

Vol. 22, No. 4

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Apr 2015



• **NYIAS Panel Discussion With SIRAACA**



Vintage Advertising

Chevrolet actually referred to these as a “wing-ding of a truck idea!” We’re not sure what someone would say if you called them or their idea “wing-ding” today. But in 1961, these Corvair 95 trucks were just that.

All were rear-engined and air-cooled. The Corvan touted 191 cubic feet of load space and 1,800-lb. load capacity easily tapped through double doors both in the rear and on the side. The pickups offered the Ramp-side model with unique access for no-lift loading, or the standard Loadside (which should have been called “Loadrear”, actually).

The debut year of 1961 pushed out 15,806 Corvans, 10,787 Ramp-sides and 2,475 Loadsides. Sales dropped each year after, some dramatically. 369 Loadsides were built in 1962, its final year. Ramp-sides were down to 4,102 units, and then 851 in 1964.

In This Issue

Meet the 2015 raffle car.

Phil & Kevin take to the stage.

A member’s car that predates the SIRAACA Garage.



A NEW WAY TO WORK FROM CHEVROLET CORVAIR 95 TRUCKS

● LOW-UPKEEP AIR-COOLED ENGINE! ● SURGING REAR-ENGINE TRACTION! ● YARDS MORE LOAD SPACE! ● EASIEST, FASTEST LOADING! ● SMOOTH-ROLLING 4-WHEEL INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION! ● TOUGH UNITIZED BODY-FRAME CONSTRUCTION! ● SMART, FUNCTIONAL STYLING! ● THE NEWEST LOAD-PULLERS SINCE HORSES WENT OUT OF STYLE!



CHEVROLET

Trivia Question: What automobile manufacturer spent time at Buick, Willys-Overland, Chalmers and Maxwell before launching his own car in 1924?

Answer: Walter P. Chrysler.

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

<http://local.aaca.org/siraaca>

Minutes of the 479th Meeting

March 10, 2015

1. The 479th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:35 pm. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes of the 478th meeting were accepted as read by Mike Signorile.
2. Members recapped the Auction at Atlantic City. The trend remains the same - smaller offering overall, but well attended.
3. The club purchased a 1989 Mustang GT convertible for this year's raffle car, paying \$6,800. Following a long discussion on how to boost sales, it was agreed that tickets are now \$2.00 each or a book of eight for \$5.00. The goal this year is to find 500 additional buyers via e-mail, web and new locations.
4. We will not have a club display at the NY International Auto Show, but will be represented by Kevin Keenan on a panel discussion about our hobby.
5. The Spring Dust-Off is April 26th. Posters are being printed. A new photographer has been booked for this and the fall show.
6. The April meeting is being postponed until April 14.
7. The raffle car will be in Englishtown from April 17-19. Members are asked to volunteer at least one day to help sell tickets. Sign up at the April meeting.
8. A Monday evening cruise night is reportedly happening in the shopping center on Clarke Avenue and Amboy Road.
9. The New Dorp High School Show is set for May 31.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
11. Tony and Marisol Ventrice and their Model T was featured in a recent AACA Speedster e-mail. Make sure you sign up to receive this newsletter from the AACA if you haven't already.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Signorile, VP, SIRAACA



Raffle Car Ready to Roll at Spring Englishtown and Beyond

Our 2015 raffle car is ready to make its debut at Spring Englishtown over the weekend of April 17-19 before appearing front and center at our Spring Dust-Off on April 26. Tickets are now \$2.00 each, or a book of 8 for \$5.00. Volunteers are needed for all three days at Englishtown and can sign up at the April meeting, which is being held on Tuesday, April 14.

Order forms for mail-in ticket purchases have been printed up and a group of us will be handing them out at Spring Carlisle. In addition, the car will attend the Carlisle Ford Nationals from June 5-7. Other events on the calendar include the St. Joseph-St.Thomas Show on June 13 and our Community Day Show on July 11.



Boffa and Keenan Hit the Show Circuit

The New York International Auto Show held its first ever panel discussion about antique cars, and SIRAACA's own Phil Boffa and Kevin Keenan were front and center among the expert panelists. Jessica Hodges, the show's marketing manager, wrote afterwards that "the conversation could have gone on forever and the attendees were definitely enjoying it. All of your experience, opinions and insight made for a truly interesting and well-rounded discussion."

Kevin later reported that Phil was signing photos and selling them for \$3.00 apiece at his office. He suggests the club go after him for that money.

Phil also reported that this panel was the hottest event at the show and featured the "most talented, highly versatile, best-looking car enthusiast in the country." He noted how difficult it was for the spokes models to keep their distance from them, but he tolerated the attention as part of his club duty.

Seriously, thanks to both Kevin and Phil for participating in a high-level event that indeed promoted our organization and the AACA as well. We look forward to the detailed recap at the next meeting.



Top Photo, L-R: Panel moderator Matt Orendac from Hagerty Insurance. Phil Boffa, Jessica Hodges and Kevin Keenan. Below, the men in action.



From the President

I've never taken a formal count, but it's no secret that our shows draw an equal amount of modified and stock vehicles. It's also no secret that many of our members like both kinds of vehicles, and own both kinds, too.

As such, I am disappointed when I read comments on places like Facebook or the AACA forums that reflect an intolerance of one form of the hobby or another. The AACA rightfully defends its mission to preserve and further the history of vehicles as they were when new. It's vital to the hobby for an organization like that to be the standard bearer for originality. Equally important are the efforts that foster craftsmanship and creativity through customization and modification. Neither is better than the other, just different.

I would argue that no invention made an impact on both society as a whole as well as the individual as the auto. The sheer variety seen proves that a car is not just a means to get from point A to point B. There are countless ways to express yourself through a car, whether it's through a fully restored trailer queen, a perfectly preserved original, a heavily modified custom, or a brand new Corvette.

Again, none better than the other, just different. As are the people who own them.

We live in such divisive times. I'm happy our local car community doesn't reflect that.

- Paul Jr.

- *NEXT MEETING* - April 14

Our April meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm, and will be held at the Staff House at Seaview Home & Hospital, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. Each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 towards coffee and doughnuts.

9th Annual Spring Dust-Off is April 26

The club will host it's 9th Annual Spring Dust-Off at The College of Staten Island on April 26th. Final plans for members and their responsibilities will be ironed out at the April meeting, which will be held on April 14. While there is no class judging at the Dust-Off, we will present special awards such as Best in Decade and Best In Marque. A small group of members will work the field to spot candidates before final selection. The winners will drive up to the red carpet to receive their awards. We will need people covering the car and spectator gates, and others to help with the raffle table. Please make every effort to attend the April meeting and be available for our show as well.



2015 RAFFLE CAR • 1989 MUSTANG GT

As usual, the Spring Dust-Off dash plaque features the current year's raffle car. This is expected to be the only dash plaque we produce this year, as the fall show will instead present 2016 wall calendars to the first 500 entrants. The first 200 entrants to the Dust-Off will receive this plaque.

From the SIRAACA Archive

This month we dig deep and pull out a photo that predates our club, when the cars we collect today were relatively new. This is Joe Brancale posing with his 1950 Ford, snapped in Brooklyn back in 1955.

Eagle-eyed readers should easily identify the 1954 Pontiac grille that Joe inserted into the Ford's face, but it takes Joe's insight to let us know that there are a pair of Stromberg carbs sitting atop an Offy manifold under the nosed hood.

That grille transplant took a bit of work, we guess, because a stock '50 Ford had a big chrome "button" in the center of the grille and a chromed archway that cut up into the hood. Joe's front hoodline runs straight across. Ask Joe how he did it next time you see him.

Ford cranked out over 1.2 million cars in 1950, and the shoebox style remains as popular today as they did back when Joe was personalizing his ride sixty years ago.

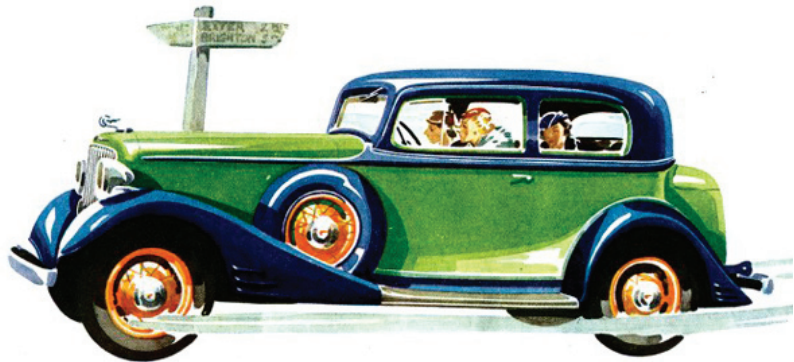
Who can identify the other cars in the photo?

Do you have (or had) a car that you'd like featured in the SIRAACA Garage? This includes your first set of wheels, when today's old cars were new. If so, please send pictures and details to Paul Jr. via parena2@verizon.net, or see him at one of our monthly meetings.



Upcoming Events

Grab your friends and family, hop into your car, and check out these events:



- 33rd Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - April 17-19
- Spring Carlisle Swap Meet - April 22-26
- 9th Annual SIRAACA Spring Dust-Off, College of Staten Island - April 26
- AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Virginia Beach, VA - April 30-May 2
- BCA NJ Chapter Show, Straub Buick, Hazlet, NJ - May 2
- 64th Annual NJRAACA Spring Car Show, Florham Park, NJ - May 3
- Antique Automobile Assoc. of Brooklyn, Floyd Bennett Field - June 7
- St. Joseph-St. Thomas School Car Show, Staten Island - June 13



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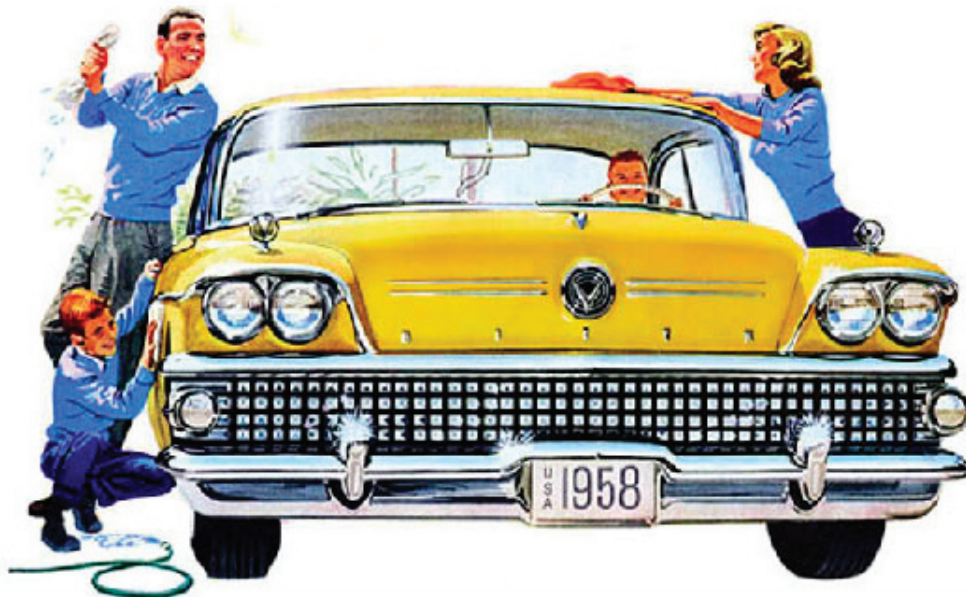


Fine 50's For Sale

RM Auctions typically focuses on European sports cars and pre-war classics, so it's nice to see a good number of American cars from the 1950's anchor the upcoming sale of the Andrews Collection on May 2. The catalog includes a 1953 Eldorado (\$240-\$300k), a 1957 Olds Starfire 98 convertible with the J-2 option (\$140-\$200k), the only factory black 1957 Bonneville (\$300-\$400k), a 1954 Skylark (\$180-\$260k), a 1953 Bel Air convertible (\$60-\$80k) and a 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Deluxe Eight Custom Catalina (\$40-\$60k). The most unique of the group is a 1958 Eldorado Biarritz "raindrop" prototype. It's a factory-built test car for an automatically raised top. When a humidity sensor between the front buckets gets wet, the center portion of the boot moves rearward into the trunk area, the two side pieces fold into the rear quarters, and the top goes up and screws itself into the header bar. The windows all close as well. Aside from the trick gadgetry, the car features the typical rounded rear of a 1958, but sports 1959-style tailfins. The estimate for this car is \$400-\$600k.

The Staten Island Region AACA presents its

9th Annual Spring Dust-Off Car Show & Flea Market April 26, 2015 • CSI Campus



- \$20 Vehicle Entry Fee • No Classes • No Cut-Off Year • No Points Judging •
 - Red Carpet Awards in Select Categories • Dash Plaques to First 200 Vehicles •
 - Gate Opens at 8 AM • Flea Market Vendors Register at Gate at 7 AM - \$40 •
 - Spectator Entry Fees: Adults \$5, Children & Seniors \$2 •
 - Food & Drinks • Music • 50/50 Drawings •
 - 1989 Mustang GT Convertible Raffle Car • Rain Date May 3 •
- INFO: Call 917-626-0233 or e-mail SIRAACA@yahoo.com
Visit us on <http://local.aaca.org/siraaca> or [facebook.com/siraaca](https://www.facebook.com/siraaca)

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DONATED VEHICLES.
ANY MAKE, MODEL, YEAR
AND CONDITION.
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