

Vol. 19, No. 11

Ragtops &

Rumbleseats

Nov 2012



- ***SIRAACA Efforts for Sandy Victims***
- ***Holiday Party Canceled***



Vintage Advertising

Here is a promotional piece dating back to 1953, touting the new designs spouting from the mind of Virgil Exner at Chrysler. The cars are a pair of Ghia-built show cars - the C-200 convertible and the Chrysler D'Elegance coupe.

Five Ghia special models were built in 1952. They featured some design cues that found their way to production, including the gun-sight taillights later seen on the 1955 Imperial. The legacy of the coupe is not really found within Chrysler, however. The Ghia designers essentially downsized the car when they created the VW Karmann Ghia coupe.

The D'Elegance was sold at Barrett-Jackson in 2001 for \$334,800. It crossed the block again at RM Auctions in 2011 for \$946,000.



wonderful things are happening today...



To see how different these custom designed Chryslers were from their 1952 production counterparts, here's an Imperial from that year.



In This Issue

This issue was started before Sandy struck, put aside while we waited for power to come back, and wrapped up after everything around us had changed so dramatically. As such, there are both light-hearted and serious tones within this issue.

Trivia Question: What was the name of the design theme that Virgil Exner brought to Chrysler Corp., beginning with his tail-finned cars of 1955?

Answer: "The Forward Look".

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Minutes of the 450th Meeting

October 2, 2012

1. The 450th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order by President Paul Jr. at 7:45 pm at the Staff House at Sea View. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Tony DiAngelo read the minutes of the 449th meeting. They were accepted as read.
2. Members discussed the pros and cons of this year's show, and shared ideas for continued improvements for upcoming events. Focus was placed on handling an overflow of cars, suggesting alternate locations for newer cars, and maximizing the space available for the entire event.
3. Paul Arena revealed the top sellers of trophy donations and raffle tickets. Bob Columbia was tops in raffle sales with \$632, followed by Tony DiAngelo with \$450 and Bruce Campbell with \$366. A special mention was made for Bob Stephens, whose yearly block party serves up a large chunk of his contributions of \$375. The top three trophy salesmen were Paul Arena, Mike Signorile and Frank Provenzano. All in all, members did very well. Bob wins free local membership for 2013, and the top trophy salesmen will receive awards in December.
4. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report that included the income and expenses around the show. Total sales on this year's raffle car were \$12,504.
5. Many members will be attending the AACA Fall Meet in Hershey for a variety of reasons - buying, selling, showing, judging, and most importantly, enjoying the weekend..
6. Bob Columbia's son is putting together a fund raiser dinner to help charities related to kidney illness. The club elected to buy a \$100 raffle ticket as a show of support.
7. A date and location of this year's Holiday Party will be known in time for our November meeting.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. The 50-50 collected \$24.00, with Pat Lucchini winning \$12.00

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary, SIRAACA



National Nominees

Throughout the year at national meets, the AACA makes note of exceptional vehicles that score high on their judging sheets. These cars are then considered for special awards, which are given out each February at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. This year, two of our members have received nominations. Andrew Napoli and Doc Corpus were selected for their 1958 Chevrolet Impala convertible and 1986 Chevrolet Camaro Z28, respectively. This is the first time that we can recall more than one of our members receiving this honor in the same year. Best of luck to both Andrew and Doc, as we've yet to have a winner emerge from our ranks.



Club Members in Blue Blazers

The Monmouth County Concours d'Elegance is quickly establishing itself as a quality gathering of unique and spectacular cars from the turn of the 20th century through 1969. This year, several members of our club had the honor of judging various classes on the grounds of Hop Brook Farm in Holmdel, NJ. Donning blue blazers and red ties for the event, Phil Boffa, Kevin Keenan, Paul Arena, Andrew Napoli and Paul Jr. went about determining "wow" factor and the quality of restorations or preservations. On the other side of the coin, Doc Corpus showed his 1958 Impala, alongside club friends Andy Barcellona (1958 Ford) and Andy Cannizzo (1963 Corvette Z06 "big tank" coupe). With an accompanying fashion show emerging from some of the cars in attendance and rolling commentary from noted auto historian Bill Rothermel, the concours is working on becoming a must-see event each fall.



Helping Victims of Superstorm Sandy

This newsletter was partially completed before the storm struck our coastlines, and then put aside as the lights went out. When the lights came back, everything had changed. Our communities are devastated with unimaginable losses. How do we help? Local organizations are pulling together all sorts of collection efforts, some matching those in need with those who can give. National organizations like the Red Cross take donations en masse and distribute accordingly.

Friends of SIRAACA have reached out to us from across the country asking how they too can help. As such, we've set up a donation campaign. Every penny that comes in goes right back out. No overhead. No administrative fees. It began with a church community in Orange County, CA that wants to put aid directly in the victims' hands. We, as a charitable organization, will accept the donations, and then purchase what's needed - cleaning supplies, food, gift cards to big box stores, etc. The donations are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.

Campaign details are posted to the AACA Forums, our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/siraaca), and our website (<http://local.aaca.org/siraaca>). In addition, we are reaching out to the car community at large, such as the HCCA, PreWarCar.com, and Hyman Ltd. for additional support. If you know anyone who wants to donate through us, or needs our help, let us know.

From the Editor

For me, Hershey remains the reward for all the hard work we put in with our events throughout the year. As opposed to our shows, our cruise nights, and our other events, the fall meet is a chance to take in everything and anything associated with our hobby without worry or responsibility.

This year, I opted to leave the Cutlass home and simply go as a spectator, freeing me up for taking photos, scouring the car corral and flea market, and spending time with friends and family.

As luck would have it (or more appropriately, as bad luck would have it), my camera decided to stop working properly. Would my iPhone take pictures nice enough for future covers of the newsletter? On Thursday, Ed Vomero handed me his digital one-shot and told me to use it as needed. I shot some cars in the corral with both the iPhone and his camera, and used them again in the AACA Museum on Saturday.

On Sunday morning, as I walked the crunchy frosted grass of the show field, I yearned for my Canon Rebel. It was at this moment when I bumped into West Petersen, who is the editor of *Antique Automobile*. He was sporting the same Canon around his neck, and I asked him if he would swap lenses with me for a quick diagnostic. He waited while I got my camera, and it turned out his lens worked with my camera, so my problem was with my lens.

Hershey is more than the cars. It's the people, too. Thanks, West.
- Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - December 6

Our December meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM, and will be held in the Staff House at Sea View Home & Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. Food will be served that night, and members are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Hershey Through the Eyes of Fred Howe

Editor's Note - Traditionally, Phil Boffa reports on the weekend hijinks at Hershey, fueled by fellow members Kevin Keenan and Fred Howe. This year, he passed the pen to Fred for a stab at it...

Phil and I have been doing this Hershey trip for 30 years and each time it is unique. Since Kevin needed to leave early, as his daughter was being inducted into her high school Hall of Fame, I spent most of the time with Phil. What a pleasure. Here's what I observed:

Phil brought the Mallomars and candy, and shared them too.

Phil bought collectible stuff at the flea market.

Phil got a "BIG" hug from Paige the casino waitress, again and again, and a picture with her to boot.

Phil wins "BIG" at the casino in under three minutes! I say, "Print the receipt and lets go." I am shocked and amazed. Phil is the luckiest guy I know.

Phil meets an Indian High Priest who says, "Phil has a gift for speaking to and attracting women. It would be a crime not to use it". (If he only knew).

Phil fixes an electrical problem at my home by phone and my wife and grandchildren are very happy. I remain amazed.

I attract a waitress with braces that look like the front grill of a '52 Buick. She is hot for my slime green sweatshirt. Phil nods knowingly but does not mind.

Phil makes us all laugh and is fun to be with. Phil is a good friend to everyone.

Doc and I receive preservation awards. The show was great, as was the whole weekend.

Editor's Note - I will make sure Fred gives the pen back to Phil...

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Here's a look at one of the cars in the SIRAACA Garage that hasn't been seen that often. It's Ed Vomero's 1986 Corvette convertible.

Most folks think of Ed as a pre-war car guy, considering he has a 1929 Model A Ford and his national award-winning 1923 Star touring car. But like all of us, there's always room for more (at least in our mind, if not our garage).

Ed bought this Corvette at the former Kruse Auctions at Hershey several years back. It's a very low mileage, all-original car that spent most of its life in a museum. It's one of 7,315 Corvette convertibles made in 1986, all of which were deemed Indy 500 pace car replicas.

1986 marked the return of the convertible to the Corvette lineup. It was Corvette's second turn pacing the Indy 500, following the 1978 model. To that point, they were the only two street legal cars to pace the race.

Chuck Yeager drove the 1986 pace car, a yellow model, at the start of that year's race, which was the 70th running at Indy.

Do you have a car (or had a car) that should be featured in the SIRAACA Garage? Let me know at the meetings, or via parena2@verizon.net.



Holiday Party Canceled

The club has decided that in light of Hurricane Sandy's destruction across our region, we would cancel our Holiday Party, which was scheduled for December 2. Before the storm, we had booked the Marina Grand for this year's event. After the storm, the entire Great Kills Marina area looks like a war zone, with boats and yachts strewn blocks inland, thrust through homes and businesses alike.

While we could have looked for an alternate location, it was decided that we would apply the money normally spent on the party towards relief and restoration efforts here. We also felt that celebrating while others struggled to return to normal felt "wrong", and we're seeing many other civic organizations doing the same by canceling their holiday events too.

We will have a regular December meeting on Tuesday, December 4. We'll arrange to have food served that night, and would like everyone that attends to help pitch in with a new, unwrapped toy as we will donate once again to Toys for Tots.

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Renewal Time

Here's a reminder for all members to renew their national AACA membership before December 31, 2012. Renewal forms were included in the most recent issue of *Antique Automobile*, and will most likely follow in the Nov.-Dec. issue due out shortly. Members can also renew online by visiting www.aaca.org. Once you've received your 2013 national membership card or have a receipt showing your renewal is processed on-line, please see Jonathan Schulman to renew your local dues.

Plates Wanted

The club is working on a sign for our new office space. It will be made by selecting the appropriate letters from old, unwanted license plates. We've dug up a few suitable plates from various states at Hershey last month as the start of the project, but need many more to complete it. The sign will read "Staten Island Region AACA", so if any members have some unwanted license plates from any state or province that they care to donate towards this, please bring ones with those letters to any of our upcoming meetings.

Happy Thanksgiving



For that turkey, being roused by a roaring hot rod is certainly better than being roasted by a roaring fire. This drawing comes courtesy of Mark Ervin, an automotive artist that I stumbled upon through the magic of Google. A veteran animator for "The Simpsons" who lives with his family in Neligh, Nebraska, Mark puts his talent to good use through his unique approach to the commissioned car portrait. His goal is to capture a story (real or imagined) as part of creating a lasting memory for the car owner. You can find many galleries of his work on his website - <http://markervin327.wix.com/art-n-moti0n#!>

We thank Mark for his kind permission to run this holiday greeting, and hope that you'll look him up if you're interested in having your car done in his dynamic style. He can be reached at markervin327@hotmail.com.

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