

Vol. 32, No. 4

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Apr 2025



• **Raffle Car for 2025: 2007 Mustang GT**

Special for Spring!



the beautiful Chrysler
GOLDEN FALCON

JIM MOLONEY
867 New York Dr.
Altadena, California

- SPECIAL PAINT
- SPECIAL UPHOLSTERY
- WIRE WHEELS
- WHITE SIDEWALL TIRES
- POWER STEERING
- POWER BRAKES
- POWERFLITE DRIVE
- SOLEX GLASS
- RADIO
- HEATER

This beautiful Chrysler is also available in another Spring Special . . . the BLUE BIRD . . . and a choice of many other color combinations and models. COME IN—SEE—DRIVE these beautiful Chryslers, ready for delivery NOW!

and look
THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP IS YOURS IN A *Beautiful Chrysler*

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Vintage Advertising

The arrival of spring gave auto makers a chance to boost sales with the release of special colors and trim to make current models seem new. Here are a pair of spring editions of Chrysler's 1954 New Yorker DeLuxe Newport coupe. There isn't much info found regarding these special offerings. The 1954 Chrysler was based on a design pushing six years old, yet one of their ad slogans was "Anything less is yesterday's car". A bit ironic.

Chrysler was selling well, however, by leading in the horsepower wars. A new engine that year topped all others at 235hp.

In This Issue

We have a raffle car

Antique cars from the 21st century

A club member who won at the very first Grand National Meet.

A club trip remembered in the The SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits Pier 13 in Stapleton 100 years ago.

Did you know? The Newport name was used for different purposes through the years at Chrysler. It debuted in 1940 on five phaeton show cars, and it returned in 1950 as a designation for any hardtop (pillarless) coupe. By 1961, it became a model of its own, running through 1981.

Trivia Question: In 1984, Chrysler almost revived the Newport as a more affordable version of their Fifth Avenue, but changed it to what model in the Dodge lineup instead?

Answer: The Dodge Diplomat SE.

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Minutes of the 583rd Meeting

March 4, 2025

1. The 583rd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:10 pm on March 4 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. Owen Reiter, who covered our car show and club anniversary for the Staten Island Advance, was our special guest. The club presented him with an acrylic award in a show of thanks for his efforts. He was greatly appreciative of the recognition.
3. Our raffle car this year is a 2007 Mustang GT convertible. Thanks to the many members who went out a few times to look at the car and negotiate a purchase. Raffle tickets are on order and will be available by the April meeting.
4. We will be co-hosting a "food cruise" at the Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto. The tentative dates are June 21 and June 22, from 12 noon to 4:00 pm. Early details on logistics were shared with the members.
5. Our site fees for our car shows have gone up by \$500 for 2025. As a reminder, the Spring Dust-Off is April 27, with a rain date of May 4.
6. We have been contacted by The Esplanade on Richmond Avenue to host a cruise for their residents. We've agreed, and will plan it after the Dust-Off.
7. Upcoming events include the New Jersey Region AACA's show on May 4 in East Hanover, Hot Rods & Harleys on May 10 and New Dorp High on June 1.
8. Congratulations to Frank Nathanson for an AACA Award of Distinction for our club's website, and to Paul Jr. for an Award of Excellence for our newsletter.
9. Phil gave a treasury report with all in order .
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. The 50/50 collected \$82. Chris Campanelli won \$41. Tony DiAngelo won a vintage styled radio and Owen won a number of donated books as door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Food Cruise Dates Changed

Please note that we remain on track to host a cruise-in at the Food Truck Festival at Mount Loretto, but the organizers have moved the event to a new set of dates. It is likely to be held from Friday, June 27 through Sunday, June 29. We will have our raffle car on site all three days and the cruise will be on Saturday and Sunday. More details to follow, so for now please pencil in those dates.

2000 is Antique

Remember when the idea of a 100-year old car was impossible, or darn near close to it? Remember when a 1899 De Dion-Bouton would be shown at Hershey and people would be amazed by a vehicle from a different century? Well the years have marched on without fail, and soon enough, a Model A Ford will be 100 years old. On the other end of the spectrum, the 25 year-old vehicle accepted by the AACA as antique this year is now a 2000 model. That means that national meets can now welcome the likes of the Toyota Prius, the Lincoln LS, and the Nissan Xterra SUV. You can even pull a trailer with your 2000 Ford Excursion and enter it alongside your other old car. Like most newbies, we'd expect the Class of 2000 to be super clean, low mileage survivors rather than restored automobiles. We look forward to see what shows up at Hershey this fall.

Raffle Tickets are Ready

We have raffle tickets printed for this year's car, the 2007 Mustang GT convertible seen on the cover of this newsletter. As it was last year, tickets are \$5.00 each, or five for \$20.00. We ask each member to sell a minimum of \$60 worth, which amounts to three sales if you get each buyer to take five chances. That should be super-easy, considering the options you might have with neighbors, family members, co-workers and other relationships you have with local merchants like your barber or butcher. Pick yours up at the April meeting.

Dust-Off Poster for 2025



This year's Spring Dust-Off poster features a 1946 Chrysler Town & Country convertible in honor of the 100th anniversary of Walter P. Chrysler's eponymous car company. It also features a Staten Island landmark officially known as the Ambrose Channel Range Light, but more familiarly known as the lighthouse on Lighthouse Hill. The poster was illustrated by long-time contributor Dennis Simone with input from Paul Arena. Copies will be printed by Far Better Printing in time to hand out at the April meeting, and members are encouraged to hang them up in local businesses to help advertise the show to car owners and spectators alike. We're open for ideas for the fall poster.

From the Editor

I'm switching hats and writing this month's column as the newsletter editor. I'm quite happy that once again that our newsletter has been given an Award of Excellence by the AACA. I hope that what I provide to each of you is informative and entertaining. As always, this is a newsletter for you but also about you. To that end, I continue to ask that you contribute ideas, photos, stories, etc. that I can use to easily fill these columns each month. There are a good number of newer members who have yet to have their vehicle featured in The SIRAACA Garage. All it takes is a good photo or two, some details about the car and its personal history. You don't even have to own the car anymore. We can feature cars you once had, even if it was new when you bought it 30 years ago. In addition, if you attend a local car show or cruise night, send me some pictures and a recap of the event. I'm always open to ideas as well. The SIRAACA Time Machine was born out of an idea that Mike Gorgia had about old dealerships on Staten Island. Appreciate the help as always in making this what it is. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - April 8

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, April 8. 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.

The First Annual Grand National Meet

In the late 1970's, the AACA's board of directors wondered about a new national show for only the best of the best. A few years later, the first AACA Grand National Meet was held on July 25, 1980 in Clarks Summit, PA. A total of 173 AACA Senior Cars took the field that day. Of the 155 that received an inaugural Grand National Award, one belonged to a SIRAACA member. Our very own Andy Cannizzo won a First Place with his 1931 Ford Model A400 (photo below). Perhaps you aren't familiar with such a Model A? Technically a convertible sedan, the A400 was introduced on May 22, 1931. What makes this body style unique is that a rigid top rail extends from the A-pillar over the door and quarter windows and swoops down to the belt moulding. This meant that when the convertible top was put down, the upper structure remained in place. Domestic production of the A400 was limited to 4864 units through December 1931.



Award of Excellence
2024



From the SIRAACA Archive

A find of AACA national magazines from the 1970's through the 1990's led to the discovery of a number of items featuring SIRAACA activities. Here's a photo from the club's trip to AACA headquarters in 1984.

The accompanying note reads, "Thirty-two members of the AACA Staten Island Region chartered a bus and visited the AACA National Headquarters in Hershey, Pennsylvania on August 4, 1984. Members were warmly greeted by Executive Director Bill Bomgardner; Jean Bomgardner, office manager; and Kim Miller, librarian. Following the tour and a picnic lunch at National headquarters, the group went to Hershey Park."

Yours truly is in the back, second head to the right of the pole. Current members in this photo include Phil Boffa, Tony DiAngelo and Kevin Keenan. Others include Paul Arena, Birger Nilsen, Dan Daly, Lou Costanza, Kenny Haase, Ed Mauriello, Fred Schwarzrock, Rich McCluskey and Victor Losquadro. Can you spot them?

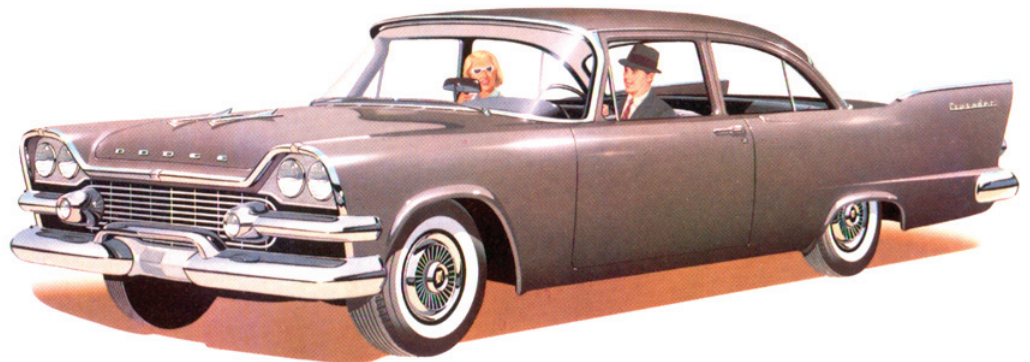
The SIRAACA Archive is a treasure trove of old photos, articles and artifacts that represent our club's history dating back to our founding in 1974. These are not centrally collected, but in the hands of the many members past and present. If you have something from the past that you'd like to share here,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



AACA Staten Island Region members at National Headquarters.

Upcoming Events

Grab your friends and family, load up your car, and head out to enjoy one of these upcoming events.



- Spring Carlisle Flea Market & Car Corral, Carlisle, PA - April 23-27
- SIRAACA 18th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 27
- 43rd Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - May 2-4
- NJRAACA 72nd Annual Car Show, Nielsen Ford, Morristown - May 4
- 22nd Annual Hot Rods & Harleys, Rahway, NJ - May 10
- 10th Annual New Dorp High School Car Show - June 1



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The SIRAACA Time Machine



photos courtesy of the NYC Municipal Archives

Our Time Machine stumbled upon Stapleton's Pier 13 in 1925 in our hunt for old cars. Imagine our surprise when we found what looks like a trainload of Model T "knock-down" kits crated up and most likely on their way to that cargo ship at the dock. The kits included most of the parts needed to assemble a car, and were shipped out of Ford's River Rouge factory to Branch Assembly locations, including those in Europe and beyond. We are trying to connect the dots here, knowing that the old North Shore line crossed over the Arthur Kill onto mainland New Jersey. Let's assume these originated in Michigan before ending up here on their final stop before going abroad. Imagine finding an unopened one today? By the way, in the bottom right corner of the top photo you'll see the car used by New York City workers or contractors who were conducting official business. Referred to as a "taxi" in the city records, much of the fleet were special bodied Model T's. A photo of such a car is at the right.



This monthly feature began in 2020 as temporary filler for missing content due to government lockdowns in response to Covid. It's turned into a regular feature still going strong as we head into 2025 and we hope that you are enjoying these trips back in time. Feel free to send in your comments, requests or additional information.

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