



# North Star Wheel

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 1

Chapter Newsletter

JAN/FEB, 2006

## *From the back of the Champ. . . .*

Happy New Year! May 2006 be an even better year for you, your family and your Studebakers.

I'd like to thank all the members that ventured out to our Annual Meeting at the Glen Oak Golf on January 7th. Besides a tasty buffet, we had great discussions of the upcoming car shows we sponsor and elected three club officers. I should say "re-elected". Vice President Jim Ringquist and Secretary Fran Gieselman ran unopposed (we'll talk about that later) and Director Jim Rock was re-elected in a close race over member Scott Miller.

Thanks to these members who will serve another two year term. Speaking about "unopposed", it's great we have members willing to run for these positions. I'd like to see more members consider being an officer. Next year, the President, Treasurer and other Director terms will be up and I'd like to see speeches, banners, buttons, bus tours, baby kissing, the entire campaign thing. Talk to me if you wonder what officers do, it's really easy. Thanks Scott for your interest, please run again!

Joan Lemke's Treasurer Report puts the club in the black. Maynard Lemke has again prepared a full year of activities, check out the list and plan your entire year accordingly.

First up is the chapter meeting at the Burnsville OCB on 2/2/06 where we will discuss what makes a great zone meet. Next is the play "Church Basement Ladies". In April, we will meet in Hugo at the Blacksmith Lounge, site for our two car shows.

Please note the Ringquists are hosting Get the Cars Out at their home in Buffalo on May 13th. Plan on attending this great potluck and drive your Studebaker or even better, Studebakers!

The Upper Mississippi Valley Zone meet is June 8-11 in Naporville, IL hosted by the Black Hawk chapter. See page 59 in the January Turning Wheels for registration and hotel information.

Don't forget to make your hotel registration for the International Meet in Omaha, September 25 through 30. The meet hotel is the Holiday Inn-Omaha Central (I-80), 888-465-4329 is the national reservation line, 402-393-3950 is the local front desk number. The host hotel is always full, register this month. Mention SDC to get the meet rate. There is a link on the SDC Web page to the Meet page and then to on-line hotel reservations. There hasn't been much in Turning Wheels yet on the Meet but there is lots of information at the "Trucking to Omaha" Web site. I hope you are planning to attend this fall. It's a short drive down Thirty Five and west on Eighty to get there.

A few more weeks and winter is about over. Another wimpy Minnesota winter. We look forward to seeing everyone and their Stude's at the events this year. Grab some car show flyers and tell all your family and friends. Drive those Studebakers.

Oh yeah, the Champ is home in the garage and the fresh paint looks really good! Take Care.

**Dean Elstad, President**  
[goldavanti@netzero.net](mailto:goldavanti@netzero.net)

## *North Star Minutes . . .*

North Star Chapter SDC Annual Meeting, January 7, 2006. Twenty-eight members were present for the annual meeting at Oak Glen Golf Club, Stillwater, MN. The meeting was conducted by Interim President, Dean Elstad. The offices of Vice President, Secretary, and one Director position were up for election.

The offices of Vice President and Secretary were uncontested with Jim Ringquist and Fern Gieselman respectively accepting reelection. Jim Rock and Scott Miller were nominated for the Director position. Jim Rock was elected.

Maynard Lemke presented the 2006 Annual Event Calendar, which includes presently scheduled social events, car shows and North Star Chapter meetings.

Bob Shaw, our web master was introduced and commended on doing an outstanding job.

Jerry Pearson gave a report on the annual Memorial Day and Labor Day car shows and the anticipated move to the Blacksmith Lounge in Hugo. A detailed preliminary budget was presented. At the Memorial Day show there will be a ceremony to commemorate the day and impart the important message to honor those that have helped earn our freedom.

Changes include an increase from \$8 to \$10 per participant, no spectator admission, \$1.00 Peoples' Choice ballot, \$10 corral charge and no swap meet. Jerry asked for volunteers. Please e-mail him at [stude.one@usfamily.net](mailto:stude.one@usfamily.net) (continued Page 2)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FEBRUARY 2ND**

CHAPTER MEETING

DINNER 6:00 PM, MEETING 7:00 PM

OLD COUNTRY BUFFET, BURNSVILLE, MN

**FEBRUARY 12TH**

CHAPTER EVENT, CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES

PLYMOUTH PLAYHOUSE, PLYMOUTH, MN

**MARCH 2ND**

CHAPTER MEETING

DINNER 6:00 PM, MEETING 7:00 PM

OLD COUNTRY BUFFET, BURNSVILLE, MN

# DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

## SDC NATIONAL OFFICERS

President: Ed Reynolds  
Vice President: Richard Dormois  
Secretary: Jan Lockman  
Treasurer: Brian Milette

## UPPER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ZONE

National Board Director: Larry Swanson  
Zone Coordinator: Duane Miller  
Regional Manager: Shirley Van Dell 218-624-5932

## NORTH STAR CHAPTER

President: Dean Elstad, 763-560-9191 - goldavanti@netzero.com  
Vice President: Jim Ringquist, 763-682-5423 - jamesr@spacestar.net  
Secretary: Fern Gieselman, 320-274-3299 - malpp@lkdlink.net  
Treasurer: Joan Lemke, 763-478-5307 - m-jlemke@msn.com  
Membership: Henry Votel, 651-426-1610 - gudim1@isd.net  
Director: Maynard Lemke, 763-478-5307 - m-jlemke@msn.com  
Director: Jim Rock, 651-436-2215 - cjrock5144@aol.com  
Web Master: Bob Shaw, 651-735-4656 - rshaw@comcast.net  
Historian: Jim Rock, 651-436-2215 - cjrock5144@aol.com  
Activities: Maynard Lemke, 763-478-5307 - m-jlemke@msn.com  
Sunshine: Joan Lemke, 763-478-5307 - m-jlemke@msn.com  
Newsletter: Henry Votel, 651-464-8112 - gudim1@isd.net

## NORTH LAND WHEELS CHAPTER

President: Joseph Brannon, 715-398-7780  
Vice President/Trophy Chair: Jim Van Dell, avantiz@charter.net. 218-624-5932  
Secretary, Treasurer & Membership: Shirley Van Dell, 218-624-5932

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The North Star Wheel is the newsletter of the North Star Chapter and North Land Wheels Chapters of the Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc.  
Email Transmission preferred to: gudim1@isd.net or fax 1-866-429-7888.

ISSUE	DEADLINE	MAILING DATE±
JAN/FEB	Jan 10th	Jan 20th
MAR/APR	Mar 10th	Mar 20th
MAY	May 10th	Mar 20th
JUN	Jun 10th	Jun 20th
JUL	Jul 10th	Jul 20th
AUG	Aug 10th	Aug 20th
SEP	Sep 10th	Sep 20th
OCT	Oct 10th	Oct 20th
NOV/DEC	Nov 10th	Nov 20th

## INTERNET LINKS TO CHAPTER RESOURCES

### Chapter Web Site:

[www.northstarwheel.com](http://www.northstarwheel.com)

### Newsletter Archive:

[www.northstarwheel.com/newsletter.html](http://www.northstarwheel.com/newsletter.html)

### Chapter Activity Schedule at SDC Web Page:

[http://studebakerdriversclub.com/ev\\_MN.asp](http://studebakerdriversclub.com/ev_MN.asp)

### Chapter Roster:

[www.northstarwheel.com/2005roster.html](http://www.northstarwheel.com/2005roster.html)

### Bylaws:

[www.northstarwheel.com/bylaws.html](http://www.northstarwheel.com/bylaws.html)

### Membership Application:

[www.northstarwheel.com/join.html](http://www.northstarwheel.com/join.html)

139 Members, 81 Members have email addresses.  
25 receive the paperless newsletter version.

## *Minutes, continued.*

Treasurer, Joan Lemke, presented the Annual Financial Report. She also reported that we had been double billed by the supplier for the club shirts and that a refund check was forthcoming.

Ed Skomoroh gave a preliminary report on the 2008 SDC Zone Meet being hosted by the North Star Chapter. It will not be possible to seek a site or date until the International Meet date is set. We must identify our needs and priorities in order to best meet the needs of the event. Our February meeting will focus on this event so be prepared with ideas.

Jim Rock, North Star Chapter Historian asked for old newsletters from 1967 to 1972 as well as our Charter and Articles of Incorporation. If anyone has information on same, please contact him at: cjrock5144@aol.com or 651-436-2215.

Respectfully submitted  
Fern Gieselman, Secretary

## *Defining a Zone Meet. . . .*

*What are you looking for when you go to a zone meet?*

*What were your favorite zone meets and what was it you liked?*

These two questions will be the discussion topic at our February chapter meeting. Our chapter is sponsoring the 2008 Upper Mississippi Valley Zone meet and we want to hear from you what it should include. We are still waiting for the 2008 International Meet dates before we set our dates but we can begin discussing what our zone meet might include.

Zone meets are short and sweet. Registration on Friday, show and banquet on Saturday, head home on Sunday. But it's those extra activities (i.e. tours, hospitality room, and auction) that make a meet memorable.

So, rack your brains, look up old meet books and pictures and tell us what you think the zone meet should include. We will eventually form a committee (let me know if you are interested).

If you are unable to attend this meeting, we still want and value your input. I want to hear from you. Contact me directly. President Dean Elstad, goldavanti@netzero.net" or 763 560-9191.

## *Northland Wheels News. . . .*

Hibernation time....Not much happening here...& little time in my li'l world for great wisdoms....So all we have to submit is our next scheduled meeting. Were all waiting for Winter to thaw.

Sunday, February 26th - 1:00pm at the Upper Deck Restaurant in Superior, WI. Meeting to follow dinner. Thanks.

Jim Van Dell

## *Welcome New Members. . . .*

John & Catherine Weyrens  
St. Paul, MN  
1927 Dictator Roadster

North Star Chapter Annual Meeting Attendees  
Oak Glen Country Club, Stillwater, MN January 2006



Maynard Lemke, Jim Ringquist, Jim Rock, Ed Skomoroh



Craig Harrison Stripes Cheryl Rock



Bob Shaw Jerry Pearson Keith Rust



Deep in conversation it appears



Block family John Block



OK, We are ready to eat!

## *Calling all Members, Updates to Glovebox Guide needed. . . .*

The Studebaker Drivers Club publishes a handy "Glovebox Guide" chocked full of Studebaker contacts across North America. The Guide includes Studebaker related listing for repair service, parts suppliers, roadside assistance from nearby SDC members, and even Studebaker sightseeing attractions.

Members, Studebaker vendors or individual who would like to be listed in the new updated SDC Glovebox Guide, you can easily sign up online! Just go to:

**[www.studebakerdriversclub.com/glovebox.asp](http://www.studebakerdriversclub.com/glovebox.asp)**,

fill out and submit the short form and you will be listed in the next edition that is currently being compiled. Members who have information on attractions can send your information to Larry Swanson, PO Box 1040, Oswego, IL 60543. Listing submissions must be sent in by February 1.

There is no charge for being listed, but if you are a commercial enterprise, your business must be distinctly Studebaker related to be listed. SDC chapter members and other individuals: The SDC thanks you in advance for offering to lend fellow Studebaker owners a helping hand should they encounter trouble while in the area.

## *North Star Chapter's Memorial Day 2006 Show. . . Be a part of it!*

Okay, stop what you're doing this very minute. Now, go get a pen...yeah, the one with ink still in it...and go over to the calendar (making sure it's a 2006 model)...flip to May and circle Memorial Day, May 29. In fact, circle it a few times just to make sure.

May 29, 2006 is the date for the 32nd Annual Memorial Day Car Show...and this one you are not going to want to miss!

This year, the "big show" is going to be held at The Blacksmith, a popular restaurant/lounge and car show destination on Highway 61, just a couple of miles north of Hugo (south of Forest Lake). The Blacksmith has an abundance of grassy grounds, covered pavilion, food and beverages, and more. It's been the site of the always popular Northern Lights Car Club Annual Pig Roast for a number of years where some 900 cars show up so there's room for us!

Our 32nd Annual Show is open to all cars and trucks...antiques, classics, street rods, street machines, tuners, and what-have-you from 2006 on back. To keep things simple (and to allow participants to easily park together) there are no structured "classes". Awards will be given to the top 42 cars as voted on by the event participants. We're calling it the top "21 x 2". In addition, there'll be "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" trophies awarded.

An interesting wrinkle will be that the "People's Choice" trophy will be decided by spectators and participants who purchase a People's Choice ballot for \$1. That entire \$1 will be donated to one or more non-profit organizations that assist military families in need. By the way, the first 200 cars will get a nifty red, white and blue dash plaque and a small U.S. flag to display by their vehicle.

The entry fee is also simplified this year. A straight \$10 per show car. Period. No charge for spectator admission or spectator parking. No additional charge for passengers in your car. There's also going to be a Car Corral area, also for just \$10 per car.

Equally important, we are going to celebrate Memorial Day in a

number of simple, yet meaningful ways. It starts with the simple statement that will appear on our show flyer, dash plaques and awards: "Honoring the men and women who gave their lives for our freedom to enjoy our cars". We will have our nation's flag on display and will participate in the national moment of remembrance. We are working on other things, too, and will report on them in a future newsletter.

### ***Your Club needs your help!***

The car is all gassed up but we need some drivers! That is, we need chapter volunteers to assist in making this Memorial Day Show the best it can be... for our chapter and for all the participants and spectators that will be coming. You're going to drive your Studebaker to the show anyway, right? Then, you might as well sign up for a short shift to help set up and/or help out during the day. Soon, a sign up sheet will be included in the newsletter and on the chapter website. And, just to dangle a little "volunteering carrot" in front of you, all the volunteers are going to be the guests of honor at a fall "Volunteer Get-together"!

Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters and soon on the chapter website. For show information, you can contact Bob Shaw, 651-735-4656 or email him at: [rrshaw@comcast.net](mailto:rrshaw@comcast.net). If you are anxious to get your name on the volunteer list (and you are, aren't you?) contact Jerry Pearson, 651-635-0161, 651-343-1730(cell).

## *Smithsonian and Studebakers*

Hello. I work at the Smithsonian and thought the Studebaker Drivers Club would like to know about an online exhibition of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries "From Horses to Horsepower: Studebaker Helped Move a Nation." Hopefully you can enjoy this electronic exhibit.

**<http://www.sil.si.edu/ondisplay/studebaker/>**

Colleen Perlman  
Smithsonian Office of Public Affairs

## *Studebaker's Starlight coupes sparkled in 1958. . . . .*

November 21, 2005  
BY DAN JEDLICKA, Auto Reporter  
Chicago Sun Times

The 1958 Studebaker President Starlight coupe is among the most overlooked flashy 1950s cars, complete with four headlights, soaring fins, big chrome grille and a powerful V-8.

The President Starlight coupe and similar, slightly lower-line Commander Starlight coupe lasted only one model year because they came during the last year that Studebaker tried to fully compete with Detroit's Big Three automakers -- General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.

Studebakers then came from the Studebaker division of the Studebaker-Packard Corp. because Studebaker's small size, inefficient plants and costly labor contracts forced it to form an alliance with small, faltering Packard in 1954. Both were old, revered automakers that had fallen on hard times in the early 1950s.

Packard built some of the top luxury cars long before World War II, but lasted only through 1958. Studebaker started as a covered wagon producer in 1852 and first built cars in 1902. It ended U.S.

operations in late 1963 in South Bend, Ind., although it continued to build a few models in Canada until 1966.

Only 1,171 President and 2,555 Commander Starlight coupes were produced, and you probably have to be a member of the national Studebaker club to locate an owner. There also were 1958 President and Commander sedans that sold better than the Starlight coupes but didn't look as flamboyant.

The five-passenger President Starlight coupe originally cost \$2,695, with the Commander at \$2,493. Both now are valued at \$20,900 if in excellent condition. If in average shape, a Starlight coupe is valued at about \$11,000, which is about the base price of the lowest-cost 2006 economy car.

The sportiest 1958 Studebaker was the low-slung, supercharged Golden Hawk coupe, which had 275 horsepower. It wasn't as flashy as the Starlight coupes because it was promoted as a "European-oriented" model and thus didn't have as much 1950s American car glitz. Only 878 Golden Hawks were produced in 1958.

The President Starlight coupe came with the same 289-cubic-inch V-8 as the 275-horsepower Golden Hawk, but didn't have the Hawk's power-boosting supercharger. However, the President Starlight coupe had 225 horsepower, which was more than enough to give it strong acceleration. The Commander Starlight coupe also was lively with its 259.2-cubic inch, 180-horsepower V-8.

The President Starlight coupe (and Golden Hawk) might have had a bigger V-8, but Studebaker didn't have the money to develop a larger engine. The "289" V-8 was derived from the 232.6-cubic-inch, 120-horsepower V-8 that Studebaker unveiled for 1951 models. It was the automaker's first V-8 and was said to share design features with the revolutionary 1949 Cadillac V-8.

Studebaker increased the size of its V-8 to 259.2 cubic inches in 1955 and to 289 cubic inches the following year. But that was it -- Studebaker couldn't make the engine larger without sacrificing reliability. That's why the Golden Hawk got its bolt-on supercharger. The President Starlight didn't get it because Studebaker wanted the Golden Hawk to be its highest-horsepower model.

Still, the President Starlight's V-8 was optional for the Silver Hawk, which was a lower-cost (\$2,352) version of the pricey \$3,282 Golden Hawk.

The President and Commander Starlight coupes doubtlessly stole buyers from the Golden Hawk, which racked up sales of 4,356 cars in 1957 before the Starlight coupes arrived the following year.

The Starlight coupes shared their name with the sensational 1953 Studebaker Starlight coupe, which was supposed to be only a show car. The 1953 coupe was styled under internationally famous designer Raymond Loewy, who convinced Studebaker to make it a production model. The 1953 coupe is widely considered the best 1950s

American auto design. But Studebaker wrongly predicted that most car buyers would want the sedan version of the coupe. Demand for coupes was four times that for the rather frumpy looking sedan, and Studebaker lost sales by switching from sedan to coupe production. Quality also suffered as the automaker rushed to meet coupe demand.

Studebaker made its last big effort to compete with the Big Three in 1956. Its 1953-55 sedans were such a flop that it introduced 1956 models with a conventional square appearance. However, they were loaded with chrome, which was popular in the 1950s, and got a large, Ferrari-style mesh grille similar to the one on the fast-selling 1955 Chevrolet.

High-line 1956 Studebaker sedans, such as the new President Classic, got new side moldings to define their two-tone paint treatments.

However, Studebaker continued to make only two-door station wagons, when most buyers wanted four-door wagons. And it offered no mainstream hardtop coupe models such as the President and Commander Starlight, although hardtops were popular. The Golden Hawk -- derived from the 1953 Studebaker coupe -- was introduced for 1956, but was costly and anything but mainstream.

Only 85,462 Studebaker cars were built in 1956, against 320,884 in 1950, when the post-World War II car market still was hot. Studebaker had little money to upgrade its 1957 and 1958 sedans, but finally managed to add four-door wagons. It also sold bare-bones, low-cost Scotsman sedans and wagons. Studebaker car sales dipped to 74,738 vehicles.

The Starlight coupes finally arrived for 1958 to help Studebaker fill out its model line. They shared a hurriedly designed but fashionable four-headlight front end with the revised 1958 Studebaker sedan. Unfortunately, they debuted during a severe recession year that caused sales of U.S. automakers to plunge. The Scotsman models were well suited for that recession year and did well.

The compact, attractive, roomy Studebaker Lark replaced all Studebaker models except the Silver Hawk in 1959 and was a surprising smash hit. Studebaker may well have collapsed that year without the Lark, which came with an economical six-cylinder engine and two V-8s. Lark prices started at under \$2,000, which helped the car find 131,078 buyers. Studebaker made its first profit in six years.

But Studebaker built no more cars such as the Starlight coupes. Its most sensational 1960s car was its Avanti coupe, which died when Studebaker ended U.S. production. An advanced, European-style car also designed under Loewy, the Avanti's V-8 was the same one used by the 1958 President Starlight coupe. But the cars had nothing else in common -- the President and Commander Starlight coupes belonged to the flashy 1950s.

***Keep Driving those Studebakers!***



# North Star Wheel

C/O 6015 190TH STREET  
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***Another new year for driving your Studebaker. . . .***

## ***FOR SALE, WANTED AND OTHER NOTICES. . . .***

WANTED - Allstate Guardsman 4 ply polyester 7.10 X 15 tire with 3 in. white wall and decent tread. Jim Rock 651-436-2215 (ends May 06)

FOR SALE - 1952 Commander 4 Door. Barn Fresh. Complete. Low rust content. Great interior. Has been garage kept for 20 years. Should be fun to get it going. \$1,000.00. you'll be pleased. It is pretty decent. Come and see it. Henry Votel 651-426-1610 (ends May 06)

FOR SALE - Selling my Studebaker Collection--pins, toys, literature, signs, watches, products. If you want something, I probably have it. I have a list of about 30 pages that I can e-mail to anyone who is interested. I haven't listed any of the literature yet, but have inventoried everything else. Barry Mann, 512-837-5007, bmann10602@yahoo.com (ends May 06)

FOR SALE - Yellow Stude V8 Valve covers \$50. 1951 Tail lamp lens \$100. Trunk lid lock, license plate holder & light \$75. Clutch pedal and hill holder \$75. Bob Parker 651-731-6832. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - Due to health situation. 1952 Starlight Coupe; runs perfect. 1952 Starlight Coupe. Original Owner. New short block 3 yrs ago. 1955 President 4DR, 114,000± miles. 1963 Lark 4 DR 90,000± miles. 1954 Truck. Many other parts. Mary L. Sullivan 507-282-4172. grapevine1214@venturecs.net (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - 1950-51 Studebaker. Florida car. No rust. Champion Coupe. Bullet nose. in excellent condition, 6 cylinder runs great. Best offer over \$10K. Sandy, 727-501-8658, 218-744-3169, 218-262-2117. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - TURNING WHEELS. 1980 to 2003 complete \$325. You pick up or pay shipping. Robert Meyer, 2620 Eleventh Avenue N. W., Rochester, MN 55901-7722. Phone: 507-282-7079. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - Steel Studebaker signs: 1)"STUDEBAKER STREET" white w/black letters, 41 1/2" long x 6" wide. \$25.00 2)"STUDEBAKER ST." green w/white letters, 31 1/2" long x 6" wide \$25.00. Also empty Pepsi cans w/show info from Red Wing Stude Int'l show, have 24 \$1.00 ea. Keith Rust 763-682-1321. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - 1955 Champion 4-DR, documented 44K actual miles, coral/gray/white. Though the fender bottoms and rockers are rusted. The rest of the car is in excellent condition. New plugs are installed and the engine runs. The original decals remain on the engine. The interior of the car is especially nice, as are all the glass and bright work. Seven matching tires/rims are included. I can email several pictures. \$600. Tom 651-426-0535. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

FOR SALE - 1939 Champion coupe. All original, runs & drives. \$5,000.00. 1959 Hawk, w/ 57 289, supercharged. Many nos pieces. Reasonable price. Cars are in Lewiston Mn. Jim 877 932 3862. (ends Mar/Apr 06)

WANTED - Platable Bumper for 1940 Champion. Greg Halek, 763-545-1297, 763-222-3449, (ends Jan/Feb 06)

***Got Stude stuff to sell or you want. . . . Tell the Members!***

North Star Wheel Newsletter, c/o Henry Votel 6015 190th Street, Forest Lake, MN 55025 or email: gudim1@isd.net. For Sale & Wanted Notices will be printed for three (3) consecutive issues. Continuation requests must be initiated by the advertiser before subsequent Newsletter publication deadlines. Emails preferred to gudim1@isd.net or US mail notices to Newsletter. Ads must be received by Newsletter submission deadline which is the 10th of the month. Be sure to detail your descriptions: (for sale or wanted, year, model, body type, etc.)