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# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

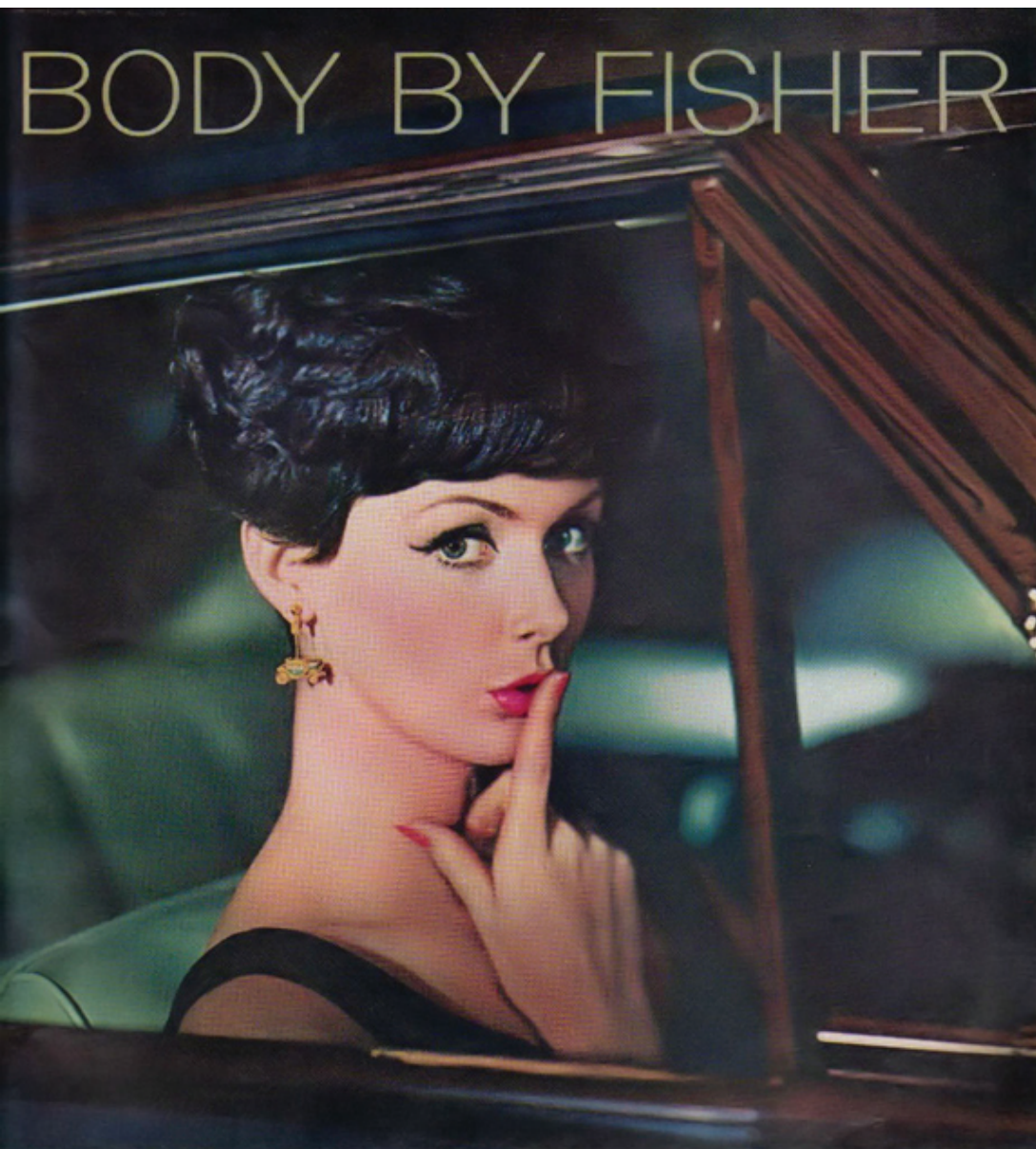
May 2016



• **10th Annual Spring Dust-Off Debuts  
at the Commons Cafe - Recap and Photos**

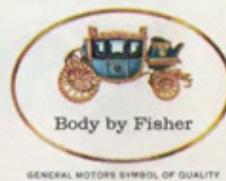






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## Vintage Advertising

Check out her earrings! They are miniature Body by Fisher carriages! This is a GM corporate ad from 1964, and we'd be taking a wild guess trying to identify the car she is sitting in.

Fisher Body's beginnings trace back to a horse-drawn carriage shop in Ohio. In 1908, the family established the Fisher Body Company in Detroit, and starting in 1910 were building all closed bodies for Cadillac. By 1913, they were building for Ford, Chalmers and Studebaker as well. In 1916, the company was renamed the Fisher Body Corporation and it expanded output for Buick, Chevrolet, Hudson, Oldsmobile, Packard and Regal, among others. GM bought 60% of the company in 1919. Six years later, Fisher bought Fleetwood Metal Body, and in 1926 it was fully integrated as GM's in-house coachbuilder.

## In This Issue

10th Annual Spring Dust-Off recap.

Europe's only Tucker is looking for a new home.

The most recent addition to the SIRAACA Garage.

*Trivia Question: In 1959, Fisher developed and produced GM's first unibody car. What was it?*

*Answer: The 1960 Chevrolet Corvair.*

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# Minutes of the 491st Meeting

## April 5, 2016

1. The 491st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:30 pm. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes of the 490th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Sad news to start as we acknowledge the passing of Joe Brancale. The club creates a Best Truck Award to honor his memory, with the first one being given out at our 40th Annual Fall Show.
3. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers for all three days at Spring Englishtown. The raffle car will be on site on April 15-17.
4. Final planning for the Spring Dust-Off was completed. Members should be on-site by 6:30 for initial set-up. All members will be given food vouchers to use when buying lunch at the Commons Cafe.
5. The Straub Buick GMC show is May 7, and the raffle car will be there. Members are encouraged to attend.
6. Other upcoming events include Hot Rods & Harleys in Rahway on May 14 and the New Dorp High School Show on June 5.
7. Frank Nathanson continues to work on the club's new website, and wants photos of our members' current cars. He can be reached on siraaca@yahoo.com.
8. National meet deadlines for car registration are April 19 for Spring Meet in Vineland on May 19-21 and May 1 for Grand National in Williamsport on June 3-4.
9. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The 50/50 collected \$34.00, with Bob Columbia winning \$17.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary





## 10th Annual Spring Dust-Off Debuts at the Commons Cafe

The 10th Annual Spring Dust-Off was held on April 24th at its new location at the Commons Cafe. The weather was picture perfect, and the turnout reflected the fact, with 291 vehicles on hand to mark the start of the season. As usual, we paraded up the winners for their trophies, which included Decade Awards as well as nods to a pair of Best in Show's and additional Best in Marques.

A 1968 AMX (center right) took top honors as Best in Show for stock vehicles, while a 1932 Ford 3-window coupe took the same honors for custom. Decade Award winners included a 1936 Packard, a 1941 Plymouth convertible (top right), a 1957 Chevrolet Cameo, a 1955 Chevrolet Nomad, a 1960 Plymouth Fury convertible, a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396, a 1972 Chevy Nova SS 396, a 1981 Cadillac Coupe deVille Pierre Cardin Edition, a 1994 Cadillac Sedan deVille (bottom right), a 2002 Trans Am NHRA Edition and a current model Dodge Challenger.

Other top awards were given out to a 1930 Model A for Best Ford, a 1966 Chevelle for Best GM, a 1963 Corvette for Best 'Vette, a 1970 Porsche 914 for Best Foreign and a 1967 Dodge Dart for Best Mopar. The Oldest Car was a rat-rodded 1926 Ford.

The cafe provided a variety of choices to those in attendance, easily improving upon the offerings of years past at CSI and highlighting one of several benefits of relocating our shows.

Richard Nicotra and his wife Lois attended with their "Mercedes from the Eighties" and arrived just as the field paused for Whitney Houston's stirring rendition of the national anthem. The scene provided them with an overall sense that they were part of something special, and their smiles throughout the day indicated that we exceeded their expectations.

The American Red Cross was on hand all day with free giveaways and donated a custom first aid kit which was given away as a second prize during the 50/50 drawing.

*(photos by Sandy Arena)*



## From the President

The early returns are in and it's safe to say that we had a successful debut running our Dust-Off at the Commons Cafe. I'm eager to hear the final tally, and go over the details as we build on this experience. This show will help us ensure we iron out everything for our upcoming fall show in September.

Thanks to everybody who pitched in and contributed to our success. We hope that the new venue gave us an easier time managing the gates, and I look forward to everyone sharing their thoughts and relaying feedback at the next meeting. Well done! - Paul Jr.

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## I Spy With My Eye

The smartphone has put a camera and a computer into the hands of millions, making it a piece of cake to photograph and share everything instantly. There is a Facebook Group for nearly every hobby, interest and category imaginable. So how does the car guy play along? One way is via a group called Classic Car and Truck Spotter. The general idea is when you spot a old vehicle out on the road (not at a car show or cruise nite), you snap a photo and post to this group. They focus on anything 1996 and down, any condition. There are almost 2,500 members from across the US and Canada, and from what we see, Brooklyn is packed with daily drivers from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Must be a hipster thing, where everything old is new and cool.

## - NEXT MEETING - May 3

Our May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 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 the purchase of coffee and doughnuts.

## Raffle Car Today and Tomorrow

As the show calendar develops for this year, we are noticing a few changes that could affect our raffle car appearances. We learned that this year's Bikers for Bini show is shifting from late August to early October to cope with the construction projects at the Staten Island Mall. In addition, we just received word there will not be a show this year at St. Joseph -St. Thomas. Those are two venues where we really did well, and we'll need to make up that slack elsewhere. Word has it that there is a show at Wagner High as well as New Dorp High this year. Perhaps we can also leverage the upcoming Brooklyn show at Floyd Bennett Field and we ask members to suggest additional locations. Of course, selling tickets to coworkers, friends and family never gets rained out or canceled.

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## Will Europe's Only Tucker Come Home?

On May 14, RM Sotheby's will hold an auction in Monaco that will feature plenty of European sports and racing cars. The one car that stands apart from those is a 1948 Tucker, serial number 1049. It was the next-to-last Tucker officially built at the Chicago factory, and the final one built with an engine. After passing through several caring owners, it underwent a four year rotisserie restoration between 2003 and 2007. At that time, it was returned to its original color of Waltz Blue. Upon completion, it was sold to a well-known British collector, and has been honored at numerous concours in the United Kingdom. It is the only Tucker in all of Europe, and it remains to be seen if the top bidder is someone who wants to keep it that way. Estimates are ranging from 1.35 million to 1.85 million Euros, or between \$1.5 million and \$2+ million.

There are other Tuckers outside of the United States. According to the Tucker Automobile Club of America, car # 1004 is in the Toyota Automobile Museum in Nagakutecho, Japan. Car # 1020 is also in Japan. Tucker # 1035 is in Sao Paolo, Brazil, and # 1045 calls Melbourne, Australia its home.



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Here's one of the latest cars to enter the SIRAACA Garage, courtesy of our newest member Mike DiPilato. This is a 2002 Pontiac Trans Am NHRA Special Edition convertible.

To celebrate the NHRA's 50th Anniversary, Pontiac once again created an NHRA special edition for 2002. This convertible is one of a reported 46 produced with a four speed automatic in what was the last year of Firebird/Trans Am production. Were it equipped with the six speed, it would be just one of 16.

A total of 534 NHRA packaged cars were built across the Firebird/Trans Am line. These are not to be confused with the 2,390 Collector Edition cars built to recognize the end of their production.

Mike also owns a first generation Firebird that recently won an AACA Second Junior Award in Hershey last year. He's got the car ready to compete for a First Junior at the upcoming Spring Meet in Vineland this month. We'll highlight that car in the coming months.

Until then, enjoy this rare, future collectible.

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' vehicles. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.

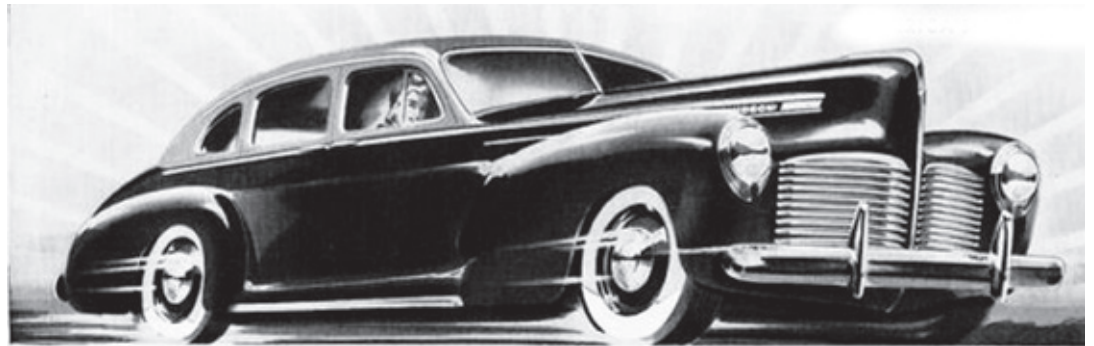


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## Upcoming Events

Grab your friends, load up your car, and head out to one of these events:



- NJRAACA Spring Meet - May 1, Mennen Arena, Morristown, NJ
- Jersey Shore Buick Club Spring Car Show - May 7, Straub Buick, Keyport
- 15th Annual Hot Rods & Harleys - May 14, Rahway NJ
- AACA Eastern Spring Meet - May 18-21, Vineland, NJ
- AACA Grand National - June 2-4, Williamsport, PA
- The Race of Gentlemen - Wildwood, NJ, June 4-5
- New Dorp High School Car Show - Staten Island, June 5
- Sacred Heart 8th Annual Auto Show - Staten Island, June 12



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## A Seven-Year Old Boy's Perspective



Once again, Vincent Arena strolled the show field at the 10th Annual Spring Dust-Off and took pictures of whatever caught his eye.

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