



AVANTI

Magazine

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Free for AOAI Members

**Inside: Holiday
in Palm Springs**

ALSO:

2023 Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals

Remembering Paula Murphy

Art Center College's Annual Car Show

Electrical Gremlins

Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals

The 2023 Show

By John Hull
Contributing editor
Photos by Lewis Schucart

The overriding theme of this show is to be bigger, better, not to mention just the very best muscle car show on planet Earth. Each year the organizers work to bring varied and distinguished exhibits of everything muscle car. The 2023 show on November 18 and 19, held in the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on the north side of greater Chicago area and featured the Class of 1973, an invitational display with prime examples made by GM, Ford, and Chrysler. Additionally there was another invitational special gathering of Ford and Mercury Boss Edition automo-

biles, The 2023 show also featured over 15 cars in a class named Barn Finds and Hidden Gems. This display is always one of the most popular as spectators always flock to see these long sequestered and recently uncovered treasures. It was worth the price of admission alone to view those long slumbering beauties and dream of what now lies in their future.

No surprise, my favorite class at the show is titled Studebaker Legends. Ed George, with the support of his family plus a cadre of Studebaker enthusiasts endeavors to keep Studebaker and its performance history front and center at the show each year. This year the focus was on Studebaker Bonneville record breakers in observance of the 60th anniversary of the salt assault by Studebaker.

Ed shares a passion for all things Studebaker especially the high performance Larks, Hawks and Avantis. With the passage of over 50 years since these cars were produced, he endeavors to educate new generations of the fine cars built in South Bend Indiana. He had listed this year's participants their vehicles and identified the significance of each.

Three that had run on Bonneville's salt were Nelson Bove's 1964 Daytona convertible that Dave Walters hand lettered during the show and Gary Woods' #8 Avanti. Jon Myer's 1963 Lark with R-2 power had run on the Salt. Jon and his son Mike also showed a Super Lark prototype.

The Studebaker National Museum brought the



Left: Gary Wood's #8 Bonneville car, in front of the Studebaker Museum's engineering prototype.



Above: Mark Zickefoose recently acquired '63 Avanti on display in the Pure Stock Muscle Car Drag Race display.



1963 engineering body, opposite page, lower right.

Mike Foglton's 1964 R-2 Avanti—opposite page behind engineering body—that had been one of the cars photographed for AOA Authenticity Manual, was shown as was Dave Carnock's black Avanti featured in *Avanti Magazine* #203. It received the Platinum Pick Judges Choice Studebaker award. And, the 1964 Joe Granatelli-built Cadillac-powered Avanti now owned by AOA Pennsylvania member Henry Mann, also earned an award. That car had been the cover and inside feature of issue #201 of this magazine.

Also to be noted is *Old Cars* magazine's more comprehensive coverage of the entire show found at OldCarsWeekly.com. Key MCACN 2023 into the search box that pulls down when you click on the three horizontal parallel lines in upper left corner of home page and select the stories you wish to read of which there are several. Also two print editions of *Old Cars*, cover dates of January 1 and February 1, 2024 respectively, have additional MCACN coverage. *Old Cars* is, in my opinion, an excellent publication covering practically every aspect of this old car hobby we all enjoy.

Speaking of enjoyment: attending MCACN must be on your bucket list as the vehicles, displays, attention to detail makes this *the* Muscle Car and Corvette Show of shows. The 2024 edition will welcome visitors on November 23 and 24 in Rosemont, Illinois. //



AT RIGHT:
One of the original wheels and tires as run over 60 years ago on the Bonneville Salt Flats.

TOP: Participants and club members gathered around Nelson Bove's restored 1964 Lark Daytona convertible that set records in 1963 on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Sign painter Dave Walters was hired to complete the custom gold leaf lettering as originally appeared on the salt by Andy Granatelli and Studebaker. This is the third Studebaker he lettered at the show. INSET: Nelson Bove with the MCACN's Bob Palma Memorial Award given to an outstanding participant who shows passion and enthusiasm for our hobby.

LEFT: Members take a pizza break and visit near the Avanti and Studebaker display.

