

Vol. 25, No. 1

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jan 2018



- **Holiday Party Recap**
- **Renew Your Dues**





SO WHERE THE FUN IS! In new conditioned air comfort . . . on a miraculous new Nash springing combination called "Arrow-Flight". At night, drive in the glareless safety of new Sealed Beam lights.



THERE'S A NEW THRILL in the throttle. Pick-up of 15 to 50 MPH in 13 seconds, high gear . . . and a new Fourth Speed Forward for gliding speed—with an unbeatable automatic Overtake.

Weather Eye Magic

A SHRIEKING GALE has smothered the sun and swept the lake bare of skaters.

You're standing there, chilled to the bone, dreading the journey home.

Suddenly—a flash of light, and laughing faces . . . a whisper of tires on the snow. Someone's brought a new Nash!

You slip into the broad, welcoming front seat—someone twirls a mysterious little dial, and instantly it's June!

With all the windows closed, there's a draftless flood of fresh, invigorating air—exactly heated as "tuned in". Out goes stuffy air, cigarette smoke, the moisture of your breath. The windshield stays clear.

The mercury tumbles . . . the wind howls louder—but stop or go, fast or slow—your comfort is automatically kept the same. That little thermostatic sentinel just inside

the windshield never lets a chilly breath slip by. Yes—it's Weather Eye magic that even out-guesses "old man Winter"!

But that's no harder to believe than a new Fourth Speed Forward with an automatic Overtake that shoots you way ahead of those traffic stragglers.

Or Nash's silent Arrow-Flight ride that lets you relax in comfort over the worst Winter roads. Or that new feather-touch wheel that wields a magic influence over curves and rough spots.

Fact is, you'll have to revise all your ideas of what a car can be—and do. (And that's going to be the thrill of a motoring lifetime!)

It's priced so low, with resale value so high . . . that it will pay to trade away your troubles to your Nash dealer today—and start having year 'round fun!



COSTS YOU LESS to go places. Exclusive Nash engine is a Gilmore-Yosemite Economy winner, with 21.25 miles per gallon. Convertible bed saves lodging costs. Nash dealers everywhere (over 1800) are ready to serve you.

Again... **NASH**
IT'S THAT NEW

Vintage Advertising

Staten Island prepares to say farewell to 2017 under bitter cold and snowy conditions, so we selected this ad for a 1940 Nash to highlight its Weather Eye. The Weather Eye system began in 1938 when Nash developed the first auto heater to warm fresh air with hot engine water within a heater core. In 1939 they added a thermostat to the system, and this setup is the basis for use in cars today.

The ad also mentions that owning a Nash means it costs less to go places. Not only was the engine economical by getting more than 21 mpg, but the car featured a convertible bed that saved on lodging. Of course, to keep from freezing to death, you had to keep the car running all night so the Weather Eye could keep you warm. So much for 21 mpg.

In This Issue

The club celebrates the holidays.

Classifieds from the 1950's

A second look after restoration of a 1950 Ford in the SIRAACA Garage.

An intro to the auto artwork of Stefan Marjoram.

Trivia Question: In 1903, pioneers Horatio Nelson Jackson and Sewall Crocker became the first people to drive an auto across the United States. What kind of car did they use?

Answer: A slightly used, two-cylinder, 20 hp Winton. The trip from San Francisco to New York took 63 days, 12 hours and 30 minutes.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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SIRAACA Who's Who

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Minutes of the 511th Meeting

December 10, 2017

1. The 511th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order in the midst of the club's Holiday Party by President Paul Jr. to conduct the year's final business.
2. Family members representing the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive were on hand to accept our donation of new, unwrapped toys. They spoke to us about their history, their efforts, and the joy donations like ours bring to so many across Staten Island.
3. The existing slate of officers were nominated to return for 2018 without opposition. A single ballot was cast by Kevin Keenan to complete the election.
4. The club reviewed the Letter of Intent between itself and Historic Richmond Town and made suggested changes that confirm that we have already donated \$2,000 towards the refurbishment of the transportation building. It will be signed before year's end and an agreement will be drafted that goes into greater detail about the partnership.
5. Paul Jr, recognized Mike Gorgia, Mike Signorile, Paul Arena and Tony DiAngelo for their top results in raffle and trophy sales.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Holiday Party Helps Close Out 2017

Members gathered once again at The RoadHouse Restaurant for the club's annual Holiday Party on December 10. As usual, members and the club itself donated new, unwrapped toys to the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive, and Richie's family members were on hand to accept the donation and offer thanks. In between dinner and dessert, the final business of 2017 was addressed. President Paul Jr. announced that the membership had nominated the existing slate of officers to return for another year, and with no opposition, a single ballot was cast in their favor. Afterwards, he recognized Mike Gorgia as the top seller of raffles this year with a record breaking effort just shy of \$1,000. Also recognized were Mike Signorile, Paul Arena and Tony DiAngelo as the top three in trophy donations and sponsorships. Paul Jr.'s son Vincent was on hand to help give out the awards and then drew all of the winning numbers for the 50/50 and door prizes.



Clockwise from above: Mike Gorgia is congratulated by Paul Jr. for his record breaking raffle sales; members mingle before dinner; Mother Mousse did a wonderful job on this year's cake; Paul Jr. and his son Vincent present Tony DiAngelo with an award for his trophy donation sales efforts. (photos by Frank Nathanson)



From the Editor

This issue marks the start of Volume 25 of "Ragtops & Rumbleseats". I've added a subtle nod to the milestone by marking the volume and issue number in silver on the cover. When I took over the editor job from Lenny DeLuca, who succeeded Sal DeFrancesco, I didn't think I'd crank out 300 newsletters, yet that's what I'll do by the end of 2018. Keep the ideas coming! - Paul Jr.

From the Webmaster



Hello. I'm Frank Nathanson. I spend the majority of my time driving a semi across the highways of the northeast, so I rarely make our monthly meetings. I asked Paul Jr. to put my picture in the newsletter so you'll always remember my pretty face! Happy New Year to all my fellow club members!

- NEXT MEETING - January 2

Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:00 PM at the Staff House at Sea View Home and Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. Members are asked to contribute \$3.00 towards coffee and donuts.

When Antique Cars Were Just Used Cars

Here is a clipping from the Advance classifieds from 1953 or so, listing used cars for sale. Many makes no longer exist today, like Plymouth, Studebaker, DeSoto and Oldsmobile. That fifteen year old Ford sedan would set you back \$145, which is still only \$1,340 in today's dollars. And what became of Island Motor Sales at 1260 Hylan Boulevard? That address is now the shopping center that houses Bocelli Restaurant, near Honda of Staten Island. Island Chevrolet has a small ad with an address of 1316 Castleton Avenue, which is now Spray City and other repair and upholstery shops. The rest of this page also had ads from Wagner's Garage, Packard West Brighton, Ray's Studebaker, Staten Island Motor, Inc (an authorized Hudson dealer), Bentley Motor Sales and a Willys dealer on Victory Boulevard. We'll dig deeper into those on a later date.

ped. Low mileage.
GI. 7-0697

'50 Buick Sedanette	.\$1495
'50 Plymouth sedan	1445
'49 Chevrolet conv...	1345
'50 Studebaker Cl. Cp.	1295
'49 Plymouth sedan..	1245
'48 Chevrolet Fl'tline	995
'47 Chrysler sedan ..	995
'47 Dodge sedan	995
'47 DeSoto	995
'47 Plymouth convert.	995
'47 Oldsmobile hydra.	995
'48 Ford sedan	895
'46 Buick sedan	795
'41 Pontiac club cpe.	250
'38 Ford sedan	145

ISLAND MOTOR SALES
1260 Hylan Boulevard
DO. 6-3286

1951 CHEVROLET Sport Deluxe Club Coupe, 4 months old, fully equipped, \$1,700. Call GI. 7-9865, ask for Al Filadora.

1950 CHEVROLET Styleline deluxe club coupe, fully equipped, radio and heater, \$1,475.

ISLAND CHEVROLET, INC.
1316 Castleton Ave., W.B. GI. 2-7900.

1941 CHEVROLET
Radio. Heater. \$175.
GI. 2-5039.

1941 CHEVROLET ...

What To Do To Renew Your Dues

With the new year upon us, all of you should have renewed your national AACA membership. Beginning at our January meeting, you can also renew your local membership. Local dues remain \$20 and can be paid to membership secretary Jonathan Schulman by check or cash.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Some time back we peeked into the SIRAACA Garage for a glimpse of Andrew Napoli's 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe convertible. At that time, Andrew was cleaning it up and determining his next steps. Now that he's taken all of those steps (new paint, new interior, new chrome, etc.), here's the finished product.

Sitting at the top of Ford's lineup along with the Crestliner and other Custom Deluxe models, the convertible sports a 239 cubic inch V-8 rated at 100 horsepower. Ford produced 50,299 convertibles at a factory price of \$1,948. The only Ford that cost more that year was the Custom Deluxe two-door wagon, which ran \$2,107.

Andrew did much of the restoration himself, and the results are fantastic. He tells us it's a great car for local runs and shows, but not so much for highway driving. As such, a good number of us Staten Islanders will need to go to New Jersey to see it in person, as we did at the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest. Alternately, you could make Andrew an offer and bring it home yourself.

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.



Top up or down, the '50 Ford shows off its "shoebox" form. One quick way to know a '50 from a '49 is the fuel filler door above the fender crease. The '49 had an exposed gas cap below the fender crease. (photos by Paul Jr.)





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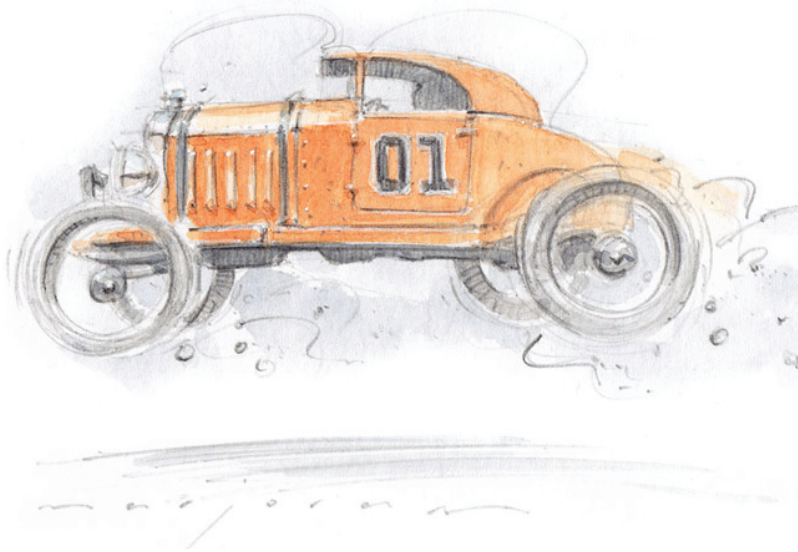
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Get to Know Stefan Marjoram

Browsing the web can be immensely frustrating or rewarding, depending on what you are searching for. Take it from us and go directly to the website of artist, photographer, animator and filmmaker Stefan Marjoram (stefanmarjoram.com), where all of his talents, combined with his love of automobiles, are on display. Each December he creates a collection of daily sketches called Auto Art Advent. He capped last year's offering of vintage race cars with a sketch of Santa romping in the snow on a Porsche tractor (bottom right). This year's collection is a brilliant re-imagining of famous TV and movie cars that places them in an earlier era. Wonder what the Dukes of Hazzard would drive if they were bootleggers during Prohibition? (bottom left). Have fun guessing what other rides he's interpreted, but keep in mind that Stefan lives in the UK, so some might be specific to British television. Stefan has a store set up online to pick up some of his sketches, and you can commission your own work of art by contacting him by e-mail at info@stefanmarjoram.com.



*Happy New Year from the
Staten Island Region
Antique Automobile Club of America*

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**WANTED:
DONATED VEHICLES.
Any make, model,
year and condition.
Tax deductible.
Call 917-626-0233**

SIRAACA