

Vol. 23, No. 1

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jan 2015



• **We're Back!**





# STUTZ

## World's Champion

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Champion

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Champion

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Consistency  
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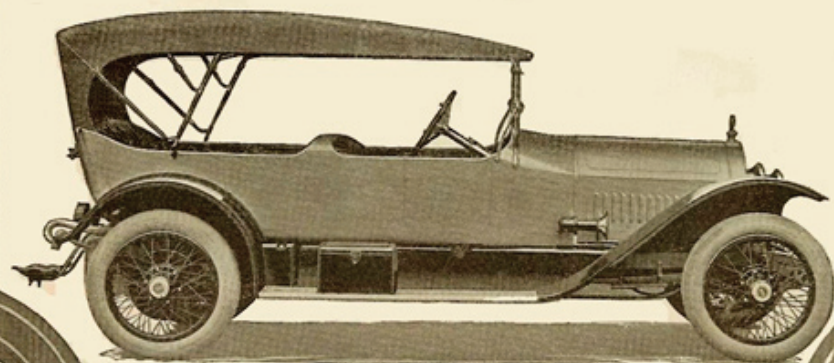
The same stamina that resulted in 4 consecutive firsts and seconds in the fastest gruelling events of 1915, means long and satisfactory service in your hands.

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## Vintage Advertising

If you picked up a copy of "The Automobile" one hundred years ago, you'd find this full page ad for Stutz Motor Car. It cites the Stutz pedigree of record-setting as the key reason to buy one. Performance, so to speak, was one key element that auto advertisers focused on in that era.

After a Stutz placed 11th in the inaugural Indy 500 in 1911, Harry Stutz continued to campaign cars in support of his new company. The consistent finishes in 1st and 2nd place included races in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Although no traces of the track remain today, old maps indicate an entrance on the east side of Ocean Avenue between Avenues X and Y. The track was sold in 1923 and developed into residences.

The final Stutz was built in 1934, and in 25 years, only 35,000 autos were built bearing the Stutz name.

## In This Issue

Celebrating the holidays.

Saving a piece of Staten Island's vehicular history.

A new resident of the SIRAACA Garage.

*Trivia Question: Which automaker is credited with producing the first dual-cowl phaeton in 1916?*

*Answer: Locomobile. Research shows it was custom built for William Potter of Rhode Island based on a design by Frank de Causse, who headed up Locomobile's custom body efforts.*

**EDITOR -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**PRESIDENT -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**VICE PRESIDENT -**

**Mike Signorile**

onehot51@aol.com

**SECRETARY -**

**Tony DiAngelo**

**TREASURER -**

**Phil Boffa**

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -**

**Jonathan Schulman**

jns@jonathanschulman.com

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -**

**Jeff Tucker**

**WEBMASTER -** siraaca@yahoo.com

**Frank Nathanson**

**<http://local.aaca.org/siraaca>**

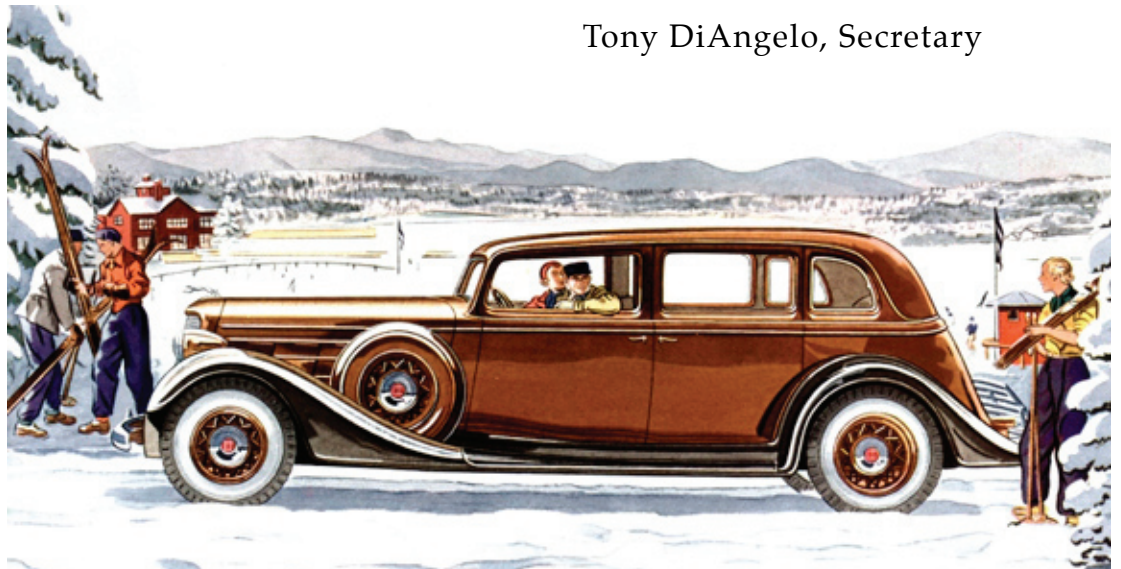
# Minutes of the 487th Meeting

November 10, 2015

1. The 487th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:30 pm. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes of the 486th meeting were accepted as read by Tony DiAngelo.
2. The club's holiday party will be held on December 6 at The Roadhouse on Clove Road. Party begins at 4:00 pm. Please remember to bring new, unwrapped toys which will be donated to charity.
3. Members who attended Hershey shared stories of their weekend. Congratulations to Andrew Napoli for winning a First Junior with his Riviera. Jonathan Schulman racked up more judging credits and noted that he finally encountered an engine compartment with a perfect score. It was noted that six AACA members from Staten Island won awards and none of them are members of our region.
4. Get well wishes were extended to Tony Ventrice, who is recuperating from knee surgery, and Bob Stephens, who is going in for ankle surgery.
5. Congratulations to Aaron Nathanson on the birth of his son, as well as to proud grandpa Frank Nathanson.
6. Club friend Rob Ida won a SEMA Best of Show Design Award from Ford for his custom 1940 Mercury.
7. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The 50/50 collected \$28.00, with Paul Jr. winning \$14.00. Tony DiAngelo won a \$25.00 Thanksgiving turkey gift card.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary





## Your Holiday Party

SIRAACA held its annual Holiday Party at The Roadhouse to celebrate the end of another wonderful year of camaraderie, successful events and the holiday season. The club recognized some special efforts by certain members, naming Bruce Campbell the top raffle salesman and Tony DiAngelo, Paul Arena and Mike Signorile tops in trophy donations. Phil Boffa was presented with an award for his long service as club treasurer and Paul Arena Jr. was honored for his continuing efforts as the current president.



Members once again donated new, unwrapped toys to be distributed through a local charity.



Above - Club secretary Tony DiAngelo (left) presents President Paul Arena Jr. with a plaque at the Holiday Party. Their matching outfits were unplanned.

Below - Cindy Brande, Marina Corpus, Annette Arena, Rosemarie Napoli and Lillian DiGiovanni find time to relax at a dinner table instead of manning the car show raffle table. (photos by Frank Nathanson)



The Staten Island Region wishes you and your family a healthy and happy 2016. See you all in January!



## From the President

I hope that everyone has had themselves a very happy holiday season and is looking forward to the new year. 2016 marks two milestone anniversaries for our club. In the spring we will be hosting our 10th annual dust-off and in September we will be putting on our 40th annual fall show. Early planning has begun to ensure we mark these events properly, and we are encouraging everyone to help in some way or another to make sure we really outdo ourselves. Please be vocal about your ideas and follow through with your actions and we'll be sure to have a great year. I'm looking forward to it!

- Paul Jr.



## From the Editor

It's time for my annual reminder to all of our members to help me with our monthly newsletter. Please share with me stories, photos, reminiscences or what have you so that I can in turn share them with our readers. This includes tales about your current cars or projects, tales of cars you once owned, or cars you still lust after today. Send me an e-mail or fill me in at one of the meetings and don't worry about grammar or spelling, I'll take care of that for you.

- Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - January 5

Our January meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 pm, and will be held at the Staff House at Seaview Home & Hospital, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. Each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 towards the purchase of coffee and doughnuts.

## Saving a Staten Island Truck

Odds are quite high that if you lived on Staten Island for good number of years, you can recall hearing the familiar bells of the Jack's Grinding truck as it worked his way through our neighborhoods offering to sharpen a pair of scissors or a lawn mower blade. Too often, the kids playing stickball or riding their bicycles were disappointed to realize it wasn't an ice cream truck, but there were plenty of parents happy to hear him coming down their street. After more than 50 years, Jack Iammatteo has finally called it a career. He put his 1963 Chevrolet truck up for sale, and when word got out, there were common tales of remembrance as well as a cry to save what was an unofficial piece of Staten Island history. When a buyer emerged looking to send the truck to a museum in Canada, Don Bosco and Mike Signorile struck a deal to keep it on the island. We plan to work with Historic Richmond Town in an effort to permanently display the truck in the same place it's logged every one of the miles on its odometer.



Jack took delivery of his 1963 Chevrolet step van on November 22, the same day that President Kennedy was shot and killed. (photo by Mike Signorile.)



## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

The doors to the SIRAACA Garage are opened once more, and this time we peek inside for our first look at a new resident. It's a 1950 Ford Custom Deluxe convertible now owned by Andrew Napoli.

We don't know much about this particular car other than it's been with its past owner for 50 years, but hadn't been started in the last ten when Andrew went to look at it. He wasn't told it was a ragtop when he got the lead on the car. Seeing that it was a convertible made it that much easier to buy it.

We hear Andrew's been spending a lot of his time working on the car, and that it's growing on him (don't they all?) We look forward to an update on his progress and seeing the car come springtime.

The newly named top of the line for Ford in 1950 was the Custom Deluxe. It was the only line that offered a convertible, and Ford made 50,299 of them that year. Base price was \$1,948, only bested by the \$2,111 required to buy a 2-Door Country Squire Station Wagon. While six-cylinder engines were available from Ford in 1950, the convertible came standard with a 239 cu. in. V-8.

The SIRAACA Garage looks to return next month. 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.



*That's Andrew working diligently on cleaning up the engine compartment of his newly acquired 1950 Ford convertible. These are often referred to as a "Shoebox Ford" thanks to the slab-sided design that debuted the year prior. This design would remain in play through 1951. (photo courtesy of Andrew Napoli.)*



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## If It's January, It Must Be Auction Time

At the beginning of each year, the big auction houses kick off the action in Arizona. Barrett-Jackson, RM Sotheby's, Russo & Steele and others will all be there, bringing out hordes of tire kickers and big spenders alike. One special car that will cross the block at RM is a 1942 Cadillac Series 60 Special Town Car by Derham. The car is one of two believed built by special order before the industry was retooled to provide for WWII. It began life as a Series 60 Special Imperial sedan before getting shipped to Derham for the conversion as a wedding present from an industrialist to his socialite bride-to-be. It has an open driver's compartment, a padded roof, a smaller rear window, known as the "backlight". Everything else is factory supplied, including the three-speed manual transmission and the 346 cubic inch V-8, good for 150 horsepower.



The car has been owned by the seller since 1974. In that time, it has been completely restored, honored with awards from the CCCA and displayed on loan to the LeMay Museum in Washington. It will be auctioned off with no reserve, with estimates landing anywhere from \$80,000 to \$120,000. Considering the prices for much more common late 1950's convertibles or 1960's muscle cars, those estimates sound like a real steal for such a rare and beautiful automobile. *(photo by Randy Wells for RM Sotheby's)*

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