

Vol. 24, No. 1

Ragtops &

Rumbleseats

Jan 2017



- ***Holiday Party Wrap-up***
- ***Time to Renew***

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Vintage Advertising

This dapper couple is dressed to the nines as they head towards their Hupmobile Eight to ring in the new year. This ad from 1927 takes an interesting approach by placing the “models” in front of the car they are trying to sell.

However, this was probably in line with their strategy to move upscale, which ultimately did in so many marques that tried to ride out the Depression. Hupmobile made four cylinder cars up until 1925, when their Eight was introduced. Loyal four-cylinder customers were forgotten in the hopes that the wealthy would become Hupmobile owners. With low production, no models were built in quantity to sustain a profit.

The rest of the 1930’s saw some striking designs wear the Hupmobile badge, but that decade would be its last.

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Trivia Question: 1946 Chevrolets began rolling off assembly lines in small quantity on October 3, 1945. What car company beat Chevy and the rest of GM by three months?

Answer: Ford, who began rolling out 1946 models in July of 1945. Full production of '46 models didn't kick in until a UAW strike called in November was settled in March.

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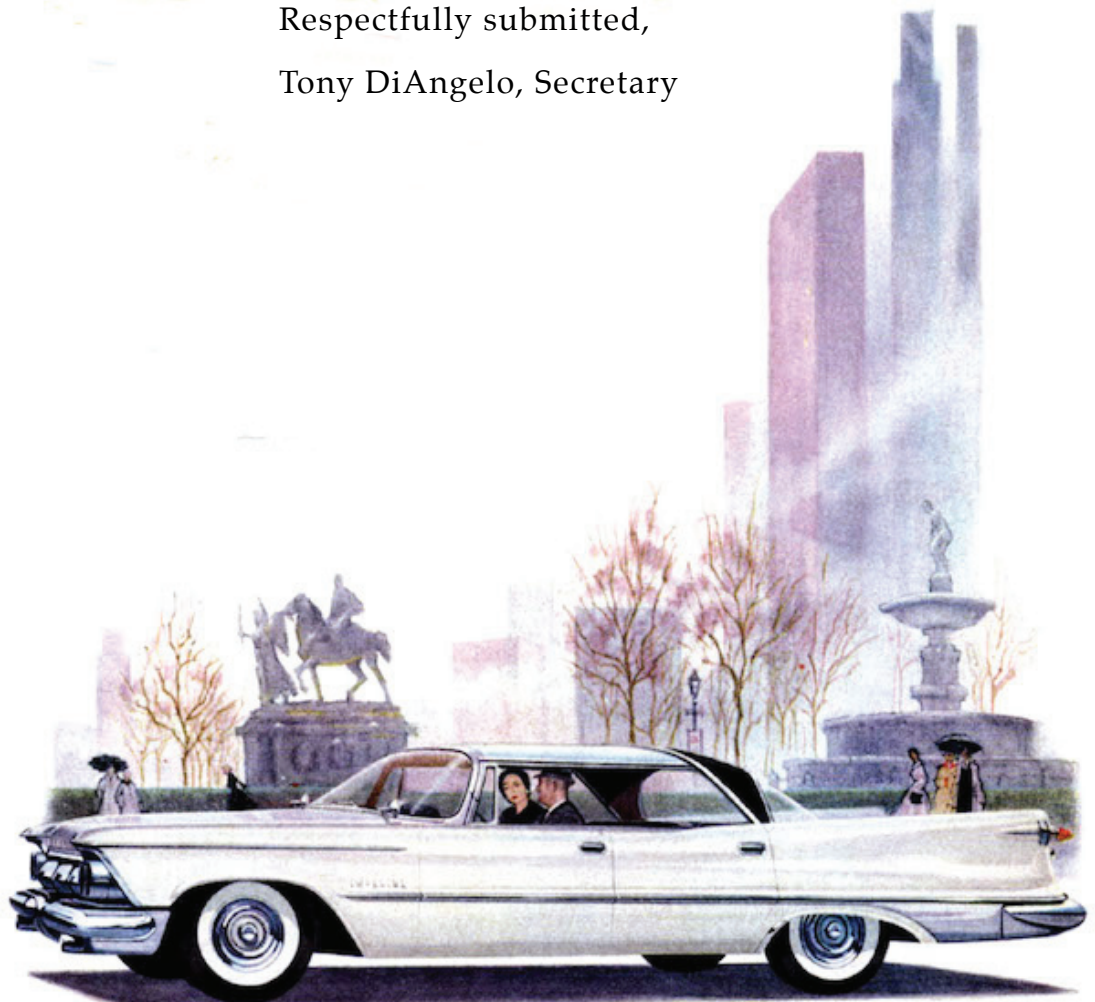
Minutes of the 499th Meeting

December 4, 2016

1. The 499th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. during the club's annual Holiday Party.
2. Paul Jr. asked for a moment of silence to remember the passing of Joe Brancale and Fred DiGiovanni.
3. Kevin Keenan cast a single ballot for the entire slate of existing officers as none were opposed for re-election.
4. Paul Jr. thanked all who pitched in across all of 2016 as we successfully hosted our 10th Annual Spring Dust-Off and 40th Annual Fall Show. He then presented small awards to the top salespeople for both trophy donations and raffle sales.
5. The club presented new, unwrapped toys to the heads of the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Holiday Party Wraps Up 2016

The Staten Island Region held its annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 4 at The Road-House on Clove Road. Members gathered for a hot buffet, a host of giveaways and awards, and a chance to reflect on the past year while looking forward to 2017. In addition, the club presented a collection of new, unwrapped toys to the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Fund. The fund distributed those toys later in the month across Staten Island hospitals, housing facilities, day care centers and underprivileged families.

President Paul Jr. recognized some of the year's top salespeople with regards to trophy donations and raffle tickets. The top three in terms of trophy donations collected were Tony DiAngelo, Paul Arena and Mike Signorile. The top raffle ticket seller was Bruce Campbell. Paul Jr. also thanked everyone for their efforts concerning our 10th Annual Spring Dust-Off and 40th Annual Fall Show, both milestone events for the club. Lastly, he noted that we sadly lost two members since the last holiday gathering, and paused to remember Joe Brancale and Fred DiGiovanni.

Before turning over the floor to Tony DiAngelo for door prize giveaways and a modified 50/50, Kevin Keenan cast a ballot for the all of the existing officers who ran unchallenged for a new term.

Winning numbers were called for gifts such as a complete car care kit from Stoner, a Christmas village vintage Texaco service station, a motorcycle cookie jar, antique car knick-knacks, Christmas decorations, and plenty of scratch-off lottery tickets. All money collected in the 50/50 was given out across multiple winners to spread the holiday cheer around the room.

Bruce Campbell (top photo, left) is congratulated by President Paul Jr. as the top raffle salesman for 2016. Bruce wins free membership for 2017. Club Treasurer Phil Boffa (center photo) oversees the calling of the many door prizes along with former first lady Yvonne DiAngelo. Marisol and Tony Ventrice salute to your health and happiness for 2017 (bottom). (photos by Frank Nathanson)



From the President

Welcome to another year with your AACA region. Some of you have been members for quite a long time - I'll need to figure out who is most senior - while others are coming on board for the first time. I look forward to learning more about all of you, whether you're a veteran member or a newbie. All of us have plenty of car tales and knowledge to share, which is one of the benefits of our club. Of course, the main benefit is the friends we make along the way.

We are meeting in January for our 500th meeting. Looking back at the very first newsletter from January 1975, we find this letter from the charter members to inaugural president Joe Misuraca:

"From the charter members, we find it appropriate to extend our many thanks to you for putting so much time and effort in initiating what will soon be the Staten Island Region of the AACA. Not only are we thanking you for your actions in starting the club but your unending interest in this widely growing hobby. We know that right now we are small but if we all contribute to the region as much as you have we feel that your wish has finally been fulfilled. At this time we wish you much success as our first president and hope you will not be our last. We will all stand behind you in the coming year because we all realize that the first year is the hardest."

My question to all: who is the longest tenured SIRAACA member among our ranks? - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - January 3

Our January meeting is our 500th and scheduled for Tuesday, January 3 at 7:00 pm. It will be held at the Staff House at Sea View Home & Hospital, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. Each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 towards donuts and coffee.

Time to Renew

Hopefully all of you have renewed your AACA membership for 2017 (or are a lifetime member). This way, you can renew your local membership with Jonathan Shulman beginning at the January meeting. Local dues are still only \$20.

AACA Museum Update

Many members are still trying to sort out the recent news about the AACA and the AACA Museum. We understand that the January/February issue of *Antique Automobile* will feature an in-depth article explaining the fact that the museum is now no longer affiliated with the national club.

As the two entities explored options for becoming one (as the AACA and the Library had already done), the AACA asked for some type of legal affiliation/ownership in the museum for national members. In the end, the museum board refused.

The museum states it will still offer free admission to AACA members. Beyond that, we don't know if they will consider returning to the table, as each organization has separate agendas to now pursue.

Atlantic City Auction

The Classics in Atlantic City car auction runs a bit earlier than normal for 2017, spanning February 10-12. The event remains well attended despite being completely underwhelming, with less and less cars for sale and the same tired vendors. We always attribute the crowds to the fact that the northeast is stricken with cabin fever by then, and old car folks would do anything to surround themselves with exhaust fumes. Members interested in attending are encouraged to coordinate among themselves based on their individual preferences, as we no longer rent a bus for a club trip to the Convention Center.

Minutes from 1st Meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA

The SIRAACA Garage remains on break this month. In its place, we present to you the minutes of the very first meeting of the Staten Island Region, courtesy of the very first club newsletter from January, 1975.

The newsletter was only three pages long and included an newspaper article reprint about a Nebraska man who owned his 1930 Chevrolet since new. It also reprinted the Staten Island Advance announcement that SIRAACA was established and a Hi & Lois comic strip featuring an antique car.

Within a few months, the newsletter would be named "Auto Echoes" following a vote by the members to select that name over "Rolling Along".

As a reminder, the SIRAACA Garage needs submissions from our members. Look for new features on such cars as a 1975 Pontiac Grand Ville convertible, a 1971 Ford LTD convertible, a 1950 Chrysler, an MG, a Ford pick-up and many more.

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. 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.

1. The 1st meeting of the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America was called to order at 8:30 pm by President Joseph Misuraca at the Skippers Rest Great Kills.

2. President Misuraca announced the following officers will serve the first year: President - Joseph Misuraca; Vice-President - Edward McCarthy; Secretary - Leonard Misuraca; Treasurer - Andy Sciascia; appointed temporary membership secretary was Vice-President Edward McCarthy. Other job appointments: Richard Van Lehe - club printer; Editor of the newsletter - James Spadafora; also addressing and distribution manager will be Louis Costanza.

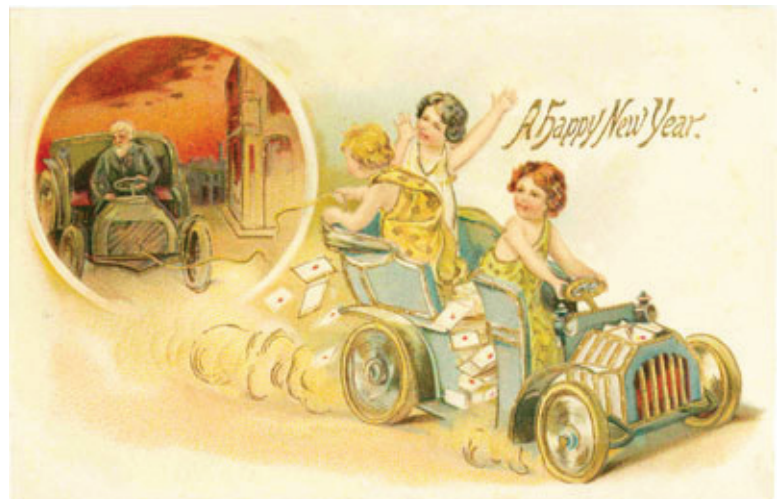
3. The suggested by-laws for regions were then distributed to the members and were read by the Secretary.

4. Dues and then membership applications were collected and given to Membership Secretary and Treasurer and each member was assigned a number starting from 11.

5. The Charter was signed and membership voted to start the printing of Staten Island Region membership cards and the January meeting date was announced.

6. The Treasurer reported that \$110.00 in dues money was collected from the membership.

7. A motion was then made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.



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It's May 26, 1943. You're itching for some big band swing, but your 1940 Pontiac is parked outside with an empty gas tank, thanks to rationing by the Office for Price Administration. No worries! Bus 107 stops right at the door of Pete & Dom's Club Forest, located on Forest Avenue between the Bayonne and Goethals Bridges. Shine your shoes, snap your brim, and start hoofing it to the bus stop.

Still Looking for a Tucker?

If buying a Tucker remains an unfulfilled item on your bucket list, perhaps you can cross it off after the RM Sotheby's Auction in Arizona this month. Once again, a Tucker is heading to auction, this time it's car #1044, and it has only 7,900 actual miles on its clock. After a restoration begun in 1973, it eventually won its AACA Senior Award in 1981, and then sold in 1982 to an owner who promptly parked it in a metal building on his property and left it there for the next 34 years. The car will be auctioned on January 19, 2017 and carries an estimate somewhere between \$1.6 and \$2.1 million.

If you haven't yet scraped together all of that scratch, here are some of the other cars that RM Sotheby's will offer that don't carry phone number-sized price tags: 1918 Oakland Model 34-B touring car (\$10,000-\$15,000); 1931 Chevrolet Independence Canopy Express truck (\$20,000-\$30,000); 1973 Volkswagen Thing (\$20,000-\$30,000); 1964 Imperial Crown Convertible (\$20,000-\$30,000); or a 1929 Ford Model A Station Wagon (\$25,000-\$35,000).

Some of the less common offerings will include a 1989 Nissan Skyline GT-R (\$50,000-\$70,000); a 1964 Toyota FJ45 Land Cruiser pickup (\$50,000-\$70,000); a 1966 Amphicar (\$65,000-\$85,000) and a 1963 Volkswagen "23-Window" Deluxe Microbus (\$150,000-\$200,000).

RM's first event of 2017 will be held following the Arizona Concours d'Elegance on the grounds of the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. The Concours will spotlight cars by Jean and Ettore Bugatti, Classic Era Lincolns and custom coachwork by Vignale, often seen on Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Maserati and other Italian makes.

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