

Vol. 24, No. 9

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Sep 2017



- **Fall Show is September 17**
- **Club Events Down the Stretch**





## Vintage Advertising

There's an interesting term used to describe the 1913 National in this ad - a "button car". Appealing to women, or men buying cars for women, it assumes that the complexities of crank starters and gas lamps are too difficult for the fairer sex. Instead, the electric start and electric lamps, all at the push of a button, provide a car that's easy to control and simple to run. Imagine if they had automatic transmission!

Will the autonomous autos of the future take a similar advertising approach? "No gas pedal, no steering wheel, no brake - simply tell it where you want to go and take a nap or check your Twitter feed."

### In This Issue

Club activities at Historic Richmond Town, Bikers for Bini and Delicious Orchards.

Big money at big auctions.

Pull over to take a look at what's patrolling the SIRAACA Garage.

Let a kid sit in your car.

Fall show poster from Dennis Simone.

# FOR MOTORISTS

Stock  
Champion

## National

International  
Champion

### For Conservative People

—who want the best, who will pay only a price commensurate with quality—this is the car of reliability, safety and luxury

“Mother, this is the car for you and the family. It's dependable, safe, easy to control, simple to run, and comfortable. It's a car we'll be proud to be seen in. It's a car I'll feel satisfied to have you or the young folks run, because it's really a 'button car.'”



The National is a "Button Car" that appeals to a woman. She steps directly from her home into her luxurious National. She touches one button and starts the motor. She touches another button for the electric lights. She has immediate, quick, convenient control of the entire car. She goes at will, in comfort, safety and privacy, shopping, calling, to the theatre, anywhere. She has splendid reserve power and perfect mechanical construction at her command.

Among the many places where you can see the National:

San Francisco, Cal. . . . . 523 Golden Gate Ave.	New York, N. Y. . . . . 1922 Broadway
Los Angeles, Cal. . . . . 1130 S. Olive St.	Syracuse, N. Y. . . . . 207 Noxon St.
Denver, Colo. . . . . 28 Colfax St.	Cleveland, Ohio. . . . . 1918 Euclid Ave.
Atlanta, Ga. . . . . 225 Peachtree St.	Cincinnati, Ohio. . . . . 3705 Montgomery Ave.
Chicago, Ill. . . . . 2430 Michigan Ave.	Philadelphia, Pa. . . . . Broad and Tioga Sts.
Des Moines, Iowa. . . . . 407 Fourth Ave.	San Antonio, Texas. . . . . 603 Main St.
Boston, Mass. . . . . 1020 Boylston Ave.	Seattle, Wash. . . . . 905 E. Pike St.
St. Paul, Minn. . . . . 441 St. Peter St.	Portland, Ore. . . . . 7th and Couch Sts.
Kansas City, Mo. . . . . 1708 Grand Ave.	Jacksonville, Fla. . . . . 925 Main St.
Omaha, Neb. . . . . 19th and Farnam Sts.	St. Louis, Mo. . . . . 2818 Locust St.
Buffalo, N. Y. . . . . 803 Main St.	Ontario, Can. . . . . 419 Queen St.

Five models, \$2750 to \$3400

**National Motor Vehicle Co., Indianapolis, Indiana**

THE OUTLOOK ADVERTISING SECTION

*Trivia Question: A normally aspirated Duesenberg Model J was rated at 265 horsepower. What was the rating when the 420-cubic inch inline eight was supercharged?*

*Answer: The SJ Models got a boost of 55 horses, up to 320.*

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# Minutes of the 507th Meeting

## August 8, 2017

1. The 507th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:36 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 506th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Community Day had a lighter than expected turnout, with approximately 80 cars on hand. The Commons Cafe has all but retired such events now that they are not normally open on Saturday, so we may consider coordinating multiple cruise nights instead beginning next year.
3. Thanks to all who pitched in at Back to the Beach, where we took in \$780 in raffle sales. In addition, we sold \$85 worth of chances at the New Dorp High School cruise-nite. The school presented our club with a plaque thanking us for our help with their show.
4. The season marches on with many events between now and our show on September 17. The SIKK show is August 20, Bikers for Bini is August 27, the Richmond County Fair is September 2-4, and the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest is September 9-10. Volunteers were signed up for the County Fair and Delicious Orchards.
5. The Nicotra Group is looking for four cars from the 1940's or 1950's for a "Havana Nights" fundraiser at the Hilton on Saturday, September 23 at 8:00 pm.
6. Posters for the fall show are in. Please take and distribute to your local businesses and trophy donors.
7. The North Central Kiwanis invited Paul Arena, Paul Jr. and Mike Signorile to their monthly meeting to accept a certificate in appreciation of our help with their car show. They also donated \$100 in trophies for our fall show.
8. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. The 50/50 collected \$28.00, with Jimmy Orlando winning \$14.00. Tony DiAngelo won a scented candle.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## SIRAACA at the Richmond County Fair

The club spent the Labor Day weekend at the Richmond County Fair, displaying members' cars and selling tickets on the raffle car. Sunday's rainy weather kept all but Bob Ferone from bringing out their cars. For his efforts, he gets this month's cover shot as well as the accompanying photo at right. The weather turned in everyone's favor in time for Monday, and the crowds returned. Ticket sales rebounded as well, with Monday's take surpassing the combined receipts of Saturday and Sunday. All in all, we took in \$805. The club's 1963 Chevy grinding truck was on hand all three days, with fair goers wondering if Jack the Grinder was back in business. In addition, Mike Gorgia debuted his latest wheels, a 1966 Chevrolet NYC police car, which drew plenty of admirers all day long.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

## SIRAACA at Delicious Orchards

The Staten Island Region was one of three clubs that displayed antique cars, like Rocky Pompa's and Bob Columbia's Mustangs, at the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest in Colts Neck, NJ over the weekend of September 9-10. In addition, we were able to have our raffle car on hand each day. Glorious weather brought out overflowing crowds that enjoyed live music, games, and plenty of apples, apple cider, apple fritters, apple pie and ice cream stuffed apples. Initial count had the club making \$1,925 in raffle sales.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

## SIRAACA at Bikers for Bini

The club was on site to lend a hand to folks at the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund as they hosted their annual Bikers for Bini fund raising event at the Staten Island Mall at the end of August. Along with a motorcycle run and live music from two stages, the event drew over 200 cars for show, including Artie Guarnieri's Ford pickup. Along with showing their cars, club members provided the judging, selecting the top 50 vehicles along with a dozen or so special awards. The raffle car was on hand as well, and took in \$350.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

## From the President

You could say we've made the final turn and are heading down the home stretch once August gives way to September. Weekends are crammed with events looking to take advantage of the dwindling days of summer, and our season finale fall show is close at hand. I go through a series of emotions as this plays out. I'm nervous about the days leading up to our show. We have 40 years of legacy to protect and hopefully improve upon. Did we remember everything we need to do? Will we execute our plan without flaws? What about the weather? What happens if the story goes off script? This is where we all rely on each other to ensure we are ready. I know it's a lot of work, and I know the "work" is why our club doesn't have as many members as we'd like to have. I'm also proud of our efforts. We have sustained a premiere event across five decades with amazing consistency despite intensifying competition with other car shows as well as people's overwhelming choices of what to do with their time. That's certainly an achievement we can all enjoy together.

Ultimately, I feel relief that we pulled together for another season and did good things. We take our love for old cars and turn it into enjoyment for others as well as support worthwhile causes and help those in need. After we close out our season, I look forward to the AACA's close with their fall meet in Hershey as my reward for a job well done. Here's to a job well done. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - September 5

Our September meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5 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.

## The Recent Auction Scene

August brings big auction action to the Monterey area during Pebble Beach Concours week. RM Sotheby's and Gooding are joined by Bonham's and Mecum, all battling for big bucks. The cumulative total of cars sold was \$327 million. RM snared \$133 million, helped by the first Aston Martin DBR1 built hammering for \$22.5 million, a record for a British automobile. A Porsche world record was set at Gooding's when a 917K racecar from Steve McQueen's movie "Le Mans" traded hands for over \$14 million.

So what do the regular folks buy? The least expensive car sold at RM was a 1958 Kurtis-Kraft 500 Half-Midget (essentially a go-kart) for \$12,100. A 1970 Meyers Manx dune buggy sold for \$64,350. Maybe there aren't that many regular folks at RM's auctions. Perhaps Gooding? They sold a 1907 Wolfe touring car for \$49,500 and a 1956 Caddy Series 62 ragtop for \$88,000. Not so regular, either. Bonham's? A 1972 Corvette roadster for \$44,000, a bit more attainable. That leaves us with Mecum, normally known for catering to the regular folks. Even though they were selling million dollar Ferraris too, we see a 1951 Buick Super Estate Wagon sold for \$30,000 and a 1974 Ford Pinto Squire Wagon sold for \$25,000 (whoa!).

Recall the 1930 Minerva barn-find featured on Chasing Classic Cars and in our newsletter? After being shown at Amelia Island, the owners sold it through Gooding, fetching \$484,000. It will be interesting to see if the new owner restores or maintains this unique auto.

Perhaps Monterey isn't so regular after all. So what went down at Auctions America's sale at Auburn a few weeks ago. Hey there, a 1984 Pontiac Fiero sold for \$1,320! A 1986 Toronado sold for \$2,310! A 1988 Trans AM GTA sold for \$4,675 (raffle car money). So is Auctions America mopping up where others fear to tread. Not necessarily. They also sold a 1933 Duesenberg SJ Phaeton for \$2.3 million.

Nearby, at the Worldwide Auctioneers sale, our friend Dan Danielson out of New Jersey (of the Monmouth County Concours) picked up a 1940 Rollson-bodied Packard Super 8 Town Car for less than \$50,000, surprisingly regular for something so unique.



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

This month we get a look at one of the most recent additions to the SIRAACA Garage, and a very unique one at that. It's Mike Gorgia's 1966 Chevrolet Biscayne New York City Police Car replica.

From 1963 through 1965, the city police department used Plymouths, but switched to Chevrolets in 1966 following the company's winning bid. Mike's car is a very accurate replica of the cars that patrolled the city's streets that year.

His Radio Motor Patrol (RMP) 2086 out of the 18th Precinct is powered by a 250 cu. in. 6-cylinder coupled to a Powerglide transmission. It sports a Federal Beacon Ray Model 175H roof light and a Federal "Pulsator" siren mounted alongside. Additional equipment includes a Leece Neville alternator and Stewart Warner "Police Special" speedometer. The three tone color scheme is a combination of Envision Green, Coca-Cola White and Gloss Black. Some say the white is actually Pepsi White.

Midtown North Precinct today was known as the 18th Precinct in 1966.

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.



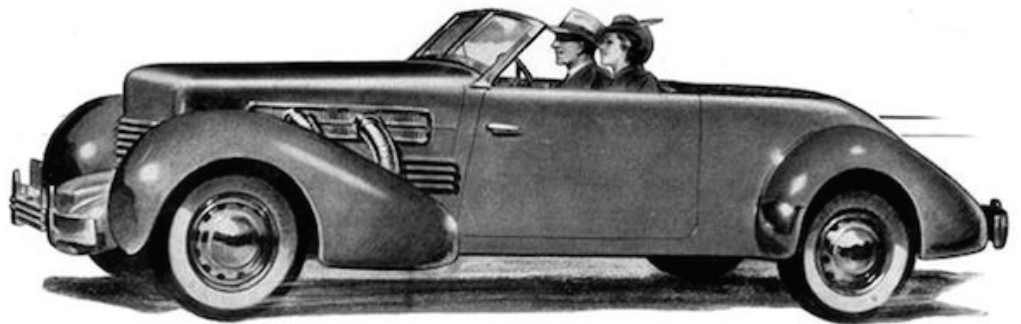
Mike debuted his police car at the recent Delicious Orchards Aoole Fest. (photo by Kevin Keenan)

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## Upcoming Events

Load the car and hit the road for these upcoming events:



- **Richmond County Fair, Historic Richmond Town - September 2-4**
- **Delicious Orchards Applefest, Colts Neck, NJ - September 9-10**
- **Church of the Holy Family 4th Annual Car Show - September 9**
- **SIRAACA 41st Annual Fall Show, Commons Cafe - September 17**
- **41st Annual Fall Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - September 22-24**
- **AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, PA - October 4-7**
- **Sacred Heart Fall Festival, Castleton Ave, and N. Burgher - October 8**
- **Straub Buick Car Show, Hazlet, NJ - October 20**





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## “Wanna Sit In It?”

That’s a question that some antique car owners are now asking at local shows when they see a kid straining to see inside their car. It’s another way to engage younger folks with our hobby. Short of going for a ride, sitting behind the wheel of a car as a kid is always fun, and could lead them to stay involved in the hobby as they get older. Consider it the next time you’re hanging out with your car.



**STATEN ISLAND REGION  
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**

**41ST ANNUAL CAR SHOW  
AND FLEA MARKET  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

**COMMONScafé**  
100% PROFITS  
TO CHARITY

**COMMONS CAFE AT THE TELEPORT  
8:00AM TO 4:00PM**

**RAIN DATE: SEPTEMBER 24TH**

- Judging and Multiple Awards In All Classes 15 Years or Older •
- Food • Drinks • 50/50 • Music •

**WIN A 1996 CAMARO CONVERTIBLE**

SHOW INFO:  
SIRAACA@YANCO.COM OR 917-626-0233

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DONATED VEHICLES.**  
Any make, model,  
year and condition.  
Tax deductible.  
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**SIRAACA**