

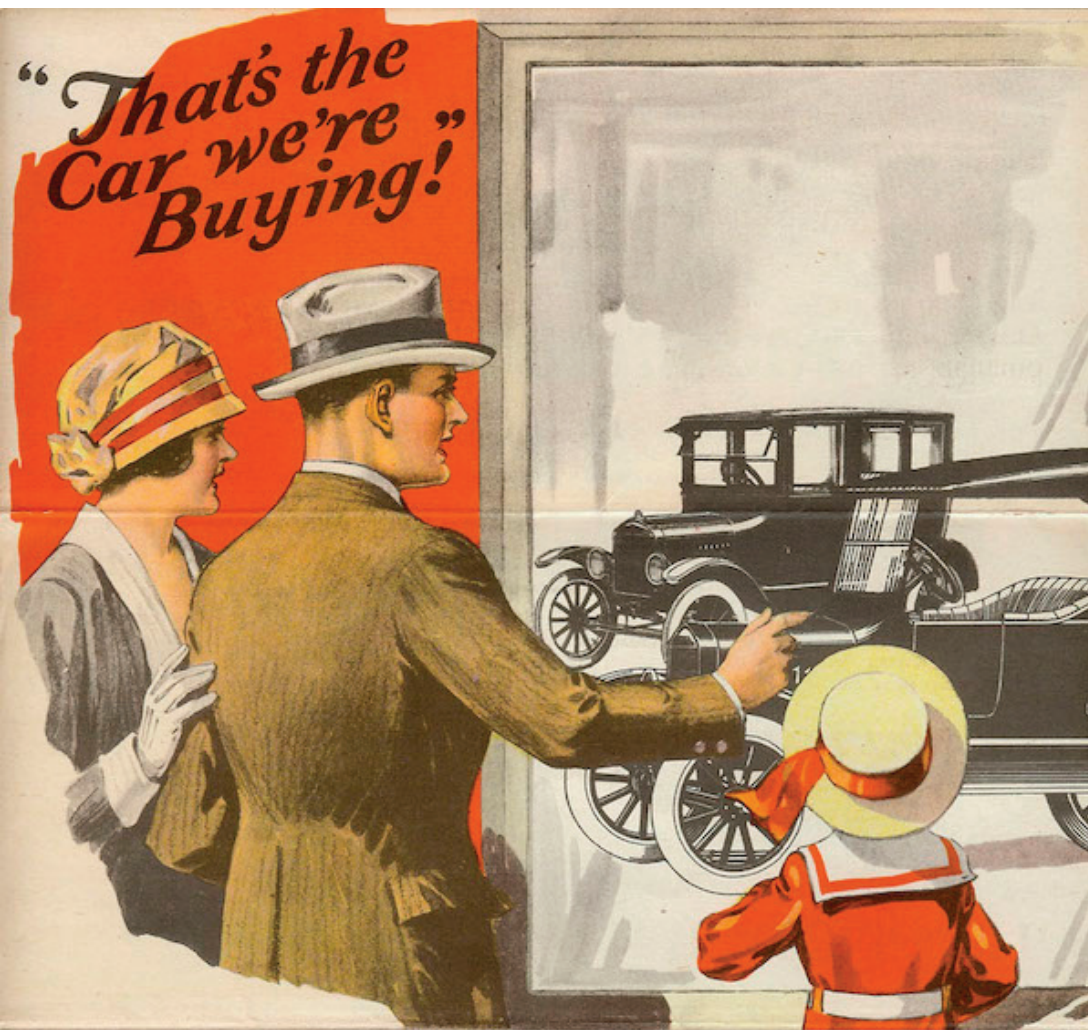
Vol. 30, No. 6

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jun 2023



- **SIRAACA Winners in Gettysburg**
- **Members in Memorial Day Parade**



**“That’s the Car we’re Buying!”**

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“In a surprisingly short time it will be ours. We are going to enjoy it on long tours. We are going to use it around town and on trips over the week end. We are buying it through the terms of the

*Ford Weekly Purchase Plan*

“All we had to do was to pay five dollars to our Ford dealer when we enrolled. He deposited this money in a local bank. Each week we are adding a little more. The payments are certainly mounting up and soon we will have the car delivered to us.”

Ask us about this easy way to buy your Ford. We will be glad to give you all the details and you are not obligated in any way.

## Vintage Advertising

This 100 year old ad showcases Henry Ford’s weekly purchase plan as he strived to put America on wheels. It was an old-fashioned layaway plan - the buyer deposited money each week until he had enough to buy the car, at which time it was delivered. Model T’s were everywhere, but the competing credit system launched by GM in 1919 (GMAC) allowed Americans to buy fancier cars through financing. Ford eventually formed its own auto loan organization in 1928, and the layaway went away.

## In This Issue

Raffle car featured at Hot Rods & Harleys

SIRAACA members are winners at the AACA Eastern Spring Meet

Members’ cars join in the Forest Avenue Memorial Day Parade

The SIRAACA Garage tells the tale of a unique Mustang Mach 1

The SIRAACA Time Machine returns to Castleton Avenue with a new view of an old Pontiac dealer.

Did you know? Prices for 1923 Fords ranged from \$265 for a base Runabout with no starter to \$685 for a Fordor Sedan with a starter.

*Trivia Question: In 1954, Chrysler offered 20 body styles across five different models. Can you name the five models?*

*Answer: The Windsor Deluxe (6 body styles), the New Yorker (5 body styles), the New Yorker Deluxe (4 body styles), the Custom Imperial (3 body styles) and the Crown Imperial (2 body styles).*

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# Minutes of the 566th Meeting

## May 2, 2023

1. The 566th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:20 on May 2 at Nucci's. After reciting the Pledge of allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

2. The meeting began with a recap of the Spring Dust-Off. We had 160 paid vehicles attend, most of them after the rain ended at 10:00. The people gate took in \$1875, the 50/50 took in \$515 and the raffle car took in \$1350. All numbers were down from the previous year due to the weather.

3. Hot Rods & Harleys is May 13. We will be on hand to judge as well as sell raffle tickets in our 2002 Firebird. The organizers will donate \$1000 to our club in return for our help.

4. The Verrazano Kiwanis Club is hosting a car show at CSI on June 25 to help raise money for the fight against Cerebral Palsy. Club members will attend purely as participants - no help offered to judge, no raffle car. We will let them know how many cars we'll bring and they will set aside a spot for us all.

5. Community leaders from Staten Island's North Shore are looking to plan an event along Front Street that could include a car show on June 24. We are hoping to learn more about what our involvement could be

6. Our raffle car will be at the Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto on Friday, June 9 (6:00 -10:00). Saturday, June 10 (12:00 - 9:00) and Sunday June 11 (12:00 - 8:00). Volunteers are needed for shifts each day and we'll schedule that at the June meeting. Last year we took in \$1,690.

7. The AACA Spring Meet in Gettysburg is May 20. Good luck to Joe D'Amore who will compete for a First Junior with his 1993 Cadillac, and any other members who are showing their cars.

8. Other upcoming events include the Memorial Day Parade on Forest Avenue and the New Dorp High School Show on June 4. See Artie about the parade and Mike Signorile about the show.

9. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, with all in order.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The 50/50 collected \$62. Paul Konz won \$31.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

## SIRAACA Members Are National Winners

Four of our members had their cars judged for various awards at the AACA Spring National Meet in Gettysburg on May 20. In true club tradition, each were declared winners. First, Andy Barcellona achieved an HPOF (Historic Preservation of Original Features) with his 1996 Buick Estate Wagon (photo at right). Kevin Keenan and Andrew Napoli each earned Repeat Preservation Awards on their 1982 Buick Riviera and 1984 Oldsmobile Delta 88, respectively. Lastly, Joe D'Amore debuted his 1993 Cadillac Sixty Special on the AACA stage and won his First Junior, making him eligible for a Senior Award at Hershey. Congratulations to each of them on their honors, which are well deserved.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

## SIRAACA and Friends at Memorial Day Parade

Marching bands, seas of servicemen and service-women, and plenty of antique cars entertained crowds of flag-waving spectators along Forest Avenue for Staten Island's Memorial Day Parade. Artie Guarnieri had Bob Ferone along for the ride in his 1971 Ford LTD convertible (photo at right), while Mike Signorile drove a dignitary in our Firebird raffle car. Further back, cars driven by members Paul Jr., Bruce Campbell, Frank Provenzano and his nephew Chris, and Rocky Pompa were joined by friends Tony Yeras and Joe Richichi in their cars. Bruce's dogs rode in the bed of his El Camino and may have been the most photographed parade participants this year.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

## Raffle Car at Hot Rods & Harleys Show

SIRAACA members volunteered to serve as judges at the Hot Rods & Harley's show, and in return the club received a \$1000 donation and the opportunity to have our raffle car on hand. While Roberta Hayes, Bruce Campbell and Paul Arena worked the raffle tent, Bob Ferone, Artie Guarnieri, Mike Gorgia, Mike DiPilato, Joe Rego, Matt Safford, Paul Jr. and Frank Nathanson handled all judging of close to 700 cars. Once judging ended, they returned to push sales of tickets over \$1000, finishing at \$1040.



Mike DiPilato's 1967 Firebird 400 and our 2002 Firebird raffle car represent the first and last years of that model. (photo by Paul Jr.)

## From the President

The old car season is in full swing with local and national events happening each week. I hope all of you are finding time to enjoy your cars, whether it's on the show field or during a Sunday morning drive. We've been busy helping other event planners and getting our raffle car out. The coming months will afford us more opportunities to get together, including the Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto beginning Friday, June 9 from 6-10 and continuing on Saturday June 9 from 12-9 and Sunday June 10 from 12-8. We'll look to break that up into five segments and hope to have many of you come out and help sell tickets and enjoy plenty of live music. On Sunday, June 25 there is a car show to support Cerebral Palsy research being held at CSI. We will attend solely as participants - no helping to judge nor selling raffles - and will be parked together as a club.

Our raffle car was at the New Dorp High School show on June 4 and I'm told we sold \$800 there. That's a great number, and it puts the running event total at \$3255. That's \$185 off last year's number heading into the Food Truck Festival. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - June 6

Our June meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 6th at **Nucci's Restaurant** at 4842 Arthur Kill Road (near the foot of the Outerbridge). The club will buy pizza and soda, and members have the option of buying their own food separately.

## From Red Carpet to Wrecked

Many of you should recall this 1970 Camaro from our Spring Dust-Off in April, where it was driven up to the winners table to receive the Favorite Custom Award. It was recently spotted outside Travis Auto Body in much worse shape. No details were available about the accident, and we hope owner Danny Garcia was not hurt at the time.



(photo by Paul Jr.)



## Last Month's Time Machine Mystery

Last month, the SIRAACA Time Machine stopped at a pair of cars being repaired. We asked our readers to identify each one. How do you think you did? Time for you to find out. The car jacked-up outside Tommy's Friendly Service Station on New Dorp Lane is a 1939 Dodge. At the second stop, the older car parked curbside on Jersey Street while someone lies under the driver's side is a 1931 Chevrolet.

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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

This month we feature Bob Johnson's 1972 Mustang Mach 1, a year after it celebrated turning 50 years old. Like so many cars in our garage, it too has a tale to tell. In the winter of 1972, Bob's dad found this car in a junk yard after the original owner spun it into a telephone pole. After trying mightily to pull out the cowl and other severely damaged areas, he shifted gears and decided to find another '72 that he could mate to this one. He put in an order to locate one and found one wrecked in the rear. He had that car cut in half and used the other half of his to build this one.

It was originally planned to be his mom's winter car, because her 1964 1/2 Mustang convertible had never seen bad weather. The factory posi 4:11 rear scrapped those plans.

It has the 351 V-8 with a 2 bbl carb, air conditioning, power steering and power brakes. The blue and red paint scheme was designed by Bob's brother, who kept the Mach 1 theme found on the 4bbl cars, but with the inspiration of the patriotic Sprint editions that were being produced. His carries over beyond the hood, as notice on the roof in the accompanying photo.

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 standard engine for the 1971 Mach 1 was a 302, but three optional 351's were available - 2bbl, 4bbl or the R-Code 351HO. (photo courtesy of Paul Jr.)*

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## Upcoming Events

Tell your friends, load up your car and head out to one of these events:



- Galloping Hill Cruisers Cruise Nites, Mondays @ Aviation Plaza
- Raritan Bay Cruisers Cruise Nites, Tuesdays, Woodbridge (old Pizza Hut)
- Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto (raffle car event) - June 9,10,11
- Cars Care Show for CP Unlimited, CSI Campus - June 25
- Monmouth Park Classic Car Show, Monmouth Racetrack - July 9
- Buick Club All Makes Car Show, Wall Township, NJ - July 15
- AACA Special Eastern Spring Nationals, Hamilton, NY - July 26-29
- 28th Annual Rolling Iron Car Show, Allaire Village State Park - August 20



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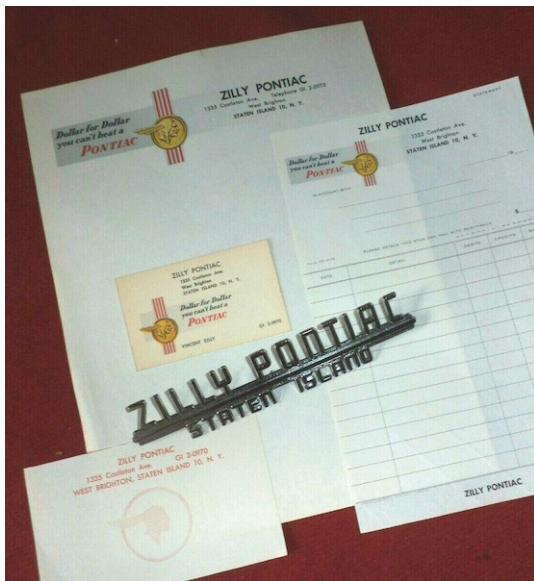


# The SIRAACA Time Machine

Our Time Machine stops again at 1335 Castleton Avenue, a location with deep automotive history (we visited it back in November of 2020). Recall from that visit that in 1940, it was Drinnan Garage's Pontiac dealership. We have seen ads for Drinnan at that location from late 1951. Sometime shortly after that, it became Zilly Pontiac, as seen in the bottom right photo, taken no earlier than 1953 based on the Pontiac parked out front. The old fire truck appears to be a circa 1930 Ford. Pontiac eventually gave way to Ford at this location when John Alesi opened the first Robin Ford there in October, 1964.



(top photo: NYC Municipal Records, bottom: Staten Island Historical Society)



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