



May 2012

# NORTH TEXAS WHEEL

Newsletter of the Studebaker Drivers' Club of North Texas

Meeting  
Saturday, May 19th,  
Parc Place, 1301 Airport Freeway (IH 183)  
Bedford, TX.

## April Meeting Notes

The meeting followed after the show and tour of the Bluebonnets.

Vic and Sandy Pochobradsky hosted the meal and meeting in their home. President Dale Truitt thanked Vic for the hospitality and hoped Sandy was OK and wished for a fast recovery from the misstep at the show.

There were 23 members and guests introduced to open the meeting. There was discussion of the show and the Antique American Independent Automobile association of clubs. A questionnaire was passed out and analyses will be made to see where we will go from here.

Door prizes were drawn

Awards for the show were announced.

3<sup>rd</sup> place a 1938 Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> place a 1937 Packard

1<sup>st</sup> place a 1955 Studebaker President

50/50 was won by Vic Pochobradsky

NTSDC meeting Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Parc Place Retirement Center, 1301 Airport Freeway, Bedford. Meeting room with lunch and drinks provided by the Center. The residents and our own **Charlotte Hansen** (not Lucile Carter, as I erroneously indicated in the last issue. My apologies to both fine ladies!) love to have us bring our cars and reminisce. Note: Coming either way on the freeway, take Center Avenue and proceed west on the North frontage road. Parc Place is on your right.

## Bluebonnet Photos



## 2012 SDC North Texas Club Meeting Schedule

Month	Date	Tire kicking	Meeting	Location
May	Saturday 19th	11:00 AM	12 Noon	Parc Place, Bedford, TX.
June	Saturday 16th	12 Noon	1:00 PM	Old Mill Rest. State Fairground
July	Saturday 21 st			*
August	Saturday 18 th			*
September	Saturday 15 th			*
October	Saturday 20th			*
November	Saturday 17 th			*
December	Saturday 8 th			*

\* = Subject To change, or TBA. Check next month.

### President's Podium

On behalf of our chapter, I want to begin by thanking and expressing our appreciation to Vic & Sandy Pochobradsky for the great planning and the wonderful dinner they provided our members and AAIA show guests. The food, decorations, door prizes and goodie bags were way beyond expectation. So, Vic & Sandy, please realize how much you have come to mean to our organization in such a short period of time!!! I also want to thank my brother-in-law, Raymond Mitchell and his lovely wife Shirley for greeting our guests and coordinating our AAIA show registration. We couldn't have managed with out them!! Well, the weather was perfect and the cars were beautiful and plentiful. We conjured up 14 Independent brands which included cars representing the following marques: Studebaker, Hudson, Nash, Packard, AMC and Jeep. Five of our participants drove their cars further than sixty-five miles to participate. If our date had not been in conflict, we would have attracted four to six more Hudsons that were committed to attend a regional HET meet in Oklahoma.

Our Bluebonnet Trails Festival guests were very enthusiastic and complimentary of all our antique independent cars. Run of the mill car shows with sixty to one hundred cars usually muster up the following ratios in comparison to our independents: 20 Chevys & Fords to 1 Studebaker, 30 Chevys & Fords to each Hudson, 40 Chevys & Fords to each Nash and/or AMC, and 60 Chevys & Fords to each Kaiser or Henry J. So in perspective, our 14 independents would have translated into a car show of well over 300 equivalent Chevys & Fords. When you view your next mega show of Chevrolets and Fords, just stop and notice how many of our independents are lost in the sea of Chevilles, and Mustangs. We must realize that our cars are much, much rarer and seldom found at typical car and hotrod shows. I had several of our guess say that they appreciated getting to view our unique independents without the nitro smell and loud exhaust pipes of customized cars and trucks.

Following the show, we were treated to a great bluebonnet trail tour with fields and rolling hills of bluebonnets in full bloom – what a treat. And, before dinner our own Mike Griffin gave us a live demonstration on front end repair. If you missed this event, you may have missed seeing our chapter at its best!! In closing, I want to thank all of our members who continue to support the events of our chapter with your unfailing attendance and participation with your Studebakers. I hope to see everybody at our next meeting, at a car show in your area, and in South Bend for our 2012 International Studebaker Convention.

*Dale*

## Studebaker Connection—The Globetrotters

In honor of the opening of Baseball season, and the fact that there is not much interest in Cricket around here, I have delved into the Old Story Dungeon and resurrected this one about Basketball that first appeared In the June 2007 issue of this venerable publication. Ed.

It was 1942, and W.W.II was razing havoc with professional sports teams as players left to serve in the armed forces. The all-white National Basketball League was no exception, having two of their seven teams fold. Many teams were owned or sponsored by commercial enterprises. The Zollner Pistons of Fort Wayne were organized in 1940 by Fred Zollner, of automotive piston fame. The team is now the Detroit Pistons

The 'Ted White Chevrolet' team manager, Sid Goldberg told the league big-wigs that he intended to keep the Toledo team going by hiring 'black' players from the local area. They expressed concern, but did not stop him. He hired Bill Jones, star player of the University of Toledo, and three other Afro-American athletes.

Meanwhile, Daniel Serafine, a union organizer at the Chicago Studebaker plant met some members of the Globetrotters basketball team who worked at the plant, building aircraft engines. It turned out there were six, who practiced at night and played on weekends.

He received permission from the plant manager to form a team and travel around selling war bonds to the fans.

Serafine then persuaded the Globetrotter's owner Abe Saperstein to sign the six : Duke Cumberland, Bernie Price, Sonny Boswell, Roosie Hudson, Tony Peyton and Hillary Brown, over to him with the understanding that they would return to the Globetrotters at war's end. So, in 1942, augmented with four white fellow worker/players, the United Auto Workers fielded the Chicago Studebaker Champions, who with the Toledo team, established the NBL as the first integrated sports league in the U.S. Although there were rumors of inter-racial strife, this was denied by both sides, claiming any problems had to do with how the game should be played.

The Champions ( sometimes referred to as the Studebaker Flyboys) wore the red and blue Globetrotter colors and ended the season 8-15 but lost the first round playoff to the Pistons. They traveled around the Midwest for three years, hopping freight trains, playing, and selling bonds at all manner of venues.

After the team folded, the players returned to a struggling Globetrotters and after the war ended, Daniel Serafine went on to earn a fortune in real estate, and retired to Menlo Park, California. The now Harlem Globetrotters recovered and continued to play and entertain crowds all over the world (I remember they made mince-meat out of the R.A.F. basketball team in the U.K.).

Forward to January 2007. Daniel Serafine, now widowed and 92 years old, sits on the bench with the Harlem Globetrotters at the HP pavilion in San Jose, California, reunited with the only surviving Champions player, Tony Payton. Serafine had written a letter in November 2006 to manager Mannie Jackson telling his story, wanting the world to know that he once coached the Globetrotters. Intrigued, Mannie checked with Tony Payton, and then arranged for the reunion.

Daniel considers his time with the Champions as the best days of his life. "I coached the Globetrotters, I really did. For 60 years I've wanted the world to know."

Material for this story forwarded by Jeff Rice SDC member. Other material from various websites. — Ed

### **Note: Web site address change!**

To avoid getting the 'NOT FOUND ERROR' when you go to the website, you need to eliminate the 'club sites' part of the address. The correct address is now:

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/notxsc/>

## Watch out for old Straps!

### A WARNING FOR CAR HAULERS By Bill Osborne

**How old are your tie down strips???** I recently bought a 1936 Rolls Royce that had been parked in Bryan since 1969. After having it hauled to Bob Barnes at B&B Auto for some awakening, I loaded it on my trailer for the trip to my farm in Louisiana. Tied down with two straps in front and two straps in the rear, I headed off for the four-hour drive. All went well until about five miles from the farm. On a narrow back country road a flock of guinea fowl ran right out in front of me and stopped in the middle of the road. I braked hard to keep from hitting them and felt and heard a loud thud from the trailer. When I looked in the rear view mirror, I saw the front wheels of the Rolls hanging off the front of the trailer. When I went back to see what happened, I found the car four feet forward on top of the wind dam, which had broken off, the front bumper of the Rolls on the bent winch handle and the front axle sitting on the battery case. Both rear straps had broken.

I have hauled cars all over the country with this trailer and straps and never had a problem. I never thought to replace the straps after eight years. Tires, yes! Lights, yes! Brakes, yes! Hitch, yes! But not the straps!

Thanks to good floor jacks and the front end loader on my John Deere, I was able to lift the front of the car, move it back on the trailer and roll it off. I was very lucky. No damage to the car. Another two inches and the trailer jack would have been through that beautiful Rolls Royce grill that is still in perfect condition since 1936. I now have four new industrial grade straps.



Reprinted with appreciation from *The Hubcap*, Central Texas Chapter



Back In 2009, or so, I reported on attempts to revive the Studebaker Brand by an entrepreneur in Colorado, who planned to start out with scooters and motorcycles. The effort has been revived by Ric W. Reed, CEO of the Studebaker Motor Company. (Yes it's legal, the team acquired the abandoned name a decade or so ago.) Now they are getting serious, have dropped the scooter and motorcycle gambit and are going for the big prize—the Lark! (Estimated cost \$120,000) And maybe a Champ PU. He met with Hybrid platform developers and then business leaders in South Bend, Indiana, talking up his plans. He is actively looking for 'qualified' investors and 'day volunteers' (1 \$-a year) to participate in this community endeavor. You can purchase a commemorative certificate for \$49.99 or a T shirt advertising the scooters they have decided not to produce, for \$10. He is anxious to know what the car community thinks about the idea, like should they use the lazy 'S'! Who knows, Ric might succeed. You can read all about it at [www.studebakermotorcompany.com](http://www.studebakermotorcompany.com)

## More Ennis Pictures



## March Attendees

NAME	CITY	CAR	M/V
Rod Barclay	Argyle	X	M
John Caldwell	Dallas	51 Champ	M
Van Holmes	Carrollton	X	M
Bob Lowry	Dallas	X	M
Bob MacLeod	Carrollton	64 Cruiser	M
Gayle MacLeod	Carrollton		
Tim King	Hurst	X	M
Jack Lockhart	Hurst	X	M
Vic Pochobradsky	Ennis	62 Hawk	M
R.W. Thornton	Ft.Worth	53 Comm	M
Dale, Alice Truitt	Commerce	'55 Pres	M
Bob Underwood	Prosper	X	M



## Monthly Meetings to be Held at Various Locations in 2012.

In response to membership requests that the monthly meeting location be varied, suggestions are being solicited for some new and different meeting spots. We will continue to use the Golden Corral in The Colony as our "home base" and will schedule meetings there about half of the time. For the rest of the meetings we are open to suggestions and welcome your input. If you would like to make a suggestion and help us fill out this year's calendar, send the location and a person to contact (Restaurant Manager, Club Officer, etc) to the Meetings Committee Chairman:

kent.greenlee@tx.rr.com

Or snail mail

Kent Greenlee  
2211 Oak Forest Ct.  
Arlington, Tx. 76012

### SUGGEST A MEETING PLACE

Suggested Date:

Event or Venue :

Contact Person:

Phone:

Restaurant Name, address:

Manager/Contact:

Phone:

Your Name:

Phone/ e-mail

## NTSDC OFFICERS 2012

**President** – Dale Truitt  
(903) 886-7664

**Vice President**—Kent Greenlee  
(817) 265-1108

**Secretary** – Gayle MacLeod  
(972) 394-6590

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(940) 464-4027

**Web Master** – John Caldwell  
**Club Website:**  
http://hemmings.com/notxsdc/

**Sargent-at Arms** – Harry Porter  
(903) 744-2090

## Upcoming Automotive Events

- **May 26** Famers Branch Liberty Fest Car Show.  
All Day 972) 919-8780
- **JN 09** Breakfast at Norma's Trinity Mills and Dallas  
North Tollway. 2nd Sat till Oct. 10AM-1PM
- **JN 30** Jim Bowie Days Car Show, Bowie, TX  
Stan Weeks, (940) 872-5363

Check your local newsletters, etc. and bring the details to the next meeting, so the club members know.

For additional event listings and great links, visit  
[www.hemmings.com](http://www.hemmings.com) [www.hotrodhappenings.com](http://www.hotrodhappenings.com) or  
[www.taillightking.com](http://www.taillightking.com)

### NOTE

**Send all Membership Applications, Dues payments  
And inquiries to: NTSDC, 1215 Shawnee Trail,  
Carrollton, TX. 75007. e-mail: NTSDC@yahoo.com**

*Join us at Pace Place on the 19th!*

Studebaker Driver's Club  
North Texas Wheel  
c/o 826 Indian Trail  
Argyle, TX 76226

