The Official Newsletter of the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

ECOPS & Runbles & Runbles

Aug 2015



o 2nd Annual Community Day







Vintage Advertising

Plenty of choices were available for those who were looking for a 1980 Pinto, the final year of production for Ford's subcompact. When all was said and done, Ford sold 3,173,491 Pintos over a ten year period.

Prices ran between \$4,117 for the Pony sedan to \$5,320 for the Squire station wagon.

Odds are the Pinto survival rate is less than the Model A, so it's become a treat to find one at a car show or cruise night. For those of you visiting the AACA Museum between now and the fall meet in October, you'll be greeted by a 1980 Pinto Rallye Wagon just inside the lobby entrance (see photo below left).

In This Issue

Second Annual Community Day Car Show wrap-up.

A "sweet" ride spotted on the Jersey Shore.

Getting ready for Bikers for Bini on August 30.

Mercs at Pebble Beach!

Disco-era Corvette in the SIR-AACA Garage.

Trivia Question: In 1931, what car reportedly was capable of out-accelerating a Duesenberg Model J, yet cost only a third as much to buy?

Answer: The Marmon Sixteen. Cadillac's V-16 beat Marmon to market by two years, steedling its thunder. Marmon was done by 1933.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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Minutes of the 483rd Meeting July 7, 2015

- 1. The 483rd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:26 pm. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes of the 482nd meeting were accepted as read by Tony DiAngelo.
- 2. Kevin Keenan attended the Ramapo Concours with his Beetle and reported on the show, which featured about 100 cars in an unorganized setting.
- 3. The raffle car took in \$236 at the St. Joseph St. Thomas show. Members helped the organizers in return by judging the field and giving out trophies to 48 winning cars.
- 4. Our 2nd Annual Community Day Car Show is set for July 11. We are on the clock for a cut of the Commons Cafe profits from 11:00 to 2:00. Members should arrive for set up at 9:00 am.
- 5. We were visited by Charles Garone and Letitia Remauro, the organizers of Staten Island Beach Fest. The events run all summer long on every weekend between now and early September and are held at various shoreline locations such as South Beach, Midland Beach and St. George. They asked us for help by having a handful of antique car displays. One option is to show a dozen or so cars on the warning track of the Richmond County Ballpark. Another option is to move the Sunday morning "cars and coffee" gathering at Gateway to Midland Beach for the balance of the season. We pledged our support where and when we can be available.
- 6. Raffle car update: June dates at EZ Pass took in \$666. Hemmings ad, which cost \$350, brought in \$170 by July 7, with another \$25 in e-mail reply orders.
- 7. Joe Rego made contact with local Boy Scout troops and offered our car show as a venue for a special run-off of pine box derby champions. The target is our spring show in 2016.
- 8. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. The 50/50 collected \$26, with Joe Rego winning \$13.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Community Day Celebrates Collector Car Appreciation

When the SEMA Action Network created Collector Car Appreciation Day, it found a way to celebrate the enormous diversity of interests in all things automotive. That diversity was on full display at our 2nd Annual Community Day, with 100 or so cars of all kinds in attendance.

The event was once again held on the grounds of the Commons Cafe at the Teleport, and our club was the beneficiary of the net profits earned at the cafe from 11:00 to 2:00. All told, with raffle sales and the 50/50 added in, we took in over \$800 that day.

While we don't judge at this free event, we select a dozen or so winners for special awards, and let the cafe choose their two favorites for Cafe Choice trophies. That choice fell to the representatives of The Nicotra Foundation, who selected a 1930 Ford Model A coupe and a 2008 Lotus Elise. Other winning cars included a 1955 Thunderbird honoring the 60th anniversary of its debut and a 1961 Fiat, which took the Foreign Flavour award. A 1985 Cadillac Eldorado won the Disco Diva trophy, while another 1985 Eldorado with only 1,200 miles on its odometer took home the Favorite Survivor award.

We recognized a 1957 Chevrolet for the Fab 50's award, a 1966 GTO for the Swinging 60's Award, and a 2003 Mercury Marauder as the Favorite Future Collectible. Other winners included 1 1936 Chevrolet two-door sedan, a modified 1934 Ford three-window coupe, and a 1971 Plymouth GTX, which was honored with



An unplanned gathering of Ford products formed the first row of cars at our 2nd Annual Community Day Car Show at the Commons Cafe, courtesy of members Joe Rego, Jeff Tucker, Rocky Pompa, Bruce Campbell, Bob Columbia and Doc Corpus (above). The diversity of the collector car hobby couldn't be represented any better than by this trio, which included a 1961 Fiat that won the Foreign Flavour Award (below). (photos by Paul Jr.)



No One Telling These Mercury Owners To Get Off The Grass

The hallowed grass of the 18th fairway at Pebble Beach will host the first ever class of historic Mercury customs at its Concours this year. A collection of some of the most important and influential 1949-1951 Mercs, all built before 1960, will rub fenders with Duesenbergs, Packards, and other hand-built, custom cars of the classic era. No arguing that the craftsmanship seen from folks like George Barris was the 1950's answer to coachbuilt cars. One famous Merc confirmed to attend is the '49 featured in "Rebel Without a Cause", intended to serve as a "stock" reference to compare the customs to. These include the first such custom, a Sam Barris '49, plus the Hirohata Mercury seen with Mamie Van Doren in "Running Wild". The most radical one expected is the 1950 Leo Lyons Mercury, which is in the final stages of a resurrection restoration. We hope to share a photo of this one an upcoming issue - it looks nothing like

From the President

Ahead of the expected reports to be given at our August meeting, there's been a good buzz forming around the early success of our efforts to sell raffle tickets, get trophy donations, and lure sponsors to our cause. Please continue your efforts, as we don't want to think that we can ease up because others are picking up the slack or contributing beyond expectations.

I took a trip to Hershey Park in July with my family, and made it a point to visit the AACA Museum before heading home. Taking advantage of the free admission afforded to AACA members is a good deal, leaving \$24.00 in my pocket (at least until I spent it in the gift shop). My six yearold son, showing an early affinity for taking pictures of cars, commandeered my 35mm camera and began snapping away in all of the galleries (at least until we visited the new Tucker display, when I took over). I highly recommend that all of our members make time to see this new addition to our museum when they visit Hershey, be it on their own or during their time at the Fall Meet in October. It's very impressive (no spoilers to follow). Current exhibits that will end after the Fall Meet on October 11 include 29 mopeds and scooters under the banner "Motorbikes for the Masses", as well as two dozen or so station wagons under the banner "A Family Affair". Both carry the museum's tradition for showing odd yet beautiful examples from many eras.

- Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - August 4

Our August meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4 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.

Spotted on the Street

If you are going to use an old truck to promote your homemade fudge business, we guess it should be painted chocolate and vanilla like this 1932 Ford Model B. This truck was spotted in the Bay Village section of Beach Haven on Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore. It's the same type of truck once owned by Paul Arena, although his was converted into a wrecker and was used to promote his auto repair business. For those of you wondering what happened to Paul's truck, look no further than the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles, where it is on permanent display.



We're guessing that this truck is the star of every parade up and down Long Beach Island, although we suspect it makes regular runs to and from the fudge shop every day as well. Can anyone confirm that? (photo by Paul Jr.)

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Garage opens its doors to you for a look at Bob Ferone's 1976 Corvette.

Bob was alerted that this car was available by his son, who was working at DANA Ford Lincoln when it was traded in. Bob hurried down and scooped up the car. Recently, the son of a former owner spotted that car and tried to buy it back, but Bob's not ready to give it up just yet.

1976 models came with the base L-48 engine rated at 180 hp or the optional L-82, rated at 210 hp. Both engines were recorded by the folks at *Car & Driver* to go from 0-60 in 6.8 seconds. The VIN on Bob's car reveals that this one has the L-48.

The VIN also shows that this is production number 2,813 out of 46,558 cars made that year.

Inside, the 1976 Corvette got a new, four spoke steering wheel similar to the one found in the Vega GT. It was immediately hated by Corvette enthusiasts, and was replaced with a new, three-spoke design the following year.

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.





Web research indicates this color is known as Orange Flame, which adorned slightly less than 10% of the 46,558 Corvettes built in 1976. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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



- 58th Annual New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA August 8-9
- Bikers for Bini Car Show, Staten Island Mall August 30
- Richmond County Fair September 5-7
- 39th Annual SIRAACA Fall Show, Staten Island, NY September 13
- SIRAACA display at Clove Lakes Home September 19
- Fall Carlisle September 30 October 4
- Monmouth County Concours, Holmdel, NJ October 3
- AACA Eastern Regional Fall Meet, Hershey, PA October 7-10
- Edison Concours d'Elegance, West Orange, NJ October 18

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Helping Bini

Once again, the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund will put on its all inclusive "bikers for bini" event on August 30th at the Staten Island Mall. Our club will be on hand with the raffle car and members are needed to help sell tickets as well as judge the car show. Frank Provenzano suggests we all get there by 9:00 am to ensure we're in place and set up together. This event is the first of the final three major events for our club, followed by the Richmond County Fair over the Labor Day weekend and topped off by our fall show on September 13.

Get Well Soon

The club extends get well wishes to Jeff Tucker, Fred Howe and Fred DiGiovanni. Here's hoping that all three are out and about and feeling better in no time. Feel free to call them or drop them a note via e-mail and let them know you are thinking about them. On the flip side, it's been great seeing Ed Vomero back in the fold following his long stint in physical therapy.





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