

Vol. 30, No. 10

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Oct 2023



- **Raffle Car Winner**
- **46th Annual Car Show Recap**

1959 EDSEL



High in distinction—but low in price!

Makes history by making sense

Exciting new kind of car! Luxury without going overboard. Power without gulping gas. Full-size, six-passenger comfort. And priced with the most popular three!

This is a new breed of car. A car with looks, features, power and price that make sense. It's styled with beauty and grace you usually find only in expensive cars. It's soundly engineered. Edsel's compact

120-inch wheelbase makes parking a pleasure. Yet there's room for six adults to ride comfortably. You get your choice of four new Edsel engines including a thrifty six and a new economy V-8. Plus practical

luxury features like contour seats and self-adjusting brakes. Price? *The 1959 Edsel is actually priced with the most popular three—Plymouth, Chevrolet and Ford!*
EDSEL DIVISION • FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Did you know? In its first year, Edsel sold 63,110 cars in the U.S., plus another 4,935 in Canada. Though lower than expected, it was the second-largest launch for any new car brand at that time, trailing only the introduction of DeSoto in 1929.

Vintage Advertising

An autumn scene featuring the Edsel catches our eye this month, as does the claim that the car “makes history by making sense”. As we now know, Edsel did make history, but more so by not making sense. Plenty of scholars give reasons why the Edsel failed - design, pricing, the economy to name a few.

Edsel offered many innovations when first launched as 1958 models. Teletouch push-button shifting was mounted in the steering wheel hub. A remote-operated trunk release and self-adjusting brakes were also integrated. Teletouch was gone for 1959.

Total production for three years was 118,287 cars. The rarest is a 1960 Villager 9-passenger wagon - just 59 were built.

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The SIRAACA Time Machine asks you to identify these cars from years gone by.

Trivia Question: What was the first American production car to reach 170 mph??

Answer: A 1962 Studebaker Avanti, courtesy of a supercharged 289 and a series of speed runs at Bonneville with Studebaker president Sherwood Egbert at the wheel.

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Minutes of the 570th Meeting September 5, 2023

1. The 570th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:05pm on September 5 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. Members took turns recapping recent events they attended, including the New Hope Car Show, Lead East and Dead Man's Curve.
3. We've been invited back to display antique cars at the Clove Lakes Healthcare and Rehab Center for the benefit of their residents and staff. It would be from 10:00am to 12:00pm on an upcoming Saturday or Sunday, with the date to be determined.
4. The bulk of the meeting was devoted to walking through the logistics of our upcoming show, from early morning set up, gate duties, judging, raffles and the awards ceremony. Everything is in place for us to have another successful show.
5. The beneficiary this year is Catholic Charities of Staten Island.
6. Before the September meeting, raffle sales are at \$3,440 from members and \$5,700 from events. In addition, trophy donations are at \$5,150 and sponsors are at \$1,500.
7. We will most likely postpone the October meeting to the 10th, as many members will be in Hershey for the AACA Fall Meet during the first week of the month. Good luck to Joe D'Amore who is competing for a Senior Award with his 1993 Cadillac.
8. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15. The 50/50 collected \$73. Ray Ocello won \$37.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



SIRAACA 46th Annual Car Show Recap

The show field was packed to capacity and then some as plenty of cars and spectators came out to enjoy the day at SIRAACA's 46th Annual Car Show & Flea Market on September 17. As usual, the quality of show vehicles remained high, with nearly 300 winning a trophy out of the 460 or so in attendance. Ten special awards were presented as well along the red carpet. They included Vito Rutigliano's 1963 Chevrolet for Best Engine, Modified; Alvin Cruz' 1957 Chevrolet for Best Interior, Modified; and Mike Pugliese's 1962 Chevrolet for Best Paint, Modified. Best Tuck was awarded to Mike Spinard's 1965 Mack B81 Dump Truck. Four Best-in-Show Trophies were given to David Girshman's 1936 Packard (Stock, Pre-War), Steven Jerome's 1975 Oldsmobile Delta 88 (Stock, Post-War), John Kirby's 1930 Ford Coupe (Custom) and Sal D'Orio's 1971 Chevelle (Modified). Paul Jr. selected an AACA National Award-winning 1968 Corvair as the recipient of the President's Cup.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the club presented a check for \$3,000 to Claire Atalla (below), the CEO of Catholic Charities of Staten Island. For several years, they have graciously allowed us to bring our raffle car to their Food Truck Festival at Mt. Loretto, and we were pleased to return the favor in support of their mission.



Top to bottom: 1968 Chevrolet Corvair, 1930 Ford Model A, 1976 Oldsmobile Delta 88, all special award winners. At left, Phil Boffa presents our donation to Claire Atalla, the head of Catholic Charities of Staten Island. (photos by Vincent Arena)

From the President

Exhale. That's what I'm able to do once the final trophy is handed out, the raffle car is given away, and another of our shows is in the books. This year it was a deep exhale, considering the curveballs thrown our way before the show. On Saturday, the raffle car decided to conk out, and I imagined to possibility of losing \$4000 in sales with no car on hand to give away on Sunday. On Sunday morning, we were incorrectly told the spectator and flea market lot were not available for use, throwing us into an audible that could have been avoided with better communication. Despite all of that, we persevered and held another great show. Well done and thanks to all of you who contribute to the effort.

Some of you were still on site after the show when word came across that there was a serious wreck on South Avenue headed towards the Hilton Garden Inn. Apparently a staged drag race involving a Regal T-Type and an Olds Cutlass ended quickly when the Olds went up over the curb, through a fence and into the woods. I don't have any other details, but am happy to know it remained outside of our event. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - October 10

To accommodate the many members who will be at the AACA Fall Meet, please note that our October meeting takes place on Tuesday, October 10th 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.

Raffle Car Winner



photo by Stephanie DiAngelo

As is custom, we held the drawing for our annual raffle car just ahead of our award ceremony at our fall car show. The winning ticket belonged to Olivia Minervini, a teacher at New Dorp High School who bought her tickets at her school's car show in June. She was called live and on the air from our red carpet and hustled down to the Commons Cafe to accept the keys to her newly won 2002 Pontiac Firebird. The raffle car took in \$4,150 at our fall show. Members contributed sales of \$6,785, and all together our sales totaled \$16,635. This car had the highest overall expenses we've ever had, and our profit will be close to \$6,800. Just a day before our show, the car would not start, and had to be towed to a repair shop in the hopes it would be fixed in time. The chip reader in the ignition was not recognizing the key, so they hardwired a second key's chip directly into the circuit to bypass the reader. That Saturday was a potential swing of \$1000 out of our favor. The car missed the Police Officer show where we made \$600 last year, and we paid for the tow and repair instead.



From the SIRAACA Archive

In our early days, our fall car show was held in mid-October, so today we look back to a past October, where this Packard was on our show field at Wagner College, circa 1980.

Collaborating with the online AACA community, we've discovered this to be a 1934 Packard, and most likely a 12 cylinder model based on the front bumper. It's restored in typical 1970's colors, when so many 1930's cars were redone in tans and browns.

It's fun to consider the relative nature of today's car shows versus ones held 40-plus years ago. This Packard was about 46 years old at the time. The T-Bird next to it or the Mustang behind it are older today than the Packard was then. A 45-year old car today is a 1978 model. Feeling old yet?

We hope to identify who owned this car at the time, perhaps even track it down today. A good place to start will be former member Bill Vaccaro, if we can find a way to contact him. Bill was and remains heavily involved in Packards and other true Classics. It might have been his car.

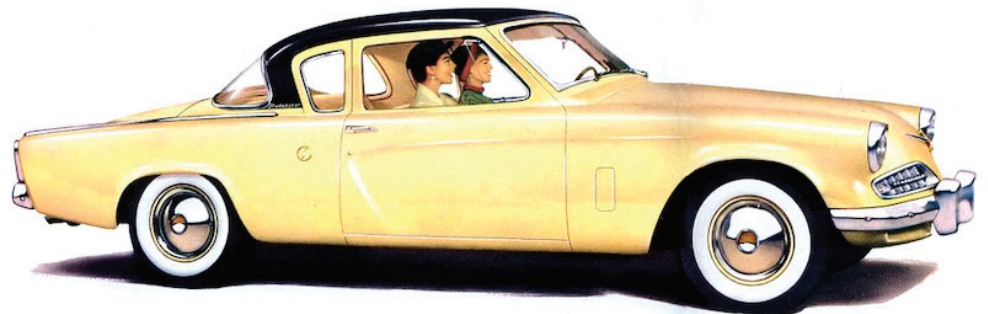
The SIRAACA Archive is a treasure trove of old photos, articles and artifacts that represent our club's history dating back to our founding in 1974. These are not centrally collected, but in the hands of the many members past and present. If you have something from the past that you'd like to share here,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



Our initial show on the football field at Wagner College was in 1979, following our first two shows held at the Academy of St. Dorothy on Hylan Boulevard. Note the red tape running along the front of the car. At our early shows, we actually "roped off" the cars from the spectators after they were in place on the show field. (photo by a much younger Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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



- 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)
- 37th Annual Corvette & Classic Car Show, Woodbridge Community Center - October 8
- 9th Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show, Aviation Plaza, Edison - October 22



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Our first photo was taken as we piloted the SIRAACA Time Machine to St. Marks Place in St. George on November 30, 1937. A nice row of used cars adorn the curb outside stately homes that are long gone from that location, replaced by a generic business center. The church is the Brighton Heights Reformed Church, which burned down in 1996 and since been replaced with a newer version. We've identified the first four cars and ask you to take a stab at it. The third one is tricky because the radiator is covered with either a blanket or cardboard. Following this stop, we dialed in another about 12 years later, outside a small bungalow at 71 Tarlton Street in New Dorp Beach. A well-kept sedan was parked outside, and we've identified it as well. That too is for you to work on. A clue for you - this make of car had different bumpers depending on whether it was a six or an eight. Give up? If so, (SPOILER ALERT), here are the answers: top photo, left to right: 1933 Pontiac, 1929 Oldsmobile, 1928 LaSalle, 1935 Plymouth. Bottom photo: 1931 Dodge Brothers DG-8. How did you do?



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