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

Vol. 33, No. 12

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Dec 2026



- Holiday Party is Dec. 13
- Retromobile NYC

Antique Automobile Club of America



"I knew he'd forget…all he can think of is our new PLYMOUTH"

Did you know? Plymouth's best year by sales was 1973, where model year production reached 746,821. This was made up in four groups: Valiant, Barracuda, Satellite and Fury, across 17 models and 29 vehicle configurations.

Vintage Advertising

An ad for a car without a car? This 1948 ad for Plymouth takes us into a classroom at Christmas time. A forgetful boy is prompted by his teacher as his parents blame it on their new car.

While the scenario likely did not encourage anyone to buy a new Plymouth just so that their kids could be distracted, the ad probably caught the reader's attention. Maybe people talked about it, you know, the way we used to communicate before social media.

Plymouth was third in sales in 1948, behind Chevrolet and Ford, a position it held for many decades. Calendar year production was 378,048 across Deluxe and Special Deluxe trims.

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A missing dash plaque surfaces in The SIRAACA Archive

The SIRAACA Time Machine finds REO's at Inter-Borough but couldn't get there

Trivia Question: 1970, Plymouth launched a traveling road show featuring four custom cars, each promoting the brand's high performance products? What was it called?

Answer: The Plymouth Rapid Transit System, designed to rival Dodge's Scat Pack and Ford's Total Performance. It ran for two years.

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Minutes of the 602nd Meeting

November 3, 2026

1. The 602nd meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order on November 3 at 6:40 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. There was a great turnout of club members and friends for Lifestyles for the Disabled's Trunk or Treat. More than 20 cars lined up for a Halloween display. Thanks to all who pitched in to make it a special day for those in attendance.

3. The 2027 Raffle Car debuted at Mt. Loretto's Fall Festival with $1,085 in ticket sales. The two-day event featured a small display of cars as well, including Ray Ocello's trio of Model T's. Thanks to those who volunteered their time that weekend.

4. Our Annual Holiday Party is Sunday, December 13th at La Strada, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. As usual, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from our members to donate to the Richard M. Gardner Foundation's toy drive. If you plan on attending, be sure to RSVP.

5. Remember to renew your AACA dues before December 31.

6. Retromobile will be at the Javits Center from November 19-22.

7. Local restorer Rob Ida will debut a freshly restored 1939 GM Futurliner on November 14 before leading a Parade of Preservation from Old Bridge NJ to NYC. Meet up at Filoncino's on Route 1 at 6:00 am, with the convoy rolling via escort at 7:00 am.

8. Phil Boffa presented a treasury report showing all is in order. He also spoke about our grant application to the Nicotra Foundation, worth $1,500.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Restored Futurliner #7 Debuts in Old Bridge

Many vehicles earn being called iconic. Some do so because of a ground-breaking design, others because of their impact on society, and others because they embody an emotion. Fewer get to iconic status for all three. One such vehicle is the GM Futurliner. A fleet of 12 were built in 1939, designed by the great Harley Earl as rolling exhibition vehicles. They toured America to showcase new technology and innovation by bringing New York World's Fair to cities and towns from coast to coast. This was called GM's Parade of Progress. In 1953, the fleet was refreshed with a design more in tune with post-war America. Up until now, all Futurliners appeared in 1953 form. That began to change two years ago, when Mike Katz and The Caretakers Collection purchased #7 and tapped Rob Ida of New Jersey to bring it back to its original design. An incredible effort to do so was completed in November, in time for appearing at Retromobile in NYC. Around 6:00 am on November 14, the Futurliner rolled into a shopping center in Old Bridge, greeted by hundreds of onlookers and more than 75 collector cars. By 7:00, they all rolled out with a State Trooper escort in a Parade of Preservation, heading up the Turnpike to the Lincoln Tunnel into Manhattan, up to Columbus Circle, down through Times Square and to the Javits Center. The entire spectacle blew up social media. After its star turn at Retromobile, the Futurliner took a detour through Queens to visit Flushing Meadows where it all began for the Futurliner 87 years ago. Rob and Mike have since announced that #7 will take the Parade of Preservation across the country on a new tour, culminating at the Pebble Beach Concours in August. We highly recommend spending time looking at Facebook and Instagram posts from Rob Ida as well as The Caretakers Collection for plenty of photos and video of the incredible tear down and restoration of this magnificent vehicle and its journey to New York City. Follow along in the coming months for more announcements about its cross country tour and how it will tie into a fundraising effort, with Sloan Kettering as the intended recipient (Charles Kettering was GM's Head of Research from 1920-1947).



(photos by Paul Arena)



From the President

Some folks love meeting a certain celebrity. While a chance encounter with a celeb is neat, especially if you are a fan, I geek out when the "celebrity" is a vehicle. Why else would I wake up at 5:00 am on a Saturday and drive over to Old Bridge, NJ? Apparently, I'm not alone in this, with a coupe hundred others doing the same. I've seen Futurliners in person before, even climbed up inside one of them at some show, but this one is different. How so? It resurrects the original design from 1939. Most notable is the bubble canopy top, but there are other key differences. The nose is where most of those are, starting with the backlit "GM" which was replaced with blockier letters to cover the lighting cutouts. The temperature controlled louver doors and license plate housing were removed in 1953. The four rows of concave brightwork were recreated, as they had been replace with seven rows of flat trim. The red paint is darker, and there is no two-tone white treatment. Modern upgrades include air conditioning and 360 degree view cameras. I'm a big fan.
- Paul



- NEXT MEETING - November 3

Our next monthly meeting is our Holiday Party, to be held on Sunday, December 13 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm at La Strada, 139 New Dorp Lane. Members and guests are asked to bring in new, unwrapped toys for our annual donation to the Richard M. Gardner Memorial Toy Drive.

Holiday Party is December 13

Active members are invited to join us for our annual Holiday Party. Some of you already RSVP'd at the November meeting, and we will be contacting everyone else shortly to get a head count. Please remember that we are collecting and donating new, unwrapped toys that afternoon.



Dues Are Due

With the holiday season about to start and busy schedules on the horizon, members are reminded to renew their annual AACA membership by December 31 for the new year. Dues are $45 and can include a spouse at no additional cost. Options include mailing a check along with the renewal form in the Nov/Dec edition of *Antique Automobile*, or paying online through the AACA website (aaca.org). We will collect local region dues beginning in January.

From the SIRAACA Archive

Bruce Campbell recently caught up with Carl Dujmich, a long-time attendee of our car shows, and ended up with a stack of vintage SIRAACA dash plaques dating back to the 1970's. This one is one of the "missing" ones we called out some time ago. It's from our 12th Annual show in 1988.

The plaque features artwork by Sal DeFrancesco of a 1915 Ford Model T Coupelet, which won the President's Cup in 1987. The Verrazano Bridge can be seem in the background, and the building closely resembles the Seguine Mansion (minus its peaked roof).

This car was owned by Art Nelson, who found the car in Alabama in 1972 and took 14 years to restore it. Ford built 2,417 Coupelets in 1915. This one featured the "Dixie Tread" option, a 60-inch wide-track created for Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, where horse-drawn wagons created wide ruts that the cars could follow. There are no records on how many Coupelet's were fitted with this option.

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.



The 1915 Coupelet was Henry Ford's first true convertible. The genuine leather cabriolet top was lined and insulated, and fully framed glass slid down into the doors. The window frames folded down and out of sight to complete the convertible design. (photo by Paul Arena)

RM Auction at Hershey

We looked over the results of RM's Auction at Hershey, where 170 vehicles crossed the block. Prices ranged from $8,960 for a 1931 Chevrolet fire truck to $1,022,500 for a 1934 Duesenberg Model J Berline by Murphy. In between, we noticed a few others that stood out for one reason or another. For example, a 1958 Buick Limited convertible sold for $321,250, driven by rarity (839 built) and a concours quality restoration. A matching '58 Limited coupe sold for $123,200. A 1947 Chrysler Town & Country sedan hammered at $280,000. It is one of 100 T&C sedans built with an 8-cylinder, and one of four known to survive. Compare that to a '48 T&C convertible wearing an older restoration that fetched $48,160. More fun for about one-sixth the price. Entry levels buys included a 1922 McLaughlinBuick (Canada) touring car and a 1955 DeSoto Fireflite Sportsman each selling for $12,320. A nice 1941 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet (1 of 400) went for only $28,880 but a 1941 Lincoln Zephyr coupe (1 of 972) more than tripled that at $92,400, and a 1939 Zephyr coupe (1 of 2,500) topped that at $112,000. One of the few newer cars to sell was a 1975 Chevrolet Caprice Classic convertible, one of 8,349 built in the final model year for GM full-sized ragtops. Unrestored with 17,700 or so original miles, it is an AACA Senior Grand National winner. The final price? $64,960. See all results with photos at rmsothebys.com/auctions/hf26/lots/

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB of AMERICA
STATEN ISLAND REGION, EST. 1974

Inaugural Retromobile NYC

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

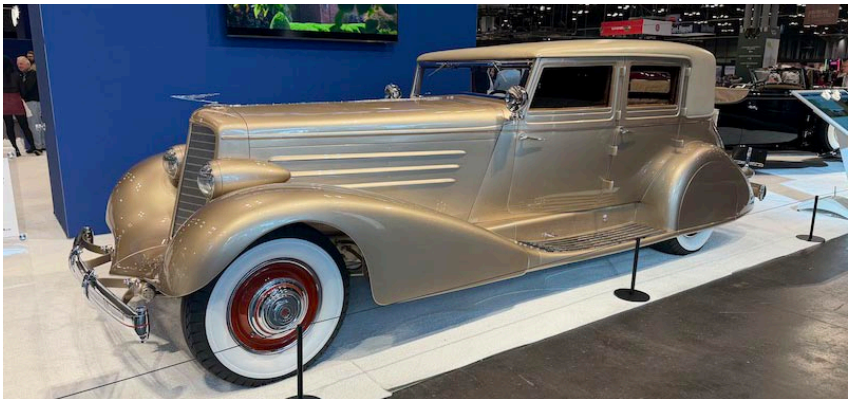
The United States' inaugural Retromobile Show in NYC did not disappoint anyone who loves cars, with plenty of favorites both old and new. Here are some highlights from the show.



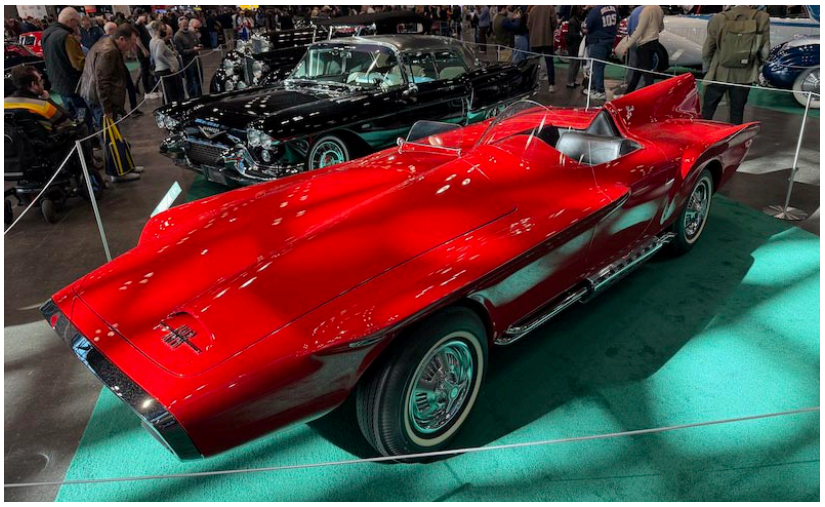


Top left: 1937 Delahaye 135 Competition Court Torpedo Cabriolet by Figoni and Falaschi. Top right, Jerry Seinfeld's 1970 Porsche 908/03 in front of his 1959 Volkswagen T1 Renntransporter carrying his 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder.





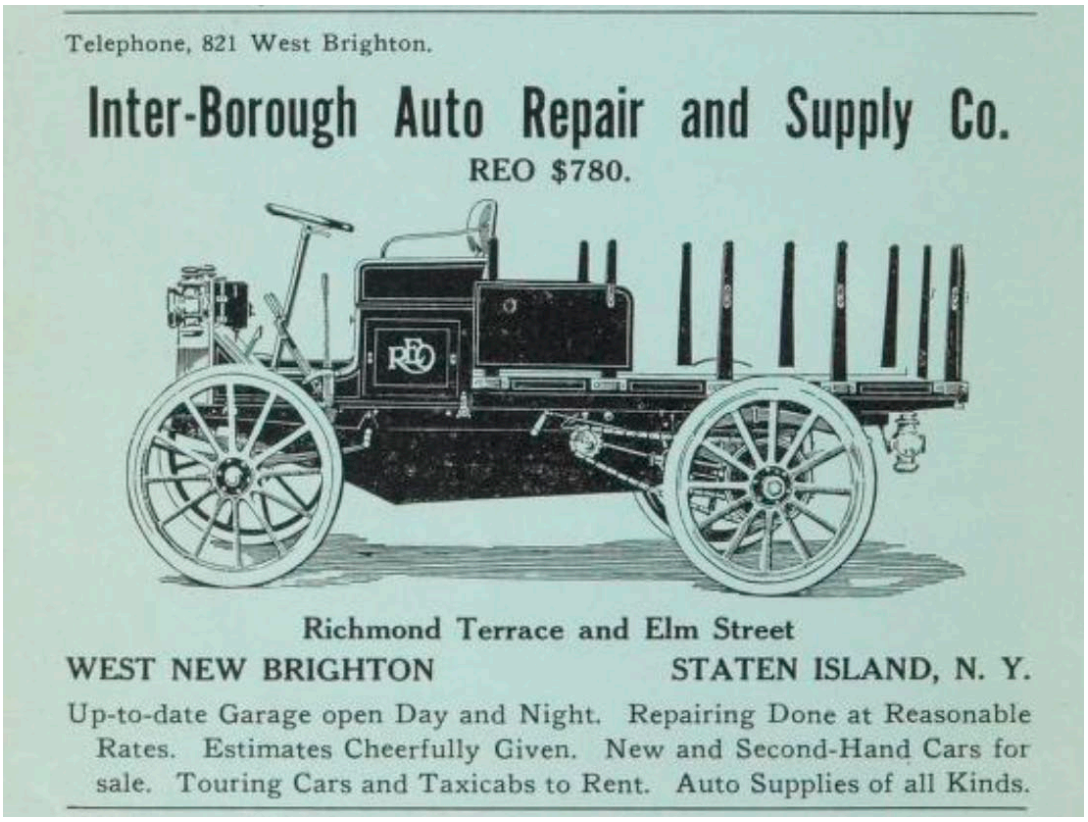
Above left, a Ferrari trio: 1958 250 TR. 1955 410 Sport and 1963 275 P. Above right, 1929 Duesenberg Model J Berline by Bohman and Schwartz. This car was originally bodied by Derham and rebodied in the mid-1930's by Bohman & Schwartz for the second owner. Below left, 1960 Plymouth XNR concept vehicle designed by Virgil Exner and built by Italian coachbuilder Ghia. It features a 250 hp, 170 cu in slant six. A 1957-58 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham is next to it. Below right, 2023 Aston Martin Valkyrie features a 6.5 liter Cosworth V-12 plus a rear hybrid electric motor combing for more than 1,110 hp. Behind it is a 2019 Ferrari Monza SP1, a single seat speedster. (photos by Paul Arena)





The SIRAACA Time Machine

The Inter-Boro Auto Repair & Supply Co. was one of the earliest auto businesses we've found on the Island, with some local ads dating to 1909. The ad at right is from a 1912 directory, showcasing REO as it's make of choice. We've found listings for them as recent as 1928. The ad below is from October, 1921. The Time Machine made a few passes in the area, but nothing revealed that Inter-Borough was once there.



Aside from selling new REO's, Inter-Borough was a used car dealer and fully equipped repair shop. A 1909 ad said, "We may be bragging a bit, but we think we have the best on the Island. Give us a chance to show you."



If that wasn't enough, they also provided cars to hire. Another 1909 ad reads. "When you have friends visit Staten Island, how can you entertain them better than to show them what a beautiful spot this Island really is. Get a motor car and take them around. You have the friends; we have the cars. Five-passenger cars and Landaulets, both carrying four passengers besides the chauffeur. Prices are as follows for Island travel:

One Hour - $3.00
Two Hours - $5.00
Five Hours from 2 to 7 or 1 to 6 p.m. - $10.00
Every Hour after 7 p.m. - $3.00"

We assume there was no local traffic back then and you could cover a lot of ground in a couple of hours.

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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