

Vol. 26, No. 6

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jun 2019



• **Something New in the SIRAACA Garage**



Vintage Advertising

Can you believe you had a choice among 27 different Buicks in 1967? Multiply that by the countless options and packages you could pick from, and you realize that the factory was cranking out countless variations on a theme. To be fair, Buick has a fairly wide lineup today that includes SUVs as well as a ragtop and a wagon,

Model year production for Buick totaled 562,507 units. So which one wasn't popular? According to the Standard Catalog of American Cars, Buick built 894 Skylark 2-dr Coupes with a V-6, and 908 Special Series wagons with the same engine.

Tops in production was the Riviera at 42,799 units, followed by 40,978 Electra 225 Custom 4-dr hardtops and 40,940 Skylark 2-dr hardtops.

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Buick Motor Division, General Motors Corporation, reserves the right to make changes at any time, without notice, in prices, colors, materials, equipment, specifications, and models and also to discontinue models.

Trivia Question: What was the first American car to offer a factory-installed sunroof?

Answer: The 1938 Cadillac Sixty Special. Just 1,500 such equipped cars were sold through 1941

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Minutes of the 528th Meeting

May 7, 2019

1. The 528th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Jr. After reciting the pledge of allegiance and observing a moment of silence, the minutes of the 527th meeting were accepted as read.
2. This might be the first time in club history that one of our shows was rained out on the rain date. The club discussed the pros and cons of trying for a third date, and agreed to request June 23 from the Commons Cafe.
3. The raffle car was at the Chili Cook-Off and took in \$50. Attendance seemed down compared to last year.
4. Uncorked! is scheduled for June 8. Volunteers will be needed to sell raffles or help with Richmond Town's gates. That is the same date as the Kiwanis Show at Mt. Loretto. Members attending that show are invited to assist with their selection of award winners. Recall that Kiwanis gives back to the club in the form of trophy donations.
5. New Dorp High School Show is June 9. Volunteers to help with the raffle car are needed.
6. Cruise nites are pegged to start on Wednesday, May 29 and run for 12 weeks. The club will raise additional money via 50/50 drawings to help cover Richmond Town incidentals.
7. We have gotten the okay to sell raffle tickets at the Sunday morning cruises at Great Kills Beach, so long as it's not overly commercialized (no signs or banners).
8. The fall poster design will get a makeover and be reused for the fall show in an effort to speed up delivery.
9. We have been asked to make a donation to NOAH, an organization that helps families with albino children. The club agreed to send them a check for \$100.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55. The 50/50 collected \$30.00, with Rocky Pompa winning \$15.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Sunday Mornings Are in Full Swing at Great Kills Beach

It took long enough for the weather to cooperate, but a nice stretch of Sunday morning weather has brought everyone out to the beach at Great Kills, where the Island's biggest informal gathering of collector cars and their fans congregate. Fair-weather friends (the good kind that you see after a winter hibernation) reconnect with each other and show off a new acquisition, or a finished project, or their tried and true ride. Authorities are providing enough leeway so long as the action is more show and less go, knowing that the event will police itself as far as unwanted behavior goes. Be sure to visit, as you'll be glad you did.



Raffle Car Where and When

The raffle car has a double booking the weekend of June 7&8. First up is Uncorked! at Historic Richmond Town on Saturday. The event, a food & wine tasting along Center Street, will run from noon to 4:00. We're only expecting to display the raffle car and will need a handful of volunteers to sell chances and help out at the entry gates if needed. On Sunday, the car will be on hand at the New Dorp HS show, and volunteers are needed that day as well to help sell chances, and perhaps assist the organizers with judging.

The raffle car also made an appearance at a charity BBQ over the Memorial Day weekend. The event, held at a private residence in Marlboro, raises money for Michael Capolongo. He is the "Michael" in Michael's Cause. We pledged to donate no less than half of the day's sales, which totaled over \$450.

We look forward to more outings in June with the weekly cruise nites underway and our rescheduled Spring Dust-Off on the 23rd. In the meantime, please make every effort to offer chances to friends, family and co-workers to help us make up for missed opportunities across the last couple of months.

Congratulations

Many of you were introduced to new member Andy Barcellona at the previous meeting. Andy's been volunteering to help us at our shows the past few years as a friend, and decided to join us officially this year. Next time you see him, congratulate him on winning a Grand National Senior Award last week in Auburn, Indiana with his 1957 Chevrolet 210 station wagon. For those of you that are unfamiliar with AACA National Awards hierarchy, a Grand National Senior is the top award in the family tree of national prizes. To win, a car must have already won a 1st Grand National Award, and then score 390 (out of 400) or better at a subsequent showing at a Grand National.

Condolences

Jeannie Orlando, wife of Jimmy Orlando, recently passed away. We offer our condolences to Jimmy and his family during this painful time. Jeannie was an avid bowler and Mets fan, and her fellow bowlers are honoring her by donating \$250 to our club towards trophies in her memory. The club will most likely put this towards some of the special red carpet awards that are presented at the fall show, and we'll be sure to honor her that day as well.

From the President

Hopefully everyone intending to show a car in any capacity at the AACA Spring Meet in Parsippany has registered to do so. The deadline most likely passed by the time this went to press. The show is set for Saturday, June 29. It promises to be a very well-attended event, and we hope our club is thoroughly represented across the show field and among the spectators.

I was recently contacted by a woman whose husband had passed away last November, leaving behind his 1938 Buick Special sedan. He was on our emailing list, and she found one and replied to it asking for help in selling the car. I offered her exposure to our friends in the North Shore Buick Club in New Jersey and the services of our members, such as appraiser Mike Gorgia and Mike Signorile's website. She has no idea on a fair price, so we hope to start by visiting the car and giving it a fair inspection. The owner's name was Mike Fortunato. I cannot recall seeing this car at any of our recent events, but the picture she shared with me showed what looked like a very nice show car. Does anyone in the club recall Mike or his Buick? Does anyone have interest or know someone who might be in the market for such a car?

Lastly, we give it a go one more time with the rescheduled Spring Dust-Off on June 23. With summer beginning on June 21, we're stretching the truth a bit, but who's noticing? - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - June 4

Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 4 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. We meet upstairs and can enter from the parking lot on Clarke Avenue. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee & donuts.

If You Like Cars of the 1900's...

If you like the cars from the dawn of motoring, dating back to the start of the 20th century, start saving your money. RM Sotheby's will offer up more than 100 cars from that era, at no reserve, at their auction in Hershey this fall. The cars come out of a collection formed by the Merrick Auto Museum in Nebraska. These aren't just well-known names like a Curved Dash Olds or an early Buick, although those will be included. We are talking oddball makes like Enger, Gasmobile Stanhope, Kearns, Mier and more. There's a 1900 Rockwell Hansom Cab that's straight out of a Jeekyll & Hyde movie, and highwheelers from Sears and International. The collection can be viewed online through RM Sotheby's website. We're guessing Don Bosco is already making a list and figuring out where to put a few more cars.

... or Unknown Factory Muscle Cars

Bonhams was on hand for an auction at the recent Greenwich Concours. Among their offerings was a factory experimental Ford Galaxie 500 that was somehow saved through foresight or fate. In 1965, Ford's top engine was the 427ci "wedge head" with dual carbs, good for 425hp. Ford had something more powerful, however. A SOHC 427, known as the "Cammer", was developed to match up with the HEMI powered cars on NASCAR tracks. This engine was rated at 657hp when paired with dual carbs, and NASCAR banned it from competition. The "Cammer" engine went on to race in NHRA instead. Looking at the 1965 Ford Shop Manual, a description of VINs indicates the letter "M" in the fifth slot denoted this engine. But did they put it in any production cars? Ford ran a test garage at Watkins Glen, and this "M-code" Galaxie was built in Dearborn, tested at the Glen, and then made its way to an engineers home when it was no longer "needed". It was driven for a while, then had its engine removed and put into a motor boat. Eventually it was abandoned on the family's farm in Elmira, NY. Discovered a few years later and eventually restored with the correct engine, the car sold in Greenwich for \$112,000. That seems fair compared to rare HEMI car prices.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We return to the SIRAACA Garage to see what's new since we last peeked inside. The latest resident is this 1996 Buick Roadmaster, recently acquired by Kevin Keenan.

Kevin's Buick is powered by a version of the 5.7L LT1 also found in the Corvette, with minor differences (two vs. four bolt mains, for example). It's also equipped with limited slip posi rear and sway bars front and back. It is set up very much like the Impala SS from that year.

Kevin is the second owner. The car has 44,000 miles on it and comes from the area of Todt Hill here on Staten Island. The owner's daughter turns out to have attended grade school at St. Teresa's with Kevin's wife. She recalls playing at the house with her way back when.

If Kevin holds on to the car through 2021, it'll most likely make the trip out to Hershey that fall. That's good news for Phil Boffa, as the trunk is quite large and he can but bigger things in the flea market.

Check out more pics on the back page.

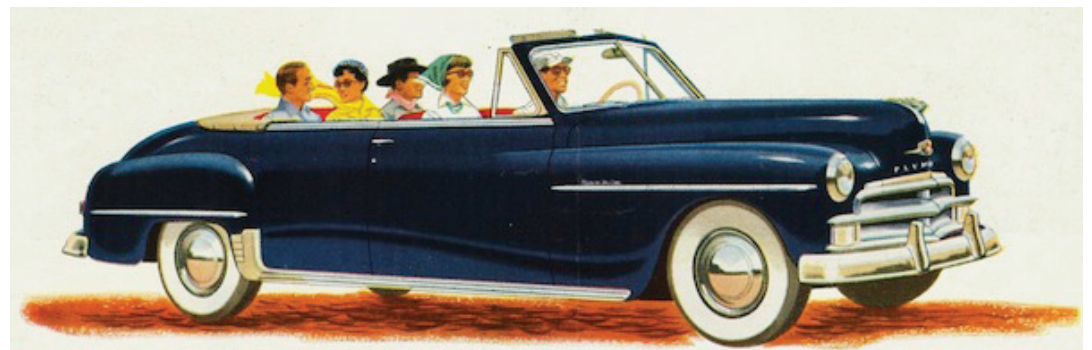
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



The 1996 Roadmaster was the final year of the second coming of the nameplate, which began in 1991. The first run lasted from 1936 through 1958. (photo courtesy of Kevin Keenan)

Upcoming Events

Load up the car with friends and family en route to one of these events.



- No. Central Kiwanis of SI 3rd Annual Car Show, Mt. Loretto - June 8
- Uncorked!, Historic Richmond Town - June 8
- New Dorp High School Car Show - June 9
- The Elegance at Hershey - June 9
- SIRAACA 13th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - June 23





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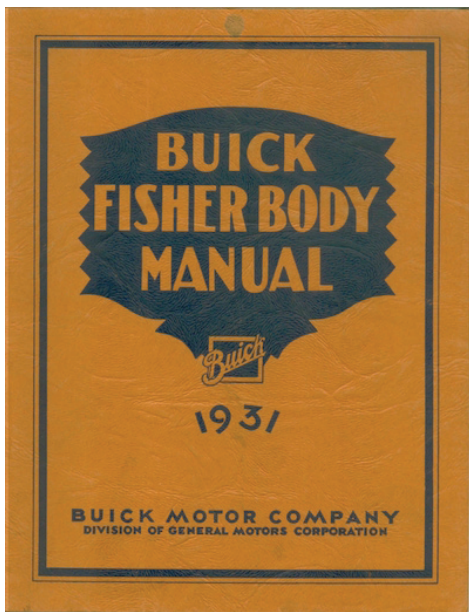
More from the SIRAACA Garage



(photos by Kevin Keenan)

AAACA Zenith Award Winner

We have a strong suspicion that David M. Landow of Bethesda, ND is intimately familiar with the book seen at the left. At this year's AAACA Grand National Meet in Auburn, IN, his 1931 Buick 8-94 Sport Roadster was chosen as the Zenith Award winner. His car had undergone a seven year restoration, and the quality of that work was deemed the best of the best among 15 other finalists chosen from national meets the year prior. SIRAACA member Andy Barcellona was in attendance, and points out the near impossibility of choosing any one finalist over another. He also cited the great diversity of vehicles that competed, from a 1950's Dual Ghia to an early model Ford Bronco, further emphasizing that the hobby truly has something for everyone. Look for upcoming coverage of the winner and the other finalists in a future issue of our national magazine.



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