

Jet Thrust News



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Don't Forget
July 4, 2009
International
Drive Your
Studebaker
Day!

Inside this issue:

Richard Yeats continued	2
2009 Studebaker/Orpan Drags	2
Gordon Williams 1963 Lark.	3
Promote Studebaker	4
Contact information	4
Rich La Torre 1964 R1 GT	4

Richard Yeats GT Story

Ron Ellerbe pointed me to this car because I told him I was interested in a R2. Bill Sowerby had contacted Ron hoping to find a Buyer for the car since he wasn't going to do anything with it. In 1999, I bought the car from Bill Sowerby who is in Auburn Hills, Michigan. Bill Purchased the car from

Walter Helms who is in Jackson, Tennessee. Walter purchased the car from Bob Helm who is in Royce City, Texas. Bob purchased the car in Dallas, Texas from the original owner which I cannot identify.

The car was not running when I bought it even though Walter Helms had re-



built the engine before selling it to Bill Sowerby in 1998. I got the car running and then began the normal replacement/refurbishment of the brakes; brake booster; re-built calipers; new king pins; front bushings; cleaned and lined the the gas tank; it had a R1 carb on it so I ordered a R2 carb from Dave

Thibeault to make it run properly; added Magnaflow exhaust system; new headliner, wind lace, sun visors, carpets, dash pad; new rubber seals for windshield and rear window; new rubber seals for the doors; re-arched rear springs; new door strikers; differential seal kit; new U joints; continued....

re-chromed bumpers & supercharger bonnet; straightened and polished all stainless; new shocks; new body emblems; added rear stabilizer bar; added traction bars; added 160 MPH speedometer; purchased Hurst shifter (not installed) for the 4 speed; added R2 grille badge and fender badges (with tape); new paint.

Radio, tachometer, clock and dash lights aren't working. I had the clock rebuilt and it has stopped working.

The car had a Phantom interior with it consisting of door panels, kick panels, console cover, arm rest covers and carpet. However, the Phantom kit was RED. The interior mix up was done by Walter Helms before he sold it to Sowerby. Bob Helm had recovered the seats in black with red inserts when he owned it. The red/black seats wouldn't look right with the rest of the new red interior provided. I couldn't get Walter to swap for a new black interior which is the original color for the car. So, I refurbished the original black door panels and installed new carpet on the bottom of the door panels, created new kick panels, carpeted the floorboard and added a new package tray. I also added a new cardboard panel between the rear seat and the trunk. The interior looks like it did when it was new except for the red inserts in the seats. I've toyed with the idea of dyeing the red inserts black. I still have the new red Phantom interior I will sell if you know someone that might need the red interior.

The original exterior paint color was Regal Red. The current color is a slightly brighter red from a F-150 Ford.

I recently took the supercharger off the car to have it rebuilt. When I get it installed, the car should be in excellent shape. I have a 3.5 " notebook full of correspondence, pictures of the re-build process and receipts for the items purchased for this car.

I'm a member of the North Texas Studebaker Driver's Club.

I also have a 54 coupe similar to the 53 coupe I had in high school and a 64 Daytona 2 door hardtop.
Regards,
Richard Yeats , Grapevine Texas

2009 Studebaker/Orphan Drag Race

We will be having the Studebaker/Orphan Drag Race again this year at the same track as last year. Brown County Dragway is located at 4100 Gatesville Road. Take Indiana 135, five miles North of Nashville, Indiana, then Gatesville Road one mile east of Bean Blossom. It's about 40 miles south of Indianapolis.

The date will be **May 23, 2009**, that's a Saturday so we can have a rain date on Sunday. **Mark your calendar! All skill and performance levels are welcome and encouraged to attend.** Studebakers/Orphans, stock or not, fast or not, have some fun, and earn some bragging rights! Racers and spectators welcome! Experience how fun drag racing can be.

It will be a featured event for the track. They are really happy to have us and I got a lot of positive feedback from the track and the locals about last years race. I was asked to promote our race at the tracks annual banquet.

This is a 1/8 mile track where spectators sit close to the track and enjoy the racing. It will be a fun event and you don't want to miss it .

You can see some of it in these youtube videos. Thanks to Mary Ann Harbit, my wife Rose, and my son Jeff, for taking them. You can see the track and the park like atmosphere of the track.

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=richpoe50+bean+blossom&search_type=&aq=f

See you in May! More information will come later. Any Questions? Email us back or call **812-988-2008**.

Richard and Rose Poe
Attending or participating in drag racing events is entirely at your own risk.

Note:Printed with permission of Bob Palma

Hi Bob: 01/20/09

An excellent article you wrote for *Collectable Automobile* magazine. Thanks for the heads up in the December *Turning Wheels* magazine.

I've been reading your stuff in *Turning Wheels* for so long now I feel I know you.

The biggest treat for me in the article was seeing Gordon Williams 63 Lark at Pomona 1964. I didn't meet him until 1966, by which time he was in R2 trim, plus fenderwell headers by Doug. The car was indeed ordered new (through Warren & Day Studebaker, 8th & E street San Bernardino California. Gordon and wife Jerri also ordered a Blue Cruiser for her, picked them both up in South Bend and drove home to Fontana California. The regal Red car was ordered R1, HD Flightomatic with a column shift, traction bars and a 4:11 (I think). He specifically ordered NO undercoating, as this was to be a race car, but the factory was so grateful they were ordering two cars that they undercoated it for free! His son Ron said that for two weeks, every night he and dad were torching and scraping. He had the burn marks on the back of his to show for it.

Gordon and Jerri had previously campaigned a 1958 Packard wagon in the NHRA stock class, she drove, he tuned. I think they held a record for awhile.

Back to the red 1963, Gordon finally received some sponsorship in the form of headers, manifold ect. To R3 specs. One cool night at Lions he ran a best of 11:87!

I never got to race the car myself, tho I spent a fair amount of time in the drivers seat. Gordon would go talk to folks while I inched it up the staging lanes. Just when I'd think I was gonna get to do it he'd show up and throw me out.

I believe I know the convertible 1964 also. Owned by a fella named Jim ? Jacobs or something, an electrical contractor from Ontario California. Only met him once- John Metzger might know.

Gordon raced at the old Fontana strip on Foothill Blvd, the old Irwindale and OCIR. I believe the car is owned by an SDC member but I don't know. If you find out let us know. The car was well known in the Southern California area. I'd also like to find Ron Williams after 30 years, if anybody knows his whereabouts.

Thanks for listening,

Ken Pyle

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Please support both your local chapter and International Studebaker Drivers Club.

<http://www.studebakerdriversclub.com/localchapters.asp>

Promote Studebaker!!

This year dedicate a few week-ends to promoting Studebaker. This can be easily done by showing the car in “non Studebaker” events. A Cruise-In and Hot Rod runs are a great way to expose Studebakers to younger people. Remember Without passing it on history dies.....

Richard La Torre 1964 R1 Gt wins at the Adirondak Nationals



Yes!!! Rich La Torre (me) won this past fall at the Adirondak Nationals, first time I have ever won anything at a show. The coolest part of this particular show is the cruise on both Friday and Saturday nights, followed by fireworks. The cruise is a two mile loop downtown along the waterfront. I am told the show brings about 80,00 visitors annually for the weekend. I have a home in town and if any JTS members have an interest I may do a “Studebaker house” next year. The judging of the show is unique as you have no idea who the judges are, people are asking questions all day. Then at the end of the day they ask you to attend the awards presentation. If you are in the top 50 you are asked back next year as a senior.