

Vol. 30, No. 7

Ragtops & Rumbleseats



Jul 2023



- **Club Happenings in June**
- **A Musical Hearse Connected to S.I.**

Lexington

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Vintage Advertising

When you were taught about the fight for America's independence you probably learned about the Minute Men and the Battle of Lexington and Concord. Interestingly, the Lexington Motor Co. was founded in 1909 in Lexington, Kentucky, not in Massachusetts where the Revolutionary War began. They did tap into that association however, by making the Minute Man beginning in 1916 and the Concord beginning in 1924. In 1927, Auburn Automobile purchased Lexington, and soon phased out the brand. This ad is from 1918.

Peak sales of 6,128 Lexington autos occurred in 1920, but fell to only 1,330 in 1923, and just 183 in the last model year of 1926.

In This Issue

Raffle car and food trucks

SIRAACA members attend charity car show at CSI

A unique Packard hearse with a Staten Island connection

1950 Chevy rolls into the The SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine can't "overturn" the results of these accidents.

Did you know? Another Revolutionary War-inspired car was the Revere, built in Indiana between 1917-1926..

Trivia Question: Just as Cadillac introduced its companion LaSalle brand, so did Marmon in 1929. What was it called?

Answer: The Roosevelt, named after President Teddy Roosevelt. Available in four body styles - sedan, coupe, Victoria Coupe and Collegiate Coupe - it was rebadged as the Marmon Model R after 1930.

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Minutes of the 567th Meeting

June 6, 2023

1. The 567th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:20 on June 6 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 AACA meet in Gettysburg. Congratulations to Joe D'Amore for winning his First Junior Award with his 1993 Cadillac Sixty Special at its national debut. Congratulations also to Andy Barcellona on an HPOF Award for his 1996 Buick Roadmaster Estate Wagon, Andrew Napoli on a Repeat Preservation for his 1984 Oldsmobile Delta 88 and Kevin Keenan on a Repeat Preservation for his 1982 Buick Riviera.

3. Thank you to every member who volunteered to work as judges or sell raffles at the Hot Rods & Harleys show. We received a \$1,000 donation for our help and the raffle car took in \$1,040.

4. Additional recaps included our participation in the Memorial Day Parade on Forest Avenue and the New Dorp High School Car Show. The raffle car took in \$800 at that show. Thanks to all who were on hand for these events.

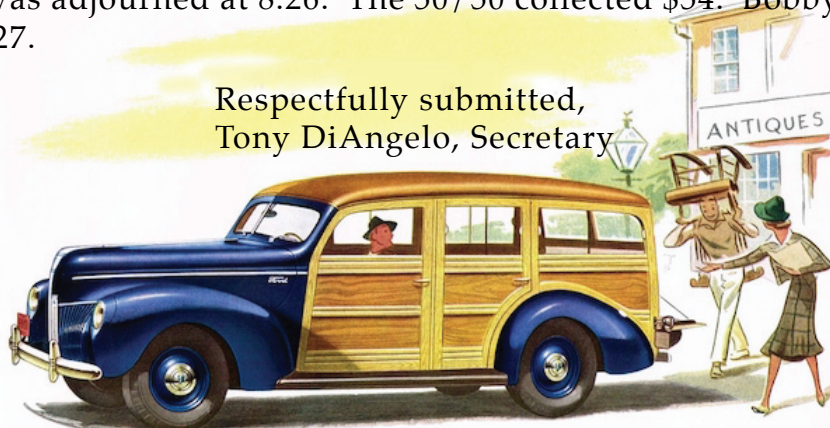
5. The Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto will be held on June 9-11. Volunteers can sign up to help with our raffle car, which will be parked next to the live music stage. Heading into the Festival, the raffle car has taken in \$3,255 from event appearances, including our Dust-Off. Last year, we were at \$3,440 at the same time.

6. Artie Guarnieri introduced new members Chris Campanelli and his son Mike. Chris is Frank Provenzano's nephew, and currently owns Frank Jr.'s 1964 Chevy El Camino along with a 1985 Cadillac Eldorado. Mike owns a 1994 Jeep Cherokee. Other new members not in attendance include Bobby Lombardi and Danny Venuto.

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

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26. The 50/50 collected \$54. Bobby Columbia won \$27.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Food Truck Festival

From June 9-11, the raffle car and club members spent a long weekend at Mt. Loretto's Food Truck Festival, which has become a key event for us in recent years. Following the promotional pushes by club member and event emcee Bob Johnson, the club tent located next to the stage saw a regular flow of visitors eager to take a chance on the 2002 Firebird. Despite a slow start on Friday evening with just \$250 in sales, we ended up blowing past last year's total of \$1,690 and wrapped up Sunday at \$2,425. Thank you to all who volunteered to spend some time at the tent to help sell tickets. A special shout out goes to Pat Colabella, who stepped on stage to sing the National Anthem at the start of the event on Sunday.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

Cars Care Show

Fourteen SIRAACA members and five more club friends joined together to attend the recent Cars Care show at CSI in support of fundraising efforts for cerebral palsy care on Staten Island. It was a rare show where they all had no work to do and simply participated. Some of them didn't know what to do with themselves. Approximately 150 cars in total attended, filling in a portion of one of the two lots our club routinely filled each year prior to our move to the Commons Cafe. The awards were similar to what is presented at our Dust-Off, including Decade Awards and other special categories like Best Survivor. As raindrops began to fall in the early afternoon, winners were announced in random fashion, and among them was new member Mike Campanelli, who won "Dirtiest Ride" for his 1994 Jeep Cherokee (photo below).



(photo by Paul Jr.)



Cold beer from a hot rod
(photo by Paul Jr.)



1959 Mercedes 220S was a unique car at the show.
(photo by Paul Jr.)

From the President

Our hobby serves many purposes specific to our cars themselves, but it also lays the foundation for good conversation. I was thrilled when a woman approached our tent recently with a rich family history tied to the automobile that she wanted to share. See the initial results of that conversation in the article at right. Beyond that, we all enjoyed sharing tales about cars at a recent show. I spoke with John Darpa of the local Cadillac Club. He showed the Gucci limo at our Dust-Off. He just located a Gucci Eldorado in rusted out condition in Miami and will begin bringing it back to life, meaning he'll have one of each Gucci Cadillac model. Interesting stuff are the stories of our hobby.

Putting on my editor's hat for a second, I noticed as this newsletter was taking shape that we had red and white covered for part of the Fourth of July feel with our cover and the photos on the previous page, but we needed blue to complete the theme. To do so, we went ahead and put Mike Signorile's new ride in The SIRAA-CA Garage even though we were short on the details. We'll let Mike fill in the blanks at the next meeting. Happy 4th! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - July 11

Our June meeting takes place on Tuesday, July 11th 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.

Petruzzi's Packards

We had the opportunity to meet Michele Scuderi at the Food Truck Festival. She approached our tent, excited to share the tale of her great-grandfather John Petruzzi. He owned funeral parlors in the early 1920's and had elaborate Packard hearses. She was eager to share pictures and hope to learn if any survived to this day. John lived on the corner of Edison and Greeley in Grant City. His most famous hearse was custom built for \$19,875 by A. Geissel & Sons in Philadelphia. It was topped by five wooden angels and featured a unique radio amplifier hooked up to the car's magneto. A phonograph next to the driver would play funeral music. John said his invention had Italian bands specializing in funeral music for \$90 "beat by a mile". John's "musical hearse" was covered by newspapers across the country. We continue to research the possibility that one might exist, but we told Michele that by the time WWII had come around, these were simply outdated used cars and may have ended up serving another higher purpose as part of the scrap drives in support of the war effort. We'll post more on our Facebook page soon.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Mike Signorile flipped one of his spots in the SIRAACA Garage, selling his 1967 Oldsmobile Cutlass and pulling in with this 1950 Chevrolet Styleline coupe, redone as a modern cruiser.

Under the hood, the typical Chevy Six is replaced by a Chevrolet 350 V-8 crate motor. It features a newer Camaro clip and automatic transmission, giving him superior “go” with old car “show”.

The interior is redone in football colored leather and provides a great compliment to the dark blue paint. A period accessory sun visor sets off the car’s vintage appearance.

Mike and friend have had another Chevy like this under construction for quite some time, but Mike opted to finally scratch this itch and get one already finished.

For 1950, Chevrolet offered Fleetline and Styleline models in both Deluxe and Special trim. The most popular was the Styleline Deluxe 4 Door Sedan (316,412 units). The Styleline Deluxe 4 Door Wagon was least popular (16,995 units).

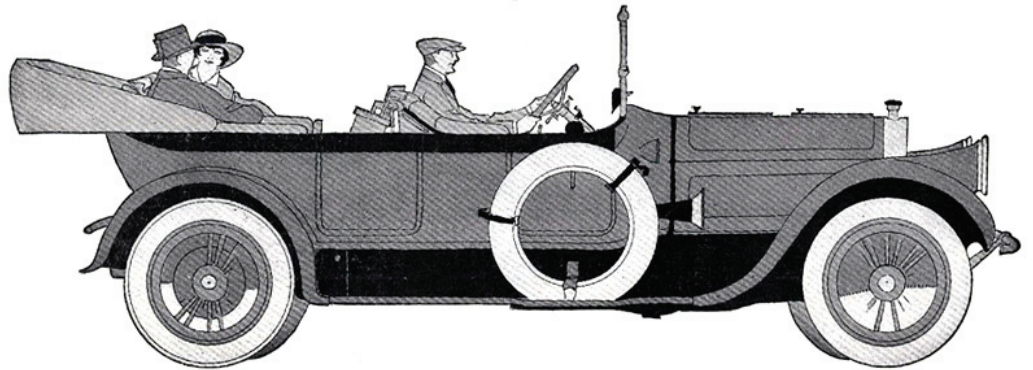
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members’ cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all



We'll need to double-check with Mike to verify which Styleline coupe this began as - A Deluxe 2 Door, a Special 2 Door, or a Special Businessman's Coupe.. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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



- Monmouth Park Classic Car Show, Monmouth Racetrack - July 9
- Buick Club All Makes Car Show, Wall Township, NJ - July 15
- Sunrise Senior Living Cruise Nite, 470 New Dorp Lane - July 19
- AACA Special Eastern Spring Nationals, Hamilton, NY - July 26-29
- Staten Island’s Most Wanted 3rd Annual Xmas in July - July 29
- Car, Truck & Bike Show, Crowne Plaza Edison (NJ) - July 29
- Front Street Car Show Classic, Stapleton waterfront - August 12
- 28th Annual Rolling Iron Car Show, Allaire Village State Park - August 20
- SIRAACA 46th Annual Car Show, Commons Cafe - September 17





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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Sometimes our Time Machine runs across an unfortunate traffic accident. Traveling back to 1933, we saw this two car wreck at the intersection of Travis Avenue and Victory Boulevard. The driver of the car against the pole was Francis Kelly, who reportedly suffered the worst injury of the eight people involved. The emergency personnel at right have roped the upended car, perhaps a '25-'27 Chrysler, as they prepare to return it upright.



We asked the AACAs "What Is It?" forum community to help identify these cars. Looking at a large version of the photo revealed some features of the car's undercarriage (tube axle, round rear shock) that pointed to Chrysler. The other car may be a 1928-29 Graham.

On the way back to the present, we stopped at the corner of Hylan Boulevard and Midland Avenue on July 23, 1952 where a Ford truck lies on its side. What looks like a Ford coupe is at the right, in front of what was identified as Tassi's, a service station located at 2075 Hylan Boulevard. The addresses have since been reassigned, as that corner is now 2145 Hylan (a Dollar Tree) and the Italian grocery is where Nunzio's Pizza would end up. When we returned to the present, we refueled the Time Machine for a few more trips back to Tassi's to see their older, more distinctive building. Look for that in next month's newsletter.



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

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