

Vol. 33, No. 7

Ragtops & Rumbleseats



July 2026



• ***Happy 250th Birthday, USA!***

Vintage Advertising

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Super Jeep! A limited production special edition CJ-5 built in 1973 out of necessity, and a perfect ad for this month.

Due to a shortage in supply of typical aluminum mag wheels, Jeep grabbed available steelies and created an appearance package to go with them. The Super Jeep was available from March through July, and no more than 300 in all were built.

All came with swirling stripes, two-tone seats, white dash pads and white sun visors. The front bumper was chrome plated, and black rubber fender extensions completed the look.

Most were equipped with AMC's 4.2L straight six, but some rolled off the line with a 5.0L V-8 with a three speed manual.

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A special show at Mt. Loretto

Collecting items adjacent to your old car

The SIRAACA Archive and our 20th Annual Car Show

The SIRAACA Time Machine visits the "neighborhood"



Not a bird. Not a plane. But a new thrill under the sun—4-wheel drive fun-mobiling.

At first glance, that same familiar profile, but underneath that super-stripe stands a baby brute with the guts to go where others fear to tread.

Super Jeep® is all guts from the brawny suspension to the heavy-duty axle—an open-end design that can turn in just 32.9 ft. And while you're checking out the special color treatment on

the front and rear seats, the roll bar's saying "go!" and the 258 six answers "r-r-i-i-ght!"

Oversize L78 x 15 Polyglas® white wall tires are included along with those black rubber lip extensions on the fenders. Plus chrome front bumper and a safety rail for your more easily flustered passengers. She's available in all kinds of color combinations and lots of extra goodies.

So don't just sit there, hit the trail in a gen-u-ine Super Jeep.

Jeep

Toughest 4-letter word on wheels.

Did you know? The Super Jeep came in six colors. Champagne White and Jetset Blue came with red and blue stripes. Butterscotch Gold, Daisy Yellow, Copper Tan Metallic and Fairway Green Metallic had orange and white stripes.

Trivia Question: In June 1940, the U.S. Army solicited bids from 135 automakers for a 1/4 ton light reconnaissance vehicle. Only three answered - who were they?

Answer: Bantam, Willys and Ford. Within a year, they collectively delivered a template for what we know as the jeep. Willys' prototype was called "Quad".

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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Minutes of the 597th Meeting

June 2, 2026

1. The 597th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order on June 2 at 7:05 pm 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. Bad weather led to the cancellation of Hot Rods & Harley's last month. An event that complex does not have a rain date.
3. Many of us attended the Cars Care show at Midland Beach to help select winners and assist with parking. Our raffle car was on hand and brought in \$746.
4. Several of our members attended the neighboring Jersey Shore Region AACA's second-ever monthly meeting in Wall Township. Fellow member Kevin Keenan serves as their Vice-President. The meeting was held at Joe Puleo's outstanding collection of Cadillacs, and attendees were afforded ample time to explore them.
5. The Food Truck Festival at the Mount is set for June 5-7. Our raffle car will be stage-side for all three days and volunteers were signed up to man our tent. In addition, we are hosting a special car show there on Saturday. Members are encouraged to bring their cars and arrive for 9:00 am. The show will run until 3:00, and special ribbons will be presented to 50 selected winners.
6. The Wild Stallions present their annual show at All-American Ford in Old Bridge on June 14. We plan to bring the raffle car.
7. Artie Guarnieri told the final chapter of The Bride and the Bel Air.
8. Paul Jr., with the help of Bruce Campbell and Mike Gorgia, was able to get his family's 1948 Dodge back on the road in time to chauffeur his son to his senior prom.
9. The club wished Dawn Lipstein a speedy recovery after her surgery.
10. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report showing all is in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. The 50/50 collected \$85 and Artie won \$43.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Celebrating America 250

SIRAACA spent an extended weekend at Mt. Loretto from June 5th through June 7th. We had our raffle car stageside once again for all three days as part of their Food Truck Festival at the Mount. In addition, we hosted a special car show on Saturday to celebrate America 250 and further test the location for future events. More than a dozen members cars parked outside the CYO building, flanked by another row of show cars. The display then wrapped around the side of the building and spilled out onto the large lawn abutting Hylan Boulevard. We had plenty of room to accommodate more.



Top left: GM was well represented in this row featuring Cadillac, Pontiac, Chevrolet and Oldsmobile. Top right: Another strong showing of local Cadillacs. Bottom left: The muscle car crowd enjoyed plenty of entrants, including this Chevelle and a lineup of GTO's. Bottom right: The people kept singing and dancing, and the bands kept playing into the night. In between sets, emcee Bob Johnson pushed all to visit our tent and buy some raffles. (photos by Paul Jr.)

Special America 250 commemorative ribbons were awarded to nearly 50 outstanding vehicles before the show officially wrapped up around 3:00. Car owners were encouraged to stay and enjoy the wide variety of food for sale and the live music performed for the hungry crowd. The raffle car had a strong showing to open the event on Friday, and closed out Sunday with more than \$1000, bringing the weekend total to \$1,985.



From the President

As the summer marches on, certain well known events appear on the calendar and are worth considering, even as a spectator. That includes the strangely named Das Awkscht Fescht in Macungie, PA. The Pennsylvania German name means "The August Festival", yet it doesn't clearly let you know that it is a huge three day car show. Now in its 63rd season, many folks refer to it simply as "Macungie". It features more than 800 cars, a flea market, live music, a massive toy show, and even a swimming pool. The venue is Macungie Memorial Park, which is about 90 miles from the Outerbridge. One week later, an even longer running event takes place in New Hope, PA. This show is now in its 69th year. Saturday is for domestic vehicles, and Sunday focuses on foreign cars. The show is held at New Hope-Solesbury High School, about 50 miles from the Outerbridge. Each of these shows draws a number of our members, so the opportunity is there to join in if you're interested. We'll mention these at the next meeting to discover more. Until then, stay cool! - Paul Jr.



- NEXT MEETING - July 7

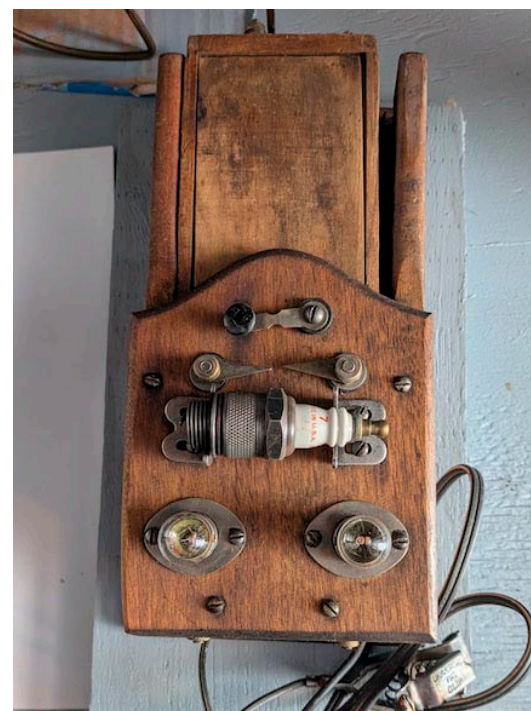
Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, July 7. The meeting is held at The Square on Annadale, and that is confirmed by text in the days leading up to the meeting.

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.

Accessorizing Your Old Car

Old car guys are a curious breed. We strive to make our old cars as best they can be, but we don't stop there. We have stories tied to them, explaining how and why we have a particular car. We tend to have a fondness for history, and a desire to share the past with those in the present. When we can tie that all together, we hit a new high. A perfect example is Tony Ventrice. Tony has a 1923 Model T Ford, and countless items related to the Model T and 1920's motoring. He recently shared these two new items from his collection. One is a Stahl Magfixer for use on Ford magnetos. The second is a tester for Model T coils and spark plugs.



What used to require scouring flea markets and antique car swap meets by foot can now be achieved sitting at home on the internet. Each of these pieces were found and purchased on eBay. Tony also benefits from a shrinking audience interested in keeping or acquiring these pieces, making his preservation efforts all the more important to him, for the enjoyment and education of others.

From the SIRAACA Archive

Our 20th Anniversary Car Show was held on September 15 1996 at the Petrides School. An article from the AACA national magazine reported that 238 vehicles attended, along with almost 60 flea market vendors! The oldest car in attendance was a 1911 Breese, which returned to our show after early appearances at our first couple of shows at the Academy of St. Dorothy. This extremely rare auto was one of three known, and the family that showed it finally sold it at a Bonham's auction in 2018.

Along with first, second and third place trophies in 19 classes, the club presented a number of special awards. The Best of Show, Pre-War was Andrew Ferretti's 1916 Dodge. The same honor for post-war went to Mike Dragonetti's 1959 Lincoln. Mike Preston's 1969 Cadillac won the President's Cup. Lou Aiese and his '66 won a special Mustang Award in Memory of Jerry Revello. The Frank Juliano memorial award was presented to George Elder for his 1958 Chevrolet. You certainly might recall these cars and their owners.

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.



Manny Sperrazza purchased this Breese in 1961, and following a two year restoration, it was shown at an Antique Car Rally on Staten Island where it won first prize. That event likely took place at the Elks Lodge in Greenridge. (photo by Victor Losquadro)

Upcoming Events

Pack your car, grab some friends, and head out to these upcoming events in our area.



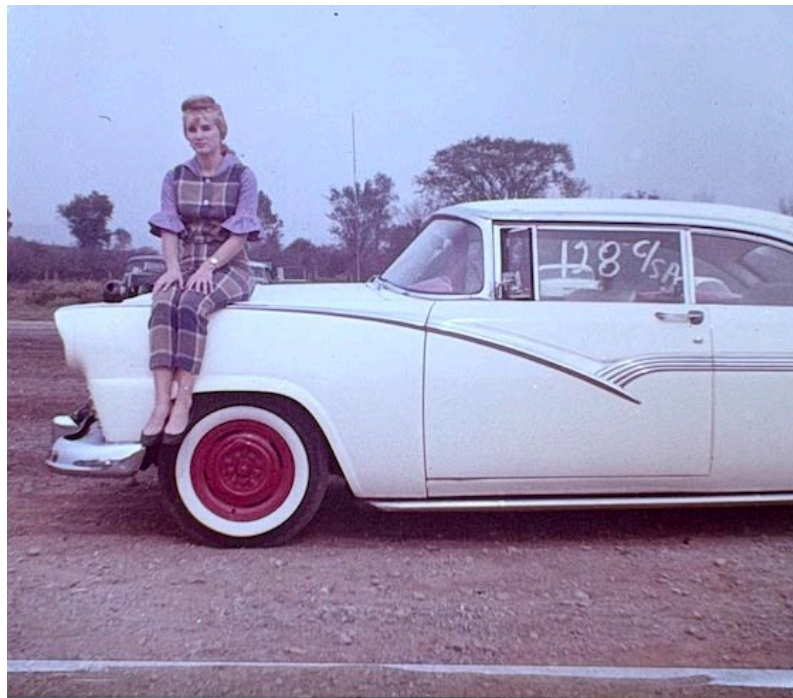
- Carlisle Chrysler Nationals, Carlisle, PA - July 10-12
- 63rd Annual Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie, PA - Jul 31-Aug 2
- Carlisle Truck Nationals, Carlisle, PA - August 7-9
- New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA - August 8-9
- SIRAACA 49th Annual Car Show, Commons Cafe - Sept. 13
- 6th Annual Freehold KoC Blessing & Car Show - Sept. 19

A SIRAACA Neighbor Recalls Her Racing Days

(Editor's note: A special story courtesy of Bruce Campbell. We'll return to "My First Car" soon - please keep sending in your stories)

Bruce Campbell routinely speaks with his neighbor Kathy Malone, and recently learned that she used to drag race more than 60 years ago. She shared some old photos taken in October of 1960, and a brief recollection of those days.

Before becoming Kathy Malone, she was Kathy Moloney, and she had a 1956 Ford two door coupe. It sported custom touches from that era, including a simplified grille of horizontal chrome bars and brushed racing disk wheel covers. The emblems from the hood and trunk were removed, replaced with hand-painted pinstripe designs. Kathy was not only interested in it looking good, but also going fast.



photos dated 10/16/1960 courtesy of Kathy Malone

Kathy was living in Marine Park, Brooklyn in those days. She recalls leaving Brooklyn at 2:00 am and driving up to Monticello for a day of racing with her "Powder Puff". She didn't share much more than that, yet we aren't 100% surprised. If our math is correct and she was only 18 in 1960, she is 84 years old today.

If she was factory stock, the largest motor from Ford in 1956 was the 312 cid V-8, which was paired with a Holley 4bbl and good for 225hp. That, or the 292, could have been swapped out for Ford's 332 Interceptor or Thunderbird's Special 352 by the time these photos were snapped. Whatever it ran, the Powder Puff and Kathy looked very cool with red exposed steelies, a plaid jumpsuit and a white helmet.



The SIRAACA Time Machine

The SIRAACA Time Machine was zipping south along Amboy Road, approaching where Scudder and Bayview each meet up with Amboy in Princes Bay, when we spotted this car (for you to identify) up on an outdoor lift. We slowed down to survey the scene, and discovered a neighborhood service station named Neighborhood Service Station.



We reached the corner of Scudder and Amboy and paused for one full look back. In this view, you can still see the car on the lift between the shop and neighboring house. Power-X gasoline nine cents, plus 5 cents tax. How come today's pumps don't break out the total like this anymore? We see some other interesting brands on signs and cans, like Monogram Oil and Texaco Valor Motor Oil. Talk about a treasure trove of collectibles. Too bad the Time Machine doesn't have a trunk.



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 into 2026 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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