

Vol. 24, No. 6

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jun 2017



• Inside: A New Addition to the SIRAACA Garage

Vintage Advertising

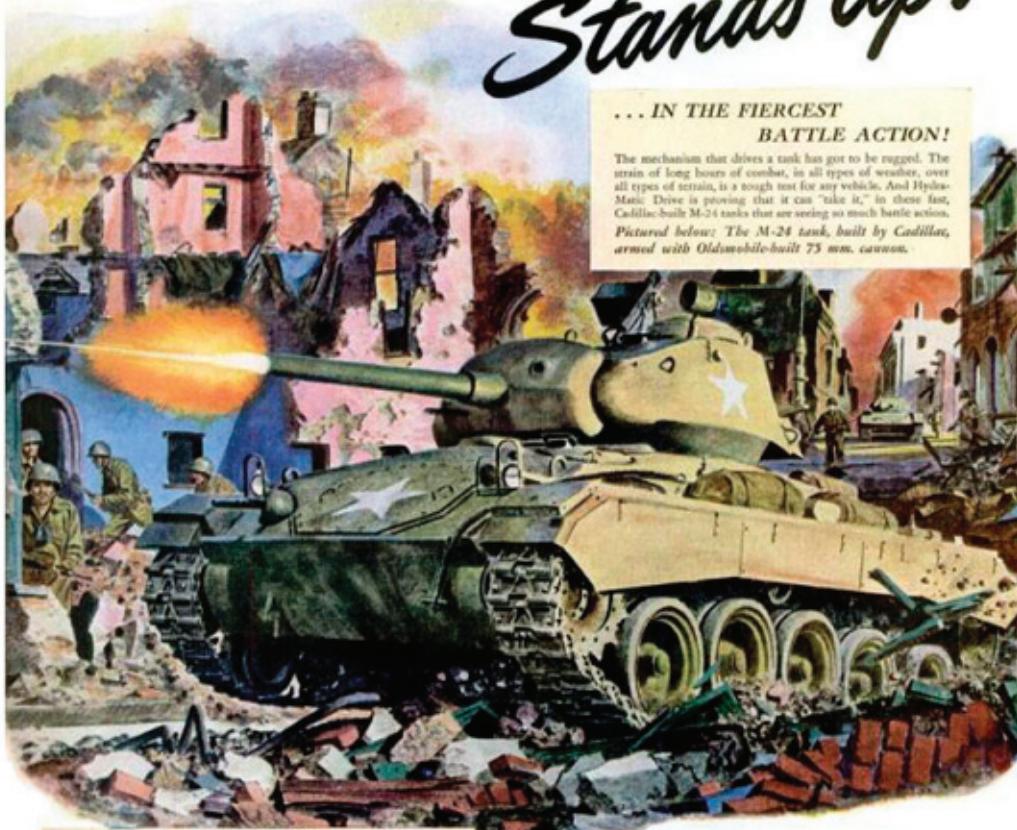
HYDRA-MATIC Stands Up!

... IN THE FIERCEST

BATTLE ACTION!

The mechanism that drives a tank has got to be rugged. The strain of long hours of combat, in all types of weather, over all types of terrain, is a tough test for any vehicle. And Hydra-Matic Drive is proving that it can "take it" . . . *these fast, Cadillac-built M-24 tanks that are seeing so much battle action.*

Pictured below: The M-24 tank, built by Cadillac, armed with Oldsmobile-built 75 mm. cannons.



... IN THE TOUGHEST
WARTIME DRIVING!



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OLDSMOBILE introduced Hydra-Matic Drive to the motoring public in the fall of 1939 . . . more than five years ago. By the time war broke out, Hydra-Matic had already proved its worth through millions of miles of driving by nearly two hundred thousand Oldsmobile owners. It wasn't surprising, then, that one of the tanks sent into action by the Army was the Cadillac-built M-24, equipped with a *Hydra-Matic transmission* . . . Hydra-Matic for extra maneuverability! . . . Hydra-Matic for ease of control! And, on battle fronts all over the world, these speedy tanks have shown that it's Hydra-Matic for durability, too!

On the home front, Hydra-Matic Drive has been establishing another impressive war record. In the hands of thousands of essential drivers, Hydra-Matic Oldsmobiles have been meeting all the toughest wartime tests of time and mileage . . . saving gasoline . . . saving energy for war-busy owners by eliminating clutch-pushing and gear-shifting . . . providing dependable, economical transportation just when America needs it most!

As we just celebrated Memorial Day and are nearing the anniversary of D-Day, we decided to dig out this WWII-era ad from Oldsmobile.

Olds introduced the Hydra-Matic transmission in 1939. It found its way into these Cadillac-built M-24 tanks, which incidentally sported Oldsmobile-built 75mm cannons.

The ad also reminds folks who weren't sure when they'd be able to buy a new car that their pre-war Olds was a dependable driver, thanks to the durable Hydra-Matic. Notice how many passengers are in that Olds sedan, emphasizing car pools a way to save fuel for the war effort.

In This Issue

A local Cadillac has its 15 minutes of fame, and recorded for posterity.

Raising money with raffles.

Ever see a Lada?

GM's return to ragtops in 1982 is now in the SIRAACA Garage.

Trivia Question: When Ford dealer Bob Tasca combined a stock 428 Police Interceptor short block with Ford's 427 V-8 heads in 1967, he inspired Ford to manufacture what hot engine for the 1968 Mustang?

Answer: The 428 Cobra Jet.

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Minutes of the 504th Meeting

May 2, 2017

1. The 504th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:26 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 503rd meeting were accepted as read.
2. We had 284 vehicles at our Spring Dust-Off. Phil Boffa ran through the various receipts and expenses, mentioning that the show was another success. The only suggestions for improvements were about the sound system not carrying to the far end of the field.
3. The raffle car took in \$745 across three days in Englishtown, much lower than previous years. In addition, it took in \$120 in the rain at the Chili Cook-Off.
4. The club is looking to partner with Richmond Town to help develop an existing building into a transportation display that would include their Model T and our grinding truck, among others. Don Bosco is taking lead here.
5. Mike Gorgia reported on his days on hand at the NY International Auto Show with the NYPD collection of vintage police vehicles.
6. The raffle car will look to return to the EZ Pass office on South Avenue on Tuesdays throughout the summer. It will also appear at the New Dorp HS show on June 4 and the Kiwanis show on June 11. Members are needed at both shows to help with raffle sales.
7. Members that need raffle tickets should see Paul Arena when the meeting adjourns. Each member is strongly encouraged to sell at least \$50.00 worth.
8. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The 50/50 collected \$30.00, with Bob Columbia winning \$15.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Local Cadillac Goes National

It comes as no surprise to Staten Island that Hemmings Classic Car would find its Coupe de Ville cover car right here, where the cars are just as popular today as when they were new. This Canyon Copper Cadillac belongs to Michael Signorile, son of our club VP Mike Signorile.

Not only does his 1978 Coupe grace the cover, but it's featured inside with four full pages of photos and a detailed story about the car. It starts with Michael's appreciation for Cadillacs at an early age in Brooklyn, tells of his discovery of this car "down the beach" one Sunday morning, and notes that he's enjoying it simply as his Sunday cruiser. To him, the "award is the car."

Pick up the July 2017 issue of Hemmings Classic Car to see and read the entire feature, or just head "down the beach" on a Sunday morning for a first-hand look.

Raffle Car Update

Some of our members may have heard of local organization Michael's Cause, which raises money for the search for a cure to Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy. Over the Memorial Day weekend, the raffle car made a special appearance at a private fund-raising BBQ for Michael's family, the Capolongo's of Staten Island. The club agreed to split the day's take, and we sold \$625 worth of raffles. We will send a check to the charity.

We hope to have the car on hand at Historic Richmond Town's "Uncorked!" on June 3 and will look to expand beyond our traditional car show and cruise night scheduling to tap into newer audiences. In addition, we hope that everyone will make the best efforts in selling raffles to their personal or professional networks, especially since we won't be at EZ Pass this year. If members need additional raffle books, or photos of the car (it's last month's cover car), let us know at the June meeting.



Classic Car Day @ SI Yankees

The SI Yankees are having Classic Car Day at the ballpark on Sunday, June 25. There is a special ticket promo being run that will benefit the club. For \$20.00, the ticket holder gets admission plus voucher for hot dog, soda/water and bag of chips. The seats are all behind the home dugout. To reserve tickets, go to TicketReturn.com and log in using the UserID: Classic Car Day and the Password: Cars. For each ticket sold, the club will get back \$4.00. This offer is not limited to members, so share this info with family, friends, neighbors and coworkers too. We are still working out details on bringing the raffle car and displaying other cars on the concourse. The game begins at 4:00.

From the President

I belong to a Facebook group called "Classic Car Spotter". The idea of this page is for members to post photographs of pre-1996 automobiles spotted in everyday scenarios. Photos from car shows or cruise nites aren't welcome, although we're sure plenty of posts are of cars spotted en route to such events.

As I was driving my 1967 Cutlass home from Spring Englishtown, with my father trailing me in the raffle car, I thought about trying to "spot" the Camaro at some point in time and post the photo when I got home. As we slowly made our way through the traffic on Union Hill Road, I realized that the line of cars we were in were ideal for another spotter to photograph.

Sure enough, when I got home, a friend of a friend, who is also a member spotter, posted a picture of my car and the Camaro. Egads! I had been spotted!

I've invited fellow member Artie Guarnieri to the group, and he snap plenty of roadside autos during his daily travels through New Jersey and Staten Island. Another friend of mine covers the streets of Brooklyn and Queens, and posts plenty of daily drivers from decades past. If any other members wish to get in on the fun, let us know, and we can invite you into the group. Even if you aren't spotting, looking over what's been spotted across the country (and in places across Europe and South America) is pretty cool.

- Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - June 6

Our June meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 at 7:00 PM at The Staff House at Sea View Hospital and Home, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee and donuts.

Not a Lot of Ladas



(photo by Paul Jr.)

Here's a rare sight from the recent Spring Meet at Englishtown. It's a 1986 Lada 1200S, an exported version of the Soviet-era VAZ-21011, built from 1977-1988. The car is a re-engineered, licensed version of a Fiat 124. None of these were exported to the US marketplace, but were sold in many other countries throughout Europe and beyond, including Canada and Cuba.

The name Lada was selected from over 1,800 entries to name the car through a contest sponsored by a Soviet automotive magazine. Lada is supposedly a Russian word that could mean "harmony". The Lada logo is a stylized version of what looks like a Viking longship, which supposedly sailed up and down the Volga river in Russia.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Just like that, Kevin Keenan has answered the call and placed another vehicle inside the SIRAACA Garage. It's a 1982 Buick Riviera convertible.

Let's see, Buick? Check. All original? Check? Low mileage? Check? Low production? Check. As usual, Kevin has checked off his favorite boxes.

The 1982 Riviera convertible was the first droptop from GM since the 1976 Eldorado. These cars were finished by American Sunroof Corporation after rolling off the assembly line in Linden, NJ, minus a rear seat and headliner. A total of 1,248 were built after the planned roll-out of 500 proved too low to meet demand. Starting price for these cars was \$24,064, almost \$10,000 more than the base coupe.

The standard engine was a 252 cu.in. V-6 rated at 125 horsepower. The optional 307 cu.in. V-8 produced 15 more horses and 35 more pound-feet of torque. Kevin's has the 307.

The 1984 version introduced the optional turbo V-6. Out of 500 total ragtop Rivas built that year, only 47 reportedly have that engine. The final model year for the ragtop was 1985.

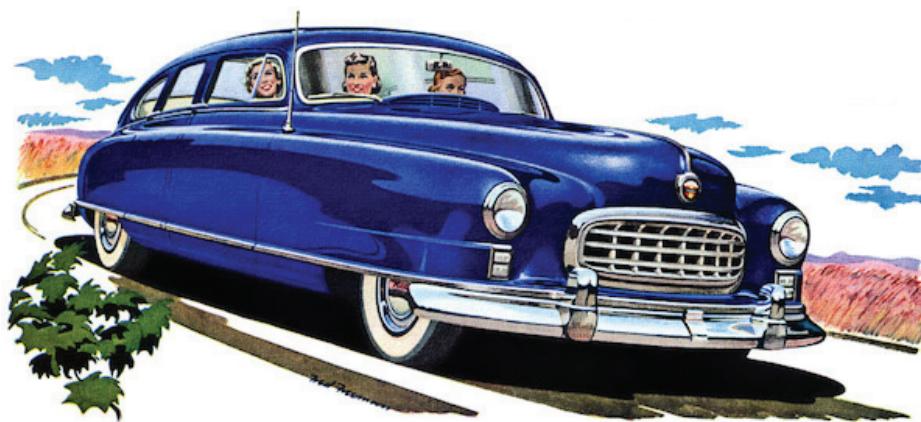
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



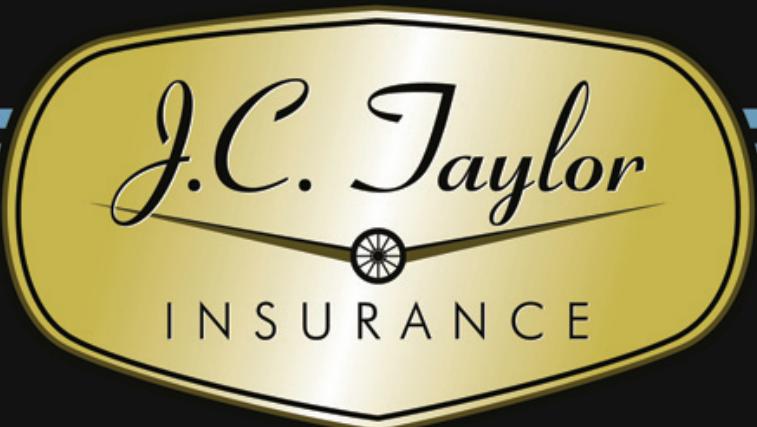
1982 Riviera convertibles came in either White or Red Firemist, with Claret or Maple interiors. Claret is dark red, Maple is light brown. (photo by Kevin Keenan.)

Upcoming Events

Gather up the troops and hit the road for these upcoming events:



- Carlisle Ford Nationals - June 2-4
- 22nd Annual Greenwich Concours - June 3-4
- Uncorked!, Historic Richmond Town - June 3
- 4th Annual New Dorp High School Car Show - June 4
- 8th Annual Troop 74, Sacred Heart Auto Show - June 4
- The Elegance at Hershey - June 9-11
- Antique Automobile Assn. of Bklyn. Show, Floyd Bennett Field - June 11
- North Central Kiwanis Car Show, The Teleport - June 11
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Car Show, 5411 Amboy Road - June 24



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1967+8,533=\$675,000

Take one 1967 Corvette Coupe, add in 8,533 original miles, and you end up with a \$675,000 selling price at Mecum's Indianapolis auction. The car is entirely original except for its battery and mufflers, and the price reflects this, as the value of such a car is around \$170,000.

The car was bought on December 23, 1966 by a soldier just back from fighting in Vietnam. He opted for the 427 with 435 horsepower, along with power windows and telescoping steering wheel. The Marina Blue coupe also has AM/FM push button radio, tinted glass and a speed sentinel.

Not only did the owner take meticulous care of this car, he also documented every time he drove it, including the maximum RPM on each drive. The car was always placed on carpeted jack stands when it wasn't being driven which turned out to be the majority of the time.

This car is likely the most original, well-preserved 1967 Corvette and will serve as a definitive reference for any future restoration of others. The car has never been shown before, but will likely hit the Concours circuit in due time.

FREE CAR SHOW

@ COMMONScafé



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11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

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