

Vol. 19, No. 4

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Apr 2012



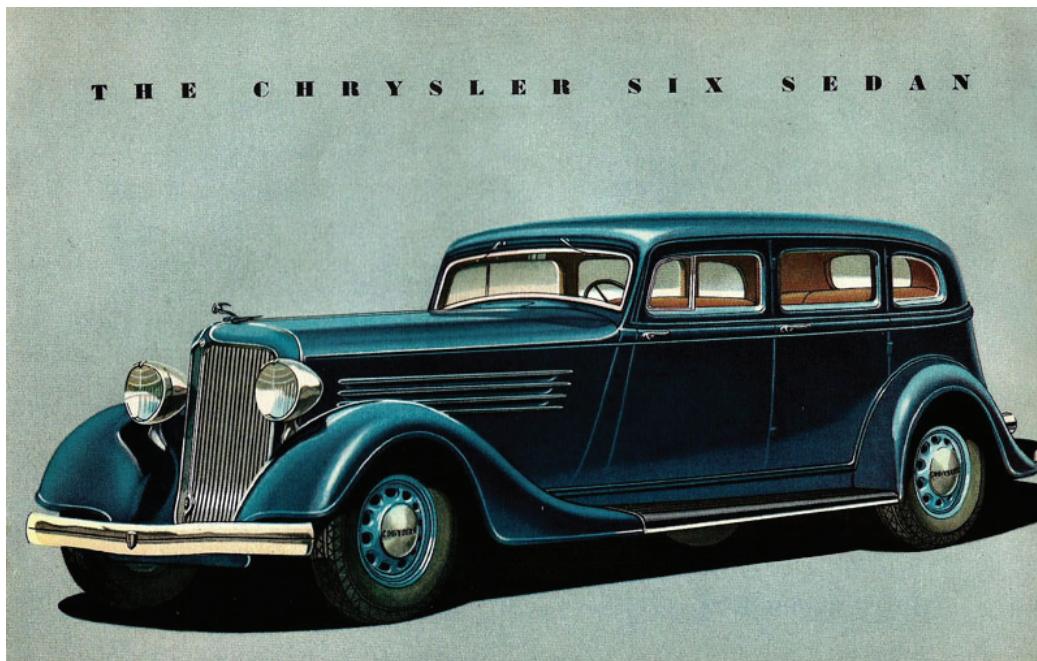
- **First Look at Raffle Car**
- **Youth Development Program**



Vintage Advertising

1934 saw the debut of Flash Gordon, and it also marked the first year of the revolutionary and futuristic-looking Airflow cars from Chrysler, which sold poorly despite their engineering advancements. Luckily for Chrysler, they continued to produce “normal” looking cars as well that year, including the Chrysler Six line. Made up of two coupes, two sedans, a brougham, and two convertibles, the line offered folks the chance to remain grounded in the present, as opposed to flashing forward into the future of streamlining design.

Here are two brochure shots to reveal the drastic differences between the two cars.



In This Issue

McKee students get a taste of antique cars.

Raffle car undergoes final prep for the season.

A vintage automotive publication is a treasure trove of technical specifications.

Something new making its way to the SIRAACA Garage.

Trivia Question: What vehicle brand, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, was formed partially by the consolidation of the Rapid Motor Vehicle Company and the Reliance Motor Car Company?

Answer: GMC.

April 2012

Volume 19, Number 4

SIRAACA Who's Who

EDITOR -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

PRESIDENT -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT -

Mike Signorile

onehot51@aol.com

SECRETARY -

Tony DiAngelo

TREASURER -

Phil Boffa

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -

Jonathan Schulman

jns@jonathanschulman.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -

Jeff Tucker

WEBMASTER - siraaca@yahoo.com

Frank Nathanson

www.aaca.org/siraaca



Minutes of the 443rd Meeting

March 6, 2012

1. The 443rd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:15 pm at the Manor Restaurant. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Tony DiAngelo read the minutes of the 442nd meeting. They were accepted as read.
2. The club welcomed Dave Sarno, who teaches auto repair at McKee and is partnering with us on our first youth development program. Bob Stephens and Jon Schulman detailed our plans for the biweekly sessions on Friday afternoons.
3. We recapped the club trip to Atlantic City, which was salvaged by using an existing tour company run instead of booking our own bus. Paul Jr. recapped his visit to Philadelphia for the AACA Annual Meeting as well.
4. We are looking into acquiring office space on the Sea View Home & Hospital grounds as part of a city program targeting not-for-profits. In addition, we will hold our next meeting there as a test run for a possible change of venues.
5. The raffle car has been painted by MAACO and is now ready for final detailing. We spent some time debating the selling cost of the tickets before settling on the same price as year's past. One change will be in how they are advertised or hyped - please lead with "7 for 5" before offering "one dollar a piece".
6. The club selected ECHO (Emergency Children's Help Organization) as its primary beneficiary this year.
7. Paul Jr. went over the sponsorship program and asked members to begin targeting suitable donors for the various levels we now offer.
8. Cruise nights will resume at Richmond Town on Wednesdays beginning in May. Note that Boardwalk Empire is filming on site and is supposedly building 1920's era structures that may remain in place afterwards.
9. If there are any outstanding dues renewals, please see Jon Schulman.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report. All is in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The 50/50 collected \$40, with John Spano winning \$20.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary, SIRAACA

Youth Development Program at McKee

The club has begun its initial youth development program, holding an after school session at McKee High for a handful of students enrolled in auto shop. On March 9, Charlie Auer, Bob Stephens, and Jonathan Schulman met with David Sarno and four of the seven students enrolled in this after school program of auto mechanics. Frank Provanzano and Jeff Tucker were kind enough to bring their cars into the shop area for the students to look at and ask questions about.

We introduced ourselves to the students and played the DVD from the Fall show. There were several cars that aroused attention. Bob Stephens contributed a large stack of Collector Car magazines to the students who were told to take them home and study for the test at the next meeting.

Bob outlined how we were going to approach the program and reminded the students that they were enrolled as student members of AACA and SIRAACA. I mentioned that each of them would be eligible to become judges at national meets after meeting the necessary requirements.

We took the boys into the shop area and Jeff and Frank talked about their cars and the students asked some questions.

The school principal Sharon Henry stopped by and was gushing over the cars and had to be told to keep her hands off the paint. She was very enthusiastic about the possibilities of the program and looked forward to our return in two weeks.

Mr. Sarno told me that anyone can call him at 646-915-5920 to schedule service for vehicles such as oil changes, brakes, shocks and wheel alignments. We can bring parts and fluids with us or they will order the parts at a discount from their supplier. This also includes Inspections and Safety Inspections at reduced prices with the proceeds going to the automotive program. All work done to any outside vehicle will be supervised by Mr. Sarno. - Jonathan Schulman



Above: Bob Stephens introduces the students to the AACA and the Staten Island Region Youth Development Program at McKee High. Below: Frank Provanzano points out the finer things of his 1963 Riviera's trunk area. (photos by Bob Stephens and Charlie Auer).



From the President

There is nothing like spending three hours every day commuting to and from work to encourage reading a good book. After countless tales of murder, mayhem, and mystery, I've picked up *Car Guys vs. Bean Counters: The Battle for the Soul of American Business* by Bob Lutz. Lutz is the quintessential car guy, having held key executive positions at GM, Ford, Chrysler, and BMW. He is responsible for cars like the Dodge Viper, the Ford Explorer and the Cadillac CTS, among others. In this book, he outlines his opinions as to why the US auto industry went from world dominators to near failures, and gives ideas on how to fix things. The book offers an interesting glimpse behind the scenes at the Big Three, and I'm looking forward to finishing it soon. If you have an interest in the car business, or what might be wrong with the American manufacturing sector in general, pick up a copy. We can compare notes later on. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

This issue marks the first time that *Ragtops & Rumbleseats* is eight pages long. Granted, one page is an advertisement for J.C. Taylor, but that ad has opened up the possibility to grow our publication. This means I want more input from our members to feed the need for content. Please send me your old car stories, photos and ideas to keep the pages full. How about tales of your first car, or the car you learned to drive on? I'm all ears. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - April 3

Our April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 PM, and will be held in the meeting hall at Sea View Home & Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. This is a test run for the facility as a possible meeting location going forward. No food will be served.

April Meeting - New Location

The April meeting will be held at Sea View Home & Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. The club is looking into securing office space on site, and we are interested in seeing if the meeting hall would suit our needs as well. When you enter the campus off of Brielle Avenue, continue straight and completely through the traffic circle to the first vintage building on the right side. There is plenty of parking in front of the building.

Raffle Car Is Getting Ready

Once our 1986 Camaro Z28 came back from MAACO in its new red coat, it made its way to Doc Corpus for some additional TLC. Doc replaced the entire headliner by hand and recovered the sun visors as well. He was later joined by Paul Arena and Andrew Napoli (see photo below), who detailed under the hood, replaced a worn window channel weatherstripping, and touched up a few other items. Doc will also reapply the Z28 striping that separates the color break on the lower edge of the body. After that, the car is ready to go. Tickets are being printed in time for the car's debut at our spring show on April 22.



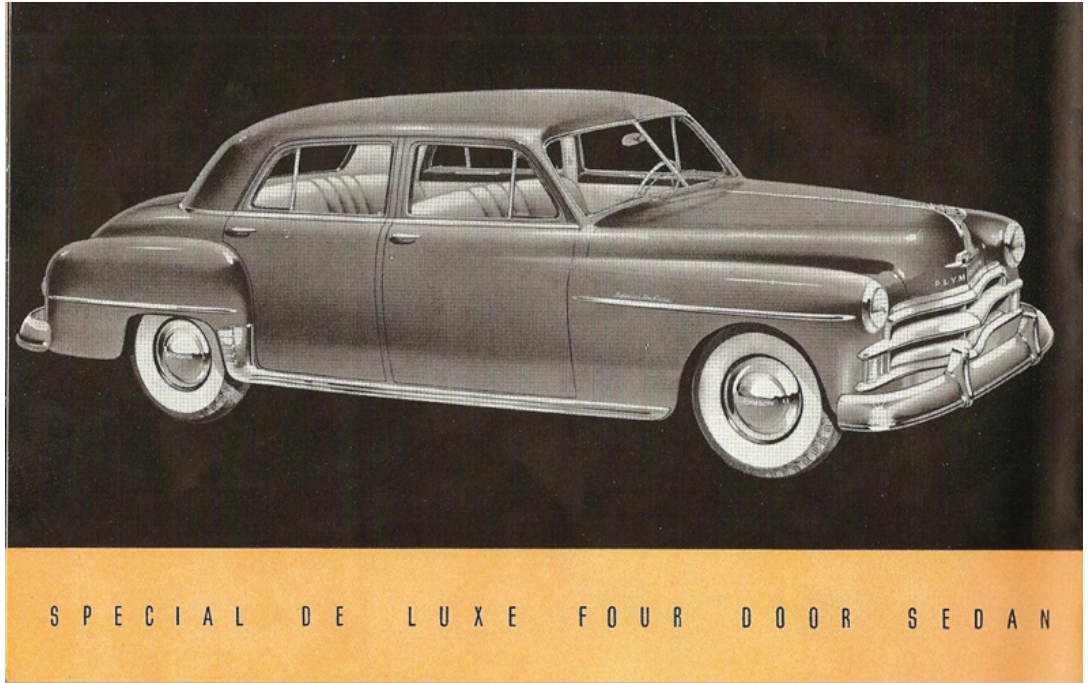
On Its Way to the SIRAACA Garage

Make room in the SIRAACA Garage for the latest vehicle that will call it home. It's a 1950 Plymouth Special DeLuxe sedan, recently acquired by Andrew Napoli.

This Plymouth has less than 7,000 original miles on its clock, and rides as true as it did over 60 years ago. It does feature a repaint, as time was not kind to the original finish.

The paint's light color is known as Channel Green, and the interior is gray. The sedan gets its power from a 217 cubic inch L-head six cylinder engine good for 97 horsepower, delivered to the ground via a three-speed manual.

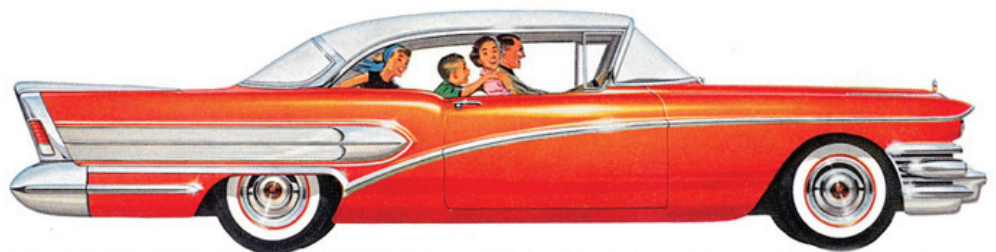
As soon as Andrew sends us some pictures, we'll publish them for all to see.



Some notable differences marked the 1950 Plymouth line from the 1949. The three-ribbed bumpers were replaced with a more formidable smooth design, and the taillights were dropped from atop the rear fenders to wrapped around the trailing edges. The single, trunk-mounted stoplight disappeared, and the license plate light now sat above the tag.

Upcoming Events

Hop into your car and head out to one of these upcoming events:



- NJCBCCA Spring Show, Straub Buick, Hazlet, NJ - April 21
- SIRAACA 6th Annual Spring Dust-Off - April 22
- Spring Carlisle - April 25-29
- 30th Annual Spring Englishtown - May 4-6
- NJRAACA Spring Meet, Automatic Switch, Florham Park - May 6
- AACA Eastern National Spring Meet, Reading, PA - May 17-19
- St. Teresa's Car Show - May 20
- Carlisle Ford Nationals - June 1-3
- Greenwich Concours d'Elegance - June 2-3
- The Elegance at Hershey - June 8-10



Do you have a car (or had a car) that should be featured in the SIRAACA Garage? Let me know at the meetings, or via parena2@verizon.net.

INSURING YOUR VEHICLES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

UNPARALLELED CLAIMS SERVICE

AGREED VALUE COVERAGE

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS



DRIVE THROUGH TIME WITH PEACE OF MIND



JCTAYLOR.COM

1-888-ANTIQUE

A Wealth of Old Car Knowledge

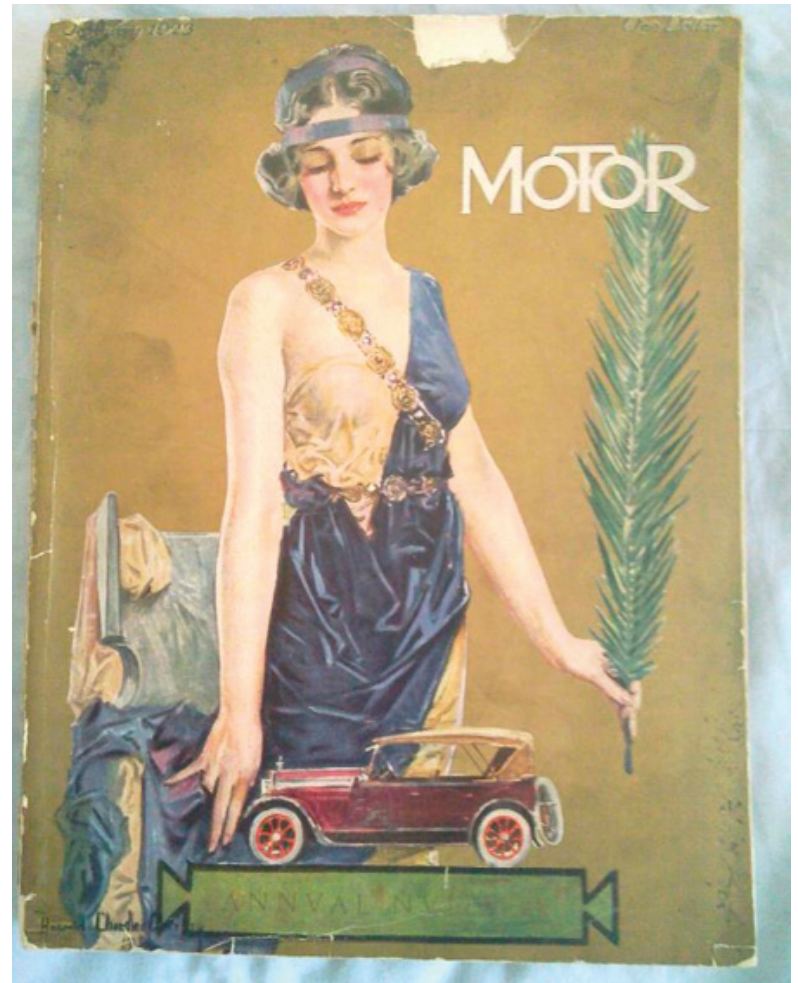
William Randolph Hearst, who was already a publisher of newspapers throughout the country, began Hearst Magazines with the first issue of MoToR in 1903, apparently after touring Europe by car on his honeymoon. Today, Hearst Magazines has over 100 titles in its stable.

MoToR was a monthly publication for the auto industry. It is filled with ads and articles related to the business of cars, dealers, repair shops, and aftermarket accessories. At the end of the year, it also put together a Show Annual, usually over 400 pages of previews of every new car, along with hundreds of specifications of each model.

The covers were always done in a painterly style, with women featured prominently during the 1920's and early 1930's before giving way to futuristic and art deco designs.

If copyrights allow, look for technical articles and features first written many years ago as reference for a new car to reappear here in *Ragtops & Rumbleseats* as reference for your antiques.

As an interesting side note, the value of these show annu- als varies widely based on recent auction results on eBay. Some issues, in fairly good condition, will sell in the \$50- \$75 range. Others, usually the older ones from the 1920's, can spark a bidding war and drive the price up dramati- cally. A recent auction for the 1923 issue like the one seen here closed at \$188. A 1926 issue just sold for \$405, while a 1925 issue jumped from a high bid of \$55.00 all the way to a winning bid of \$760 in the final hours.



CarNexions
Transporting
917-838-6178
vtocco@si.rr.com
"Moving one car at a time... door to door"
V.T. and R. Tocco Operator • Staten Island, N.Y.
Safe • Secure • Insured
Serving points North, South and Midwest

farbetterprinting
DIGITAL PRINTING & COPY CENTER
Store Hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-6:30pm • Friday 8am-5pm • Saturday 10am-3pm
www.farbetterprinting.com
43 Hillel Place • Brooklyn, New York 11210
Tel 718.859.3137 Fax 718.421.4761 sales@farbetterprinting.com