

Vol. 29, No. 3

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Mar 2022

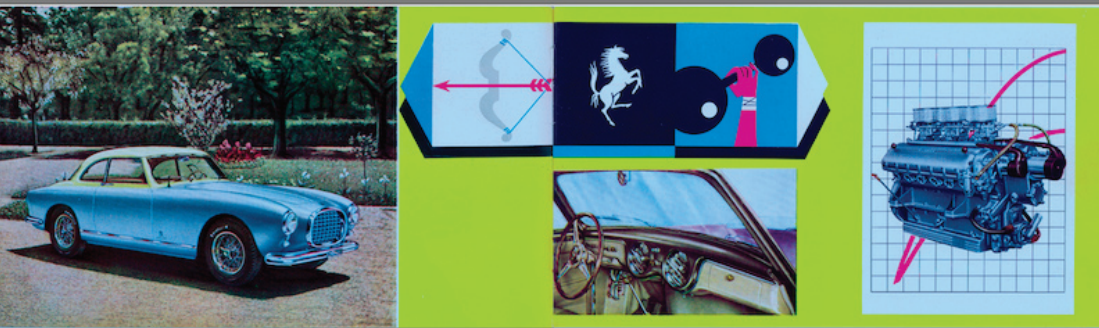


• Remembering a "Sunshine Lady"

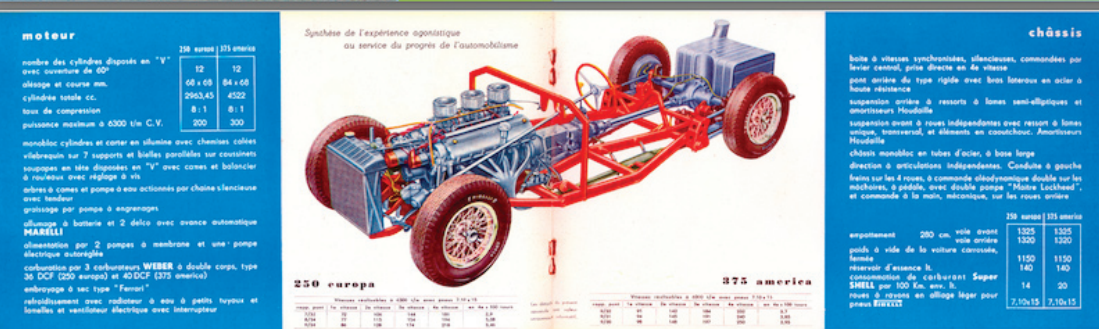


Vintage Advertising

This is the eight page pamphlet for the introduction of Ferrari's 250 Europa and 375 America, both introduced in 1953. Ferrari built 22 250 Europa models. Pinin Farina bodied 17 coupes and one cabriolet. Vignale bodied three coupes and one cabriolet. A total of 10 375 Americas were built, and an additional two were created via engine upgrades to a pair of 250 Europas. No matter how you count them, these are rare cars.



A 1954 Ferrari America 375 sold for \$2.56 million in January 2021. A 1953 Ferrari 250 Europa fetched \$2.75 million in 2014.



In This Issue

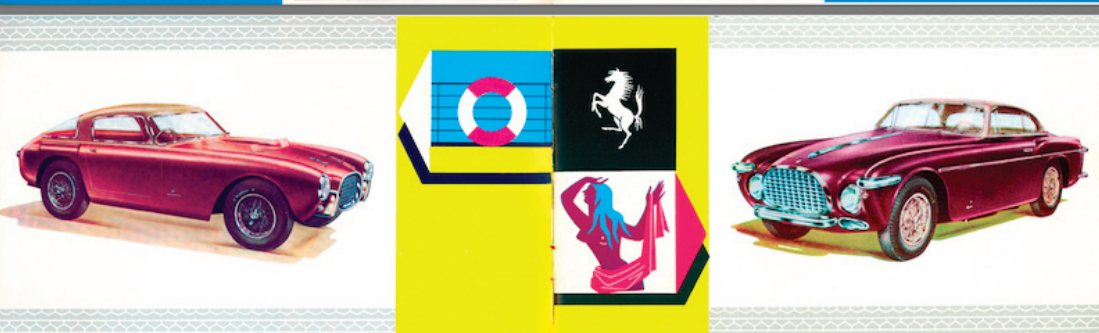
SIRAACA mourns the passing of Annette Arena

Upcoming tours to consider courtesy of the New Jersey Region AACA

Spring Dust-Off flyer

What has a Spanish name and a muppet nickname? See the SIRAACA Garage for the answer

The SIRAACA Time Machine presents Memoly memories.



Did you know? Scuderia Ferrari ("Ferrari Stable", a.k.a. Team Ferrari) existed before Ferrari began building cars badged with his name. They fielded Alfa Romeo racing cars, serving as that company's racing division starting in 1929. The first Ferrari-badged car was built in 1947.

Trivia Question: Chrysler debuted their Letter Car in 1955 with the C-300, and the 300B followed in 1956. How many letters were used in all through 1965?

Answer: Ten letters in all were used, from B through L, minus the letter "I".

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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SIRAACA Who's Who

EDITOR -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

PRESIDENT -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT -

Artie Guarnieri

artie.guarnieri@verizon.net

SECRETARY -

Tony DiAngelo - badbird70@aol

TREASURER -

Phil Boffa - phil.boffa@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - (currently unfilled)

who@where.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -

Rocco Pompa

WEBMASTER - siraaca@yahoo.com

Frank Nathanson

www.siraaca.aaca.com



Minutes of the 553rd Meeting

February 1, 2022

1. The 553rd meeting of The Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:25 on February 1 at Pro Sho Sound. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the 552nd meeting were accepted as read.
2. This is our first meeting since the Holiday Party. Thanks to all who donated toys at that event.
3. Marina Corpus and family sent a thank you card to the club for our expressions of sympathy at the passing of our friend Doc Corpus.
4. Our show dates are confirmed for 2022. Spring Dust-Off is April 24 with rain date of May 1. Fall show is September 18 with rain date of September 25.
5. The hunt continues for a raffle car. The majority of members believe a change to one chance for \$5 and five chances for \$20 makes sense.
6. There is a local movie shoot taking place across the island that requires certain cars from the 1980's and 1990's. If anyone is interested, please see Paul Jr.
7. Paul Jr. presented a timeline of all of the meeting places our club has used since being founded in 1974, many of which no longer exist.
8. Artie Guarnieri reminded all to ensure their 2022 dues are paid.
9. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, showing all in order.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The 50/50 collected \$42. Rocky Pompa won \$21.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



NJRAACA Tour Invites

The New Jersey Region AACA has put together a series of upcoming road trips and has extended the invite to our region to join them. The first one is tour of two private car collections in Monroeville with a stop for lunch in between, set for Saturday, April 9. The second one is a tour of two collections and lunch in Eastern PA on Saturday, May 14. Lastly, they will be hosting a display of antique autos for residents of the Somerset Run Condos on Saturday, June 4. Details on all three events will be shared at our next meeting. Also keep in mind that their 69th Annual Car Show is being held on Sunday, May 1 at Lakeview Elementary in Denville, NJ.

Testing Out Peer Judging

Looking ahead to our fall show, we will be testing out a system to allow for cars newer than 15 years old to compete for an award. They will not be judged by our club along with all other cars 15 years or older, but rather be voted upon by their peers. All of the logistics need to be sorted out in the coming months and we need input from all of you. Many of you will be involved one way or another in making this test succeed, whether it be at the gate identifying which cars qualify or in the tent tallying up the ballots. If we address all issues and work out the plan now, we'll have ample time to put it into effect in September. Keep in mind that this does not apply to our Spring Dust-Off, where all cars regardless of age have opportunities to win a trophy.

Helping Hot Rods & Harleys

We as a club will lend our hand to the organizers of the Hot Rods & Harleys show in Rahway on Saturday, May 14. Our primary mission will be to help with judging, and we expect to have our raffle car there as well. That means that we can use as many members as possible to join us that day. The club will be paid a fee on top of what we can make selling raffles. Details to be discussed at the March meeting.

Remembering Annette Arena

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Annette Arena, a member of our club since 1976. Annette is the wife of Paul Arena and the mother of current club president Paul Arena Jr.. Along with being both a "first lady" and "first mother", she was one of the early "Sunshine Ladies", responsible for recognizing members' birthdays, anniversaries, etc. She was a fixture at countless club events for 40+ years, including dances, parties, bus trips, picnics and car shows. Her presence at our raffle table each year was a guarantee until most recently. The friendships she forged through our club extended far beyond our events. Whether it was a long weekend at an AACA National event or a cruise through the Caribbean, Annette loved her time with these dear friends from the club. Her family is extremely grateful for all of your condolences.



From the President

The calendar turns to March, aptly named as we march towards spring and the start of our "season". Events are starting to find their way on the calendar, including some new ones that we've been invited to join. Artie will present the details of these at the upcoming meeting. New events bring new opportunities, so keep sending us those raffle car leads. We've looked at a few, missed out on some others, and will hopefully have one soon. New avenues for raffle sales include the Hot Rods & Harleys show on May 14, which could be a big day for us reaching new buyers. We hope the food truck festival returns to Mt. Loretto and we expect all of our members to pitch in to contribute to our success.

On a personal note, I'll take this opportunity to thank all of you for your expressions of sympathy following the passing of my mother. Many of you became very close friends to her and my father, sharing vacation times, attending family weddings and parties, or just getting together for pizza and laughs. She cherished all of those times, and I hope you'll in turn cherish those memories.

-Paul Jr.

- **NEXT MEETING** - March 1

Our March meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 PM, to be held at Pro Sho Sound's warehouse at 4401 Arthur Kill Road. Thank you to Frank Provenzano and son Frank Jr. for providing the space. Food will be served.

Spring Dust-Off Flyer is Here

The Staten Island Region AACA presents its

15th Annual Spring Dust-Off Car Show & Flea Market April 24, 2022



Commons Cafe
2 Teleport Drive
off of South Avenue



- \$20 vehicle entry fee • no classes • no cut-off year • rain date May 1 •
- no points judging • red carpet awards in expanded categories •
- gates open at 8:00 am • dash plaques to first 200 vehicles •
- spectator entry fee: adults \$5, children \$2 • \$40 vendor fee •
- food & drinks • music • 50/50 drawings • raffle car tickets •
- info: call 917-626-0233 or e-mail siraaca@yahoo.com •
- visit us on www.siraaca.aaca.com or [facebook.com/siraaca](https://www.facebook.com/siraaca) •

Adherence to Any Covid Protocols In Effect Required



This year's Spring Dust-Off flyer has been mailed and posted to our Facebook page and website. Our email list will receive it next.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We are back inside the SIRAACA Garage for a look at Bruce Campbell's 1986 El Camino, lovingly known as "Kermit" for obvious reasons.

The El Camino debuted in 1959, long before the popularity of the mullet hairstyle from the era of Bruce's Chevy. The description of the mullet is "business in the front, party in the back". Could that apply, either way to Bruce's El Camino? I guess that depends on what he's hauling at the time. A bed full of dogs could certainly be a party for those involved.

The first gen El Camino ran for just two years, and then got shelved until 1964. That release started an uninterrupted run through 1987. Total production in 1986 was 21,508 units, of which just 996 were built with RPO code Z15, the "SS Sport Decor" option package.

The GMC version of the El Camino was the Caballero, and the Z15 option on that was called the Diablo. Each model also came with another appearance option (D91) called "Conquista/Amarillo", featuring special two tone paint combos with bright molding and decals. How rare are those?

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.



Although the color is Dodge's "Sublime", it's anything but that. Stock colors for 1986 included Black, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Light Brown, Medium Brown, Medium Grey, Light Green, Maroon, Dark Maroon, Silver, White and Yellow Beige. All but the last two were metallic. (Photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Auction Highs and Lows

A few well-known auctions are on tap for this month, and we usually check out the lots for interesting offerings. This time we are highlighting the highs and lows in terms of estimates. RM Sotheby's is in Amelia Island with 88 vehicles. Despite Ferrari, McLaren and Bugatti hypercars in the field, the highest estimate of \$4.5 million goes to a 1934 Packard Twelve Individual Custom Convertible Victoria by Dietrich. It's been part of nearby collections owned by David Kane, Joseph Cassini and Frank Ricciardelli. On the low end is a 1933 Ford Roadster at \$50,000. Bonhams will also be at Amelia Island, pitching a 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder for upwards of \$5.5 million. Their low end offerings are a 1931 Ford Model A Coupe, a 1931 Ford Model A Tudor Sedan, and a 1942 Ford Super Deluxe Tudor Sedan, all with a top estimate of \$20,000. Gooding & Co. will bring 99 vehicles to Amelia Island. Their lowest estimate goes to a 1991 BMW 318is, possibly reaching \$35,000. Their top offering should best all others, however. It's a 1937 Talbot-Lago T150-C-SS Teardrop Coupe. This extraordinary French auto, with coachwork by Figoni et Falaschi, has been recognized throughout its existence as a masterpiece. It was the winner of the Prix d'Excellence at a 1938 Concours in Paris. It's taken First in Class at Pebble Beach and Best in Show at Amelia Island. What are the experts saying it will take to own this? The estimate is listed as "in excess of \$10,000,000." We'll report back on results next month.



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Memoly Motors was founded in 1933 by Joseph V. Memoly. We were able to travel back to 1940 or so for a glimpse of his showroom at Richmond Terrace and Jewett Avenue (right). We zipped by again in 1949 to spot a new Dodge parked within a spray booth in their service area (below, left). Next to the showroom at the bend in the road was their used car lot, which we later glimpsed as we paused at the site in 1956 (bottom right). "To-Day's Special" that day was a 1950 DeSoto.



(pics courtesy of NYC Dept. of Records and S.I. Historical Society.)



Other cars for sale include a 1954 Studebaker and a 1953 Buick to the left of the DeSoto, and what might be a 1954 Plymouth and a 1955 Chevy to the right. Based on local advertising, they added a second location at 2397 Hylan Boulevard, across from the Shalimar in New Dorp, in late 1969 or early 1970. An ad from 1969 listing several cars for sale that were traded in on a new Dodge included a '67 Pontiac Grand Prix 2dr hardtop, V-8, auto, factory AC, mint green metallic with white interior for \$1850. If you were a MoPar guy, perhaps a '70 Plymouth Sport Satellite 2dr hardtop in Bronze Metallic, matching interior and black vinyl top for \$2995 was more your thing. Did Tony DiAngelo shop here before buying his Road Runner?



43 Hillel Place
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Tel 718.859.3137
Fax 718.421.4761

sales@farbetterprinting.com
www.printingservicebrooklyn.com

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Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

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