

AVANTI

Magazine

Issue 197 Winter/Spring 2022

AVANTI Owners Association
International, Inc.

\$7.75 US, \$9.75 CAN, € 5.73

Free for AOA Members

Inside: Avanti Color Palette on Display in Chicago

ALSO:

Holiday Brunch in Palm Springs

Cancun Avanti Double-Take

Design Comparison: Excalibur & Avanti

Is Your Front-End Sagging?

Chicago's Muscle Car Show Returns With Even More Avantis in Six Original Colors

By John Hull
Contributing Editor

Auto enthusiasts were relieved to be able to attend the premier muscle car show in the United States again the weekend of November 20-21, 2021 for, as with so many events, the 2020 show had been cancelled due to the covid pandemic restrictions. Corvettes, Studebakers, and muscle cars of interest made by other marques were again on display in the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont to educate and purely for attendees viewing pleasure. The best of the best.

The Muscle Car and Corvette National (MCACN) show manages to out perform each prior year's edition with a an ever changing line up of some of the nation's premier muscle cars. Of particular interest to Avanti readers is the Studebaker Legends Display planned and executed by AOA member Ed George with his crew. Ed has, for a number of years, successfully featured significant Studebaker high performance, Avantis and Avanti-powered Studebaker cars. This year's theme was showing off the six colors available on 1963 production Studebaker Avantis. The exhibit was very well received by attendees. Ed does manage to come up with the most outstanding and unusual displays year after year.

This year's Studebaker Legend line up as recounted by Ed: "Starting in the lobby, we had Justin Cole's 1954 Starliner. Then in the Studebaker Legends display itself we started with Gary Wood's #8 Granatelli-run speed record contender that had an R-3 in it. Next was Fred Mazure's gold R-2, then Richard Sevich's turquoise R-1, the white one with R-1 power belonged to the Studebaker National Museum, next was Maryland resident Bill Clark's grey R-2, then Lew Schucart's black R-1, followed by Californian Justin Laird's 1964 supercharged R-2 Hawk, and Virginian Jeff Bradel's 1963 Daytona supercharged R-2. In the Barn Finds we had Anne and Eddie George's 1964 R-1 Daytona."

Every Stude and Avanti ever judged at the show has received a first place and some have gotten higher award recognition so that's something we all should be proud of. And I have noticed a number of cars offered at auctions lately mention having received a MCACN award as an enticement to prospective buyers.

Looking back over past MCACN shows, the Cole's '54 Starliner is the fourth time a Stude has greeted showgoers in the lobby. The first had been in 2016 with Ron Hall's built-to-challenge-Bonneville Avanti. The following year the lobby feature was Colorado resident Steve Doerschlag's 1963 R-2 Hawk, which while still owned by Studebaker had been in the company's display at the Chicago Auto Show. Then in 2019 Ted Harbit's Stude Lark, known as the "Tomato," had been the lobby feature. Harbit had transported his Lark from his Indiana home to Illinois on his color-matching 1961 Studebaker Transtar ramp truck.

The Muscle Car And Corvette Nationals show gains in prominence each year. Mark November 19 and 20 on your 2022 calendar if you'd like to attend. And, should you wish to be considered as an entrant visit MCACN's website at MCACN.com or contact Ed George directly at Ed.George@mktruck.com.

AT RIGHT, FROM TOP, Cars representing the six original Studebaker Avanti colors:

- Gary Wood's #8 Bonneville car in Avanti Red;
- Fred Mazur's Avanti Gold R-2;
- Richard Sevich's Avanti Tourquoise R-1;
- Studebaker museum's Avanti White R-1;
- Bill and Chrissie's Avanti Gray R-2;
- Lewis Schucart's Avanti Black R-1.



AOAI members gather in front of the Studebaker Legends display.