

Vol. 32, No. 12

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Dec 2025



• **Holiday Party is December 14**



## Yours for a **Merry, Merry Christmas** with the World's Most Modern Car!



Photography by Fletcher-Sorra



YOUR NEW CAR FUN is never-ending when you buy a beautiful Nash Airflyte—it's brimming over with more good surprises than a Christmas tree.

You'll step into it on a raw December day and tune in balmy June on the Weather Eye Conditioned Air System. You'll sink back to rest, even nap if you wish, in the exclusive Nash Airliner Reclining Seat.

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You'll discover completely new performance in the Nash Ambassador. Its Jetfire engine set the 1951 stock car record—102.465 m.p.h.

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**Nash**  
*Airflyte*

3 Great Series Priced For Everyone To Own  
The Ambassador • The Statesman • The Rambler  
**GREAT CARS SINCE 1902**

Nash Motors, Division Nash-Kelvinator Corporation, Detroit, Mich.



**Double your money's worth**—double your motoring fun with the Rambler Station Wagon—the new kind of All-Purpose Sedan that converts from luxury family sedan to heavy-duty hauler. Its low price includes \$300 of custom accessories.



**Join the new "Who's Who"** in motoring—the "Rambler Set." Many of the most important people in America now drive this newest idea in automobiles. See and drive the Country Club—America's smartest, low-priced, custom-equipped "Hardtop."

## Vintage Advertising

It's Christmas 1951, and Santa delivered a couple of new Nash automobiles bedecked in red bows. Wearing the aerodynamic Airflyte styling, Nash offered three series topped by the Ambassador, and followed by the Statesman and Rambler. Neat features included "Airliner" reclining seats and the "Weather Eye" conditioned air system. The glove box in these cars is actually a glove drawer in that slides out from the dash.

Mom needs to tell her boys to find a new place to park their bicycle. She can't afford to have that shiny new Nash fender scratched and dented.

## In This Issue

What is a JDM vehicle?

Thanks from Lifestyles

We spy a Duesenberg, but where?

The SIRAACA Archive finds a unique participation award

The SIRAACA Time Machine makes two passes by the fork in the road at Targee and Richmond

Did you know? The front track on these Nash autos is about five inches narrower than the rear to avoid turning circle issues within the skirted front fenders.

*Trivia Question: Between 1903 and 1908, what car company ran through Models A, B, AC, C, F, K, N, R & S?*

*Answer: These are all Ford models before the debut of the famous Model T, which was replaced by a second coming of a Model A in 1928.*

## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**December 2025**

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### **SIRAACA Who's Who**

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# Minutes of the 591st Meeting

## November 6, 2025

1. The 591st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:12 pm on November 6 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. Bruce Campbell recapped the recent show at St. Stan's in Sayreville. Artie Guarnieri reported on the great turnout for Lifestyles' Trunk or Treat event.
3. Phil Boffa and Kevin Keenan recapped the raffle car appearance at Mt. Loretto's Fall Festival. We took in \$800. The car will hibernate in a tent in New Jersey this winter with \$2,585 in sales already banked before the new year.
4. The Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 14 at La Strada, from 2:00-6:00 pm. An RSVP sheet was passed around.
5. The club and our members made their annual toy donation at the meeting, with the folks from the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive stopping by to accept them and offer their thanks once again.
6. A recent inventory of our archive revealed a number of missing dash plaques/magnets. If any of them match up to your personal collection, the club would appreciate if you can provide a photo of it. See the November newsletter for the missing years.
7. The 2026 Spring Dust-Off dash plaque magnet will feature one of Pat Colabella's cars, likely a GTO.
8. Mike Signorile represented the club at a charity breakfast for the Staten Island Giving Circle, and presented them with a \$500 donation from us. A grant will match that three times over.
8. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report, with all in order as we near the end of the calendar year.
9. There will be a push for some club outings in the coming months to help pass the winter.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The 50/50 collected \$75 and Phil won \$38. Ray Ocello won the second drawing for a \$25 Thanksgiving gift card.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



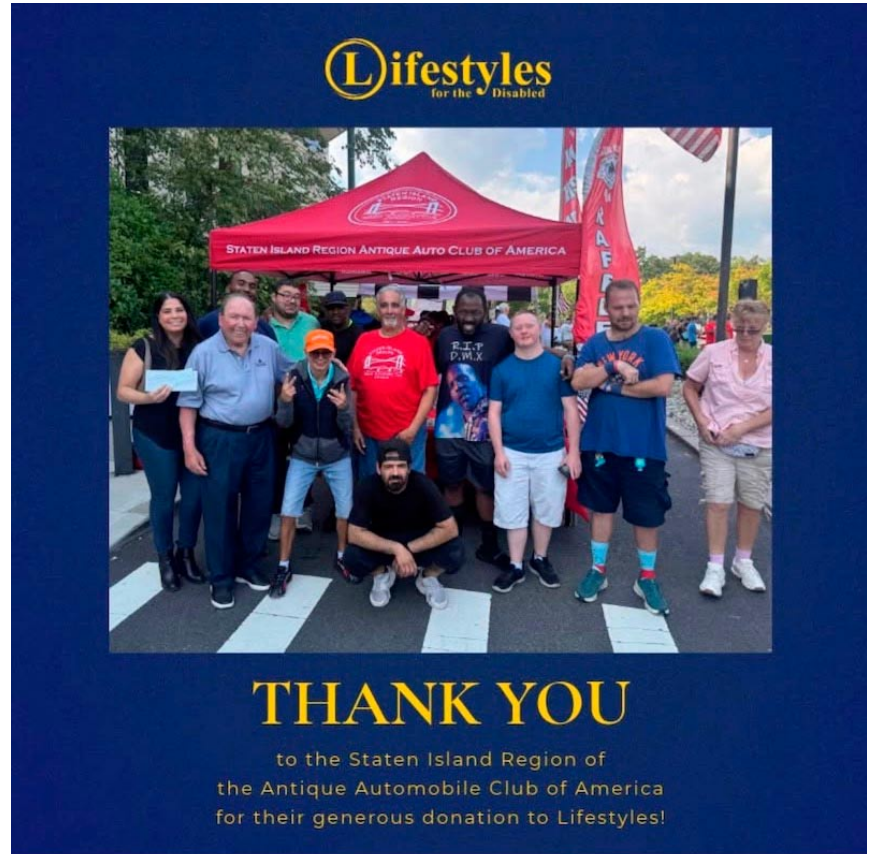
## JDM Vehicles

A growing segment of our hobby is focused on what is known as a JDM vehicle. The acronym stands for Japanese Domestic Market, and it refers to cars and trucks that were only offered for sale in Japan. Importing such a vehicle to the United States is allowed once the vehicle is at least 25 years old. That age is also the requirement for being an antique in the eyes of the AACA, so the AACA now recognizes JDM's for national meets under a brand new class. This past year, we've seen a number of these cars popping up at our local shows and events, including this 1992 Nissan Skyline (photo below) that was recently at Great Kills Beach.



## Thank You SIRAACA

One of our beneficiaries in 2025 was Lifestyles for the Disabled. Here's a thank you from them featuring Artie Guarnieri and a special crew of guest judges that helped us select cars that received Amanda Lipstein Memorial trophies.



## National Dues Renewal

Please remember to send in your AACA National dues for renewing your membership for 2026. The cost to do so is \$45.00 and can be done by sending in a check by mail using the form enclosed with your November/December edition of Antique Automobile. You can also renew online via credit card by visiting AACA.org. If you need help, you can call HQ at 717-534-1910 anytime between 9:00-4:30, Monday through Friday. Local dues for our region will be collected starting in January. We will submit our 2026 roster to the AACA for verification of national standing early in the year, so please make every effort to take care of this before the holidays derail you.

## Holiday Party December 14

Our club's annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, and will be held from 2:00 to 6:00 at La Strada restaurant, located at 139 New Dorp Lane. All members and a guest are welcome to attend for a sit down dinner, raffles and good cheer as we celebrate another year together enjoying our cars and helping others. If you are still an outstanding RSVP and plan to attend, please do let us know.

Keep in mind that we already collected and donated toys to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive in November, so we are not collecting toys at the Holiday Party as we did in years past. If for whatever reason you missed out on the November collection and have new toys, we encourage you to make a personal donation to any suitable local charity.

## From the President

I recently had the chance to accompany two friends who went to look at a 1978 Lincoln Town Car listed for sale in New Jersey. It's an 80,000 mile, one owner car with one repaint, and the asking price seemed fair at \$10,500. The hope was that the car was close enough to "Hershey quality" that it would be worth the effort and a few more dollars to win on the national level. The car presented very well at first glance, so we got up close and began judging it. There was pitting on the door handles and side view mirrors, as well as on the interior chrome door handles. Under the hood was completely untouched, which preserved all of the original assembly line markings on the valve covers, but would be a total loss in class judging. The more you looked, the more things needed to be addressed to be a Hershey car. The buyer made a low ball offer as "driver quality", and the seller chose not to counter. Still it's a good entry level car that could be tackled over time to be something special or left as is and enjoyed as a land yacht cruiser. Let me know if you are interested in it and I'll connect you. - Paul Jr.



## - NEXT MEETING - Holiday Party

Our next monthly meeting is our Holiday Party, to be held at La Strada Restaurant on New Dorp Lane on Sunday, December 14 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM. All members and a guest are welcome to attend. We resume regular monthly meetings with the first on of 2026 on Tuesday, January 6.

## Spotting Cars from Your Couch

With access to countless TV channels, streaming platforms and internet videos, an armchair car guy can spend hours upon hours spotting unique cars on their screens. We recently spotted no less than a Duesenberg while watching an episode of 1960's Batman on cable TV. Considering the extensive knowledge of these cars, we jumped down a few rabbit holes to learn more. It turns out this particular one was a movie star. It began as Engine no. J-255 and Chassis no. 2276, and was bodied by Judkins as the limousine seen here. Originally delivered new to a man named William Sandow in 1930, by 1935 it was used by Duesenberg Company owner E.L. Cord's wife. Two years later, it was acquired by Pacific Auto Rental in Hollywood, where it spent nearly 50 years appearing in movies and on television. Credits include "A Pocket Full of Miracles", "Mame", "The Carpetbaggers", "Bring 'Em Back Alive", and "City Heat". When Pacific Auto Rental liquidated in 1985, the buyer of the Duesenberg had it rebodied as a Walker LeGrande Torpedo Phaeton. The original Judkins limo body was eventually put on Chassis no. 2128. The car sold at Mecum's Kissimmee auction in 2019 for \$935,000. (we have some great spotting from an episode of "Adam-12" coming to a future newsletter - Ed.).



Batman Season 2, Episodes 31 & 32 featured character Artemus Knab, a billionaire aviator who drove this Duesenberg. (photo by Paul Jr.)

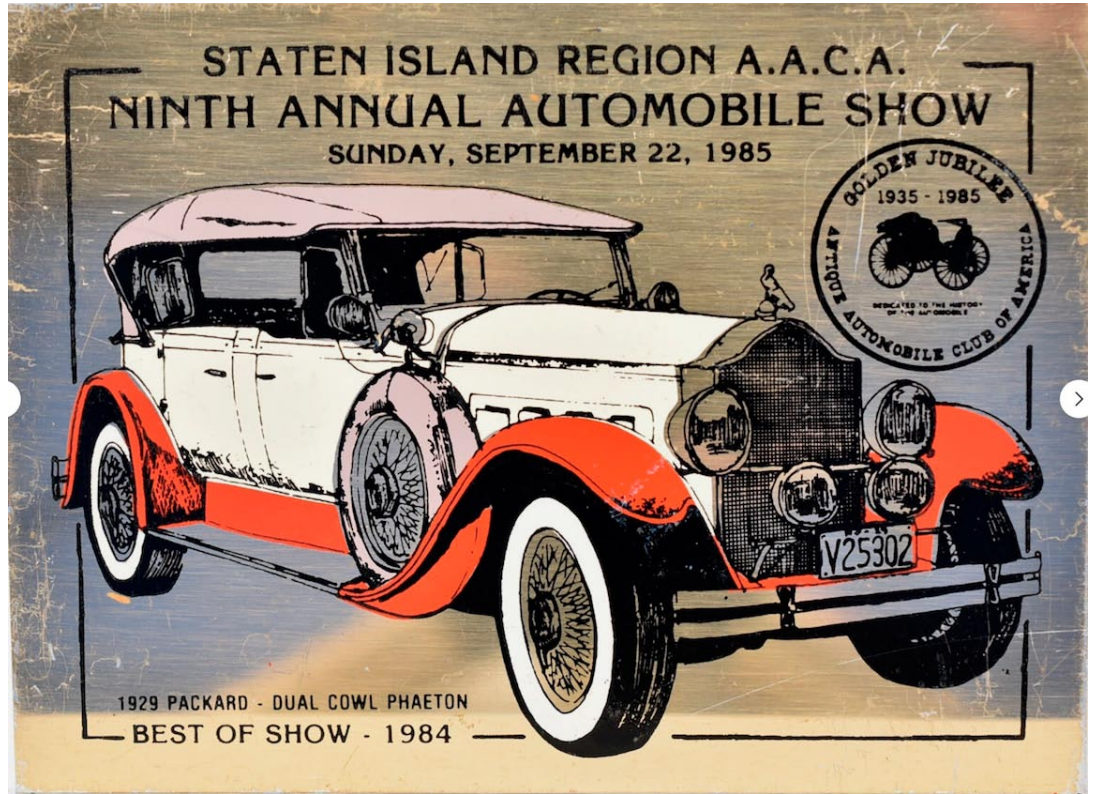


## From the SIRAACA Archive

The Best in Show winner from our 8th Annual Car Show in 1984 was a 1929 Packard Super Eight Dual Cowl Phaeton. As was the club's custom in those days, the following year it appeared on our dash plaque. In addition however, it was also featured in an engraved wooden plaque that may have been a participation award for members. Do any of our other long-tenured members have one of these plaques, or is this the only one that is known to survive?



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.



## Holiday Wishes for You



*Ragtops & Rumbleseats* is wishing all of you and your families and friends the very best for a peaceful holiday season filled with love and laughter and cars.





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## The SIRAACA Time Machine

At the fork of Richmond Road and Targee Street, we travel back to 1941 to see this Mobilgas station (and a new 1941 Dodge parked near the sidewalk). Sometime after this, they added a Lubrication sign above the outdoor lift to the right of the building, as we saw when we paused here again in the mid-1950's.

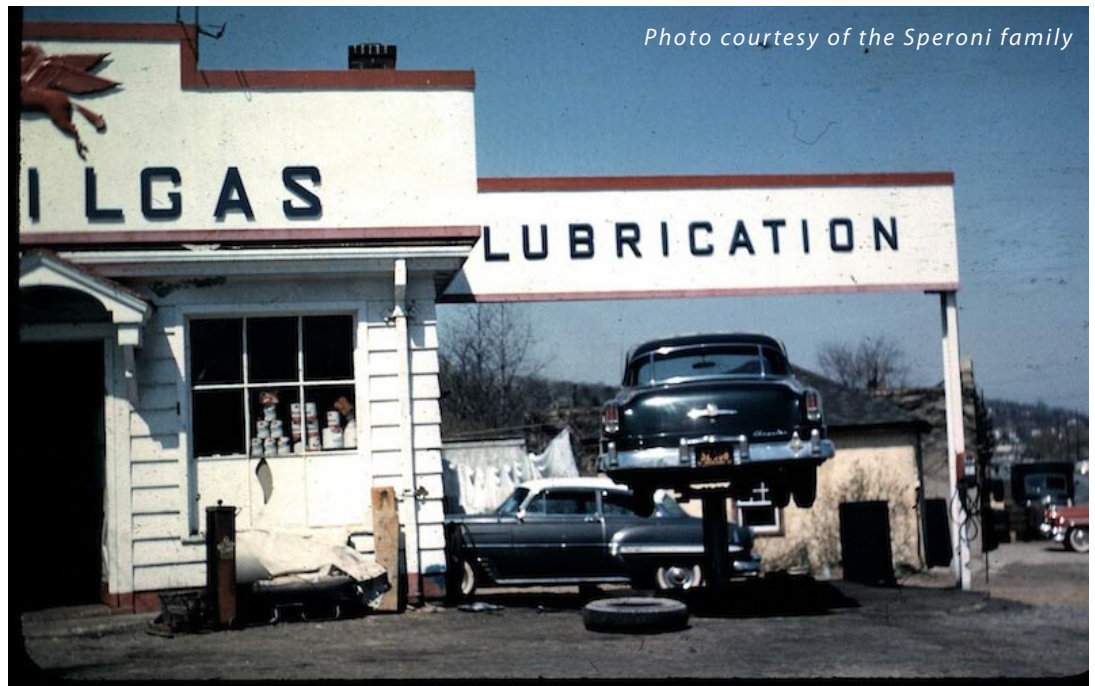
*Photo courtesy of NYC Municipal Archives*



We're told that when we visited for the color photo, the owner was Virgil Speroni, a.k.a. "Joe Jilts". Later on, he operated a station at 1235 Richmond Road near Old Town Road. Staten Island Advance articles indicate that location remained open from 1962 through 1974. We're certain that someone in our club knows more about him or these locations.

We'll allow our readers to identify the two cars seen in the photo at right, which should be an easy task. Answers will be shared next month.

*Photo courtesy of the Speroni family*



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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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