

2016 MUSCLE CAR AND CORVETTE NATIONALS

Right on schedule was the annual 2016 Muscle Car and Corvette National held in Rosemont, Illinois last November 19 & 20th. This time, the main emphasis for the Studebaker display was on Avanti models, and we were not disappointed! On behalf of the Studebaker National Museum was the late Ron Hall's 200mph-breaking Avanti in the lobby, and John Hora's Avanti #9 Bonneville car. In addition, Gary Wood had his freshly restored Avanti #8 on display; companion to Bonneville #9. This event was the first time these two Avantis have been parked next to each other since they both appeared on the salt flats in 1963. As well as those two R3 powered Avantis, was the very first 'production' R3 Avanti of nine belonging to Randy Rapp. It is painted in its original Avanti Turquoise, fresh from a thorough restoration. Besides three more, for a total of seven Avantis being present at MCACN, there were three Avanti-powered cars which are of interest to us, and within the scope of Jet Thrust News. Two of the three have appeared in MCACN in previous years, but rather significantly, Nels' 'Hot Rod Magazine' 1964 Daytona was one of the five Studebakers present with an R3 motor, and the only one that was not under the hood of an Avanti. This year, for his efforts, Nels' car earned him the RediRad 'Sponsor's Pick Award'. It will be the second year in a row where Nels' has earned a 'Sponsor's Pick Award', having received one last year for his equally nice Super Red '63 Standard two door sedan. Eric DeRosa once again showed off his pristine Rose Mist R2-powered 1963 Custom two door sedan after a one-year hiatus. New for Studebaker this year was our first entry in the ever popular 'Barn Finds' section of the show. In the last issue, we showed a couple of teaser photos of Jim Moore's recently acquired 1964 Daytona two door hardtop with R2 on page two. The majority of us got to see this car 'as found' up close after being transported from the Denver, Colorado, area, where it was sold new. Turn to the back cover to see a photo of this car.

As mentioned in my editorial, the 2016 MCACN show was the highest attended to date by Studebaker folk who gave the marque the best support that could be given for any make of muscle car out there, that was therefore, unequalled. There were attendees from all over the United States and Canada, including Pat Dilling from California, John Kroulik, owner of the famous Whistler '63 Regal and Sebastian Scopellite who flew in from Arizona that morning, and left for home six hours later. And besides Nels earning a 'Sponsor's Pick Award' and John Batka earning a Gold award for his Avanti as modified by Brad Bez, our group of seven Studebakers in the main hall won Car Craft Magazine's 'Best Display' Award. Adding to the excitement and cohesiveness of our group was Matt Freshour's efforts in getting some replica white & dark red 1963 'Team Bonneville' shirts made with contrasting collars and the obligatory 'Avanti' script on the front and back, which incidently, is the exact same script so discreetly seen 'in fine print' on the front fenders on some 1963 Larks, Cruisers, Standards, G.T. Hawks, and all 1964 G.T. Hawks and Lark-types equipped with a Jet Thrust engine. Yep, every Studebaker car in attendance at last year's MCACN had the word, 'Avanti' in script on it somewhere to match our shirts!! Once again, a big thanks to Ed & Cyndi George and family, Andy Beckman from the Studebaker National Museum, and the Avanti Owners Association International with assistance from Lew Schucart in arranging for his black Avanti and John Batka's R4 Avanti to be in the show!



As in previous years at MCACN, very informative signs were provided by Luke Krooswyk, who's expertise in his graphic arts skills were evident in their colorful layout and design.



Nels explaining the finer points of R3 performance to John Kroulik and Sebastian Scopellite who flew in from Arizona the morning of the show and left for home that same evening. Talk about dedication!!