

Vol. 31, No. 8

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2024



• **A Milestone Logo for SIRAACA**



Vintage Advertising

With Paris as the backdrop for this summer's Olympic Games, we selected this 1910 ad for Peerless as it too has a Parisian backdrop. Founded in 1900, by the time this ad was in print, Peerless had expanded into a well-known maker of high-priced automobiles.

1910 offerings included the 4-cylinder, 30hp Model 27 in seven body styles, and the 6-cylinder, 50hp Model 28, in six body styles.

Peerless eventually offered a V-8 with something known as "two-power range" for either economy or power. For power, it was the "sporting range". Oddly enough, the other one was called the "loafing range".

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SIRAACA milestone logo and original announcement

Working on a grille or grill?

The SIRAACA Garage features a new bird

The SIRAACA Time Machine spots some local trucks along the way

SILENCE

Peerless

COMFORT

Notre Dame Cathedral Paris

Model 32 Six-Cylinder Fifty Horse-power Torpedo

Under stress of hard service the Peerless maintains a smooth and uninterrupted action, and when judged by the highest esthetic standards it elicits nothing but intelligent admiration

The Peerless Motor Car Company, 2443 East 93d Street, Cleveland, Ohio
Licensed under Selden Patent

Did you know? Peerless was represented in Staten Island by the Staten Island Selden Sales Co., located at 2129 Richmond Terrace? We'll share the Advance announcement from 1921 in a future issue.

Trivia Question: What was the best selling American car in 1974?

Answer: The Ford Pinto was tops that year, selling over 360,000. The Plymouth Valiant was second, with more than 337,000 sold, and the Chevy Chevelle landed in third with more than 333,000. Chevy's Vega, Impala and Nova fill out the top six.

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Minutes of the 578th Meeting

July 2, 2024

1. The 578th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:16 pm on July 2 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. We had another successful Food Truck Festival weekend last month. The event at Mount Loretto helped us take in \$2,490 in raffle sales. After four key events this year, our raffle car has taken in \$6,661. That figure does not include more than \$2,400 in member sales thus far. Thanks to all who volunteered their time for the festival as well as to those who are selling tickets directly.
3. Phil Boffa and Kevin Keenan recapped their trip to Saratoga for the AACA Eastern Spring Nationals (see Phil's story in the July newsletter). Congratulations to Kevin Keenan and Andy Barcellona on their awards.
4. Congratulations to our members who won awards at local shows, including Artie Guarnieri, Bob Ferone and Pat Colabella. Each provided recaps of their wins.
5. Upcoming events include a cruise night at Sunrise Senior Living in New Dorp on Saturday, August 10 from 5:30-8:30, and a club display of cars at Clove Lakes Rehab on Saturday, September 21 from 10:00-12:00.
6. There are two "new" old cars entering the SIRAACA Garage. Congratulations to Ray Ocello on his third(!) Model T, a 1912 Roadster. Also, to Pat Colabella on finally acquiring a 1991 Audi 200. We look forward to seeing them both.
7. We are working on creating a YouTube channel for the club after the discovery of old videos of our car shows from the 1980's.
8. Phil gave a treasury report, with all in order.
9. New member candidate Ron Parente was introduced and welcomed.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28. The 50/50 collected \$62. Ron Parente won \$31.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Down the Beach

Cruise nights might be in rare supply on Staten Island, but our version of “Cars & Coffee” every Sunday morning, colloquially known as “Down the Beach”, is as popular as ever. Each Sunday, weather permitting, many of our members join in with hundreds of others to hang out in the parking lot at Great Kills Beach. The space has shrunk a bit with the bad erosion of the beachside cliffs. With 60-plus spots now cordoned off and unusable, the crowds arrive early. Whether or not you take out your old car, the gathering gives everyone plenty of time to hang out with friends and meet new ones among this great hobby of ours.



Left, former member Pat Lamano brought out his newly acquired 1958 Impala one recent Sunday morning. Right, Frank Provenzano's Chevy and Artie Guarnieri's Ford take in the beach weather, one of them going topless. (photos by Paul Jr.)

Auto Club Opens Island Chapter

A small clipping from an undated Staten Island Advance in late 1974 made the following announcement, reprinted here from the very first SIRAACA newsletter, which was published in early January, 1975:

‘The Staten Island chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America opened officially last night at Skipper’s Rest, Great Kills. Joseph Misuraca of Dongan Hills was elected and installed as president.’

“Other officers installed were Edward McCarthy, vice-president; Leonard Misuraca, secretary; and Andrew Sciascia, treasurer. The purpose of the club will be to supplement the activities of the regional chapters. The next meeting will be at 8 pm January 10.”

Club Birthday Logo

Here is the new logo designed by Paul Jr. and his sister-in-law to commemorate the club’s 50th birthday. It’s a mash-up of our secondary club logo and a rectangular speedometer in the style of 1974-era autos. We are printing up t-shirts for members to celebrate the milestone. Artie Guarnieri will place the order, so make sure he has your correct size on file. More logo uses are coming soon.



From Paul Jr.

Summer is in full swing but the days are actually getting shorter and the calendar is soon to say September. Our fall show is about one month away, and there is still plenty to do to make sure our 47th fall show is another success. As a reminder, we are all encouraged to help with trophy donations as well as raffle sales. Please continue to sell any tickets you have, and return all money collected, ticket stubs, and unsold tickets at our next meeting. In addition, please try to bring in your trophy donation details at that time as well. Trophies are \$50 for First Place, \$40 for Second, \$30 for Third, or \$100 for all three. The donor will have their names engraved on the trophies, printed in our show pamphlet, and announced throughout the day. Any business is a suitable donor, as are personal donations in honor or memory of someone. Trophies are our biggest expense, but a robust donation effort helps us cover a cost that can exceed \$8,000. Until then, stay cool (and dry) and enjoy your old cars on the road where they belong (you can stare at them in your garage all winter long). - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - August 6

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, August 6. Odds are we are returning to The Square on Annadale, and we will confirm that with all before that date.

Start time is typically around 7:00 PM.

The club will provide pizza and soda, and members can purchase additional or alternate items on their own.

New Raffle Car Signs

We have two new signs to help promote our raffle car when it appears at an event as well as our shows. They are 24" x 36" and attach to a folding sandwich board, which will travel with the car during each raffle season. We hope the carnival-like appearance will draw the attention of passers by, especially at events such as Hot Rods & Harleys, which requires a lot of "barking" by members to get folks to notice us. The raffle ticket number is what folks call an "Easter egg" as it has a certain hidden meaning to those in the know. In this case it's the birth date of Paul Arena, as a reminder of all of the years he was out with the raffle car on behalf of the club.



Grille or Grill?

If Andrew Napoli and Kevin Keenan aren't polishing the grille on their old car, they might be manning the grill at a local BBQ for fellow car guys in New Jersey. Each have been ordained Grillmeisters for their talent in flipping burgers and searing sausages. They like their meat medium rare and their collector cars well done.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We've got another bird roosting in our SIRAACA Garage. This one is a 2005 Ford Thunderbird 50th Anniversary Edition, owned by Chris Cannizzaro, one of our newer members.

Chris pointed out to us that his is number 312 of only 1,500 built to celebrate the anniversary of the T-Bird's inaugural flight 50 years prior. All were finished in Cashmere metallic paint with a Medium Light Stone top. A full leather interior is color matched.

This one represents the final year of the retro-styled 11th Generation T-Birds, available from 2002-2005. They returned after a five year hiatus of the venerable marque. Slightly more than 68,000 were built in the four year run, with almost half coming in 2002.

These were built on a shared platform with Jaguar, utilizing a variant of Jag's 4 litre V-8. The fact that Ford was no longer interested in owning that brand helped contribute to the end of the T-Bird once again. Other limited editions through those years included the Nieman Marcus, the James Bond 007, and the Pacific Coast Roadster.

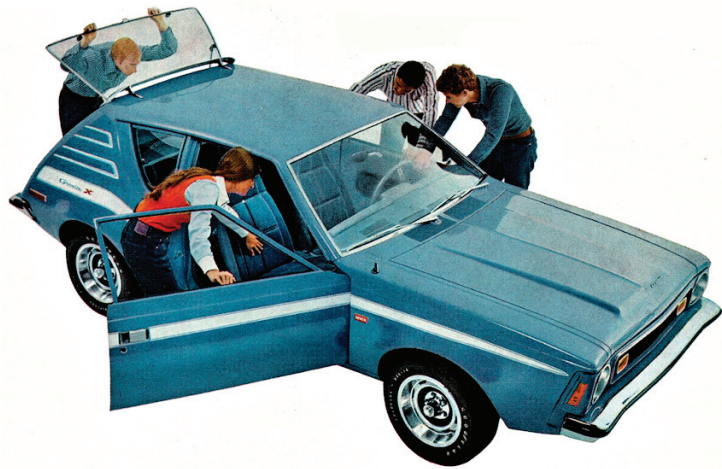
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



2005 T-Birds came in seven colors. With a low overall production total, each color is relatively limited: Torch Red (1846 total), Evening Black (1713), Cashmere (1500), Medium Steel Blue (1463), Bronze (1396), Platinum Silver (1295) and Inca Gold (82). (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

Load up your car and head out to one of these upcoming events in our area:



- New Monmouth Diner Cruise Nights, 1887 Rt. 35N - Mondays
- Crusie Night, Pienza Pizza @ Commons Three - August 28
- 10th Annual Holy Family Car Show, Watchogue Road - September 14
- SIRAACA 47th Annual Fall Show, Commons Cafe - September 15
- 6th Annual New Dorp Lane Car Show - September 29





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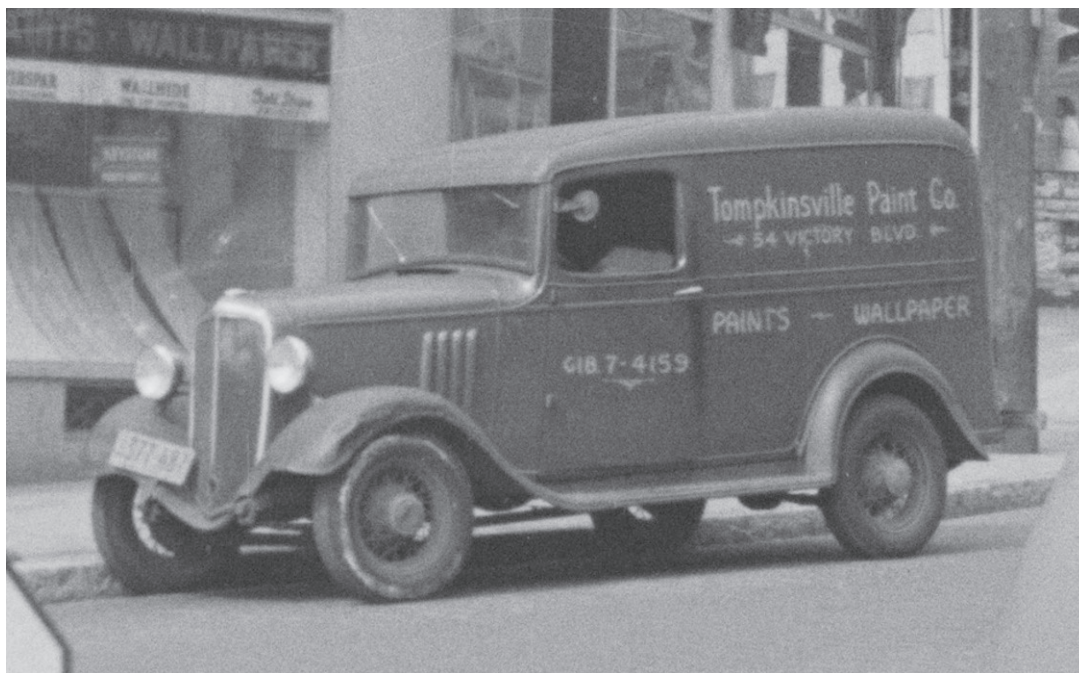


The SIRAACA Time Machine

Last month we asked you to identify a 1930's coupe that we ran into not once but twice on our Time Machine journeys. How many of you guessed it was a 1934 Plymouth? Good job if you did.

This month we pick up on the note that we also run into a lot of trucks that worked across the island providing goods and services to our residents. We feature a few of them here, captured during our Time Machine runs into the past. The top photo is of a 1936 Ford panel delivery, used by Beuschler Florist, which was located at 61 Beach Street in Stapleton. It has the tried and true Ford V-8, with emblems saying so just ahead of the louvers in the hood. The next one is the 1934 Chevrolet panel truck used by the Tompkinsville Paint Company, located at 54 Victory Boulevard. The unique four-lovered hood helps identify this one. Under that hood is Chevy's six-cylinder, advertised to operate more economically than the Ford.

We have started a new photo album on the club's Facebook page entitled "Trucks of Staten Island's Past". Over time, we will add more photos to that album and here as well. And yes, it has a picture of our grinding truck.



61 Beach Street appears to be a parking lot today. Afterwards, Beuschler's was at 587 Bay Street and operated by Donald Bruns. Bruns, who died in 2009, also taught his craft to people at Lifestyles for the Disabled, the same organization that prints our shirts and makes our jackets. The business appears to no longer exist.

If you drive up Victory from Bay Street and pass St. Paul's Avenue, 54 Victory is on the left as the road begins to curve in that direction. The paint store is long gone, and the address is now home to a Mexican market and a photo shop.

As always, if our readers know more about the businesses or people we mention while sharing our Time Machine journeys, please let us know. (photos courtesy of the NYC Municipal Archive)

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