

Vol. 25, No. 4

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Apr 2018



**• 12th Annual Spring Dust-off is April 22**







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# GM MOTORAMA OF 1954

**The General Motors Show**



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*See* The spectacular, scintillating song and dance show — "Going Places" — produced, directed, written and choreographed by Richard Barstow — music by Vincent Travers — featuring the fabulous musical fantasy "Serenade to the Future"



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## Vintage Advertising

This original ad for GM's Motorama of 1954 comes from The Staten Island Advance. The Motorama was GM's elaborately staged showcase of concept cars, song and dance routines and fashions of tomorrow. In '54, GM also toted the Frigidaire's Kitchen of Tomorrow.

Show cars on the turntables that year included the 1954 Corvette Nomad and Corvette Corvair, the Oldsmobile Cutlass, the Pontiac Bonneville Special, the Firebird XP-21, and the Buick Wildcat II. All of these names eventually made it to production vehicles, although none looked like these dream cars.

Several still exist and make the rounds of high-end concours and other special shows.

## In This Issue

This year's raffle car revealed, a tale of its acquisition, and more about it in the SIRAACA Garage.

Tucker resto at Ida Automotive.

12th Annual Spring Dust-Off poster.

Richmond Town update

*Trivia Question: What name of a Cadillac dream car from the 1954 Motorama eventually ended up on a production model Chevrolet beginning in 1959?*

*Answer: El Camino. What began as a fiberglass-bodied, two-seater with a brushed aluminum roof became Chevy's car-based pickup. The Caddy was reportedly crushed.*

**April 2018**

**Volume 25, Number 4**

**SIRAACA Who's Who**

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# Minutes of the 514th Meeting

March 6, 2018

1. The 514th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Arena. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 513th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Few members attended the Auction in Atlantic City. Artie Guarnieri reported that it continues to underwhelm.
3. Bruce Campbell participated in the local St. Patrick's Day parade among the vintage military vehicles on hand.
4. The club donated \$1,000 to Michael's Cause. Paul Jr. and his wife Sandy attended their gala dinner to present the check.
5. The raffle car hunt continues. For every local bomb we look at, we still intend to get out to Pennsylvania and hopefully buy the 1989 Mustang we've been waiting all winter for.
6. Artie Guarnieri works for Lifestyles for the Disabled and hopes to provide additional volunteers to assist with our project at Richmond Town. Upcoming events there include the BBQ Cook-Off on April 7 and the Chili Cook-Off on April 21. We ask for volunteers to help with our raffle car and the entry gate.
7. We have an opportunity to set up a return cruise night at Richmond Town as well as a revamped Community Day Car Show there in conjunction with Collector Car Appreciation Day in July.
8. Spring Englishtown is April 13-15. The layout is expected to be different this year, and we hope to have our raffle car on hand. Volunteers will be needed.
9. Phil Boffa provided a treasury report, with all in order.
10. Tony DiAngelo read a thank you letter to the club from the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive. They are planning a toy event this summer.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05. The 50/50 collected \$30, with Frank Provenzano winning \$15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## Yes, This Is Our Raffle Car!

It's a done deal. We will be raffling off this 1989 Mustang LX convertible at our fall show this September. After months of good intentions to drive up near Scranton PA to get the car, the snow finally gave way to a clear path to do so last week. The intrepid foursome of Mike Signorile, Rocky Pompa, Paul Arena and Kevin Keenan drove out to buy the car and bring it home. Here's Kevin's take on the trip:



It was a cold winter morning... well, it felt like a cold winter morning. I was parked outside The Olive Garden at the Woodbridge Mall all by myself at 8:00 AM, waiting to be picked up to go look at a Mustang in Pennsylvania. Before I

knew it, I was in the back seat of Mike's Jeep heading out to Pennsylvania. Rocky was in the back seat with me and all he wanted to do was snuggle. I asked Paul up front how his new Lincoln is running and approximately 55 minutes later he finished telling us about the problems he'd been having. After driving for a few hours... well, it felt like a few hours, we stopped for breakfast at the Clinton Station Diner. After eating, I went to the register to pay, and the cashier asked me if I was from the Staten Island Region AACA. Surprised, I said, "Yes", and he started yelling at me. He said someone from our club goes there a few times a year and walks out with all the jelly packets. (Editor's Note: This exchange has yet to be confirmed).

Back in the car and we are on our way. The fog was thickening outside and the windows were fogging inside from Rocky's snuggling. After driving for eight hours... well, it felt like eight hours, we saw a sign that said Welcome to Moscow. I started screaming at Rocky to get off me, and he assured me we were in Moscow, PA, not Moscow, Russia. We pulled into a gated community known as the Hide A Way. It looked like a place that you would be sent to if in the witness protection program. I think I saw Jimmy Hoffa walking along the roadside.

After two hours of negotiating... well, it felt like two hours, we checked the air in the tires, and headed home. Paul drove with Rocky as his co-pilot, but it was tough for him to snuggle in the front seat with a console. Mike and I were cruising along at a good clip when we were passed by a red blur of a Mustang convertible, never to be seen again. Mike stopped off at the Woodbridge Mall to drop me at my car, when all of sudden, I heard a loud noise and my alarm clock was ringing. I'm not sure if I was dreaming or actually lived this nightmare. Actually, we had a safe, fun trip and got ourselves a nice raffle car.

Thanks to Mike, Paul, Rocky and Kevin for making the trip and back, and thanks again to Kevin for recording the trip for posterity. Paul's already detailed under the hood and gave the car a good cleaning after the long drive home. Aside from needing a new hood insulation pad, the car is good to go. Raffle tickets have been ordered and we have our fingers crossed that we can get the books back in time to start as soon as April 7 at Richmond Town's BBQ Cook-Off. The week after is Spring Englishtown, and then we're back at Richmond Town on April 21 for the Chili Cook-Off and our Spring Dust-Off the following day.

For more details about the 1989 Mustang LX convertible, check out the SIRAACA Garage a few pages ahead in this issue.

## From the President

Some quick items worth sharing this month:

Congratulations to club member Frank Nathanson for being awarded a 2017 Award of Excellence for Regional websites, courtesy of the AACA. Just as your editor looks to our members to help with content for our newsletters, so does our webmaster. If you see something that needs to be added or edited, contact him directly at [siraaca@yahoo.com](mailto:siraaca@yahoo.com).

Our Spring Dust-Off poster was posted to our Facebook page on March 30 and has reached over 1,800 people thus far.

Fellow member Mike Gorgia wrote a great piece for Hemmings, where he recalls all the cars his father had. Look for it on the Hemmings blog online, where it ran on February 7.

Our friends at the SIKK are moving their show to the Petrides School this year, to be held on August 12. They are raising money for Parkinson's Disease research.

The folks at the Richard Gardner Jr. Memorial Toy Drive are planning an event on July 28 that may involve a motorcycle run and car get together. More details to follow.

We are hearing that New Dorp Lane will be closed on Sunday, September 30 for a car cruise. No other details yet. This comes courtesy of the Northeast Italian Car Club.

- Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - April 4

Our April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 PM at the Staff House at Sea View Home and Hospital at 460 Brielle Avenue. Members are asked to contribute \$3.00 towards coffee and donuts.

## Tucker #44 Update

Last year, we reported that Tucker #44 was up for sale at RM Auctions in Scottsdale. This was as close as a barn find as you'd get with a Tucker, as this car was known but unseen for over 30 years. It has less than 8,000 original miles, but was restored back in 1973, where it was repainted a dark brown color. We have learned that the car sold for more than \$1.3 million, and is now being redone in our backyard over at Rob Ida's shop in Morganville, NJ. Rob is the perfect choice to resurrect this car, as he is the one responsible for building modern Tucker hot rods after working with Preston Tucker's family to secure the rights to do so. He's also building from scratch the Tucker Torpedo prototype that led to the Tucker 48. The work in progress was recently shown at the AACA Museum in Hershey.

Pebble Beach is convening Tuckers this August to celebrate the car's 70th anniversary. Tucker #44 has been invited, so the clock is running on Rob to deliver. To follow what's being done to the car (which has been brought down to bare metal,, check out pictures of his work on the Facebook page of Ida Automotive. You'd be amazed to see they removed 165 pounds of original factory lead work used to speed up production of enough cars to prove he was legit. There is an online video of Rob running the Tucker on a dynamometer on [Motorhouse-media.com](http://Motorhouse-media.com). That site also has Rob and the new owner discovering the last remnants of the car's original green paint hiding on one of its wheels.

We plan on following Rob's work up to the final hours, when the August deadline for Pebble Beach comes along. Will it be done in time to make the show? Will it compete for time to finish the '46 Torpedo recreation, which has also been invited to appear at Pebble Beach? Stay tuned or follow along yourselves on the Ida Facebook page, on their Instagram page, or watch the videos on Motor House Media, at [www.motorhousemedia.com](http://www.motorhousemedia.com).



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## In the SIRAACA Garage

We are returning to the SIRAACA Garage to look at this year's raffle car, a 1989 Ford Mustang LX 5.0 convertible.

A quick bit of research shows that Ford built 10,575 LX 5.0 convertibles in 1989, compared to 19,417 GT 5.0 convertibles. Only the LX 5.0 notch-back sedan was produced in smaller numbers, and not by much at 10,528 units.

Ford offered three shades of red in 1989, including Bright Red (code 21), Medium Scarlet (code 2D) and Cabernet Red (code 2H). Our car is Medium Scarlet. Bright Red is interestingly the rarest of the three, with only 368 LX ragtops sporting that shade. Even the other shades are fairly low runs, with 1,499 Cabernets and 1,207 Scarlets. In case you are wondering, Almond is the rarest with just 127, and Oxford White tops at 3,141.

Yes, it's powered by the venerable 5.0, good for 220 horsepower. It also sports plaid cloth interior, and we're still researching how common or uncommon that option was.

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.

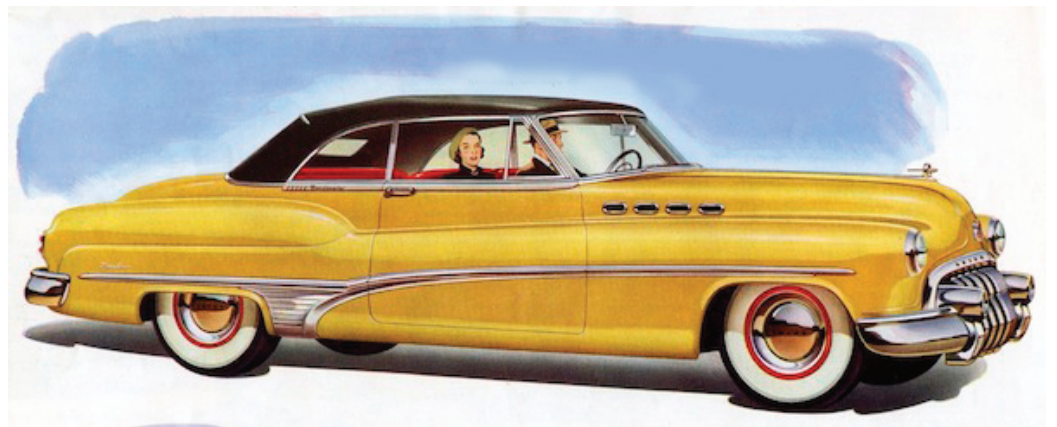


*Our newly purchased 1989 Mustang LX raffle car stretches open after a winter slumber in a snowbound garage in Pennsylvania. (photo by Kevin Keenan.)*

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## Upcoming Events

Load up the car and head out to one of these upcoming events.



- NYC BBQ Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 7
- 36th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park - April 13-15
- Spring Carlisle Swap Meet, Carlisle, PA - April 18-22
- NYC Chili Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 21
- SIRAACA 12th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 22
- NJRAACA 67th Annual Car Show, Mennen Arena, Morristown - May 6





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## Spring Dust-Off Poster Now Available

Here is the poster for our upcoming Spring Dust-Off. It's a tribute to the 50th Anniversary of Hot Wheels, mimicking the original packaging of the small diecast cars that became a world-wide phenomenon. There's another, more subtle tribute to an icon that is sadly disappearing, as this "package" has an old Toys R Us price tag. This year's idea was Paul Jr.'s, executed by Dennis Simone and printed by Far Better Printing. Copies for distribution will be available at the April meeting. Please ask your local merchants to display these to promote the show.

## Richmond Town Schedule

We have a better sense of the timing of the work to be done on the Transportation Building at Richmond Town after visiting the site. The building exterior is in much better shape than expected. The only scraping might be on the eaves and window frames. The side cladding is solid and is currently stained, not painted. If the opt to stain again, no priming will be needed. Week of April 9 is prep for painting; of April 16 for exterior signage; of April 23, two weeks for painting; of April 30, landscaping. Interior work would commence May 7 if all on track, with unveiling set for Uncorked! on June 2. We also toured the courthouse for a look at a future meeting place and were really knocked out by the chance to meet there. Aside from the main courtroom, which is equipped with a digital projector and large screen, there is the judges chambers, complete with a kitchen. Both are on the second floor, but accessible by stairs as well as a chair lift.

**Staten Island Region AACA  
12th Annual Spring Dust-Off  
April 22, 2018**  
Rain Date April 29

## Commons Cafe at The Teleport

**2 Teleport Drive  
Off of South Avenue**

- Spectator Entry Fees \$5 Adult, \$2 Child •
- \$20 Vehicle Entry Fee • \$40 Vendor Fee •
- Red Carpet Awards In Select Categories •
- No Points Judging • No Classes • No Cut Off Year •
- Food • Drinks • 50/50 • Music •

**8:00AM - 3:00PM**

SHOW INFO:  
SIRAACA@YAHOO.COM OR 917-626-0233

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