

**THE LONE STAR STATE IN '98**  
34th International S.D.C.



June 28 -  
July 4

Austin  
Texas

# AUSTIN, TEXAS

## 34<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEET

submitted by B. B. Holland  
34th International Meet Chairman

**A** hearty thanks to all the diehard Studebaker fans who braved the heat to get to Austin and especially to those who drove their unair-conditioned Studebakers. The week before the meet we were very discouraged by the low registration numbers and the number of cars that were coming. All that changed on Sunday when 55 unregistered families signed in, many in their Studebakers. Almost 30% of those attending the meet were not pre-registered. Once again, thanks for your support.

And speaking of support, what a hard-working team we had to put on the meet! Not only the committee heads, but almost all members of the three clubs were involved in some way. The Concours on Thursday is a perfect example of the

teamwork among the three clubs. The traffic committee, headed by Charles Harrison of the Bayou Cities Chapter, directed traffic to Palmer Auditorium parking lot. There, the cars were directed to their correct parking area by the Concours committee of Mark Brians, Joe Clark and Mark Frank of the Central Texas Chapter. Once parked, judging began under the guidance of Don Ramsey of the North Texas Chapter. As the judging sheets were completed they were taken to Liz Hirschler, computer guru of the Central Texas Chapter. When figures were totaled, the sheets were sent down the hall to Joe Cassady of the North Texas Chapter, where his committee of Marty Cassady and Charlotte Hanson assembled the trophies and organized them for presentation at the awards banquet. This type of cooperation went on for over two and a half years.

The slogan for this year's meet, "Come early and stay late," must have caught the attention of many members. People began arriving on Saturday and in cars that were not pre-registered. When registration started on Sunday, the registration desk was



B.B. and Hazel Holland . . . Thanks for a great meet!

swamped with unregistered members. Of course, many pre-registered folks checked in, too. Pre-registration was handled by Liz Hirschler and her computer. The program she created did almost everything, but judge the cars on Thursday. On-site registration was under the direction of Karen and John Whittier and they were ably assisted by a large group of volunteers.

The Texas Studebaker Store had its grand opening on Sunday afternoon under the supervision of Stan Nesbitt. Sales were so good that almost everything was gone by Thursday. And, once again, we thank all those members of all three Texas clubs who donated arts, crafts and other items for sale over the last two years.

The usual Monday night party was moved to Sunday. This was done partly to reward all those avid Studebaker members who always come a day



Photo courtesy of John Cosby



*Thanks, Austin, for a terrific 34th International Meet.*



*International Meet Monday always finds the SDC Board hard at work on important issues affecting The Studebaker Drivers Club.*

hospitality room hosted by Alice Brooks and another great team of volunteers. The room was open every morning by 7 a.m. offering homemade breakfast breads and coffee, and many members had breakfast on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the Hyatt. All of the food in the hospitality room was prepared and/or donated by members of the Texas clubs. Thanks again and again to Alice and Larry and their many helpers for an outstanding job.

By noon Monday most of the vendors were in place with brisk sales reported by several. Barry Hackney of the Bayou Cities Chapter handled the registration and placement of vendors. After a month of no rain, would you believe it rained on Monday afternoon? What a welcome relief even though it rained out our first photo session.

The first tour left Monday morning for the San Antonio Riverwalk and the old Spanish missions. The bus was late getting back and several members had to jump off the bus and hurry to get on the bus leaving for the riverboat cruise on the Colorado River.



*John & Sylvia Wagner at their outdoor swap space.*

By close of registration on Monday, it was beginning to look as though we might make our original goal of 500 families.

Tuesday was a big day. For the first time in meet history, a day was set aside to feature the vendors. Several events were planned to entice folks to remain at the hotel to shop. Among those planned events were mini-seminars arranged by Jesse Ander-





Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*Swappers busily looking for the Stude treasures they need.*



*Many children's activities were available on Vendor's Day. Bob, Lucy and Josh Carter had a great time coordinating such activities as a clown blowing balloons and a spin art booth.*



son and prizes and children's activities coordinated by Bob, Lucy and Josh Carter.

The literature swap and model car and pocket watch judging were also moved to Tuesday, and we had several endorsements of this move. To be fair, we had one dissenting vote, as well.



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*Brian Millette inspiring the Ron Radeckis at the literature swap.*



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*The model competition is a very popular event—craftsmanship with a flair!*

Seminars at International Meets are becoming more popular. All ten sessions were very well attended with more than 35 per session. Only one tour was scheduled for Tuesday—a trip to College



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*Jim Brady leads an interesting seminar about the Internet.*

Station and the George Bush President Library. The tour guide for this trip was SDC member, Janeen Holland Wood, who provided the group with highlights of the area. After the museum tour and a drive through of the Texas A&M University campus, lunch was served at the Czech Tex Café in downtown Snook, Texas, population 125. Janeen Wood and Becky Wilson were the organizers of the tours for the week.

The LBJ Ranch and Fredericksburg were the destination of over 100 folks on Wednesday's tour.

These are very popular tourist attractions in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Fredericksburg is also the



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*Larry Miller wheels out a well-lubricated Stu Tritt during a unique skit to promote the 1999 Black Hills Gold International Meet in Rapid City, South Dakota. From the sound of it, we should have a grand time!*



Leigh Morris enthusiastically presents the highlights of the 2000 Madison, Wisconsin, International Meet.

site of the Chester Nimitz museum. Wednesday night was combined general membership meeting and SDC auction. It's been a long time since a room was packed for a general membership meeting. Almost 400 people were in attendance and most stayed for the auction. Gene Van Horn, Central Texas Chapter, was in charge of getting everything ready for the auction, which was one of the best

*The hat says it ALL for the 2001 Meet to be held in Burlington, Ontario. This will be the first International Meet held outside of the United States.*



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

ever, raising just a few dollars short of \$4,000 for the National SDC. Milton

Jones of Harlingen TX, donated a running V8 Lark that brought \$600 and an anonymous person donated a complete set of *Turning Wheels* that brought \$450. Thanks to everyone who donated and bought items at the auction.

And, then, suddenly it was Thursday, **THE** day of any convention. By nine in the morning, you could tell it was going to be a typical "middle of August" Texas day on July 2. Sure enough by 2:30 the temperature reached 100 and by 4 p.m. every-



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

*The SDC Auction is always a fun activity, and this year was no exception! The auctioneers did a great job and put on a good show as well . . . and the audience just kept on bidding.*



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

### Nothing's New!



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

Seventy-one years separate these two photos, but the theme and style is unchanged. Even the number of young women is identical. The older photo shows five Ziegfeld Follies girls lounging on a late 1927 Commander roadster. The newer photo was taken at the 1998 Austin meet and shows five Hooters girls decorating a 1924 Special Six roadster owned by member Rick Peterson of El Monte, California.

one had left the concours area in search of the cool. Because of temperatures nationwide, the number of cars was down a little but the variety and condition of the cars was great. There were nearly 200





Photo courtesy of John Cosby

Above is the "Judging Headquarters" where the water jug and the shade were very welcome to judging teams reporting in. Below is a hard working judging team tallying their scores.



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

cars on the judging field with 118 of these being judged. Thanks to those folks previously mentioned, this day went off very smoothly; one of the best ever.

Of course, after judging came the Studebaker

Russ and Thelma Thomas' pal Kahi stands duty over their Champ pickup in the official Studebaker guard chair.



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

Chuck Naugle's '51 Bullet-nose "Miss Piggy" car was a big hit with all the SDC tire kickers—a very creative idea!



Band and Fun Night. The band, conducted by Brad Kuchan, performed beautifully before a full sit-down audience of over three hundred. Thanks to all the members of the band for getting Fun Night off to a spirited start.

Next in the lineup of entertainment for the night were "The Studebakers", a trio that sings '20s, '30s and '40s songs. One of the members, Becky Cavanaugh, also an SDC member, owns a '47 Starlight that is sometimes used to travel to their singing engagements. They also brought a talented couple who danced to some of the faster songs and encour-



Photo courtesy of John Cosby

Becky Cavanaugh, one of "The Studebakers" trio poses with her 1947 Champion Starlight Coupe.

aged audience participation. After an encore, the Studebakers left to a standing ovation. They have a CD that is sold by the museum in South Bend. The rest of the evening was spent eating and dancing to the C&W sounds of Kenny Weir and the Upsetters.

Friday morning the poker run to the Central Texas Museum of Automotive History left at 9:00. Some of the 140 or so went by bus, some by brand X and many in their Studebakers. This was a ninety mile round trip and would you believe, it rained again? The museum, located in a very small town in the middle of nowhere, is one of the nicest around with many Studebakers and a wide and unusual assortment of other makes. If you are ever in this area, it's worth a side trip. A Texas style barbecue was very well received by the touring group. Arrangements for the day were handled by Roger Nichols and Emily Tax.

Friday night it was time for the Awards Banquet. People entered the banquet room to the music of the strolling Mariachi Continental de Austin, who entertained throughout the meal. Banquet arrangements were made by Karen Clark and Lorraine Brians and their committee. The centerpiece featured on each table was a Conestoga wagon. These wagons were designed by Karen Clark, cut out by Buddy and Joyce Pyle and assembled by Mick and



The centerpiece featured on each table was an impressive Conestoga wagon designed by Karen Clark, cut out by Buddy and Joyce Pyle and assembled by Mick and Sheila Curl, Joe and Karen Clark, Lorraine and Mark Brians, and Becky Wilson.



Ken & Gail Berry and their family enjoying themselves at the Awards Banquet. Ken handled TW publicity for the Austin meet.



The delicious Fajita Buffet was definitely a highlight. It was quickly served and well prepared . . . one of the best Banquet dinners ever!

Sheila Curl, Joe and Karen Clark, Lorraine and Mark Brians, and Becky Wilson. Forty lucky individuals got to take one home.

The banquet was scheduled for 6:30 to 9:00 and by 8:50, it was over. Of the 118 cars judged, 93 were given trophies. Joe Cassady did an outstanding job of selecting the trophies, ribbons and dash plaques and securing trophy sponsorships from SDC chapters and individuals.

Mike and Peg McElroy and John Goodall of the Kern County Chapter of Bakersfield, California, are



Photo courtesy of Susan Judd

## Room 436 offered different view of the SDC's International

By Susan Judd

slowly set and darkness set in, even more Studebaker fans left the comfort of their air-conditioned rooms to take a peek. The sight of an open hood brought them out in droves.

Our fourth-floor room offered a splendid view of the parking lot — and the Studes! After our son was tucked in, my husband and I would open the curtains and watch the nightly flocking ritual unfold. Sometimes a few friends would join us and we would play a game to see who could identify the most cars — and the most people. Terry would say, "There's a '64 GT Hawk next to that white Avanti." Needless to say, being Studebaker-challenged, I lost bigtime in the car category. My observations were limited to "Oh, look at that bright blue car down there."

Night after night, we would see different members examining the cars and trucks. Some would take a brief glance and move on while others would examine each vehicle from the tail lights to the dashboard. But one

thing remained the same: when a car hood opened, it drew members the way a light draws moths.

Why were there so many boys (and girls) in the hood? I only can speculate that the nightly parking lot sessions were just another way to get together and admire the cars. I enjoyed seeing the camaraderie although caring for a little one left no time to experience it first-hand. My window seat offered a glimpse into the real world of SDC. 🍷

Like the bats flying over the Congress Street bridge in Austin, Texas, those attending the 34th Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet proved they only come out at night.

In a ritual that's so popular it deserves to be listed in the official Meet packet, SDC members and their spouses scurried across the parking lot of the Hyatt Regency to get a close-up view of some of the most beautiful vehicles in Studebakerland. As the sun



*Frank and Anita Ambrogio were the proud winners of one of the Conestoga centerpieces. Frank is the 1956 Golden Hawk guru who publishes the 56J Only newsletter.*

due very special thanks for their donation

of the four beautiful Peoples' Choice trophies. And, for all of you who don't know, Mike and John have a talent for hawking raffle tickets. We thank them for their fund raising efforts for the Texas meet.

There were several committees and individuals whose jobs were behind the scenes or were completed before the convention. These were . . .

**Ken Berry** - pre-meet publicity in Turning Wheels and other national publications

**John Caldwell** - meet secretary who kept accurate minutes of all meetings and made the room arrangements for all events at the Hyatt

**Tom Ossowski** - designed all T shirts and the meet logo

**Peggy Crittenden**- a non-member who volunteered to put the meet booklet together

**Paul Hirschler** - assembled one of the best goodie bags ever at a national meet with a great assist from Herb Wahlberg and numerous Texas members who furnished many of the door prizes, as well

**Mick Curl** - who worked with Hyatt security to provide a safe area for our cars

**Mavis Suehs** - who donated her time and money to provide and fire the logos on the cups that were in the registration packets

All in all, it was a wonderful week with many opportunities to immerse ourselves in all things and people Studebaker. We would be remiss if we did not mention that thanks are due to Stu Chapman, Chairman of the International Meet Committee, who gave continuous support throughout the entire three years we worked on the meet. Thanks, too, to a wonderful hotel staff at the Hyatt Regency, Austin, who

*The Studebaker Truck Farmers stand proudly on Harold Pearce's 1963 8E 1-ton Truck. Chuck Naugle tells us that he is sure the rest of the Truck Farmers are still out gettin' the crop in.*



*Now this is one happy Hawk . . . he got to come to Austin for the International, strut his stuff at the concours, and smile at the camera. What more can you ask?*

came through on all things promised as well as extras such as ice water on the parking lot, which we didn't think to ask for. And, finally, a disclaimer! Whenever an attempt is made to mention and thank all involved in an event of this size, invariably someone or something important will be omitted. In advance, we apologize for any oversight. 🍷

*Proud papa, Paul Hirschler with 14 week old Frances Mae in her fancy Bullet-nose Studebaker stroller. It is rumored that young Frances Mae considers her papa a "fifties kind of guy."*



Photo courtesy of John Cosby



Photo courtesy of John Cosby