The Official Newsletter of the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Nov 2026



- **October Events Keep the Hobby Going into Autumn**

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB of AMERICA



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST 75

NEW SERIES

MARMON STRAIGHT 8's

New Series Marmon 68 Five-Passenger Sedan

In this new series, Marmon has not left one single thing undone. Everything is just as you would have it . . . Beauty in flowing, sweeping lines—luxury in every detail of interior. Performance made brilliant by Marmon-built straight-eights (rather than the customary six). Value, the greatest you have ever been asked to consider in any automobile. In short, after you look at these two new Marmons you, too, will think, "What more could there be at this money?" Prices f. o. b. factory . . . De luxe equipment extra.

NEW SERIES MARMON 68
New Beauty—New front end, larger lamps, double chromium plating. New colors. New, interesting interiors.
Power—Larger motor. 65 to 75 miles per hour. Added smoothness and flexibility.
Easy Riding—A famous Marmon characteristic now even more pronounced.

$1465

NEW SERIES MARMON 78
Even Greater Luxury—New hood and front end design. Double chromium plating. New fitments. New colors.
Power—Even further developments in "78" motor. 75 to 85 miles per hour.
Easy Riding—Now more than ever, the "easiest riding car in the world."

$1965

Did you know? When Marmon introduced its new V-16 models in 1931, it had two strikes against it. The Great Depression, and Cadillac's rival V-16. Less than 400 Marmon Sixteens were built, with about 75 remaining today.

Vintage Advertising

A nice autumn scene sets the stage for this 1929 ad for Marmon's recently introduced Series 68. The 68 was Marmon's attempt to go after the emerging mid-priced market. For a while, it worked, as Marmon's production jumped from 10,095 cars in 1927 to 14,770 in 1928.

The 201.2 cu. in. straight eight from Marmon was good for 72 horsepower. Marmon continued looking downstream to boost market share, introducing the Roosevelt in 1929 for less than $1,000. Even so, the vaunted Marmon Sixteen was in the works, coming to market in 1931.

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A retired crime fighter in The SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine seeks out Richmond County Buick Co..

Trivia Question: Between 1938 and 1940, Graham featured a design originally called "Spirit of Motion". Today, the hobby refers to it by what more popular nickname?

Answer: The "Sharknose", derived from its forward leaning front end. The streamline design by Amos Northup combined aerodynamics and stylish creativity.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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Minutes of the 601st Meeting

October 13, 2026

1. The 601st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order on October 13 at 7:20 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. For the first time in our history, we ran out of rain dates and had to cancel our fall show.

3. Without a show, we chose to hold our raffle car drawing at Mt. Loretto's Italian Festival over Columbus Day weekend. We sold $1,670 worth of tickets on Saturday and that night, the winning ticket was drawn on stage by CCSI's Claire Attala. The winner was the Fraternal Order of Police, who bought $100 worth of chances from Mike Gorgia.

4. The raffle car took in $8,766 at events and $7,700 in member sales. That will be netted against the $8,000 cost of the car and related expenses such as ticket printing, insurance and registration.

5. We have a new raffle car for 2027. We purchased a 1985 Mustang LX convertible for $8,000. Paul Arena and Mike Gorgia recapped the deal.

6. The new raffle car will make its debut at Mt. Loretto's Fall Festival on October 24 and 25th. We have room for a small number of cars to be displayed. Volunteers were signed up.

7. We will also provide cars for Trunk or Treat at Lifestyles for the Disabled on October 24. Artie Guarnieri is coordinating that event and members can sign up with him to attend.

8. We have targeted April 25 and May 2 as our dates for the 2027 Spring Dust-Off. Confirmation is pending. There are a number of make-up car shows jockeying for spring dates.

9. All trophies from this year are stored away for next fall, so existing donors are covered for 2027. We can discuss new donors at a later date.

10. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report showing all is in order.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm. The 50/50 collected $30 and Gayle Michener won $15.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Trunk or Treat with Lifestyles for the Disabled

Once again, members of the Staten Island Region AACA and fellow old car owners gathered together for a special display of cars at Lifestyles for the Disabled's annual Trunk or Treat. More than twenty cars ranging from Ford Model A's to 1980's Cadillacs staged outside the property and awaited the signal to drive down the central roadway, flanked by Halloween displays. Leading the pack was Mike Gorgia and his 1966 Chevrolet police car, it's siren announcing the caravan's arrival. The bright autumn day was filled with families going car to car in Halloween costumes, enjoying music, candy and the extra treat of a mini car show.



Car 2086 lead the way into Lifestayle's campus, where more than twenty old cars joined their Trunk and Treat festivities.. (photo by Artie Guarnieri)

2027 Raffle Car Debuts at Catholic Charities' Fall Festival

Mount Loretto played host to Catholic Charities' annual Fall Festival on October 24-25, and SIR-AACA was on hand to debut its 2027 raffle car. On Saturday, it was displayed alongside Kevin Keenan's 1979 Volkwagen Beetle and Phil Boffa's 2005 Mustang. Ticket sales were steady all afternoon, and the car drew plenty of attention (maybe it was the skeleton sitting in the driver's seat that helped pull the little kids in). On Sunday, a new display featured all three of Ray Ocello's Model T's, Mike Gorgia's 1995 Chevrolet Caprice and Chris Campanelli's El Camino. Thanks to the Don Bosco and Tony Ventrice for driving two of the T's to ensure the trio would be there. Exposing the cars to an audience that doesn't typically attend a car show was a benefit to all, especially when they realized that two of the cars were 100 years old and the third was built in the same year when the Titanic sank. Ticket sales on Sunday nearly mirrored the take from Saturday, and we wrapped up the weekend with $1,085. We also presented Catholic Charities with a $2,000 donation. Thanks to Kevin, Phil, Ray, Don, Tony, Chris, Mike Signorile, Artie Guarnieri, Mike Campanelli and Joe Rego for volunteering over the weekend and getting our sales effort underway ahead of next year.



Kevin, Paul, Mike and Phil pose for Owen Reiter of The Advance while buyers fill out their raffles for the 1985 Mustang seen below.



From the Editor

Thanks to Phil Boffa and Don Bosco for recently submitting stories to me for use in our newsletter. Please keep more of them coming. We started a "My First Car" column that all of you could contribute to. I'm always open to submissions for The SIRAACA Garage, and if I have the chance to take a picture of one of your cars out in the wild, I will contact you for details so I can write about it. Keep in mind that we run The SIRAACA Archive from time to time featuring photos, articles and artifacts from our club's past. We've also run stories about decorating the SIRAACA Garage that features your automobilia collections. Lastly, we featured stories from time to time (mostly from Tony DiAngelo) about the antique toy cars, trucks and vehicles we collect. Send stuff my way across those categories or suggest something new. I appreciate the ideas as much as the direct submissions. So who's contributing next? With the local hobby activity wrapping up for winter, I'll have less to draw upon myself. Let's see what you have to offer. - Paul



- NEXT MEETING - November 3

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, November 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 7:00 PM.
The club will provide pizza and soda, and members can purchase additional or alternate items on their own.

Congratulations!

Although many of our members attended the AACA Eastern Fall Meet at Hershey this year, only one had a show car on the field. Pat Colabella showed his 1991 Audi Quattro Turbo for the first time at a national event and came home with a Second Junior in Class 27S. It's a fairly big class, covering Production Vehicles from 1990-1994. Six cars won a Junior Award (five first place and one second place), and Pat's was the only import among them. Senior Awards went to a 1990 Toyota Celica All-Trac and a 1992 Toyota Camry. A 1991 Volvo 940 Turbo and a 1992 Saturn SC won Preservation awards. In all, three Audis were on the show field - one in DPC and one in ORG (formerly HPOF). Congrats to Pat for expanding the national winner footprint of our region.



(photo by Bob Ferone)

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

If cars could talk, oh the stories they could tell. Imagine Mike Gorgia's 1996 Caprice 9C1 tales of its former life as a working police vehicle now that it's retired to The SIRAACA Garage.

It was put into service on 11/29/1996 as RMP0113 assigned to Inspector Michael Fox of Patrol Boro Manhattan South. It saw him promoted to Deputy Chief and was his ride until May 1999, when Fox got a new Crown Vic. The Caprice was renumbered and assigned to the detective squad in Harlem's 30th Precinct. It was condemned in 2002 with 49,948 miles.

It was sold at auction to a guy in Red Hook who kept it until he passed. His nephew then listed it on Craigslist and sold it to one of Mike's friends, who restored all of the NYPD specific equipment. In 2024, the friend inherited his uncle's Grand National and offered Mike the car. It now has a little over 58,000 miles, and wears the look of a working car.

The 9C1 Caprice is a factory-built Police Pursuit Vehicle. The '96 has the 5.7L LT1 found in the Corvette. "96 was the last "bubble-body" model.

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.



Chevrolet's 9C1 production code applies to many cars since the mid-1970's, including police variants of the Nova, Malibu, Celebrity, Impala, Caprice, Lumina, Tahoe, Silverado and Blazer EV. (photo by Paul Arena)

Autumn T Time



Ray Ocello's Model T's greeted visitors to the Fall Festival on Sunday and drew interest in our club's activities. At left is a 1912 runabout, and at right is a 1926 touring. His 1926 sedan was on the other side of the display. (photo by Paul Arena)

Antique Automobile Club of America
Staten Island Region, Est. 1974

"What is That?" A Grand National Meet Showcase

(Editor's note: We'll return to "My First Car" soon - please send in your submissions for future issues)

AACA National Meets draw out vehicles that you'll never see at a local car show or cruise night. The recent Grand National Meet in August was just another example of that. Here we spotlight four vehicles that caught our attention among the nearly 500 in attendance.





Top left is a 1994 Mazda AZ-1 M2-1015. It is one of only 25 made and is powered by a 660cc Suzuki turbocharged three cylinder engine good for 100 horses. It was imported here in 2023. Top right is a 1944 KdF-Wagen Type 82e. This predates the Volkswagen Beetle. It's restoration spanned 22 years and ten countries. Bottom left is a 1958 King Midget Model 3, a micro-car powered by a 9hp one cylinder engine. It cost close to $900 when new. Bottom right is a majestic 1911 Oldsmobile Limited. The Limited was GM's most expensive product at the time, ranging from $5000 to $7000. It features a 707 cubic inch T-head six rated at 60hp but rumored to putting out close to 90, and rolls on 43 inch wheels. Limiteds were last built in 1912 as Olds pivoted to the midmarket. Sources note that only 10 out of a possible 800 survive - one from 1910, eight from 1911 and one from 1912.

(photos by Paul Arena)





The SIRAACA Time Machine



The Most Colorful and Captivating Motor Car Bodies of the Year Are Presented In

The New

BUICK

QUALITY *so fine that half the world doesn't realize that Buick is priced so low!*

Women Prefer the New Buick

because the new road shock eliminator and the new steering gear make the Buick the easiest car in the world to drive!

The road shock eliminator — built into the front of the frame on the steering gear side—absorbs every jolt and jar arising from road inequalities, and thus prevents their transmission to the steering wheel and the driver's hands.

Imagine being able to travel on the roughest road with your hands resting lightly on the wheel! Think of having an automobile which you can drive all day at any speed without feeling a single road jolt transmitted through the steering wheel!

Such are the fine results of two matchless new quality features in the 1930 Buick—two features which add to this car's appeal as the greatest dollar value of the day: a wonderful new frictionless steering gear, and the new Buick road shock eliminator!

We extend an invitation to every woman in Staten Island to drive the New Buick...those women who reside out of town and who are attending the Cooking School....to all we want to prove the superior qualities of Buick. Drive the new Buick on Staten Island's roughest roads....the sort of road you ordinarily avoid as too rough for comfort. Test these twin features of comfort which make the New Buick the easiest steering automobile in its field.

H. L. SPITZER — L. W. OSBORNE

RICHMOND COUNTY BUICK COMPANY, Inc.

720 Richmond Terrace, Cor. Lafayette Ave., New Brighton. Tel. St. George 3300

BRANCHES

AMBOY ROAD AT HILLSIDE TERRACE, GREAT KILLS. Telephone Dongan Hills 116.

124 MAIN STREET, NEAR AMBOY ROAD, TOTTENVILLE. Telephone Tottenville 818.

When Better Automobiles are Built Buick will Build Them"

Above, the Amboy & Hillside location in Great Kills has plenty of auto history. We've previously visited Nelson Mintz's DeSoto dealership and others there. (Ad courtesy of the Staten Island Advance. Photo courtesy of NYC Municipal Archives).

The Richmond County Buick Company is one of several Buick dealers that operated on Staten Island dating back to at least the early teens. This ad ran in the Advance in 1930, and points out not only the main address at 720 Richmond Terrace but branches located on Amboy Road and Hillside Terrace in Great Kills and 124 Main Street near Amboy Road in Tottenville. We wanted our Time Machine to pass the Terrace but could only reach 1940, and there is no listing in the 1940 phone book for this dealer. We found this gas station on the corner of Lafayette and the Terrace instead.



SOCONY was short for Standard Oil Company of New York, which dates back to 1882. The pegasus and Mobilgas branding foretell the 1955 creation of Socony Mobil Oil Co, which became Mobil Oil Corp. in 1966 and ExxonMobil in 1999. The corner today is a Citgo station and Terrace Auto Repairs.

Last month, the SIRAACA Time Machine asked you to identify two cars outside Russo's Garage located on Richmond Avenue near Forest Avenue. The five window coupe is a 1936 Ford. The car in the garage is a 1940 Nash

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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