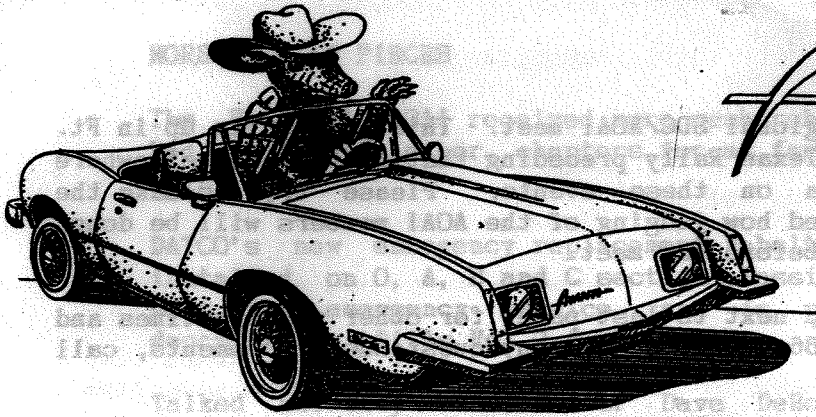




AVANTIDILLO

Volume 2 Number 9

1 September 1986

PRODUCTION RESUMES IN SOUTH BEND

On Thursday September 4, 1986, the media will get a look at the first two 1987 Avanti's to roll off of the assembly line. These are also the first Kelly Avanti's, and this reporter hopes to be there for the festivities. There will be a convertible as well as a coupe for all to view. Fred's sister Frieda plans to attend, but she claims not to know where her brother is at the moment.

KUDOS

ku'dos (ku'dos; koo'dos), n. [Gr. kydos glory] Colloq. Glory; fame; renown; praise.

Gee, I always thought that they were large grayish-brown African antelope, known to most of us as Strepsiceros. Anyway, kudos to all of the nice folks who have helped me with magazine articles since Fred has been AWOL. In case I hadn't mentioned those who have helped, they are: Dan Sheehan, Mary Bigelow, Bill Alcorn, Terry DeBaets, Allen Darnel, and all of the other Avanti editors who have allowed me to plagiarize their data.

OUR LAST MEETING

There was no August meeting and almost no August magazine. Matter of fact, you probably just got that issue when this one appeared. Suffice it to say that we do the best we can with what we got.

OUR NEXT MEETINGS

We are headed for Malibu Gran Prix on Saturday the 13th of September. The particular track is the one on Loop 610 between IH-10 and 290, and there are games, golf, and rides for every one. We did this last year and had more fun than "adults" are allowed, and it should be even more fun this year since we are such a larger group. Also, the local Studebaker club has been invited to come along. The time is two o'clock, so don't miss it for any reason. I'll be there and will be looking for you.

THE ONE AFTER THAT

October is the time for the regional SDC/AOAI meet. This year it is up in Ft. Worth, and there is the Lap O' Texas Rally preceding that meet. Look elsewhere in this 'Dillo for more data on these events. Please try to make the regional. It is not yet settled how judging of the AOAI members will be done, but that should be settled long before the meet.

Check our calendar of events, next to last page, for other meeting times and places for the balance of 1986. If you have any questions or comments, call Frank Letts at 499-9467.

NEW MEMBERS

We have more new members this month, from our growing contingent of Louisiana owners. There are still many Avanti owners out there whom are not card carrying members and they really don't know what they are missing. If you know one, talk to them.

Here in Houston is new member Ted Mason. Ted drives a green 1984 model, #4082.

Over in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is Laurence P. Ourso, owner of a 1975 model. This one is Jennifer Blue, # 2252.

Back here in Houston, Bob & Judy Hill renewed right on time, and continue to support our growing group of Avanti lovers. The Hill's champagne Avanti has mistakenly been carried on our roles as a 1983 model. Let the record now show correctly 84#3987. Sorry, guys.

Welcome aboard (or back) all of you. If you need any help or have any suggestions, don't hesitate to call on us.

FRAGMENTS

Otherwise known as bits 'n pieces.

K-mart offers Avanti brand tyres in our sizes for about \$50 each.

Bill Alcorn reports that he had his front windshield replaced, glass and labor, for \$243.03. This was done by Windshield Specialists at 2005 Gessner, (713) 984-8708.

Bill Wilson is back on the road again, but I still wouldn't ask.

Allen Darnell had his Avanti detailed by Elite, 785-2018. Mr. Dennelli over there charged a heck of a lot less than I am used to paying and Allen says he did a great job. Thanks for the tip.

Beware of high school reunions.

MORE BITS 'N' PIECES

The National AOA1 received more memberships from our chapter in June than they had from all other chapters for as far back as they can remember. Thank you all.

DAYCO's new emergency replacement V-belt is available in four sizes and can be installed on O, A, B and C section classical drives. This is an adjustable fan belt for emergency service, and is probably better than the panty-hose described in 'Dillo Vol 2 # 5, page 9.

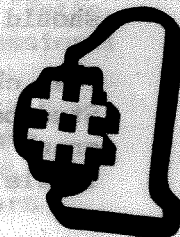
Talked recently with member Dave DeBoer of Dallas. He and his '63 R2 (Red Fred) intend to be at the SDC/AOA1 regional in October. Hopefully, Dave will write us an article on the trials and tribulations of being an original owner of a '63. It sounds as if he has world of stories, running the gamut from water pumps to sheep manure. Really.

APOLOGIES

Yes, I made it a column. However, I haven't screwed anything up this month, so I have absolutely nothing to apologize for. How about you?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Date	Transaction	(+)	(-)	Balance
08-01-86	Balance Forward	.00	.00	533.48
08-03-86	Dues, Kitchen	15.00	.00	548.48
08-29-86	Dues, Ourso	15.00	.00	563.48
09-01-86	Dues, Mason	25.00	.00	588.48
09-06-86	Dues, Hill	25.00	.00	613.48
09-06-86	National Fee, Mason&Hill	.00	20.00	593.48



Submitted and certified correct 09-06-86 by Frank Letts.

PARTS SUPPLIERS

We really are trying to keep this as a regular column. When ever you have a good experience with a parts supplier or someone who provides quality service on your Avanti, please let us know so that we can share the information with all of our other members.

Roscoe Stelford
Rt 1 Box 146 A
Hampshire, IL 60140
(312) 464-5119

Frost & French
230 E. Ave. K-4
Lancaster, Ca 93535
(805) 949-2577

Nostalgic Motor Cars
47540 Pontiac Trail
Vixom, MI 48096
(313) 624-4210

Bruce Jones
6204 Bent Fork Circle
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 851-2679

INSURANCE AND THE AVANTI

Several members have had problems insuring their Avanti over the years for any number of unknown reasons, and one of our members took the insurance community to task recently with the following letter.

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your call last week. I am pleased to know that a member of the insurance industry is concerned about the problems many Avanti owners are encountering when trying to get coverage, and greatly appreciate your efforts in obtaining insurance for one of our club members. As I mentioned on the phone, we now have forty members of the Avanti Owners Association here in the Houston area and most have, at one time or another, had trouble getting the necessary insurance on their vehicles. Some are driving without insurance and one has even given up on his dream to own an Avanti because of this problem. This may be an obstacle to the future sales of the auto, and, in case the manufacturer is not aware of the problem, I am providing them with a copy of this letter. Hopefully, they will help in the enlightening of the different underwriters.

The biggest single problem here is, I believe, one of communications. No one has ever communicated to the underwriters the pertinent facts on the Avanti. I will follow now with as much data as I can to support my claim that the Avanti should be a safer insurance risk than a Chevy or Ford.

The car itself was designed to be safe for the occupants, in hope that Studebaker (yes, that's where the design came from) could get a government grant for safe cars. They probably would have if they could have held on a little longer. Here are some of the features:

The fiberglass body is rugged and thick - not thin like a 'Vette. It flexes under blows that would dent any metal car. Plus, in a strong collision, it absorbs force much better than metal. I can, regretfully, attest to this.

The passenger compartment is protected by a racing type steel rollbar.

The Avanti has disc brakes in front and self-adjusting drums in the rear. In recent tests, the Avanti proved to be as good as or better than "normal" cars in breaking.

The entire interior is padded, and all controls are recessed in order to protect occupants in case of an accident.

The X-member frame, originally used on the Lark police cruiser, is probably the strongest on the market today. Enclosed are pictures of an Avanti that was hit by a train, and a Corvette that was hit by a pickup. Like I said, there is no comparison. (Note: pictures would not reproduce for newsletter)

INSURANCE LETTER - CONTINUED

The suspension is also off of the police cruiser, and is superior to most available.

Safety cone locks, similar to those used in the Mercedes, are used in the Avanti. Once engaged, the door cannot open accidentally, even when subjected to heavy stress.

Parts are easy to get, regardless of what underwriters may think, and in most cases are less expensive than comparable parts for Chevys and Fords. This includes body parts, repairs and painting.

The gas tank is placed between the rear seat and the trunk, to prevent explosion in case of a severe rear end collision. I'll bet that the fellows who designed the Ford Pinto wish that they had known of this Avanti feature when they were designing that auto.

Part of the problem may be because Nate Altman, the gentleman who bought the manufacturing rights from Studebaker, had the car registered as a Corvette derivative during the seventies rather than subject his tiny manufacturer to the expensive tests then required by the government.

Yes, most of them are pretty quick. This can get you out of a problem in a way that no domestic four or six cylinder can. However, unlike the 'Vette, Camaro, Trans-Am, etc, the driver of the Avanti is typically a professional who likes a unique auto. Not some hot-rodder out generating trouble.

Why isn't this general knowledge? Well, less than eight thousand have ever been built and I'll bet that most folks don't even know what an Avanti is. As a side note to their ruggedness, almost all of the cars ever built are still on the road. My source for this data was The Automotive Information Clearing House in La Mesa, California.

Here's another interesting piece of information. Avanti Motors is an all American company. The South Bend, Indiana firm is and always been one hundred per cent American owned, and uses one hundred per cent American made parts. I don't think their Detroit cousins can make this claim....."

There were additional enclosures regarding the road tests on Avanti's, showing their performance. We all hope that that this initiative gets some positive response.

Something that was not included in the letter is my rationalization that the Avanti is almost theft proof. Sure, the radio's and fancy wheels are targets, but most thieves are really pretty smart. They know that the car stands out and that they would not be able to get lost in the traffic after ripping off your Avanti. Also, reselling a hot Avanti would be more trouble than it is worth. Furthermore, you can't really strip one and sell the parts. There are a limited number of buyers and all of them would be suspicious of a new parts dealer, especially one who just had one each of a part.

LATEST ROSTER

Car #1	Car #2	Last Name	First Name(s)	City	State

85#4219		Kitchen	Skip & Denise	Oak Brook	Illinois
75B2252		Ourso	Laurence	Baton Rouge	Louisiana
64R5116		Thibaut	Charest	Baton Rouge	Louisiana
82B3519		Edwards	Pat & Ivan	Bossier City	Louisiana
63R3498		Boyens	Georg	Many	Louisiana
72B1859		Dixon	Harry	Monroe	Louisiana
82B3495		Kastin	Dr. Abba J.	New Orleans	Louisiana
63R3943		Rachal	Anthony	New Orleans	Louisiana
		Reynolds	E.T. Sr.	Ponchatoula	Louisiana
63R3470		Soper	Barlow	Rustin	Louisiana
83#3664		Dixon	James & Barbara	Alvin	Texas
85#4193		Sheehan	Dan	Austin	Texas
79B2931		Wallace	Steve	Austin	Texas
79B2869	80B3125	Vall	James & Denise	Cypress	Texas
63R1755		DeBoer	David & Karen	Duncanville	Texas
74B2085		Braden	Frank & Barbara	El Paso	Texas
63R4021		Alcorn	Bill & Margarette	Houston	Texas
63R1003	63R1787	Bigelow	Kent & Mary	Houston	Texas
80B2983		Buenaflor	Tony	Houston	Texas
84#3907		Darnel	Allen	Houston	Texas
74B2051		Davis	Jack	Houston	Texas
75B2271		DeBaets	Terry	Houston	Texas
71B1649		Evans	Dale & Betsy	Houston	Texas
84#3987		Hill	Bob & Judy	Houston	Texas
78B2627	83#3710	Lewis	Harvey	Houston	Texas
84#4082		Mason	Ted	Houston	Texas
64R5421		Mayo	Virginia	Houston	Texas
77B2818		Medlin	Charles & Joyce	Houston	Texas
84#4028		Miers	Wayne & Joan	Houston	Texas
83#3707		Moss	Jack	Houston	Texas
81B3322		Radcliffe	Harriet	Houston	Texas
84#3984		Ray	Hugh	Houston	Texas
79B2935		Revere	Paul & Patti	Houston	Texas
83#3761		Robbins	Brian & Anne Marie	Houston	Texas
63R4777	83#3653	Walker	Miller & Jerri	Houston	Texas
85#4245		Veed	Kay	Houston	Texas
70B1516		Vestling	Kip	Houston	Texas
63R3750		Wilson	Bill	Houston	Texas
84#....		Terrell	John & Patti	Humble	Texas
83#3665		Johnson	Dr. Barbara	Macogdoches	Texas
81B....		Cunningham	Stan	New Braunfels	Texas
63R1067		Hill	E.E.	South Houston	Texas
63R1311	63R3328	Letts	Frank & Karen	Stafford	Texas
68A....		Ewbank	Steve	Sugar Land	Texas
		Vizina	Alan & Abi	Sugar Land	Texas
64R5039		Jeffers	Don	Webster	Texas

FUTURE DUES

Tony Buenaflor (White '80) was due in July and Jack Davis (beige '74) is due in November. No others are scheduled until later in the year.

PAST ISSUES

Reprints of the National AOA1 Magazine are available as follows:

Vol 1 issues	1 - 8	\$12
Vol 2 issues	9 - 16	12
Vol 3 issues	17 - 20	6

Issues 21 thru 57 are available for \$2 each. Send your orders and inquiries to:

John Hastings
8969 Notre Dame Drive
Eden, New York 14057

Back issues of the Avantidillo, our chapter magazine:

Vol 1 - All 1985 issues plus pre-organization data \$12

All individual issues (specify volume and number) are available for \$2 each. Send orders to:

Frank Letts
13102 Naples Lane
Stafford, Texas 77477



AVANTI OWNERS ASSOCIATION Houston Area Chapter 1986 calendar



09-07-87	Ragtops of Texas Road Rally
09-13-86	Meeting at Malibu Grand Prix
09-17-86	Houston Road Rally
09-28-86	Thru 10-02, Lap Of Texas Rally
10-03-86	SDC/AOA1 Regional Meet and Show, Ft. Worth. Thru 10-5.
11-27-86	AutoRama at the 'Dome, thru the 30th.
12-20-86	AOA1 Christmas Party

If you have any questions on events, suggestions or comments please contact Frank Letts at (713) 499-9467.

AVANTI POWERED JET BOATS

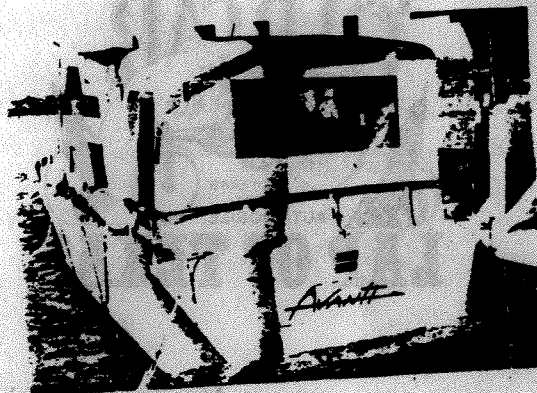
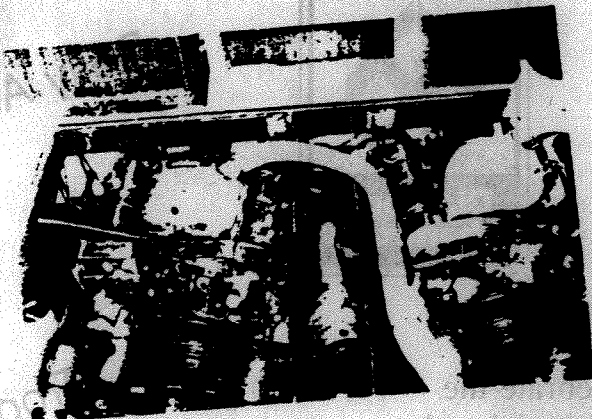
Members Bill & Margarette Alcorn (gold '63 R-2) spotted the pretty jet boat named Avanti (picture below) at Harrah's marina while they were in Atlantic City this past June. The sight reminded Bill of an article he had read in the AOA newsletter several years back, and he has shared a copy of that story with us.



The story, Avanti Powered, which follows, is from the AOA magazine, and was written by Harry Whitmore and Don and Helen Albrecht. The original print date is unknown as of press time.

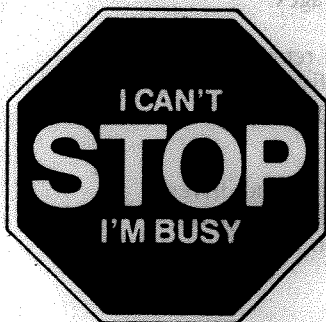
".....In a little cove somewhere in the Seattle, Puget Sound area, floats a 30 foot, 14000 pound, cabin cruiser powered by twin R-2 Avanti engines. This boat was built in the winter of 1965 by CoHo Industries in Portland. The present owner purchased this boat in 1969 in the Long Beach, California, area. Tests have proven that this boat can attain speeds of 35 miles per hour. It sleeps six and has been on trips from Portland to Alaska twice besides all of the short trips in the Puget Sound area. The twin engines are basically R-2 Avanti engines - 289's. R-3 pressure cases were used for safety. One engine is reverse rotation. Superchargers are mounted between shafts from the front of the engine. The engines have 1400 hours on each of them. The present owner has had the valves rebuilt twice. The only objection to these engines has been that the superchargers are expensive to maintain, so therefore, the owner is replacing these engines. Also, the water cooled exhaust manifolds are deteriorating and replacements are unavailable giving another reason for engine replacement. The engines are still in excellent shape and for the time being - power a boat in the Puget Sound."

AVANTI POWERED

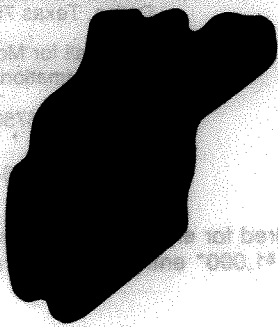


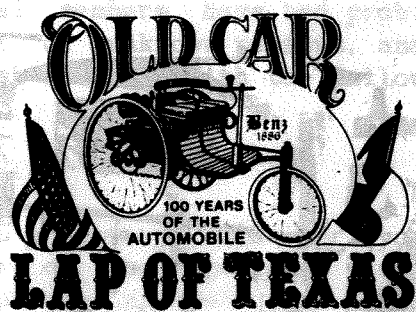
THE LOCKHORNS

BY BILL HOEST



**"LEROY GAVE IT A CURSORY GLANCE.
ONE GLANCE AND HE STARTED CURSING!"**





Daily Awards

Trophies

You're invited to celebrate the
1986 Texas Sesquicentennial and
100th Anniversary of the Automobile
By Joining this Non-Profit Tour

September 28 - October 2, 1986

150 Teams in Two Classes—
Class I: Cars built before 1937
Class II: Cars built 1937 - 1966

\$100,000
in prizes*

Both classes will travel approximately 750 miles and will be scored on navigational skills (time - speed - distance) but will not compete between classes. The Texas History/Geography portion of scoring will be based on observation and material furnished each day of the event. A handicap scoring system has been developed for extremes in the vehicle ages.

Starting at the 1986 State Fair of Texas in Dallas, the OLD CAR LAP will retrace Texas' first auto trip by Col. E.H.R. Green in 1899 -- 26 miles to Terrell. After five exciting days, the rally will end with a Texas-size barbeque at the Pate Museum of History, west of Fort Worth.

There will be festivities along the way as people come out to greet car owners and drivers. Through Huntsville to Austin, San Antonio, Fredericksburg, Brownwood and Granbury -- just to name a few -- you'll experience Texas history and culture at its best. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

RETURN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME # _____ WORK # _____
SPONSOR'S NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
YEAR & MAKE OF CAR _____
BODY TYPE _____

RETURN TO:
OLD CAR LAP OF TEXAS
1907 Plantation
Dallas, Texas 75235

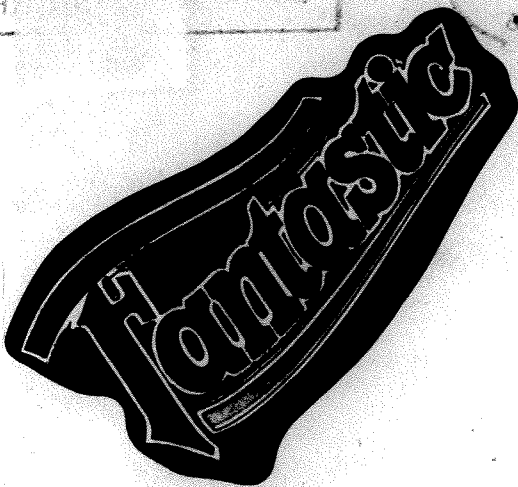
Or Call for More
Information

214-630-8756
or
METRO 214-256-1923
(evenings)

A donation of \$1,000 to the Pro-Texas Foundation, (a non-profit corporation) is required for entry. Awards: Two First Place cash prizes of \$25,000* each and 21 other cash awards equal to at least the \$1,000* entry. Also daily awards and trophies. Deadline for entry is September 12, 1986.

*Based on full 150 car entry.

MAT2



THE
Studebaker's

DRIVERS CLUB, INC.
NORTH TEXAS
CHAPTER

FALL ZONE MEET OCTOBER 3,4,5, 1986

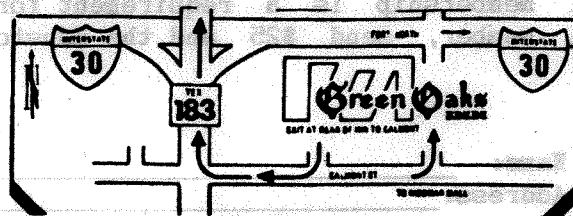
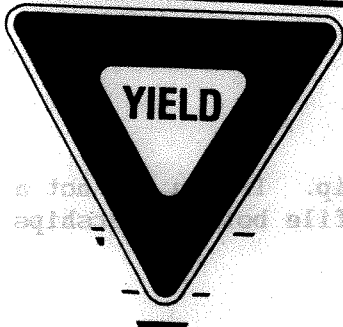
Meet Headquarters, Green Oaks Inn, 6901 West Freeway, Ft. Worth, Texas, 76116. Rooms, \$51.00 plus tax. Mention Studebaker Drivers Club for the rate as they are holding 45 rooms for us until September 19th. Room fees paid to Green Oaks Inn. Dial toll free: 1-800-722-2341 (in Texas) or 1-800-433-2174 (out of state).

Friday 3rd-Registration and hospitality room open 6:00 p.m.

ZONE MEET-OCTOBER 3,4,5, 1986

NAME(S) _____	# IN PARTY _____
ADDRESS _____	CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____	CHAPTER _____
CAR#1 _____	CLASS, IF TO BE JUDGED _____
CAR#2 _____	CLASS, IF TO BE JUDGED _____
CAR JUDGING _____	AT \$8.00 PER CAR(NTL JUDGING FORM) \$ _____
NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET: _____	AT \$11.95 EACH \$ _____
CHILDREN UNDER 12: _____	AT \$ 9.95 EACH \$ _____
MEET REGISTRATION PER FAMILY (INCLUDES VENDOR RIGHTS). AT \$10.00	\$ _____
VENDOR SPACE ONLY AND NO OTHER MEET FUNCTION: \$8.00	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

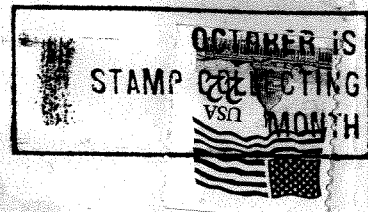
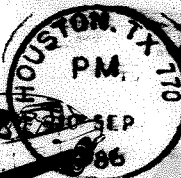
NOTE: Registration is to be made out to NORTH TEXAS STUDEBAKER and sent to Fritz Poppe, 2515 Hartlee Lane, Denton, Texas 76201. Phone 817-387-9351. Registration fee will be returned if cancelled by September 23, 1986.





HOUSTON CHAPTER A.O.A.I.

13102 Naples Lane
Stafford, Texas 77477
(713) 499-9467



85#4245

Weed Kay
6159 Meadow Lake
Houston, Texas 77057

AVANTI OWNERS ASSOCIATION

13102 Naples Lane
Stafford, Texas 77477

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL DUES: \$10 per year

LOCAL DUES: \$15 per year

National membership is a requirement for local membership. If you are not a national member, send \$25 and the Houston Chapter will file both memberships for you.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Work Phone: () _____
Home Phone: () _____
Avanti # 1 _____ Avanti # 2 _____
Year: _____ Year: _____
Color: _____ Color: _____
VIN: _____ VIN: _____

