

Vol. 31, No. 1

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jan 2024



• **Happy New Year!**

Vintage Advertising

Oldsmobile introduced a new price leader for their full-sized cars with the 1964 Jetstar 88. Think of it as a full-size 88 with components from their intermediate F-85 (Cutlass) models. That meant a 330 V8 and Jetaway two-speed automatic instead of a 394 and a three-speed. As a result, the Dynamic 88 moved up a notch, and the Super 88 entered its final year.

Olds also introduced a Jetstar I in 1964 to compete with the Pontiac Grand Prix. It was a lesser equipped Starfire, but its 394 was mated to the Jetaway transmission.

Jetstar 88 came in a 2-door hard-top and convertible, as well as a 4-door sedan and 4-door hard-top.



Jetstar 88

Brand new "88" series to fire you up...
with a brand new boiled-down price!

When Oldsmobile comes out with a lower-priced model, that's big news. But when Oldsmobile comes out with a *whole new series of full-size, lower-priced 88s*, that's nothing short of sensational. Shining example: The four new Jetstar 88s—brilliantly styled running mates to Oldsmobile's long-famous Super and Dynamic 88 models. Performance? Just wait'll you turn the key on the high-stepping new 330-cubic-inch Jetfire Rocket V-8 and feel the quiet, quicksilver thrust of the new variable-vane Jetaway transmission.* *That, sir, is action!* Together with the sticker on the window . . . it can make you an Olds owner quicker than almost anything we know!

*Optional at extra cost

'64 OLDS →
WHERE THE ACTION IS!



OLDSMOBILE DIVISION,
GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
QUALITY BUILDERS OF
NINETY-EIGHT, STARFIRE,
SUPER 88, DYNAMIC 88,
JETSTAR I, JETSTAR 88, F-85

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The SIRAACA Time Machine goes hunting for Elgins in Great Kills

Did you know? Ransom E. Olds is the only American automotive pioneer to sell at least one vehicle of each power mode: steam, electric, gas and diesel.

Trivia Question: In 1977, Oldsmobile offered a standard four cylinder engine for the first time since 1922. What subcompact model featured that engine?

Answer: The Starfire, in its third go around with Olds. It emerged again in 1975 with a Buick V6 before the switch to a four two years later.

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Minutes of the 572nd Meeting

November 7, 2023 (reprinted)

1. The 572nd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:13pm on November 7 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. Artie Guarnieri recapped the Trunk or Treat Halloween event held for Lifestyles for the Disabled, and thanked all who participated with their old cars. Our attendance was greatly appreciated.
3. Kevin Keenan led a discussion about the Linden Car Show at Aviation Plaza. They still lack a competent judging effort, but we as a club voted unanimously that it's not for us to fix it. There are too many risks to our reputation for little reward.
4. Please remember to renew your annual AACA national membership before December 31.
5. This year's Holiday Party will be held at La Strada Restaurant on New Dorp Lane on Sunday, December 17, from 2:00 to 6:00. All members who contributed to the club efforts this year are entitled to attend along with a guest. Others can pay \$55/pp to attend.
6. We will once again donate new, unwrapped toys to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive at our Holiday Party. We ask those who attend to also bring a new, unwrapped toy to add to the donation.
7. Keep up the raffle car hunt.
8. There was no treasurer report this month.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13. The 50/50 collected \$40. Pat Colabella won \$20, and Mike Signorile won the Thanksgiving Gift Card.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



SIRAACA Gathers for Holiday Party

For the first time, La Strada Restaurant on New Dorp Lane was the site for this year's SIRAACA Annual Holiday Party. The private room was filled to capacity with members to enjoy dinner and drinks, with plenty of time left to spend winning holiday raffles and door prizes. President Paul Jr. thanked everyone for all of the time they devote to the club's efforts and continued success. The family of NYPD Officer Richard Gardner stopped by again to receive our donated toys, which were earmarked to be given out by Santa's Christmas Eve visits to RUMC and Staten Island University Hospital. Special thanks to club secretary Tony DiAngelo for taking care of all of the arrangements, and a tip of the cap to Bob Ferone for donating his Harborview Estates wine to the prize pool.



Jeff Tucker's 1967 Ford

Before Jeff Tucker passed away in 2019, he made it known to several people that he wanted the club to inherit his 1967 Ford Galaxie 500. It seems as though his wish is finally being granted, as the status of his estate becomes clearer. We recently had a chance to visit his garage, where the car sits quietly under several years of dust, yet shows no sign of wear. No keys were found (likely left behind after his passing at Sea View's hospice), so we are having the locks and ignition replaced. With some air in the tires, fresh gas in the tank and a new battery under the hood, and we hope be able to drive the car out of there in the coming month.



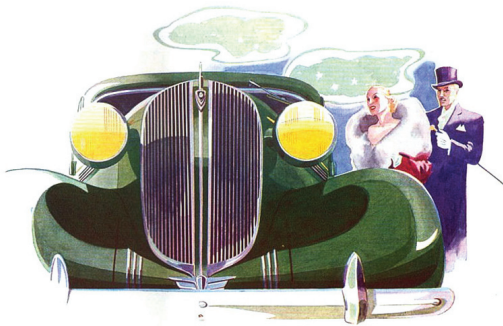
Trip to 3 Dog Garage is Saturday, January 13

For those members who RSVP'd with the intent of visiting the 3 Dog Garage alongside the NJRAACA, please note that our tour slot is from 11:00 to 1:30. There is no entry fee, but all guests will sign their Guest Registry, so we hope to arrive by 10:30 to lessen any traffic jams at the entry table. Parking is limited, so carpooling where possible is highly recommended. There is street parking as well as a nearby CVS/Dollar Tree parking lot. The collection is housed in two different buildings. Garage One is 15 South Madison Street, Boyertown, PA. Garage Two is at 704 East Fourth Street. After the tour, suggested lunch spots include Mamma Maria's, The Other Farm, Grind, Argento's Pizzeria or the Iron Stone. Afterwards, consider a short ride to Pottstown to ride the second oldest operating wooden carousel in the country. Look out for an email from Paul Jr. with a map of the locations and other details regarding the trip.

From the President

I heard that some folks were still taking their cars out to Great Kills Beach on Sundays, as recently as New Year's Eve. I guess as long as the weather allows, why not. Soon however, our roads will get salted for bad weather, and those cars too will take a break and sit out winter. That doesn't mean you cannot still enjoy the hobby. Some of us are heading out to the 3 Dog Garage for a tour of that collection. Others might be heading out to Auto Mania, the indoor swap meet in Allentown on January 19-21. If you prefer the warmth of your home, Barrett-Jackson's Scottsdale auction will be televised January 20-28, as part of Arizona Car Week. No matter how you cope with the winter, take heart in knowing it'll be over before you know it, followed by spring. - Paul Jr.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



- NEXT MEETING - February 6

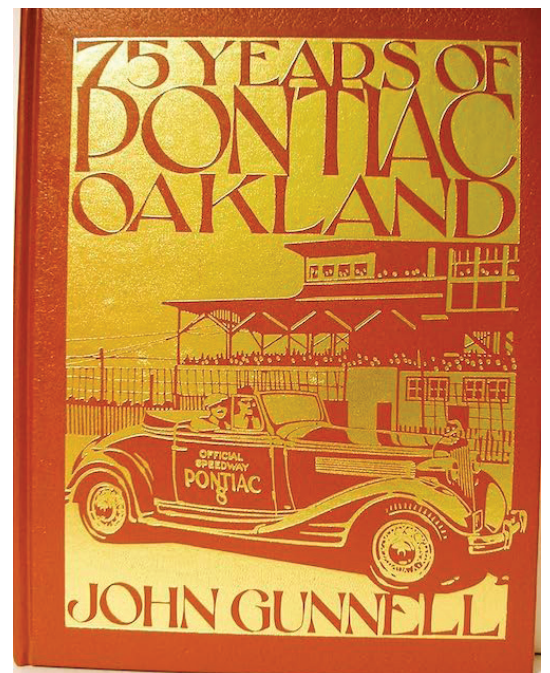
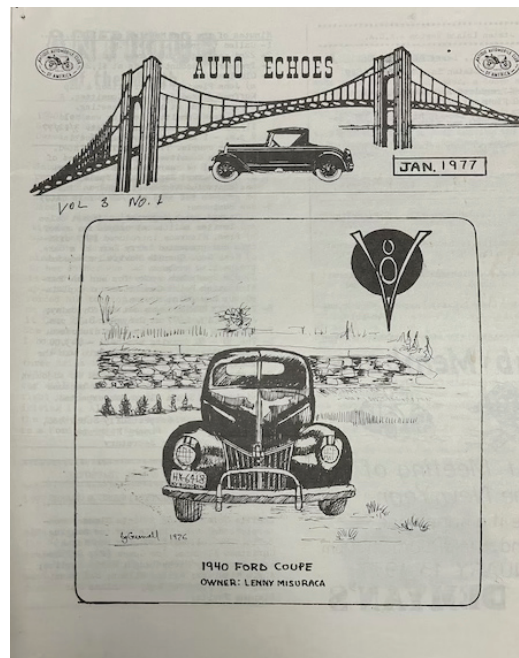
Please note that there will be no monthly meeting in January. We meet again on Tuesday, February 6. Odds are we are returning to The Square on Annadale, and we will confirm that with all before that date. Enjoy the month off!

Local & National Dues

Hopefully all of you remembered to renew your national AACA membership before it expired on December 31. If the bustle of the holiday season led you to forget, please do so as soon as you can. We will collect our local dues at the February meeting. The yearly fee is still \$20, and we will accept either cash or a check made out to SIRAACA.

Remembering "Gunner" and His Start

There may not be many members today who were in the club in its early years, perhaps only Paul Arena, who joined in 1976. Even so, there could be many more of you who know the name John Gunnell, also known as "Gunner". John was a member of our region in those early years, contributing artwork and articles and editing our newsletter (below left). He eventually left Staten Island with his 1953 Pontiac in 1978 for Iola, WI. Working at Krause Publications he not only wrote and then edited for Old Cars Weekly, but also penned many automotive history books, price guides, and Standard Catalogs. John passed away in August at the age of 75.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We return to The SIRAACA Garage this month with a look at one of the uncommon cars found inside. This is a 1959 Lancia Flaminia Berlina, owned by Don Bosco. It was acquired out of an estate in Rosebank, and its all-original interior features a rare MPH speedometer (below).

The Flaminia made its debut in 1957. It was named after a Roman road, which was a Lancia tradition. Berlina is an Italian name for a sedan.

Don's Lancia has a 2.5 liter six, and is one of 3,344 Berlinas built with that engine between the years of 1957 and 1970. Another 599 were built with 2.8 liter engines. The body design is by Pinin Farina.



Hard to imagine this is a car from 1959, considering American cars that year were enormous, chrome-laden and finned to the heavens. (photos by Don Bosco).



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.



Original seats are in nearly-new condition. Interesting script appears to read "Flawiua".





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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Following a successful trip back to 1914 last month, we were feeling good about the Time Machine and dialed in the Amboy Garage, circa 1921. Located at 3952 Amboy Road at the end of Giffords Lane, they were selling the Elgin, an auto that was built from 1919 through 1923. Unfortunately, our first attempt only got us back to 1955.



Hartung's Esso service station where the Amboy Garage was. A Nash Metropolitan and a '55 Chevy can be seen parked at the market, with what may be a Kaiser in between them.

BUILT LIKE A WATCH

Note These Improvements in the Series K-1 (1921) Elgin Six

New enclosed motor—dirt- and dust-proof. New style mahogany dash board. Special Elgin steering column support—adjustable to suit the driver. Elgin design French side-lamps. Leather hand pads on doors. Mahogany rear panel board, with tonneau light. New door-opening side-curtains. Nickel plated windshield wing-nuts—and many other new features.

AMBOY GARAGE
C. H. KNON, Prop.
3952 Amboy Road, Great Kills, S. I.
Phone Douglass Hills 0221

Elgin Six

We gave the Time Machine a couple of minutes to recharge and tried again. The Amboy Garage is listed in the 1940 phonebook, so we traveled back another 15 years but there were no old Elgin cars in sight.

The Amboy Garage was pumping Amoco instead of Esso at that time, and someone was putting air in the front left tire of his two-door sedan when we happened by. The Elgin ad above was one of a few we found in *The Advance*. Another noted 1922 Elgin prices: a touring car was \$1,295, sports and roadsters were \$1,345, and sedans and coupes were \$2,350. Those were in line with other six cylinder cars of the day.



The car at left appears to be a 1938 Dodge, but we're not certain about the bread van. Perhaps it is a 1936 or so GMC. (photos courtesy of S.I. Historical Society)

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M - Th 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

Did you know? The Elgin Motor Car Company was formed by executives from the Elgin Watch Company. As a nod to its roots, the car was advertised with such slogans as "The Car of the Hour" and "Built Like a Watch".