

California 2003 - The 39th International Meet

by Diane Glew, meet chair

Some like it hot, and it was hot! It was over 100 degrees in Sacramento every day, but that didn't stop a large crowd of people and their Studebakers from attending the International Meet at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, California in June.

It was a week full of fun, adventures and challenges. The Sequoia Chapter hosted the meet with help from Karel Staple Chapter, Kern County Chapter, Beach Cities Inland Empire Chapter, Orange Empire Chapter and Grand Canyon State Chapter. Studebaker spirit is all about helping each other, and that happened this week, where members jumped in and helped out when needed.

The highlights of the week were all the fabulous Studebakers that came from all over the United States and Canada. Caravans came from the north, east and south. Those who drove cross-country without air conditioning should be praised.

Throughout the week, 551 families registered. We were amazed with 172 walk-in registrations. Over 300 families stood in line Sunday afternoon to pick up their registration packets. It was quite a sight to see the line snaking through the lobby and at times out the front door.

Special events during the week started with the Ice Cream Social hosted by Studebakers West. At the Monday evening Welcome Party, the Sacramento Banjo Band provided outstanding entertainment and was the entertainment highlight of the week. Everyone participated with the sing along including the theme song for the meet "California Here We Come". The Ladies Tea was very eloquent with each attendee receiving a souvenir teacup and saucer as a remembrance. The Thursday night General Business meeting and Auction



Photo by Rick Peterson

yielded over \$6000, which was the largest amount ever made at an SDC auction. The highlight of Fun Night was a performance by the Studebaker Blues Band. The Awards banquet was well attended, and a slide show projected the winning cars, including the 400 point M5 pickup owned by Dean Carlson.



Photo by John Cosby

The registration desk was kept very busy.



Photo by Ann Turner

Board of Directors meeting, Monday, June 23, 2003.



Photo by John Cosby

Relaxing and visiting in The Hospitality Room.



Photo by Rick Peterson



Photo by John Cosby



Photo by Rick Peterson

There were 12 tours, highlighting Napa, San Francisco, Sacramento City, Lake Tahoe and the most popular tour of the week the Sacramento River Boat Cocktail cruise.

The Hospitality Room, held in the Presidential Suite, was so popular that a line formed morning and

afternoon to gain entrance. The California Style Hospitality Room layout included breakfast goodies, luncheon sandwiches, sodas, homemade cookies and treats. A special afternoon offering—Torani Soda Bar, an Italian favorite, was served. It was one place where members could escape the heat and socialize.

Ten seminars were offered with everything from “Superchargers” to “How to Detail Your Car.”

A hub of activity in the inside vending rooms and the outside swap meet area led to buyers finding what they needed from an extraordinary selection of parts. All the vendors were very pleased with their sales.



Photo courtesy Jim Pepper

Technical seminar.



Photo by Rick Peterson

The buffet at the Welcome Party.



Photo by Rick Peterson

The Sacramento Banjo Band entertained at the Welcome Party.



Photo by Rick Peterson

On Concours Day 176 cars were judged including every model from a 1905 horse drawn buggy to a 1990 Avanti. The biggest classes were pre-war cars, modified-Studebaker powered and modified non-Studebaker powered. Among the unusual cars entered were a 1935 Land Cruiser, two Studebaker fire engines, a weasel and some very large trucks.

Thanks to all the California 2003 meet committee chairmen and workers. We did a great job. We look forward to seeing you all in North Carolina.



Photo by Rick Peterson

The Studebaker Blues Band entertained at the Fun Night.



Photos by Rick Peterson

Displays in the Memorabilia Room.

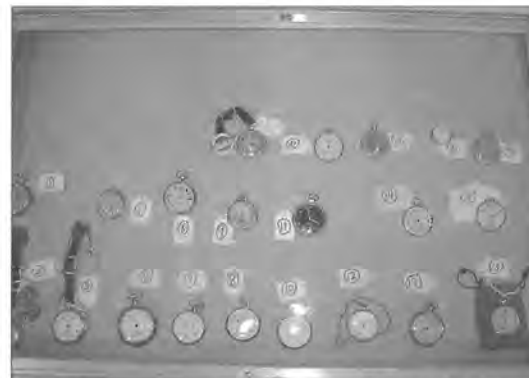


Photo by Rick Peterson

This watches display was one of many to be viewed in the Memorabilia Room.



Photo by Rick Peterson

Kolton Kroulik and a Studebaker Wagon



Sharing the spotlight at last year's SDC International Meet in Sacramento were related clubs ASC (Antique Studebaker Club) and AOAI (Avanti Owners Association International). Both had good attendance and the combination was a treat for all attendees with such a variety of Studebakers on display. Event organizers from these three groups are to be commended for working together for the ultimate benefit of all Studebaker fans. The SDC International Meet later this year in Charlotte will again feature a similar arrangement, all the more enticement for everyone to attend.