

Vol. 32, No. 5

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

May 2025



• **Dust-Off Recap and Results**



# OLDSMOBILE SETS THE PACE.



## AGAIN.



**And celebrates  
with a special edition 1977 Delta 88  
you can drive.**



1949. The 33rd running of the Indy 500. An Oldsmobile 88 with the revolutionary new high-compression V8 engine is chosen as the official pace car.

1960. Jim Rathmann wins at Indy with a speed of 138.76 mph. Jim started that race following an Oldsmobile 98 pace car.

1970, 1972, 1974—Oldsmobile Cutlass is repeatedly honored as the official Indianapolis 500 pace car.

And Oldsmobile returns to Indy this year.

A specially modified Delta 88 will lead the pack of 33 as they head out for the 61st running of America's most famous auto race. This makes

Oldsmobile the only car manufacturer in history to pace the 500 six times.

To mark the event, Oldsmobile is producing a special limited-edition Delta 88 for your own personal street use. And it looks just like the official pace car. Special silver and black paint package. Raised white letter radials. Big 15-inch super stock wheels with red paint accents. Sport steering wheel. Sport mirrors. You can even order a vinyl top or official pace car decals.

And it's all powered by a 403 V8 engine.

Stop by your Olds dealer and ask him about this special edition Delta 88. And take a look at all the other 88's, too.



**Oldsmobile**  
Can we build one for you?

## Vintage Advertising

Oldsmobile was on a pace car roll in the 1970's with a Cutlass leading the Indy 500 field in 1970. '72 and '74. They'd return again in 1977, but this time with the newly downsized Delta 88. Jim Garner drove the pace car that day, and Oldsmobile reportedly produced 2,400 replicas for public sale. The pace car package cost \$914, and included special silver and black paint with red accents, red Super Stock wheels with white lettered tires and a 403 Rocket V-8. Options included a black vinyl top, split bench seat and a \$40 decal package to decorate the doors and sail panels.

## In This Issue

Results and recap of the Spring Dust-Off

Dash Magnet feature car

Hot Rods & Harleys is May 10 - volunteers needed.

A designer edition Lincoln pulls into The SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine asks Dr. Goodwin if he bought his Hupmobile from Cornell

Did you know? Oldsmobile paced the Indy 500 eleven times, starting in 1949. They also ran a Calais in '85, a Cutlass in '88, an Aurora in '97 and 2000, and a Bravada in '01. The Bravada was the first SUV to do so.

*Trivia Question: What make of car served as the first Indy 500 pace car in 1911?*

*Answer: A Stoddard-Dayton, which returned to pace the Indy 500 again in 1913 and 1914. A Stutz paced the 1912 race.*



# Minutes of the 584th Meeting

## April 8, 2025

1. The 584th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:10 pm on April 8 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. Spring Dust-Off posters were handed out to members to help advertise the upcoming show. They feature a 1948 Chrysler Town & Country in honor of 100 year of Chrysler. We will have a special trophy for Chrysler this year as well.

3. Plans for all efforts leading up to and on the day of the dust-off were reviewed. Members are asked to be on site that morning between 6:00 and 6:30 and wear their Show Staff shirts.

4. Our grinding truck has been outfitted with new tires and given a mechanical check up. It will be parked on site the day before the show.

5. Our cruise to Mt. Loretto's Food Truck Festival is scheduled for the last weekend in June. Raffle car will be on hand starting on Friday night, June 27. Two cruises will be held, each for up to 100 cars, on Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 12-4. Special awards will be presented each day.

6. There will be a restaurant crawl on New Dorp Lane that might afford us an opportunity to display some cars and sell raffles. More to come.

7. Hot Rods & Harleys is set for May 10. This is both a raffle car event and a paid judging event, with volunteers needed for both.

8. After the Dust-Off, we will plan a car display/cruise for the residents of the Esplanade on Richmond Avenue.

9. The spring dash magnet features Joe D'Amore's 1993 Caddy. Anthony Faulisi's 1969 Mustang will be on the fall magnet.

10. Congratulations to Artie Guarnieri on the purchase of a 1988 Lincoln Mark VII Bill Blass edition.

10. Phil gave a treasury report with all in order.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The 50/50 collected \$86. Frank Provenzano won \$43.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## SIRAACA Holds its 18th Annual Spring Dust-Off

Despite overcast skies and steady winds that chilled the air, 241 vehicles came out to participate in our 18th Annual Spring Dust-Off. Along with many of our usual attendees, it was great to see so many first-timers on hand. A number of them ended up winning a trophy and driving their cars up during our ceremony at the end of the show. We presented Decade Awards to ten winners this year, including a 1938 Dodge, Joe Canovas' 1949 Cadillac, Ralph Torres' 1954 Chevrolet, Billy Bruno's 1969 Chevrolet Camaro, Sal Richichi's 1978 Cadillac Eldorado, John Darpa's 1981 Cadillac Eldorado Hess & Eisenhart convertible, Rick Vasta's 1991 Cadillac Sedan deVille, Vittoriano Martinez' 2009 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500KR, Eric Harason's 2018 Dodge Challenger and John Kolbaska's 2022 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500. In addition, we presented awards across several other categories, including Outstanding Ford (Joe Michilli's 1975 Cougar), MoPar (Tommy Smith's 1974 Plymouth NYPD Patrol Car), GM (Nelson's 1957 Chevrolet 210), Corvette (Dan Spelango's 1978), Cadillac (Shawn Lipstein's 1985 Coupe), Orphan (1953 Mercury), Best (Pepe's 1977 VW Beetle), Survivor (Bobby Annunziato's 1964 Cadillac), Future Collectible (Jim Pace's 2024 Cadillac CT5 V Blackwing), Truck (Nick Heineman's 1992 GMC Sonoma), and Custom (Jimmy Cuadrado's 1991 Honda Accord). This year's special awards were Class of 1975 (Anthony Cammaroto's 1975 Corvette) and 100 Years of Chrysler (Steve D.'s 1962 Chrysler 300). Two Best in Shows were also awarded, to Dom Petruzelli's 1930 Ford Model A Coupe and David Nilsen's 1962 Chevy Impala (build by our own Al Yarusinky). There were many other interesting cars in attendance, including a 1974 VW Karmann Ghia, and a rare 1972 Buick Centurion convertible, with a license plate pointing out it was 1 of 2396. In all, there was something for everyone to enjoy, including a 50/50 prize of \$440 that was handed out ahead of the trophies. This event also marked the public debut of our raffle car, which took in \$1,370. While that is down from last year's \$2035, it is on par with the year prior, where we had a rain delayed start to our show.





## From the President

Another season is underway now that our Spring Dust-Off is in the books. The weather was off just enough to keep some folks at home, but we still had a good turnout of cars (241). The spectator gate was down, which affects raffle and 50/50 sales and food receipts. While we wait to learn the amount of the cafe donation to us, we still made a profit and will discuss the figures at the May meeting. Thank you to all who helped out leading up to and on the day of the show. Our experience shows when things run pretty smoothly, yet we are always looking for ways to improve, so all feedback will be welcome. We have another key event approaching on May 10, when we volunteer our time to help the folks who run Hot Rods & Harleys in Rahway. It's a raffle car appearance as well as a judging effort. We will receive a \$1000 donation for our help as well as a hopefully strong day of ticket sales (last year we topped \$1,800). I hope to see many of you there to help at this event. After that, it'll be a big weekend at Mt. Loretto with our Food Cruise. - Paul Jr.

### Award of Excellence 2024



## - NEXT MEETING - May 6

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, May 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.

## 2025 Spring Dust-Off Dash Magnet

SIRAACA member Joe D'Amore had his 1993 Cadillac Sixty Special featured on this year's Spring Dust-Off dash magnet. The first 200 vehicles in attendance were given one upon entry, and we have more to present all of our members at the May meeting. Next up is Anthony Faulisi's 1969 Mustang, which will be featured on the fall magnet. We'll continue to work our way through the roster towards the more recent members.



## Hot Rods & Harleys is May 10

Our club will require strong turnout for the upcoming Hot Rods & Harleys show in Rahway on Saturday, May 10. We will have our raffle car on site and be selling tickets. In addition, we need a good number of "judges" to select their trophy winners. In return, the organizers donate \$1000 to the club for their help. Details on where we will meet for the ride out and where we will stage before entering will be shared at the May meeting. Please join us.

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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Artie Guarnieri has completed his tri-  
fecta of Ford products by adding this  
1988 Lincoln Mark VII Bill Blass Edi-  
tion alongside his Thunderbird, LTD  
and Mercury within the SIRAACA  
Garage.

This unrestored car has just 52,000  
miles on its 5.0 liter (302ci) V-8. It's  
a Staten Island car, purchased from  
the original owner, and was last reg-  
istered in 2005.

Bill Blass editions that year featured  
monogrammed interiors in either  
Shadow Blue or Sandalwood (which  
Artie's has). Leather trimmed seating  
was standard, cloth was optional.

Mark VII's were produced between  
1984 and 1992, with peak production  
in 1988 at 38,259 units. Perhaps that  
year's newly introduced 225 hp 5.0  
H.O. that was shared with the Mus-  
tang GT had something to do with it.  
Aside from the luxury-oriented Bill  
Blass Edition, buyers could opt for  
the performance-oriented LSC. Both  
were priced the same.

Does Artie have an Edsel in his fu-  
ture? Perhaps the calling of a Ford  
superfecta will lure him someday.

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all  
of our members' cars, past and pres-  
ent. 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.



*The 1988 Lincoln Mark VII brochure indicates that the Bill Blass Edition came in a choice of seven colors. Artie's is painted Midnight Black Clearcoat, one of only two non-metallic shades (the other is Arctic White). An early color offering called Crystal Clearcoat Metallic was replaced later in the run by Silver Frost Clearcoat Metallic. (photo courtesy of Artie Guarnieri)*

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## Upcoming Events

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



- 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
- Kean University Inaugural Car Show, Union, NJ - May 17
- Nam Knights Car & Bike Show, Carlstadt, NJ - May 18
- 10th Annual New Dorp High School Car Show - June 1







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# The SIRAACA Time Machine

Last month we visited Pouch's Hupmobile agency in the early 1920's. We wondered if there was an earlier location to buy a Hupmobile, because we had recently taken our Time Machine way back to 1910 or so to visit with Dr. Henry T. Goodwin in Stapleton. The good doctor is seen here in his early Hupmobile Model 20 Runabout. We date our visit between 1910 and 1912 based on the license plate seen on the big touring car in the garage behind him. We grabbed a bunch of old Staten Island Advance ads for dealers at that time, and found that Cornell Motor Car Co. was likely his sales distributor.



*photo courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society*

**1914**  
*Hupmobile*



We believe this new Hupmobile to be the Best car of its class in the world. Long stroke motor of wonderful durability, oversize tires, demountable rims, Westinghouse electric starter, electric lights. Completely equipped. **\$1,200** f. o. b. Detroit.

**CORNELL MOTOR CAR CO.**  
STATEN ISLAND DISTRIBUTORS  
CADILLAC AND HUPMOBILE  
438-440 Richmond Avenue  
Phone 910 W. B. Port Richmond

Advance advertisement from 1914 showing a new Hupmobile touring car available for \$1,500.

We've visited with Cornell through the years already, well known as the established Cadillac dealership on the Island before becoming Hosler Cadillac and then Crest Cadillac. We traced Cornell's business history back to W.W. Cornell's bicycle shop at 113 Richmond Terrace back in 1904. Further research shows that in 1909, W.W. was the Staten Island agent for Maxwell at that address. He was still selling Maxwell cars as Cornell Motor Car Co. on (Port) Richmond Avenue in 1912, along with Columbia automobiles and Sampson trucks. Yet it was Cadillac that would persist and pay his bills. Columbia stopped making cars in 1910, Sampson in 1911, and Maxwell in 1925 (they were the forerunner to Chrysler). Hupp held on until 1940, but it was likely gone from the Cornell line by the time Pouch began selling them. The ad at left from 1914 shows one of four Hupmobile autos available that year. Along with the a six-passenger touring car, they offered a smaller tourer, a two-passenger roadster and a three-passenger coupe. All were powered by a 32 hp four-cylinder engine, hence the Model 32 designation.

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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