

Vol. 31, No. 2

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Feb 2024



• **First Glimpse of the 2024 Raffle Car**

## Vintage Advertising

We check off two themes this month with a Valentine's flavored ad from 1941 for Lincoln, whose namesake has his birthday celebrated in February.

The Lincoln Zephyr debuted in 1936, expanding Lincoln to a second model line below the Model K, in direct competition with LaSalle and the Packard 120. It was unique among them in that it was powered by a V-12.

Lincoln-Zephyr was its own marque until 1941, where all models were simply Lincoln. The Zephyr came in sedan, coupe, club coupe and convertible form.

### In This Issue

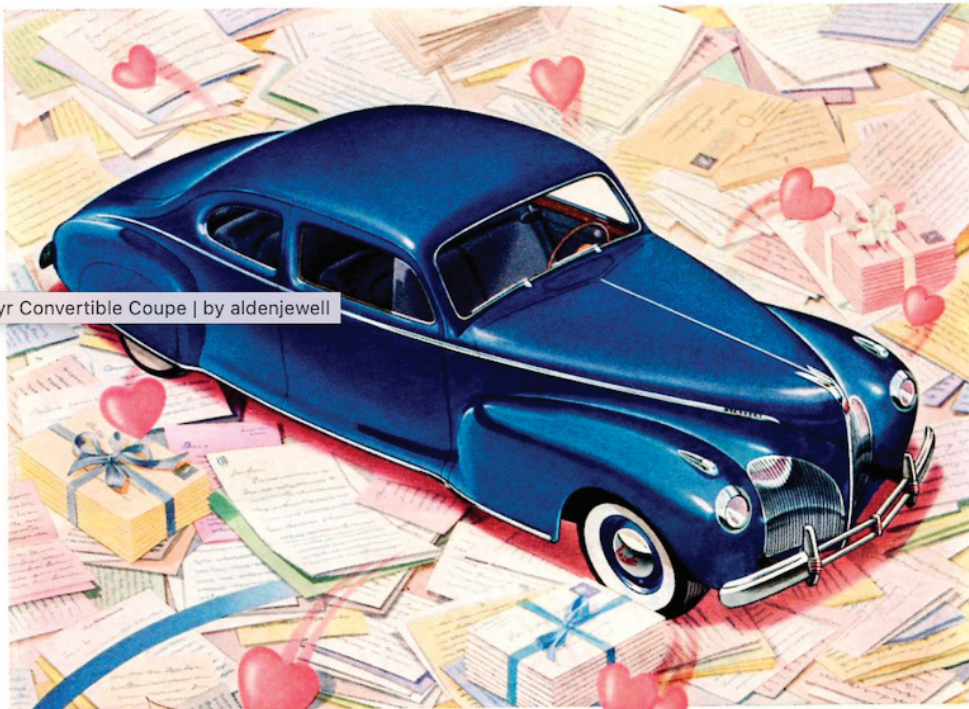
A visit to the 3 Dog Garage and its incredible collection of hot rods and race cars and more

Our 2024 raffle car

Spring Dust-Off is April 21

Remembering Tom LaGuidice in the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits a 1920's junkyard and wonders where it all went.



-Zephyr Convertible Coupe | by aldenjewell

## Gosh, The Folks All Love Me!

"THEY WOULDN'T think of going anywhere without me! I'm up in the milky mist of morning and off to cool, clear fishing streams. I roam through forests alive with green—and streak over the highways to busy cities and the budding countryside. I am a playmate—business partner—and household servant. I am the new 1941 Lincoln-Zephyr (and you ought to read my fan mail!)."

TAKE a ride in this fascinating new car and you'll understand why folks love it . . . why it has captured the imagination of the entire country! Letters from every state in the Union describe the thrill of driving this fleet, low-slung beauty that's triple-cushioned in rubber to give a ride as smooth as a glider's flight. Owners praise the deep, chair-high seats hammocked amidships over long, slow-

motion springs—the steel-clad safety of unit body-and-frame construction in closed types. They say the Lincoln-Zephyr makes motoring a glorious adventure—offers far more fun per gallon than any car they've ever owned!

EVERYBODY also agrees that this car has fresh, gleaming beauty . . . suave, fluent lines altogether its own, and incomparable. And the '41 Lincoln-Zephyr—powered with its dependable V-12 engine—is basically new and different in construction, as you'd

expect of a car precision-built according to celebrated Lincoln standards.

BEFORE you buy any car, won't you arrange with your Lincoln-Zephyr dealer to enjoy 100 miles or more of motoring thrill? Because it's young in spirit and in action, we say—Gosh, you'll love your Lincoln-Zephyr!

• Enjoy a brand new motoring experience with Lincoln Automatic Overdrive! Factory-installed at moderate extra cost, it reduces engine revolutions by 30% . . . cuts fuel and oil costs . . . prolongs engine life . . . makes driving smoother, quieter than ever before! Ask your nearest dealer for a demonstration.

LINCOLN MOTOR CAR DIVISION, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, BUILDERS ALSO OF THE LINCOLN-CONTINENTAL, CABRIOLET AND COUPE; THE LINCOLN-CUSTOM, SEDAN AND LIMOUSINE



Did you know? The Lincoln Zephyr was conceived by Edsel Ford. He also created and named Ford's Mercury division.

*Trivia Question: Hugh Chalmers was a wealthy businessman who formed his own car company in 1908 by buying out E.R. Thomas's stake in Thomas-Detroit. Where did he make his fortune?*

*Answer: Chalmers was Vice-President of National Cash Register, making \$72,000 a year in 1907. Chalmers produced cars until 1924.*

## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**February 2024**

**Volume 31, Number 2**

### **SIRAACA Who's Who**

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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

**At \$1799 this new Ford Custom Tudor Sedan is**  
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Because we Ford Dealers are outselling all others, we can afford to write you the best deal.

**You get a top trade!**  
Your present car will never be worth more in trade than *right now!* And you'll be getting the *years ahead* Ford Sculptured look and the built-for-keeps "Inner Ford."

## SIRAACA Visits the 3 Dog Garage

Close to 20 members and friends got together for a drive out to tiny Boyertown, PA for a visit to Ross Myers' 3 Dog Garage. The collection of cars, almost all of which have Ford DNA, must be more than 100 in total, displayed openly in two buildings. There is no simple way to summarize what they saw. It is easily the most significant collection of historic hot rods and customs, early and late race cars, dry lakes speed cars and original Model A's and T's. Throw in a line-up of Pierce-Arrows, a Duesenberg and some early brass-era tourers, and you start to get the picture. The first building, a reclaimed three-story brick factory from the early 1900's, is part working shop for restoration and maintenance purposes, but considering how spotless it was, you'd think it was a phony display. There's a replica 1940's vintage Mobil station serving as a backdrop for a few cars, and a passageway to the displays. The collection of vintage neon and porcelain signs, model airplanes, posters, paintings, photographs and sculptures decorating the space is outstanding. Upstairs are famous '36 Fords, '32's of tremendous pedigree (Ricky Nelson and Ed Kookie Burns, for example) and more. The second building's collection incredibly tops the first one. In one direction, there is a row of classics, brass tourers and a two story wing of unrestored Model A's and T's of every style imaginable. In another direction, there are famous race cars from the drag strip and the track. Throughout the collection, there are spacious lounge areas to sit and enjoy the surroundings while resting your feet and comparing notes with your friends. Afterwards, the group popped their eyes back into their heads and drove over to the Americana Diner for lunch, and eventually the drive back home. The trip was organized by Abe Platt, an officer at the neighboring NJRAACA. Abe tirelessly seeks out such collections for the local AACA regions to visit, and he says that there are a few more in the works for this year. As the weather gets better, some of these trips are also touring opportunities for members to get their own cars out on the road. As Abe says, they're meant to be driven.



'36 Ford (top), Model T's (center) and 1964 Falcon GT Sprint in 1967 Daytona 24-Hour configuration (bottom). (photo by Paul Jr.)



## From the President

Thanks to the efforts of our neighbors in the NJRAACA, we've been fortunate to join in on visits to three great car collections. Our most recent visit had a great turn-out, and we look forward to keeping this going with some more this year. Our next possible trip is to David Markel's collections located in Skippack, PA. He has several buildings, with names like House of Britain, Deutsche Haus, and American Muscle. I've seen some pictures from NJRAACA's last visit, and this is another trip worth taking. I am going to contact their tour guide to set up a date for us separate from others, so we guarantee our group size will fit.

Our Spring Dust-Off date is confirmed for April 21, with a rain date of April 28. Plans are underway to print up posters, flyers and raffle tickets. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Pontiac GTO, which we will recognize with a special trophy at the Dust-Off. We will also carry on with an award for the Class of '74, plus our regular Decade Awards and other special categories. As always, it'll be here before we know it. Let's hope the groundhog was right. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - February 6

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, February 6. Odds are we are returning to The Square on Annadale, and we will confirm that with all before that date. The club will provide pizza and soda, and members can purchase additional or alternate items on their own

## 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.

## 1987 Camaro IROC-Z is 2024 Raffle Car

The club has just purchased this 1987 Camaro IROC-Z, which will be our raffle car for 2024. Originally listed at \$9,500, we negotiated a price of \$7,000, plus some show-related advertising for the seller. The paint and interior require no work, and we'll gather a few members to help clean up under the hood once the weather warms up a bit. According to the VIN, this is an LB9 (305ci V8) with Tuned Port Injection. It was built in GM's Norwood plant in Ohio, which happened to be shut down that year. 1987 was Camaro's 20th Anniversary, but Chevrolet did next to nothing to celebrate that milestone. Total production that year amounted to 137,760 units, with 38,889 IROC models. Raffle tickets are being ordered.



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

In memory of Tom LaGuidice, who passed away at his home in January, the SIRAACA Garage features his 1982 Datsun 280ZX.

Tom purchased this Rallye Red 280ZX new, and kept it looking new for more than 40 years. It was one of 63,855 reported sold by Nissan that year. 1982 models were powered by a 2.8 liter inline six, rated at 145 horsepower. The turbo added 35 additional horses.

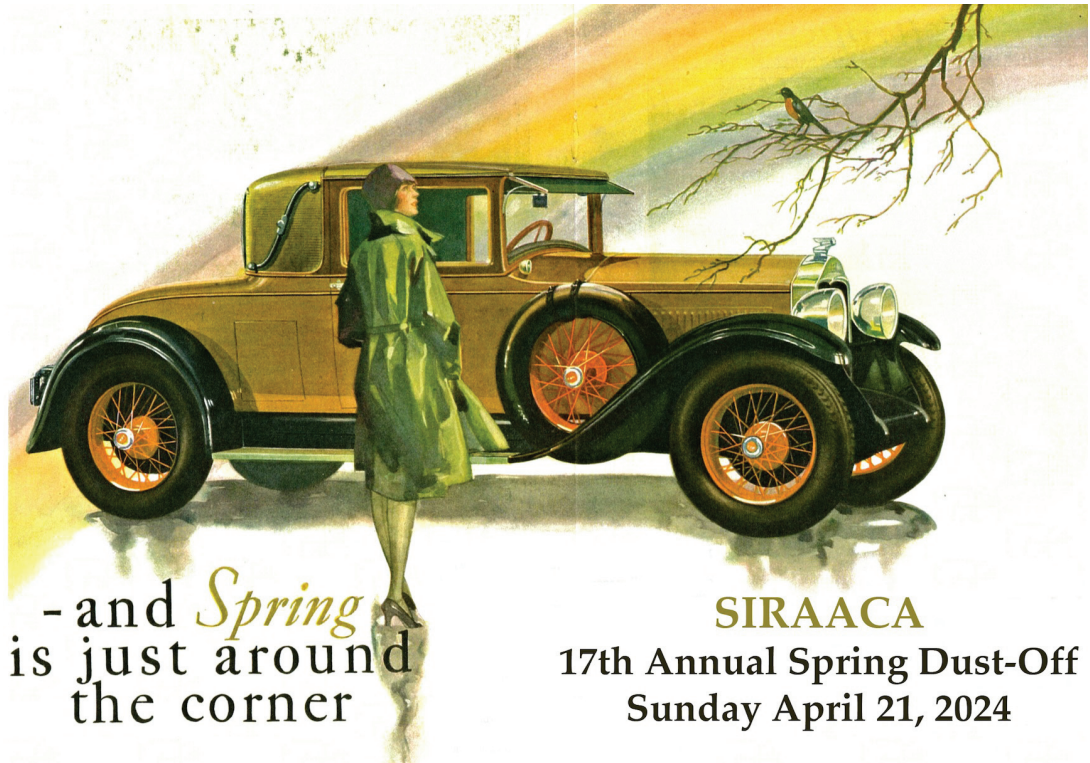
The 280ZX replaced the 280Z in 1978, with a run through 1983, when it gave way to the 300ZX. The 1982 models received styling updates, such as revised ducting in the hood, new taillights. 1982 also saw the debut of a voice warning system that warned the driver if the headlights were left on or if the parking brake was still engaged. These changes led some to call the 1982 the start of the "Series II" 280ZX.

Tom's Z will be the featured car on this year's Spring Dust-Off dash plaque. That was planned before his passing, and we're sad to know that he will not be here to see it. We hope it serves as another reminder of his time with us and his love for his car.

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.



*A 280ZX Turbo automatic turned a 0-60 time of 7.1 seconds. That year's Aston Martin Volante cost seven times as much as the Z and turned 8.9 seconds. Only the Porsche 911SC out-accelerated the Turbo Z within the US market. (photo by Paul Jr.)*



**SIRAACA**  
17th Annual Spring Dust-Off  
Sunday April 21, 2024



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# The SIRAACA Time Machine

The SIRAACA Time Machine dialed in 1929 and located Richmond Wreckers at 135 Arthur Kill Road, an address lost to time. It's approximately where Richmond Town's storage buildings sit today opposite Clarke Avenue.



We wandered about the grounds, surrounded by junked cars and trucks from the early decades of motor-ing. Hopefully Pietrangello's Bakery had a new truck and was still in business.



We then dialed in the same location for 1940 and saw that sometime in those 11 years, the junkyard was gone and a Tydol gas station sprouted in its place. The driver of a 1938-39 Lincoln Zephyr sedan chats with the attendant. We don't know when this also disappeared. We wonder how they cleared out that

junkyard. Was everything hauled out, or just plowed over and buried? Considering that all appears gone by 1940, there is a chance these cars were not immediately caught up in WWII scrap drives. Let's all grab our metal detectors and scour the area for a lost center cap or headlight or klaxon horn! In addition, if any of our members have additional insight into this location or the other places we visit with our Time Machine, please let us know.

*(Junkyard photos courtesy of NYPL. Tydol station photo courtesy of Staten Island Historical Society)*

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