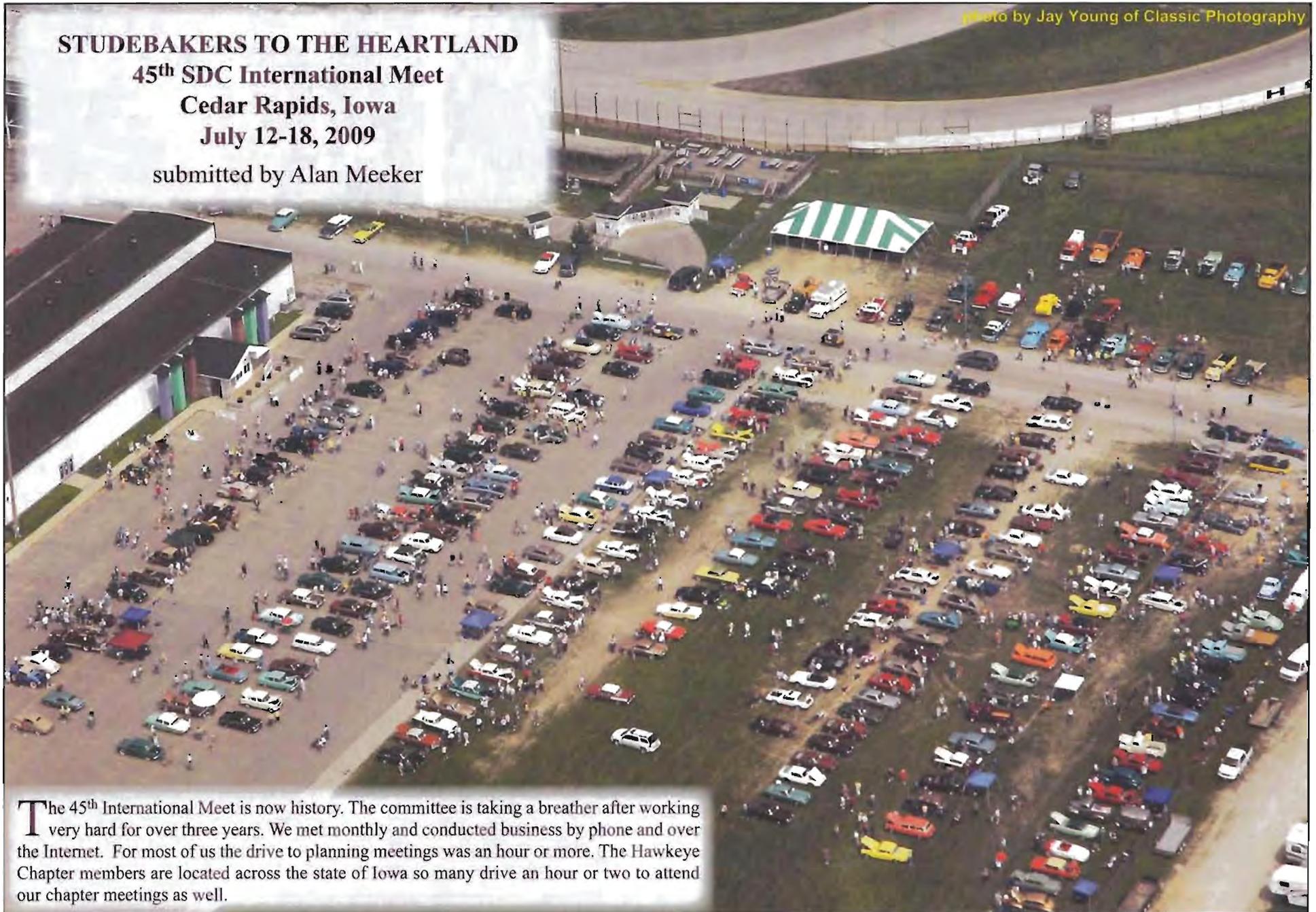


**STUDEBAKERS TO THE HEARTLAND****45<sup>th</sup> SDC International Meet****Cedar Rapids, Iowa****July 12-18, 2009**

submitted by Alan Meeker

photo by Jay Young of Classic Photography



The 45<sup>th</sup> International Meet is now history. The committee is taking a breather after working very hard for over three years. We met monthly and conducted business by phone and over the Internet. For most of us the drive to planning meetings was an hour or more. The Hawkeye Chapter members are located across the state of Iowa so many drive an hour or two to attend our chapter meetings as well.



photo by John Cosby



photos by John Cosby

Tuesday's seminar "Feed sacks—Chicken Linens of the 1940s" was well attended. Here some of the participants model their projects.

Our goal for the International Meet was to have a family-friendly and fun week. We feel we met that goal as many meet attendees expressed that to us.

Some of the highlights were the seminars, classes, children's activities, Welcome Night, Fun Night, the auction, and of course the Concours and Awards Banquet.

Welcome Night was attended by a record number 677 people who enjoyed a free meal and the toe tapping music of the Iowa Accordion Band.

Seminars and classes were very well attended. One of the favorites was Karen Brandt and her talk about "Feed sacks—Chicken Linens of the 1940s". She had a humorous presentation and examples and costumes to show. Scrapbooking, wool appliqué, polymer clay, beaded bracelets and punch needle art were enjoyed by many.

Seminars, North to Alaska, Scratch Repair, Studebaker Co-operator, and Having Your Car Judged

drew a full house. Many questions were asked and answered.

The theme for Fun Night was State Fair. There was much wild competition at the games for prizes. The grandstand featured Richie



photo by John Cosby



photo by John Cosby

Editors' meeting with (l to r) Bob Shaw, Henry Votel, Larry Swanson, Dave Reid, Nita Ketchum, Richard Dormois.



Right: Mark Wheeler of Cornerstone Registration, and his son, at the meet registration desk.



photo by Evan Severson

You couldn't miss this at the entrance to the Hawkeye Downs.

George Krem's 1964 R3 Challenger "The Plain Brown Wrapper" was carefully delivered by Bob Palma to be displayed in the swap meet area.

photo by Evan Severson



The "Studebaker" school bus shuttled between the hotel and Hawkeye Downs was officially called **B**(ig) **U**(gly) **S**(tudebaker). Riders autographed the outside of the bus, and those names will be preserved.



photo by Evan Severson

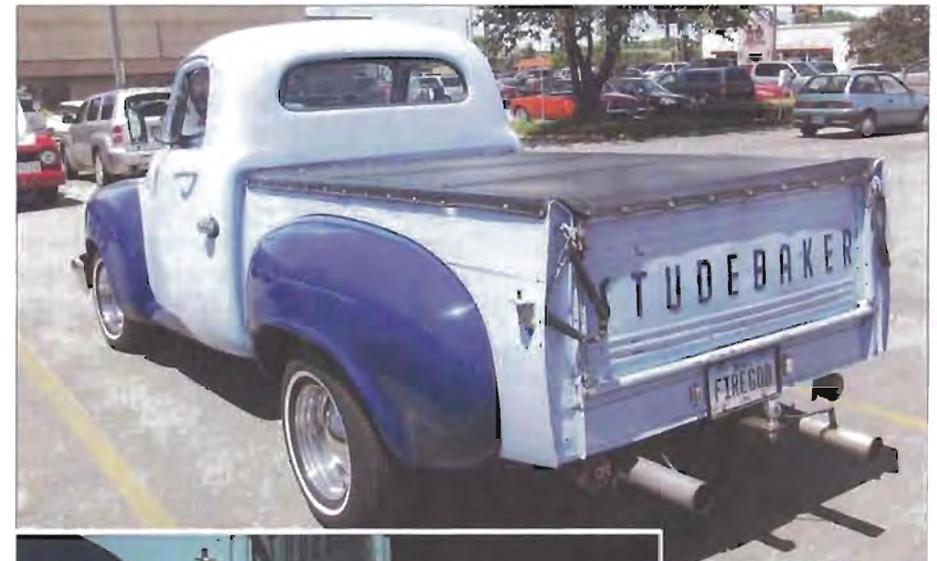


photo by John Cosby



photo by Evan Severson

The license plate says it all!

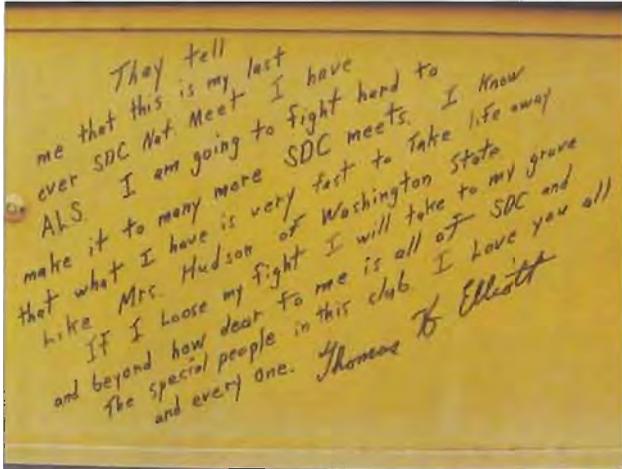


photo by Duane Miller

A poignant message signed on the bus.

Lee and the Fabulous 50s. They provided a night of great listening and dancing. (The employees at the Clarion were moving to the music as well).

The yellow "Studebakcr" school bus that carried people back and forth from the motel to Hawkeye Downs was



photo by John Cosby

Ed Reynolds with Mary Ann and Ted Harbit. Ted was presented with the Harry Barnes Award.

## Valve Cover Races

There was a good turnout at the EXPO Hall at the Valve Cover Race track for those carrying an ISVCRA (International Studebaker Valve Cover Racing Association) Competitors License. There were many unique designs and a lot of creativity represented in the race cars here. After two and one half days of practice and grudge matches the Double Elimination Finals were held Wednesday afternoon in front of a large crowd of onlookers who cheered for their favorites.

In the winners circle were: First Place Winners: Jamie Schmidt – youth, Josh Mecker – Junior, Alan Meeker – Men’s.

Other winners were Kylie Olas – Best Paint, and Gary Hall – Most innovative Design. Thanks to all who attended.

photos by Duane Miller



Lights for reaction time.





photos by Evan Severson



photo by John Cosby

*Above: Outdoor vendors in Iowa harvest a "bumper" crop!*

*Upper left: The indoor vendors area was busy all week long.*

*Lower left: More rare parts at the outdoor swap area.*



*Below: When Studebakers see a track, they want to race. In this case they were merely posing for a picture on the racetrack.*

photo by Evan Severson





photo by Art Unger

*Last minute touch up*



photo by Art Unger

*Oldest Studebaker at the meet – the carriage, not the horse.*

photo by Art Unger



photo by Evan Severson

*"Isn't that a cute little dog next to that Coupe Express?"*

photo by John Cosby



photo by John Cosby

a story in itself. The driver, Kenny Bregar, was able to purchase the bus for \$5 from a school district that needed to get rid of it. With some help from his grandchildren and Kevin Roberts, decorations were added. Kenny's teasing and wit added to the ride. Riders signed their name and messages to the outside of the bus. These names will be preserved and it is now being used as a camper.

All week long the registration area was a beehive of activity answering many of your questions, people looking over the models and watches, getting information for the next two International Meets, selling meet items and signing up new members to SDC and our chapter. The hospitality room was a big hit with all the food and drinks offered to anyone wanting a break or having a small meeting of friends from around the Studebaker World. Many new friends were made during the week in this area.



photo by John Cosby

**Above:** Judges comparing notes amidst a forest of open Avanti hoods.

**Below:** "Now, where did he go?"

photo by Duane Miller



The Valve Cover Race Track was a popular place to be earlier in the week with the finals Wednesday afternoon. A large crowd cheered on their favorite entrants.

Thanks to George Krem for having the *Plain Brown Wrapper* on display all week in the Expo Hall for all you Pure Stock Muscle Car drag race fans.

Unofficial Drag Races were held at the Tri-County Raceway in Earlville with the Studebakers burning up the quarter mile.

The Thursday luncheon was held at the Clarion, the one event we had planned that had to be

changed because of the Epic Flood in

2008. A local historian spoke about the history of Cedar Rapids and the affect the flood had on Cedar Rapids. A Czechoslovakian theme was carried out with typical Bohemian food for lunch including a Kolache for dessert and a Czech decorated egg as a favor.

Friday's poker run was enjoyed by many tour participants who had a good time seeing the Iowa countryside traveling our scenic byways. Among the attractions were the baseball field in Norway from the movie "Final Season", George Preston's (he appeared on the Johnny Carson Show) famous old gas station on the Lincoln Highway, and finishing with a stop in Amana at the Mill Stream Brewery.

The local media gave us great coverage. We had a constant flow of interested sightseers in the parking lots to view the Studebakers and many from the community attended the Concours. The City of Cedar Rapids, Hawkeye Downs, and the Clarion are asking for our quick return. Many of you commented on the convenient location of the hotels to food and to the swap meet and Concours.

We want to thank all the Swap Meet vendors who attended and we hope that they all fared well with sales during the week.

Thank you for attending the 45th International Studebaker Drivers Club convention. The Hawkeye Chapter of SDC was proud to host the meet. We had a blast and we hope all of you did too.



photo by Ron &amp; Myra Jongbloedt

*Fun Night featured Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50s. They provided a night of great music for listening and dancing.*