

Vol. 25, No. 8

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2018



• Cruise Nights Build Towards Fall Show



Vintage Advertising

An ad for a National from 1919 notes that the company was in its 19th successful year. Success for National was fleeting, with the company shutting down by 1924. While the model pictured is an elegant touring model, National made its short-lived reputation on the race track.

The company president was one of the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and National fielded a three car team in the inaugural Indy 500 in 1911. The following year, Joe Dawson drove a National to the winner's circle. Peak output was 1,800+ cars in 1915.

In This Issue

Back to the Beach and cruise night recaps.

Special appearance planned for fall show.

Stolen parts alert!

Big auction action coming in August.

Cars needed for Sunrise Senior Living on August 22.

Perhaps the first Japanese auto in the SIRAACA Garage.



National

THERE is a tradition in the automobile business almost as old as the industry itself: let a man drive a National one hundred miles and he will drive none but a National from that day on.

NATIONAL MOTOR CAR & VEHICLE CORPORATION, INDIANAPOLIS
Nineteenth Successful Year

Six and Twelve Cylinder Models

Seven-Passenger Touring Car	Four-Passenger Phaeton
Four-Passenger Roadster	Seven-Passenger Convertible Sedan

Trivia Question: What was the first automobile to use the term sedan to describe its closed, four passenger car in 1911?

Answer: A Speedwell, built in Dayton Ohio by the Speedwell Motor Car Co. Before then, many closed cars were referred to as saloons or limousines.

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Minutes of the 518th Meeting

July 10, 2018

1. The 518th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:35 by President Paul Jr.. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 516th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The Kiwanis show was held on its rain date and our club was on hand with our raffle car. We also judged all entrants. The raffle car took in \$260 and the Kiwanis is donating another \$250 to us towards trophies. Artie Guarnieri and Bob Columbia attended a Kiwanis dinner along with Mike Signorile as a thank you for all of their help.
3. Cruise nights are underway at Richmond Town and the reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, the transportation building has been painted with the help of corporate volunteers.
4. Back to the Beach is this coming weekend and volunteers are needed on both days to help sell raffle tickets. The event runs all day, giving members more options in terms of the time they can spend with us.
5. The 2019 AACA Eastern Spring meet will be in nearby Parsippany. All members are encouraged to attend.
6. Kevin Keenan has organized a bus trip for Monday, August 20 to visit the Classic Auto Mall in Morgantown, PA. The bus will leave from Delicious Orchards, and the trip includes baked breakfast goods, buffet lunch, and a stop at an Amish historical village as well. Seats are \$45. See Kevin for availability.
7. Jacket options have been clarified. You may get either red or black jackets. The club patch on the rear is optional, as is a directly embroidered logo. All jackets include small secondary logo on the chest, American flag on the sleeve and free personalization if desired. The club will cover \$35 per member towards the jacket. Prices range from \$35 to \$75. Artie Guarnieri is taking orders.
8. The club received a \$525 donation from V-DAC for a recently donated vehicle.
9. Phil Boffa's treasury report shows all is in order. Keep looking for next year's raffle car.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05. The 50/50 collected \$30, with Jeff Tucker winning \$15.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

What Might You See at Our Cruise Nights?

Center Street is the place to be on Wednesday nights if you love antique cars, great Italian street food and delicious homemade ice cream. We deliver it all at our weekly cruise nights in Richmond Town. In recent weeks, we've filled up the entire village thanks to our friends at the Verrazano Cadillac Club and plenty of other car owners. Many cars are coming out for what seems like the first time, such as this 1942 Ford military jeep (below, left) and Victor Coiro's newly acquired 1948 Packard (below, right).



(photos by Paul Jr.)

Back to the Beach Was a Blast

The club spent the July 14/15 weekend at Back to the Beach selling raffle tickets on our 1989 Mustang and promoting our fall show. For those who stayed late Saturday, like Bruce Campbell in the photo at right, they were treated to a fabulous fireworks show offshore right behind our location. It proved to be a great weekend for those in attendance, enjoying food and plenty of live music. It was a great weekend for us as well, as we took in nearly \$1,000 in sales.



Stolen Parts Alert!

Don Bosco reports that a 1958 Cadillac 60 Special right front fender and hood were stolen from his garage on Old Town Road recently. The left front fender was moved into a position to be taken next. Parts are in old red primer, but had all stainless trim attached. Keep an eye and ear open for leads as to where they ended up.

From the President

I am happy to report that Kevin Keenan, along with his trusty wingman Phil Boffa, showed two of his cars at the recent AACA Spring National Meet in Gettysburg and came home with two Senior Awards. As usual, Phil has written a fantastic recap of the weekend, which will appear in our next newsletter. It'll be worth the wait.

We are getting close to our fall show, so I hope that everyone's selling raffle tickets, asking for trophy donations, and promoting the show. Our fall posters will be ready any day now. Flip to the back of the newsletter for a first look and the revelation of a special planned appearance at our show. The raffle car has but a few events left before the show, so if you know of any other opportunities to get it out in public, please let us know.

Thanks to everyone thus far for their efforts now and down the stretch, and remember to look for 2019 raffle car hopefuls.- Paul Jr.

Cars For Sunrise Senior Living

Once again we have been asked to provide four antique cars for a small afternoon display at Sunrise Senior Living. The cars will be needed on Wednesday, August 22 at 2:00. Sunrise Senior Living is located on Grymes Hill alongside the Staten Island Expressway at 801 Narrows Road North. We will sign up volunteers at our August meeting.

- NEXT MEETING - August 7

Our August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. Members should park in the lot on Clarke Ave., and enter the courthouse from that entrance. We will be upstairs. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee & donuts.

Valentino's Isotta For Sale

August is here and with it the upcoming action across the Monterey peninsula and Pebble Beach. Alongside the famous Concours d'Elegance and other fantastic gatherings, auction houses sell millions and millions of dollars worth of exotic and classic cars. One notable car coming through via RM Sotheby's is a 1927 Isotta Fraschini Tipo 8A Roadster by Fleetwood. This car is currently owned by Joseph Cassini of New Jersey, and has made the rounds of the show circuits nearby for many years now. We saw it displayed at a Metro Region CCA Grand Classic back in 2009 and a Concours in Bethlehem the following year. Why is this car notable? It was commissioned by Hollywood icon Rudolph Valentino, who suddenly died before it was completed. When displayed at the New York Auto Salon and later in Isotta Motors, throngs of fans came out to continue their mourning of the beloved star. Cassini replaced the red top in our photo taken in 2009 with the proper black top that it will wear across the auction block. It is estimated to fetch between \$1.5 and \$2 million.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

This month, we have our first look at Tom LaGuidice's 1982 Datsun 280ZX. Tom is the original owner of this Japanese sports car.

The 280ZX was derived from the earlier 240Z models dating back to their introduction in 1969, following on the single year offering of a 260Z in 1974. The numbers referred to the ever-growing displacement from 2.4 liters to 2.8 liters. The X wasn't added to 280Z until 1979, reflecting a new chassis.

The 1982 model featured some styling changes. The taillights featured a striped design, and the bumpers became rubber clad. Six spoke, 14-inch alloy wheels denoted the non-turbo model. Turbos got four spoke 15's instead.

Production was pretty healthy, with 63,855 models built in 1982. Tom's is painted Rallye Red, one of 14 available single tones that year. A pair of two-tone options, in either blue or black with platinum, were also available.

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.



Upcoming Events

Load up the car and head out to one of these upcoming events.



- SIKarKlub Car Show for Parkinson's, Petrides School - August 12
- 13th Annual Midtown Elizabeth Car Show, Broad Street - August 18
- Classic Auto Mall bus trip, Morgantown, PA - August 20
- Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, PA - August 23-26
- Richmond County Fair - September 1-3
- 42nd Annual SIRAACA Car Show, Commons Cafe - September 16





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Drag-U-La To Appear

Here is the poster for our upcoming fall show. It features the Drag-U-La, a famous TV car from the 1960's that appeared on The Munsters. The Drag-U-La was a coffin-bodied dragster that Grandpa Munster raced in an episode entitled "Hot Rod Herman". A replica of the Drag-U-La now calls Staten Island its home, and Big Daddy George is bringing it out to our show, along with his Cinderella Coach. The poster, once again designed by Dennis Simone, will be printed in three different colors this year.

Coincidentally, the original Drag-U-La, built by Dick Dean in 1964, came up for auction this past weekend at Mecum Harrisburg. According to the auction house, it did not sell and "the bid goes on." Until recently, it was hanging from the ceiling of a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Atlantic City.

Note that the poster also includes the logo of Nissan of Staten Island. Mike Signorile secured their commitment as a sponsor of the show again for \$2,000. His last minute deal got in under the printer deadline. The posters will be available at the August meeting. Members are encouraged to have them put up in local businesses. Please do not post them on public property such as telephone poles and the like.

Staten Island Region AACA
42nd PRESENTS ITS
CAR SHOW
AND FLEA MARKET
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 2018
8:00am to 4:00pm Rain Date September 23, 2018
• Judging and Multiple Awards In All Classes 15 Years or Older •
• Food • Drinks • 50/50 • Music •
NISSAN OF STATEN ISLAND
COMMONS CAFE AT THE TELEPORT
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100% PROFITS TO CHARITY
WIN A 1989 Mustang & 5.0 Convertible!
FEATURING DRAG-U-LA
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year and condition.
Tax deductible.
Call 917-626-0233

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