

The Strato-Vue



1957 or '58 Studebaker Transtar truck,
deluxe model, carrying the Weasel, also
designed and built by Studebaker during WWII
Photo Courtesy Fran Tremain

September / October 2025

***The same newsletter, now with a slightly different appearance!
Introducing your new editor, Jeanine Rader,
and publisher, Phil Torgerson.
We hope you enjoy the read!!***

The Rock River Valley Chapter - Studebaker Drivers Club (RRVC SDC) is a chapter of the National Studebaker Drivers Club (SDC). Be sure to join the National S.D.C. Our club has activities for the family throughout the year. Annual dues are \$30 from January 1st to December 31st and includes 6 issues of The Strata-Vue and special mailings. Anyone with an interest in Studebakers or classic cars is welcome to join.

Membership renewals and new membership applications should be sent to the Treasurer. Change of address notifications should be sent to the Editor.

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If you know someone in hospital or a death among our RRVC SDC family, contact Roseann Johnson (815) 985-6773 and she will make arrangements for sending cards and remembrances.

SDC NATIONAL and REGIONAL OFFICERS

President Dennis Faust; 143 Studebaker Rd., Spring Mills, PA 16875

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SDC Website - www.studebakerdriversclub.com

To join the R.R.V.C.S.D.C. send the same information as on the SDC form shown on the last page of this newsletter; check out our web site at www.rrvcsdc.org or contact Fran Tremain at (608) 247-7330

For new members and renewal dues for current members send \$30.00 (payable to R.R.V.C.S.D.C.) to our treasurer:

Gordy Buetsch 5777 Tipple Road, Rockford, IL 61102

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R.R.V.C.S.D.C. MEETINGS

1st Monday of each month, unless it falls on a holiday then it will be the 2nd Monday of the month. 5:30 for dinner, 6:30 for meeting

Meeting location: Machine Shed, 7475 E. State Street, Rockford, IL

BUSINESSES ADS

If you would like your business advertised in the Strato-Vue let me know. (Your business does not have to be car related to be advertised). Dennis

Randall Mattingly
dv8rockford@att.net
815-519-5512

RANDY'S CUSTOM
Powder Coating



STUDEBAKER PARTS & REPAIRS



Roscoe Stelford
RR#1, BOX 146-A,
Hampshire, IL 60140,
847-464-5119,
stelfordsync@aol.com



Revcore Radiator

REVCORE RADIATOR, INC
2308 S. Eastwood Dr. (Route 470
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone - (815) 337-6846
Website - revcoreradiator.com

The President's Message



WE ARE BACK!

It has been awhile since a newsletter. And a lot has happened! We now have a new editor and a new publisher.

My big news is that I sold my '56 Golden Hawk. For many reasons listed below, it is time to down size.

Kathy and I are building a new house, and consequently, my time is getting tight. With that, I am also losing my three car shop. It is not good to let the cars sit.

I had another surprise while driving the '48 home from church a few weeks back. The right lower control arm broke; and bang! The right corner of the car dives to the ground. Believe me, that gets your attention. No body damage, just some twisted parts. (The '48 has a Mustang II style front suspension.) I replaced the control arm and the few small parts, then all is good.

I will close for now. Jeanine has a lot more news. *Fran*



The 56J on its way to its new home in Southern Illinois



Meet your new Publisher

... Phil Torgerson

Phil's journey into classic cars began before he could drive. His uncle had a 1966 Chevelle that caught his eye. Phil was only 14 at the time, but his interest in Chevelle's only increased from there.

After someone threw acid all over that '66, his uncle sold it to Phil for \$250 which was a lot of cash for someone working at the Airport Skyroom restaurant. So at 15, he started working on it. He worked in his Dad's garage changing it to a four speed transmission, replacing the heads, and changing the rear end. The real nightmare was when he decided to paint it in his Dad's garage with just a few bed sheets hung up to catch the over spray. Needless to say, it made a HUGE mess and boy, was his dad mad!

That paint job actually turned out pretty good (not so much the garage), and while parked outside, a neighbor offered Phil \$1200 for it. Not one to miss a good opportunity when he saw it, Phil sold it.

Not long after that, at 17, his dad

worked with a guy that had a 1971 Chevelle for sale. He had purchased it for his wife, and it had proved to be too much car for her. (More about THAT later.)

He had it painted blue because his wife did not like the original red (hmmmm) color.

By this time, Phil's finances had drastically improved, so with the money he had earned working at the Cherryvale Mall, and selling the '66 Chevelle, he bought the car for \$1800. He was the second owner, originally purchased at Lace Motors, Oregon, IL by his dad's workmate.

Phil drove that car until his second year in college. Then in 1980, it went up on jack stands in his Dad's garage until 2008.

Fast forward through life, and all its changes, the car came home to Phil in 2008.

He brought it to Rockton, IL. and installed new brakes, new hoses, new tires and a new clutch to get it road ready. He and his wife Andi enjoyed

Pre - Mike & Fran



Meet your new Publisher . . . Phil Torgerson (cont.)

driving it around in the summers and storing it through the winters in a storage locker.

Unfortunately a mishap occurred in 2023 when Phil was taking the car out of the garage to drive to dinner on their wedding anniversary. There was a fair amount of damage, so Phil began to investigate repair costs.

Here's where your Editor, Jeanine, entered the picture.

I had just finished restoring my little red Lark, and one day when talking to Andi, my friend of forty-plus years, I mentioned that I might know a guy with a paint booth that would be willing to help fix and restore it, and more importantly, take it back to the original red paint.

Enter Fran Tremain and Mike Thompson (Fran's friend).

However, as the three of them soon discovered together, the Chevelle was probably blue because it was in a major accident that not only required Mike's body work knowledge, but Fran's incredible capability of bending all kinds of metal to his will. Three

years later, the outcome is amazing.

So a very grateful Phil has agreed to be your Publisher! But Phil is no stranger to printing and graphic design. He had owned and ran Champion Graphics for many years on Alpine Road in Rockford and recently retired from Northern University where he managed the Media Department for many years.

Please join me in welcoming Phil and Andrea Torgerson to the RRVC-SDC family, and Phil as your new Strato-Vue Publisher.

Jeanine



Post - Mike & Fran

Kelch Aviation Museum and Poplar Grove Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum

It could not have been a better day than this past May 31, 2025 to head out for a Club Tour! Six classic cars, and five modern ones left the Target parking lot at 9:00 am. Kathy and I met them just west of Beloit with our '48 Commander. Ed and Sharon Stevens drove their '57 Hawk, Jay Frank and Pat Kozol were in a '57 Hawk, Ron Johnson is his '57 Hawk, and Jerry and Roseann Johnson in their '56 Hawk. It was really something to see three '57's and one '56 Hawk all in a line driving down the road!

Our first stop was the Kelch Aviation Museum in Broadhead, WI where nineteen original vintage airplanes are on display. Some are from Al Kelch's collection, and some are on long-term loan to the Museum. They keep many of them airworthy so on any nice day you're likely to see one soaring overhead.

We were met at the Museum by a young lady tour guide who was super! They certainly take their logo, "where education meets fun" seriously. After lunch at the Museum, the group



headed to Poplar Grove, IL to tour the Poplar Grove Vintage Wings and Wheels Museum. We toured the entire airport, and Ron Johnson gave us a personal tour of his two hangars and planes. Ron is a wealth of knowledge. His old planes are really something!

We left Poplar Grove and drove to Belvidere, IL for dinner at the Coaches Corner Bar and Grill. After eating we split up and headed home. What a very nice informative and relaxing day. We even got to see new member Jay Frank's '57 Silver Hawk!



A big thanks to Jerry, Rosann, and Ron.

Fran

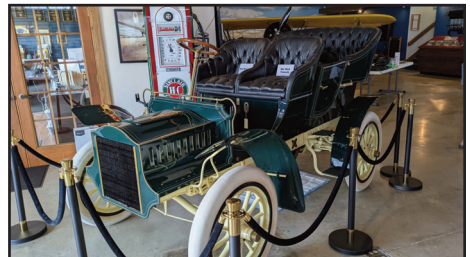
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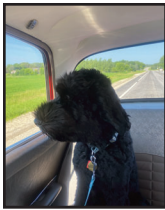
Ed and Sharon Stevens '57 Hawk
Jay Frank and Pat Kozol '57 Hawk
Ron Johnson '57 Hawk.

Jerry and Roseann Johnson '56 Hawk
Kevin Medearis and Michele Hahn
'40's M truck

Fran and Kathy '48 Commander
Frank Frisch Buick Skylark
convertible

Doug and Kathy Pherigo, Roger
Kunzelman and Deb Jane, Sherm and
Carol Buetsch, Bob and Jan Givens,
Mary Hagemann, and Bill Abels.





Editor's Note

Here I am, back talking about classic cars, and specifically, Studebakers. We all know the stories about my little red Lark, and my dad's love for cars, specifically, Studebakers. But I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would still get to be talking about cars and writing about cars. Especially after I sent my '62 Lark to New Mexico last fall.

However, when Dennis decided to retire, there was an opportunity to take



over the Strato-Vue. So here I am, drowning in really big shoes! Dennis is an impossible act to follow, but I will do my best for him and the Club in the coming months.

But like Dennis ALWAYS SAID, the Strato-Vue is only as good as the people who send in the stories and articles! So please continue to send me stories about your cars and your adventures. And anything else you'd like to share for that matter. We're all in this together because we love classic cars, specifically Studebakers.

Jeanine

jeaninerader@yahoo.com

Acknowledgements

Meet Your New Publisher - Jeanine Rader

Kelch Aviation Museum and Poplar Grove Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum -
Fran Tremain , pictures - Jerry Johnson

FOR SALE 1952 Studebakers - Susan Lusted (SDC)

42nd Annual Studebaker Car Show - Fran Tremain

Tech Bite - Jim and Karen McKeever (San Joaquin SOC)

Studebaker Hobbies: SOUTH BEND WATCH COMPANY -
The Late Cliff Tattersall

The Studebaker Weasel - Jeanine Rader

FOR SALE 1952 Studebakers

From the Larry Metz Collection

Larry Metz, long time SDC newsletter judge and studebaker lover passed away. His cars are for sale. If interested see contact information below in the ads.

1952 Studebaker Champion Starliner Hardtop

Nocturne Blue roof over
Maui Blue Body.
Museum quality throughout
and underneath.
6 Cylinder , 85 Hp engine
3 speed transmission with
overdrive
Original upholstery through-
out
Radio, Clock, Cigar lighter,
Reverse lights, Exterior
chrome mirrors, Stainless
steel Gas Door Guard,
Stainless steel Gravel
Guards,
Fender skirts, Chrome
Exhaust deflector, Custom
Wheel covers,
Whitewall tires.



New carpet, new fuel pump, new carburetor, new battery, new muffler.

Originally built in South Bend by Studebaker company to mark their 100 year anniversary of producing transportation. (1852-1952)

Featured in *Turning Wheels* magazine Feb 2014

Great value at \$25,000. CA. For more detail and photos, please contact Peter Nickoli, Vernon BC, 250-307-8901, email: pcnickoli@shaw.ca, or see on Facebook Marketplace search "1952 cars for sale" and filter "Sicamous, British Columbia".

1952 Studebaker Champion Deluxe Starlight Coupe

Velvet Black Paint
6 Cylinder 85 Hp Engine
3 Speed Transmission w/Overdrive
Excellent Condition Original Car
Owned by same family since new.
Has been on longterm static display, yet is in good driving condition.

New:

- Floor Mats,
- Kick Panels,
- Visors,
- Package Shelf,
- Battery (6volt),
- Coil,
- Brakes,
- Master Cylinder,
- Brake Lines,
- Wheel Bearings,
- Lights.

Factory accessories include: Radio, Clock, Cigar Lighter, Tissue Dispenser, Crystal Red Tenite Deluxe 100 Year anniversary edition Steering Wheel and Horn Ring. Has retractable Reel Radio Antenna, Fender Top Ornaments, Dual Exterior Chrome Mirrors, Headlight Shields, Climatizer Vent Ornaments, Backup lights (reverse lights), Stainless steel gas door guard, Stainless steel Gravel Guards, Fender Skirts, Chrome Exhaust Deflector, Custom Wheel Covers, Radial Whitewall Tires.

The history is included in an article in *Turning Wheels* magazine Feb 2014

Great value, asking \$25,000. CA. For more detail and photos, please contact Peter Nickoli, Vernon BC, 250-307-8901, email: pcnickoli@shaw.ca, or see on Facebook Marketplace search "1952 cars for sale" and filter "Sicamous, British Columbia".



STUDEBAKER HOBBIES: SOUTH BEND WATCH COMPANY



In May of 1902 members of that Studebaker family, Clement Studebaker Jr. along with his brother George and their uncle John Mohler Studebaker bought the financially troubled Columbus Watch Company and began moving it from Ohio to Indiana along with much of the work force. They constructed a state-of-the-art watch-making facility with such advanced features as sprinkling systems and huge, fully fire-proofed walk-in vaults. The name then became the South-Bend Watch Company, and they would eventually build 71 different grades of watches in the 5 most popular sizes. The official opening in March of 1903 was with a great deal of fanfare.



Through the first two decades of the twentieth century the company grew and prospered. During its peak years

the company produced 60,000 watches annually and employed nearly 600 employees. Ambitious nationwide advertising was largely responsible for this early prosperity. Full-page ads showing the South Bend watch running in a block of ice were particularly effective. Numerous styles and models were available with a price range from \$16.00 to \$125.00. All watches carried a "insured for a lifetime guarantee." In fact, there are thousands of South Bend watches still running today.

As some of you may know, the great North American railroad watch became an institution after a fatal crash in 1891, which was caused in part by the stopping and then restarting of the engineer's watch, which caused it to be 4 minutes slow. In the early days of railroading, when trains ran by strict time and timetable rules, that 4 minutes proved to be fatal. As a result, in 1893, the General Railroad Timepiece Standards were adopted, which mandated the following standards for railroad watches:

" be open faced, size 18 or 16, have a minimum of 17 jewels, adjusted to at least 5 positions, keep time accurately to within a gain or loss of only 30 seconds per week, adjusted to temperatures of 34 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, have a double roller, steel

STUDEBAKER HOBBIES: SOUTH BEND WATCH COMPANY (CONT.)

escape wheel, lever set, micrometric regulator, winding stem at 12 o'clock, grade on back plate, use plain Arabic numbers printed bold and black on a white dial, and have bold black hands..."

The South Bend Watch company offered at least two railroad grade and approved watches. The 327 (18 size, 21 jewels) and 227 (16 size, 21 jewels). These watches were produced after 1923 under the Studebaker name and South Bend name.

The most prestigious watch produced by the South Bend Watch Company was called "The Studebaker". Even now, some 100 years after their introduction, the best known and most popular South-Bend Watches are: "The Studebaker" movements. They were eventually produced in 18-size and 16-size grades. Handsomely damascened and marked "The Studebaker" in fancy script on the movement they are considered by collectors to be among the best-looking RR watch movements ever made.

A Studebaker in the Mail

In 1923 the company offered a "Studebaker" watch on a mail order basis, direct sale to the public. The Studebaker watches were identical to the South Bend line and were made on the same production line. The Studebaker watch ads of this era did not indicate any connection between

the two watches, but instead gave the impression of a separate company. The naming of the watch, however, was an obvious attempt to capitalize on the good name of the famous brothers of Studebaker automobile fame. Most ads carried the following line:"

"Directed by members of the Studebaker family known for three-quarters of a century for fair dealing."

The Studebaker watches were sold on a credit basis and could be purchased with a down payment of only one dollar. With the onset of the Depression, the company found itself with many delinquent accounts and the banks were unwilling to cooperate in those unstable times. This and the fact the company never switched to production of men's wristwatches was responsible for their eventual demise. On Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27, 1929, the nearly 300 employees of the company were notified the plant would be closed until January 1, 1930. The company never reopened.

After the closing, the machinery was eventually sold, and liquidation completed in 1933 with creditors being paid off fifty cents on the dollar. On July 8, 1957, a fire started in the old factory and destroyed the last evidence of a once world-famous factory.

STUDEBAKER HOBBIES: SOUTH BEND WATCH COMPANY (CONT.)

Below are a few examples of the watches produced by the South Bend Watch Company produced from 1902 to 1929.



The top two watches are South Bend Size 16, Model 227 Railroad Grade Railroad and Approved Watches. The bottom two are Studebaker mail order watches made available from 1923 to 1929.



This is a South Bend model 227, size 16 railroad grade and approved watch, note the lever above the "2". The

face/crystal had to be removed and the lever extended in order to change or adjust the time. This was so that the time could not be inadvertently changed when winding the watch.



This is an example of a "Loaner Watch" South Bend Model 227 size 16. When the engineer or conductor needed his watch serviced, inspected or adjusted the railroad company would provide him with a "loaner". This watch does not denote the railroad company name or the name of the watch repair company making the adjustments.



STUDEBAKER HOBBIES: SOUTH BEND WATCH COMPANY (CONT.)



Another example of a Studebaker mail order watch. Size 12 not railroad grade or approved. This watch is smaller than the 16 or 18 size watches approved for railroad use. Incidentally, I won this watch at a Studebaker, South Bend swap meet several years ago.

Submitted By: The Late Cliff Tattersall

The South Bend watch company in 1923 decided to sell direct to the public via mail order. “One dollar down plus weekly payments. This is an example of a 16 size “railroad grade” but not “railroad approved” watch. Note this watch is not “lever set” and therefore does not qualify for railroad approval even though it has the required size, jewel movement and adjustments for position and temperature.



A Joke for the Day

Did you know that the dry erase board was one of the most important inventions of the last 100 years?...Yes, It's remarkable!

★ The Studebaker WEASEL

In the early part of WWII, Studebaker made a tracked personnel carrier, which was the predecessor to the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC). As a tracked vehicle, it was originally designed to be driven in the snow (M-29). The Weasel, as it was nicknamed, was known for its stealth, swiftness, and sure-footedness in all types of terrain.

The Weasel idea was introduced in 1942, when the First Special Services Force needed transportation into Norway to knock out strategic power plants. The vehicle needed to move quickly and easily through the winter snows of Norway. It needed to be air transportable and be able to withstand the effects of being dropped by parachute and would also be able to carry arms, explosives and minimal resupply stocks.

The Norwegian mission was cancelled and therefore the Weasel was never

used for its original intention. However, as it was amphibious and could cross terrain too soft for most other vehicles, it was widely used both in Italy and on the Western Front.

As part of a feel-good campaign by Studebaker to increase civil support and funding for their war vehicles, Studebaker relied heavily on a letter that a Studebaker employee-turned-soldier wrote to his factory friends back home:

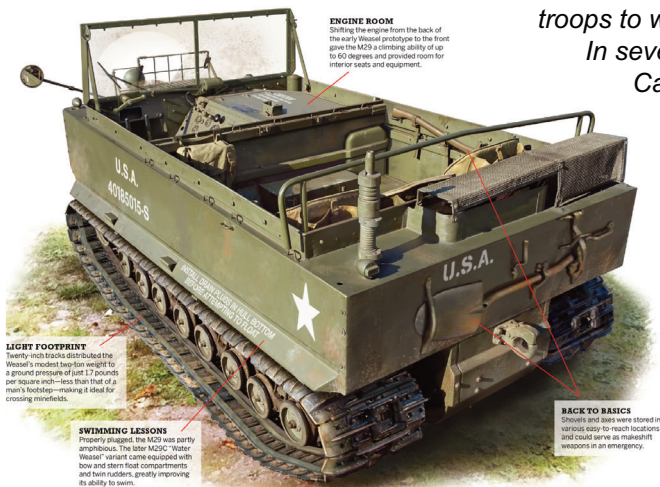
“While still on the beach (Normandy), I saw one thing that made me feel good and think of you guys. It was a Studebaker Weasel going up and down between all the fire carrying wounded boys to a hospital area. That work of you fellows helped to save many a soldier’s life.”

However, the reliability of the vehicle when used in European summer and during long road trips was the subject of consternation among the Allied troops to whom they were assigned.

In several cases, the M-29

Cargo Carriers overheated, and the water completely boiled out of the radiators. These vehicles were made to operate in arctic temperatures. A special thanks to Studebaker National Museum for providing the info on the Weasel.

Jeanine





The 42nd Annual Studebaker Car Show, Swap Meet and Car Corral got underway Friday June 6, 2025 in South Bend, IN.

It's a tradition commemorating what was once the heart and soul of South Bend. Not only was Studebaker once the backbone of South Bend, but also an industry that employed thousands that built not just cars, but a community.

So on Friday morning, Kathy and I headed southeast in our 1956 Golden Hawk. The idea was to arrive in South Bend in time for the Friday night cruise. The cruise was scheduled to drive to downtown from the St Joseph Fairgrounds. But upon arriving at the fairgrounds, we found out that the cruise was cancelled.

However, the first Friday of the month in South Bend is a downtown block party. On this particular night, a two

block space was designated for Studebakers only and it was filled! Kathy and I, along with two other members, Tim Kahoe and Jay Frank, parked together along the street. We enjoyed the bands, the food trucks and all the people out and about.

On Saturday we headed to the Swap Meet and public car show. Then it was time to head back home. The '56J ran great and averaged 17 mpg running down the interstate. Where I-355 goes around Chicago, the speed limit is 60 mph. But I think that is only a suggestion! We were running 80 mph most of the time and being past.

Fran



STRATO-VUE Calendar of Events

- Sept 4 Sophia's Restaurant Cruise Night, 5467 Bridge Street, Roscoe, IL
5 pm - 8 pm Info: Gary Esse (608) 244-8416
- Sept 6 Katie's Cup Cars & Coffee, 502 7th St., Rockford, IL
9 am - noon Info: Hits DJ (815) 289-0276
- Sept 11 Roscoe Village Center Cruise Night, 5496 Elevator RD., Roscoe, IL
5 pm - 8 pm Info: Hits DJ (815) 289-0276
- Sept 12 Drive Your Studebaker Day Event, Rockford Airport Tour, Rockford
IL Friday, 10:00 am Info: (815) 985-2366
- Sept 13 Drive Your Studebaker Day, anywhere you want to go
All Day Info: Just drive your Studebaker!
- Sept 14 Rock Valley Mustang Club Car Show Machesney Elementary
School, 8615 North Second Street, Machesney Park, IL
8 am - 3 pm
- Sept 21 49th Annual Beloit Autorama Car Show, 3444 S. Riverside Drive
Preservation Park, Beloit, WI 8 am - 4 pm
- Sept 26, 27 Fall Swap Meet, Jefferson Co Fairgrounds, 503 Jackson Ave,
Jefferson, WI Fri. 8 am - 4 pm Sat. - 6 am - 4 pm
- Oct 2 Annual Trip to Edwards Apple Orchard
Meet at Mechesney Park Target Parking Lot at 10:00 am
7061 Centerville Road, Poplar Grove, IL
- Oct 4 Katie's Cup Cars & Coffee, 502 7th St., Rockford, IL
9 am - noon Info: Hits DJ (815) 289-0276
- Oct 10 - 12 Fall Tour to Peoria, IL, Friday - Sunday Info: (815) 985-2366
- Oct 11 Rock n' Bowl Paul Stauffer Memorial Car Show
4007 East State Street, Rockford, IL
- Oct 25 Katie's Cup Cars & Coffee Trunk or Treat, 502 7th Street, Rockford,
IL 9 am - noon Info: Hits DJ (815) 289-0276
- Sept 16- 20 61st SDC Int'l Meet, Washington County, Pennsylvania, Watch for
updates in Turning Wheels Info: Brian Ott(b_k_ott@yahoo.com)
or <https://sdcmeet.com>
- Sept 18 Meadow Mart Cruise Night, 6401 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, I
5 pm - 8 pm Info: Hits DJ (815) 289-0276
- Summer 2026 62nd Int'l Meet hosted by North Texas Chapter SDC

Meeting Minutes - July and August 2025

Going forward, Monthly Meeting Minutes will not appear in the Newsletter as Sherm is kind enough to send them to all members every month. Thank you Sherm!

July 2025 Meeting

The July 7, 2025, meeting of the Rock River Valley Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club was called to order by President, Fran Tremain, at the Machine Shed, at 6:32pm, with 33 members present.

Secretary, Sherm Buetsch, read the June 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Report accepted as read.

Treasurer, Gordy Buetsch, gave treasurers report for June 2025. Report accepted as read.

Events:

Gordy gave update on the Glory Days Drag races at Byron Dragway, July 18 -20. Best to come Friday 18 or Sat. 19. Gates open at 10:00 am and racing till about 10:00 pm, tickets of \$25.00

Jerry mentioned Coach's Corner Bar and Grill, 622 S. State St, Belvidere, IL 61008. has a car show every Monday night, and is planning a Studebaker show there, July 21 at 4:00pm. He gave a presentation on Google Forms, he is using, to minimize the amount of work to provide information on events and providers. Must click link in the emails he sends out for events. Sharon mentioned possible trip to micro car museum in WI. Jerry said he would look into it.

Fran mentioned Alpine Fest at Alpine

Lutheran Church 5001 Forest View Ave., RFD on Aug. 24th 2025 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Always a good time and food.

Harry mentioned the Gimmick Rally, save the date, the next SDC Gimmick Rally will be Monday, August 11, 2025. The starting point will be the Brady's house, 6723 Belvidere Rd, Roscoe, IL 61073, (815) 262-2505. Gather at 10 AM, drivers meeting at 10:15 and first car off at 10:30. We will finish at an area restaurant and order off the menu. Cost \$5 per person, cash prizes to the 2 winning teams. Drive your old car and get bonus points. Sign up with Harry at our August meeting. Harry brought up the idea having a drawing to see who will be the navigator and passengers in the car. After a discussion, a vote was taken to try it for the rally.

Harry also mentioned the National Police and Fire Night Out is Aug.5 at 4:00pm and this Thursday 4-5pm Roscoe Center Car Show.

Coming Club Events 2025:

Friday Mornings (8:00) Black Sheep meeting- Sophia's Restaurant.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Jul 18-20 | Glory Days Drag Race, Byron Dragway |
| Jul 21 | Coaches Corner Car Show |
| Aug 5 | National Night Out Car shows |
| Aug 11 | Gimmick Rally, Harry Brady's |
| Aug 24 | Alpine Fest Car Show |

For "Cruise Nights" and info, PLEASE check the latest Strato-Vue, club

Meeting Minutes Synopsis - July and August 2025

July 2025 Meeting (cont.)

website calendar of events, or
rockfordcruisenights.weebly.com
New Business:

Jeanine Rader and friend were at the meeting, from N.C. It was great to see her and catch-up. She mentioned she and a friend would be interested in working on the newsletter, if needed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sherm
Buetsch, Secretary.

August 2025 Meeting

The Aug. 4, 2025, meeting of the Rock River Valley Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club was called to order by President, Fran Tremain, at the Machine Shed, at 6:24pm, with 27 members present.

Secretary, Sherm Buetsch, read the July 7, 2025 meeting minutes. Report accepted as read.

Treasurer, Gordy Buetsch, gave treasurers report for July 2025. Report accepted as read.

Events:

Jerry The annual trip to Edwards Apple Orchard will be Oct. 2. Need someone to organize Drive Your Studebaker Day, Sept 13. Roger Kunzelman mentioned a Rockford Airport bus tour, to ARR repair facility and the airport. He was going to check on it. Jerry is planning a fall tour to Peoria Fall Fest. About 100 mile tour threw a series of small towns, the Wheel's O' Time Car Museum, Blacksmith Shop and Caterpillar

Visitor's Center. He thanked Sharon for possible trip to micro car museum in WI. Jerry went to it and said it was very small and may be included in a larger trip. He asked for someone to organize a fall party and someone to plan the Christmas party.

Fran mentioned Alpine Fest at Alpine Lutheran Church 5001 Forest View Ave., RFD on Aug. 24th 2025 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Always a good time and food.

Harry mentioned the Gimmick Rally, will be Monday, August 11, 2025. The starting point will be the Brady's house, 6723 Belvidere Rd, Roscoe, IL 61073, (815) 262-2505. Gather at 10 AM, drivers meeting at 10:15 and first car off at 10:30. We will finish at an area restaurant and order off the menu. Cost \$5 per person, cash prizes to the 2 winning teams. Drive your old car and get bonus points, by answering bonus questions, for old cars only. Two hour time limit and about 30 miles, 4 car and 12 people signed up so far.

Harry also mentioned the Roscoe National Police and Fire Night Out is Aug.5 at 4:00pm Car Show, park at the old barber shop. Donations of school appreciated.

Old Business:

Fran said we hope to have a Sept./Oct. News Letter. He also said Roscoe Stelford was in a rehab center for a back injury.

Jerry mentioned Coach's Corner Bar and Grill, car show and the good turnout of club cars.

Jay Frank has some Studebaker bumper stickers for sale.

Odds 'N Ends / Tech Bites

Your car battery is the lifeblood of your vehicle. 12-volt batteries contain six cells, with each cell reading about 2.1 volts. Similarly, an 8-volt battery contains four cells, and a 6-volt battery contains three cells.

The most popular type is the **flooded lead acid battery** (conventional.) It has lead plates which combine with sulfuric acid, causing the chemical reaction to power your car. The cells need to be filled (who can relate to pouring in distilled water without overflowing the cells!) to maintain that reaction.

Also popular are **Absorbed Glass Mat batteries**. AGM batteries are sealed (yay!) so there are no leaks or spills to worry about. They contain a synthetic fiber mat soaked with sulfuric acid, so there is no need for a liquid solution. Optima is one of the most recognizable names, however many battery brands now carry AGM styles. Here are some voltage readings to help you determine if your battery is running in peak condition:

- A fully charged battery should read **about 12.6 volts** (approximately 8.4 for 8-volt, 6.3 for 6-volt) with the engine off.
- Right when you start the car you should have **about 10 volts** (approximately 6.7 for 8-volt, 5.0 for 6-volt) or more. Cold climate conditions could alter that number.
- When the engine is running the voltage reading should be **about 13.5 – 14.7** (approximately 9.0-9.8 for 8-volt, 6.7-7.4 for 6-volt.) The alternator is charging your battery at this time or, if you still have a generator, it's charging your battery while driving above idle.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you run an amperage gauge instead of a voltage gauge, and it's an original amp gauge (that would make it 60-plus years old!) it is highly recommended that it be replaced with a new one **as everything electrical on your vehicle must pass through that gauge, making it the weak link.**

Battery Chargers

The battery died (oops, I left the lights on all night) or it's getting old and no longer holds its proper charge. Many car owners have a battery charger for such occasions. However, if you have an AGM battery, check to make sure your charger is designed for AGM charging, as most chargers for conventional batteries can ruin an AGM. The safest thing to do is take your battery to your local auto parts store and let them charge and diagnose it for free.

Since classic car enthusiasts tend to store their vehicles for long periods of time, as opposed to using them as daily drivers, battery maintainers are often used to keep the battery ready for use. Again, as with battery chargers, AGM batteries need to have a maintainer specifically designed for them, so as not to ruin them.

Battery Sizes

Battery Council International (BCI) created the grouping designations given to batteries. Their website, battery council.org provides The BCI Group Size Chart consisting of length, width, height, terminal positions, assembly configurations, and cold cranking amps of each battery, with its corresponding code, which is the same across all battery manufacturers.

Various automotive websites offer similar, or abbreviated versions of the specifications. This information can be

Odds 'N Ends / Tech Bites (continued)

quite useful if you have done some modifications under the hood, and you need a new size, or a barn find is missing its battery. Start with length, width and height when researching which battery will fit your needs.

(Information in these tech tips is based on the writer's own research, experiences, and viewpoints. The information, and links to other websites, is to be viewed and/or used at your own risk. The writer makes no

guarantees regarding the outcome of the use of the material, products, or resources in this article and is not responsible for any loss or damage incurred. Adjustments or modifications may be needed for your specific vehicle. Remember to use all standard safety equipment and precautions.)

Jim McKeever
& Karen McKeever
San Joaquin Valley Chapter, SDC

Meeting Minutes Synopsis - July and August 2025

August 2025 Meeting (cont.)

Gordy said Dennis's surgery is Aug. 6. Please send cards.

Sherm thanked everyone for attending Dave Neiber memorial service.

Coming Club Events 2025:

Friday Mornings (8:00) Black Sheep meeting- Sophia's Restaurant.

Sept. 13 Drive your Studebaker Day

Aug 5 National Night Out Car shows

Aug 11 Gimmick Rally, Harry Brady's

Aug 24 Alpine Fest Car Show

Oct 2 Tour to Edwards's Apple Orchard

Oct 10-12 Fall tour to Peoria, IL.

For "Cruise Nights" and info, PLEASE check the latest Strato-Vue, club website calendar of events, or rockfordcruisenights.weebly.com

New Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:56p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sherm Buetsch, Secretary.

Club Member Obituaries

On July 24, twenty-eight Club members bid farewell to longtime member and friend Dave Neiber. Ten classic cars lined the street in front of the Roscoe United Methodist Church. After the service, we drove to The Historic Auto Attraction Museum for lunch. Dave will be missed — Fran

It is with sadness that I report that longtime past member Jim Lyga passed away on July 20th. Jim was very active in the creation of the hand crafted wooden Zone Meet Trophy's that the RRVC-SDC presented at one of our Zone meets. In poor health for the past few years, he had just recently dropped his club membership. — Jerry & Roseann



STRATO-VUE Marketplace

The Strate-Vue Market Place provides free advertising for all members. You can place any car or car related ad for free. The ad can be for sale, trade or items wanted. All ads will be included as space permits and will be run for three issues of the newsletter. All ads can be renewed by contacting the editor. Send your ads to the editor, address on page one.

FOR SALE - We have 2 blue club shirts for sale. \$20.00 each One man's "XL" and "One women's "XL"
Fran Tremain (608) 247-7330

FOR SALE - Small club patch for \$5.00 each
Gordy Buetsch (815) 968-1261

FOR SALE - This SDC approved design, limited production run of 50 bumper stickers, are now available to club members for purchase! With only 43 currently available and priced at just \$5 each, they will go fast, so act now! After production & shipping costs are subtracted, the remainder will go to support our club.
To Order: <https://forms.gle/hY9oBcZM638Nznps9>



FOR SALE - One 289 disassembled — one 299 with R3 cam (this one took no lip back in the day in the '58 Hawk I drove for 26 years). Also a used C_K Hawk body sheet metal, A833 MOPAR Transmission, five Buick aluminum finned drums complete and a NICE set of '56 wheel covers.
Ron Johnson (815) 397-3601

FOR SALE - Heavy Duty Fibrous Wheel Bearing Grease - Service documentation recommends packing front and rear wheel bearings with a #3 fibrous grease. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, you need this grease and if not your mechanic will need it. I have 1-pound tubs for sale at \$5.50 each. Contact me for pick-up and/or delivery arrangements, Open to Offers
Frank Frisch (815) 562-4160 or email: packard47@gmail.com

FOR SALE MOLDING CLIPS

New old stock - O.E.M.
Fit automobiles and trucks with 3/4" or 1" moldings
High quality at a great price!
Molding Clip part numbers: Packard 375178 and Studebaker 1339120

Contact me for pick-up and/or delivery arrangements,
Frank Frisch (815) 562-4160 or email: packard47@gmail.com

Open to Offers

NATIONAL S.D.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships are for 1 year and include 6 issues of **Turning Wheels®** newsletter: You can now join/renew for up to 5 years.

International Membership in USA	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5
New Members 1st year only	\$37.00	N/A	N/A
Regular Member renewal with periodical class mail	\$46.00	\$132.00	\$220.00
Regular Member renewal with 1st class mail	\$73.00	\$213.00	\$355.00
Student & Young Adult Membership (to 22 yrs old)	\$37.00	\$111.00	\$185.00
Worldwide - Membership & Digital Turning Wheels	\$29.00	\$87.00	\$146.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ _____

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Spouse: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____

New member, source of referral: _____

Renewal, month due: _____ Member #: _____

Non-Studebaker - Brand X Make: _____

Model: _____ Car year: _____

Body Style: _____ Color: _____

Serial Number: _____

To join national SDC, complete application, send with check or money order in U.S. funds to:

The Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 1715, Maple Grove MN 55311-6715

Or use VISA or Master Card, call 763-420-7829, or
Fax 763-420-7849 or Email: sdcc@cornerstonerea.com
for more information visit www.studebakerdriversclub.com.

- Call or write with change of address
- DO NOT send ads vwith your membership
- ALL members of local SDC chapters must also be national SDC members

The Strato-Vue

Newsletter

R.R.V.C.-S.D.C.

17943 Hidden Valley Lane

Argyle, WI 53504



The Studebaker Weasel in action. Photo
courtesy Studebaker National Museum