



## **Studebaker's Bonneville Reunion**

*Every November, gearheads from across North America look forward to an event the way most people look forward to turkey and pumpkin pie. Yep, it's fall and that means it's time for the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals to roll into Rosemont, Illinois for the final big show of the year!*

*This year was different.... Performance Studebakers invaded the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, right next door to Chicago O'Hare airport, in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Illinois, November 19-20.*

*Ron Hall's #1963 Avanti that set the record in the 1990s for the first Studebaker-engined car to break 200 mph., was on display in the convention center's main lobby for all to see as the public entered the main part of the center. This special Avanti was brought to the show by the Studebaker National Museum, where the car is on long-term display, courtesy of Ron's widow, Luanne. The museum set up an informational display around the Avanti and members of the [Blackhawk chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club](#) and [Avanti Owners Association](#) took turns manning the display and answering visitor's questions throughout the weekend.*

*Congratulations go out to Nelson Bove for winning the RediRad Sponsor's Choice Award for his '64 R3 Daytona! Nelson's Daytona was also a Hot Rod Magazine featured car and*

*was racing on the Bonneville salt with the #8 and #9 Avantis -- and completing this month's reunion of all three Bonneville Studebakers.*

*The show's relatively new barn find section that features previously unknown dusty and dirty cars just dragged out of their decades-long hiding places debuted a 1964 Studebaker Daytona two-door hardtop. It is not a full-package car, but is nicely equipped with R2 engine, Paxton supercharger, four speed, power steering, reclining bucket seats, headrest and tinted glass. It was dragged out of a Colorado barn this past May where it sat for many years.*

*Originally this show was all about Corvettes, but years ago, Bob and Vicki Ashton and the multitude of fine folks that put the show on, decided to open the party up to all sorts of muscle cars. The show featured over 550 of the world's rarest muscle cars and Corvettes all under one roof.*

*As a holdover from its days as a Corvette event the judging is pretty tough, and some of the nicest, most professionally built cars and trucks arrived for judging and one special 1963 Avanti beat them all, winning the top Gold Award in the Street/Modified division, as announced last week. (if you missed last week's newsletter, [go to the newsletter archive](#) on the web and read past issues).*

*Studebaker display organizer Ed George adds how accommodating the MCACN staff is and how quick and easy move-in and move-out was at either end of the weekend.*

*Although last year and this year we featured Avantis and Larks with R-engines, the Studebaker portion of MCACN is open to any performance Studebaker. There were lots of Studebaker firsts this year, including the Avanti R4 resto-mod that Brad Bez showed this year and won gold in the street/modified class.*

*The focus for next year's Studebaker portion of the show--November 18-19, 2017--will be Hawks from 1956 through 1964. Larks and Avantis will still be welcome and encouraged.*

*Till next time..... Lew Schucart, Avanti Magazine editor*

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We also got to do a Studebaker Club Pick this year. After talking among our group we all seemed to have a special feeling towards a 1972 Yenko Vega and picked it for the club win. It's kind of an underdog and Stude owners know how that feels, said Studebaker display organizer Ed George.



The Studebaker National Museum represented at the [Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals](#) in Chicago, Illinois, with the #1963 Avanti that was the first Studebaker-powered car to reach 200 mph. <http://www.mcacn.com/>



Record-setting 1963 Avanti #9 (R-1007) in its first display slot with Ed & Cyndi George and others who were part of the Studebaker display, wearing their replica Avanti racing team shirts, thanks to Matt Frushour.



Together again for the first time in 54 years, Bonneville Avanti race cars #8 (R-1014), owned by Gary Wood, and #9, owned by John Hora, were on display. Nelson Bove's '64 Daytona R3 made for a reunion of all three Bonneville Studebakers from 1963.



*Once again, SDC and AOAI member Eric DeRosa brought his 1963 Rosemist-colored Lark with R2 supercharged engine. Next to Eric's Lark is Lew Schucart's 1963 R1 Avanti.*



*Ed and Cyndi George's 1963 Avanti with Paxton B109-numbered R3 engine, next to Nelson Bove's 1964 Daytona with R3 package that was the Hot Rod Magazine feature car, which was also at Bonneville in 1963 and won the RediRad Sponsor's Choice Award!*



*Randy and Faye Rapp's 1964 R3 Avanti, the first of only 9 factory production R3 Avantis. This was Randy's first major car show, following the September Avanti Owners Association meet in Kansas City, Kansas.*

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