

THE 41st ANNUAL SDC INTERNATIONAL MEET

by Richard Dormois

The members of any organization who have taken on the responsibility for planning and presenting an event the magnitude of a Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet are sure to have concerns, if not trepidations, about the outcome of their event.

Some members of the Inland Northwest Chapter in Spokane, Washington, expressed these anxious feelings in June 2003 as preparations began in earnest for the 41st annual meet in their city. As a member of the Inland Northwest Chapter, I was privileged to be a part of some of those early meetings. It was gratifying, indeed, to see this group, made up largely of rookies, directed by Dan Brown and Ralph Kirby, gain confidence and enthusiasm as they approached their assigned tasks with gusto. Everybody associated with this meet worked very hard and I'm not making comparisons, but I particularly remember Vickie Linton, Joe Stanley and Dave Kohli excitedly sharing with others what their committees were going to accomplish and how. Curt Campbell was always very upbeat and a pleasure to be with at the meetings.

We didn't keep track of exactly how many Thursday night meetings were held at Ron's Drive In, Sunday afternoon gatherings at the Millwood Town Council Chambers or special meetings at Curt's memorabilia room, but there were many. Some were held in good weather, some in the snow, but they were always well attended and productive. I recall late in the evening of July 22, 2004 on a street corner in downtown Spokane at a Northwest Car Council show, Dan and Ralph sharing their excitement about the tasks ahead. I left that gathering with a very positive sense that the International in Spokane was going to be very special indeed. It was.

Thank you Inland Northwest Chapter; you succeeded in making about 1,100 of your friends very happy.

On Sunday, August 14, as I approached the Red Lion at the Park, I was greeted by ASC President Ford Stoecker from Missouri and ASC Director Mike Margerum from Pennsylvania in the parking lot holding a welcoming tailgate gathering from the back of a 1963 E15 Diesel. They provided refreshments to weary travelers and shared stories of their odyssey on the Lewis and Clark Trail just safely completed, across what is now known as the United States. A colorful account of this journey is provided by Alan Meeker of Marion, Iowa in this issue of *Turning Wheels*.

The parking lots around the hotel were already replete with Studebakers of all descriptions from all parts of North America and I was particularly impressed with the number of trucks attending the meet. Outside, Studebaker vendors in numbers legion were setting up their stores for the week ahead and already hawking a few parts. Weather was great and



photo by Brian Curtis

this had all the trappings of a very successful Studebaker event.

Inside the Red Lion at the Park, hotel registration as well as SDC Meet registration was efficient, friendly and conveniently located. Mark Wheeler, Kathi Healy,



photo by John Cosby

Part of the outdoor swap meet area.



photo by Brian Curtis

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Vickie Linton and a host of volunteers were busy; getting members comfortable with their surroundings; registering them for tours they might wish to take; as well as signing up new SDC members. Approaching the registration area, you could not miss the absolutely magnificent South Bend Studebaker electric sign erected by a Spokane sign company (see photo on page 41). The Antique Studebaker Club subsequently purchased it and donated it to the Studebaker National Museum.

Just off the foyer was the memorabilia room which looked like a Macy's Christmas sale with all the auction items displayed. I had communicated with Auction Manager, Bonnie Brown two years ago with an outline of what we might do for the auction, but I don't think any of us expected the volume and quality of the auction items she hustled in the community. A great effort paid off Wednesday night as we sold the property at the Studebaker National Foundation Auction.

SDC President Colin Fort welcomed the SDC Board and Officers to the president's reception Sunday evening in his suite. It was well attended with the intention to just visit, eat, drink and be merry, but not discuss business and we didn't. Although the Board communicates virtually every day on the internet, some of us see each other but once a year, so it's nice to catch up on what's going on in our personal lives. The door was never closed and our revelry attracted Antique Studebaker Club board members Richard Quinn and Mike Margerum, among others.

Promptly at eight o'clock Monday morning, President Fort convened the 2005 meeting of the

Board of Directors of the Studebaker Drivers Club at the Red Lion at the Park with roll call taken by Secretary Jan Lockmon. All board members were present save Northeast Zone Director Shelley Zwicker and Past President John Begian. The meeting lasted eleven hours and forty-five minutes and a variety of topics were discussed, voted upon, passed, defeated and tabled. The meeting concluded with the election of officers for the 2005-2006 term. Ed Reynolds, Greenfield, Indiana was elected President. Richard Dormois, Mesa, Arizona was elected Vice President. Brian Millette, Anthem, Arizona was elected Treasurer and Secretary Jan Lockmon, Sun City, Arizona ran for election unopposed. The official minutes of the 2005 Board Meeting will be published in a future issue of *Turning Wheels*.



photo by Richard Dormois

Above: Ed Reynolds, Colin Fort and Linda Sinclair at the President's reception.

Below: The new and past SDC presidents.

photo by Ann Turner



Welcome Night kicked off the meet in a timely fashion with about 300 in attendance but the Board was unable to be there as they were still in session, so I welcomed the membership on their behalf. 2005 Meet Co-Chairman Ralph Kirby hosted the gathering and after appropriate welcoming remarks, told the membership everything they needed to know about their coming week in Spokane. The folks then repaired to

Lining up for ice cream and a carousel ride with a few hundred friends at the Ice Cream Social.

photo by Ann Turner



photo by John Cosby

Fun on the carousel at Monday's Ice Cream Social.

Riverfront Park, the site of the 1974 World Exhibition, for an evening of socializing, taking rides on the World's Fair Carousel and enjoying a divine ice cream social hosted by the Inland Northwest Chapter. It was difficult to tell which was the most popular as folks were reluctant to get out of the carousel line to get ice cream for fear of losing their place. At any rate, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

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Tuesday at international meets has traditionally been devoted to business meetings and Spokane was not an exception. The day started early with the SDC Newsletter Judges breakfast hosted by Publications Director Larry Swanson.

The International Meet Committee Meeting, chaired by Ed Reynolds, received a report from Diane Glew on the progress of the current meet; a report on the 2006 International Meet in Omaha from Jocelyn Caskey; a summary of progress on the 2007 International Meet in South Bend from Phil Brown, Becky Bonham and Peggy Soderberg of the Studebaker National Museum. As well, I presented an update on the Keystone Region's reception to the 2008 International Meet. All the meet committees are moving forward at a good pace and the future looks very bright.

Mr. Reynolds, by virtue of his election to President of SDC, appointed Richard Dormois as Chairman of the International Meet Committee.

Mr. Reynolds is to be highly commended for his dedication to the IMC since being appointed by Colin

Fort in October 2004. During his tenure, Ed planted seeds and set the ball rolling for the 2008-2009 International Meets and was active in cementing plans in Omaha and South Bend as well as developing a new International Meet Policy. James Bell of Bellingham, Washington has been appointed to the IMC and brings a wealth of experience in meeting planning and convention services.



photo by John cosby

SDC Publications Director Larry Swanson addresses the Newsletter Editors' meeting. Seated, from left: Richard Dormois, Chris Collins, Linda Sinclair, Helen Albrecht.

The meeting of the Studebaker National Foundation chaired by President Chester Bradfield devoted time to fund raising activities and Foundation business for the coming year.

SDC Publications Director Larry Swanson chaired the gathering of SDC newsletter editors and presented awards to editors of monthly and bi-monthly chapter newsletters. A general discussion was held among the two dozen editors about judging newsletter content and improvement. Mr. Swanson announced that George



photo by Brian Curtis

Above, Jeffrey Ford, left, and brother Tyler Ford, and the "51 Special", a V8 valve cover with '51 Commander hood ornament and chrome hold down nuts. The boys helped build the racer and can take it apart to switch the valve cover. Each cleaned, sanded, and painted their own valve cover. Below, Mike Gahlbeck holds Tyler up at the starting line.

photo by John Cosby

CONCOURS HIGHLIGHTS

Division	Number of Winners	Best of Division	Owner
1 Pre War	10	1932 Dictator Coupe	Roy & Beverly Asbahr, Gresham, OR
2 Early Post War	8	1950 Land Cruiser	Richard & Corrine Marsh, Pengilly, MN
3 Lark Types	9	No Best of Division	
4 C and K 1953-1961	23	Tie: 1956 Golden Hawk 1957 Golden Hawk	Patrick Doherty, Boise, ID Larry & Diane Hradec, Norfolk, NE
5 Gran Turismo Hawks	1	No Best of Division	
6 Avantis	7	1990 Avanti 4-door	Leonette Stafford, San Martin, CA
7 Trucks	6	1954 3R6	Gary Moles, Nampa, ID
8 Custom:			
Studebaker-Powered	18	1955 Speedster	Scott & Cheryl Hall, Ferndale, WA
9 Custom: Non-Studebaker Powered	18	1933 Rockne	Tom & Elaine Horne, Prescott, AZ



Reitenour of Monterey, Tennessee has retired as a judge and was replaced by Richard Dormois. Send newsletters to be judged to Richard at Box 30103, Mesa, Arizona 85275.

Ralph Kirby moderated the Presidents, Regional Managers and Zone Coordinators Meeting which was very well attended and addressed by Colin Fort. Topics discussed included the waning membership and how to reverse this trend. Ed Reynolds subsequently appointed a membership committee to tackle the problem consisting of Bob Shaw, Minnesota, Mark Carson, British Columbia and Chris Eastburn, Arizona.

Wednesday, August 17 was devoted to tours and the Antique Studebaker Club Board and Membership meetings. President Ford Stoecker went through the agenda in short order and the standing officers were re-elected: Ford Stoecker, President; Buzz Beckman, Vice President; Wendy Armacost, Secretary; and Lawrence Tholen, Treasurer.

Linda Sinclair, 2004-2005 SDC Vice President, and I spent the better part of the afternoon contacting



photo by Desi Souder

At Wednesday's Membership meeting, auction items covered the tables in front of the SDC Board of Directors.



photo by John Cosby



photo by Ann Turner

Above (left to right): SDC National Foundation Auctioneer Richard Dormois, and guest auctioneer, Mitch Silver.

Below: Studebakers lined up ready to move to Riverfront Park, and crossing the bridge into the park.

photo by John Cosby

Studebaker vendors soliciting auction donations for the evening with some degree of success.

Wednesday evening the SDC Membership Meeting was called to order by outgoing President Colin Fort who shared the items acted upon at the Board Meeting, some of which provoked lively discussion by the membership.

The meeting was followed by the Studebaker National Foundation Auction which garnered nearly \$12,000 for the newly chartered foundation. Special thanks to all who donated Studebaker parts, memorabilia, literature, hand crafted items, signs and services and those who bid on them. Individual appreciation goes out to Sid Rosen of Phoenix, Arizona, who donated three luxury vacations to Mexico which caused the goal of \$10,000 to be exceeded.

We were privileged to have Mitch Silver of Spokane, Washington, sit in as our celebrity guest auctioneer. Most are aware that Mr. Silver is the world's foremost classic and collectable car auctioneer.

I was honored to serve as the auctioneer for the event and elated that we were able to strengthen the Foundation treasury. I regret, however, that the auction went so



photo by Art Unger



photo by Desi Souder

Donated Auction items covered the tables in the Memorabilia room early in the week.



photo by Ann Turner



photo by Desi Souder



photo by Desi Souder

late. It was a combination of things. We did not expect the membership meeting to last as long as it did and the auction manager, Bonnie Brown, did such a fantastic job of collecting a volume of quality donations for us to sell. We just went later than expected. Next year at Omaha, the membership meeting will be Tuesday evening and the Studebaker National Foundation Auction will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Thursday morning bright and early. . . well, not so bright, but overcast and a little rainy, Studebakers of every description and class staged near the hotel to enter Riverfront Park for the 2005 Studebaker Concours d'Elegance. The caravan moved in a safe, orderly fashion onto the lawns of the park to be displayed or judged and enjoyed by those assembled on the banks of the beautiful Spokane River. There were 152 Studebakers entered for display only and 125 to be judged. A special expression of appreciation goes to Carl Thoms, SDC Chief Judge and his crew who are really the unsung heroes of a concours event.

Thursday night was "Fun Night" and Dave Kohli did a wonderful job of selecting the entertainment for the 385 attendees. The accordion band did a marvelous job of warming up the crowd for Ben Kline's tribute to Elvis Presley. Kline sang all the old Elvis hits as well as the newer songs while band members filled in the generations with an Elvis in his later years and other rock n'roll entertainers such as Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison. The hula hoop segment of the show was reminiscent of Aleta Millette's party at Treasure Island in 2001 and the crowd kept dancing until the last note was sung. It was a night to remember.



photo by Brian Curtis

Jerry and Lorei Molitor with their 1930 Cabriolet at Manito Park during the ASC tour on Friday.

Friday morning in perfect weather, the Antique Studebaker Club departed the Red Lion at the Park on a memorable driving tour hosted by Gary and Virgie Finch. The journey visited some wonderful old eastern Washington farmsteads with a layover at Manito Park which features a variety of beautiful speciality gardens, each perfectly manicured. Our tour concluded with lunch at the historic Davenport Hotel which has been recently renovated and is truly a magnificent piece of Spokane history.

Friday evening 500 gathered in the Grand Ballroom for the banquet closing the 41st International Meet. Not much is generally said about an invocation, but Curt Campbell's carefully prepared prayer before the meal was the most moving and inspirational I think most of us have witnessed. President Ed Reynolds presented some well chosen words about the meet as did Ralph Kirby. Presentation of long distance and hard luck awards became somewhat amusing.



photo by Richard Dormois

Sid Rosen presenting the "End of the Trail" statue to Helen Wright.

On a more serious note, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1955 President Speedster, Sid Rosen of Phoenix, Arizona, presented a bronze statue of the "End of the Trail" to Helen Wright who exhibited a Speedster. Although the award was the result of a random drawing of Speedster exhibitors, the moment became quite significant when it was realized that the donor and the recipient each widowed by cancer had exhibited nearly identical Speedsters which had meant a great deal to their spouses.

SDC Chief Judge Carl Thoms did a fine job of announcing the award winners accompanied by a Power Point presentation of Studebaker images.

Saturday morning ten Studebakers and four others left the host hotel on the SDC driving tour north on Highway 395. The tour included the Misteqwa International Classic Car Museum on the Chewelah Indian Reservation and Esther and Lyle Brown's Mild to Wild fabrication shop in Colville, where we were treated to a great luncheon, the beautiful Washington countryside and an array of classic cars of a variety of marques from local car clubs. SDC members from nine states and provinces went on the tour as we continued on Highway 395 to Highway 25 where our Canadian friends turned north as the rest of us turned south along the Columbia River to Davenport, and back to Spokane. Thank you Esther and Lyle, for welcoming us to your lovely home and shops.



photo by Ann Turner

The first stop on Saturday's driving tour was at the Misteqwa International Antique Auto Museum at Chewelah, WA.

Each person who attends an International Meet makes it special in one way or another and each deserves thanks. There are those who unselfishly dedicate their whole week to helping put on the meet and rarely enjoy the meet as normal people. They deserve special praise. The meet photographer Ann Turner and her crew worked tirelessly to produce the photos for the meet and the Power Point presentation at the awards banquet. Each teacher who presented technical seminars is to be commended for educating those of us who still have a lot to learn about our Studebakers and how to maintain them.

Dean Olsen was always present as security in the parking lot, keeping the vehicles safe at night. As well, Bryan Batch did a great job in single-handedly organizing and managing the swap meet.

We were blessed with about 550 family registrations and just over 1,100 SDC members from Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Canada and the United States.

Reports seen in newsletters, survey comments, and internet postings indicate that the Inland Northwest Chapter should be very proud of the 41st Annual SDC International Meet.

We look forward to seeing you all in Omaha, Nebraska as the Husker Chapter hosts the 42nd Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet September 24-29, 2006.