

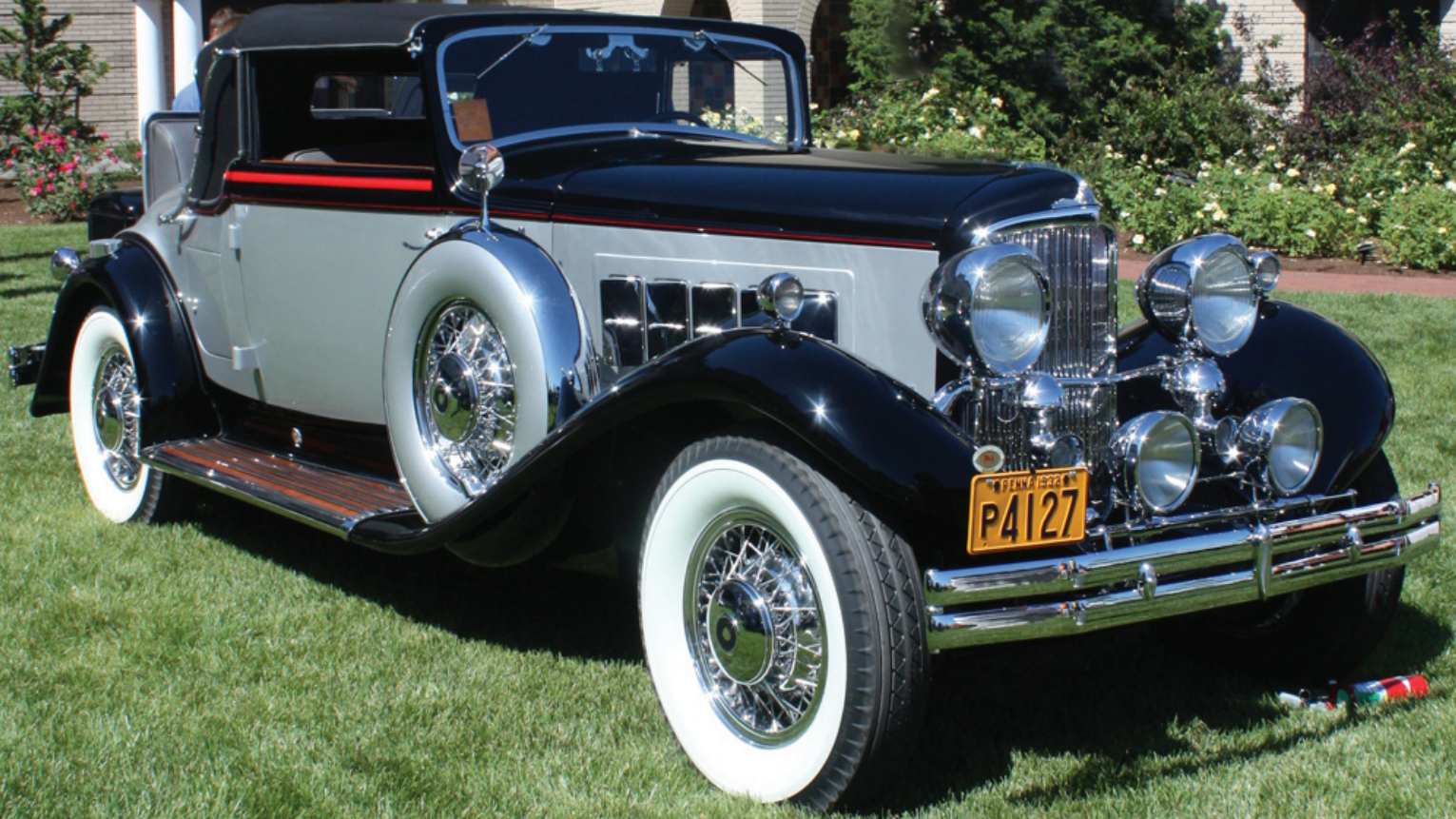
Vol. 23, No. 7

Ragtops &

Rumbleseats



Jul 2016



- ***The Elegance at Hershey - Wow!***
- ***Community Day Car Show is July 9***



Vintage Advertising

Yes, we know that the song says, “Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet”, but we didn’t find an all-American Chevy ad that leveraged fireworks and the 4th of July. Instead, we turn to Chevy’s one-time stablemate, Pontiac, for some Independence Day flavor.

Looks like a 1952 Pontiac Catalina, considering it’s a hardtop. The regular Chieftain two-door was a sedan, sporting a fully framed door window and b-pillar post.

Pontiac was slotted on the bottom half of GM’s hierarchy of brands, just ahead of the entry level Chevrolet, but trailing Oldsmobile, Buick and Cadillac. Olds and Pontiac have since been relegated to the “remember when” pile, but their popularity among collectors keeps them alive and well at car shows and cruise nights across the land. Happy 4th of July!



Spectacular—that's the only word for it!

PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION OF GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

In This Issue

Shortening some bucket lists.

The Elegance at Hershey.

It's time to answer last month's "What Am I?".

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Trivia Question: What is the only General Motors “companion brand” that outlived its parent, only to be discontinued in 2010?

Answer: Pontiac, originally established in 1926 as the companion to Oakland.

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

www.siraaca.aaca.com

Minutes of the 493rd Meeting

June 7, 2016

1. The 493rd 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 492nd meeting were accepted as read.
2. Congratulations to the following members for their recent AACA wins: Mike DiPilato, First Junior; Andrew Napoli, Senior; Paul Arena, Repeat Preservation; Ed Vomero, First Grand National; and Kevin Keenan, First Grand National.
3. The Straub Buick show was hurt by rain and had low attendance. The New Dorp HS show was postponed to June 11. Brooklyn's show at Floyd Bennett Field is June 12, as is The Elegance at Hershey.
4. Don Bosco has begun gathering information to help promote efforts in the NYS Legislature to pass a one-time registration bill and an amended safety inspection bill.
5. Our Community Day Car Show is set for Saturday, July 9 at The Commons Cafe, officially running from 11:00 to 2:00. Spread the word.
6. The raffle car is being considered for the Back to the Beach weekend, held near the Boardwalk in Midland/South Beach, on July 16-17. Volunteers will be needed to sell chances. Plans are being made with the help of ProSho Sound. In addition, we are strongly considering a donation this year to Carl's House, an effort by the Bini Fund to help combat the growing drug addiction numbers on Staten Island.
7. The raffle car weekly afternoon cruise to EZ Pass might shift from Tuesdays to Mondays to test for bigger crowds.
8. We received a \$825 donation from V-Dac for a recently donated vehicle in our name. Thanks to Jon Schulman for recommending our program and helping land this one.
9. Tony DiAngelo may have come across some unique items to hand out to show cars at our fall show. More to follow.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm. The 50/50 collected \$27.00, with Jon Schulman winning \$14.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Meeting A Famous Car Guy

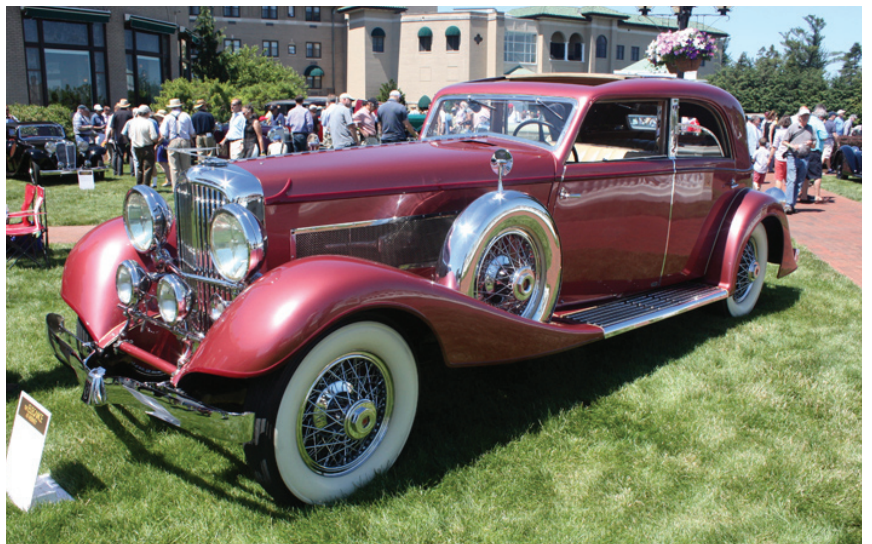
Barrett-Jackson invaded the northeast for the very first time at the end of June with it's auction at Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. Kevin Keenan attended the event on Thursday and Friday, getting to cross off another of his bucket list items. He reported packed houses each day, with over 10,000 people in the arena. We hear that it was a record event for the venue, and with 700 cars up for sale, the collector car hobby remains a big draw. Some local collector was so excited to run into the renowned Kevin Keenan, that he convinced him to pose for this photo. Apparently, that was one item on his bucket list.



Five Duesenbergs, and None Are Best of Show

The Elegance at Hershey was held in June for the fifth consecutive year, and the event coordinators continue to curate an impressive field of cars each year. For 2016, not one, not two, not three, not even four, but five Duesenbergs were among the 70 or so cars on display at The Hotel Hershey. They included the famous "Queen of Diamonds", a 1933 Model J Sports Berline Sedan bodied in Paris (top photo), and a 1934 Model SJ Torpedo Convertible Victoria by Rollston (bottom photo) that had the most unique front fenders. They didn't dip downward at the front of the wheels, but rather extended straight out and level, horizontally. The others were a 1932 Model J Coupe by Jenkins, a 1933 Model J Convertible Victoria by Rollston and a 1933 Model SJ Convertible Sedan by Murphy. This particular car has been owned by the same gentleman since 1953, when he convinced his dad to buy him the car for \$2,250 as a present for graduating Harvard Law School. Other than a repaint and some new chrome, it's an original, 60,000 mile car.

So what was so spectacular that it knocked out all five in the quest for the Governor's Cup as Best of Show? It was a 1934 Mercedes-Benz 500K Roadster, part of a collection of automobiles based in Honolulu. If not Best of Show, it certainly was "longest distance"!



(photos by Paul Jr.)



From the President

Summer is officially here and as much as we don't want to admit it, the time will fly by and we'll be teeing up our 40th Annual Fall Show in mid-September. Hopefully everyone is working their existing contacts for trophy donations, raffle ticket sales and hunting for a sponsor or two. We've seen great results the last couple of years from a small but dedicated membership, and hope to continue that effort this year. Please let us know what you need to succeed. In the meantime, enjoy the summer months with your friends, family and old car.

- Paul Jr.

From the Editor

My father and I made a decision on Saturday, June 11 that it was worth the effort to drive out to Hershey the following morning and attend The Elegance, even if we had to be back for a party that afternoon at 5:00 pm. We still had plenty of time for a 300 mile round trip and several hours strolling the lawn of The Hotel Hershey to see one of the best collections of pre-war coachbuilt autos and postwar exotics. The effort was worth it, as you will read and see, not only in this issue, but in future ones as well. Look for upcoming cover shots, stories about unique entrants (just about all of them) and take a stroll through the online photo gallery that's been posted on our Facebook page. Speaking of Facebook, we are over 500 "likes". Next stop, 1,000! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - July 5

Our July meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 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.

Pass the Colavita

Not too many hoods are open at a concours event, so when we came upon the open one on a 1958 Lancia Aurelia at The Elegance at Hershey, we had to stop and look more closely. We're glad we did, as the warning plate on the master cylinder reads, "ATTENZIONE. USARE SOLO OLIO VEGETALE PER FRENI." That translates to, "Attention, use only vegetable oil for brakes". Could that really mean the ample supply of olive oil in Italy was put to use stopping cars? Further research shows that this actually refers to brake fluids that are not mineral based, and that real vegetable oil should go on your antipasti.



“What Am I?” Answer

This month we continue taking a break from exploring the SIRAACA Garage. Last month we asked you to guess what car’s interior was pictured, and now we’ll reveal it to you, by the end of this column.

Following a prototype that debuted at the Tokyo Motor Show in 1964, full production of these cars, the first to feature a two-rotor rotary engine, began in May of 1967, lasting through 1972. These cars were built by hand, at a rate of about one per day.

This one is a 1970 model, featuring a 128 hp rotary engine, power brakes, and a 5-speed manual transmission. It was good for a top speed of 120 mph and turned a quarter-mile in just under 16 seconds.

Fewer than 1,200 of these cars were built during their run, and very few of them were imported to the United States. Today, there may be 12 of them in the country.

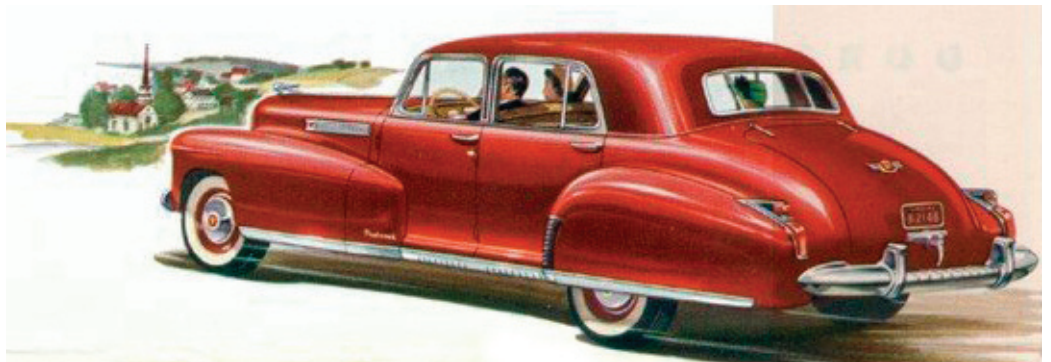
The rotary engine is the major clue here. It is a 1970 Mazda Cosmo. It was on display at this year’s Elegance at Hershey, hobnobbing with Packards and Duesenbergs. Were you able to guess what it was?

Soon we’ll return to the SIRAACA Garage, which is home to all of our members’ vehicles. 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.



Upcoming Events

Grab your friends, load up your car, and head out to one of these events:



- SIRAACA 3rd Annual Community Day, Commons Cafe - July 9
- Back to the Beach, Staten Island Boardwalk - July 16-17
- Raceway Park Old Time Drags and Rod Run, Englishtown, NY - July 26
- Buick Club of America 50th Anniversary, Allentown, PA - July 27-30
- 59th Annual New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA - August 13-14



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Community Day

Our Third Annual Community Day Car Show to Celebrate National Collector Car Appreciation Day is all set for July 9. This is a rain or shine event, free to all cars and spectators alike. This year, we have over a dozen special awards to give out along with two Cafe Choice trophies. Once again, we will select our favorites in fun categories. Favorite Orphan recognizes a car brand no longer sold (not only older marques like Packard and Studebaker, but more recent orphans like Oldsmobile, Plymouth and Pontiac). Other categories expected to have a winner include Wildest Custom, Future Collectible, Foreign Flavour and Disco Diva. For three hours, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, we'll earn money based on the profits of the Commons Cafe, so encourage everyone you know to stop by and get lunch.

National Collector Car Appreciation Day is now in its seventh year of commemoration, courtesy of United States Senate resolutions and the efforts of the SEMA Action Network. The day recognizes the vital role that automotive restoration and collection plays in our society and for our economy. Old or new, fast or slow, shiny or matte, so long as it's on wheels, there's an audience out there to appreciate it.

FREE CAR SHOW

@ **COMMONS**café



SATURDAY
JULY 9th
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

STATEN ISLAND
REGION ANTIQUE
AUTOMOBILE
CLUB



100% of net profits at the register and from activities will benefit:



Help celebrate the vital role that automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.

Special Awards in Unique Categories such as "Favorite Orphan", "Wildest Custom", "Foreign Flavour" and more!



To host your nonprofit's 'Community Day', contact Social@NicotraOnline.com

www.CommonsCafeSI.com | 347-466-4207

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