

Vol. 32, No. 8

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2025



• *A Cruise to the Esplanade*



# HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR VEGA?



Notchback Coupe



Hatchback Coupe



Hatchback GT



Kammback



Kammback GT



Panel Express

## MODELS

- ☐ Notchback Coupe
- ☐ Hatchback Coupe
- ☐ Hatchback GT
- ☐ Kammback
- ☐ Kammback GT
- ☐ Panel Express
- ☐ Notchback LX
- ☐ Estate Wagon

## ENGINES

- ☐ Standard engine 72-hp Vega OHC 140
- ☐ Available engine 85-hp Vega OHC 140-2

## TRANSMISSIONS

- ☐ 3-speed manual (standard)
- ☐ 4-speed manual
- ☐ Powerglide
- ☐ Turbo Hydra-matic

## COLORS

- ☐ Medium Blue
- ☐ Medium Bronze Metallic
- ☐ Chamois
- ☐ Midnight Green
- ☐ Light Orange
- ☐ Medium Red
- ☐ Silver Metallic
- ☐ Light Yellow
- ☐ Medium Green Metallic
- ☐ White

## INTERIOR

- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Custom

## EXTERIOR

- ☐ Standard
- ☐ Custom
- ☐ Body side stripes (Hatchback only)

## INTERIOR-EXTERIOR

- ☐ Decor Group (Notchback only)

## POPULAR EXTRAS

- ☐ Power steering
- ☐ Air conditioning
- ☐ AM pushbutton radio
- ☐ AM/FM pushbutton radio
- ☐ Wheel trim rings
- ☐ White stripe tires
- ☐ Adjustable driver's seat
- ☐ Electro-Clear window defroster



All 1973 Vega engines are equipped with advanced exhaust emission control systems, and are designed to operate efficiently on all regular grade gasoline, including low-lead or no-lead. In addition to the lower exhaust emissions attainable, there are benefits in longer life for your spark plugs, exhaust system and other engine components. If these no-lead, low-lead gasolines are not available, any regular grade gasoline with a research octane number of 91 or higher may be used. All illustrations and specifications contained in this literature are based on the latest product information available at the time of publication approval. The right is reserved to make changes at any time without notice in prices, colors, materials, equipment, specifications and models and to discontinue models. Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Michigan 48202. Litho in U.S.A.

Building a better way to see the U.S.A. 

January, 1973

2229 Rev.

## Vintage Advertising

The Chevy Vega started out as *Motor Trend's* Car of the Year in 1971. Later that year, a *Car & Driver* poll named it the best economy sedan. That poll said the same of the Vega in 1972, and in 1973 it was named *Motor Trend's* Economy Car of the Year.

Those awards meant little considering that the Vega was eventually plagued with a host of issues affecting safety and durability, not to mention that they were quick to rust. 1977 marked the end of the Vega, which topped 2 million units in total built in its seven model years. When was the last time you saw one?

## In This Issue

SIRAACA brings the cars to The Esplanade

Next year's raffle car

Working on an old-timer

A predecessor to our red carpet winners in The SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine finds some Studebakers for sale at a still familiar location.

*Trivia Question: What were the six factory performance Mustang models available in 1969?*

*Answer: The GT, Boss 302, Boss 429, Shelby GT350, Shelby GT500, and Mach 1. The Mach 1 killed the GT in sales, sending that badge into retirement until 1982.*

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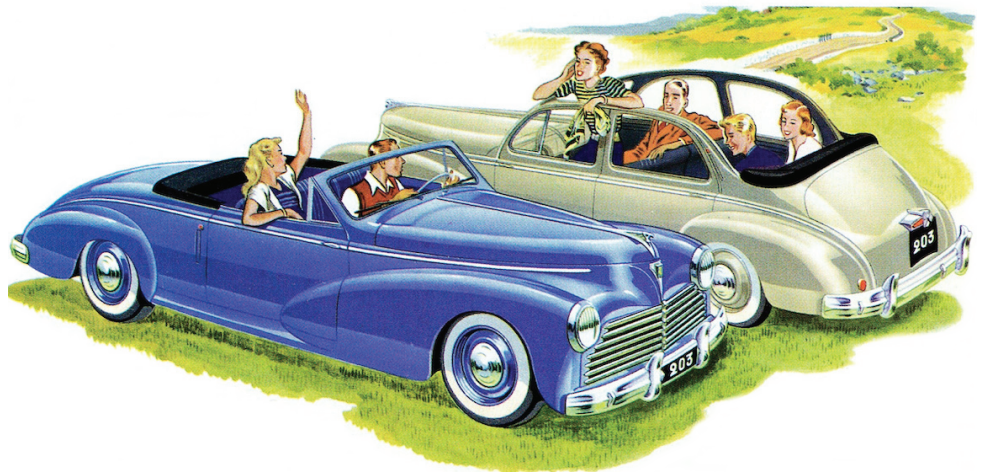


# Minutes of the 587th Meeting

## July 8, 2025

1. The 587th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:05 pm on July 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. Several members attended the Frank Provenzano Jr. street renaming ceremony and reported on the event.
3. Members who attended the car show at All-American Ford recapped the event. The raffle car was on hand and took in \$705 despite a rain delay.
4. The Cruise to the Esplanade has been postponed to July 17 due to weather concerns.
5. Details on our trophy donation efforts were shared as we get closer to our fall show. Paul will email out to our members the list of last year's donors as a checklist. Please consider new donors as well.
6. We hope to partner with Mt. Loretto on upcoming fall events, particularly if we have a raffle car for next year by October. We'll meet with them again to discuss.
7. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report.
8. Car show posters for the fall show were available and handed out to help advertise our event. It features a 1956 Ford Crown Victoria parked outside the old Victory Diner.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The 50/50 collected \$67. Enrico Ferrara won \$34.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary





## Wonderful Hospitality at The Esplanade

An organized display of about 20 cars for the senior residents of The Esplanade took place on Thursday, July 17. The parking area directly outside the building's entrance allowed for easy access as residents were brought down for an up close look at the cars and a chance to chat with their owners about the memories they stirred. Our hosts provided free hot dogs, hamburgers, water, beer, soda and wine as a generous outpouring of hospitality to say thank you. It is likely we will set up a couple of return dates, with additional room available for a larger display. On hand with cars from our club was Artie Guarnieri, Jerry Esposito, Mike DiPilato, Tony DiAngelo, and Chris Campanelli. Familiar faces from the Verrazano Cadillac Club, the Pontiac Club and SIKK were on hand as well.



Above: Chris Campanelli sits alongside Jerry Esposito's '65 Impala and Artie Guarnieri's '79 Thunderbird.



Left: A pair of cars on display, one well-known, another uncommon. Next to the "bandit" Trans Am is a 2002 Toyota Solara. The owner has it since new, as evidenced by the license plate GOTRNEW. Despite having more than 140,000 miles on its odometer, it was in excellent shape. It was the owner's first time doing something with the hobby here on the Island, yet he was familiar with cruise nights such as Somerville. We suggested he check out Sunday mornings in Great Kills.

(photos by Paul Jr.)

## 2026 Raffle Car\*

An opportunity to acquire next years raffle car came up recently and a number of members got together to make several visits with the seller to consider buying the car, a white 2005 Mustang fastback coupe. It features black American Racing wheels, blacked out taillights and trunk panel, and black quarter window louvers. Under the hood features a number of aftermarket upgrades for additional power out of the V-6 engine, and all of the seats are redone in brand new tan upholstery. The car presents even better than our current one, and after negotiating the sale price down to \$8,000, we pulled the trigger. Unless something changes between now and our show, this is our raffle car for 2026. We look forward to a jump start in ticket sales with appearances on New Dorp Lane and Mount Loretto fall events.





## From the President

We all know that this time of year is car show planning time, and a key effort is securing trophy donations and sponsorships in support of our show. For the longest time, trophy donors were folks with businesses, and the donation was a means to advertise themselves. While that remains the majority of our donors, we've seen an increase in individuals who donate in support of a cause or in memory of a lost loved one. These new donations expand our audience and further help us cover the cost of our trophies. We have some very big ones come in from this category that we'll announce at the next meeting. Hopefully we'll have some more that will come in between now and then.

Keep in mind that we're going to have this year's raffle car on hand on New Dorp Lane for their Annual Food Crawl on Sunday, September 7. The event runs from 2:00 to 5:00 and will give us one last appearance with the car ahead of our fall show. More details to follow at the next meeting. - Paul Jr.



## - NEXT MEETING - August 12

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, August 12. 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.

## Getting a Family Member Rolling Again

Many of our members recall Paul Arena's 1948 Dodge four door sedan, but haven't seen it out and about for a good number of years. Now in the care of his son Paul Jr., the car requires some mechanical work, some new tires, and some TLC to get rolling again. The car was purchased by Paul Sr. back in 1969 for \$250 (I have that bill of sale), and it's been involved in every family milestone since then. With Bruce Campbell's help, Paul is confident that they can fix the fuel issue, which seems isolated to a broken flex line between the pump and the line on the chassis. Mike Gorgia graciously donated a set of original style rims to the cause, which are being restored at Izzo's Garage. Original hubcaps from Robert's Motor Parts and new white-walls from Coker Tire, some new chrome plating, and some brake work should get it ready for the next family milestone.





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## From the SIRAACA Archive

As the years go by and newer cars become older cars, we don't see many pre-war cars at our shows. Even the term pre-war, which uses WWII as a benchmark, is a term being lost among new generations. Flash back to 1998 and our 22nd annual show to view a more common pre-war car that won Best of Show. It's a 1931 Ford Model A coupe.

That show was held at the Petrides School, whose layout consisted of an upper lot for show cars, and a lower level for our trophy presentation. Winners drove up to receive their trophies, which were limited to three per class, while spectators sat on the grass slope alongside the road.

Tony DiAngelo can be seen (in sunglasses) leaning towards the driver, while Frank Nathanson can be seen manning a VHS camera from a raised platform in the background. Hey Frank, do you still have that tape?

We always had a good amount of Model A's at our shows. We'll try and research the owner of this one.

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.

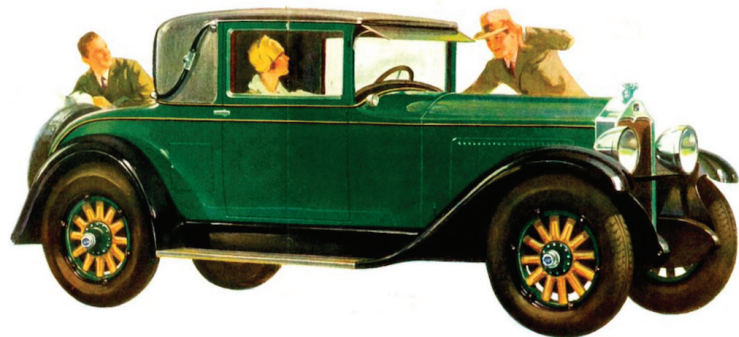


*This 1931 Ford took Best of Show at the 22nd Annual Staten Island Region Show on September 13, 1998. Approximately 325 vehicles and 25 flea market vendors participated. There was judging in 19 categories with multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophy awards. (Victor Losquadro)*

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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.



- Cruise Night at Sunrise Senior Living, New Dorp Lane - August 16
- Corvettes at Carlisle, Carlisle, PA - August 21-23
- Dead Mans Curve Wild Weekend 14, Somerset, NJ - August 28-31
- Lead East. Parsippany Hilton, Parsippany, NJ - August 27-31
- New Dorp Lane Food Crawl (raffle car event) - September 7
- 48th Annual SIRAACA Fall Show, Commons Cafe - September 14
- AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey PA - October 7-10





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## The SIRAACA Time Machine

The SIRAACA Time Machine practically runs on auto-pilot if we dial in a destination of 1940 or so because of the large collection of photos we use as our travel guide. This is Great Kills Motor Sales (its painted name barely legible on its central facade). Their ad at right ran in the Advance in 1943, when saving tires and gas was a national priority. The car in the middle window may be a 1941 Studebaker, as it appears to have a split grille and three bumperettes. How many of you recognize this building? It's still in use today, but for another automotive purpose.

For those of you waiting for confirmation on your guesses, last month's photos of Richmond Auto Parts featured a Model A Ford and a 1933 Chrysler, as well as an early 1970's Dodge pick-up.

**Right now your best buy is a  
tire-saving, gas-saving  
Used Studebaker**

**Brilliantly engineered and  
soundly constructed**

**GOOD** used cars of all popular makes are still available at Studebaker dealers. But if you want the kind of used car that will really save your tires and conserve your gasoline, the most advisable buy is a late-model used Studebaker Champion, Commander or President.

Remember, you need no special authorization of any kind in order to buy a used Studebaker or any of the other good used cars in our stocks.

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HONEYWOOD 6-0612

Keep your car up to par with Studebaker service  
Drive in frequently and have your car inspected, no matter what make it is. Efficient mechanics will do your work quickly and at moderate cost. Don't wait till trouble starts. Let Studebaker experts check your car regularly and "keep it rolling" for Victory.

BUY U.S. WAR BONDS



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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