

Vol. 30, No. 9

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Sep 2023



- Remembering "Big Daddy" George
- 46th Annual Car Show is Sept. 17

## Vintage Advertising

We're getting a slight back-to-school vibe from these pages inside the 1926 Willys-Knight brochure, which is why we're using them in our September issue.

Willys-Knight featured a patented sleeve valve engine that never needed valve-grinding nor carbon-cleaning, keeping it "free from the cluttering complications and weaknesses of push-rods, cams, tappets, springs..."

Despite a fantastic looking design and high-end engineering, the Willys-Overland Co. stopped producing Willys-Knight autos in November of 1932 (1933 models) to shift focus on the inexpensive Willys 77.

## In This Issue

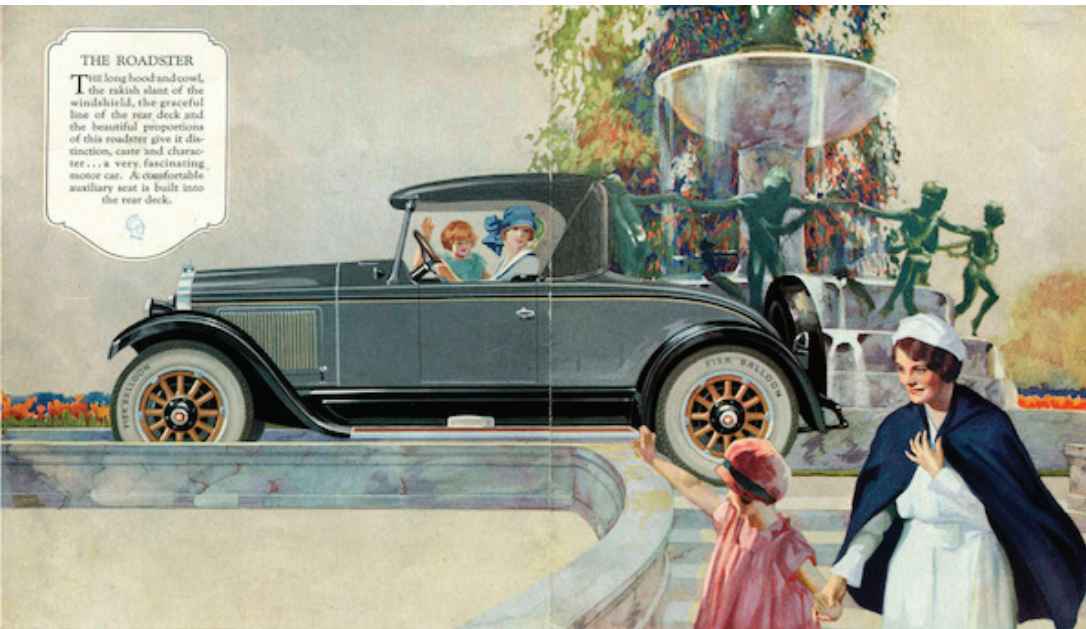
Trophy and raffle reminders

A look at our new dash plaque with Andy Barcellona's Ford.

Bruce encourages us to read about speed

A past trip to Hershey in The SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits the 1950's version of Bay Street & Minthorne



### THE ROADSTER

The long hood and cowl, the rakish slant of the windshield, the graceful line of the rear deck and the beautiful proportions of this roadster give it distinction, caste and character... a very fascinating motor car. A comfortable auxiliary seat is built into the rear deck.



### THE COUPE

A FOUR-PASSENGER body of style unusually capacious and comfortable... and of very unusual grace and beauty. Rich outside, rich inside, a car that unfailingly makes everybody it passes turn around to admire it. Replete with conveniences, including a large luggage compartment in the rear deck.

Did you know? In addition to parking lights on the cowl and the regular headlamps, the new 1926 Willys-Knight featured a "ditch light" controlled by a switch on the steering column. It was designed to illuminate the edge of the road ahead along the driver's side for safer driving.

*Trivia Question: Hanns Trippel designed an auto called the Trippel SG6 "Schwimmwagen" before World War II. He then designed a similar vehicle that was released in 1961? What was it?*

*Answer: The Amphicar. The amphibious vehicle was marketed from 1961 through 1968, but production ended in 1965.*

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# Minutes of the 569th Meeting

## August 8, 2023

1. The 569th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:00 on August 8 at The Square on Annadale. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.
2. Condolences were offered on the passing of Bob Ferone's mother as well as news that club friend Ralph Lucci had passed away.
3. Several members provided recaps of events held since our last meeting. These included the Buick Club show in New Jersey, the cruise night in New Dorp, Macungie and Mecum Harrisburg.
4. Upcoming events include the car display along Front Street on August 12, New Hope on August 12 & 13, and the Allaire Park Car Show on August 20.
5. The senior home in Clove Lake has asked us to return in late September with a display of cars for their residents. A date has yet to be determined.
6. Car show planning is underway. We have a new \$500 sponsor lined up courtesy of Mike Gorgia (Ferraro Auto Transport). Keep pushing for trophy donations and sponsors.
7. We may not hand out goodie bags this year, as a vast majority of companies no longer provide materials for them.
8. The fall dash plaque will feature a car owned by Andy Barcellona. Mike Gorgia is up next for Spring 2024.
9. Posters are available for members to give out to local businesses as a way to promote our show and ease conversations about donations.
10. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55. The 50/50 collected \$64. Al Gargiulo won \$32.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## Final Push for Trophies

As the calendar turns to September, we have just about two weeks before our fall show. Our efforts to secure trophy donations from both previous year's sponsors as well as new ones should be in the final lap, so to speak. It's very important to have as many as possible turned in or reported to us by the upcoming meeting on September 5. This allows the club to not only allocate the trophies for engraving, but also have the donor names printed up in our show pamphlet. If anyone is struggling to reach old or new donors and wants help, please contact any of the officers or Mike Signorile. We know several members who have not turned in all of theirs, and as of August 31 we had \$4,900 officially submitted. In addition, we've secured another \$1,500 in sponsorship money from Cadillac of Manhattan and Combined Insurance thus far. Trophies this year feature a new design with golden spark plugs as toppers, and wood grained columns and posts.



*This year's class trophies. As a reminder, trophy donations are \$50 for First Place, \$40 for Second Place, \$30 for Third Place, or \$100 for all three. Start by asking for \$100, and work your way down if necessary. (photo by Tony DiAngelo)*

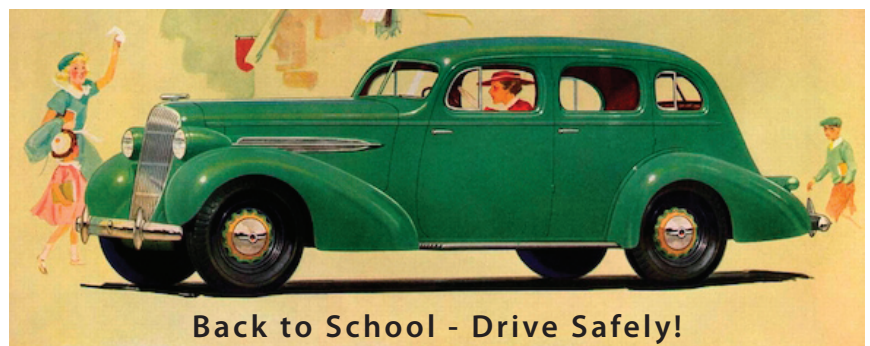
## Fall Dash Plaque

Here is this year's fall dash plaque. We continue the tradition of featuring a member's car, and this time around it's Andy Barcellona's 1965 Ford Thunderbird. We will hand out 200 plaques to incoming show cars, and have additional ones to be given to our trophy donors and fellow members.



## Calling All Raffles

It's important that members turn in sold raffles and associated monies at our September meeting. It is equally important, if you are finished with your selling efforts, to also return any unsold raffle tickets which will be needed for sales at our show. If you are still selling, you can do so right up to our show. What is extremely important in that case is to return the raffle stubs at the show so that they are thrown in the raffle drum for that day's drawing, but for you to hold on to any money and NOT hand it in on the day of the show, as it confuses our record keeping.



## From the President

Just like that it's September. Our car show is less than a few weeks away, and I hope all of you are looking forward to it. There are plenty of items in this newsletter worth reading with regards to trophies and raffles. Be sure you're up to data and please reach out to other members or officers if you have questions or concerns. Our September meeting will set up all that's needed before we gather by 6:30am on Sunday, September 17.

In the meantime, did anyone watch or read up on the auction results from Monterey? We highlighted a wrecked 1954 Ferrari shell in last month's newsletter. It sold for \$1.875 million at RM Sotheby's sale. Even Mecum got into the big dollar act at Monterey by serving up big money cars, including a 1966 Ferrari 275 GTB/6C for \$3.41 million. Mecum still maintains regular guy access, however, as they also sold a 1953 Nash Rambler Country Club for \$5.500.

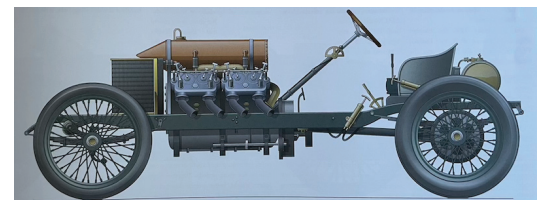
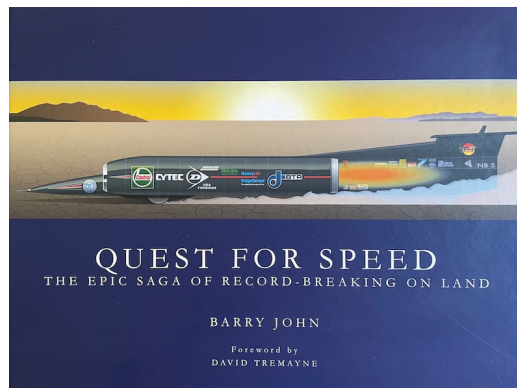
Some of the best days of the year for enjoying our old cars are still ahead of us. Cooler temps and fall colors make for nice driving, and big shows like Hershey are still to come. Happy motoring. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - September 5

NEW LOCATION THIS MONTH! Please note that our September meeting takes place on Tuesday, September 5th 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.

## Bruce's Book Recommendation

Bruce Campbell recently loaned us a neat book entitled, "Quest For Speed: The Epic Saga of Record-Breaking on Land". It's written by Barry John, and it takes the reader through man's effort to go faster on wheels, starting with Count Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat hitting 39 miles per hour in his electric Jeantaud car in 1898. John also provides the colorful illustrations for each entry, which are accompanied by vehicle specs detailing car sizes, powerplants and power figures. It's both a casual read in terms of your option to glance at a few cars at a time, but also a detailed read, allowing stat heads to wonder in amazement about these cars and the people that drove them.



Clockwise from top left: The book's cover, featuring the Thrust SSC (763mph); a Darracq V-8 (120 mph); Art Arfons' Green Monster (576 mph); Bill Burke's Belly Tank (131 mph). Bruce found the book via a discount seller catalog, and it is routinely available on Amazon for less than \$20. (images taken from the book itself).



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## From the SIRAACA Archive

With the AACA Fall Meet approaching, we look back at photos taken in Hershey in 2006. The lineup of members cars that were shown that year include Kevin Keenan's 1979 Beetle, Sal Gatto's 1964 Riviera, Al Carpinello's 1954 Cadillac, Paul Arena's 1964 Riviera, Phil Boffa's 1979 Monte Carlo, Paul Jr.'s 1967 Cutlass. Next to the Cutlass is Doc Corpus' Subaru Brat and we spot Andrew Napoli's Tahoe in the background. The same crew lines up after the awards banquet showing off some fresh hardware. It looks like Phil and Kevin won their First Junior awards that night, and Paul Jr. is holding his Senior Award. The others may have won Repeat Preservation awards that night, which are pewter badges that winners mount on a wooden display plaque given out upon winning a First Preservation.



This year another group of members will be at Hershey, some for the first time and others who have lost count. Joe D'Amore is competing for his Senior Award with his 1993 Cadillac. Best wishes to them as they experience all that is Hershey!

The SIRAACA Archive is a treasure trove of old photos, articles and artifacts that represent our club's history dating back to our founding in 1974. These are not centrally collected, but in the hands of the many members past and present. If you have something from the past that you'd like to share here, let us know.



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## Upcoming Events

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



- Roosevelt Care Center Edison Car Display, 118 Parsonage Rd. - Sept. 12
- 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 - September 27 - October 1
- New Dorp Lane Car Show - October 1
- AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, PA - October 3-6 (Show is Friday)



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## The SIRAACA Time Machine

We have found reference to Neumann-Kahn Chevrolet as far back as a 1929 City Record, and the 1940 phone book has it located at 181 Bay Street. We've sent our Time Machine back to the 1950's to check it out. Our first stop was a view from across Minthorne Street on June 14, 1958, where a 1950 Plymouth is getting serviced at the pump. Across the street to the left would be Robbins Reef Buick's used car lot and light-house. This gas station there today covers the full block of Bay between Hannah and Minthorne. Can you identify the finned car at left getting gas and the convertible behind the man in the suit? We then dialed in 1956 for the next view (bottom right). Looks like a 1952(?) Chevrolet at the curb, with a 1954 Buick parked in front of it. As the road bends and the contour of the building follows it, the next storefront should be Robbin Reef Buick's showroom. There is a Studebaker dealership lurking nearby as well, which we hope to visit soon. (Note: we were originally researching Neumann's Garage, which appears in 1920's phone books, but cannot connect them to Neumann-Kahn yet).



(photos taken by Herbert Flamm courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society)



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