

Vol. 32, No. 10

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

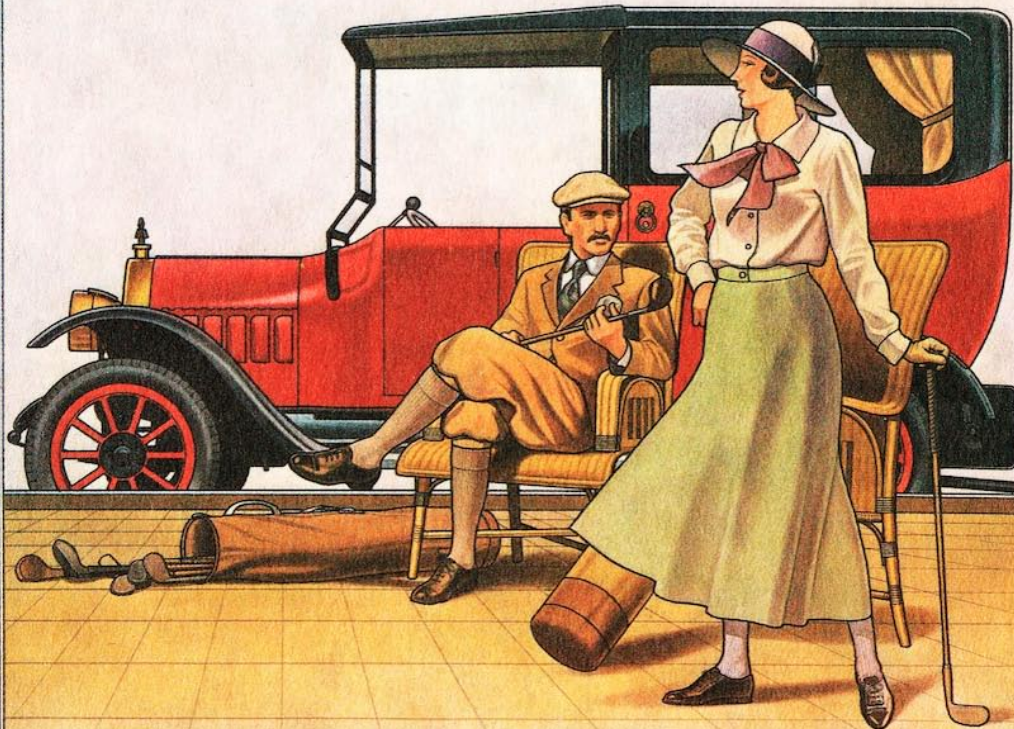
Oct 2025



• 48th Annual Car Show Recap

The MITSUBISHI 1917 MODEL-A

The all-new Mitsubishi Model A. It's revolutionary. The finest blend of maximum comfort, maximum efficiency and maximum road performance. Easy shifting. Light predictable steering. Smooth acceleration. Tremendous speed! Safe and sure braking. Elegant coachwork. Luxury appointments. No other fine car is quite like the new Mitsubishi Model A.



 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORPORATION
No. 33-8, Shiba 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Vintage Advertising

If we told you we were running an ad for a Model A, you'd guess Ford. If we told you we were running an ad for a Japanese car, you probably wouldn't think it was for a car from the teens. Yet here is an ad for a 1917 Mitsubishi Model-A. Who knew?

This was Japan's first production auto, a hand-built, seven-passenger town car based on the Fiat Tipo 3. It was powered by a 2.8 liter four cylinder engine that put out 35 horsepower.

It was extremely expensive to produce, falling victim to cheaper American and European alternatives. Only 22 were ever built between 1917 and 1921. Mitsubishi wouldn't build another passenger car until 1960.

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Our 48th Annual Car Show

2026 raffle car debut on the Lane

Getting ready to pick pumpkins in the SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine tries to find a Rosebank Essex dealer

Did you know? The interior rear compartment of the Mitsubishi Model-A was furnished in laquered white cypress.

Trivia Question: What Plymouth model debuted in purple only, later adding yellow, red, black, orange metallic and silver to its color palette?

Answer: The Prowler, which came out as a 1998 model. There was also a Black Tie Edition in 2001 that was black over silver two-tone.

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Minutes of the 589th Meeting

September 2, 2025

1. The 589th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:00 pm on September 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. Members that attended Dead Man's Curve Wild Weekend and Lead East spoke about the events.
3. We plan to have our raffle car out one last time before our show after receiving an invitation to attend the New Dorp Lane Food Crawl on September 7, from 2:00-5:00 pm.
4. The Holy Family Car Show will be held on September 13.
5. We will put on a small display of antique cars for the residents of Clove Lakes Rehab Center on September 20, from 10:00 am until noon.
6. The majority of the meeting was spent going over the final planning and walkthroughs for our upcoming car show. This included a new element of our trophy presentations in conjunction with the donations in memory of Amanda Lipstein.
7. We have contacted the Staten Island Advance and expect coverage of our show again this year.
8. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm. The 50/50 collected \$94 and Joe D'Amore won \$47.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



SIRAACA 48th Annual Show

A smaller than usual turnout of show cars didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those in attendance nor the excitement of those who were invited up to receive a special award at our 48th annual car show on September 14. Approximately 350 vehicles were on the field, with several reasons confirmed or surmised as to why. While the lower attendance was felt at the gate and had a trickle down effect on other receipts like raffles or food, it did allow us to complete judging with time to spare to enjoy the show as a spectator as well. The ever-popular 1957 Chevy Bel Air dominated the red carpet this year, with four different ones called up to receive special awards: Vito Rutigliano for Best Paint, Modified; Bill Marchese for Best Interior, Modified; Lou Chierchia for Best Engine, Modified; and Alvin Cruz for Best in Show, Post-War Modified. Best in Show, Pre-War Modified was given to Joe Esposito's 1934 Plymouth. The Best in Show, Stock awards went to Lou Dujmich and his 1937 Ford Phaeton, and Ray Vellucci and his 1992 Cadillac Sedan deVille. The Paul J. Arena Memorial Award was presented to John Belmonte's 1966 Mustang Fastback, recognizing its excellent restoration to factory-correct standards. The President's Cup went to a 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass 442 W-30 owned by Chris Giardina. Forty first place trophies donated in memory of Amanda Lipstein were presented to judged winners that were selected as favorites by a number of folks associated with Lifestyles for the Disabled. Earlier on, the club presented that organization with a donation of \$2,000, with another \$2,000 presented to Catholic Charities of Staten Island. Before the awards were given out, the raffle car drawing was held. The winning ticket for the 2007 Mustang GT convertible was #2022, and lucky winner Rick Romanek was present to claim his prize. Bruce Campbell sold him the winning ticket earlier in the year. All in all, members sold \$10,150 worth of tickets. Top sellers included Mike Gorgia (\$3,505), Tony Ventrice (\$1,400), Anthony Faulisi (\$710) and Bruce Campbell (\$510). Together with our shows and other events, raffle sales totaled \$19,870, with profit yet to be finalized.



ABOVE: An Excalibur, styled to look old when new and now old itself. (photo by Paul Jr.)



ABOVE: Best Engine winner. BELOW: The second winner of the Paul J. Arena Memorial Trophy. (photos by Vincent Arena)



From the President

Alas, once again I'm missing Hershey this year, and I'm really bummed about it. To make it worse, I am reminded of how awesome it is directly through my phone as I see posts from throughout the AACA universe take up my Facebook and Instagram feeds. I think back to the old routines our big Staten Island group had. A day at the flea market, another in the car corral, a stop to rest at the old stadium to watch the race car condition runs and the highwheeler races. Early morning of show day, wiping down the cars, prepping the details to impress the judges, and meeting old and new friends strolling the field. Waiting patiently to get a photo of a rare car surrounded by onlookers, back when film was a necessity and you had only so many pics on the roll. Olive Garden Thursday night, Hollywood Casino Buffet Friday night, and laughs around the tables as everyone talked about their day. Waiting in back at the awards dinner and getting a SIRAACA shout out from Chip Green every time one of our members won. Great times. I have to get back next year. - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - October 14

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, October 14. 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 Dorp Lane Show

The 7th Annual New Dorp Lane Car Show had a strong turnout of both cars and people, stretching from the Boulevard to the railroad. Our 2026 raffle car made its public debut alongside a number of our members' cars, and took in an impressive \$1,785 to jump start our sales. Enrico Ferrara had a lot to do with the afternoon surge of sales as he drew in buyer after buyer with his clearly irresistible charm. The Campanelli's were on hand with their three cars, as was Frank Provenzano and Mike Gorgia. Mike Signorile, Bobby Lombardi and Danny Venuto were primary volunteers for the show's organizers, handling early morning arrivals, judging and trophy distribution. The show has established itself as a key event on the local hobby's calendar.



Mike Gorgia and Frank Provenzano discuss the day's plan after the club had completed its setup on New Dorp Lane. (photo by Paul Jr.)

From the SIRAACA Archive

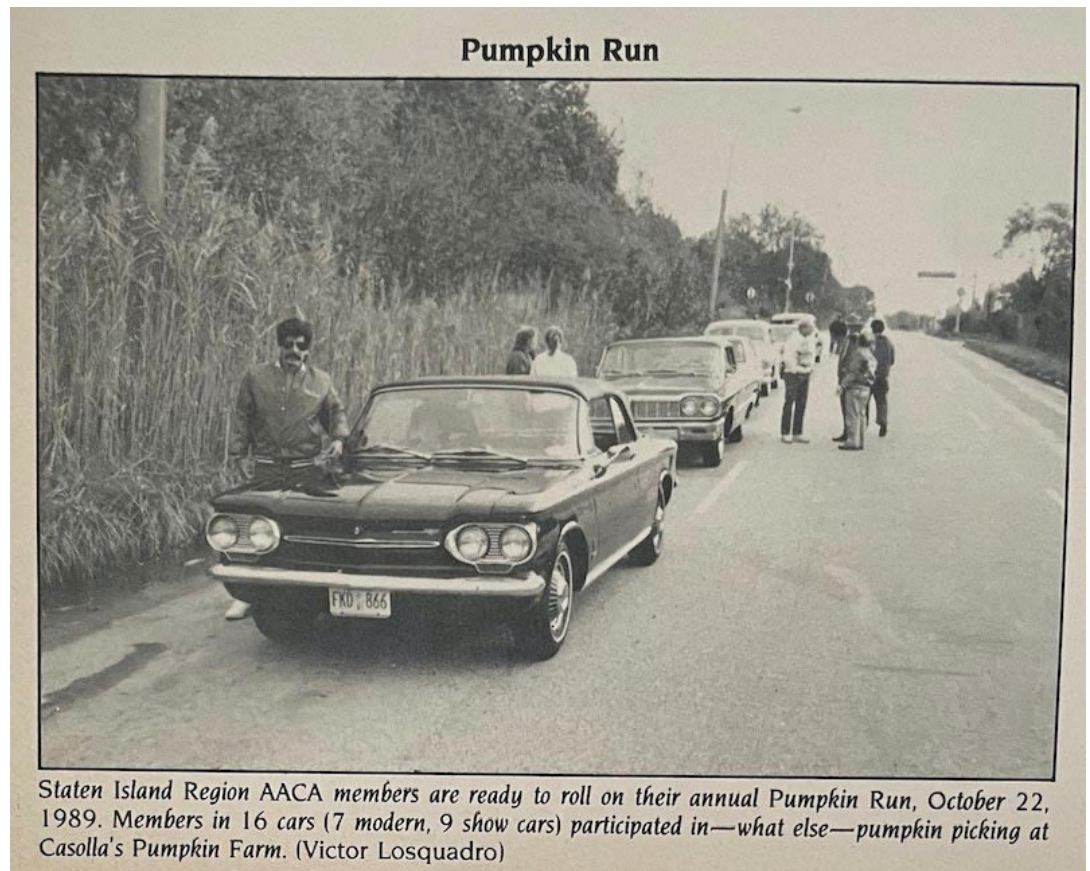
October is pumpkin picking time, and back when Outerbridge traffic wasn't completely unbearable this time of year because of all the pumpkin pickers, the club used to hold a pumpkin run. This image was included in the AACA national magazine in 1989 as part of their regional events coverage.

That's former member Mike Spiotta and likely his Corvair convertible at the front of the line as members queued up on Drumgoole Road near Maguire Avenue before heading over to Casola Farms. Other stops may have included Delicious Orchards or Allaire State Park.

The second car may be Al Preziose's Chevy Impala, which was an AACA national winner many times over.

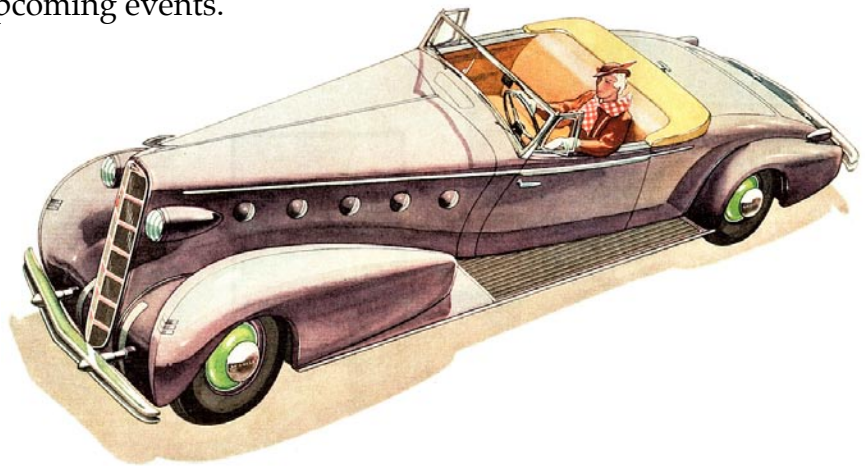
Perhaps the club's pumpkin run will be resurrected locally this year, with Mt. Loretto creating their own patch each October to help Staten Islanders avoid that Outerbridge traffic and toll. Stay tuned for more on that idea.

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.



Upcoming Events

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



- AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey PA - October 7-10
- 39th Annual Corvette & Classic Car Show, Woodbridge NJ - October 12
- Galloping Hill Cruisers Halloween Cruise, Linden NJ - October 13
- 11th Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show, Aviation Plaza, Linden - October 19
- Lifestyles for the Disabled Trunk or Treat, Willowbrook SI - October 25



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The SIRAACA Time Machine



Essex Coach \$1345

A Family Car—Note the Cost

It gives advantages, including low cost, that all buyers most want.

Solidly built of fine materials, it gives all wanted closed car qualities. The construction is the same used in the finest closed car bodies. It gives just as great durability with lightness. Also it annuls objectionable "rumbling" and produces a new degree of quiet.

The Coach is mounted on the best Essex chassis ever built.

See it. Ride in it. You will require no other proof of its desirability.

In design and construction it follows costly cars.

Take a Ride Today—You'll Like It

Touring, \$1098 Cabriolet, \$1295 Coach, \$1345 Sedan, \$1495

KRUGER'S GARAGE, Inc.
Maple Avenue, Rosebank, S. I.
Phone 'Tompkinsville 2071

Advertisement from SI Advance, 1922

In 1922 you didn't need an address, just a street name, to find Kruger's Garage. Maple Avenue runs for 0.3 miles between the Terrace and Harrison Avenue, and Kruger's was likely easy to spot. So we tried, but couldn't travel back that far, reaching 1940 or so. We went up and down the avenue and found two possible locations that could have been Krugers. The first one is the not-so-ritzy Ritz Service Station on the corner of Maple and Grove. Despite the snow, that's a pretty clean 1935 Chevrolet parked at the curb.



Photos courtesy of NYC Municipal Archives



The other location was a Sunoco station near the Terrace, which offered a "new fast modern service" where they recharged your battery in the car. We like the Packard at the far left, the Chevy furniture van at the right, but we are asking you to identify the car at the pumps. As for last month, how many of you figured out the location was the old "cottage gas" on the fork where Amboy and St. Albans meet? It's a Citgo now, and the cottage is gone.

Note: 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 through 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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