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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

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• 47th Annual Fall Show Recap



Vintage Advertising

Auburn the color and Auburn the car appear together in this 1917 brochure cover for the Auburn Automobile Company founded in Auburn, Indiana. At least the founders weren't named Auburn - they were the Eckharts, who started as carriage builders in 1874.

By the time 1917 rolled around, Auburn was offering three lines of roadsters and tourings, ranging from the Model 6-39 (six cylinder, 39hp) and 6-44 to the Model 4-36 (you guessed it - 4 cylinder, 36hp). They wouldn't offer a closed car until the following year.

The Eckharts sold to investors in 1919, who in turn sold the company to E.L. Cord in 1925. Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg would build cars through 1937.

In This Issue

Recapping our 47th Annual Car Show

SIRAACA makes another donation and lands on the front page

The SIRAACA Garage welcomes a red-hot Plymouth

The SIRAACA Time Machine follows a lead to 1920's Water Street.

Did you know? In 1940, Auburn Automobile merged with Central Manufacturing and ended up building about half a million bodies for World War II Willys and Ford jeeps. Also, Auburn Automobile Company had a plant in Connerville, Indiana, formerly owned by the Lexington Motor Company (read on for more about Lexington).

Trivia Question: What was the first American front-wheel drive car to be offered to the public?

Answer: The Cord L-29, which came out in 1929 and beat Ruxton to the line by several months. Just 4,400 were sold before being discontinued in 1932.

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Minutes of the 580th Meeting

September 3, 2024

1. The 580th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:10 pm on August 6 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. Many members handed in raffle tickets ahead of our show. If any member still has some to turn in, please see Artie at the show, where he will separate those from what we sell that day. Members have accounted for \$3,910 so far.
3. There will be three beneficiaries receiving \$2,000 donations at our car show. They are Catholic Charities of Staten Island, Lou's Helping Hand Foundation, and Pitbulls & Addicts.
4. The rest of the meeting was spent doing a walkthrough of the upcoming show. Kevin Keenan will act as chief judge at the show and will assign judging teams their coverage. We should have enough teams that each will handle one parking aisle. Members were reminded about the peer voting process for cars 2010 and newer.
4. New directional signs were printed and will be used this year. In addition, there is a plan to use a video display in memory of Paul Sr. as well as a way to recognize our sponsors and donors.
5. Prior to the meeting, we had \$6,255 in trophy donations and a \$1,000 sponsorship made by the Verrazano Cadillac Club.
6. Upcoming events include Holy Family show on September 14, Clove Lake Home car display on September 21 and New Dorp Lane show on September 29.
7. We have helped an Advance reporter to pitch his editors to cover our show.
8. Phil gave a treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The 50/50 collected \$80. Larry Rossi won \$40.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE DIRECTORY 1922-23

19

Richmond Motor Sales Company, Inc.
Sales Agency for
Lexington Minute Man Six Columbia Six
26 Water St., Stapleton Phone Tompk. 2407

Big Turnout For Our 47th Annual Car Show

The Staten Island Region celebrated its 50th year at its 47th Annual Fall Car Show & Flea Market, drawing more than 450 vehicles and thousands of spectators. The show was held in memory of Paul Arena (Sr.) and featured his 1964 Riviera alongside the red carpet. Debuting this year was a new award named in his honor, which was presented to a vehicle that embodies his passion for excellence in restoration and preservation. The inaugural winner of the award was Joe Michelli's 1975 Mercury Cougar, an all original, super low-mileage, one owner automobile. Joining Joe on the red carpet were many other special award winners, including: Nelson Figueroa's 1968 Chevy El Camino (Best Truck), Alvin Cruz's 1957 Chevrolet (Best Custom Interior), Fred Provenzano's 1950 Lincoln (Best Modified Engine), Marc Heller's 1970 Pontiac GTO (Best Paint, Stock), and Phil DeCostanzo's 1969 Camaro (Best Paint, Modified). Four Best-in-Show awards were also presented on the red carpet. They were given to Dom Petruzelli's 1930 Ford Model A (Pre-War, Stock), Steve McNally's 1966 Ford Mustang (Post-War, Stock), Joe Esposito's 1934 Plymouth (Pre-War, Modified), and Mark Mannuzza's 1962 Pontiac Grand Prix (Post-War, Modified). Paul Jr. selected Marc DiPilato's 1971 Pontiac Trans Am as this year's winner of the President's Cup.

Prior to the award ceremony, the club held its drawing for the winner of this year's raffle car. Taking home the 1987 Camaro IROC-Z was Jeanine Vitale, whose husband was on hand showing his GTO among his Pontiac brethren. Following that, club Treasurer Phil Boffa presented a \$2,000 check to Claire Atalla of Catholic Charities of Staten Island and another \$2,000 check to Juliana Palazzolo-Pellicane of Lou's Helping Hand Foundation. A third donation for the same amount was announced for Pitbulls and Addicts, who could not be in attendance.

Hundreds of first, second and third place trophies were then handed out to car owners who scored more than 70, 80 or 90 points when judged. In addition, the top three vote getters among cars newer than 15 years old also won.



Top: 1968 Chevy El Camino won Best Truck (photos by Vincent Arena)



Above: 1934 Plymouth. Below: 1966 Mustang. Each won a Best in Show.



From the President

This year's show was extra special for me and my entire family, who were all on hand to help celebrate memories of my father. There are countless people to thank, starting with my wife Sandy, who pushed me to find a way to run a video slideshow tribute at our club tent. Thanks to her sister Soula who did the graphics for our 50th logo and the sponsor/donor slides that appeared among the photos. Thanks to my sister Barbara and her husband Paul for bringing dad's Riviera to the show (I'll tell you all the story about that car coming full circle car at a future meeting). Thanks to Lombardi & Sons for making the donation for the new Paul J. Arena Memorial Award, and to Tony DiAngelo for picking out its unique design. As always, thanks to each of you who worked ahead of and on the day of our show. I hope all of you get a great sense of accomplishment when you see how many people come out and enjoy what we've been doing for 47 years. We can all relax now and enjoy the remaining months of fall weather with our cars as the season winds itself down. -

- Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - October 15

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, October 15. 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.

SIRAACA Makes Donation

Club Vice-President Artie Guarnieri made a special visit to Pitbulls & Addicts on Main Street in Totenville to present founder Mike Favor with a check for \$2,000 in support of his rescue and recovery efforts. Mike had a prior commitment that kept him from joining us at our car show, and was overwhelmed by our choice to name his charity as one of our beneficiaries.



SIRAACA Makes Front Page

The Staten Island Advance was given the heads up about our club's 50th year as well as our 47th Annual Car Show, and through the efforts of reporter/photographer Owen Reiter, we scored major coverage of the event. Along with Monday's online article complete with 200 photos, we were front page news in the print edition on Tuesday. We later appeared in a recap in the Sunday paper, which also featured an article about our club's history.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

For many years, MoPar mania was always Hemi this and Hemi that. But the 426 cubic inch engine that came before the venerable Hemi was the Max Wedge 426. There's one that calls the SIRAACA Garage home now that member Danny Venuto owns this 1963 Plymouth Savoy with that super stock engine.

Wedge-heads were introduced by Chrysler in 1958 with 350 and 361 cubic inch versions. 1959 saw the larger 383 and 413 versions debut. Chrysler later enlarged the bore of their 413 to take advantage of NASCAR and NHRA displacement allowances in 1963, and the Dodge Ramcharger and Plymouth Super Stock 426's were born.

Danny's Savoy has the push-button TorqueFlite automatic. It's finished in Ditzler Paint Code PP-1, simply called "Red". Dog dish hubcaps on red steel wheels shod in blackwalls shout out "no nonsense" just in case you failed to notice the snarling scoops on the hood. This isn't Granny's Sunday-go-to-church car, unless Granny liked to get there faster than anyone else.

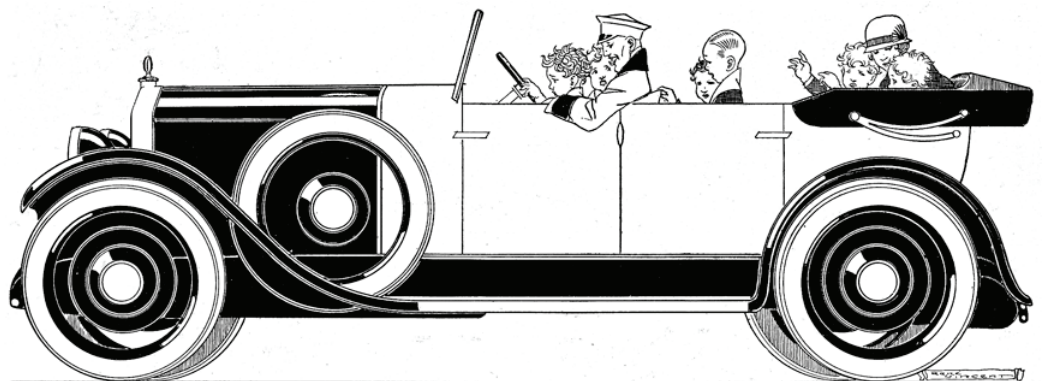
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



Plymouth's advertising in 1963 called them "clean, tough, tight and a tiger on the road". Ads also noted that they carried America's first 5-year warranty. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

Load up your car and head out to one of these upcoming events as the season winds down.



- Fall Carlisle Flea Market, Corral & Auction, Carlisle, PA - October 2-6
- AACA Eastern Fall National Meet, Hershey, PA - October 8-11
- Woodbridge Corvette Club 38th Annual Show, 600 Main St. - October 13



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The SIRAACA Time Machine

Richmond Motor Sales, as seen in the 1922 ad at the bottom of our minutes page, was a sales agent for Lexington automobiles, but also sold Columbia autos as we discovered after sending our Time Machine back to Water Street in 1924. Standing outside was Calvert Mills, one of the proprietors. The Advance advertisement seen below ran in 1921. Richmond Motor Sales also had a location around the same time on Castleton Avenue, so we drove over and found Calvert standing outside that dealership as well. We'll save that photo (and the car they were selling at that location) for another day. Richmond Motor Sales was gone sometime before 1928, as it has no listing in that year's phone book. Perhaps choosing to sell Lexington and Columbia autos wasn't such a sound business plan. Columbia closed shop in 1924, and Lexington did the same in 1927.

(photo courtesy of the SI Historical Society)



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New In Style—New In Value

There is no resisting the appeal of its rakish design and stunning color schemes. Your Lexington will look like a custom-built car, made to your special order.

You cannot understand why, a pronounced advancement has been made to attain more efficient, quiet, and ease-full performance until you drive the Lark!

With the famous Ansted Engine of unusually high valve-lift, which gives it extraordinary power, you have at your finger tips a range of performance and a record of economy that is unexcelled anywhere!

Ordinary engines of its size give only two-thirds of its power. Smaller engines fail to approach its economy.

It is because no other engine has valves that lift high like those of the Ansted Engine.

This great Ansted Engine, virtually vibrationless, with its constant temperature cooling and cooling, with the famous Lexi-gasifier and the Moore Multiple Exhaust System, indicates how wide is the margin of Lexington leadership.

Phone for demonstration, note.

Lexington
MINUTE MAN SIX

Richmond Motor Sales Co., Inc.
26 WATER ST., STAPLETON

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Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM



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