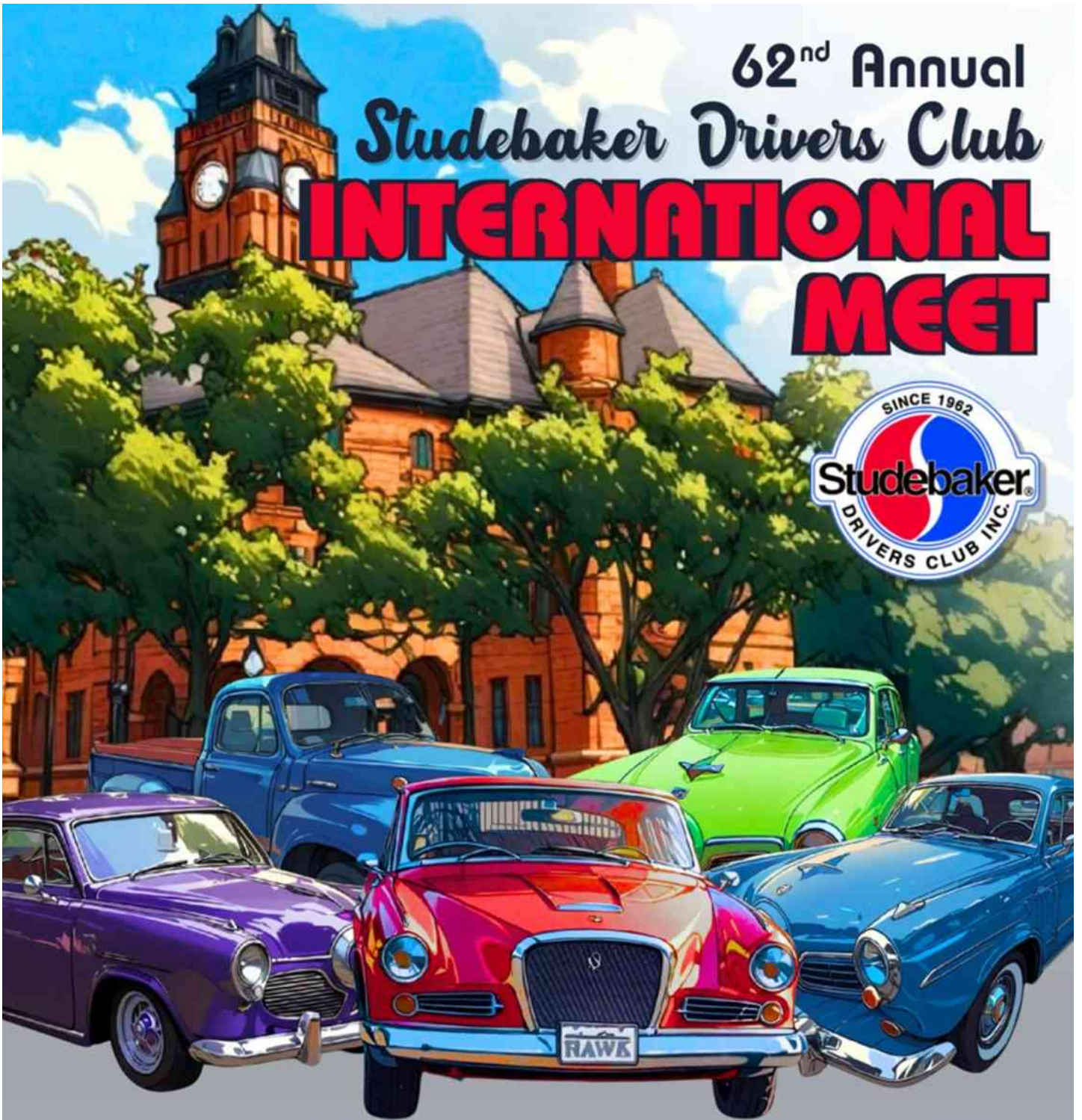
Mail registration form with payment to: Steve Deitz 8183 Hillcrest Dr. Manassas, VA 20111

Make Checks Payable to "Bull Run Region AACA"

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Version 3-9-26

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



Waxahachie, TX
SEPTEMBER 23 - 26, 2026

VISITWAXAHACHIE.COM



ROCKVILLE ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW*

*Sponsored by the Potomac Chapter, SDC, among numerous other car clubs and/or their chapters.



SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 2026



11 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.



ROCKVILLE CIVIC
CENTER PARK

Show Registration: Registration for the 2026 show will open on Monday, July 13, 2026.

Time	Event
7:15 a.m.	Check-in gate opens to flea market and car sale vendors. No day-of registration.
8:30 a.m.	Check-in gate opens to show cars. No day-of registration.
11 a.m.	Check-in closes. Event opens to the public (free admission).
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Live music.
2:45 p.m.	Mayor and Council Award presentation.
3:30 p.m.	Event closes.

Potomac Chapter Member Profile

Name: Pete Rutledge

Length of my membership in the Potomac Chapter, SDC: From late '70s to mid-'80s; and, more recently, from approx. 2015 to the present

Other car clubs I am a member of: National Corvette Restorers Society (NCRS), including its Mid-Atlantic Chapter; Aquia Creek Corvette Club

My favorite car(s): Studebakers and Corvettes

My favorite Studebaker(s): '53-54 Starliner and Starlight; '63-64 Avanti

My current car collection includes: '51 sedan (jointly owned with my daughter), '54 Studebaker Starlight (hot rod), '64 Avanti (4-speed R2), '54 Corvette, '57 Corvette ("fuelie"), '99 Corvette (fixed-roof coupe)

Other Studebakers I have owned: '54 Studebaker Starlight in which I installed a Chevy 454 engine; 3 other Avantis, including a '63, '64, and a '74 Avanti II

Other hobbies: Teaching myself to play/repair/restore a variety of stringed and woodwind musical instruments. Amateur (ham) radio.

My involvement with Studebakers (from when it started until today):

In my early teens, I raced an HO scale Avanti at my local hobby store. In very modified form, it was a real winner. In high school, a close friend of mine acquired and gave me rides in a '53 Starlight coupe with a Golden Hawk dash and 289 engine. Around that same time, I received a book for Christmas called "Contemporary Classic Cars." Among other cars, it featured a beautiful '53 Starliner and an equally beautiful metallic red '63 Avanti. I was enamored by them. In the mid-'70s, while owning a '64 Corvette coupe, I decided that Corvettes were "a dime a dozen" and wanted something only rarely seen on the street. So, I sold the Corvette and ended up with a '63 Avanti, which I subsequently painted and reupholstered. I sold that first Avanti around 1985 and went on to build a '54 Starlight coupe "hot rod" with a Chevy 454 engine. After selling that car, in 2008, I bought another '54 Starlight coupe on eBay; when delivered, I found it was much rustier than I had anticipated and it didn't have its original engine, but it became a long-term project anyway (it gave me a lot of practice MIG-welding). Then I decided I needed another Avanti to fill a hole in my heart. I got a '74 Avanti II in Ohio and drove it home in a sleet storm (the next day one tire blew out on my way to get new tires). Before long I decided I really liked the original Studebaker Avanti more than the Avanti II. I sold the Avanti II and bought a 4-speed R2 '63 Avanti that was titled as a '64. Before long, I sold that one and ended up having to get another one to fill that recurring hole in my heart. That brought about the 4-speed '64 R2 I have now, which came from Michigan. And the '54 long-term project is finally street-able with a '62 289 engine, 4-speed, new red rolled and pleated upholstery (that I made), and on its way to a flat-black exterior paint job; I called it my "high school hot rod."

My favorite Studebaker memory: Renting a U-Haul pickup truck, traveling to North Carolina with my wife to buy a "rebuilt" 289 for \$300 that ended up in my current '54. While in North Carolina, we bought a bunch of Studebaker parts for \$100 that I was able to sell on eBay for enough to pay for the U-Haul truck rental, the trip, and the engine, and yield a healthy profit besides.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Potomac Chapter Member Profile

Photo of me one of my Studebakers:



Tech tip: The most valuable tools for working on my cars - shop press, floor jack, jack stands, torque wrench, measuring tools, engine stand, 2-post lift, air compressor, and air tools

Final thought: If you don't know how to do something on your car, do your research (books, YouTube, SDC Forum), get the necessary tools and parts, and you will still come out way ahead of having someone do it for you, and you will have the satisfaction of having done it yourself.

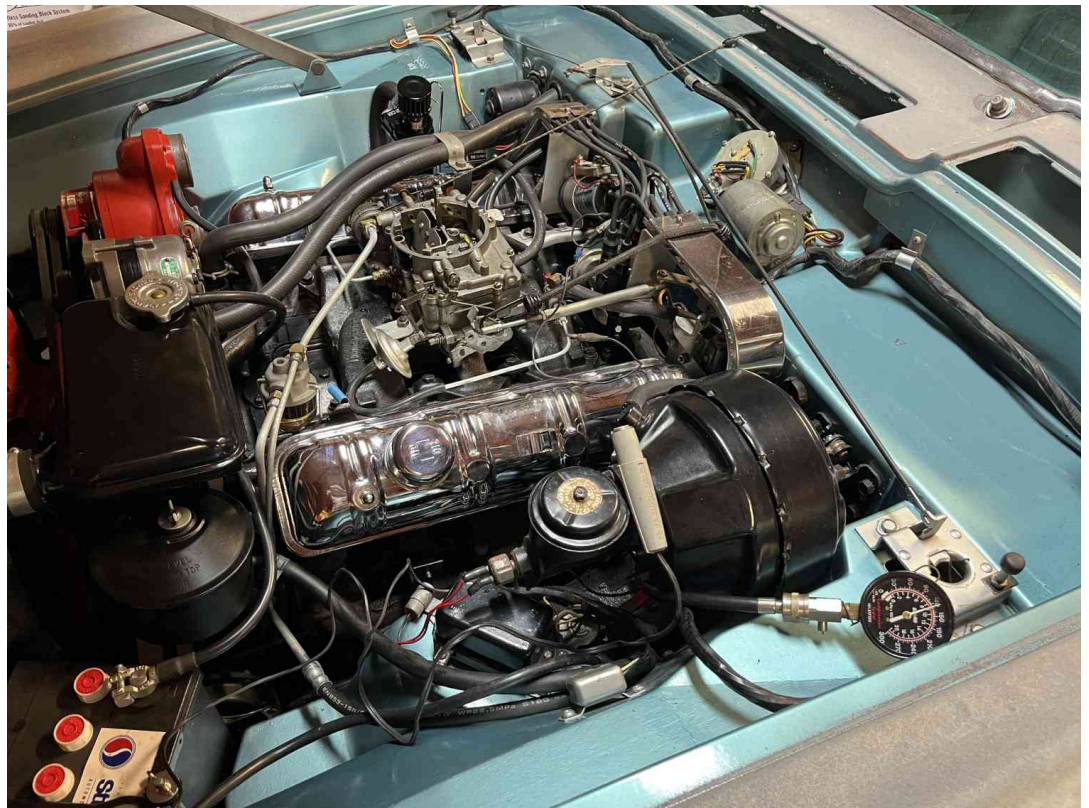


What Did You Do to Your Studebaker?

Pete Rutledge — 1964 Studebaker Avanti R2

I've been getting oil coming from the output hose of the supercharger and blowing into the carburetor. At first I thought it must be supercharger oil, which gave me thoughts of a supercharger rebuild in my future. But the oil was not red, which supercharger oil is because it is automatic transmission fluid. Rather, it was the color of motor oil, and motor oil it was. Apparently oil was coming from the engine's oil pan, through the crankcase ventilation hose and into the air cleaner, where it saturated the outermost of the two air filter elements. So why would oil be coming from the crankcase ventilation system in a large enough quantity to be making an oily mess in the carburetor? Well, one good possibility is blowby past the piston rings, pressurizing the crankcase, and forcing oil mist out the crankcase ventilation hose. I recently rebuilt my engine and it has not had much in the way of break-in mileage, so it's reasonable to believe that the rings have not yet seated. To check this, I did a compression test on all eight cylinders. I obtained readings from a low of 135 psi to a high of 153 psi. The R2 engine should have compression of 160-170 psi. Besides rings that are not seating well, low compression could also be the result of leaky valves. To isolate the cause, I injected a tablespoon of 20W motor oil into each cylinder and retested the compression. The result was a low of 160 psi and a high of 190 psi. That means the low compression is due to blowby past the piston rings. I have decided to live with it and check the compression again after 500 and 1000 miles, as these are the two break-in milestones recommended by Studebaker in the owner's manual where they suggested not exceeding 50mph for the first 500 miles and not exceeding 60mph for the next 500 miles. If compression is still low after 1000 miles, I may have to take more drastic action, like pulling the engine out and redoing the cylinders and piston rings. But before any of that, I have to paint the car. So, it will be a while.

P.S. To stop engine oil from entering the supercharger, I temporarily installed an oil catch can on the end of the crankcase ventilation hose.



Birthdays*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!!!!

JUNE

June 12—Nadine Farris

June 13—Mitch Acker

June 19—Rafael Andrino

June 19—Pete Rutledge

\

JULY

July 1—Ed Lemanski

July 8—Kathryn Koenig

July 11—Theresa Lora

July 18—Wayne Birkel

July 18—Mary Walter

July 21—Jack Grimm

July 23—Kaiser Braham III

July 25—Gary Scott

July 26—Bob Devore

***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. I am joining SDC International at this time.
 National Membership # _____ *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
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____