



Keith Wahl, MD, Chapter President



Keith Wahl MD, current San Diego Chapter President, July 2022

A member of San Diego SDC since 2005, Keith is a life-long car guy. He inherited the gene from his dad who started collecting cars when he was 16 years old. How could Keith not be affected when the family outings were in a 1952 Singer 4A which his dad traded for a 1954 Jaguar XK 120 when Keith was 7 years old?

The Studebaker bug bit Keith when he studied the designs of Raymond Loewy and was smitten by the 1957 Golden Hawk which he eventually came to own. (The car was owned by Selby and Ila Carroll- Keith and wife Ruth's granddaughter is named Ila—IT WAS MEANT TO BE!)

In 2006, Keith visited Hebron, Nebraska to look at a collection of a 1955 Speedster, a 1956 Golden Hawk and a 1957 Golden Hawk. This was the year of the international meet in Omaha. Three vehicles, needing too much repair and in the middle of a home remodel, Keith put the dream on hold.

Fast forward to the Sacramento Zone Meet in 2009 where then San Diego Chapter President, Bob Halgren, spotted a 1963 Avant that he thought would make a good purchase. Keith flew up and met the owner, Harold Gibson, whom he is friends with until this day. That became the start of a collection of 5 cars including a 1953 Loewy Coupe with Cathcart engine, 1955 Studebaker Conestoga Wagon, built by Bob Halgren, another 1955 Conestoga Wagon restored and sold, 1957 Golden Hawk, 1963 Avanti R2 4 speed, and 1964 Daytona Convertible purchased at our 2021 San Diego Cool Classic Car Show. Staying true to his first foray with cars, Keith found and restored a local British classic, a 1947 Triumph Roadster named "Trudy". This was a complete restoration which took 4 years to accomplish.

Like Keith Says "Studebakers are like potato chips, you can't have just one".