

# 46th International Meet

## Best in the West

by Larry Vahe

Two score and five years ago the first SDC International Meet was held in Rockville Center, New York. Fast forward to Glendale, Arizona where the 46th International Meet, *The Best in the West*, just concluded a very successful run on June 4, 2010.

Phoenix is the fifth largest city in the United States, covering some 475 square miles so the Posse and committee chairs faced drives of well over an hour in city traffic to attend planning meetings, but the end results were worth the drives and our thanks go out to these individuals.

Our goal was to have a great meet centered in one venue and to that end we feel our goal was met. The Renaissance Glendale provided the venue and from the 30,000 square feet indoor vending area to the 600 parking space concours, all events were held in one location.

We wish to thank all the **Swap Meet vendors** who attended. We feel having all the vendors under one roof was very beneficial.

Some of the interesting events that took place during the week were a **Rallye** on Sunday morning, **Welcome Night**, **tours**, **seminars** for men and women, interesting guest speakers (which were recorded on DVD), **valve cover races**, **Spaghetti Western Night** and a glorious **Memorabilia Room** not to mention the **Concours** and **Awards Banquet**.

The meet began with what will certainly become a tradition, which was the Rallye on Sunday morning, hosted by our own Larry Swanson and Stu Tritt. After getting instructions the drivers and navigators of 20 cars began a 100 mile timed tour up to Anthem, Arizona, returning back to the hotel. The winners were Bob and Mimi Halgren in a '50 Starlight in an ending time of 1 minute 25 seconds off the official time for the run. Ken Michael placed second in a '63 Cruiser.

After getting reacquainted and registered on Monday, members adjourned to Cabela's for hot dogs ala Malcolm Stinson and his BBQ of Renown. After con-



Arrival.

photo by John Cosby

Below: Studebaker showroom banners (left), automotive products (right) in Grand Canyon Motors (memorabilia room).



photo by Art Unger



photo by John Cosby



photo by Evan Severson

*No cowboy more authentic than Malcolm Stinson Jr.*

suming countless hot dogs and sodas Welcome Night continued in the Solana Ballroom where over 300 enjoyed the opening remarks and a truly fine patriotic band performance conducted by Larry Swanson and his Sun City Pops Band.

Registration was adeptly handled by our very own **Christine Collins** who was kept busy from sunrise to sunset. Registration volunteers answered questions, handed out maps and

photo by John Cosby

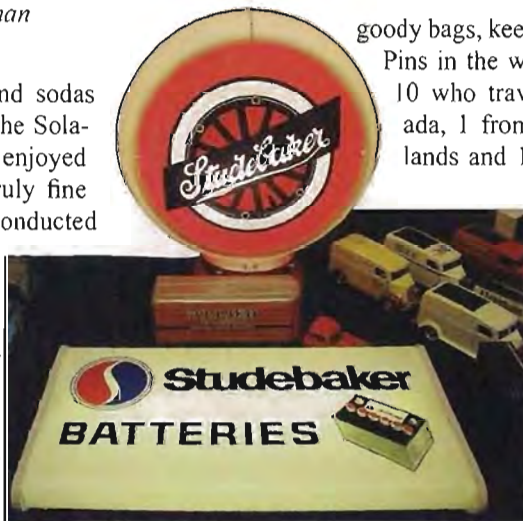


photo by John Cosby

photo by Ann Turner

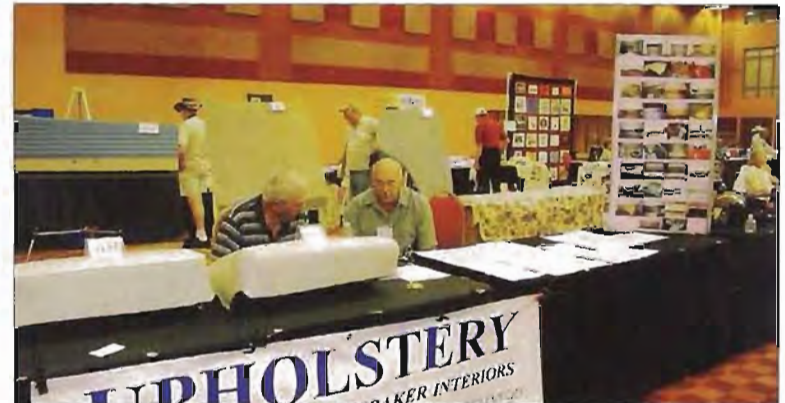


photo by Ann Turner



*Above: Carl Thoms, Studebakers West); Southeast Studebaker (right).*

*Left: Welcome Night: Deanna Manley.*

*Right: Gay Wittenberg giving directions.*

*Lower Right: There was something for everybody at the swap meet, even jigsaw puzzles.*



photo by John Cosby

goody bags, keeping all running smoothly.

Pins in the world map showed we had 10 who traveled from Australia, 41 from Canada, 1 from New Zealand, 1 from the Netherlands and 1 from the United Kingdom. In all, a very good representation of the Studebaker presence which is truly world-wide.

The tours were varied, fun, and well attended, being organized by Dennis Lynde. On Tuesday was the first Studebaker driving tour, which saw 10 Studebakers and 40 people drive 45 miles to Wickenburg. Wednesday saw the largest tour (110) leave in 2 tour buses to



photo by John Cosby



photo submitted by John Cosby

**Left:** John Cosby: "Where to next?"

**Right:** Jon Stal-naker's Press Pass takes him everywhere.

**Below:** Another bumper crop - outdoor vendors



photo by John Cosby



photo by Evan Severson

Jerome and the Gold King Mine. The owner and loyal Studebaker owner, Don Robertson, went along and acted as tour guide. Friday was the tour to Taliesin West, and Penske's racing museum. The second driving tour kicked off with a trip to the Wildlife World Zoo. The last tour was oft requested and that was the trip to the Grand Canyon on Saturday. Despite some mechanical problems on this tour, all had a wonderful time viewing one of nature's true wonders.

Seminars, by all accounts, were all very good. The ladies' seminars in making cards and flip-flop wine coasters were well attended. The ladies luncheon had an attendance of 68 and received good reviews. Kim Carr from Southwest Wildlife told us how they preserve and rescue animals.

The automobile-related seminars went equally as well with 35 attending the judging seminars. The first Co-Operator session had at least 100 attendees and the second drew about 50. Ken Michael held a gas tank seminar outside, to the music of idling diesel buses but the 20 attending did not seem to mind.

Spaghetti Western Night was a hoot! Western dress was the vogue as many got in the swing of things by line dancing to the Tommy Parsons Band. Games galore were played and door prizes handed out and the band played on until well after ten o'clock.



photo by John Cosby

*Ebon Jones' '41 gets special attention after traveling all the way from Arlington, Texas.*

photo by Evan Severson

*Aubrey Eastburn: "This is MY Lark!"*

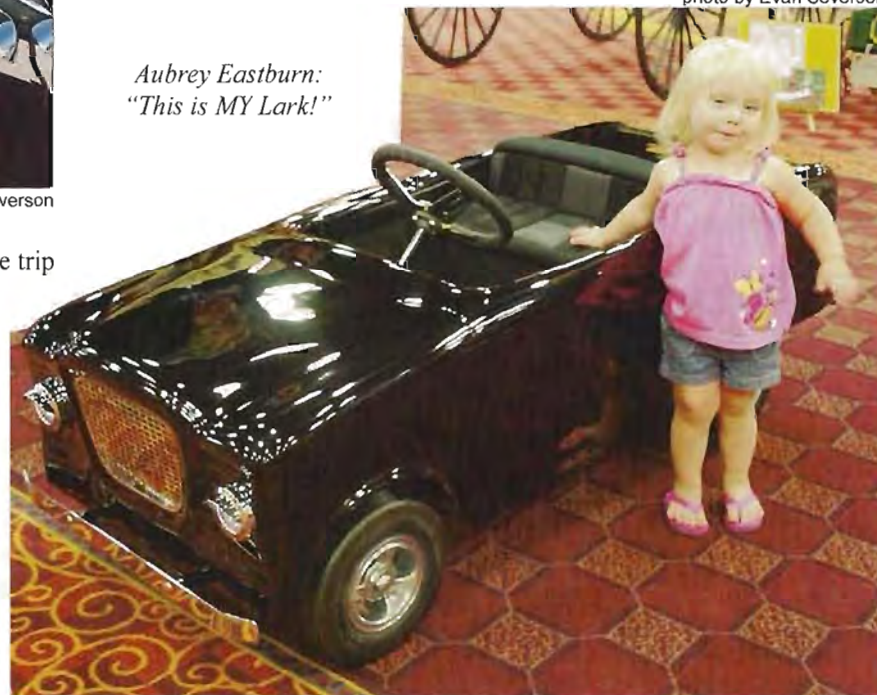




photo by Art Unger



photo by John Cosby

*Concours Judges at work in the hot sun.*



photo by John Cosby

Certainly one of the highlights of the meet was the Memorabilia Room hosted by our very own Brian Millette and Denny Lockmon. Many rare items were featured in the room, which was festooned with original Studebaker banners. There was also a great display by some former Arizona dealers. One of them was Fred Rosen who had the Bisbee, Arizona dealership. His son, Sid, is a long-time member and oversaw the display of his father's memorabilia.

Closing out the week was the concours and awards banquet. Our concours chairman, **Scott Grainger**, had 600 spaces to place 311 cars, which made for a terrific venue. Many complimented the chapter, saying it was nice having so much room, all of which made taking pictures of the cars so much more enjoyable, and having the divisions separated made for easy viewing. Our **chief judge, Don Berg**, presided over the judging and in handing out the awards at the Friday night banquet attended by 414 club members. This was preceded by the newsletter and model car awards and recognition of all the hard work the Grand Canyon State Chapter put into this meet.

Thank you so much for attending the 46th International Studebaker Drivers Club meet. The Grand Canyon State Chapter was honored to host the meet and sincerely hopes you all had a great time attending **The Best in the West**.



photo by John Cosby



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