

Vol. 33, No. 2

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Feb 2026



**• Mark Your Calendars:
Dust-Off is April 26,
Fall Show is September 13**

Vintage Advertising

Here are a pair of Lincolns for our February column (you make the connection). The 1981 Continental Mark VI came in a number of Designer Series Models, including Givenchy, Pucci, Cartier and Bill Blass. Each had distinct colors, roof treatments, wheels and interiors, from the subtle, all-Fawn Beige Pucci to the dramatic two-tones of Blass and Givenchy.

One engine choice was available for all, a 302 pushing out 130 hp. A total of 18,740 two-door Mark VI Lincolns were built, yet we found no breakout production figures for the regular Signature Series or any of the designer models.

In This Issue

Did you see what that sold for?!

SIRAACA show dates confirmed

The debut of "My First Car"

The SIRAACA Garage adds a 5th gen Mustang

The SIRAACA Time Machine goes back to Palma Motors for a glimpse of some "shoeboxes".



Did you know? The Designer Series first appeared on 1976 Lincoln Mark IV models. They were continued on the Mark V editions of 1977-'79, and carried over into the Mark VI in 1980. The four designer options varied in appearance and price again in 1981: Cartier trim added \$2,031, Pucci trim added \$2,160, Givenchy cost an additional \$2,372 and the Blass treatment upped the price by \$3,015. The following year, the Cartier treatment moved to Lincoln Town Cars, and the Pucci variant was a four door Mark.

Trivia Question: What was GMC's upscale twin to the Chevrolet El Camino between 1971 and 1977?

Answer: GMC's "coupe utility" was the Sprint. The top of the line SP stood for Special Performance and equalled Chevy's SS designation. It changed its name to Caballero in 1978.

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Minutes of the 592nd Meeting

January 6, 2026

1. The 592nd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:05 pm on January 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. Paul Jr. started with a recap of the holiday party, and thanked all who came out despite a snowy morning. It sounded like everyone had a good time.
3. The club has requested dates for its two shows this year. The Dust-Off is targeting April 26 and the Fall Show is targeting September 13. In each case, the rain date request is the following Sunday. We'll await approval from the folks at Nicotra.
4. We are planning a special show at Mount Loretto to celebrate America's 250th birthday and have reached out to them to discuss. This would likely be in mid-June.
5. Paul Jr. would like to replace the full page ad for JC Taylor in our newsletter with new features and asked for member input. We might see a number of new columns that highlight a member's first car, a look back at old newsletters, reprinted national material, and so on.
6. Artie Guarnieri and Mike Gorgia spoke about a young woman who is getting married in the spring and her desire to get her dad's antique car running again since he's passed on. They have begun some basic work on it and all members willing to pitch in are welcome.
7. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report, with all in order.
8. Steve Jerome and Phil Boffa each spoke about their newly acquired vehicles, which we hope to see featured in the SIRAACA Garage.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm. The 50/50 collected \$87 and Tony DiAngelo won \$44.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



2026 SIRAACA Show Dates

Our proposed show dates are locked in for 2026. The Spring Dust-Off will happen on April 26, with a rain date of May 3. The Fall Show will be on September 13, with the rain date on the following Sunday, September 20.

The Staten Island Region AACA presents its
18th Annual Spring Dust-Off
Car Show & Flea Market
April 26, 2026



Commons Cafe
2 Teleport Drive off of South Avenue

- \$25 vehicle entry fee • no cut-off year • rain date May 3 •
- no points judging • red carpet awards in unique categories •
- gates open at 8:00 am • dash plaques to first 200 vehicles •
- spectator entry fee: adults \$5, children \$2 • \$40 vendor fee •
- food & drinks • music • 50/50 drawings • raffle car tix for sale •
- info: call 917-626-0233 or e-mail siraaca@yahoo.com •
- visit us on www.siraaca.aaca.com or [facebook.com/siraaca](https://www.facebook.com/siraaca) •

This is the flyer for the Dust-Off. An email blast will go out to our mailing list and our members will also get copies to email and share online. A fall flyer will follow soon, as well as a proper flyer for the raffle car.

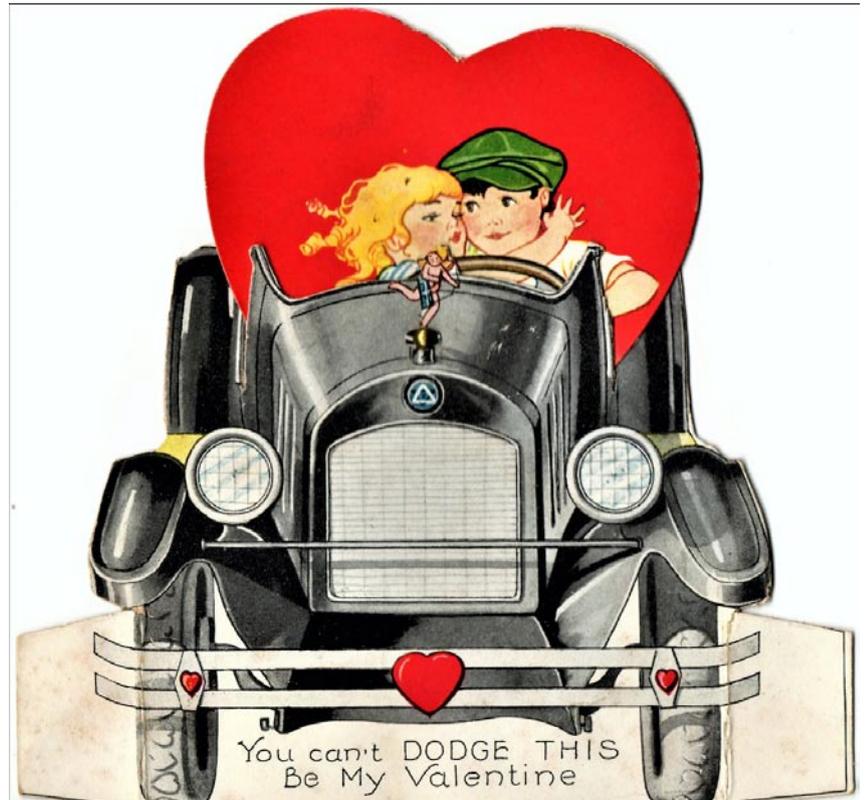
Outstanding Dues

A quick reminder to all who have yet to pay their local dues for this year to catch up with Artie Guranieri at the next meeting (or elsewhere). As usual, it's only \$20, and your SIRAACA membership relies on you being a paid member of the AACA. National dues for 2026 should have already been paid before January 1.

All Eyes on Arizona in January

As January passes the baton to February and the first round of auto auctions for the year are over, has anyone noticed how crazy the action was? Before we check some of the cars we highlighted last month from Bonham's, RM Sotheby's and Barrett-Jackson, let's talk about Mecum's record breaking 13 days in Kissimmee. Over 4,000 vehicles were sold for a staggering \$441 million dollars in front of crowds exceeding 140,000 people in total. Fifty four cars topped \$1,000,000, led by a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO changing hands for \$38.5 million. American muscle had big moments as well: a '71 Hemi 'Cuda convertible went for \$3.3 million, a '69 Yenko Camaro prototype for \$1.8 million, and a '69 Baldwin Motion Camaro for \$1.1 million.

Heck, we saw a 1994 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham with 12,000 miles on it sell for \$93,000 at Barrett-Jackson! All it takes is two bidders, we suppose. The 1957 Eldorado Biarritz convertible (one of just 68 known) at Bonham's sold for \$106,400, the same price paid over at RM Sotheby's for a 1947 Chrysler Town & Country convertible. A 1929 Duesenberg showed that certain American classics never fade, with a price of \$1,572,500. A 1974 Pontiac Trans-Am SD-455 got \$140,000, reminding us that newer "classics" are also rising.



From the Editor

I'm very happy to see the debut of new content on the page usually filled up with an ad for JC Taylor, which remained in the newsletter simply to keep us with an even amount of pages for printing purposes. Thanks goes to Artie Guarnieri for providing the photos and story for the inaugural "My First Car". Let's keep this feature going each month, and to do so, I'm going to need you to send me pictures and a write up or story about the car. We all had one, and some of us still have their first car (I do). We enough members to keep this going for two plus years! Who's next?

Along with those submissions, keep feeding me details on other cars we can feature in the SIR-AACA Garage, or items from our club's past in the SIRAACA Archive, or stories and pics from current car happenings for the general pages. Until the new show season debuts, we'll need material to fill these pages and keep you informed, entertained, and perhaps educated about something new (that's likely "old"). Thanks again for your help - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - February 3

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, February 3. The meeting is held at The Square on Annadale, and that is confirmed by text in the days leading up to the meeting.

The start time is usually around 7:00PM.

The club will provide pizza and soda, and members can purchase additional or alternate items on their own.

Spotting More Cars from Your Couch

Most of us are likely staying indoors this month considering the snow and icy cold temperatures. As such, we're remaining on the couch and still spotting cars. Member Mike Gorgia suggested the 1950's TV show "Highway Patrol", seen on FETV (channel 742 on FiOS). A recent episode featured the bad guy fleeing Broderick Crawford and crew in his 1941 Oldsmobile. Crawford, playing Chief Dan Matthews, was using a 1954 Olds Super 88, while his officers were driving 1955 Buicks. We learned that the CHP version of these Buicks were custom-ordered Buick Specials with Century trim and Roadmaster engines, complete with 3-speed manual transmissions. Reportedly, only 270 were made for service.



Other cars spotted in this episode, which turned out to be the very first one that aired, included a new 1955 Imperial in a parking lot, and a 1954 Mercury Monterey four door as a failed getaway car, thanks to a well-aimed bullet shot into the front right tire. This show will offer car spotters plenty of mid- to late-1950's cars and trucks, as it ran from 1955 to 1959.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Inspired by the recent raffle cars that have passed through The SIRAACA Garage, Phil Boffa adds another under our roof with the recent purchase of this 2005 Mustang convertible.

2005 was the first year of this retro-styled design. A total of 28,793 V-6 ragtops were produced. Phil turned to a Marti Report for a deep dive into his car. Not only was it ordered on his birthday, but the combination of this color (Mineral Grey Metallic) with black stripes and the Red Leather Interior Color Accent Package brings his to 1 of 97 equipped as such. Look for a new license plate pointing that out soon.

Phil's car also has the interior upgrade package, which presents the top half of the instrument panel in polished metal. The three spoked steering wheel gets metal trim as well with this configuration.

The standard powerplant for the V-6 is a 4.0 L SOHC engine good for 210 horsepower and 240 lb-ft. of torque. Five-speed manuals were standard, with an optional five-speed auto available as well. By comparison, the GT's 4.6 L V-8 makes 300 horses.

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. 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 first 2005 Mustang rolled off the assembly line on September 27, 2004. All were built at Ford's Flat Rock Assembly Plant in Michigan. (photos by Phil Boffa)



My First Car - 1975 Pontiac LeMans Sport Coupe

(Editor's note: Artie Guarnieri kicks off a brand new column for 2026 with his submission for "My First Car")

I wasn't always a Ford guy. Growing up, my dad and uncles were all GM men. When I got my license in 1979 at age 17, I started out driving my dad's 1971 Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser and my mom's 1973 Chevrolet Impala. Within a year, I had saved enough money to buy my own car. I had my heart set on a mid-1970's Pontiac Grand Prix or a Chevy Monte Carlo, but my budget said otherwise. I just couldn't find a decent one that I could afford. One day my dad suggested we take a ride to Reedman in Pennsylvania, and one Saturday morning we jumped in the Vista Cruiser and headed out.

Reedman had a huge inventory of used cars, but as we walked the lot, my excitement faded - no GP's no Montes. I was ready to head home when my dad spotted a light blue 1975 Pontiac LeMans. I really didn't want to look at it, but it was in my price range and had low mileage. The moment I sat in it, though, I fell in love. The color was perfect with its contrasting white vinyl roof. Inside was a darker shade of blue, with bucket seats and a center console. Under the hood was a 400 with a two barrel carb. The salesman told us we could take it for a test drive around their track, and the drive sealed the deal. My dad negotiated a price and I drove it home.



Having my own car meant freedom. I started driving back to Brooklyn to visit the old neighborhood and hang out with friends I left behind a few years earlier. It was the early 1980's - disco and freestyle were everywhere. The first thing I did was upgrade the sound system with a Benzi Box, new speakers and a disco ball hanging from my mirror. At this time, I started dating my future wife Maria. She was the only one in her group of girlfriends that had a boyfriend, and I spent many nights cruising 86th Street with a car full of girls and music blasting... boy did I feel like a king!

That car holds a lifetime of memories. I proposed to Maria in it. It was our daily driver early in our marriage. I even used it on my first sales job, until I realized it wasn't practical for driving around the boroughs all week. That's when I downsized to a Toyota Corolla. I held on to the LeMans for a while longer, until one day it was totaled when a woman backed out of her driveway without looking. Her bumper tore through my door and rear quarter in one shot.

Even now, I'm always checking the web and classifieds, hoping to find another '75 LeMans Sport Coupe in decent shape, so that Maria and I can go cruising again and relive a little piece of our youth.

The SIRAACA Time Machine



*It happened last year! It happened the year before!
...and most likely it will happen again this year...*

THE FIRST FREEZE GRIPPLES HUNDREDS OF UNPREPARED CARS!

This will get your car off to a
SMART START

Bring it in now for anti-freeze and winter servicing

Winterizing \$7.76

Winter Tune-Up \$7.50

COOLING SYSTEM

Drain and flush entire cooling system, install rust inhibitor, tighten all hose connections, and check for leaks.

MOTOR

Drain old motor oil and refill with winter grade.

LUBRICATION

Lubricate entire car with light grease.

TRANSMISSION

Drain old oil and refill with winter grade.

DIFFERENTIAL

Drain old oil and refill with winter grade.

BATTERY

Test battery, clean and tighten battery connections, and add water if needed.

ANTI-FREEZE EXTRA.

1. Tighten cylinder head.

2. Adjust fan belt.

3. Clean and adjust spark plugs.

4. Adjust vacuum spark advance.

5. Remove distributor and clean points.

6. Reset and adjust distributor on stroboscope.

7. Scientifically time ignition.

8. Adjust generator charging rate.

9. Test coil and condenser.

10. Clean crankcase ventilator and carburetor air strainer.

11. Adjust carburetor and clean fuel bowl.

12. Test battery, clean and lube battery terminals.

PARTS EXTRA

Price Includes Labor—Oil—Grease

Place Your Order NOW for Anti-Freeze
Before the Peak Demand!

PALMA

Motor Sales & Service Corp.

1355 Castleton Ave., W. B.

Gibraltar 2-6100

One of our early trips in The SIRAACA Time Machine went back to visit Palma Motors, the big Ford dealership located at Castleton Avenue and Rector Street (it's the home of RCA Ambulance now). We return this month to Palma in 1948, inspired by their ad in the Advance to winter-proof your car with proper servicing ahead of the season's first freeze. We noticed that the showroom was already filled with the all-new 1949 Ford models, likely put on display in late August of that year. So we nudged the Time Machine back two months and popped back in. Well-known local photographer Herbert Flamm was on hand to capture the view seen below of the debut of the "shoebox Fords". Palma would remain in business for another ten years.



Photo taken August 27, 1948 by Herbert Flamm, courtesy of the Staten Island Historical Society

Palma advertisement courtesy of Staten Island Advance, October 28, 1948.



PALMA MOTOR SALES & SERVICE CORP.

Sales • Service • Parts

215 Bay St., Tompkinsville - GI braltar 7-7800
1355 Castleton Ave. - - - GI braltar 2-6100
1686 Forest Ave. - - - GI braltar 2-4900



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Joseph Portagallo

M - Th 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

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.



SIRAACA