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# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

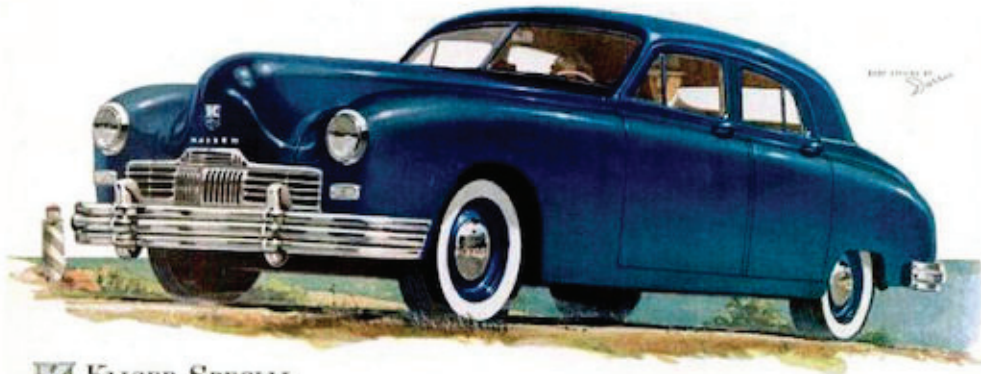
May 2022



**• Big Turnout for Dust-Off**

## Vintage Advertising

75 years ago, the first cars from the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation were sold under the leadership of Henry J. Kaiser, a prolific shipbuilder during WWII. Teaming up with Joseph Frazer, the CEO of Graham-Paige, they began with the 1947 Kaiser Special, a four-door sedan. There was a higher trim level offered as a Kaiser Custom. The same body, which was all new and not a repurposed pre-war stamping, was also used for the flagship Frazer. The luxury model Frazer Manhattan topped that line. They were built in Willow Run, a factory complex built by Ford to produce B-24 Liberators for the war effort. K-F sold 66,801 Specials and 5,421 Customs in 1947.



**KAISER SPECIAL**  
PRODUCT OF KAISER-FRAZER

*Two Cars  
You Should  
KNOW!*

### ...The KAISER SPECIAL and the FRAZER

Here are two new 1947 cars you'll want to know all about before you buy any automobile. You will find the KAISER SPECIAL and the FRAZER as exciting in performance as they are in beauty. Their design was unhampered by any pre-war tools or dies. They were engineered against a background of wartime experience. The result is refreshingly different—really modern transportation.

Both of these new 1947 automobiles are now being shown in many large cities, and are rapidly being supplied to our more than 4,000 dealers from coast to coast.

**FRAZER**  
PRODUCT OF  
GRAHAM-PAIGE



KAISER-FRAZER CORPORATION      GRAHAM-PAIGE MOTORS CORPORATION  
WILLOW RUN, MICHIGAN

## In This Issue

Spring Dust-Off recap and winners

A few branches off of the Ford family tree

Get ready for Hot Rods & Harleys

A big-block street machine in the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine follows a lead to 404 Bay Street.

Did you know? Kaiser's intent was to make these cars front-wheel drive. Difficulties with very heavy steering, loud front-end noise, and the costs required to fix these issues nixed those plans.

*Trivia Question: When was the checkered flag first used to signify the end of a race ?*

*Answer: The checkered flag was first used in the 1906 Glidden Tour, identifying time check points at the end of each section. A checkered flag was also used to end the 1906 Vanderbilt Cup race.*

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# Minutes of the 555th Meeting

## April 12, 2022

1. The 555th meeting of The Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:15 on April 12 at The RoadHouse. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the 554th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The club will make a donation to the Bini Fund in memory of Frank Provenzano, Jr.
3. The club has a raffle car. We bought a 2005 Mustang convertible. It's getting a little paint work on the front bumper and a pair of new headlights, and will be ready to go before our Dust-Off. All members are asked to sell at least \$60 worth of chances (that's three people at 5 for \$20). Don't stop there! Who can challenge Mike Gorgia's record?
4. The club discussed final plans for the upcoming Dust-Off. Members are asked to be on hand by 6:30am for set-up. Car gate will distribute dash plaques to first 200 cars as well as flyers for our fall show.
5. It's time to begin planning the trophy donation effort for fall. As a reminder, 1st place is \$50, 2nd is \$40 and 3rd is \$30, but all three are just \$100. Trophy donations can fully cover the cost of our biggest expense, but it takes everyone to pitch in. Need help? Ask Tony DiAngelo, Mike Signorile or Paul Arena for tips.
6. Artie Guarnieri recapped the recent field trip held by the New Jersey Region AACA.
7. Remember that we are on deck for the Hot Rods & Harleys Show in Rahway on May 14. Show planners will visit us in May to review final plans. Members are needed to help judge as well as sell our raffle tickets.
8. Plans are made for our raffle car to be at the Food Truck Festival at Mt. Loretto on June 10, 11, 12. Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets.
9. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, showing all in order.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. The 50/50 collected \$40. Paul Arena won \$20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

## Super-Sized Spring Show

SIRAACA's 15th Annual Spring Dust-Off saw the season opener return to its rightful place in April after 2020's cancelation and 2021's shift to a special summer show. Perhaps that's why we saw more than 400 vehicles field the show field while many hundreds of spectators strolled the aisles to enjoy them. As usual, the quality of cars spanning 100 years of automotive history was very high, and many were considered for the special awards we presented that day. Decade Awards were given to Fernando Loperena's 1934 Pontiac coupe, Victor Coiro's 1948 Packard sedan, George Elder's 1958 Chevrolet Impala coupe, Bill Marchese's 1969 AMC AMX, Paul Pollastro's 1976 Buick Riviera, Devin Ramos' 1989 Cadillac Brougham, Tony Ventriglio's 1993 Cadillac Allante, John Modica's 2002 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, and Gino Lucci's 2020 Ford GT. Along with the returning special awards, we also presented two specific to this year. The Class of 1972 Award, for a fifty year old car, went to Bernard Iacampo's Chevella. The Lincoln Centennial Award, to mark 100 years of Lincoln as part of Ford, was given to Doug Tornquist's 1966 Continental. Another Lincoln, a chopped 1950 coupe owned by Fred Provenzano, won Favorite Custom. Other winners include John Catalano's 1969 Camaro (Best GM), Lou Raimos' 1947 Ford (Best Ford), John Forestieri's 1963 Plymouth (Best MoPar), Arturo Gentile's 1967 Corvette (Best Corvette), Joe Longobardi's 1979 LeCabriolet (Best Cadillac), Philip Victorio's 1952 Studebaker (Best Truck), Robert Moralen's 1972 Corolla (Best Foreign), Steve Myers' 1973 Catalina (Best Survivor), David Emmel's Auburn Speedster (Best Orphan), Joe D'Esposito's 2005 Chevy SSR (Future Collectible). A 1930 Ford Model A coupe won Best in Show, Pre-War and a 1956 Lincoln Premiere convertible won Best in Show, Post-War. Our raffle car got off to a hot start with \$1,790 in tickets sold. All in all, our Spring Dust-Off offers up something for everyone. Old friends meet up after a long winter, newly acquired cars make their debut, kids and parents alike debate their favorites, and the hobby reaffirms itself as still going strong.



'56 Lincoln, Best in Show, Post-War. '72 Corolla, Best Foreign Car.



Below: 1970's Pray Auburn 866, winner of Best Orphan (pics by Paul Jr.)



## From the President

Allow me to thank all of you for your help leading up to and during our Spring Dust-Off. We had a fantastic turnout for our season opener, with over 400 cars on display. The quality of show vehicles remains as high as ever, and the number of first timers who show unique cars is an encouraging sign that our event is talked about in the right circles. I hope all of you enjoyed the day, catching up with fellow hobbyists, seeing some outstanding cars, and feeling the pride that you are part of something special and enduring on Staten Island. I was thrilled to see the raffle car do well. Word is that the five for \$20 option is well-received, and I hope all of you take advantage of promoting that for your sales efforts. If any of you need more tickets, let us know at the upcoming meeting. Some members are flying out of the gate with theirs, like Anthony Faulisi, who sold \$430 worth in one week. I was also very happy to see Manhattan Cadillac take a small sponsorship and display two new SUV's at the Dust-Off. Perhaps that's a sign that they'll return for more in the fall. Keep up the great work, and I'll see you at Hot Rods & Harleys and beyond. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - May 3

Our May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30 PM, at the Pro Sho Sound building at 4401 Arthur Kill Road. Thank you as always to Frank Provenzano for his hospitality. Food will be served.

## A Ford Century

Yes, we know that it's usually a Buick Century, but we aren't talking about model names. This is about 100 years of Ford DNA compressed into three show cars displayed together at our Spring Dust-Off. Starting with Tony Ventrice's 1922 Model T which is a lively one hundred years old, it's joined by Bob Johnson's 1972 Mustang, now fifty years old, and the new Ford GT owned by Gino Lucci. The display drew plenty of folks throughout the day. Tony's T will continue its birthday bash all year long.



## All Hands for Hot Rods & Harleys

The 20th Annual Hot Rods & Harleys Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 in Downtown Rahway (New Jersey) and our club is receiving a \$1,000 donation to provide judging help that day. Golf carts will be provided to judging pairs to facilitate covering their assignments. In addition, our raffle car will be on hand, so those members who want to work the raffle table instead of judging are equally welcome and needed. This event, weather permitting, could shape up to be a big windfall for our club. The event organizers will visit us at our May meeting to review logistics and final details. Please make every effort to be at the meeting for details and joining us on May 14 for the event. It'll feature hundreds and hundreds of cars plus three live music stages.



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We are excited to reveal one of the latest cars to be found inside the SIRAACA Garage. This is Al Yarusinsky's 1968 Chevy Camaro SS.

Many of you recognize this car from our previous shows, as Al's work is no stranger to our red carpet. Both he and his wife Leah have driven up to receive awards, as has several other cars he has built or painted through the years.

Al brought this Camaro back to life and then some, building the engine, doing the body work, and applying the paint. He trusts his interiors to Freddy, an upholsterer he found at Brimar. There are too many details to list here, but it's powered by a 468 ci big block good for 650 hp and 590 lb-ft of torque. For a full technical checklist of the build, look online for the Hot Rod feature of his car from 2020.

All in all, Al finished the car in 18 months, in time to enter SEMA's Battle of the Builders in 2018. The car is the best combination of street and strip, capable of blistering quarter mile runs or normal public cruising. It's done both.

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.



*Al deviated from his usual red and black palette and painted this Camaro a PPG color called 'Electric Spice'. (Photo courtesy of Vincent Arena)*

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## Upcoming Events

Load up your car and head out to one of these upcoming events in our area:



- Galloping Hill Monday Nite Cruises, Aviation Plaza, Linden NJ - May 9
- 20th Annual Hot Rods & Harleys Car Show, Rahway, NJ - May 14
- AACA Grand Nationals, Virginia Beach, VA - May 19-21
- Main Street Blues & Cruise, Matawan, NJ - May 25
- Carlisle Ford Nationals, Carlisle, PA - June 3-5
- GNYRAACA 56th Annual Spring Meet, Old Westbury Gardens - June 5
- Food Truck Festival (SIRAACA raffle car event), Mt. Loretto - June 10-12
- NJRAACA Tour to Joe's Garage, Wall, NJ - June 11
- New Dorp High School Car Show - June 12
- AACA Eastern Spring National, Beckley, WV - June 16-18
- ATCA 42nd Annual National Truck Meet, Macungie, PA - June 17-18
- Carlisle GM Nationals, Carlisle, PA - June 24-25





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# The SIRAACA Time Machine

After we discovered this program from August 5, 1946 for auto racing at Thompson's Stadium in Stapleton, we decided to spin back in time to 404 Bay Street (corner of Clinton Street) to see what Herb's Body & Fender Works looked like. Around 1940, we see the Fixit Body Shop and a Sinclair gas station on the corner. Check out that 1938 Hudson convertible parked out front while the gas attendant peeks under the hood of what looks like a 1938 Ford panel truck. Herb Heintz doesn't own it yet. A jump to 1955 shows it as Bay Body & Fender, with a modern Texaco now built on the corner, and a shoebox Ford convertible out front. Perhaps Herb's out of business by this time. Today, the gas station building is partly gone but still houses an auto service shop, and the body shop is now a home to a sign maker and an auto insurance office. We will visit more of the advertisers in that program in the upcoming months. Thompson's Stadium was built in the 1920's and demolished in 1958. It was home to the NFL's Staten Island Stapletons (or "Stapes"). It's now the site of the Stapleton Houses and Dreyfus Intermediate School.



(Top: eBay. Above courtesy of NYC Dept. of Records. Below via S.I. Historical Society)



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