



The Canadian Avanti

Official Newsletter for the Canadian Avanti Owners Association

February 2018

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This newsletter dedicated in memory of our late friend Diane Larmour.

President's Message

Well, the winter is still here, as it should be I guess. Hard to believe that daylight savings time switches over next week. Spring still seems very far away. Anyway, we hope all goes well with you and that your interests in all things Avanti are beginning to come out of the long hibernation. I suppose most of you have received the latest Avanti Magazine featuring Larry Gibson's Blake tribute. Congrats to Larry for getting that together in the nick of time. What a great show. I guess here in the middle, Badenoch is our first get together for the season, on April 21st. Also a meeting is being planned for CAO A on the 22nd, location to be announced. I have already received an invitation to Fleetwood for June, and I suspect a few Studebaker and Avanti fans will be making the trip to Buffalo to watch the start of the Hemmings Great Race on June 23rd. Buffalo to Halifax. Look it up and enjoy the parade if they are coming your way. I know some years ago they came through this area and Dave Moxham and I met the crowd at a stopping point. A moving car show and a chance to chat with some of the participants. Tremendous variety of classic vehicles being driven as they should be. A memorable experience. Check further for other events listed. Memberships are coming in and we welcome new member, as of 2017 Steve Wright. In closing here is a bit of trivia. Raymond Loewy's design for the International Harvester logo...is also an image from behind, of a man on a tractor! Check it out. Pretty cool. Wishing all of you the best for the upcoming season, and hope to see as many as possible at various events.

Steve

Editor's Message

Finding out last year that the 2018 Avanti Association International meet (along with the 54th Annual SDC International Meet) is being hosted in the NW USA I became very excited of the prospect I could actually attend! As during the last couple of years my wife and I have been trying to do a road trip to the NW USA area (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana) without any previous success (snow impediments including) since my wife has never been to that beautiful area. It's as close as an annual international meet is ever likely to be to our northeastern Alberta Bonnyville home. And it's occurring during a camp-work set I am already off August 30 to September 5 inclusive. YAY, so our attending for a couple of days is in my 2018 calendar plans!!! CAN'T WAIT TO ATTEND☺!!!

That was then.... this is (recently) now....

Because my wife has immediate family living in eastern Canada we don't have many opportunities to see each other in person. The end of this coming August our families all have that same time off. Thus we are all meeting in western Ontario the latter part of August after (our garden harvest) for camping together before returning home for September 4th school startups.

If the previous paragraph sounds a little dreary that really isn't the case. As I am fortunate to like my in-laws, yepper's that's here in writing;). They forever happily accept my personal idiosyncrasies/quirks. And they always give great big sincere hugs! So it's still A WIN FOR ME☺!!!

Further to the above, I am regrettably missing out on attending three local car shows this coming warm season due to my camp employment of working every other weekend. However, and for inclusion in future CAO A newsletters upcoming events, please send me anytime any shows/gatherings you know of or may be attending as the more opportunities for getting out increases the chances for all of us myself including. Life is grand riding in a collectable automobile. Life is grandeur visiting with each other and other collectable interest enthusiasts. The days are getting longer. Soon warmer days will be upon us enabling our readily moving about happily again☺ Shawn



Canadian Avanti Owners Association, Chapter Officers and Support Personnel



The Canadian Avanti Owners Association (CAOA) is a non-profit organization committed to preserving the history of the Avanti automobile. We currently have +45 members located in all provinces across Canada. We are a Chapter of the Avanti Owners Association International www.aoai.org. Our group strives to promote the research and study of the Avanti and the companies that have produced it over the years. We wish to share our knowledge with others and encourage the acquisition, preservation, restoration, and maintenance of all Avantis produced by Studebaker and successor companies. Our Canadian Chapter also promotes fellowship and camaraderie by publishing a newsletter quarterly, participating in local CAOAs or Studebaker Drivers Club events and our general meetings held quarterly at various members' homes. Ownership of an Avanti (Studebaker or successor) is not required.

Should you have any questions please contact any of the following:

CAOA Chapter Officers or Support Personnel

President	Steve <u>Wohleber</u>	705.383.2432	sbwohleber@gmail.com
Vice President	Hugh Campbell	519.978.0600	Avanti@cogeco.ca
Membership	Larry Gibson	905.945.3515	larryandbarb.gibson@sympatico.ca
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Avanti Display at the 2017 Chicago Muscle Car and Corvette National Show by

Larry Gibson

The AOAI had an impressive 11 car Avanti timeline display at the Muscle Car and Corvette National Show in mid-November 2017 at Chicago. This show consisted of more than 400 of the rarest of the best original survivor and precisely restored Muscle Cars, as well as many period correct Road Race and Drag cars. In addition, there were almost another 100 highly modified cars, also mostly from the 1960's and early 1970's, often described as Pro-Touring or Resto-Mods.

The Avanti display (as well as a separate Studebaker Hawk display) was organized by Ed George (and friends), and consisted of representatives from each of the Avanti manufacturers from 1962 to 2007, aligned in a row, as follows:



Studebaker	1963 - Gold	Chuck Galauner
	1964 - Turquoise	Frank Troost
Newman & Altman	1967 - White	Cindy & Jim Pepper
	1976 - Red	Paul Windish
Seve Blake	1983 - Black	Don Hart
Michael Kelly	1988 - Red (convert)	Richard James
	1988 - Black	Jason Smith
Kelly/ Cafaro	1989 - Red	Max Starkey
Jim Bunting	1997 - Turquoise AVX	Dale Saxton
Michael Kelly	2007 - Yellow (convert)	Don Linder
Blake/Gibson Tribute	1973 - Turquoise	Larry Gibson
	(Avanti GT 1986 Prototype)	



In addition to meeting many new Avanti friends, it was an opportunity to explain Avanti history to auto enthusiasts of diverse interests, as well as explaining the unique features of my custom Avanti GT. My son Scott and I thoroughly enjoyed the show, making several laps over the course of the weekend.

Gibson Avanti GT Tribute Car by Larry Gibson

THE WRAP-UP (Previous coverage of this build can be found in CAO A Newsletters of July 2016, October 2016, and January 2017 – being Larry's tribute to the 1986 Blake Two-passenger Prototype that was planned but never built.)

The last article (almost a year ago) ended with the chassis having just been completed and the newly painted body shell ready to be installed on the chassis. Once positioned correctly, the radiator support and original trunk body mounts were bolted to the chassis. Additional metal reinforcement was added, connecting the door hinge boxes, lower dash support, and firewall to the chassis, in both the engine bay and welded to the lower chassis rails at the front of the door, and by welding the original Avanti roll bar to the chassis at the back of the door. At this point the Avanti GT became virtually a unibody structure.





A 1963 Turquoise and Elk “faux leather” upholstery theme was adopted for the interior, utilizing Procar Rally seats and AAC Tuxedo Turquoise and Black carpeting.

Since upholstery in the window areas must be installed before the glass, minimal suspension was temporarily installed to create a “roller”, so that the Avanti GT could be transferred to *Route 66 Upholstery*.



To accommodate the recessed firewall and make room for the Vintage Air system, a spacer was made to move the dash and seating position back 4.5”. The Vintage Air controls were installed in the original radio dash recess and a new Kenwood Audio and Navigation system was located at the front of the modified original console, where the air conditioning outlets were formerly located. With minor changes, the original Avanti shifter and air controls were retained to continue the theme. The dash now has two large round Dakota Digital analogue gages connected to the OBD2 outlet of the ECM for the LS2 engine and transmission computers. In addition to greatly simplifying dash wiring, the Dakota Digital system provides multiple inputs of modern secondary information, as well as electronic safety start controls and a manual *tapshift* with a digital gear position indicator for the 6L80e transmission.

Upon return to my shop (unfortunately many weeks later than planned), a new windshield was installed, along with the original rear window, door glass, and the shortened (4.0”), and still functional, rear quarter windows; all with their respective newly polished stainless. At this point, a Speartech wiring harness and modified ECM were installed to control the LS2 Corvette engine. This was merged with a Painless wiring harness and fuse block to control all lighting and other electrical systems. Extensive use of relays minimized electrical loads on switches and wiring within the passenger compartment. The overhead switch console remains functional.



With the wiring almost complete, attention was next focused on plumbing lines for the brakes, fuel and cooling lines for the engine and transmission. Next, all suspension components were refinished, and permanently installed. Once the driveshaft and rear axles were shortened to the correct length, and installed, the C6 Corvette brake rotors and calipers were also re-installed. These brief sentences required about another six months in time, partly due to very hot weather, and partly due to many

enjoyable summer automotive distractions, many involving the driving of my very original 1963 Avanti or my highly modified Pro-Touring 1966 Commander.



With the cooler fall weather, a flurry of activity resumed, addressing the many remaining details, which included installing the flush mount front bumper and the rear modified C3 Corvette split bumpers which frame the four outlet center exhaust tips.



I was hoping that completion could be achieved by mid-November, to allow a debut display of the Avanti GT at the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals Show in Chicago. I soon had the engine running, but the engine ECM was not talking nicely to the transmission TCM, so it refused to move. Both the ECM and TCM were removed (not easy), shipped to Indianapolis for reprogramming, returned and re-installed, all within the first week of November. The transmission now engaged and shifted properly, but the engine will require further fine tuning.

Just before leaving for Chicago, a custom stainless MagnaFlow exhaust system, complete with “high flow bullet cats” was fabricated installed by the *Harrington Built* rod shop.



The *Budnik* built “Remington” SKO custom 18” wheels were further customized with gold accents in the brushed areas, for a subtle “magnesium style tint”.

Yes, we made it to Chicago, with the first significant drive of the Avanti from the trailer to our display site adjacent to the Avanti Timeline display, which had been superbly coordinated by Ed George and friends. My son Scott, and I really enjoyed the show, met many new Avanti friends, and were pleased that my tribute to the 1986 Blake Prototype Avanti GT was well received in a show where the stars are the rarest of factory original



Muscle Cars which are revered as well as numerous period correct modified race cars which I especially envied. This included a main floor display of several performance oriented Studebaker Hawks from the late 1950’s and early 1960’s.

Over the winter there are still few numerous details to complete, and others to be redone better. No doubt, road testing will expose a few flaws to repair, but your photographer for this article, Lewis Schucart advised me that it will never be truly finished. In any case, I am looking forward to some long distance cruising this summer. He may be right, as I was just thinking that a *Paxton* R2 upgrade might be a good project for next winter.

(The complete build story can also be found at www.gibsonmotorsports.ca)

Avanti Pizza Dartmouth, Nova Scotia *from Brian Chappell*

Brian Chappell submitted this of an Avanti excursion he did some time ago. If only I were closer I would verify if hopefully the business still exists today as I enjoy eating and especially pizza! Maybe someone can check this out this upcoming warm season and report back to me☺! Thus from Brian:

Attached is a picture I took a while ago, Avanti Pizza in Dartmouth NS opened in 1975 which is the year of me Avanti.

I had a print of this framed and gave it to the pizza shop owner with the following caption on it:

- *Avanti Pizza created 1975 in Dartmouth, NS.*
- *Avanti Auto created 1975 in South Bend, ID.*

The pizza shop owner was quite taken with this, he had never heard of an Avanti car.



Raymond Loewy *from Shawn Brockhoff*

Most of you or maybe all of you know of Raymond Loewy. He was a pioneer of industrial design. He also assembled the team to design the original Avanti. The March 2018 edition #168 of Hemmings Classic Car magazine features a designer profile of Loewy. An excerpt with a few photos of the Hemmings article can be viewed at <https://www.hemmings.com/magazine/hcc/2018/03/Raymond-Loewy/3751550.html>. Whereas if you aren't a Hemmings subscriber for the full article nor have access to a hard copy of the magazine, don't fret, you may also view another Loewy feature on WIKIPEDIA at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Loewy. Both writings are excellent historically significant reads.

Misc. CAO A

Just a reminder to renew your CAO A membership at \$15.00 for the year with our treasurer Dave. Additionally, Dave also has Avanti 2018 calendars available for \$15.00 including postage. Dave's address is: Dave Moxham, PO Box 341, 853 Lafreniere Rd. , Noelville, ON, P0M 2H0, and for more details you may call or email him at 705.898.1326 or davemoxham@live.com

Upcoming Events

APRIL 7th, Vancouver, British Columbia, the **B.C. Coaster Chapter** will meet at 12 noon for lunch and business meeting, hosted by the Yuen and Wong families to celebrate Peter Yuen's 90th birthday. Site is the Moberly Arts and Cultural Centre, 7646 Prince Albert St. Phone: 604-718-6521. Contact: Mark Carson, email: markcarson007@hotmail.com.

APRIL 21st, Morriston, Ontario, the Annual Ontario Chapter hosts its **Badenoch Swap Meet** 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Badenoch community Centre (Old School House) near Morriston, Ontario. All Ontario Chapter, Hamilton Chapter, Canadian Avanti Owners along with all Studebaker enthusiasts are welcome. Free Attendance. Bring your surplus Studebaker parts to sell or want lists. Drive your Studebaker to this event. Food is available. Contact: Paul Revell, 905-584-6445. Email: paulrevell01@gmail.com. Website: www.ontariosdc.ca.

JUNE 23rd – JULY 1st, Buffalo, New York, the **Hemmings Motor News Great Race** will begin at 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. It goes from Buffalo to Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada. The race will start at the Buffalo Transportation Museum also known as the Pierce Arrow Museum 263 Michigan Ave. 14303. In 2017. Five Studebakers participated in this event last year. Website: www.pierce-arrow.com. qq. Phone: 800-989-7223. Email: jeff@greatrace.com. Website www.greatrace.com

AUGUST 28th – SEPTEMBER 1st, Seattle/Tacoma, Washington. "The Place To Be Seen in 2018" **Avanti Association International Meet** Tacoma, Washington. Spread the word of exciting news about the 2018 Avanti International Meet! For more info the meet website is: www.aoai.org/international-avanti-meet. And the host hotel for the 2018 international meet will be at [The Best Western Plus Tacoma Dome](http://www.bestwestern.com).



If you are a part of the AOAI you will receive a special room rate of only \$129 a night. This comes with a complimentary hot breakfast including a sensational omelet station. The hotel is also pet friendly. Reserve today as they expect the rooms to fill up fast. Call 1-253-272-7737 to make your reservation and make sure to mention SDC/AOAI to receive your special rate!



AUGUST 29th – SEPTEMBER 1st, Seattle/Tacoma, Washington. The Tacoma and Greater Seattle Chapters host the **54th Annual SDC International Meet**. There are three hotels under contract, La Quinta, Best Western, and the Holiday Inn. Tours in the planning stage are the Pike Place Market, the Museum of Flight, and the LeMay – America's Car Museum. For more info the meet website is: www.sdcmeet.com. You may also contact Laurel Berry, President of the SDC Greater Seattle Chapter at 253-631-5076 or francie1965@yahoo.com.



Obituary for our late friend Diane Larmour

Diane passed away peacefully with her family at her side in the Fairview Manor (Almonte, ON.) on January 22, 2018.

Loving wife of Rolly. Daughter of the late Howard and Margaret (nee Leishman). Survived by her sister Eileen (Mel Timmons). Sister-in-law of Gord (Viv) and Darwin (Susan) Larmour, as well as Arlene (the late Bud) Wilson. Remembered by several nieces and nephews with special consideration to nephew Steve Timmons and niece Betsy Larmour for their support. Donations in memory of Diane may be made to the Almonte General Hospital Fairview Manor Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society. Visitation will be held in the late Spring. Family and friends will be advised as to the date and times in the C.R. Gamble Funeral Home.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted Into The Care Of *C.R. Gamble Funeral Home & Chapel Inc.* (127 Church St., Almonte, Ont. 613-256-3313). Condolences & Tributes: www.crgamble.com

Membership Forms for CAO A and AOAI

- Canadian Avanti Owners Association (CAOA) – CAO A membership forms can be accessed from the CAO A website at <http://canadianavanti.ca/membership.html>. Alternatively, a copy of the form is on a following page. Ownership of an Avanti (Studebaker or successor) is not required.
- Avanti Owners Association International (AOAI) – AOAI membership forms can be accessed from the CAO A website at <http://canadianavanti.ca/membership.html>. Alternatively, a copy of the form is on a following page. Ownership of an Avanti (Studebaker or successor) is not required.





Membership Application & Renewal Form

The A.O.A.I. welcomes anyone with an interest in Avanti vehicles and history. Annual Memberships receive four (4) quarterly issues of Avanti Magazine. Send a completed copy of this form along with payment in the form of a check or money order made out to "A.O.A.I." in U.S. Dollars to the address below.

- New Membership
- Renewal

AOAI Membership
 C/O Cornerstone Registrations, Ltd.
 P.O. Box 1715
 Maple Grove, MN 55311-6715
 U.S.A.

Phone (763) 420-7829
 Fax (763) 420- 7849

OR JOIN ON-LINE AT WWW.AOAI.ORG

Membership in U.S.:

- Annual Membership (includes \$25 for a one-year subscription to Avanti Magazine).....\$ 31.00
- Special introductory rate for first-time members (includes one-year subscription).....\$ 25.95
- Special: Pay for five years, get a 20% discount. It's like getting the 5th year free!.....\$ 125.00
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP:\$ 1000.00

Canada and foreign Membership:

- Annual Foreign Membership (includes \$32 for a one-year subscription to Avanti Magazine).....\$ 39.00
- Special introductory rate for first-time members (includes one-year subscription)\$34.95
- LIFE MEMBERSHIP\$ 1000.00

Museum Donation:

- Studebaker National Museum Donation (\$5, \$10, \$25, \$100 or other)\$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

- Check (enclosed) Mastercard, Visa, Discover, Amex # _____ Exp. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prvnc: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ () E-Mail: _____

Where did you learn about the A.O.A.I. ? _____

Date of Birth: _____ (Optional)

AOAI Member # (if renewal): _____ (from membership card or magazine label)

Year Avanti owned	Model (Example: "Avanti II")	Serial Number
1		
2		
3		

FORM 001 V6 AOAI OCT 2014

