

Dover 2014 – From the Inside Out . . .

by Denny Foust

You know, this whole thing began about four years ago when **Mark Henning** was approached by SDC about hosting an International Meet. Nothing to it, right? People show up, look at Studebakers, eat a lot of food, have a lot of fun, and then go home, right?

Well, not so quick! Mark's DelMarVa chapter has about thirty-five members . . . can they do it?

I met Mark about 2¹/₂ years ago when I was asked to serve as International Meet Chairman. The International Meet Committee (about 15 members) had just been formed and we were overseeing South Bend 2012, Colorado Springs 2013, and our first REAL hands-on meet was going to be Dover 2014.

Work began in earnest about two years ago and over a period of time, I got to know all the hard-working people on Mark's committee. I became convinced, early on in those meetings, that Mark and his group could pull off a great meet and it all culminated in the International Meet

many of you attended the last few days of June and Independence Day week this summer.

Set-up for the meet began **Friday, June 27th** with a meeting with Director of Hotel Sales, Gordon Basht, Manager of Hotel Sales, Lisa Skelley and the staff of Dover Downs Hotel to get an understanding of what we were to expect from them the following week.

Saturday morning, June 28th, we put banners up, met with **Mark and Jen Wheeler** from **Cornerstone Registration** to show them where they would be set-up, and generally got organized. We assembled the Registration packets with the help of the DelMarVa Chapter and a few volunteers.

In the afternoon, we met **Becky Bonham, Andy Beckman, and Sue Boucher** with the **Studebaker National Museum** folks, and **Don Hart** and **Lew Shucart** from the **2015 International Meet in St Louis**. **Jane Ash** was there from the **2016 International Meet in Warwick, Rhode**



photo by John Cosby

The DelMarVa Peninsula Chapter's table in the registration area, where the hosts handled vendor registrations and sold meet souvenirs.



photo by John Cosby

Indoor swap meet.



photo by Evan Severson

The Dover Downs Hotel provided assistance in many ways, including several golf carts with drivers who happily transported meet attendees to and from the hotel to the parking lots, which were huge, and would otherwise require a long walk in the heat.

Island and helped them get located and set up in their display areas. ASC and AOAI were also in attendance, promoting their organizations.

Oh yeah – one more thing – we drove our Brand-X truck to Georgetown, Delaware to pick up that beautiful Studebaker horse-drawn hearse many of you looked at near Registration. I have to admit – all I could see in bringing that aged hearse to the meet was it disassembling itself from the vibrations from the road and the trailer we had it loaded on. It got there safely, and attests to the quality of a Studebaker even in the 1800s. Also drawing attention outside the main doors of the meet were that glorious Studebaker Water Wagon and a few Weasels from TNJ Murray.

Registration opened Sunday, June 29th around noon, and for a few hours, the lines were deep. A large group of people arrived on Sunday, and were greeted by many of their friends.

At the Registration desk, Cindy Foust, right, checks event schedule details for Karen Cosby, left.



photo by John Cosby

Thanks to Mark and Jen Wheeler for handling Registrations and a big thank you to Diana Davis, Pat Engle and Cindy Foust in handling Registration pick-up duties all week long. The Swap Meet opened to vendors at four o'clock, with many hard-to-find parts readily available.

The meet began in earnest on Monday, June 30th with the National Board Meeting which wrapped-up in early afternoon. Coverage of that meeting can be found elsewhere in this issue. An excellent seminar on the Studebaker Weasel was presented by TNJ Murray Company and was well attended with a roundtable of questions. This third generation company, located less than a mile from Dover Downs Hotel, prepared Studebaker's Weasels for the war effort during



The Studebaker National Museum swap meet booth.

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photo by John Cosby

Many Studebaker drivers had the opportunity to take some laps on the Dover Downs racetrack. Unfortunately, they had to drive slowly, behind a pace car.

WWII. It is still in business supplying various government agencies with military vehicle refurbishing.

A record attendance of approximately 350 people attended the **Welcome Night** celebration in the evening, with SDC President Carl Thomason speaking about the events of the week, and the good weather we expected. More about that later...

Tuesday, July 1st's agenda included the **Newsletter Judges' Breakfast**, **Chapter President, Zone and Regional Managers' meeting**, the **Printed and Electronic Newsletter meetings**, and **International Meet Committee meeting**, **The Co-Operators Session meeting**, along with displays of pocket watches, memorabilia, and models. Lots to see and lots to do, and a full day of ac-

photo by Evan Severson



Max Myers (left) and Warren Thompson, from Australia.



photo by Evan Severson

David Dow with his 1963 Cruiser. He also attended the **FIRST SDC National Meet** in Rockville Center, New York in 1965, with this **SAME** car. He proudly displayed photos (below) from that first meet.



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tivity. If you weren't out of breath by the end of the day Tuesday, you were welcome to attend the **SDC Membership Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. to meet the Board of Directors of your club and ask them questions about the operation of the club. Women's events such as the "Make and Take" workshop to make beautiful wreaths and a **Sea Glass Jewelry** seminar for the ladies were well attended at both sessions.

On **Wednesday, July 2nd** a popular group, **The Studebaker Band**, practiced and performed for meet attendees, and a new group, **The Studebaker Chorus**, made their appearance at the meet. Both were met with great acceptance and will appear again in St Louis in 2015. These groups duplicate Studebaker factory groups that were a part of their organization when they were in business. Songs such as the "Studebaker March" were performed to the delight of the crowd.

Over 90 Studebakers met near the entrance to **Dover International Speedway** at 3:00 p.m. and toured the high banks of the track in groups. Rumor was that this was the largest group of collector cars that had **ever** been on the track! Again, we set a record!

Many people boarded a tour bus for a day at Ocean City and the beaches of that town, before returning to Dover Downs Hotel in time to attend the **SDC National Auction** in the evening.

Now, about that weather....Dover, Delaware is on the Atlantic Coast, and close enough to the Atlantic Ocean to feel the effects of bad weather. Weather predictions earlier in the week were for Hurricane Arthur to pass a glancing blow to the Atlantic Coast near Dover on **July 3rd**, the day of the **Concours**, with a prediction of up to two inches of rain. Well, we had the rain overnight, but none of the effects of Hurricane Arthur except for a few porta-potties on the Concours field which were turned on their sides by high wind, but otherwise, the day dawned bright and humid. The Concours began right on time with a great field of cars on the show



Jen and Mark Wheeler of Cornerstone Registration take a break for a happy photo, at the Registration desk.

field. Those results of that can be seen elsewhere in this issue. We even had a **bullet-nose Studebaker for the kids to decorate** during the Concours! Ladies in attendance who did not find appeal in the show cars went elsewhere to the Ladies' Tea, a popular event on our schedule. Two



The Miss Delaware committee held a car wash, and here they are giving lots of attention to a modified 1932 Dictator St. Regis Brougham owned by John and Kathleen Absher of Christiansburg, Virginia.



(10-12/14)

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sessions of this popular event were necessary to accommodate all the ladies in attendance. At 3 p.m. Thursday afternoon, the Concours judging ended as the crowd prepared for **Family Fun Night**. A crowd of approximately 220 people attended Family Fun Night with music by the **HoneyCombs**, specializing in 50s and 60s music. The floors were full of dancers as usual.

What holiday weekend would be complete without a **4th of July Picnic**? Arrangements had been made with Killens Pond State Park in nearby Felton, Delaware to rent a pavilion where the **All American 4th of July Picnic** was held. What do you have for a picnic? Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad and all the side dishes you could want. This well-attended event added a glow on the events of the week.

The **Awards Banquet** Friday evening had nearly 350 in attendance and we were treated to a well-prepared, hot banquet meal just prior to the Awards presentation. A knee-slapping rendition of the **“Happy” song** just prior to dessert, presented by Dover Downs Hotel cooks, wait and line staff brought the crowd to their feet, complete with sparklers and a Studebaker cake to celebrate the 4th of July. Quite a surprise! The Awards Banquet ended promptly at 9:00 p.m.

So – that was the end – right? Not yet!! We were promised **Fireworks** by the **City of Dover Delaware**, and they



began promptly at 9:30 just off the third turn of Dover International Speedway. A great show, well attended by meet attendees and a fitting salute to America and a great ending to the meet.

Saturday, July 5th was met with good weather and a **Farewell Breakfast** and a chance to say “Goodbye” to all of our friends who took the time to attend.

So ends the 2014 International Meet in Dover, Delaware, but not without saying a much-needed “Thank You” to the hard-working people of the **DelMarVa Chapter** for all their efforts in making this meet a success:

Mark and Sandra Dee Henning, Richard Hodgson, Don Hibbard, Fred Henning, Tom Stone, Elfriede Kerstetter, Kent Gaffey, Tom and Trish Mercer, Frank Philippi, and Ed Riedel.

Another big “Thank You” goes to **George Fiorile, Gordon Bash, and Lisa Skelly of Dover Downs Hotel** who were there in the years and months leading up to this meet with a “Can-Do” attitude, which made planning for this meet so much easier. Their staff were there to fix a problem, fill in at Registration and were the most cheerful group of people I’ve ever worked with.

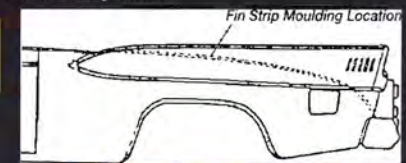


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