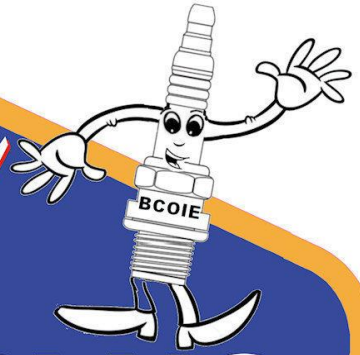


December 2024

Studebaker

SPARKPLUG

The Official Newsletter of



Beach Cities Orange Inland Empire



Studebaker Drivers Club



Merry Christmas



BCOIE Chapter

Beach Cities • Orange • Inland Empire

Chapter Information

The BCOIE Chapter Meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each month at:

New Location - 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.

Dues: Chapter dues are \$20.00 annually. Dues are payable January 1st of each year.

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

Elected	President	Sam Wheeler	909-957-3175	wheelersam@verizon.net
	Vice President	Rosiland Metzker	714-315-8292	roldstudes@earthlink.net
	Secretary / Sunshine	Dee Gruver	562-458-9992	cwgruverconst@aol.com
	Treasure / Membership	Debbie Stockey	714-524-7965	debizoo@aol.com
Appointed	Newsletter Editor / Webmaster	Dan Scott	818-558-1791	dansct@sbcglobal.net
	Facebook Editor	Jim Studebaker	949-235-4707	jstudebaker5@gmail.com

Pacific Southwest Zone Officers

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

SDC Website: www.studebakerdriversclub.com

BCOIE Website: www.studebakersocal.com

BCOIE Facebook: fb.me/BCOIESOCAL



President's Message Sam Wheeler



Greeting Everyone, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Christmas shopping and Christmas parties will soon fill our calendar. Our chapter's Christmas party is on December 15th at 4:00. Hope to see everyone there.

It's been a pleasure serving you as President.

Meeting Minutes BCOIE Chapter



Meeting minutes for BCOIEC Chapter November 9, 2024
Following members were in attendance: John & Rosiland Metzker, Jack & Debbie Stockey, Bud & Dee Gruver, Dennis & Jonni Elmore, Sam Wheeler, Jim Studebaker, Juan & Rebeca Lopez, Don Eades, Patrick Eades & Sandy Eades.

PRESIDENT: The meeting was called to order by President Sam Wheeler at 4:45 pm. All joined in the flag salute.

SECRETARY: Dee Gruver reported that the minutes from the October meeting were printed in the last newsletter. Motion to accept as printed was made by Debbie Stockey, Seconded by Rosiland Metzker. Motion approved.

TREAS/MEMBERSHIP: Debbie Stockey reported finances are current and accounted for. The membership report shows 42 paid members. Motion to accept both reports was made and approved.

V-PRESIDENT: Rosiland Metzker reported the following upcoming events:

Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 15 at 4 pm. At Polly's Pies. Please confirm the new location & address.

Reminder – Exchange gifts are to be at least \$25.00 value. Men's gifts to be wrapped in green, Ladies gifts in red.

OLD BUSINESS: La Palma Meet may not be in May due to the City of Anaheim's Park renovations not being completed until mid-summer of 2025. New dates are being considered.

NEW BUSINESS: November is the regular scheduled election of the board for the next year, 2025. The slate of nominees from the October meeting were as follows:

President - Rosiland Metzker
Vice President - Jonni Elmore
Treasurer/Membership - Debbie Stockey
Secretary - Dee Gruver

With no nominees from the floor a motion to accept the slate as presented was made by Debbie Stockey, seconded by Don Eades. Motion was approved.

Members were happy with the new meeting location of Polly's Pies.

TECH TALK: Jim Studebaker reported attending a car show at Veteran's Park that day with his Studebaker, the interest of spectators shows the importance of showing our cars.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Gruver, Secretary

 *From the desk of the editor...*
Dan Scott

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. The older we get, the faster each year passes. Looking back on 2024 from a Studebaker perspective brought several changes, mainly a new engine (Studebaker 259) and Turner disc brakes. Both of which brought added joy to the driving experience. After all, we are members of a Drivers Club, not a Garage Queen Club.

That said, let's all try to get our cars out on the road more often. Hopefully, as mentioned a couple of months ago, we can get some club members out to the Hot August Nights Classic Cars Show in Perris, next summer.

If you have any thoughts on new events, let me know and I'll help get the word out. How about a Cruise through Wine Country or to Idlewild or another destination?

Those of you who are getting your car out to shows of cruise nights, please share photos with the chapter. I'm sure more than a couple of us are showing off our cars, so please send photos and/or a quick story about your experience.

Congratulations and thanks to **Jim Studebaker**, our new Facebook Editor. Jim's assisting me with our FB Page and he has some great ideas, stay tuned for more updates.

BCOIE Chapter
Christmas Party



Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Polly's Pies

18132 Imperial Hwy., Yorba Linda, CA 714-572-9679

RSVP - Debbie Stockey debizoo@aol.com 714-496-8856

*Men's Gifts
wrapped in Green*



*Ladies Gifts
wrapped in Red*

Gift Value, \$25 minimum



What if *Elon Musk* had been born more than a century earlier as a member of the Studebaker family? Young *Elon* might have changed the shape of wagons.

Photo (left) courtesy of Tim Palmer, Studebaker Addicts (international) on Facebook.



The Pink Panther was the only Studebaker at the Cerritos Sheriffs' Station's Annual Haunted Car Show. The show included approximately 90 cars, all decorated to scare and entertain. My theme, of course, was Elvis returning from the grave. It was extremely popular, even to those who could be overheard asking if Elvis really owned a Studebaker.



Another "new" car show, was the first VFW Veterans Car Show at the Temecula Promenade Mall (*Yes, Temecula is part of the BCOIE Chapter...i.e. Inland Empire*) on November 2nd. There were over 100 cars and again, only two Studebakers, mine and a beautiful 1960 Lark, owned by Calvin Smith. For the first year, the event was run very well. Hopefully we'll see a few more Studebakers next year. Photo and video on next page...



Video courtesy of: @donndolly2_shorts – [click here: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/wYLBjigWAMM](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/wYLBjigWAMM)



Little Bill and his “Little Lark”

by Stan Kalwasinski

Bill Van Allen was perhaps the most versatile stock car driver to ever compete on the Chicago area racing scene during a career that spanned more than 20 years.

Beginning with his first race at Gill Stadium in 1948 to his last race in early 1972, Van Allen seemed to have a mastery of short track stock car racing, whether it be on a dirt or paved track. Over the years, Van Allen won track championships and numerous races on dirt and pavement throughout the Chicagoland area.

Van Allen, the son of Lester and Gertrude Van Allen, was born in Sault St. Marie, Mich. on New Years Day, 1927. As a youth, Van Allen lived in the Oshkosh, Wis. area before the family moved to Chicago’s northside on Greenview Avenue when Bill was a teenager. Van Allen attended high school in Chicago, where he played basketball. He served in the U.S. Navy and was discharged after serving two years.

Van Allen “caught the bug” to go racing himself in 1948 while serving as a pit man for Larry Pharer, who was racing a hot rod at Soldier Field on Chicago’s lakefront. Van Allen entered a 1940 Ford at the “Milwaukee Mile” for the first ever stock car event held at the famous Wisconsin oval on August 22. Setting sixth fast time during qualifications, Van



Allen was assigned No. 6, the trademark number that would stick with him for the rest of his career. Van Allen came home ninth in the 150-mile race.

Now calling Justice home, the 30-year-old Van Allen seemed to race everywhere in the Chicago area in 1957. Van Allen and his potent, Packard-powered Nash started the season by winning Raceway's "opening day" 50 lapper on April 21, besting Bud Koehler and Harry Simonsen. When Raceway invoked its "late models-only" rules about mid-season, a fresh "late model" '56 Studebaker Golden Hawk was prepared. Van Allen would win a total of 15 features at Raceway, including the 100-lap Season Title race and his second career victory in the track's 300 Lap Classic. Koehler would claim the Raceway track championship with Van Allen second in the points.

Van Allen won "opening day" feature honors at Mance Park on April 14 and would capture his second consecutive driving title there by year's end. Van Allen would also notch six feature wins at Santa Fe.

Again, driving the Gbur '56 Studebaker Hawk, Van Allen won a total of 12 feature races at Raceway Park in 1958 on his way to his second driving title. Another win in the 100-lap Season Title contest was among his victories. A three-track "City Series" saw drivers from Raceway, O'Hare Stadium and Soldier Field compete together in three Friday night special feature races at the three Chicago area paved speed plants

Fred Lorenzen scored a 50-lap victory at Soldier Field on August 1 and a 100-lap win at O'Hare on August 8. The series "finale" at Raceway on August 15 saw leader Bill Lutz "pop" a rear tire on the final lap with Van Allen and his Hawk going on to score the win ahead of Lutz, Bob Schultz, Gene Marmor and Lorenzen. With three second place finishes, Lutz was crowned the overall "Chicago City Series Champion." Van Allen finished ninth in the final points tally.

Driving a gasoline tanker truck for the Shell Oil Company, Van Allen and Seth Piper put together a short wheelbase, 1959 Studebaker Lark for the 1959 racing season. A former racer himself, Piper teamed up with Van Allen after helping Bud Koehler for a number of years.

"Little Bill and his "Little Lark" would establish themselves as "big" winners over the next five years at both Raceway and Santa Fe.

"Bill Van Allen was a good driver," simply said Piper about the success he and Van Allen shared. "We took our time building it (the Lark). It was actually built on a '57 (Studebaker) Commander frame with the Lark motor and Lark body. It was a combination of him and the car. He was good no matter what car he was in. He could get out of the car and tell you what was wrong with it. That was the problem with a lot of guys. They could drive and drive and drive, but they couldn't tell you why the car wasn't handling."

1959 saw Van Allen score 13 feature wins at Raceway, including another 100-lap Season Title race. He sold the car to Harry Simonsen the following night and "retired" for the balance of the season after an on-track dog fight with Bob Pronger and an after-the-race-in-the-pits fisticuffs incident. In 1960, Van Allen returned with a fresh, mustard-yellow '60 Lark, which carried Van Allen to a single-season record 29 feature wins at Raceway. George Shumsky of Mount Greenwood Motors, a Studebaker dealership at 10319 S. Kedzie Avenue in Chicago, helped Van Allen and Piper with the "financial end" of the car.

Wheeling Seth Piper-owned and prepared Chevelles, Van Allen was fifth in the points in 1970 and third in the standings in 1971. His last "big" Santa win came on July 17, 1971, capturing a 50 lapper on the Santa Fe "half" over Dick Nelson. Ready to go for the 1972 season, Van Allen discovered a hard lump in his chest while buckling up for Santa Fe's early May opener. That was the last time Van Allen ever raced. Within a year, Van Allen was gone, passing away

due to cancer at the age of 46 on January 26, 1973. He was survived by his wife, Judy, and their children, Billy, Johnny, Mike and Julie Ann, in addition to his mother, Gertrude, sister, Helen, and brothers, Mel and Curtis.

Bill Van Allen was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, Chicago area short track stock competitor. One thing for certain—Bill Van Allen could drive and win on either dirt or asphalt, it didn't matter.



Video of the Month

Studebaker Built the Original Hellcat 60 Years Ago

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8KSXmDnrhI>

Eierpunsch from Germany

Ingredients: egg yolks, white sugar, white wine, brandy or rum, cloves, cinnamon sticks, lemon zest, vanilla extract, hot milk (optional)

Step into the German winter-warmer tradition with Eierpunsch. When making this at home, the key is said to be simplicity. Whisk together egg yolks and sugar until creamy, then slowly add hot milk, stirring continuously. Topped with, of course, a generous splash of rum or brandy. For an extra holiday touch, serve in mugs garnished with a sprinkle of nutmeg or cinnamon. Eierpunsch isn't just a beverage, but a testament to Gemütlichkeit, the German concept of cozy conviviality, and a staple at [Germany's popular Christmas markets](#). Fair warning: Every sip is a glimpse of traditional German Christmas market magic—turning chilly evenings into heartwarming celebrations.



The 1737 Letter

The Road Back — Edited from an article by Emmert Studebaker

In 1962, two strangers were riding a cross-country train. A conversation started, and Ford Studebaker introduced himself to Al Studebaker.

The two quickly realized that they were probably related. During their conversation, Ford mentioned that he had a copy of a letter written in 1737 by two Studebaker immigrants to unknown persons back in Germany. The letter had been discovered by a German researcher, Dr. Albert Schafer who published it. It was republished in America by Dr. Otto Piper of Princeton University, and by some means came into Ford Studebaker's possession.

Copies of Ford's copy of the letter circulated among family members, and to make a long story a bit shorter, Mary Studebaker Gushwa, of Delphi, IN spent two months traveling in Europe researching the letter. On the advice of Emmert Studebaker, (President Emeritus of SFNA), she visited Hagen, Germany, where relations of our immigrant ancestors were known to have lived. While there, she located Herr Bernard Freter, a retired architect who devoted his entire time to genealogical research. He knew the aforementioned Dr. Schafer and later put Emmert Studebaker in touch with Louise Fahnestock Stock, who owned the original of the letter. Eventually, Emmert was able to purchase the letter from Mrs. Stock. Shortly after the purchase was made, she wrote the following letter to Emmert:

Dear Cousin Emmert!

On September 30th, 1973, I transferred to you the original letter from the immigrated ancestors Peter and Clement Studebaker, dated the 16th of September 1737, from Pennsylvania. The letter was probably kept for the most part of its existence in Hagen-Halden. From my grandfather, who died in 1917, my father Fredrick Fahnestock (died 1946), probably received the precious old letter as seen, carefully preserved.

Because my brother did not return from World War II, the letter, especially precious to you, has come into my possession. In a small safe it survived the war in our apartment despite a bomb that was extinguished by the residents. All around the apartment building fell explosives and fire bombs.



I did not enjoy giving up the letter. But because I don't have any children, I submit the letter to you, meaning the Studebaker Library, and I know that the letter will be in good hands.

Louise Stock

Translated Text of The Letter [Editor's notes in brackets]

America and Pennsylvania, October 16, 1737

Dearly beloved brothers, we received your esteemed writing dated March 21, 1737 of John Cueper, and we learn from it that you are in good health and prosper, a fact over which we heartily rejoice.

Concerning ourselves, we are, thanks to God, well and in good health, too. As to your question regarding brother John, there is, thanks to God, no reason for complaint, for life is pleasant here. For we are better off than in Europe, because anyone who is willing to work can make a good living here, except for certain craftsmen.

The craftsmen are not organized here as with you. [The reference is probably to the toolmakers of the district from which the writers came]. Yet things could be better organized here, if only there were some masters here. For steel and iron are plentiful in this country. Good steel and iron and coal and grinding stones are imported from England, and the coal is for sale here as with you. Also there are many rivers.

Yet anybody who wants to work on a farm, can live a life without worries, for not much has to be paid to the sovereign, the maximum is six shillings per one hundred acres in the national currency. Some give corn and some give peppercorn and others give one shilling per one hundred acres and some don't pay anything, once the sovereign has received his money. Much that was bought from the late Count [William Penn], as indicated above, has to pay one shilling per one hundred acres.

Furthermore let me tell you how a poor man be able to come across, who lacks the money to pay the passage. There is the following agreement: If a man has children, he can put them into service. A boy has to remain in service until he is twenty one. The girl has to stay until eighteen years of age. For this, people pay a lot of money. In that way, a poor man is able to free himself and his wife.

Those, however, who have no children, must put themselves to service. In that case, they are given good food and drinking and clothing. Once the years of service are over, they receive fresh clothing from head to foot. And it is done very honestly and seemingly. If they are husband and wife they can get rid of their obligation in a short time.

Furthermore we have to write you how amazed we are about the difference that there is between this country and Germany. For the trees here are bearing good fruit in their branches and not wild ones. There are all kinds of apples, much better than with you, and whatever kind one wants. You should see the grain, and the turnips here are 7 lb. of weight and they taste much better than with you. This country is abundantly fertile.

Furthermore a word about the authorities. The authorities here are good ones. You can go to a person in authority in the same way as to a peasant. You don't have to take your hat off for a person in authority. They administer justice. Nobody suffers violence or injustice from them. They live a pious and God-fearing life. They don't harm or vex anybody as they do with you. When you sell something here, e.g., inheritance or tools, it does not concern the authorities.



When something is for sale here, the owner posts a notice by the wayside or in the street and in the inns. Over in Philadelphia, a notice is posted at the courthouse, as they call it in English, or in German language the chancery. However at Germantown it is posted at the marketplace halfway toward the Reformed Church. Also there is one who announces it publicly in the streets and fixes the day. Then people gather in great numbers. Then the goods are sold at auction to the highest bidder. With all these transactions the authorities are not concerned.

As far as religion in this country is concerned, it should be said that there are all kinds of faiths here. Firstly, where authority is as it were, within; congregations, in which they have no baptism, neither for infants nor for adults. Then there are also here whole congregations of Baptists and Seventh Day Baptists [i.e., Dunkers] who also practice adult baptism, and they keep their Sunday on Saturday, yet lead a good life. There are also many “monists” [Unitarians?] as well as Reformed and Lutherans, and also a few Catholics in Philadelphia, whom the late Count [William Penn] wanted to expel, but they insisted on the franchise granted to them by the late Lord. So he had to keep his peace. But afterwards both we and all new arrivals of the male sex must go to the town hall before the magistrates to give up and renege allegiance to the Pope in Rome [illegible] of Great Britain in England. For the rest the authorities permit all faiths. If a person lives a quiet and pious life, he may believe what he likes.

This is here a richly blessed country. The greatest difficulty is when somebody needs workers. He has to pay very highly for them. Any man who is able and willing to work can make a lot of money here. For a carpenter demands three sh. per day, i.e. one dollar (Cologne money) in your currency. It is the same with the joiner and the mason. A linen weaver gets three times what he receives over there, a shoemaker gets for a pair of man’s shoes six and 1/2 sh. in our currency, that makes two dollars (Cologne money) and 13 fatmen (pennies), and leather sells at the same price as with you. Similarly a blacksmith makes also a lot of money. In conclusion, anybody who is willing to work here can prosper and live well. The rich people, who are eager to engage in commerce, will prosper here. For there is a lot of commerce here from this country with wheat and other things, to Holland, to England, to Maryland, to the south east, Virginia and to Catalonia [Carolina?] and to Schenecken [Jamaica?] and to East India and to many other places there is a good deal of business from here. Hence many people in Philadelphia do big business with the ships and the goods which the ships carry in. Whenever the ships come, which carry many goods with them and are anxious and hard pressed to leave again, the business people of Philadelphia will come and bargain with the captains of the boats and make big profits.

Again, those who are particularly rich, will make very large profits. They will buy many hundreds of acres from the sovereign at a low price and with the understanding that for all times they and their heirs will have to pay low taxes. With that money the sovereign builds jails for thieves and wicked people.

Furthermore we have to report concerning the wild Indians. They are as black as the pagans with you. But they are conscientious people. They believe that ...[illegible]... they call God in their language ...[illegible]... and refer to him with fear. They are anxious not to commit sins. They believe also, that after death when their life was not pleasant to the Pure and Omniscient, they will come to the North, where it is very cold and where they will have an evil regent, where they will freeze severely and where they will be badly tormented, whereas those who lived a good life will come to the South after their death, where they will have a good regent who will receive them in a friendly manner.

They put to shame the majority of nominal Christians. They are intelligent and of childlike simplicity, e.g., if you give them apples, they will take one and give the other ones to their fellows they should bite like children. For everything among the common people is according to good Christian order.

When one comes to see another one, the one coming will say to the other in the English language “Day” [probably “Good Day”] and they give each other the hand with great kindness and friendliness. When they part from each other, they say “Well” [probably “Farewell”] in the English language and they shake hands again with each other in decency.

You may walk here through the whole country without ever hearing any cursing or swearing. When you think of Germany, you feel pity and horror.

There is further to be reported that to many rich people work is done in a cheap manner. This is how it is done: the sea captains bring many black negroes from the negro countries, who are sold here. They have to serve for the rest of their lives, and if there are among them who get married and have children, the children too, are the master's. They may be sold or kept as one pleases. In that manner the rich people are able to have their work done well. Anybody else who needs workers, must pay heavily for them. That is the greatest burden in this country.

God bless America,
Clemens Studenbecker
Peder Studenbecker

Anno 1737



From the **Studebaker Family National Association** <https://www.studebakerfamily.org/>



Cannibal Sandwich

A raw meat sandwich or cannibal sandwich is a Midwest staple with roots in the German tradition and hold cultural significance in Wisconsin. Cannibal sandwiches, also known as 'tiger meat,' are a traditional holiday snack.

Ingredients

- 1 pound beef (raw ground beef, chuck, round or very lean steak)
- 2 eggs
- 1 onion (finely chopped)
- seasoning (salt and pepper to taste)
- 8 slices bread

Instructions

In a bowl, mix ground beef, chopped onion, and eggs. Season with salt and pepper.
Distribute over slices of bread. Put another slice of bread on top. Ready to eat!



***** For Sale** (click link below) - 1950 Studebaker Champion, Starlight Coupe

https://www.studebakersocal.com/BCOIE_ForSale.htm

Saturday (Sat, Nov 16, 2024) morning at the South OC Cars and Coffee in San Clemente, the largest weekly show in the US! There were a couple of Studebakers out there yesterday! Pictured below is James Studebaker's '66 Daytona and Jim Watt's '53 Commander. Thanks, James Studebaker, great to see more photos of Stude's representing our Chapter.



Another wedding (below) for the Pink Panther, this one at the Grand Tradition Estate & Gardens in Fallbrook, CA



Keep the photos and stories coming...

Merry Christmas



Until next month... Happy Studebakering