

Vol. 22, No. 5

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

May 2015



• **9th Annual Spring Dust-Off Results**



Vintage Advertising

1928 was a good year for Walter P. Chrysler. He acquired Dodge, launched Plymouth and DeSoto, and went totally upmarket with the Imperial 80 seen here. The car was billed as “America’s Most Powerful Motor Car”.

Its 309 cubic inch straight six featured a 6.0:1 compression ratio, unheard of in that day except on a Stutz Black Hawk Speedster (Cadillac’s compression ratio was 4.9:1). It was good for 112 hp and 100mph. If you were crazy enough to drive that fast in 1928, this car had new internal-expanding brakes that improved stopping distances dramatically over the previous year’s external contraction style.

Only 2,100 Imperial 80 models were built that year. For comparison, GM cranked out 40,000 Cadillacs.

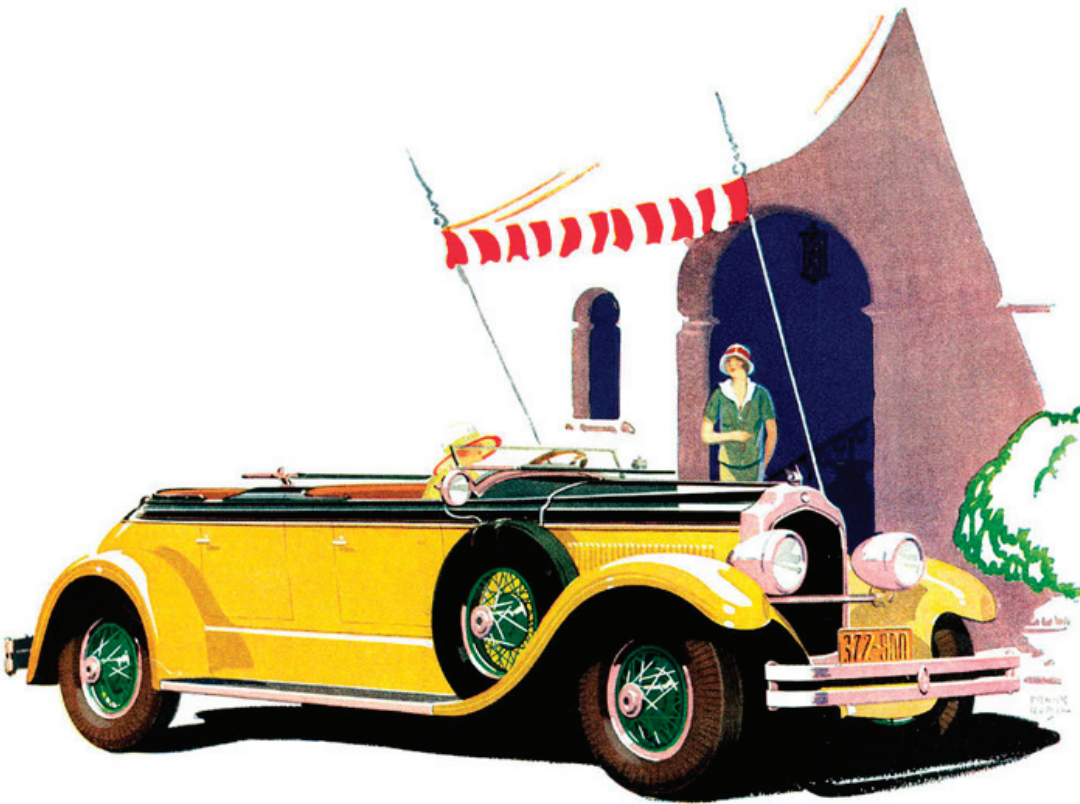
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Home built hot rod in the SIR-AACA Garage.



80 and more luxurious miles per hour, 92 horsepower instantly responsive and obedient to your slightest driving requirement, distinguished and well-bred in appearance and bearing—these are some of the very obvious reasons why the Imperial “80” is being regarded everywhere as the logical successor to the finest car of yesterday. Eight body styles, priced from \$2495 to \$3595, f. o. b. Detroit, subject to current Federal excise tax.

Chrysler 
Imperial “80”

Trivia Question: What was the original name of Dodge’s version of the Plymouth Duster, introduced for the 1971 model year?

Answer: The Demon. In 1973, the name was changed to the Dart Sport.

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Minutes of the 480th Meeting

April 14, 2015

1. The 480th 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 479th meeting were accepted as read by Mike Signorile.
2. Phil Boffa and Kevin Keenan spoke about their participation on a panel discussion at the NY International Auto Show. It was well attended, generated a lot of audience interaction, and had to be cut off due to running overtime. All in all, it was good exposure for us.
3. The raffle car is scheduled to be at Spring Englishtown this weekend. Volunteers signed up for the three-day event to sell chances. Raffle car supplies have been taken out of storage.
4. Our Spring Dust-Off is April 26. There is a morning work party meeting at 10:00 on the 25th for preliminary set up. Members should be on site at 6:30 Sunday morning. Please buy or bring lunch that day. Gate assignments will be handed out that morning.
5. The Advance is asked to preview our Dust-Off. Don Bosco has contacted NY1 to attend the show.
6. We have ordered 2016 calendars and will have them for our fall show. We will give out 500 to show cars instead of 200 dash plaques. We will give out 300 to businesses, and sell 200 at the fall show.
7. Upcoming events include Harleys and Hot Rods on May 9, New Dorp HS show on May 31 and St. Joseph-St. Thomas show on June 13. There is talk of a one-night cruise on New Dorp Lane on June 25.
8. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Signorile, VP, SIRAACA



9th Annual Spring Dust-Off

The eager owners of 291 vehicles dusted them off to celebrate the opening of car show season at our 9th annual event, held on April 26. The informal outing celebrates favorite cars from each decade with special awards, along with a pair of Best-in-Show and some Best Marque awards. All winners are called to drive their cars in what Kevin Keenan has coined the "Parade of Champions", pausing on the red carpet winners circle to receive their trophy.

This year, that parade featured the following Decade Award Winners: Dominick Petruzzi's 1930 Ford Model A coupe, David Girshman's 1936 Packard 120B Junior Sedan, Ralph Roman's 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air, Richie Hess' 1957 Oldsmobile Super 88, John Caleca's 1960 Mercedes-Benz 190 SL, David becker's 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix, Bernie Iancampo's 1972 Chevrolet Chevelle, Andrew Russo's 1987 Chevrolet Monte Carlo Aerocoupe, Joe Piscopo's 1998 Chevrolet Camaro, Nick Scibilia's 2006 Chrysler Crossfire convertible and Pat Vetrano's 2014 Corvette.

Also appearing on the red carpet were Best Mopar winner Henry Wallberger's 1968 Dodge Coronet R/T, Best GM winner Neil Bartley's 1979 Cadillac Phaeton, Best Ford winner Mike Polidori's 1934 Ford 3-window coupe, Best Corvette winner John Giardina's 1958 roadster, Best Foreign Car winner Joe Grillo's 1977 MGB, Best Motorcycle winner Bob Bonsignore's 2008 Road King, and Oldest Car winner David Sylvester's 1926 Ford Model T coupe. The Best-in-Show, Modified winner was a 1941 Willys gasser owned by Tom Benedetto, and the Best-in-Show, Stock winner was the AACA Senior 1968 Pontiac Grand Prix owned by Tony Yeras.

This year's raffle car, our 1989 Mustang GT convertible, made a strong showing at its Staten Island debut one week after a pre-season appearance at Spring Englishtown the weekend before.

Our next formal event is the Community Day Free Car Show to celebrate Collector Car Appreciation Day, to be held on July 11.



The 1960's, 1970's and 1980's were well represented by these three award winners. Top, a 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix; Center, a 1979 Cadillac Phaeton with 7,900 original miles; Bottom, a 1987 Monte Carlo Aerocoupe, 1 of 1,000 built that year. (photos by Sandy Arena)



From the President

After a full day with the raffle car at Englishtown on Saturday, I've come away with a clear observation. There are a lot of people who really like this car. Part of it is the broad appeal of the Fox-bodied Mustang in general. Another part is the great look this particular car has. We converted a lot of oglers into ticket buyers that day.

A local museum was also on hand with their raffle car, just across the width of the racetrack from our location. They are giving away a red 1969 Mustang convertible. \$5.00 gets you one of their tickets, or eight of ours. It's a nice car, but it didn't seem to draw the same oohs and aahs, at least whenever I walked by.

Maybe it's because Englishtown is skewing "younger" these days, by which I mean that folks in their 40's are more apt to drag themselves through a flea market all day than folks in their 60's. They're the one's who originally lusted for the Mustang.

Whatever the reason, I'm sure the museum did well and will continue to do so. My point is that we have a heck of a nice car this year, and we need to keep up the momentum we've generated off the starting line.

As for our Spring Dust-Off, a big thank you to all of our members who worked so hard before, during and after the event. We've officially opened up car show season in fine fashion courtesy of your efforts.

- Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - May 5

Our May meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 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 coffee and doughnuts.

Raffle Car Debuts at Englishtown

Skipping Friday's opening at Spring Englishtown, the car performed extremely well the following two days to kick off the selling season with nearly \$1,700 in sales. This was the first time we upped single tickets to \$2.00 while sweetening the \$5.00 offering with eight tickets in a book. With such a bonus, the overwhelming majority of sales were books.

A production delay in the printing of our tickets nearly spelled a lost weekend. The order was not in transit in time for a Friday appearance. Fortunately for us, the weather that day was cool and rainy, so the decision to wait until Saturday was easily swallowed. Joe Portogallo from Far Better Printing ran off an emergency run of tickets to get us through the weekend.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Here is a newcomer to the SIRAACA Garage, although it's certainly not a newcomer in the owner's eyes. This is John Charitis' 1930 Ford, which he's owned since 1964.

This hand-built street rod sits on a 1936 Ford frame and is powered by a 1966 Corvette 327 rated at 350 horsepower. The engine is mated to a Warner T-10 4-speed transmission.

While it's GM under the hood (well, if it had a hood), it's all Ford inside. The dashboard, steering column and seats are all from a 1966 Mustang. If you're driving behind John, you'll notice the 1969 Mustang taillights as he pulls away from you.

While street rods may not be everyone's cup of tea, we all can appreciate fine craftsmanship, which John's coupe has in abundance. Welcome to the SIRAACA Garage.

A few new cars came out of the SIRAACA garage this month and were photographed for future issues. Make sure your ride is included - see below:

Do you have (or had) a car that you'd like featured in the SIRAACA Garage? This includes your first set of wheels, when today's old cars were new. If so, please send pictures and details to Paul Jr. via parena2@verizon.net, or see him at one of our monthly meetings.



The mirrored firewall gives an illusion of a twin-mill in John's Ford. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

Grab your friends and family, hop into your car, and check out these events:



- Greenwich Concours d'Elegance - May 30-31
- New Dorp High School Football Team Car Show - May 31
- Carlisle Ford Nationals, June 5-7
- Ramapo Concours d'Elegance, Mahwah, NJ - June 6
- Antique Automobile Assoc. of Brooklyn, Floyd Bennett Field - June 7
- Olive Garden Cruise Nite, Woodbridge, NJ - June 9 (Tuesdays)
- St. Joseph-St. Thomas School Car Show, Staten Island - June 13
- The Elegance at Hershey, June 12-14
- Father's Day Cruise to the Shore, Long Branch, NJ - June 21



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Andrews Collection Auction Results

The RM Auctions sale of the Andrews Collection is in the books. Last month, we highlighted American cars of the 1950's that were crossing the block. Here they are again, with both estimates and selling prices. A 1953 Eldorado (\$240-\$300k, sold for \$291,500), a 1957 Olds Starfire 98 convertible with the J-2 option (\$140-\$200k, sold for \$187,000), the only factory black 1957 Bonneville (\$300-\$400k, sold for \$209,000), a 1954 Skylark (\$180-\$260k, sold for \$187,000), a 1953 Bel Air convertible (\$60-\$80k, sold for \$74,500) and a 1953 Pontiac Chieftain Deluxe Eight Custom Catalina (\$40-\$60k, sold for \$33,000). The 1958 Eldorado Biarritz "raindrop" prototype sold for \$324,500 against an estimate of \$400-\$600k.

Tony's T

Tony Ventrice's 1922 Model T touring car was featured in the center of our Spring Dust-Off show field, allowing for a full-blown display of early-twenties countryside motoring. His collection of camping accessories offered spectators a glimpse of how folks would "tailgate" 90+ years ago, although it was more like "running board".

Even though he wasn't sporting his period clothing, he drew plenty of attention all day from young and old fans alike, and took the time to point out items like his desert water bag, collapsible wash basin, antique camera and more. Most impressive is his tourist's kitchenette and its labeled compartments, with space for ice, bread, sugar and everything else for a meal on the go.



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