

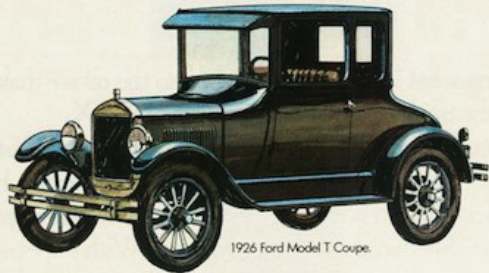
Vol. 24, No. 2

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Feb 2017



# We've come a long way from basic black.



1926 Ford Model T Coupe.



1972 Ford Pinto Runabout with Sprint Decor Option.

If you find yourself staring whenever you see a Model "T" go by, we don't blame you. It was some kind of car. (Even if it did come mostly in black.) It was simple. It was tough. And if something went wrong, you could probably fix it with a screwdriver and a pair of pliers.


Pinto has many of those same qualities. Which is good to know if you're the kind of person who likes cars, and likes to work on them. Pinto is the kind of car you can work on, without having to be some kind of master mechanic. It's also a car you can work with. There are lots of things you can

add—both from Pinto's list of options and from the specialty equipment people. If you start with the Sprint Option we've shown, you don't even have to start with basic black.

Sprint Decor Group includes the following equipment: Red, White and Blue Exterior Accents. Trim Rings with Color-Keyed Hubcaps. Dual Racing Mirrors. Red, White and Blue Cloth and Vinyl Bucket Seats. Full Carpeting. Deluxe 2-Spoke Steering Wheel. Stars and Stripes Decal. A78 x 13 White Sidewall Tires. Blackout Grille.

**When you get back to basics, you get back to Ford.**

## FORD PINTO

FORD DIVISION 

Better idea for safety...buckle up!

## Vintage Advertising

Maybe this month's ad should be for a Ford Falcon in honor of Atlanta making the Super Bowl. Perhaps we could have found an ad for a Lexington Minute Man Six in honor of the Patriots. Instead, we give you a Pinto.

Two things caught our eye in this ad. The obvious one is the 1926 Ford Model T, which was only 46 years old when this ad ran. That's like using a 1971 auto in an ad today. The second thing was the cool Sprint Decor optional appearance package on the Pinto. This included red, white and blue striping and decals and matching interior, plus color-keyed hubcaps. It looks like something they would have broken out for America's Bicentennial four years later. Has anyone seen one in person?

## In This Issue

Atlantic City Auction tickets available at a discount.

Do you know Francis Ford?

2017 show dates confirmed.

What big and yellow and topless? Look inside the SIRAACA Garage.

*Trivia Question: What were the first mass-produced American cars with rack and pinion steering?*

*Answer: The 1974 Ford Pinto and Mustang II. BMW created the first rack and pinion gearboxes in the 1930s.*

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# Minutes of the 500th Meeting

## January 2, 2017

1. The 500th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the Secretary read the minutes of the 499th meeting.
2. To commemorate the milestone meeting, the minutes of the first meeting were brought from the archive and read again. Members reminisced about some of the early officers and meeting locations.
3. Feedback on the Holiday Party focused on the need for more space next year.
4. Frank Provenzano and Paul Arena attended an opening ceremony for Carl's House and presented a club donation of \$2,500 to help fund their addiction consultation efforts.
5. Dates and rain dates for our 2017 shows are submitted for approval: Spring Dust-Off April 23/May 7; Community Day July 15; Fall Show September 17/24.
6. The Allentown indoor swap meet is January 20-22. Atlantic City Auction is February 10-12. The club will order discount admission for those who wish to go to Atlantic City, available to purchase at the February meeting.
7. The club will consider a new meeting place that offers more modern amenities such as WiFi and video set-up. Phil Boffa will inquire about such a room at the Nicotra properties on South Avenue. Other suggestions are welcome.
8. Keep hunting for a raffle car!
9. Mike Signorile and Paul Arena met with Staten Island Yankees management to discuss a possible car display outside the ballpark sometime in June. More to come.
10. A warm welcome was extended to new members James Orlando and Anthony Buzzanca.
11. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The 50/50 collected \$40, with Paul Arena winning \$20. New club polo shirts were handed out to all members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

## Francis Ford?

No, not the director Francis Ford Coppola, but rather an auto dealer on Staten Island called Francis Ford. Member Mike Gorgia provided us with this May 1971 ad from the Staten Island Advance. While working at Robin Ford, a dealer on Richmond Avenue, he recalls running to Francis to get parts. Does any member have additional information about this dealer? If so, speak with Mike Signorile. He was contacted by a gentlemen in Maine who has a restored 1970 Mustang that was ordered and sold by that dealership. He is putting together a full history of the car and is hoping to get a photo and any details about the dealership.

Automotive Automotive Automotive Automotive Automotive

# WHILE THE BOSS IS AWAY THE SALESMEN WILL PLAY WE SLASHED THE PRICES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY



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~~\$2811~~



1971 TORINO  
~~\$2042~~

1971 MAVERICK  
~~\$2175~~



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## Atlantic City Auction Tickets

Members planning to attend the Auction in Atlantic City this coming weekend can buy discounted tickets from the club. See Phil Boffa at the February meeting, where he will have tickets available, first-come, first serve. General admission at the door is \$25. As a group, we have been given a 40% discount, saving \$10 per ticket. The Atlantic City Auction runs from Friday, February 10 through Sunday, February 12.



Although the number of cars for sale and vendors on hand has dropped each year, you'll still find a few that continually impress each year. If you head to the Auction at Atlantic City, look for vintage toys like the 1940's auto carrier above, or low-mileage originals like the 1982 Pontiac Grand Prix with 9,000 on its odometer, below. (photos by Paul Jr.)



## From the Editor

You'll see that we are back in the SIRAACA Garage this month with a look at one of the cars belonging to a new member. We are excited that this feature continues to deliver a look at so many cars that have called SIRAACA their home at one time. With new members Artie Guarnieri, Anthony Buzanca, Mike Gorgia and James Orlando, and existing members who have yet to see their cars featured, we'll have plenty more to explore. I will contact certain folks in the coming weeks to send me pictures and write-ups of their cars, but anyone is welcome to send along the same if there's a car to feature. We'd like to see some of your old photos of cars you once had, back when they were new. See the SIRAACA Garage column for more details on what we need and how to reach me. - Paul Jr.

**- NEXT MEETING - February 7**

Our February meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 PM at The Staff House at Sea View Hospital and Home, located at 460 Brielle Avenue. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee and donuts.

## Renewal Reminder

Hopefully all of you have renewed your AACA membership for 2017 (or are a lifetime member). This way, you can renew your local membership with Jonathan Schulman at the February meeting. Local dues are still only \$20.

## Tucker #1044 Fetches \$1,347,500

Looks like Tucker #1044 isn't going to call The SIRAACA Garage home, despite the heads up we gave our members last month that it was heading for auction courtesy of RM Sotheby's. The all-in selling price was over \$1.3 million. We also previewed some of the low end estimates, and it appears as if RM had them pegged close to the selling prices. The 1918 Oakland fetched \$13,200, the 1964 Imperial Crown convertible went for \$20,350 and the 1973 VW Thing changed hands for \$24,200. For something rarer than a Tucker, how about the one-off 1933 Chrysler CL Imperial Phaeton seen below? This personal car of LeBaron designer Ralph Roberts, with rear skirts, painted radiator shell, relocated headlights and dual rear spares found a new home for basically the same price, at \$1.3 million.

## 2017 Show Dates

All dates for our 2017 shows have been confirmed by the folks at The Commons Cafe. As a reminder, here they are again:

The 11th Annual Spring Dust-Off will be held on Sunday, April 23, with a rain date of Sunday, May 7.

Our Community Day Car Show to celebrate Collector Car Appreciation Day is Saturday, July 15, rain or shine.

Our 41st Annual Fall Show will be held on Sunday, September 17, or on the rain date of Sunday, September 24.



photo by Paul Jr.

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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

The doors to the SIRAACA Garage are open once again as we look inside to find one of its latest additions. This is Artie Guarnieri's 1971 Ford LTD convertible, affectionately known as the "banana boat".

Artie bought this car in August of 2000 after spotting it a cruise night in New Jersey. While it wasn't love at first sight, he didn't realize that Ford made LTD ragtops, so it was a unique offering. For \$2,200 he figured he'd keep it a couple of years and then flip it for something else. Hah, we've heard that before!

Artie's LTD has air conditioning, and cruise control, and gets going courtesy of a 400 cu. in. powerplant that was new for 1971. Its Cruise-O-Matic transmission delivers its promise, as it's a true fair-weather cruiser.

Ford built 5,750 LTD convertibles in 1971, the first year they were offered. Prior to that, Ford customers had to turn to Galaxie and XL models for full-sized ragtops.

Artie's first old car has remained with him as his collection grew. We'll see what else he's parked in the SIRAACA Garage in future issues.

The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. 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.



*While Ford had some inventive color names in 1971, such as "Anti-Establish Mint", "Walnut Fire", and "Grabber Lime", their marketing folks couldn't nail them all. As best we can tell, Artie's LTD is "Yellow". (photo by Artie Guarnieri)*

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## Upcoming Events

Gather up the troops and hit the road for these upcoming events:



- AACA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia - February 9-11
- Auction at Atlantic City, AC Convention Center - Feb. 10-12
- Spring Carlisle Swap Meet - April 19-23
- SIRAACA 11th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 23
- 35th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - April 28-30
- NJRAACA 66th Annual Spring Meet, Mennen Arena - May 7
- 22nd Annual Greenwich Concours - June 3-4
- The Elegance at Hershey - June 9-11
- The Race of Gentlemen, Wildwood, NJ - June 10-11

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## What's New? Something Old

The Lincoln Continental is back in showrooms for 2017 after a brief absence. Ford is bringing back the GT for a second time later this year. Dodge has been teasing the reveal of its hottest car yet with the new Demon, due to make its debut at the New York International Auto Show. A rumored return of the VW bus makes the rounds every year. And now, we get word that two more retired nameplates are returning. First up, Ford confirmed the return of the Bronco, a competent off-roader with removable roof panels, in 2020. Second, Jeep has announced that they are bringing back the Wagoneer name for a brand new, large SUV. That name hasn't been on a Jeep since 1991. It's nice to see that automakers haven't completely abandoned the use of a name in favor of an alpha-numeric code to identify their cars. If these reboots are popular, could we see others follow suit? Who else could resurrect a once-popular name? Plymouth could bring back the Barracuda - no, wait, there's no more Plymouth. How about the venerable Cutlass? No, wait, there is no more Oldsmobile. GTO? Nope, not without Pontiac. Perhaps not everything old can become new again after all.

*Broncos and Wagoneers are coming back .  
(top photo - Phil Boffa; bottom - Paul Jr.)*



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