



December 2021
Volume 12, Issue 1



NORTH TEXAS

WHEEL

**A NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH TEX-
AS CHAPTER STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB**

President's Remarks

Dear North Texas Studebaker Club members.

Our last meeting of the year 2021 is over and 2022 is about to begin. We end our year with a Christmas party and our club elections and this year the party was held in Dallas and was sponsored by member John Caldwell. My two sisters, Forrest Petricca and Christina Nakhoda, organized and decorated this year's party for you and all I had to do was pick up the meat dishes from Dickey's BBQ. John had already provided the turkey breast but unfortunately was unable to make the party. John had phoned me at 6:30 a.m. the morning of the party saying he had already phoned 911, saying he was headed for the hospital to check himself in. John was home three days later and is waiting for information from the doctors. As of this printing, John is restricted to one visitor per day just to make sure he does not overexert himself. You can send him a card at 3883 Turtle Creek Blvd. #2116 Dallas, TX. 75219.

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There were 18 members present and one guest. The guest has been to a few meetings before and comes in from Canton, TX. Bobby Goodman is his name and Bobby was a member in the 1970's before he spent most of his career on the road and away from the club. I would like to give a special thanks to member Dana Ranne for all the organizational help in the kitchen/buffet line. She took charge of all the food dishes as they arrived and had the dinner buffet ready just in time for Yvonne Poppe to say a dinner blessing. Thanks to all of you for providing the Christmas feast this year, it was excellent. At the conclusion of the dinner and the club elections I was given a gift from the members in appreciation for my being President of the club these last four years. The gift is a special edition AMT, 1/25 scale model of a 1953 hardtop packaged in a tin container. Thank you all. Following the presentation everyone participated in cleaning up the kitchen and dining area, placing furniture in the correct place and taking all the boxes up to the parking lot. Thank you for that big effort, it saved me a lot of work.

The elections. I read from the Chapter By-laws several sections that pertained to the election of officers and the duties of some of those officers. There were no nominations for the office of President, the only office up for election, and the conversation moved on to what is next. It was suggested that Gayle MacLeod would make a great President of the club. Gayle has been Secretary of the club for many years now and rarely does she and husband Bob ever miss a meeting. To my surprise she did not say no but instead said, "but then you would have to find a new secretary". Gayle was not elected as your new President that day, but I have talked to her since then and asked if she had considered being the next president of the club and she said yes, yes she would become President if she was elected. Elections will be held on the third Saturday of January 2022. That is Saturday, January the 15th 2022. By-Laws state that you must be present to vote so we will see you on the 15th. Since we just had a BBQ dinner for a meeting I will find a restaurant with a different menu and let you know where the meeting will be held on January 15th. Now, who will be the new Secretary of your North Texas Chapter ? This can be male or female and your membership to the club does include your significant other. You do not have to be present at this meeting to be elected but you do need to let me know if you are running for the office. Call or text: Gary Meek at 214-797-7158

On the subject of Charity fund raising by the club; Leon Carpenter reported to me that the club raised \$245.00. Kent Greenlee and Ken Bruce are the two members that sent a contribution in since they were unable to make the Christmas party. Ten members paid their 2022 dues of \$15.00 at the Christmas party. Please be paid by the end of January 15th at the meeting so we can get a new roster out, it has been five years since the last printing. Make sure you fill out a new application, it is where we will get our CORRECTED information from.

In this last paragraph I would like to thank all of the club members that find time in their busy schedules to make the Studebaker Drivers Club a part of their lives. I do not hunt, or fish, or play golf, but since 1969 I have been a member of this club. I have been either President or Vice President more than once, not because I think I would be the best person for the job but because when no one else would step up I had to do it so the club would continue. This club and the many people that have joined over the years, well these are the individuals and families that are my closest friends. I have known some of you longer, I see some of you more often, but if anyone in this family needs me I will try and be there. Thank you all for your participation and help with this club. Thank you Gayle for, if elected, stepping up and taking this club into 2022 as its new President.

President: Gary Meek



Editor's Message

Fall is here with beautiful weather & lots of activities.

We are fortunate in Texas to be able to drive our cars all year long while many of our northern neighbors are putting theirs to bed for the winter.

Back in the day, when I lived in Montreal Canada, I'd be setting my sights on a \$50 beater car to drive and sacrifice to the gods of corrosion and road salt. Sure it was Swiss cheese by the time spring rolled around but you knew that going in & if your beater made it through the winter it owed you nothing but gratitude.

Many of you will never have experienced loss of brakes at an intersection in rush hour traffic from rusted out brake lines or the smell of gas in your garage from a rusted out gas tank, how about lifting your door handle to enter your car and the handle comes off in your hand on a 2 year old Ford!

We were spoiled in Montreal to see bare pavement hours after a major snow fall but at the expense of 10,000 tons of road salt every winter. The worse thing you could do to your car was to drive it & keep it in a heated garage. The road salt, moisture & heat made a nice mixture of hydrochloric acid playing Pac Man with the metal in your car. Better to leave it in a frozen blob of slush & road grime until spring if you had to drive it.

Muffler shops made a fortune as an exhaust system typically lasted one winter.

My dad's 59 Lincoln Premiere with dual mufflers & resonators were costing more than the car was worth to keep it in exhaust systems. In fact this 5100 lb. car literally broke in half. It was a unit body construction with no frame. The heated garage combined with humidity rotted the floor out. The car was in showroom condition but was towed off to a junk yard as it was not repairable.

Everything you touched crumbled and turned to dust. A simple brake job meant broken or stripped bolts and often the fastest repair was to replace everything!

Did I tell you I love living in Texas!!!

Merry Christmas



December 4th was our first Christmas party in 2 years. It was hosted by John Caldwell at his apartment complex on Turtle Creek in Dallas. Unfortunately the morning of the party John was hospitalized.

Gary Meek with the help of his 2 sisters set up a very attractive arrangement for the event with bright table cloths, Christmas ornaments and poinsettias on each table. The lunch was pot luck and very tasty with meats provided by the club and trimmings & deserts provided by the attendees. In all we were 19

After lunch Gary presided over his last meeting. He stated he will not run again and this leaves the position of president open to anyone who would like to take over. All current elected officers agreed to run for another term. Our secretary Gayle Macleod was suggested as president and she said she would entertain the idea if someone were to take over her current position as secretary.

Gary stated that if no one takes over as president that he will shut the club down. Those are rather harsh words and I hope it never comes to that but time will tell and we'll see what 2022 holds for us.

Volunteer positions of newsletter editor and webmaster are not elected positions and myself as editor and Nicholas Treaster will remain as webmaster with a new web site in the offing.

2 vintage Studebakers were in attendance with myself with Ruby my 63 GT Hawk and Bob & Gayle Macleod with their 53 Commander

Good time had by all!



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER SDC MEETING

MINUTES FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2021

CHRISTMAS PARTY & ANNUAL MEETING AT JOHN CALDWELL

After some socializing and a great meal, the meeting was called to order by President Gary Meek.

Old Business: is there still interest in more durable name badges? We have been getting by with paper badges in plastic sleeves but most clubs have hard plastic badges. Discussion followed and decided to find options.

Donations to SDC Museum. Continue to buy bricks or donate cash? Decision to continue with Memorial Bricks.

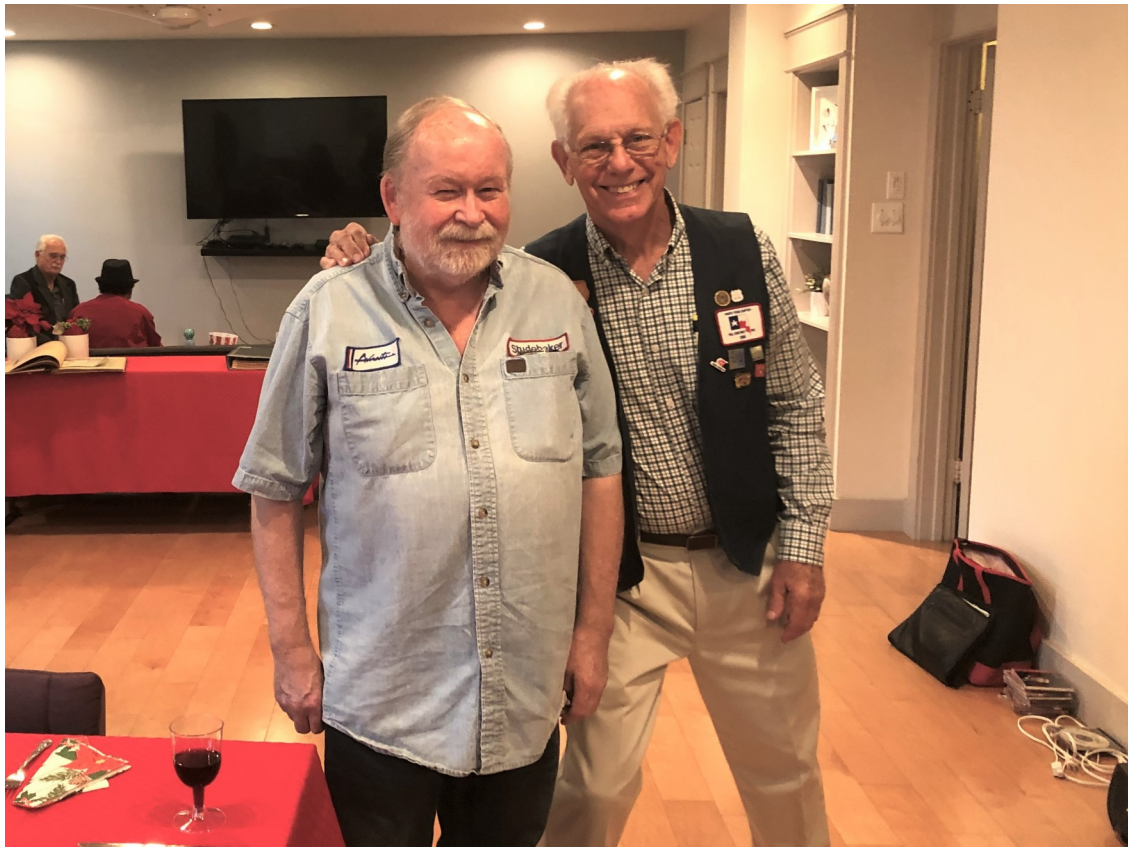
New Business: Election of officers. There were no new nominations. Treasurer Leon Carpenter has agreed to continue, Secretary Gayle MacLeod has agreed to continue, Vice President Rodney Murphy has agreed to continue, but President Gary Meek has declined. Ray Chartrand will continue as Newsletter Editor and Nicholas Treaster will be Webmaster. Vice President Rodney Murphy will cover presidential duties until a President can be found.

President Gary Meek and all present thanked John Caldwell for hosting the meeting.

All present thanked Gary for all the years served as President, and a gift of appreciation was given. Meeting was adjourned.

NAME	MEMBER Y/N	CITY	STUDEBAKER/BRAND X
GARY MEEK	Y	GRANBURY	X
EDWARD WILL	Y	PLANO	X
NICHOLAS TREASTER	Y	CARROLLTON	X
BOB & GAYLE MACLEOD	Y	CARROLLTON	'53 COMMANDER
RODNEY & Shawanda			
MURPHY	Y	DENTON	'85 AVANTI
FRITZ & YVONNE POPPE	Y	DENTON	PASSENGERS IN
RAY CHARTRAND	Y	MANSFIELD	'63 GT
EDDIE & DANA RANNE	Y	FLOWER MOUND	X
JAMES T YEATS	Y	PLANO	'56 G. HAWK
RW & SHIRLEY THORNTON	Y	FT WORTH	X
ROBERT GOODMAN	N	CANTON	X
GEORGE & GAIL JENSEN	Y	FT WORTH	X
LEON CARPENTER	Y	ARLINGTON	X











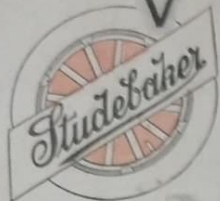
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All



The Wheel

A MONTHLY
MAGAZINE FOR
THE MOTORIST

February
1927



□ America Acclaims Latest Studebaker Triumph □ New Orleans Re-discovered
□ Meeting Spring Halfway □ Winter Barnyard Golf - Curling



Christmas ad - 1956. Looks like a great sale!!

Hello 1956 Owners . . .

Christmas is coming, which means gift buying for the family and friends. We believe we can be of help to 1956 Chevrolet owners because we have some very attractive 1956 Accessories left in stock.

Most merchants would have an after-Christmas Bargain Sale, but we're going to be different and have ours before Christmas. We are offering 1956 Chevrolet owners these attractive accessories at greatly reduced prices—accessories that will add to your driving pleasure.

Pictured are a few examples of these accessories. These and other items are available in a price range that fits every purse. Each has a useful purpose that the whole family can enjoy.

Please accept our invitation to make our dealership headquarters for all your automotive needs.

P.S. The early shopper, like the early bird, has the widest range of choice.

JIM MOLONEY
867 New York Dr.
Altadena, California

EXHAUST EXTENSION—Durable chrome exhaust extension deflects fumes from rear bumper and painted metal . . . adds a smart look to tail pipe . . . prevents hard-to-remove exhaust dirt on rear end of your Chevrolet.
WAS \$3.25 NOW \$1.95

FRONT FENDER AND GRILLE GUARD—The front fender and grille guard will give your Chevrolet the new look. Heavy-gauge chromed steel will protect your front end (one dented fender or damaged grille costs more than guard), and add styling and front end insurance to your '56 Chevrolet.
WAS \$39.80 NOW \$18.50

WIRE WHEEL COVERS—High luster chrome wire wheel covers which give the running wheels the wire wheel look. . . . Usable on all models . . . good buy for any smart-looking Chevrolet.
WAS \$39.50 NOW \$19.90

WHEEL CARRIER—A wheel carrier that gives your Chevrolet a continental sports car look . . . this eye catcher also gives additional trunk space . . . can be operated by any member of the family . . . fits all passenger car models except Corvette.
WAS \$123.00 NOW \$84.50

23

4 Comments

Like

Comment



Josh Arnold

I need some exhaust extensions



This Months Humor



Editor's Message

Several months ago at a club meeting I had the pleasure of meeting & speaking to a young man by the name of Brian Snodgrass.



Brian has a fascinating story (or shall I say many stories) of his family's lineage with Studebaker. Brian in fact to this day owns his grandfathers station wagon and are you ready for this, his great grand fathers tow truck.

Brian is busy restoring both at the same time.

Not only is he passionate about Studebaker but as you will soon read so is his entire family.

I will include the adventures of Brian in this issue.

He provided so much information that I will continue in the November newsletter with a detailed history of the family's love for Studebaker as written by Brian's aunt.

Note: I was provided so much information that it will take me several more issues to cover it all. Continue to enjoy this fascinating life of a Studebaker family.

Enjoy the ride!

With a club that dates back to the 60's I'm sure there are many more untold stories to tell. If you have the urge to share your experience but aren't a writer or computer literate, give me a call, drop me an email, post a hand scrawled letter in the mail with some photos of your Studebaker memories and we'll work it into an article to share with your fellow members.

The club is only as strong and as active as its members!

Cars, My Dad, and Me

Part 2: Dumas, Texas

Patsy Rae Dawson

(Revised 10/13/2021)

In May 1954, Dad bought the Studebaker dealership in Dumas and named it Snodgrass Motor Company. Mom worked as his bookkeeper while we went to school. We were very proud of Dad because we knew Studebakers were the best cars. The sleek body design gave them less wind resistance than other cars. Dad often told customers that his competitors' square cars were like driving "cracker boxes and bathtubs." Dad won many sales awards including jewelry and a deluxe bedroom set.



To prove Studebakers were the best, Dad took them to car races in Amarillo, Dalhart, Garden City, Littlefield, and Hobbs. Dad won trophy after trophy. He loved racing a 1955 Studebaker Commander coupe named Davy Crockett. It sported a 289 cubic inch V8 engine with a four-barrel carburetor for extra horsepower and faster acceleration. It easily outperformed other cars on gas mileage and efficiency and had a standard-shift transmission with overdrive.

The whole family often went with Dad to these races. My brothers Tom and Lary begged continually to ride with him. Dad finally told them they could ride when he raced at the Pampa track.

One of the officials asked, "Are you really going to let those boys ride?"

Dad replied, "Yes, I am." When he took off, the force of his acceleration pinned Tom and Lary to the backseat. They couldn't rise up to see anything.





My three brothers, Tom, Lary, and Neil loved to go to the shop with Dad. This picture is of Neil with Dad, and Lary and Tom are in the background. Neil said, "I loved going through the pile of broken parts behind the shop to see what treasures I could find."



Neil and Dad in the office at Snodgrass Motor Company. One of Dad's racing trophies is on the window ledge.

Later, the family was traveling in a Studebaker Golden Hawk from Sunray to Perryton when a Cadillac pulled alongside. The lady drove while her husband rode beside her. He grinned and indicated they wanted to race by looking over at Dad's speedometer, which showed Dad was running 90 mph. Dad nodded yes and held his speed while the wife gained on him. Just as the couple thought they were winning, Dad hit it and left them.

Standing up behind the front seat, Tom could see everything. He said, "Boy howdy, Daddy! You wiped the grin off his face!"



In 1954, Dad sold our great aunt and uncle, Marion and Dovie Phillips, a pink and black Studebaker sedan. Our cousin, Ethel Marie, is behind the door, and Mack is leaning into the car checking it out. Everyone in the family loved Studebakers.

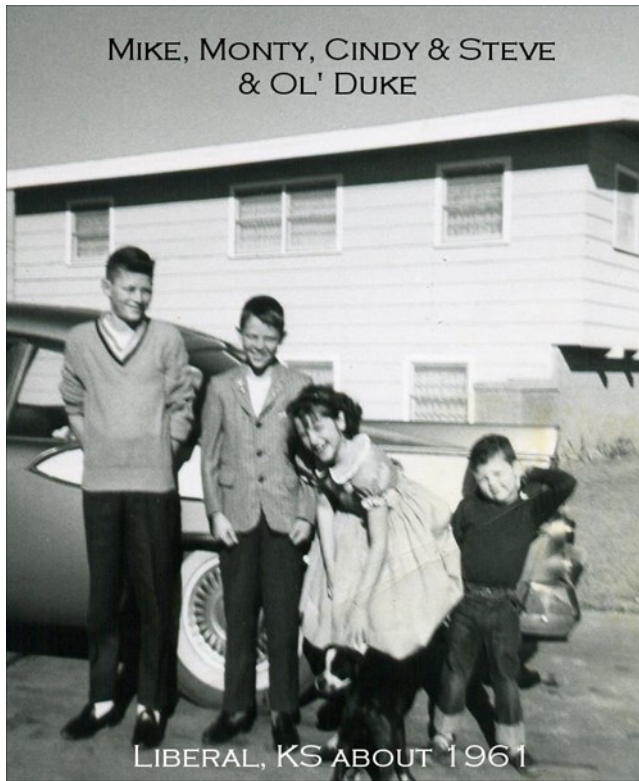
Then in 1955, Grandmama and Grandpapa (Tom and Ethel Collinsworth), came to visit from California in a dark blue Mercury. They were going to take Tom, Lary, and myself back to California with them for the summer. Dovie Roberta, Mom's sister, would stay with Mom and Dad and Neil.

Before we headed for California, Grandpapa asked Dad to check out their car. When Dad heard them drive up to the shop, he told them, "That car won't make it back to California." They went inside and traded for a new green and white Studebaker Conestoga Wagon. It was a thrill for us to get to ride all the way to California in the new station wagon. As Dad drove their Mercury into the shop, the overdrive went out.



Grandmama and Grandpapa put over 100,000 miles on their Studebaker. Grandpapa even let it sit without driving it for a couple of years. After all that time, when he tried to start it, it started right up.

In 1960 they bought a used gold and white 1957 Golden Hawk for Grandmama to drive. Mike, Monty, Cindy, and Steve Ray, our cousins, are standing in front of Grandmama's car.



In 1955, Mom's sister and her family (Ida and Bernard Ray) bought a new black and watermelon Studebaker President from Dad. Later in 1961, Dad sold them a new flesh-colored Studebaker Lark station wagon.

Mom, Ocie Lue Snodgrass, is standing beside a 1955 Commander. It is just like the one Tom drove to high school. His was the same color of black. He always parked it on the grass by the driveway at the house in Perryton after we moved there in 1963.



One day Ted, who was five or six, came in and said he filled Tom's car up with gas. He used the garden hose to fill it up with water.

When Tom left for the Navy about three years later, he told Ted to take care of his car while he was gone. Ted did for a little while, and then he decided he wanted a lawn mower so he could mow lawns and make some money. So he sold the car to Tom's high school chemistry teacher and bought the lawn mower.

Lary drove a standard shift Flamingo Studebaker Lark his last year of high school. He kept it through college and his first year in Dallas.

The pictures below show Mom and Dad with a 1956 Studebaker President.



In September 1956, Dad took delivery on a new 1957 Studebaker Commander. In those days, the dealers kept hidden the new models until the show date, so Dad brought the car home. A few days later, Uncle Bernard and Aunt Ida Ray and Uncle Bill and Aunt Phyllis Collinsworth came for a visit with all our cousins. The three dads volunteered to take the kids to the show. After dropping us off, they decided to go sightseeing on the way home.

When the dads didn't return, our mothers grew restless, and Mom offered to give them a spin in the new Studebaker. As the dads drove around town, one of them said, "Look! There's one of the brand-new Studebakers! They're not supposed to be out yet!" Shocked, they saw their wives cruising Main, and decided it was time to go home.



The 3 Cowboys, Neil, Lary, and Tom with Patsy Snodgrass in front of a 1956 Golden Hawk.

March 22-25, 1957, Blizzard

Worst spring blizzard on record.

Responsible for 11 panhandle deaths, numerous injuries, \$6 million in damage.

Texas Panhandle reported 30 ft drifts; Oklahoma Panhandle reported 15 ft drifts.

10 to 20 inches of snow reported across the panhandles.

20 percent of the panhandles cattle population was lost in the storm.

Huge drifts stranded thousands of motorists, including snowplows attempting rescues.

True white out conditions, with visibilities reduced to zero at times.

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ama/?n=top10_events

It is listed as one of America's 5 Worst Blizzards:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/01/03/hercules-schmercules-here-are-america-s-5-worst-blizzards.html>

The story made the *Chicago Sunday Tribune* saying roads were closed in 4 states. The blizzard was light in Lubbock and the 83 mph gale blocked roads with tumbleweeds.

<http://archives.chicagotribune.com/1957/03/24/page/1/article/blizzard-hits-nine-states>

We were too young to understand all the details at the time. I do remember all the cattle dying as well as people. The high wind blew snow into people's attics. Many of our neighbors had their ceilings fall in from the weight and moisture. I don't recall that we had any serious damage from the snow. We had fun walking up on the roof of our grade school.



The top left picture is Lary standing on a snow drift above a 1957 Commander President. The top right picture is a 1952 Champion. The bottom left picture shows Lary, Patsy, Neil, and Tom walking on cars with Spike. The bottom right picture is Mom and Dad after the carport was dug out and the snow had started to melt.



1957 Studebaker Packard snowed in.

Mom wrote about the blizzard to Grandmama and Grandpapa in California. She said that nearly all of our neighbors had their ceilings fall in on them from snow blowing into their attics. She wrote, "As soon as we learned it was blowing in, Ray went into the attic and nailed a blanket over the vent. Then he scooped out what snow he could. Our ceiling sags a little, but we didn't lose it. One house near here, the folks were across the street at their neighbors when their ceiling fell in. The furnace caught it on fire and burned the inside of their house out. Naturally, the insurance company said it doesn't cover this kind of accident."



1957 Studebaker Packard sr

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NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Studebaker Drivers Club

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION



The North Texas Studebaker Drivers Club has my permission to use this info in their club directory

☐

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ANNIVERSARIES (Day&Mon): HIS BIRTH _____ HER BIRTH _____ WEDDING _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY BY: ☐ U.S. Mail OR ☐ email

PLEASE LIST YOUR STUDEBAKERS: (Owning a Studebaker is not a requirement)

YEAR MODEL BODY STYLE

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

(Own more than 3? They're habit forming – just use the back)

We currently have over 60 members in our club. Average attendance at our meetings is 30. We meet on a monthly basis, typically on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Many of our meetings are held in conjunction with metroplex shows, tours or special events. Our meetings are fun, informative and very informal. We usually have a meal during the meeting for those who wish to eat. Our monthly newsletter is one of the very best, with interesting articles, color pictures of our members, Studebakers, current club news and items of interest.

We welcome you to our club. Our dues are only \$15.00 per year. Join us.

Signature _____ Date _____ Intrn'l Membership # _____

National membership is a prerequisite for local club membership.

Follow this link to the [National Studebaker Drivers Club](#) membership application

Mail application and \$15.00 Membership Dues (cash or check) to the address at right:

When paying by check, make checks payable to:
North Texas Chapter Studebaker Drivers Club

Leon Carpenter
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Arlington, TX 76016-1532