

Vol. 32, No. 9

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Sep 2025



• *A Visit to Dead Man's Curve*





HAVEN'T YOU ALWAYS had a car ideal, a dream car that you someday mean to own? Perhaps it is a swanky convertible—yours to roam in from here to anywhere. Perhaps it is a lordly car, opulent as a coach and four. Perhaps—but wait. The men who design cars are dreamers, too—or mind readers. You sense it the moment you step inside a big 1940 Plymouth. Your eyes take in the richness of appointments and upholstery. Your body relaxes in deep-cushioned comfort. The wheel seems “fitted” to your grasp—your foot on the treadle releases the purring energy of a great engine, and you sweep away! This is no dream—this is it!



Yours are as good as yours deeper than the emotional pleasure of effortless flight, pride, freedom, and easy mastery of a great mechanism. You want a car that's true of heart and strong of frame and body—a car of substance, that's built with exacting care—as good inside as it is good-looking.

So it means a lot that Plymouth's smooth new engine is 50-horsepower inside—with vital working parts in smooth and hard that wear less in practice, really done away with and extra years of quiet, trouble-free running are assured you.

When you feel the gentle action of coil springs, you are glad that they are made of Armco Steel, so strong and reliable that you know you can rely on them for years of luxurious comfort.

Of course, your ideal is a money car—to ride in all day without fatigue—standard set in deep-cushioned luxury, as in your favorite car chair. Here again the 1940 Plymouth matches your ideal. It has the longest wheelbase of “All Three” low-priced cars—5 inches longer than one and 4 inches longer than the other.

And an ideal car must appeal to your common sense as a really great value—low in cost, low in operation, high in resale value. You'll find that Plymouth's splendidly smart this deal—its appointments. It is the most car for your money and gives most pleasure for your money.

PLYMOUTH DIVISION OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION  
**Plymouth Builds Great Cars**



PLYMOUTH DIVISION OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION



**Plymouth Builds Great Cars**

The Plymouth Group Will Give You the Most Complete Car—When You Want It for the Lowest Price



IT'S HUMAN and natural to dream of owning a newer and better car than the one you have. Everybody does. And the person who gets the car he wants has what it takes to get a lot of other things, too. Don't just look at the new Plymouth with mere desire. Try it! Get the feel of its great Floating Power engine. Feel the velvet power of its brakes. Feel its “Luxury Ride.” Feel the results of Plymouth's great engineering. Discover the amazing reality of Plymouth's economy. “All Three” low-priced cars cost about the same—you can easily afford a new Plymouth now!

YOU WANT a car that's beautiful because you want to be proud of it. You want the feel of great power, eagerly responsive. You want powerful brakes for velvety control and safety—the most sensitive springs for all-day ease. You'll have pride—exceptional enjoyment—luxurious comfort—and substantial savings, too—when you drive a new Plymouth.

The new Plymouth is the one low-priced car engineered most like the high-priced car. It's long and distinguished—biggest of “All Three”

low-priced cars—with a 117-inch wheelbase, 4 inches longer than one and 4 inches longer than the other. And Plymouth gives you the most roomy body—the widest seat.

The big Floating Power engine—50-horsepower in its total power—in all with the evidence of great engineering and workmanship.

YOU ARE CURRENTLY INVITED to drive the new Plymouth. It's a revelation! The nice feel of the wheel in your hand—the marvelous ease of

control—the car's mooring power and swift pickup—the quiet smoothness of the Luxury Ride—can't all be detailed.

And it's really astonishing when you realize how low Plymouth's price is. Your Plymouth gratifies every desire for thrills.

In economy of operation and upkeep—in style and maintenance—in basic engineering excellence, Plymouth sets a new record in value. See your nearby Plymouth dealer—and be sure to take Plymouth's thrilling Luxury Ride.

## Vintage Advertising

The car of your dreams, if Plymouth had its way in 1940, was their snazzy convertible as seen in these two ads from that year. Whether you were already a driver or still years away from getting behind the wheel, Plymouth wanted you dreaming about them. And who doesn't dream about a new droptop with bright whitewalls?

1940 marked the first year that Plymouth offered a convertible without a rumbleseat. Advertised as the “Low Priced Beauty with the Luxury Ride”, the convertible coupe sold for \$950 when new. Only 6,896 of these dream cars were sold that year.

## In This Issue

Dead Man's Curve fills Labor Day Weekend

Old cars on display for nursing home residents

This fall's dash plaque has a new twist

A former best in show winner in the SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits a Tydol service station and asks you to guess where it was.

*Trivia Question: In its debut year of 1909, E-M-F was the fourth-best selling automobile in the U.S. What were the top three?*

*Answer: Ford was tops, followed by Buick and Maxwell. E-M-F's were badged as Studebakers. By 1912, all E-M-F's were sold through*

**September 2025**

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**SIRAACA Who's Who**

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# Minutes of the 588th Meeting

## August 12, 2025

1. The 588th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:10 pm on August 12 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. Congratulations were in order for new grandparents Tony & Yvonne DiAngelo. The club presented them with a Show Staff onesie for their grandson.
3. Members recapped the Cruise to the Esplanade. About 20 cars were in attendance for the residents of this assisted living facility. The hosts provided free hotdogs, hamburgers, beer, wine and soda and hope to schedule additional dates.
4. Members who attended Das Awkscht Fest in Macungie and the New Hope Auto Show shared recaps of each event.
5. Kevin Keenan is part of a group of New Jersey AACA members who are forming a new region based within the Jersey Shore.
6. Trophy donor Acadia Pets in Eltingville has opened another store in New Jersey and may have a grand opening that features a small car show. A date has yet to be confirmed.
7. There is a New Dorp Lane Restaurant Crawl scheduled for September 7th and we hope to bring our raffle car to the event.
8. Speaking of raffle cars, the club purchased a 2005 Mustang Deluxe Coupe for next year's raffle. It cost us \$8,000.
9. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report.
10. Thanks to Stephanie DiAngelo Walsh for getting our club and upcoming car show featured as the cover story in Merlino & Gonzalez' community newsletter.
11. 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.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The 50/50 totals and winner's name were lost before going to press.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## A Trip Through Dead Man's Curve

The Delta Hotel in Somerset, NJ once again hosted the Dead Man's Curve Wild Hot Rod Weekend over Labor Day. We took a ride out on Saturday to check it out for the first time and found a wide range of outstanding show cars not only on display but also making plenty of noise. Traditional customs and restomods shared the grounds with ratrods and gassers. Vintage funny cars, pro-stockers and front-engined dragsters filled up "Thunder Alley" and provided an occasional symphony of nitro explosions to the delight of the crowds. Inside the hotel, vendors hawked rockabilly and hot rod merchandise, while special guests posed with attendees among special movie cars like the Fast & Furious Charger.

*BELOW LEFT - A "kool kiddie kar" cozies up to a familiar Fury.  
BELOW RIGHT: A pair of neat lawn ornaments outside the hotel entrance. (photos by Paul Jr.)*



*ABOVE: This 1940 Dodge Business Coupe featured a five-inch cop, a '41 Lincoln Zephyr grille and custom skirts all around. Under the hood was a 1954 331 Chrysler Firepower Hemi. (photos by Paul Jr.)*



## A Small But Welcome Display

At this year's annual display of old cars for the residents of Clove Lakes Rehabilitation Center, we were able to bring in seven cars on a beautiful Saturday morning. Residents were brought down in wheelchairs to look them over and enjoy the warm sunshine and live music. With nothing older than 1966, one resident said that they weren't classic cars because he remembered all of them from when new. Another resident hoped that we present a different mix next year. On hand were Bob Ferone, Bruce Campbell, Mike DiPilato, Paul Arena and Mike Gorgia, along with Phil Maggiore and Tony Yeras.





## From the Editor

Switching hats this month with some notes from the editor's desk. First off, apologies for the publishing delay in this issue. September is a real busy month in my house, combining Labor Day with my wife's and son's birthdays and our car show. Somehow it all works out. So even though this issue is coming out after our car show, the traditional show reporting appears in the October issue, which will be back on track on the heels of this one. For those who also like printed copies, we'll catch up with those as well.

Jumping over to our online presence, have a look at either our Facebook page or our YouTube channel for a newly posted VHS video taken in 1987. It features a number of SIRAACA members talking about their cars on display in the Staten Island Mall over Labor Day weekend. We used to promote our upcoming show and raffle car in the mall for a number of years. The raffle car was a 1962 Oldsmobile Cutlass coupe with less than 40,000 miles. I remember that car to be really mint, but as a 17-year old, it didn't get me excited. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - September 2

Our next monthly meeting is on Tuesday, September 2. 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 Fall Dash Plaque

This year's dash plaque, which is really a magnet, features Anthony Faulisi's 1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1 and the stone wall of the Road House Restaurant. The Road House sponsored the plaque this year, covering the cost in return for the advertising. This year marked a return to an illustrated style following a number of years where they simply used a photo cut-out. The illustration was created by Paul Arena using photo inputs and a number of prompts within ChatGPT, as our vendor still does not have an artist on staff to illustrate by hand. Considering what we did with AI, we don't think they'll need to hire one.



## Award of Excellence 2024



We'll compile a list of members who have yet to have a car featured on a dash plaque, ranking them by how long they've been in the club, to determine who'll have their vehicle appear on the ones for 2026. Our goal is to also have that vehicle on display at that show.



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## From the SIRAACA Archive

This month we feature the Best of Show, Pre-War award winner from our 21st Annual Show, which was held on September 14, 1997. It's a 1941 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet that was owned by Bill Peters. The show was staged on the grounds of the Petrides School on Ocean Terrace. The image comes from our show's coverage in the AACA national magazine, and was likely submitted by former member Victor Losquadro.

This was one of only 400 cabriolets built in 1941, which was the Continental's second year of production. They featured 292 cubic inch V-12 engines and three speed manual transmissions. The Continental was inspired by a drawing by Edsel Ford and designed by Bob Gregorie.

Who remembers this car or its owner Bill Peters? We welcome any information you can share with us.

We routinely drew a number of true classics to our shows in those years, and future archive visits will reveal more to you in the coming months.

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.



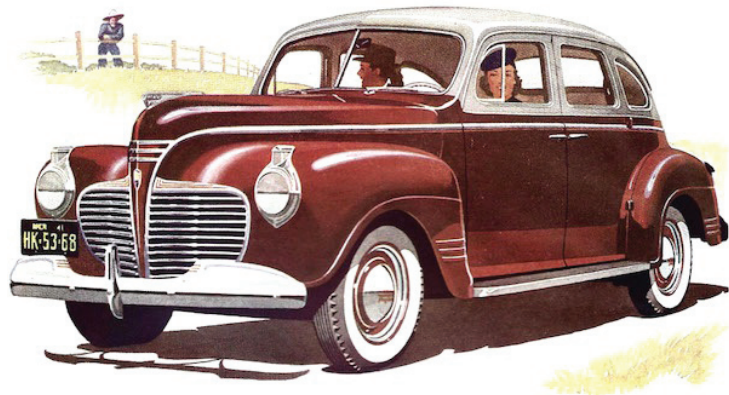
Best of Show-Pre-war at SIRAACA 21st Annual Show was Bill Peters' 1941 Lincoln.

*If anyone recalls the color of this car, let us know. We're leaning towards either "Chetwyn Beige" or "Rockingham Tan", which were the two neutral colors on Lincoln's palette that year. They offered as many as 29 colors, including eight shades of blue, seven shades of green and seven shades of green. Three maroons, a brown and good ol' black rounded out the choices. (Photo likely by 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.



- 48th Annual SIRAACA Fall Show, Commons Cafe - September 14
- 48th Annual Fall Englishtown Meet, Raceway Park - September 19-21
- SIRAACA Display at Clove Lakes Rehab Center - September 20
- 7th Annual New Dorp Lane Car Show - September 28
- AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey PA - October 7-10
- 39th Annual Corvette & Classic Car Show, Woodbridge NJ - October 12



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## The SIRAACA Time Machine

Not too far from the location we visited last month (Great Kills Motor Sales on Amboy Road), you could have pulled into this Tydol gas station for a fill up of Flying A and some outdoor service on the lift between the two small buildings. The location still pumps gas today (no service) and the quaint little building, while no longer there, stuck around in some form long enough as a clue to guess where this is.

*photo courtesy of the NYC Municipal Archives*



What you can't rely on to make your guess is what's beyond the fence in the distance. While many acres of land were undeveloped across the island in 1940, that land is completely built upon today (for better or for worse, depending on your point of view). Without verification, we think the coupe at right is a Ford. As for those neat pumps, we're guessing they are special made Tokheim 36B's for Tide Water, who owned Tydol gasoline, along with Veedol oil. Rather than a globe atop the pump, these have glass "rectangles" mounted perpendicularly across the top.

We hope those of you who tried to guess last month's building as it appears today were able to say it is Barry's Auto Body on Amboy and Old Amboy Road near Armstrong Avenue (of course you could have just looked up the address in the old newspaper ad, but where is the fun in that).

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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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