

Vol. 24, No. 8

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2017



• **Community Day Car Show Results**



*“Never before  
such beauty and quality  
for so little money”*

*John R. Willys*  
President,  
The Willys-Overland Company



4-Door Sedan



The Coupe



COACH  
\$ 535  
F. O. B. Factory

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*Has All These Features*

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kiss Drive—Tryon Shackles—  
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The Roadster



The Cabriolet Coupe



The Touring

*The  
Perfected Whippet*

## Vintage Advertising

As Devo once sang back in the 1980's, "When a problem comes along, you must whip it". We can't help but sing along every time we run across the automotive equivalent from Willys-Overland - the Whippet.

The Whippet was introduced in July of 1926 as a 1927 model. It served as a budget automobile in a small package, replacing Overland in the Willys lineup. By the time this ad ran for 1928, the Whippet had been "perfected".

Unfortunately, the problem that came along was the Great Depression, and Whippet couldn't whip it. Willys dropped the Whippet in January, 1931.

## In This Issue

Community Day Car Show celebrates Collector Car Appreciation Day.

Cars to float your boat.

The latest appearances by our raffle car.

A hot chocolate Corvette in the SIRAACA Archives.

The events calendar updated through September.

*Trivia Question: What was the name of the first Ford automatic transmission that would allow the driver to access first gear by flooring the accelerator rather than requiring manual selection?*

*Answer: "Speed-Trigger Fordomatic Drive", a three-speed auto debuting in 1955.*

**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** - phil.boffa@gmail.com

**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 506th Meeting

## July 11, 2017

1. The 506th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 505th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The club showed a few cars at Richmond County Ballpark as part of the Staten Island Yankees classic car promotion, including our raffle car. Tony Ventrice's Model T and Jeff Tucker's Ford Galaxie. The raffle car took in \$225, and we were well received.
3. A large number of our cars as well as our grinding truck were on hand at Historic Richmond Town for their Independence Day celebration. Thunderstorms dampened the turnout, and the raffle car took in \$115.
4. Mike Gorgia drove his 1975 Grand Ville convertible in the Travis 4th of July parade.
5. The club debated the value of being called upon to judge all of the other shows being run across the island. Many agree that we suggest these shows give out participation or peer judging awards.
6. Upcoming events include Back to the Beach on July 22-23 and a cruise night at New Dorp High School on July 26. The raffle car will be at both events. Volunteers are needed for Back to the Beach. The SIKK show is set for August 20. Bikers for Bini will be back at the Staten Island Mall on August 27.
7. The raffle ad is now running in Hemmings Motor News. Orders have begun coming in.
8. Members are encouraged to work on trophy donations. Flyers are available now, as are sponsor kits for larger donations.
9. The August meeting is postponed until August 8.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. The 50/50 collected \$27.00, with Frank Provenzano winning \$14.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

## Diversity of the Hobby Reflected on Community Day

On July 15 the club hosted its annual Community Day Car Show to celebrate National Collector Car Appreciation Day. Approximately 80 vehicles turned out for the informal event at The Commons Cafe, revealing such diverse interests as factory stock restorations, nostalgic hot rodding, modern muscle and Euro sports cars.

Instead of judging, the club presented 15 unique awards based on quirky categories such as Favorite Orphan or We Love the '80's. In addition, the Cafe staff selected Jerry Esposito's 1965 Impala and Felix DiPaolo's 1957 Bel Air as their two favorites for Cafe Choice Awards.

The other winners include:

**Favorite Orphan:** Al Young, 1971 Plymouth 'cuda; **Wildest Custom:** Stu Goldberg, 1936 Ford; **Favorite Muscle Car:** Steve Jospy, 1967 Chevelle SS; **Under Construction:** George Philippides, 1973 Plymouth Duster (bottom right); **Drivable Dream:** Marty Suss, 1963 Imperial (center right); **Nostalgia Award:** George Storz, 1930 Ford; **MoPar Turns 80:** Erik Thompson, 2017 Challenger SRT Hellcat; **We Love the 80's:** Juan Loperena, 1988 Pontiac Trans Am GTA; **Favorite Truck:** Vinny Ferrante, 1981 Chevrolet C-10; **Future Collectible:** Luigi Rizzo, 2008 Pontiac G8 GT; **Favorite Grocery Getter:** Ted Forlenza, 1961 Corvair Lakewood (top right); **50 Years of Camaro:** Mike Doyle, 1969 Camaro SS; **Favorite Hot Rod:** Anthony Lara, 1932 Ford Coupe; **Favorite 4x4:** Michele Casaliggi, 2016 Jeep Wrangler "Stormtrooper"; and **Foreign Flavour:** Joe Grillo, 1977 MG.

The hobby offers something for everyone's tastes. One can spend \$5,000, \$50,000 or \$500,000 on their collector car and still get the same thumbs up from everyone else that drives alongside it.

Tastes shift with time, new cars become old, old cars become antique, and antiques will someday be ancient. The feeling for all owners is the same, however, be they 18 or 80. Their wheels are their pride and joy, and they enjoy sharing them with folks who enjoy seeing something not seen every day.



## From the President

In a recent column by Richard Lentinello in Hemmings Classic Car magazine, he mentioned that despite being an automotive editor for so long, he's yet to exhaust the list of cars he wants to drive. The one that surprised me the most was a Model T, as you'd assume he's had plenty of opportunity to drive one. Others included any V-16 Cadillac, any V-12 Lincoln, a big block 1963-67 Vette, and a Chrysler C300. Of course, it got me thinking about my list. I realized that I've barely driven anything beyond my 1967 Cutlass, which I've owned since 1986. I've driven my dad's 1948 Dodge, 1965 Starfire and 1964 Riviera as well, but not the 1928 Model A he sold before I was old enough to drive, or the 1932 Ford Model B tow truck he owned when I was a kid. Add in a bunch of our raffle cars throughout the years and I still have a ton of cars I've yet to experience behind the wheel. That includes anything from the 1930's and older, plus long time favorites such as a 1953 Eldorado and a 1946-48 Chrysler Town & Country convertible. Heck, hand me the keys to anything, and I'd probably want to take it for a spin.

We have members that buy and sell cars routinely and others that buy and hold infinitely. Among us all, we could make two impressive lists of cars: those we've driven and those we can't wait to still drive. Think about your lists, and we'll talk about it at our next meeting. We may have to stay a long time to cover Don Bosco's collection. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - August 8

Our August meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8 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.

## Amphicars!

Along with their various theme parks in Orlando, Disney offers up the recently remodeled Disney Springs (formerly Downtown Disney). This collection of shopping, dining and entertainment venues draws tourists and locals alike for a top notch day or evening out. If you're a car nut, the Boathouse delivers an experience unlike any other in Disney, especially after they closed down their stock car racing track. Appropriately, they own and operate a fleet of genuine Amphicars, and provide the chance to ride along with a certified driver/captain around Lake Buena Vista. Rides are \$125 for a 20-minute cruise for up to three people. Alas, we didn't get a chance to go. Check out the very thorough Hemmings article online for the amazing work that went into restoring this fleet for heavy commercial use: [www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/08/up-close-with-the-amphicars-of-disney-springs](http://www.hemmings.com/blog/2015/08/up-close-with-the-amphicars-of-disney-springs)



(photo by Paul Arena)

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## From the SIRAACA Archives

During a recent dive into a SIRAACA archive (one of several photo boxes in my closet), we came across this photo from one of our early shows held at Wagner College in the late 1970's. It appears to be 1961 Corvette, and I remember this car to be called "Hot Chocolate".

In true period fashion, she wears Cragar mag wheels on beefy white-lettered tires, sits with a slight rake, and promises to burn the ankles of the driver with her side exhausts. Most notably, she's painted dark brown. You'd be hard pressed to find that color offered up for use on custom cars today.

So what became of "Hot Chocolate"? Do any of our members also recall this car, or its owner? Along with featuring the car here, we are posting the photo to our Archives photo gallery on Facebook to see if we get any additional info on it.

Until we get some new photos of members' cars past or present to allow us to return to the SIRAACA Garage, we might play around in the archives a little more. That means we're open to your submissions as well. Get them over to Paul Jr. by e-mail or at any of our meetings or events.

Who knows what we'll uncover next?

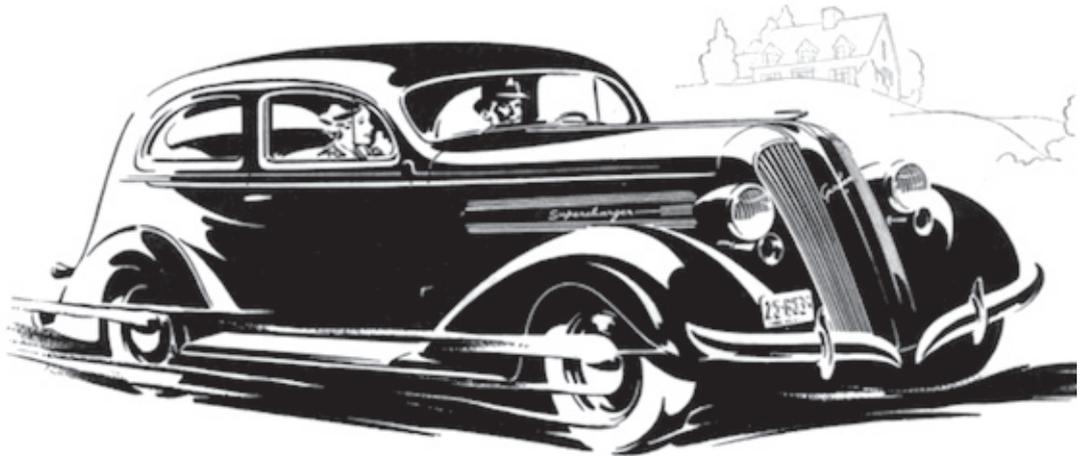


*Back in the days when you had limited shots per roll of film, this car was deemed to be worthy of a photograph. (photo by Paul Jr.?)*

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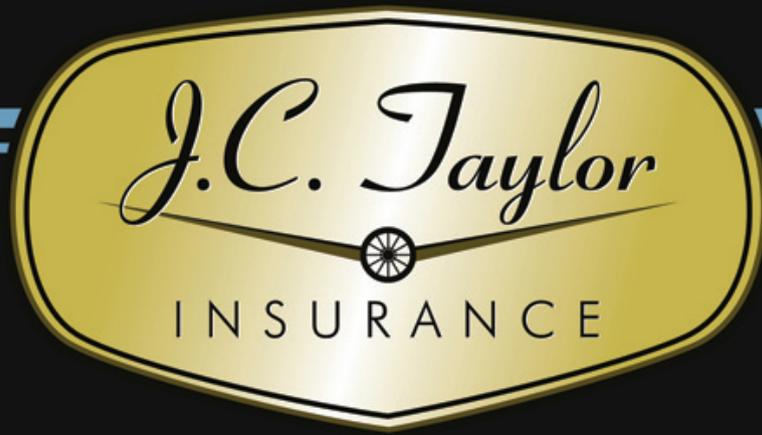
## Upcoming Events

Load the car and hit the road for these upcoming events:



- 54th Annual Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie - August 4-6
- SIKK 2nd Annual Car Show, Marine Corps League - August 20
- **Bikers for Bini, Staten Island Mall - August 27**
- **Richmond County Fair, Historic Richmond Town - September 2-4**
- **Delicious Orchards Applefest, Colts Neck, NJ - September 9-10**
- Church of the Holy Family 4th Annual Car Show - September 9
- **SIRAACA 41st Annual Fall Show, Commons Cafe - September 17**
- 41st Annual Fall Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - September 22-24





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## Out and About With the Raffle Car

Summer showers dotted the shoreline on Saturday, but the crowds returned to Midland Beach on July 22 & 23 for the weekend Back to the Beach event that featured vendors, food, rides and live music. Thanks to the efforts of those who put in long hours to sell raffle tickets to a non-traditional audience, the club took in \$780 over the two days.

Later that week, New Dorp High School hosted a special cruise night that saw a great turnout. Locally, there hasn't been a regular weeknight cruise, so the demand was high for such an event. The raffle car was on hand once again, taking in \$85.

Speaking of cruise nights, the folks at The Commons Cafe are interested in trying one out. The cafe remains open to 7:00 PM each weeknight but nearly all tenants are gone by 5:00 PM. They would consider staying open later if the crowd warranted it. We are going to work with them to make this happen, as those we spoke to at the Sunday morning cruise all agree it's needed. Dates will be considered in light of the popular events in New Jersey.

The Staten Island Region AACA presents its  
**41st Annual Antique Car Show & Flea Market**  
Sunday, September 17, 2017  
**Commons Cafe at The Teleport**  
**2 Teleport Drive off of South Avenue**  
Gates Open at 8:00 AM • Rain Date: September 24



**WIN A 1996 CAMARO CONVERTIBLE!**  
Drawing held onsite before red carpet awards  
Tickets are 8 for \$5.00

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43 Hillel Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Tel 718.859.3137  
Fax 718.421.4761

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