

Vol. 27, No. 8

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

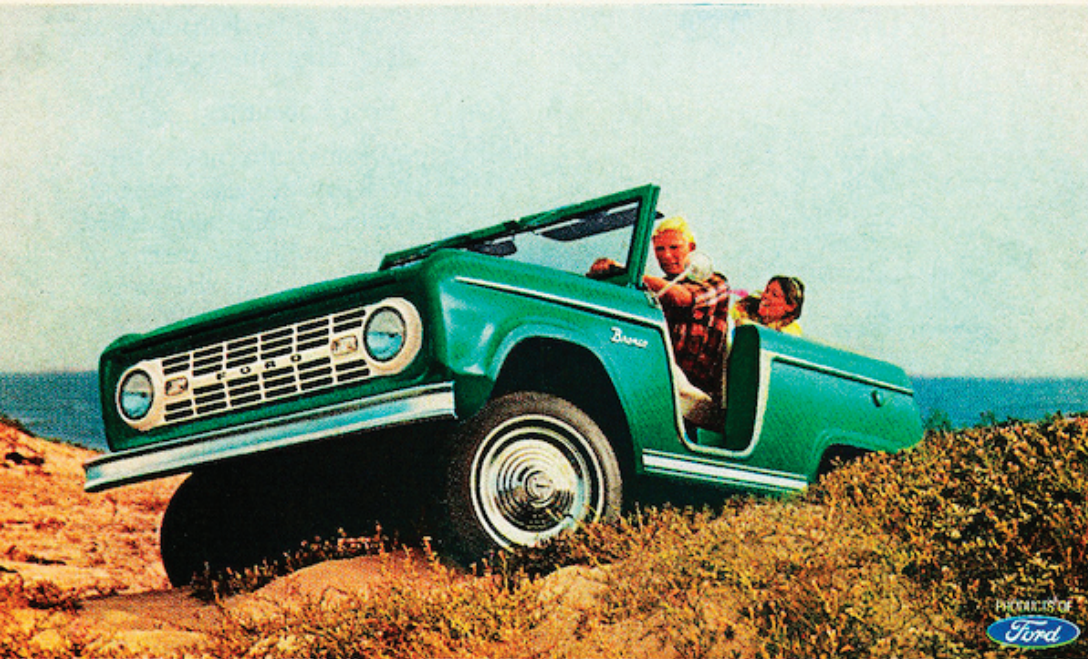
Aug 2020



• **First Trip in the SIRAACA Time Machine**



Blaze a Bronco trail to where the fun is!



Bronco, the new 4-wheel drive from Ford!

You'll have a lot more fun in '66—if Bronco has a part in it! Bronco is the new kind of sports car with 4-wheel drive.

Your Bronco will carry you into a whole new world of activities. Up hills too steep for roads. Over beach sand. Through unplowed snow (plow it, too, if you wish).

Bronco will take you into the woods for hunting, right to the banks of lakes and streams. It will add sport to swimming and fishing . . . to boating, camping. Even picnicking will have a new taste of adventure.

Smooth six-cylinder power gives you the muscle you need for rough terrain . . . and plenty of speed for expressway cruising.

Soft-riding coil springs are made possible by husky radius rods. So Bronco is a comfortable car for everyday family needs—shopping, running errands, driving to work.

Open your heart to Ford's frisky Bronco. Let it bring a new kind of *living* into your life!

Ford Bronco/66

Vintage Advertising

With the return of Bronco to showrooms next year, we look back at the one that started it for Ford back in 1966 and directly influenced the styling of the new model.

This ad features a Bronco Roadster without roof or doors, a Sport Utility with a short roof and doors, and a Wagon with a fully enclosed body. Ford brought these to market to compete with other compact "SUVs" like the Jeep CJ-5 and the International Scout. When it launched in August of 1965, it was powered by a 170 cubic-inch inline six. By March of 1966, an option for V-8 power came in the form of Ford's 289. These were all offered solely with a three-speed manual.

Ford rounded up 23,776 Broncos in its first year. We expect they'll need a much larger stable for 2021.

In This Issue

Artie's Garage brings cars to life for the home bound.

Hot Wheels celebrated on stamps.

You don't need a DeLorean to time travel with SIRAACA.

Trivia Question: Ford's Fox-body typically is associated with 1980's Mustangs, but the platform underpinned what other cars coming from the Ford corporate family?

Answer: The midsize, unit-body Fox platform was also under the Ford Fairmont, Granada, Thunderbird; Mercury Zephyr, Capri, Monarch, Cougar; and Lincoln Mk VI and VII.

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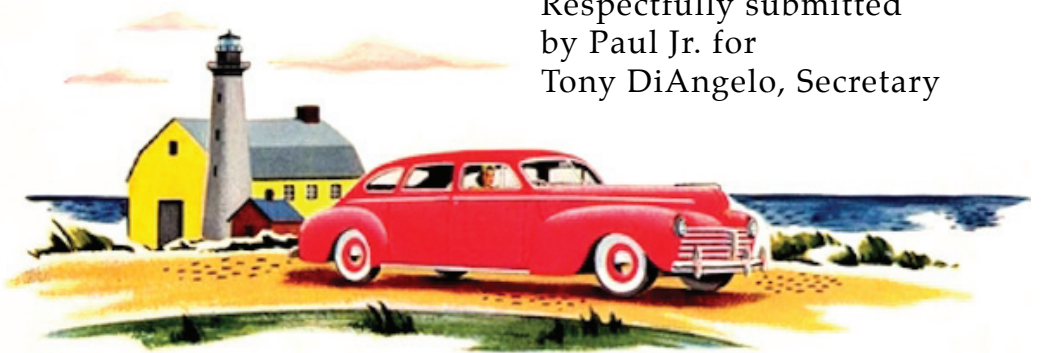


Minutes of the 542nd Meeting

July 7, 2020

1. The 542nd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA called to order on the lawn alongside Richmond Town's Courthouse around 6:30 PM.
2. The minutes of 541st meeting were recapped by President Paul Jr.
3. Members were briefed on the factors that supported the club's decision to cancel it's Fall Show. These included health and safety, insurance, host uncertainty, public gathering limits and economics.
4. As such, the raffle is also canceled. Any member who has sold tickets should contact Paul Jr. to arrange for the return of all monies collected.
5. Unorganized events such as the Sunday morning cruise to Great Kills Beach are the few remaining ways to stay active. Club will consider an unorganized cruise at Applebee's in the Bricktown Shopping Center.
6. The New Hope Auto Show revealed their plans for a restricted car show in August.
7. The folks behind the AACA *Speedster* email challenged all members to submit a photo of their car out for a drive, to be included in the next issue. Any members not currently receiving *Speedster* can register on aaca.org.
8. It was suggested that we make a reach-out to all of 2019's trophy donors to let them know we are pausing for 2020 and offer any support we can as their businesses deal with government lockdowns.
9. Paul Jr. introduced the SIRAACA Time Machine, which will begin running in the August newsletter.
10. It was suggested that we pass on a meeting for August; however, we might use the date to gather with our antique cars in the Richmond Town parking lot and grab an ice cream at Egger's.
11. There was no 50/50 held after the meeting was adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted
by Paul Jr. for
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



It says here that the SIRAACA Fall Show has been canceled this year.



Artie's Garage

Artie Guarnieri works for Lifestyles for the Disabled, and he's developed a weekly live video stream for his clients that remain home during the Covid-19 shutdown. Joined by Anthony Buzzanca, they visit other car owners and broadcast live as they walk around the car, showcasing its features and allowing the viewers to ask questions. Just before going live, a vintage car commercial is shown that matches the featured car. The weekly video segment has been dubbed Artie's Garage, and it follows in the footsteps of Dennis Gage's My Classic Car and Jay Leno's Garage. Artie typical shoots on Tuesday afternoon. If you want to help out and have Artie visit you and your car for an upcoming segment, please let him know. His clients love this feature, so let's keep it going.

Informal "Shows" Keep Us Busy

Formally planned car shows continue to get canceled as the risks of COVID-19 create too much uncertainty for the organizers. In their place, informal gatherings such as Sunday morning at Gateway are keeping the hobby busy. Local cruise nights, under no "ownership" by any particular club or organization, have returned as well, keeping any liability to the barest of minimums. What will this mean for the organized car show when they return? We hope there will be a pent up demand for the structure associated with paying to attend a show in return for formal judging, trophies, and more. Show organizers will hopefully be creative upon returning, with new features that boost interest beyond the die-hard attendees. Now is the time to think about what we'd like to add to our own shows for 2021.

Hot Wheels Delivers the Mail

Bruce Campbell pointed out to us at our July meeting that the USPS currently offers a sheet of stamps featuring popular Hot Wheels. Whether you are an avid collector of the toy cars, or just like to spruce up whatever envelopes you send out, the sheet should appeal to you. Famous castings include the Purple Passion '49 Merc and the Bone Shaker hot rod. Also featured is the '73 Charger called Rodger Dodger and what may be the most famous original Hot Wheels creation, the Twin Mill. Ten cars in all appear on the sheet of 20.



From the President

I just learned that the New Hope Automobile Show has reversed course and canceled their show. This happened despite their detailed plans to host a smaller, more controlled show environment. Will the AACA Grand National Meet at the end of August fall as well? Time will tell. In the meantime, let's try and muster up a weekly cruise, perhaps over by Applebee's in Bricktown Commons? Has anyone passed by there to see what they set up for outdoor dining? Is there room for old cars to gather as well? Lastly, perhaps we can change our August meeting to an evening ice cream run to Egger's in Richmond Town. Weather permitting, let's take our old cars, grab a cup or cone, and chat amongst ourselves for awhile. Until then, stay well and keep idling. The light will hopefully turn green at some point soon. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

I've been putting together our club newsletter for over 27 years now, and the current format has been in place since February 2008. I've just realized that I've doubled up a cover photo for the first time. Tony Yeras's 1968 Grand Prix appears on both the May 2013 and June 2020 issue. Oh well, since there is a first for everything, have a look at the first SIRAACA Time Machine article on the back page. Inspired by Mike Gorgia's interest in locating old dealerships across the island, we'll be traveling to the past on a quest to do just that. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - August 4

Our August meeting will be an antique car ice cream run to Egger's at Historic Richmond Town on Tuesday, August 4. Perhaps we can practice judging on a few of our cars and enjoy a cone as well.

Just Drive Your Car Challenge

Last month we reminded all of you that the AACA *Speedster* newsletter wanted pics of our cars out for a ride. Hopefully many of you sent in a photo, as all will be published in the next issue of *Speedster* (which is emailed to AACA members). Here is one that Paul Arena sent in. He took the cue from Artie Guarnieri, who suggested this spot on the corner of Amboy Road and Main Street in Tottenville.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

AACA Grand National Location Change

The AACA has announced that the 2020 Grand National meet will move from Allentown to Gettysburg. Issues in Allentown became insurmountable for hosting a show. The new location is on the grounds of Wyndham Hotel, which hosted an AACA Spring Meet in 2018. The location is large enough to meet state guidelines for an event, and safety protocols will be in place for the protection of all in attendance. Both the Wyndham and the adjacent Marriott have rooms at \$139 per night, with deadlines to register by August 6.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Once a car calls the SIRAACA Garage its home, it remains there even after it's physically gone. Here's one that once sat under its roof. It's a 1931 Ford Model A400, owned at the time by former member Andy Cannizzo.

The A400 is a convertible sedan, meaning the top goes down, but the door and window frames remain. Produced for less than one year, a total of 5,093 were built in the US, Canada and Buenos Aires. Body color keyed radiator shells for Ford were introduced with this model.

Before Andy became a Corvette expert, he was a Model A expert. This car was the peak of his restoration efforts, winning national awards, including an AACA Chocolate Town Trophy, awarded to the Most Outstanding Senior Car entered in a national Fall Meet.

Andy eventually was bitten by the Corvette bug, and his devotion to the split-window models has earned him the nickname "Mr. 63". While he was unavailable for comment before we went to print, some members recalled that the wheels on this Model A400 were painted and then cured in a pizzeria oven (after hours).

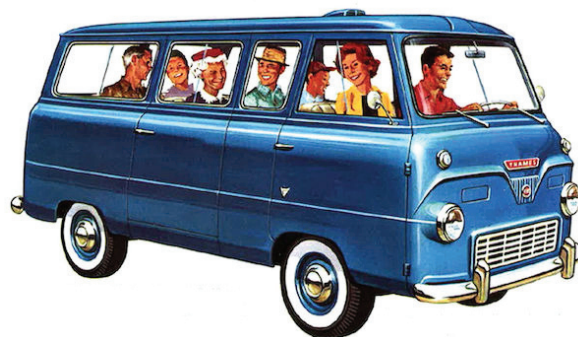
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



At one of our past shows, Andy Cannizzo's A400 was displayed with other AACA Senior Cars in the quadrangle of the old CSI campus in Sunnyside. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events?

Load up your car and head out to one of the few remaining shows on the calendar.



- AACA Grand National Meet - NEW - Gettysburg, PA - August 21-22
- AACA Eastern Fall Meet - Hershey (car show only) - October 10





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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Join us on an internet powered trip back in time, some 80 years ago, to discover the automotive industry's past across Staten Island. We've dialed in an address of 31 Wave Street, which was a Studebaker service department operating as Neil's Auto Service (Gibraltar 7-1160 by telephone). Parked outside is a pretty majestic used car (that we're asking you to guess the year and make) as well as what appears to be a new 1940 Studebaker sedan. After imagining the sounds of the day, it's time to set the dial to 2020 and see what's become of Neil's. Someone is still fixing cars there all these years later, doing business as Wave Street Auto Body. A pair of houses and a small produce store along Wave towards the train tracks are gone in favor of a large parking lot today. Nonetheless, the ghosts of Studebakers still haunt the brick building that carries on an automotive tradition close to the waterfront in Stapleton. We will take other trips back to the 1940's each month to reveal the Island's automotive past and have some fun trying to guess where we are and what's being driven.



(photos courtesy of NYC and Google)



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year and condition.
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