

Vol. 30, No. 8

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2023



• **2023 Fall Poster Revealed!**



## Vintage Advertising

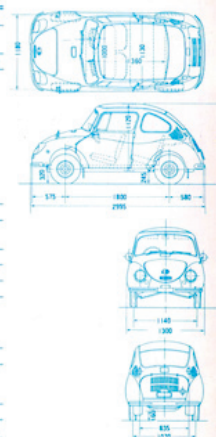
Subaru's first car was this tiny offering nicknamed "ladybug" in Japan. It debuted in 1958 and its styling remained unchanged through its final year in 1971. From 1968, approximately 10,000 were exported to the United States by Malcom Bricklin, priced at \$1,297. In comparison, a '68 VW Beetle Deluxe Sedan was \$1,699. Bricklin went on to manufacture his own sports cars and was also responsible for importing the Yugo.

Despite claims of 66 mpg, Consumer Reports gave a range of 25-25 mpg in testing, with a 0-60 time of 37 seconds.

**\$1,297.** UP TO 66 miles per gallon  
Suggested retail price P.O.E.  
**SUBARU 360 SPECIFICATIONS**

DIMENSIONS & WEIGHTS		
Overall Length	2,995mm	117.9in.
Overall Width	1,300mm	51.2in.
Overall Height	1,350mm	53.1in.
Wheelbase	1,800mm	70.9in.
Tread (Front)	1,140mm	44.9in.
Tread (Rear)	1,070mm	42.1in.
Ground Clearance	160mm	6.3in.
Vehicle Weight	420kg	925.0lb.
Seating Capacity	4 adults	
Total Vehicle Weight	640kg	1,410lb.
PERFORMANCE		
Maximum Speed	110km/h	70.0mph
Cruising Speed	80km/h	50.0mph
Climbing Ability (Sinθ)	8.0m	0.337
Turning Circle	26.2ft.	
Braking Distance	12m at 50km/h 39.4ft. at 31mph	
ENGINE		
Model and Type	EK-32 Air-cooled, 2stroke, 2cyl Engine	
Bore x Stroke	61.5mm x 60mm 2.42in. x 2.36in.	
Piston Displacement	356cc / 21.7cu. in.	
Compression Ratio	6.7:1	
Maximum Output	25hp/5,500rpm	
Maximum Torque	3.5kg-m (25.3lb.-ft.) / 4,500rpm	
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT		
Battery	12V-26AH	
Generator	12V-200W	
Starter	12V-600W	
CLUTCH		
Type	Dry Single Plate	

FUEL AND OIL TANK CAPACITIES	
Fuel Tank	25.0ℓ (6.60US gal. 5.50 imp. gal.)
Oil Tank	2.5ℓ (2.60US qt. 2.20 imp. qt.)
TRANSMISSION	
No. of Speeds	4-speed forward, 1-reverse
Transmission Type	Synchromeshed on 2nd, 3rd and Top speed, selective sliding on reverse
Gear Ratios	1st: 3.130 2nd: 1.601 3rd: 1.000 Over Top: 0.806 Rev: 4.248 Helical Gear: 3.667
Final Reduction Gear	
Final Reduction Gear Ratio	
STEERING SYSTEM	
Type	Rack and Pinion
Gear Ratio	20.6:1
TIRES	
Size	4.80-10-2
SUSPENSIONS	
Front Axle	Trailing Arm Type Independent Suspension
Rear Axle	Swing Axle Type Independent Suspension
Front Spring	Torsion Bar and Coil Spring
Rear Spring	Torsion Bar
BRAKE SYSTEM	
Front Brake	Hydraulic two Leading Type
Rear Brake	Hydraulic leading Trailing Type
Parking Brake	Mechanical on rear wheels
BODY	
Type	Monocoque



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**SUBARU**  
OF AMERICA, INC

## In This Issue

Local cruise night draws club members

Hershey registration deadline approaches

New poster for upcoming fall show

Time for T in The SIRAACA Garage

A million dollars for what?

The SIRAACA Time Machine revisits Hylan and Midland.

Did you know? Consumer Reports branded the Subaru 360 "unacceptable" in 1969 due to safety issues and lack of power.

*Trivia Question: What two pony cars were introduced within 16 days of each other in 1964?*

*Answer: The Plymouth Barracuda (April 1) and the Ford Mustang (April 17). Ford sold 126,538 Mustangs that year versus 23,443 Plymouth Barracudas.*

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# Minutes of the 568th Meeting

## July 11, 2023

1. The 568th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:05 on July 11 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. Several events held since our last meeting were recapped, including the show at CSI to benefit cerebral palsy research. Congratulations to Mike Campanelli for winning an award there with his 1994 Jeep Cherokee.
3. The raffle car was at the Food Truck Festival at The Mount and took in \$2,425 in ticket sales, up from \$1,690 the year prior. Thank you to all members who pitched in over that weekend.
4. The raffle car has taken in \$5,680 at its appearances through June, which is \$550 more than last year.
5. The process for trophy donations was detailed again as we get closer to our show. As a reminder, trophies are \$50 for 1st Place, \$40 for 2nd Place, \$30 for 3rd Place, or \$100 for all three.
6. There are several upcoming events to consider attending. The NJ Chapter of the Buick Club of America is having their show on July 15 in Wall Township. There is a cruise night planned for the New Dorp Sunrise Senior Home on July 19. Wrapping up the month, there is an AACA Special Meet in Hamilton, NY from July 26-29, and Staten Island Most Wanted's Xmas in July Show is on July 29.
7. The Car Classic on Front Street in Stapleton has been rescheduled for August 12. The New Dorp Lane show will be on October 1.
8. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, with all in order.
9. New member Fr. Steve Challman was welcomed. He spoke of his 1970 Chevrolet Malibu, originally his grandfather's car and in the family since new.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26. The 50/50 collected \$54. Bobby Columbia won \$27.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

## Looking for a Cruise

While Sunday mornings “down the beach” remain the largest weekly gathering of collector cars on Staten Island, weekly cruise nights seem to have fallen off the calendar here. Old haunts like Pergament and Hooters and Valducci’s gave way to newer locations which never really maintained any momentum. Occasional attempts to revive one at Applebee’s end up as “one and done” events, and our cruises at Richmond Town ended after they couldn’t make money off them. Not all is lost, however. There is a cruise night on Forest Avenue each Thursday hosted by Legendary Muscle Cars. A recent one saw a decent turnout, including some of our members.



Bruce Campbell's El Camino alongside Artie Guarnieri's Mercury wagon at a recent Legendary Muscle Cars Cruise. (photo courtesy of Legendary's Facebook Page.)

## Hershey Deadline

A reminder to any of our members who are planning to show their vehicle at the upcoming AACA Eastern Fall Meet at Hershey: the deadline for registering for the show is a postmark of August 15. This is a firm deadline, so be sure to give yourself time if you’re still deciding. Registration still involves mailing a check, although we have learned that the show organizers have cleared a key hurdle in accepting online registration for next year. Also remember that the car show takes place on Friday again this year, on October 6. Flea market and car corral open on Tuesday, October 3.

## Fall Show Posters Are Here

Here is the poster for this year’s fall show. Please use these to help promote our event by asking business owners to display them in their window, etc. In addition, these might help you when asking for trophy donations. The poster mimics the design of vintage Rod & Custom magazine covers from the 1950’s.

THE STATEN ISLAND REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA  
**46TH ANNUAL**  
**CAR Show**  
**AND FLEA MARKET**

WIN A 2002 PONTIAC FIREBIRD!

JUDGING AND MULTIPLE AWARDS FOR VEHICLES 15 YEARS OR OLDER

**SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023**

COMMONS CAFE AT THE TELEPORT  
 8:00AM TO 4:00PM  
 RAIN DATE: SEPTEMBER 24TH

Food • Music • 50/50 • Peer Judging For Newer Cars

Printed by Far Better Printing 718-958-3137

SHOW INFO: SIRAACA@YAHOO.COM OR 917-426-8223 SIRAACA.AACA.COM www.facebook.com/siraaca 917-968-9489 www.dennisSIMONE.COM DENNIS SIMONE STUDIOS

The concept is then sent over to Dennis Simone, who executes the design and artwork. From there, they are sent to Joe Portagallo at Far Better Printing, who produces the finished product. These will be available at the August meeting. If members have ideas for future posters, please share them for consideration. Next up is the fall dash plaque.

## From the President

We learned that good friend and fellow car guy Ralph Lucci passed away this week while in Italy. Many of you know Ralph as a vehicle coordinator for movies and television, with his company AFCA located on the Stapleton waterfront for many years before Superstorm Sandy. Ralph began in the business in 1976, and odds are you've seen plenty of shows and flicks featuring his cars. I believe he was just 71 years old, and it appears that his exposure to the WTC site after 9/11 is a key factor in his death. May he rest in peace while his family finds comfort among their loved ones at this difficult time.

Allow me to remind any members who have money they've collected for trophy donations or raffle sales to bring it in to our upcoming meeting.

Thinking about the upcoming Hershey show, which will allow 1998 model year vehicles to compete. That means we can possibly see a Lincoln Navigator, Dodge Durango, Audi TT or Oldsmobile Alero make their debut on the famous show field. Time marches on... - Paul Jr.

**- NEXT MEETING - August 8**

**NEW LOCATION THIS MONTH!** Please note that our August meeting takes place on Tuesday, August 8th at **The Square on Annadale** at 833 Annadale Road. The club will buy pizza and soda, and members have the option of buying their own food.

## Million Dollar "Junk"

The month of August sees the hobby's attention look to Monterey for a week of events built around the Pebble Beach Concours. Tours, gatherings and auctions dominate the California peninsula, bringing well-heeled collectors with deep pockets together to show and buy some very serious automobiles. RM Sotheby's typically serves up multi-million dollar Ferraris and other exotic sports cars with a side order of classics. Their most amazing offering is a 1954 Ferrari 500 Mondial Spider. It's a pedigreed race car that was completely wrecked and burned in the early 1960's. The crumpled body, a matching number gearbox and rear axle are bundled for sale with a Ferrari engine, estimated to fetch as much as \$1.6 million (see more photos in RM's digital catalog at [rmsothebys.com](http://rmsothebys.com)). All but three cars offered in this auction are expected to sell for at least six figures, with three more estimated to hit eight figure price tags.



*This is the second Mondial built and one of 13 examples originally completed with Pinin Farina coachwork. It raced in the Mille Miglia, Targa Florio and Imola Grand Prix. (photo by Darin Schnabel, copyright 2023. Courtesy of RM Sotheby's.)*

2020 Award of  
Excellence



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Here is a recent addition to The SIRAACA Garage. It's Ray Ocello's 1926 Ford Model T Fordor Sedan, one of two T's that he recently acquired.

In response to sagging sales and increased competition, Ford introduced the "Improved Ford" on August 26, 1926. Essentially, it was a redesigned body - lower, longer and heavier. All Fordors were now offered in Windsor Maroon. Tudors and Coupes were offered in Channel Green. Open cars were offered in your choice of black. In late 1926, perhaps for 1927 models, colors expanded to include Royal Maroon, Fawn Gray and Highland Green on closed cars and Phoenix Brown or Gunmetal Blue on open cars.

Heavier cars meant less "performance" out of the T's engine. By May of 1927, Ford stopped production of the T, and dealers were stranded for the better part of a year waiting for the Model A.

Fordor Sedans cost \$660 on January 1, 1926. By February 11, the price dropped to \$565. By June 6, they cost \$545. A total of 102,732 Fordors were built between January 1 and December 31 of 1926.

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



*Welded wire wheels were offered as an option on the Model T beginning in January of 1926. Standard color for these wheels was black. That year also saw various designs of the headlight tie bar and mounting locations for the lamps, which were painted black with nickel trim. A nickel radiator shell was optional. (photo by Ray Ocello.)*

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## Upcoming Events

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



- 60th Annual Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie, PA - August 4-6
- Front Street Car Show Classic, Stapleton waterfront - August 12
- New Hope Automobile Show, New Hope, PA - August 12-13
- 28th Annual Rolling Iron Car Show, Allaire Village State Park - August 20
- Car Show Benefitting Special Forces Ch.. 19, Farmingdale, NJ - Sept.. 16
- SIRAACA 46th Annual Car Show, Commons Cafe - September 17
- Fall Englishtown Swap Meet & Auto Show, Raceway Park - Sept.. 22-24
- Fall Carlisle Collector Flea Market, PA - September 27 - October 1
- AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, PA - October 3-6 (Show is Friday)



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# The SIRAACA Time Machine



We return to the corner of Hylan and Midland this month. We found a listing for Tassi's Service Station in a 1924 phonebook, but nothing in a 1920 edition. We noted last month that the address was 2075 Hylan, which doesn't correspond to that location today. We learned that Hylan Boulevard was named in 1923, and beforehand this stretch was called Southfield Boulevard. The 1924 listing still shows the address as 2075 Southfield. We couldn't get the Time Machine that far back, but did make passes in 1935 and again around 1940. The castle styling is evident in both, with TASSI lettered across the top. Gulf and Tydol brands are seen on signs at left and right in the earlier photo. In the later photo, there may be less pumps, and possibly an Esso globe on the one out front. In later years it might have become Tassi's Tire Town.



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

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Any make, model,  
year and condition.  
Tax deductible.  
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