

History of Avanti

The Studebaker Avanti was a sports coupe built by the Studebaker Corporation at the direction of its president Sherwood Egbert between June 1962 and December 1963. It has been described as "one of the more significant milestones of the postwar industry", gaining iconic status with enthusiasts and collectors.

Production details

Designed by Raymond Loewy's team of Tom Kellogg, Bob Andrews and John Ebstein on a 40-day crash program, the Avanti featured a radical fiberglass body design mounted on a modified Studebaker Lark Daytona 109-inch convertible chassis with a modified 289 Hawk engine. Only 4,643 Avantis were produced.

After the closure of Studebaker's South Bend factory on 20 December 1963, the tooling and plant space were sold to two South Bend Studebaker dealers, Nate Altman and Leo Newman, the first of a succession of entrepreneurs to manufacture small numbers of Avanti replica cars, initially from left-over Studebaker components and later from General Motors and Ford chassis and engines. These replica cars created a following by some enthusiasts and collectors.

Altman and Newman

After Studebaker had ceased production at South Bend, the "Avanti" model name, tooling and plant space were bought by local Studebaker dealers, Nate Altman and Leo Newman, who incorporated as Avanti Motor Corporation and hand-built small numbers of cars. They introduced a slightly modified version of the car in 1965 under the brand name "Avanti II". which initially had a 327 in (5.4 L) Chevrolet Corvette engine. This evolved to the 350, the 400 and, finally the 305. All Avanti IIs and their successors were built on left-over Studebaker chassis until 1987

Stephen H. Blake

On October 1, 1982, real-estate developer Stephen H. Blake bought the rights to the Avanti II. He made modifications to the car, which had remained unchanged since the production of the Avanti II model began in the mid-1960s. Rectangular headlights and modern plastic body-colored bumpers were introduced. He also dropped the "II" in the car's name. All subsequent cars would be simply called the "Avanti". Blake's company declared bankruptcy in 1986.

Michael Eugene Kelly

The insolvent company was purchased by Michael Kelly, who relocated production to Youngstown, Ohio. His 1987-89 models were based on GM's G-platform that underpinned the Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

The company claimed that a second-generation automobile was styled by Tom Kellogg, the youngest member of the original Avanti design team, in the late 1990s. This car was based on GM's "F" platform Camaro/Firebird. Tom Kellogg was fatally injured in a car accident in California on 14 August 2003.

The Avanti Motors website records that, from 2004, Ford chassis and engines were used. In October 2005 an internet report was published that "Avanti Motors" had "recently announced a new relationship with Ford Motor Company and was planning a big comeback". The new Avantis, very similar in appearance to the Firebird-based cars designed by Kellogg, were to be based on the current-generation Ford Mustang and were available as both coupes and convertibles. A brief report in October 2006 said the company had established a new factory at Cancun, Mexico and planned to produce 400 vehicles per year. A brief chronology of relevant events from 1961-2005 has been published but all production of new vehicles has apparently ended. As of 2007 they planned to produce 150 cars per year. The "Avanti Motors" website still exists but appears not to have been updated since 2006.

Michael Eugene Kelly, owner of Avanti Motors Corporation, was arrested by the FBI on Dec 22, 2006 in Florida. Kelly is suspected of running a \$400 million Ponzi scheme from 1992–2004 and is in jail without bail facing mail fraud charges

Links: <http://www.avantisource.com/history.html>

 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Studebaker_Avanti

 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avanti_cars_\(non-Studebaker\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avanti_cars_(non-Studebaker))

 <http://www.avantimotors.com/>

See Avanti Chronology 1.pdf

See The Studebaker Avanti Story-1.pdf

Executive:

| | | | |
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Meetings

Meetings of the Canadian Avanti Owners Association are typically held four times a year (April, June, August, and October) at a member's home. Dates and locations are published under events and in our minutes and newsletter.

Meetings typically comprise of a lunch followed by a meeting (typically 2-3 hours) then social time which sometimes includes a tour (discretion of host). Due to the locale of the Executive, meetings are typically located in Southern Ontario.

We hope that you have the opportunity to attend a meeting in the future.

Members in other parts of Canada are encouraged to get together at cars shows, AOAI/SDC International and Zone meets as well as special occasions (Christmas, etc.).

Meeting Schedule: April 11, 2010 – Roland and Mary Ann Vardon, Orangeville ON
June 27, 2010 – Mike and Judith Emmerich, Cambridge, ON
September 26 – Ralph and Marguerite Hart, Cambridge, ON
Nominations/considerations for a position in the executive required.
November TBA – Bill Harris, Dundas ON
Chapter elections, all executive positions

Membership Information

Membership fee for the CAO A is \$15.00 and is due January 1st. Please fill in the membership form, and make cheque payable to "CAOA Canada". Please note that members of local chapters are recommended to be members of the Avanti Owners Association International (AOAI) which publishes the quarterly publication "Avanti".

Membership Application CAO A (CAOA_AOAI membership Application.pdf)

Bill Harris

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Membership Application AOAI

<http://www.aoai.org/about.htm>

Note: you may either register online using a major credit card or fill the application in and print it off. You may then mail it to the Membership Secretary at the address near the top of the form.

Events:

- July 16-18, 2010: Crossroads Zone Meet in Chillicothe, Ohio. Hosts: Heart of Ohio Chapter. More information available at http://www.studebakerdriversclub.com/ev_Crossroads.asp).
- August 12, 2010: A&W Studebaker themed cruise night in Cambridge on August 12. This is the longest running cruise in Ontario and is always well attended.
- August 15, 2010: Lunch at 11:30 at Swiss Chalet, 555 Simcoe St South, corner of 1st Avenue L1H 4K1. Following lunch a short drive north brings us to Parkwood Estate, the home of GM founder Colonel McLaughlin. A guided tour takes us through the 55 room mansion and the breath-taking gardens and fountains. Visit the website for details <http://www.parkwoodestate.com/>. Please respond to Pat Johnston if you can attend @ 705-742-2632, pandmjohnston@cogeco.ca.
- August 13-15, 2010: Studefest 2010, hosted by Ontario Chapter (<http://www.ontariosdc.ca/>). Brockville, ON, host hotel Quality Inn Royal Brock, 100 Stewart Blvd just south off the 401. Sixteen rooms have been set aside until June 11, so book now, as these rooms will go fast. Call 1-800-267-4428 or 613-345-1400.
- September 4, 2010: Drive your Studebaker Day. Similar to July 4, 2009, Chapters across Canada will be participating by arranging tours. If you participate in any event (or just go for a drive) please send a picture and short story to Mike Emmerich.
- September 17, 18, 2010: Pure Stock Drags, Stanton Michigan. "Last year" for this event, according to rumors. Please contact Peter Sant for more information.

Links:

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| AOAI: | http://www.aoai.org/ |
| AOAI Forum: | http://www.aoai.org/forums/index.php |
| Hamilton Chapter SDC: | http://www.thehamiltonchaptersdc.ca/ |
| Ontario Chapter SDC: | http://www.ontariosdc.ca/ |
| Atlantic Canada SDC: | http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/kg.works/acc/ |
| BC Coastal Chapter SDC: | http://blog.studebaker.ca/ |
| BC Southern Chapter SDC: | http://www.bcsouthintsdc.ca/ |
| Vancouver Island Chapter SDC: | http://visdc.shawwebpace.ca/ |
| Bob's Studebaker Avanti Resource: | http://www.studebaker-info.org/ |
| The Avanti: | http://www.theavanti.com/ |
| Studebaker Vendors: | http://www.studebakervendors.com/ |
| Raymond Loewy: | http://www.raymondloewy.com/ |

Buy and Sell:

See Jul 1 Classified Ads Rev 1.pdf

CAOA Members:

Mike and Judith Emmerich
1983 Avanti



David and Alexandra Gellman
1985 Avanti



Bob and Marguerite McLean
1963 Studebaker Avanti R1



David and Barbara Moxham
1963 Studebaker Avanti R2



Peter and Marna Sant
1963 Studebaker Avanti R2



Roland and Mary Ann Vardon
1963 Studebaker Avanti R2



Hugh Campbell
1964 R1



Ted and Lorrie Dirksen
1964 Studebaker Avanti R2



Bill Harris
1963 Studebaker Avanti R2



Steve and Ruth Isard
1963 Studebaker Avanti R1



Fred and Judith Parry
1973 Avanti II



Wayne Hamilton and Sharon Pearce
1985 Avanti



Keith and Marilyn Brooks
1964 Studebaker Avanti R2



Ralph and Marguerite Hart
1964 Studebaker Avanti R2



Ray and Vera Martin
1984 Avanti



Millar and Virginia Young
1989 Avanti



Roly and Sue Lusted
1964 Studebaker Avanti R1



David and Bonnie Brooks
1982 Avanti II



Bill and Joan Patterson
1963 Studebaker Avanti R2



Ellwood Phillips
1963 Studebaker Avanti R1



Newsletter:

See CAO A Newsletter Winter 2007-2008 Rev1.pdf