



photo by John Cosby

2012 International Meet

by Mike Lepay, current Michiana Chapter President and 2012 IM Co-Chair and Bob Henning, current Michiana Chapter Vice President and IM Co-Chair

What makes putting this International Meet together special was summed up in one of our wrap-up meetings. I am paraphrasing somewhat: This meet was put together by a group of folks who were friends that got along, had fun and worked their you-know-whats off for close to five years... and now that the meet is over are all still friends!

First of all we need to thank all those who helped pull this thing together and, of course, all those who attended! We offer a special thanks for their tireless efforts as Chairs or major sponsors to Tom and Nancy Curtis, Becky Bonham, Andy Beckman and the staff of the Studebaker National Museum, Carolyn Wallace of the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dale and Karen Dyer, Chris Patton, Char Paturalski, Kathy Karkiewicz, City of South



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Bend, Bosch Corporation, the Double Tree Hotel, the College Football Hall of Fame, Century Center, St. Joseph County 4H Fairgrounds, and the Pioneer Auto Club.

We must also recognize all those who volunteered, many toiling in the background, from the host Michiana Chapter, SDC, ASC and AOAI. These folks contributed their time and talents unselfishly to the success of this meet. We could try to list the many names, but would easily run out of room and we certainly do not want to miss anyone! Suffice it to say, **We could not have done it without you!**

Now to get the boring stuff out of the way, here are the basic facts and figures of this meet:

Registrations (one per family): 1,186

Registered attendees: 2,489

Paid parking at fairgrounds: 1,340 cars

Estimated gate attendance: 3,000

US States represented: 48

Countries represented: 12

Australia: 47	Bahamas: 1
Canada: 123	Chile: 5
Denmark: 3	Netherlands: 2
New Zealand: 7	South Africa: 5
Switzerland: 2	UK: 2

Total: 207 foreign visitors

Registered 627 cars for car show:

324 Display

246 Concours

57 Avantis

Banquets (tickets sold):

- Ladies Luncheon at the Cove: 74

- AOAI Awards Banquet at SB Country Club: 254

- AOAI Polish Buffet at SNMuseum: 225 (sold out)

- Welcome Night at DoubleTree: 496 (sold out)

- Fun Night at Century Center: 485

- Awards Banquet at Century Center: 617

- Tours (tickets sold for various tours): 607

South Bend is a different animal when it comes to the International Meet for sure. Between the location being the home of Studebaker, having the Studebaker National Museum being a community centerpiece, the Studebaker



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Proving Ground still being made available to us, and the fact we have been doing the International Meet every five years for so long makes it a challenge to 'change it up' every time SDC and friends descend upon us.

For these reasons we tried from the start to accomplish several things with this meet. First and foremost was to break even or better, then make it memorable as part of the 50th Anniversary, involve the community and in doing so find new ways of operating the meet in terms of logistics, cost and activities. A special effort was made to create all new signage for the entire meet that had a sense of consistency and that could be, at least in part, shipped on

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to the next International Meet and eventually returned to us in five years to be upgraded or replaced to start the cycle over again. In this way there will be continuity between International Meets and make fewer items the host chapters will have to deal with.

The City of South Bend truly embraced us and the International Meet this year. From nearly the beginning they were a major part of the planning and preparation of this meet, especially the downtown decorations and the parade. Without the Mayor's commitment and the city making all

their resources available, we could not have added these special touches. We will be working closely with the City on future local and national meets to again incorporate the community in our activities.

Are there things we could have done better? Absolutely. As part of the wrap-up we have addressed our shortcomings and have provided feedback to the new International Meet committee to be incorporated in the Meet Manual and future meets.

With the ink not yet dry on the wrap-up reports we are already thinking of 2017! We hope to create an even more memorable meet by incorporating new venues and new exciting activities, should we again have the privilege of hosting another International Meet.

photo by Evan Severson

Welcome Night - waiting for cupcakes.



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