

Vol. 24, No. 10

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Oct 2017



- ***SIRAACA Show Recap***
- ***Who Won What at Hershey?***





## Vintage Advertising

A minimalist autumn theme is served up in this ad for a 1927 Chrysler Imperial "80". The top of the line Imperial made its debut one year earlier.

The model "80" is taken from the guaranteed sustained top speed of the auto. This guarantee was delivered by a 288 cubic inch inline six good for 92 horsepower. Bringing its two tons to a stop were four-wheel hydraulic brakes.

Body styles ranged from roadsters and phaetons to coupes and sedans, plus a limousine and town car, with base prices starting at \$2,595 and climbing to \$5,495. Further customization and optional equipment saw those climb even higher.

Imperial was created to compete with Cadillac and Lincoln, and continued that battle for many years to come.

### In This Issue

Recapping our 41st Annual Fall Show, and meeting the raffle car winner.

SIRAACA winners at Hershey.

A car returns home and stops by the SIRAACA Garage.

Celebrating in Havana style.



#### Chrysler Standardized Quality

A fixed and inflexible quality standard which enforces the same scrupulously close limits—the same rigid rule of engineering exactness—the same absolute accuracy and precision in alignment and assembly—the measurement, the machining and the manufacturing of every part, practice and process.



**U**NPERTURBED fleetness; phenomenal smoothness; eager, confidence-inspiring responsiveness from its quiet 92 horse power engine; driving facility entirely unlike any previous experience; and an easement of riding conditions completely satisfying for the first time all your theories and concepts of what constitutes perfect motoring comfort.

This but begins to describe the decidedly unusual kind of motoring luxury which Standardized Quality brings to you in the Chrysler Imperial "80".

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CHRYSLER CORPORATION OF CANADA, LIMITED, WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Ten body styles, priced from \$2495 to \$5495, f. o. b. Detroit, subject to current Federal excise tax.

# CHRYSLER IMPERIAL "80"

CHRYSLER MODEL NUMBERS MEAN MILES PER HOUR

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*Trivia Question: What was the pace car for the 1926 Indy 500, and who drove it?*

*Answer: A 1926 Chrysler Imperial "80", with Louis Chevrolet behind the wheel.*

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**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 508th Meeting

## September 5, 2017

1. The 508th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:33 pm by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 507th meeting were accepted as read.

2. The club participated at Biker for Bini, judging the car show and selling raffles on our Camaro. The car took in \$350 in a shortened event that closed early and unexpectedly. The club was also on hand for the Richmond County Fair, taking in \$805 across three days. Thanks to all who volunteered during the Labor Day weekend.

3. We will be on hand for both days of the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest on October 9 & 10, displaying cars and selling raffle tickets in the final event ahead of our show.

4. We've been asked about participating in the Lighthouse Museum's annual fair on September 23, as well as helping out with four cars for display outside the SIUH Charity Ball at the Hilton that evening. The theme of the ball is Havana Nights, and we're looking for late 40's or 50's autos.

5. Car show plans were finalized. New staff shorts are ordered and will be available at the show. Plans for newspaper coverage may include a paid advertisement. All members should arrive by 6:30 AM. Members should return all unsold raffle tickets to the raffle table and all sold tickets and money to Paul Arena first thing in the morning. Rumor has it we'll have a strong turnout of cars. The Cadillac Club and the Legendary Muscle Cars Club will bring close to 90 cars between them.

6. A goodie bag stuffing party will gather at Mike Signorile's house midweek to prep for the show. See Mike if you are free to help.

7. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report, with all in order.

. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The 50/50 collected \$40.00, with Tony DiAngelo winning \$20.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony DiAngelo, Secretary





## SIRAACA's 41st Annual Car Show

The Staten Island Region held its 41st Annual Fall Car Show & Flea Market on the grounds of the Commons Cafe on Sunday September 17. There were approximately 440 vehicles on hand to delight thousands of spectators and vie for hundreds of trophies. Judges spent the day working through many worthy competitors for special awards and a chance to drive up to the red carpet in a parade of champions. That parade saw the following winners greeted by cheering onlookers:

**Best in Show Pre-War:** David Girshman, 1936 Packard; **Best in Show, Post-War:** John Fisher, 1962 Chevrolet Impala; **Best in Show, Custom:** Lou Lanese, 1951 Mercury; **Best in Show, Modified:** Paul, 1933 Ford; **Best Paint, Stock:** John Richichi, 1970 Cadillac Eldorado; **Best Paint, Modified:** Pat Maggiore, 1934 Chevrolet; **Best Truck:** Vinnie Albino, 1957 GMC; **Best Interior, Modified:** Dennis Crowley, 1946 Chevrolet; **Best Engine, Modified:** "Nito", 1972 Chevelle; **Best Chrome, Modified:** Edwin Santiago, 1971 Chevelle.

In addition, the winner selected for the President's Cup was Jose Gonzalez for his 1964 Volkswagen Beetle.

Just before the trophies were awarded, the drawing for the 1996 Camaro convertible was held. The winning ticket belonged to Stephen Schioppo, a car enthusiast that organizes the local car shows at The Church of the Holy Family on Watchogue Road. Surprisingly, Stephen didn't have a collector car of his own until now. It took a few days to confirm Stephen was the winner, and we met with him on Thursday to give him the title. He had the car registered the next day, and he and his wife picked it up for the ride home. Apparently, she has a black & white dog that matches the car perfectly (not sure if it has racing stripes, too), and she promised to take it for a ride as soon as possible.

Our 42nd Annual Fall Show is targeting September 16, 2018, and will play host to an international gathering of the Durant Motors Automobile Club.



*John Charitis picked up this 1934 Ford five-window coupe a week or so ahead of the fall show, giving many their first look at this sharp V-8. (photo by Paul Jr.)*



*This early 1960's Model T "kiddie car" was built by McDonough Power Equipment Co. It features a Briggs & Stratton engine. (photo by Vincent Arena)*



## From the President

I've been told more than once at our own car show that many folks return year after year to make sure they meet up with others they haven't seen since the last show. It's clear to me that this reason extends much further throughout the hobby. Each time I attend the AACA Fall Meet at Hershey, I run into familiar faces from near and far for that one annual encounter. It's people like Dan from Pennsylvania who always competed alongside my 1967 Cutlass with his 1967 Skylark; like Paige from the Hollywood Casino who is always our waitress for the Friday night buffet; like Charlie from who knows exactly where who is always cruising the car corral on Thursday; and like our welcoming hostess at Dafnos for Saturday dinner. Beyond that, you run into plenty of folks from back home and see other familiar faces that have yet to make your acquaintance. It's been said over and over that our hobby is more than just the cars, its the people that share the love of cars as a common basis for their friendships.

Take a moment to remember how powerful an old memory can be, and how an old car can trigger that experience. Some of our members saw that first hand when they brought their cars over to Sunrise Assisted Living. The residents had a few hours to spend looking at the cars, talking with the owners and retelling their stories of the past built around an old car. So little effort, with such great returns. What a great hobby we share. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - October 5

Our October meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3 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.

## Hauling Home Hershey Hardware

Once again, SIRAACA members showed several cars at the AACA National Fall Meet in Hershey in the hopes of a national award. True to form, these members continued the long-standing tradition that our club has established of fielding winners on that stage. First up, Mike and Mark DiPilato displayed their recently reacquired 1981 Corvette (it was originally their father's car - see The SIRAACA Garage). It was certified with a Historic Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) award. In addition, Kevin Keenan (with an assist from Phil Boffa) campaigned both his 1992 Cadillac Eldorado and 1982 Buick Riviera for the first time, and was awarded First Junior for each car. Also on hand were club friends Phil Farese and Andy Barcellona from New Jersey. Each were shooting for a Senior Award, and each won with their 1957 Cadillac Eldorado and 1957 Chevrolet 210 wagon, respectively. Fellow Staten Islander Tony Yeras claimed another Preservation Award with his 1968 Pontiac Grand Prix. Congratulations to all. Who's up for some awards in 2018?



Kevin Keenan's pair of First Junior Award Winners outside of the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA. (photo by Kevin Keenan)



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

This month's trip to the SIRAACA Garage reveals a 1981 Corvette that has come full circle, back to the original owner's family. We don't have all the details yet, but when Mike and Mark DiPilato went shopping for a Corvette like the one their dad had, what were the odds they'd find that exact car? Apparently the odds were in their favor, as they did just that!

1981 was the first year that Corvettes were built in two factories at the same time. The new plant in Bowling Green, KY came online on June 1. The final Vette out of St. Louis rolled off the line on August 1. All St. Louis Corvettes were painted with lacquer. All Bowling Green cars were painted with enamel and clear coats. Our research also reveals that the two plants did not produce any cars in the same colors. All 4,712 black Corvettes reportedly came out of St. Louis. Black was the second most popular color, trailing only White.

All 40,606 Corvettes built that year were powered by the L81 350 cu. in. V-8 rated at 190 hp.

They were awarded a HPOF certification at this year's Hershey meet.

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.



xxx (photo by Paul Jr.)

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## Your Raffle Winner



Paul Arena presented the keys to the 1996 Camaro raffle car to Mrs. Stephen Schioppo, who couldn't wait to drop the top, drive home and take her dog for a ride. See the car show recap for more details.







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# Havana Nights at the Hilton

SIRAACA served as the casting director for five period cars to greet guests to a recent Staten Island University Hospital charity ball at the Staten Island Hilton. The theme of the fund raiser was Havana Nights - think Ricky Ricardo at The Tropicana - so we gathered up Paul Arena's 1948 Dodge along with some friends and their cars - Felix DiPaolo's 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, Dan Simone's 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air, Tom Maroney's 1953 Buick Super, and Jimmy Brown's 1954 Cadillac Eldorado convertible. Adorning the cars were casino showgirls and Carmen Miranda lookalikes, posing for pictures with the dapper guests.



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