

March 2025

# Studebaker

## SPARKPLUG

*The Official Newsletter of*

Beach Cities Orange Inland Empire



Studebaker Drivers Club



### Chapter Information

BCOIE Chapter Meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each month at:  
**Polly's Pies 18132 Imperial Highway, Yorba Linda, CA 714-572-9679 ~ at 4:30 pm**

**\*\*\* Please bring cash for purchases to pay the chapter, so the chapter can pay the bill with one check. \*\*\***

For additional information please contact any chapter officer or check the calendar of events in each newsletter or on our website.

**BCOIE Chapter membership is \$20.00 per year**, due January 1<sup>st</sup>. You *must* be a member of the National Studebaker Drivers Club prior to joining any Chapter. Please mail your dues promptly to:

**Debbie Stockey – Membership**  
**17410 Golden Maple Lane**  
**Yorba Linda, CA 92886**

**Newsletter Information** - The Studebaker Sparkplug is the official publication of the BCOIE Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club, Inc. For ads or classifieds contact the editor listed below.

### BCOIE Chapter Officers

<b>Elected</b>	President	Rosiland Metzker	714-315-8292	roldstudes@earthlink.net
	Vice President	Jonni Elmore	951-545-2664	elmorejonni@gmail.com
	Secretary / Sunshine	Dee Gruver	562-946-2249	cwgruverconst@aol.com
	Treasure / Membership	Debbie Stockey	714-524-7965	debizoo@aol.com
<b>Appointed</b>	Newsletter Editor / Webmaster	Dan Scott	818-558-1791	dansct@sbcglobal.net
	Facebook Administrator	Jim Studebaker	949-235-4707	jstudebaker5@gmail.com

### Pacific Southwest Zone Officers

<b>Elected</b>	Zone Director	Ed Smith	602-290-1045	edcollects@gmail.com
	Zone Coordinator	Dan Scott	818-558-1791	dansct@sbcglobal.net
<b>Appointed</b>	Regional Manager - Calif. South	Catherine Chen	310-431-8179	CatherineLchen@gmail.com

**SDC Website:**      <https://studebakerdriversclub.com/>

**BCOIE Website:**    <https://www.studebakersocal.com/>

**BCOIE Facebook:**   <https://www.facebook.com/BCOIESOCAL>

**BCOIE Instagram:**   <https://www.instagram.com/bcoiechapter/>



## President's Message Rosiland Metzker



Hope everyone had a great February, and I hope this message finds everyone doing well. February was not only a time to celebrate Valentine's Day but was also "National Heart Awareness" month. Many of us have love ones with heart issues and so thankful for the medical progress that have been made in this field. I wore a lot of red in February.

What a wonderful meeting we had in February. La Palma will be on Sunday, September 28, 2025, due to the new build out of the park and they have started working on it. Our Vice President, Jonni Elmore, will be communicating our 2025 calendar of events as they are finalized. Remember the Los Angeles Chapter Classic Car Show on April 6.

Jack Weber will be taking his 1957 President to an event I received a request for. It is a 1950's car event in April. They are only having 6-7 cars, all different makes for this event and would love to have a Studebaker. Have a great March and see you at the next meeting.

Respectively, Rosiland

## Meeting Minutes



Meeting minutes for BCOIEC Chapter – February 8, 2025  
The following members were in attendance: Jack & Fay Weber, John & Rosiland Metzker, Bud & Dee Gruver, Don & Jeri Cox, Jeanne Ertel, Sam & Cheryl Wheeler, Jack & Debbie Stockey and Dennis & Jonni Elmore.

**PRESIDENT** Rosiland Metzker called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Members joined in the Pledge to the Flag. The President welcomed all members.

**SECRETARY** Dee Gruver reported that the January minutes were printed in the February newsletter. Membership voted to approve minutes as printed.

**TREAS/MEMBERSHIP** Debbie Stockey reported the current financial information.

Membership report shows 17 paid members to date. **Please bring your 2025 membership up to date.** Motion to accept the report as given was made and approved.

**V-PRESIDENT** Jonni Elmore reported the following club events have been scheduled as follows:

**April 6** – LA Chapter Annual Car Show

**May 10** - Tour of Nixon Library followed by meeting at Polly's

**July 13** - Sunday – annual picnic at Yorba Regional Park

**Sept. 13** - Drive Your Studebaker Day at Polly's

**Sept. 28** - Annual La Palma Meet

**Dec. 13** - Christmas Party at Polly's at 4 p.m.

Information on future events will be reported when scheduled.

**OLD BUSINESS:** La Palma plans are progressing. The treasurer reported that the park fee for the 2025 La Palma Meet is \$1,376.00. The registration fee is set at \$40.00.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Dee Gruver, Secretary



*From the desk of the editor*  
Dan Scott

Greetings, fellow Studebaker Nuts. One of my latest projects involves the history of the **Muppet Movie Car**, the one in the National Studebaker Museum. What caught my interest was when I heard it was donated by a Father & Son who were members of our Chapter, but that was it, no further information. The members, Richard & Phyllis Holcomb, along with their son, Stan, were those chapter members. Unfortunately, Richard & Phyllis passed but Stan is doing well in Texas and was able and willing to tell me several interesting facts.

While the car is being restored in North Carolina, I'll continue to dig into the past. I've also located the gentleman who worked for the movie production company and procured the 3 Studebakers used in the film.

Stan told me that they showed the Muppet Stude at one car show in Orange County in the 1980's. Does anyone remember or better yet, have a photo?

Anyone remember and have stories about the Holcomb's?

Anyone have any knowledge of the Muppet Studebakers?

Stay tuned for more as I uncover the history of the most famous Studebaker in our Chapter's past.

## Members Monthly Adventures

Last month I brought you the profile of members Jim and Pam Watts, of San Clemente and their car collection. This month we'll bring you *the rest of the story*. Member and Facebook Administrator, Jim Studebaker, posted the following on the Chapter's Facebook Page. For you "non-Facebookers" here's what you missed.

### South OC Cars and Coffee - Published by Jim Studebaker

We had a great morning with three BCOIE SDC chapter members bringing their cars out Saturday morning! A beautiful SoCal morning to share three Studebaker classics amongst the hundreds of cars that gather weekly. **Jim and Julie Studebaker** shared their 1966 Daytona Sport, **Don Eades** shared his 1955 President and **Jim and Pam Watts** shared their 1953 Commander. After the show, we got to see Jim and Pam's collection of cars and motorcycles including an open-wheel Studebaker race car! It was a great morning talking to the visiting car enthusiasts as we shared our Studebakers and some history on the brand! Thanks to Simon who hosts the amazing weekly South OC Cars and Coffee for stopping by and talking a bit about our cars in his wrap up **video post**... check it out and you'll see the Studebakers at the 15:10 min mark! (click here) <https://youtu.be/d6pd7BP2QII?si=cHSWftlgcXy6HCPI>

Also, thanks to member **Neil Butterbaugh** for coming out to say hello, we look forward to seeing his '62 Lark one day!









*The Grand National Roadster Show* made its annual appearance at the Pomona Fairgrounds, and it didn't disappoint. Beautiful cars that the owners spared no expense on including one Studebaker. The super clean 1963 Avanti R2 owned by San Diego County Chapter President, **Keith Wahl** (left). Check out the sign I designed for Keith (below, right).



## BCOIE Calendar



Sunday, April 6th	40th Annual Los Angeles Meet 9-am - 2pm Bob's Big Boy, Northridge
Sunday, July 13th	Members meeting and Our Annual Picnic, Yorba Regional Park. Further details to follow
September 13th	Members meeting @ 4:30pm "DRIVE YOUR STUDEBAKER!"
September 16 – 20th	The 61st Annual SDC International Meet - Washington County, Pennsylvania
September 28th	La Palma Car Show and Swap Meet, La Palma Park, Anaheim – 8:00am – 3:00pm
December 13th	Members meeting & "Our Annual Christmas Party!" @ 4:30pm 18132 Imperial Hwy. Yorba Linda



## Attention Members – Can you Help?

Our Chapter was contacted by *Bert Van Rossen of Belgium* who is looking to test drive a post 1983 Avanti while he's on vacation in So Cal. It's his favorite car and he would like to see one up close, since there aren't any in Belgium. **He'll be in So Cal from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>.** If you know of a "Rubber Bumper" Avanti, please reach out to a Studebaker loving friend from

Belgium at [bert@van-rossen.be](mailto:bert@van-rossen.be) Bert's dream Avanti would be a 1983 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition.



## 10 Best - Engine Oil for Classic Cars

*Written by Matt Lane, Updated August 10, 2023*

Owning a vintage auto is a joy, but they need special maintenance, as in the oil to protect the engine. What are the ten best engine oils for classic cars?

The motor oil that might have worked in your father's day is just not the same as the kinds of oil many consumers use in their engines today. The last thing you want to do is use a type of oil unsuitable for your older model car, creating unnecessary aggravation for your engine down the road. What kinds of oil are best for a classic car? What about a car with a flat tappet? Is there much difference? Is it all right to use a synthetic? As you can see, there are lots of questions!

**Some of the ten best engine oils for classic cars are -**

- **Castrol GTX Part-Synthetic High Mileage**
- **Aero Shell Oil W100 Plus**
- **Z-ROD® 20W-50 Synthetic Motor Oil**
- **Lucas Oil SAE 10W-40 Hot Rod Motor Oil 3X1/5Q**
- **Valvoline VR1 Racing 20W-50 Motor Oil**
- **Shell Rotella Synthetic Blend 15W-40 Diesel**

As you already know, regular oil changes are the lifeblood of any motor. Keeping on top of the fluids, oil, coolant, and the like can mean the difference between cruising and throwing a rod. You should know certain things before you start unbolting the oil pan plug. Because the engine is the heart of any vintage vehicle, it will pay dividends to know what kind, how much, and how to check on it between changes.

If you are as obsessed with every detail of your classic car as we are, then you will want to have some answers to the basics of oil in a vintage automobile.

### **Why Does the Right Oil for a Classic Car Even Matter?**

There is no question that older vehicles have special needs. While the internal combustion engine was a scientific marvel with many advancements over the years, it was still nothing like the motors that power vehicles today.

The most important thing about using oil in an engine is using the right thickness, or viscosity, for your particular car's engine. Using too thin oil will not have the weight to carry away the debris or prevent heat from the building, and an



overly thick oil will just get clogged and not flow freely through your engine, causing your motor to work harder. The owner's manual that comes with your car can help you determine the weight of the oil that your car needs.

Many classic cars have engines fitted with flat-tappet camshafts and, in particular, engines that include high-tension valve springs (Most V8 muscle cars before 1975) need a zinc additive called ZDDP (Zinc dialkyldithiophosphate). The additive prevents corrosion and premature engine wear. Over the past few decades, the EPA has significantly reduced the amount of ZDDP in motor oil to prevent the damage that high zinc levels can create in catalytic converters. Unfortunately, many classic car owners have damaged their engines' longevity by using oils without enough zinc and phosphorus additives to protect their investment.

**For details on each brand, click here:** <https://www.junkyardmob.com/cars/best-engine-oil-classic>



## Aunt Bee's Last Studebaker

By Bob Palma, Updated March 22, 2024

Have you ever met anyone who didn't like *The Andy Griffith Show*? If so, did they seek counsel and treatment for their affliction? It would be warranted. The show aired from October 1960 through April 1968, a span of almost eight years that encompassed 249 half-hour episodes of life in the fictitious small town of Mayberry, North Carolina, loosely based on Andy Griffith's Mt. Airy, North Carolina, hometown. Andy Griffith played the role of widowed Sheriff Andy Taylor, assisted by his bumbling but well-intentioned deputy, Barney Fife, played by Don Knotts. Andy and his son Opie (played by a young Ron Howard) lived with Andy's Aunt Bee, played by actress Frances Bavier.



And speaking of Ms. Bavier, did you know she was a life-long Studebaker customer? She was!

Ms. Bavier passed away December 6, 1989 at her home in Siler City, North Carolina. At the time of her death, she still owned the last new Studebaker she ever bought, a 1966 Studebaker Daytona two-door Sports Sedan. Although it had



deteriorated somewhat from not being driven as they both aged, the car exists today, having been purchased from her estate in 1990 by a Studebaker enthusiast.

"Aunt Bee's" 1966 Studebaker was a six-cylinder Daytona, identified as model 66S-F8 on this Retail Sale Card from The Studebaker National Museum. Before the 1981 model year standardized 17-digit Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs), vehicles had simple Serial Numbers. Note that Ms. Bavier's car carried Serial Number C131698.

The car's Production Order indicates it was Algonquin Green with a black vinyl top, the same color combination as the 1966 Daytona Sports Sedan featured in the 1966 Studebaker full-line brochure. Her Daytona, however, had a black vinyl bucket seat interior, rather than the white vinyl interior in the brochure car.

\*\*\* Photos of France Bavier's Studebaker (above and below) were taken at Denton Farmpark, Denton, NC



Ms. Bavier's 1966 Daytona was built on October 18, 1965, but records indicate it remained unsold and in stock at Johnson Motor Sales in Santa Barbara, California, when Studebaker discontinued automobile production on March 17, 1966. (South Bend, Indiana, Studebaker production ended on December 31, 1963. The remaining production of model year 1964 automobiles and all 1965 and 1966 Studebakers were assembled in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.)

The Retail Sale Card indicates she bought the car from the largest Studebaker dealer on the west coast, Frost & French in Los Angeles. Unsubstantiated rumor has it that Frost & French went up and down the west coast buying leftover new Studebakers from smaller, marginal dealers after production ceased in Hamilton. The principals at Frost & French (including then-owner W. L. Bibens, who sold Ms. Bavier her Daytona) must have thought they had a good customer base who would want to buy one last new Studebaker now that passenger vehicle production was truly coming to an end.



Frances Bavier was one of those customers. She didn't buy her Daytona until June 14, 1966, almost three months after the last Studebaker had been built. It is known that she was driving a 1962 Studebaker Lark at the time, so she may have wanted to replace it, although she apparently did not trade it in.

Regardless, she knew Studebaker was out of business. In fact, in a November 6, 1972, letter to a Studebaker Drivers Club member in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, she testified, "I've driven Studebakers for 40 years —all kinds, all models — and no other car. Watching the pictures of the closing of the factory, I did indeed weep!"

Ms. Bavier, as Aunt Bee, may be seen driving her 1966 Studebaker Daytona in at least one *Mayberry R.F.D.* episode, the show that continued the Mayberry theme after *The Andy Griffith Show* ceased production. The episode entitled "The Mynah Bird" has extensive footage of her in the car... and since it is in color, the car's hues are apparent.

Frances Bavier's gravestone reads, "To live in the hearts of those left behind is not to die." Those are good thoughts for today. Regarding "Aunt Bee's" preferred automobiles, as the late Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story."



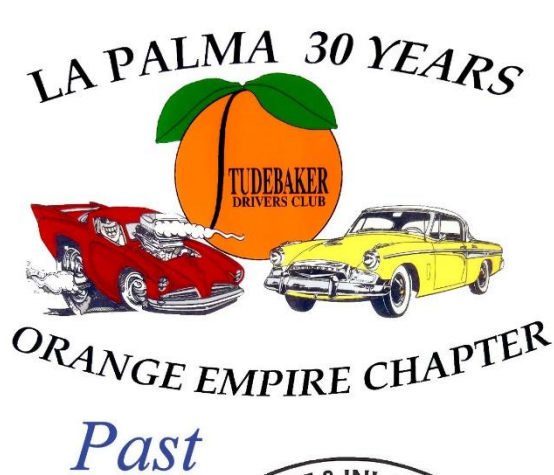
Photo above is France's 1966 Studebaker in the *Mayberry RFD* episode "The Mynah Bird" that aired April 13, 1970, on CBS, available to view here on [Dailymotion](#).



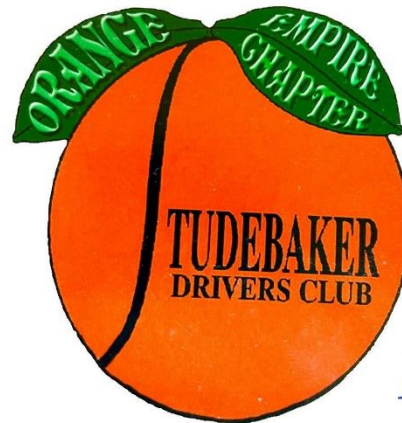
## Past, Present and Future

I'm working on compiling an article on the history of our chapter. I've spoken to several veteran members and will be speaking to more as I document the history. If you have any articles, logos or photos from the past, please send them my way. To get us started, check out the collection below. **The circular logo (bottom left) is a new one. If you have and thoughts on it vs the current logo, please let me know and I'll forward your responses to the board.**

### Beach Cities - Orange - Inland Empire



*A Blast from the Past!!!*



*Present*

*Alternate or Future?*



*Happy Birthday & Anniversary to our March Members.  
Enjoy your special day!!!*

**Birthdays**

Sam Wheeler (3/7)  
Cheryl Wheeler (3/8)  
Jim Studebaker (3/8)  
Tammy Fawcett (3/14)  
John Gordon (3/17)

**Anniversaries**

John & Rosiland Metzker (3/2)  
Stan & Pearl Haveriland (3/3)  
Julie Emerson & Randy Ema (3/7)



*May your day be as bright and shiny as a brand new Studebaker*



Los Angeles Chapter  
*Presents*



Los Angeles Chapter  
**TUDEBAKER**  
Drivers Club

40th Annual  
*Classic*



**Big Boy**




**STUDEBAKER**  
*Car Show*

Sunday, April 6, 2025 ~ 9 am - 2 pm  
8876 Corbin Ave., Northridge, CA

Download Registration Forms at: [www.studebakersla.com](http://www.studebakersla.com)

*Benedict Castle*  
**CONCOURS**  
*Celebrating the Legacy &  
Art of the Automobile*



**MAY 18, 2025**  
*Benedict Castle, Riverside, CA*

[www.benedictcastleconcours.com/car-registration/](http://www.benedictcastleconcours.com/car-registration/)

Registration forms are available on their website.

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



**For Sale - 1954 Studebaker Champion**

[https://www.studebakersocal.com/BCOIE\\_ForSale.htm](https://www.studebakersocal.com/BCOIE_ForSale.htm)





## Tech Tips - Batteries 101

By Jim McKeever  
& Karen McKeever  
San Joaquin Valley Chapter, SDC

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 grouping designations given to batteries. Their website, [batteryCouncil.org](http://batteryCouncil.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 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.)*






*51<sup>st</sup> Annual* **La Palma**  
**STUDEBAKER**  
*Car Show & Swap Meet*  
Sunday, September 28, 2025


*Registration Open*  
[Click here for forms](#)




*The History of Studebaker*




Presented by the  
BCOIE Chapter of the  
Studebaker Drivers Club





1852 - 1966  
**STUDEBAKER**  
Different by Design



“The History of the Studebaker” (above) was created for members of the chapter to use to educate young adults or groups about the automobile manufacturer we all love. You can view it on YouTube by clicking on the photo above or [HERE](#). The same video is available via PowerPoint through the editor (Dan Scott).

★ **2025 Membership is Due** ★  
**Please submit your form and \$20 ASAP**  
★ ★ **Don't delay!!!** ★ ★

Forms available here and on our website... [www.studebakersocal.com](http://www.studebakersocal.com)

*Until next month... Happy Studebakering*





## BCOIE Chapter Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays (All family members): \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Studebaker(s) Owned: (If additional space is needed, used back of application)

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES NOTE:** You must be a member of the **Studebaker Drivers Club**.

**Member #** \_\_\_\_\_ (Studebaker Drivers Club application form is available on this website)

**New Members** - Referred to BCOIE by: \_\_\_\_\_

**BCOIE dues:** \$20 per Family Annually ~ Make Check payable: **BCOIE Membership**

**Print and Mail to:**  
**Debbie Stockey**  
**c/o BCOIE Membership**  
**17410 Golden Maple Lane**  
**Yorba Linda, CA 92886-5196**



*Mark your Calendar!!!*



*~ May 10, 2025 ~*

# **Richard Nixon Library Tour**

## **Yorba Linda, CA**

***Details to follow...***

