

The 42nd Annual International SDC Meet

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The 2006 annual SDC International Meet was held in Omaha, Nebraska, September 25th through the 29th. This issue features articles and photos from that event. Roger Verboon and Richard Dormois present recaps of the event; many members have contributed photos. Concours vehicle photos and slideshow were handled by Ann Turner and Evan Severson.

The annual SDC International Meet always begins with a Board of Directors meeting. The minutes of that meeting will be published in next month's *Turning Wheels*.

For those who attended the Omaha meet, here is a chance to relive those autumn days when Studebakers outnumbered all other brands.. If you were unable to attend, we hope you enjoy a vicarious thrill through the photos and reports, and soak up some of the atmosphere, or even recognize a friend or neighbor.



At the annual Board meeting on Monday, September 25th in Omaha:

photo submitted by Edward Burris

**Back row, left to right:**

George Panfilow (proxy for Chris Skinner, International Zone), Carl Thomason (Pacific Southwest Director), Colin Fort (Past President), Art Unger (Pacific Can-Am Director), Larry Swanson (Mississippi Valley Director), Jim Rapp (North Central Director), Ken "Skip" Lackie (Atlantic Director).

**Front row, left to right:**

Dave Dow (proxy for Shelly Zwicker, Northeast Director), Edward Burris (Southeast Director), Brian Millette (SDC Treasurer), Ed Reynolds (SDC President and Crossroads Director), Jan Lockmon (SDC Treasurer), and Richard Dormois (SDC Vice President)

Also attending but not included here: Milton Jones and proxy Dave Lester, South Central Director.

## THE REST OF THE STORY

by Richard Dormois, SDC Vice President

To simply say "Thank You" to the Husker Chapter for their untold hours of dedication to the 42nd SDC International Meet, almost seems trite. To attempt to express appreciation to each of you who contributed to its success would surely leave someone out. Having said that, there are several who made this meet the high priority of their lives for three years and do deserve special recognition. Over three years ago, when Jocelyn Caskey made the decision to present the 2006 SDC International Meet in Omaha, Nebraska, she pretty much already had a full plate. Full time wife, mother and grandmother, quality control trouble shooter for Con Agra Foods, in addition to volunteer at Brookside Church and the Husker SDC Chapter; kept her busier than most ladies we know. Seems like it would be a full time job just taking care of John Caskey.

When the initial plan was formulated several years ago, seeking volunteers was not part of it. Rather, Jocelyn chose

to hand select six people with proven track records for leadership, high integrity, the ability to work in a team environment and the energy to keep up with her. They were drafted and as we now know, served their tour of duty admirably. And they are still friends. Very favorable notice goes to Craig Harm who researched, planned and presented the tours enjoyed by hundreds; John Waddell who handled advertising, publicity and put together material for the meet book; Jim Richter who acted as secretary and treasurer and recorded and distributed planning meeting minutes; John Caskey who organized the swap meet, handled all the vendor applications, assigned spaces and performed magic when more vendors applied than there was space; Frank Van Doorn, the concours chairman who did an admirable job of laying out and supervising the Studebaker exhibition and was also required to perform magic feats when we had more cars than spaces on Thursday morning. Last, but by

no means least, was Roger Verboon who recruited, scheduled, relieved and generally kept happy, the large cadre of volunteers needed for such a beautiful, well managed, Studebaker extravaganza.

Of course appreciation is sincere and well deserved for each of you, within and without the Husker Chapter, who answered the call when volunteers were needed to staff the many positions it took to make the event run smoothly. I saw some of you working all six days of the meet. You may be interested to know that the vast majority of those completing the Meet Survey checked EXCELLENT as their overall impression of the 2006 meet. That means a lot.

To Jocelyn Caskey, from the Officers and Board of Directors and the International Meet Committee, thank you for your sacrifices, your patience and for making us very proud of our organization.

# Omaha as Center of the Studebaker Universe

by Roger Verboon

Over two years in the making, the 42nd Annual Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet is now behind us. It was a major event for our relatively small chapter. We set out to do a good job and have fun. We feel we succeeded at both.

For some of us in the Husker Chapter, going to meets is a pretty regular thing; helping organize one is something some of us have even helped with over the years. But for most of us this was the first International SDC meet attended, let alone hosted. It was definitely a process with new tasks to learn and/or new skills to acquire.

We learned, for example, that an International Meet is a substantial financial undertaking. While SDC was helpful, issues of cash flow kept coming up. From the earliest promotional items (shirts, pins and calendars) to the final payments for the tours and events, keeping track of our accounting was a must.

Luckily, SDC and the International Meet Committee handled the hotel arrangements. That had to be brutal! Most of the organizing on our part, however, was fun. Deciding and coordinating the tours, designing the

photo by John Cosby



photo by Desi Souder

shirts and pins, taking pictures for the calendars were all fun projects.

Even for the regulars in our chapter who have enjoyed attending International meets for a number of years, either as a participant or maybe as a vendor, the 42nd Annual in Omaha was experienced from a new angle: that of host.

Mark Wheeler at the registration desk.

photo by Desi Souder



At each meet you get to see old friends and make a few new ones. As host, you don't have as much time to visit with people you have gotten to know over the years or much time to make new friends. Making sure things got done like rooms being available, vendors situated, guests registered, vehicles parked, tours leaving on time, sales of shirts, pins and ice cream, and overall just making sure our guests felt welcome, was a full-time task. Our mission statement was that no job was too large or too small, no question too silly to ensure the enjoyment of all our guests.

Despite the flurry of activity, having our Studebaker friends come to Omaha was an experience none of us would have wanted to miss.

We started setting up the hotel reception area on Sunday morning just in time for our first guests

photo by Evan Severson



Roger Verboon



photo by John Cosby

to arrive. We were constantly braced for an onslaught of guests to overwhelm our registration desk but, despite their record number, someone was looking out for us and had guests come in regularly and steadily over four days. We never had a significant line.

Mark and Jen were fantastic to work with. They were not only available but also extremely flexible. All their pre-registration work made our lives a lot easier.

Briefly, a few final numbers: 649 registrations accounting for 1,246 people from 7 countries and 3 continents and

352 vehicles of which 213 were judged. Quite impressive.

Although it was nice to have all the activities so close together around the hotel, the hotel itself was a bit difficult to navigate. The building consists of a series of constructions that had occurred over the years. The hallways are long and, if you weren't paying attention,

you could walk around in circles for a while before finding a particular event or room. The most frequently asked question of the whole week of the meet was "Where is the Omaha Room?"

The Studebaker Band was fantastic. The Wednesday night concert and the concours performance on Thursday were both superb. The concert was well received, not only because of their magnificent rendition of



photo by Desi Souder

Part of the vendor areas, outside and inside at the host hotel.

photo by John Cosby



photo by Ann Turner



photo by Art Unger





The Meguiar's seminar attracted a crowd.

photo by Evan Severson

to give a first-rate show. Their pre-show teaser in the parking lot complete with their bright yellow, bubble-blowing '51 sedan may have helped draw in the crowd. Whatever the reason, everyone seemed to have lots of fun and they even laughed at Jim Richter's jokes. We received a lot of compliments on the quiz and lots of requests for instructions on how to replicate it at other chapters' events. The goal of doing the quiz was not only to entertain our guest from around the world, but also to honor the creator



photo by Desi Souder

Sousa, but also because the band was up on a stage and the audience was comfortably seated. Apparently, all of the indoor concerts in the past were in a hallway with no seating for the audience. This is a good point to remember for future meets: the location for the band and seating for an audience greatly improves the enjoyment of what these marvelous musicians have to offer.

We experienced a large crowd at Fun Night, perhaps because it was the first time the function has been free in a long while or perhaps because we had the Calhouns on tap

photo by John Cosby



and quiz master himself: Dick Orr. Dick and Martha-Ann are long time SDC members who have been delighting us with the quiz held annually for nearly twenty years.

After several premium items were raffled off as door prizes the tables remained loaded with goodies. The crowd enjoyed the "Oklahoma Land Rush" approach to the tables when we called everyone who had a ticket that ended in a particular number to run up and grab a prize.

The Meguiar's detailing seminar started slowly with only a small group of people, but at the end there were more than a hundred Studebaker owners gathered around and asking questions.

I'm sure those attending came away with a better understanding of vehicle detailing.

The 42nd Studebaker Drivers Club International Meet was likely the largest single automotive event (other than



photo by John Cosby



photo by Desi Souder

the new car shows) to have happened in Omaha in years (or decades) and the local media reflected that with a prominent article in the automotive section of the *Omaha World-Herald*, a spot on the Fox 42 News on Wednesday night and mention on the KFAB Morning Show both on Thursday and Friday.

Media coverage or not, Studebaker mania was the norm. All week long, there were Studebaker sightings all around town. Friends and co-workers called me during the week to tell me about the Studebaker they had seen. Every day, I was either following or being followed by a Studebaker. My daughters, who are hostesses at Outback Steakhouse, were able to impress dining SDC members and co-workers by recognizing the cars.

Other lasting impressions of the week for us were: tables full of people eating, visiting and laughing in the hospitality/registration area; long lines of mature people crowding and pushing to get their free ice cream bar after

Welcome Night.; Champ and Transtar Bar, and Coupe Express Sandwich ice cream being sold by a bunch of cute girls; people lost in the hallways; a lone security guard walking among a sea of Studebakers at night; the absolute delight of the centerpiece winners; the beautiful fall colors in the banquet room; the great help from volunteers from other chapters, and the most frequently asked question of the meet: "Where is the Omaha Room?"

A lasting impression for my two girls, Hayley and Hannah, was the ride to Starbucks in the rumble seat of a 1929 Roadster. The hot chocolate they

were treated to was just icing on the cake!

As volunteer coordinator I know firsthand that it was made possible by all the hard working volunteers (local chapter and not) who gave up personal time to help.

For the SDCers who couldn't attend or for those who forgot we still have meet shirts, t-shirts and mugs for sale; please e-mail Jocelyn Caskey to get more information at [jjjpcaskey@aol.com](mailto:jjjpcaskey@aol.com).

Any communication from me would not be complete without a "Lost and Found" item. The hearing-aid and dentures were returned to their rightful owners during the meet, but we still have a camera. It was left in Tommy Karkiewicz's bus. To get more information on the camera, also e-mail Jocelyn Caskey at [jjjpcaskey@aol.com](mailto:jjjpcaskey@aol.com).

To reminisce, or see what you missed, go to the Studebaker Drivers Club website and look at all the pictures.

Overall, we think history will point to "Truckin' to Omaha" as a success. Since the meet, we have received

a number of e-mails and comments that the 42nd Annual was one of the finest International Studebaker Meets attended. Here are some of those comments:

1. First of all, we both want to compliment you and your chapter for the great job you all did in hosting the International Meet. All your hard work paid off with a great time had by many, many people. Great Meet, Great People, really enjoyed ourselves.
  2. I have never heard so many wonderful comments about the Studebaker Band at an international meet. The Sousa marches were superb. Two great performances!
  3. All of your two and a half years of planning has paid off. You put on a GREAT meet for everyone to enjoy. Good Job.
  4. The Husker Chapter can be justifiably proud of hosting the finest International Meet I have attended. That's not just my view, but of many with whom I have communicated across the country these past three weeks.
  5. Welcome Night and Fun night were very well received by all those who attended and lots of fun. The banquet was great as the food came on time and the speakers kept their comments short so the awards could be presented in a timely manner.
  6. Just about everyone we have talked with at the meet and afterwards made the comment that it was so nice to have everything in one place. The parking lot right outside the hotel with all the cars and the swap vendors was a plus for everyone we talked to. Also having other hotels very close by helped out a lot when the Holiday Inn got full. Also the fact that it was so easy to find from Interstate 80 was a plus.
  7. All your chapter members were very pleasant and always very helpful when someone needed help. The hotel staff were also very cordial whenever they met you in the halls.
  8. Acres of Studebakers gleaming in the sun, lots and lots of beautiful trucks.
  9. About yer FAB meet, BIG JOB, WELL DONE!!
  - 10 I just did the one tour, to SAC and Smith's "collection" - what an understatement THAT was!!
- We all look forward to visiting with folks next year in South Bend.