

Vol. 26, No. 3

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Mar 2019



• **Warming Up at the Boca Raton Concours**



A NEW SET OF ADULT TOYS FROM DODGE.

Dodge's 1978 line of Adult Toys can do everything tough Dodge trucks have always been known for. But they go a lot further than that. They're fun to drive. Fun to be seen in. Fun to own or lease.

See that Four by Four Ramcharger that looks like a hardworking station wagon? It looks more like a convertible when you take off its optional hardtop roof that extends all the way to the windshield. (Or you can order a vinyl softtop with roll-up sides for fresh-air camping.)

That dynamite short bed with the solid oak stake sides is Warlock... which has got to be the ultimate status pickup. Most of the goodies you see on it are standard,

along with a couple of dozen others you can't see.

The imposing two-tone machine in the foreground is called the Macho Power Wagon and it delivers everything the name implies... inside and outside... with a standard roll bar and full-time four-wheel drive to back it up.

And, of course, there's our Street Van... based on America's most

popular van-type vehicle, the Dodge Tradesman. It comes right from the factory with gear that gives you a great start on your own one-of-a-kind set of wheels. From there on, the possibilities go right out of sight.

We could take ten more pages to tell you about the optional sun roofs, paint schemes, interiors, chrome trim, special wheels, and etc., but we'll just say that everything about these trucks is designed for fun. If you haven't heard other truck companies talk about that lately, maybe it's because they don't build trucks that are this much fun to drive.



(Optional equipment, paint, and trim shown are available through Dealer or customizing shop.)

Vintage Advertising

Most folks recall Dodge's Li'l Red Express Truck that debuted in 1978. A real performance vehicle with bold design elements, it was truly unique, and in short supply. Only 2,188 were produced that first year.

But Dodge had more toys for 1978. The Warlock pickup began as a limited edition in late 1976. Unlike Li'l Red, the Warlock could be built with any engine, from a slant six to a 440 V-8. Not manly enough? Buyers could also opt for the Macho Power Wagon, a tricked out W150 with big tires, roll bars and loud graphics. Open air off-roading was available in a Ramcharger, with options for a fabric top or removable steel roof. Lastly, the Street Van offered an entry-level custom ready for more outlandish mods by the rabid van clans of the late '70's.

When was the last time any of us saw one of these adult toys? Perhaps they are still kept hidden away.

In This Issue

A visit to the Boca Concours.

A look at a former raffle car in the SIRAACA Archive

Trivia Question: What was the name of the Plymouth version of the Dodge Ramcharger sport utility offered between 1974-1981?

Answer: Plymouth's only sport utility was called the Trail Duster.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

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Minutes of the 525th Meeting

Februray 5, 2019

1. The 525th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Jr. After reciting the pledge of allegiance and observing a moment of silence, the minutes of the 524th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Jeff Tucker and Tony DiAngelo spoke about their trip to Automania in Allentown.
3. All members who still owe money for their new club jackets should square up with Phil Boffa after the meeting.
4. By now, all members should have renewed their local dues. Please see Jonathan Schulman if you have yet to pay them.
5. Paul Jr. explained how to register for an AACA national meet, particularly since the AACA Eastern Spring Meet is in Parsippany. We are encouraging as many members as possible to show their cars.
6. The club discussed other group trip destinations, including local Concours shows in Greenwich or Hershey, or the Simeone Museum in Philadelphia.
7. Spring Dust-Off flyers are printed and ready to go out.
8. Tony DiAngelo read a thank you letter sent to the club from the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive.
9. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30. The 50/50 collected \$30.00, with Phil Boffa winning \$15.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

for Economical Transportation

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Visiting the Boca Raton Concours d'Elegance

If you think of our Spring Dust-Off as “opening day” for our hobby, then you can think of the February and March concours held in Boca Raton and Amelia Island as “spring training”. We hopped on a plane for a long weekend getaway in Boca Raton, making sure to be there for their 13th Annual show, which was held on February 24. They featured Bentley as the honored marque, as it is celebrating its 100 anniversary. They also honored Mr. Robert Jepson of Savannah, GA as Collector of the Year. He displayed six of his cars, all pre-war classics that included a 1920 Stutz Bearcat, a 1927 Isotta Fraschini Dual Cowl Phaeton by LeBaron and a 1929 Bugatti Type 436 Cabriolet.

Jay Leno was on hand as a special judge, as was Wayne Carini. Carini also displayed a 1934 MG PA Airline, seen in the middle photo at right. Leno selected his favorite car for his Big Dog Garage Award, and chose a 1965 Buick Skylark GS. It was an unrestored car, complete with nicks and dings, but it caught his eye because it had a manual transmission. He had the same car as a young man, but claimed to have wrapped it ‘round a tree.

In all, there were approximately 175 vehicles shown across 27 car classes and six motorcycle classes. As expected, a large majority of the cars on hand were from Florida. We spotted a 1931 Cadillac V-16 All-Weather Phaeton from Paradise Valley, AZ, and upon closer inspection noticed that it belonged to famed author Clive Cussler. Another car that traveled a good distance was a 1958 Studebaker Starlight hardtop, down from Lancaster PA (bottom photo). It was one of just 1,171 built that year, and featured the “Sweepstakes 289” V-8 good for 225 horsepower. The 1968 Plymouth Barracuda Formula S (top photo) was a rare entrant. Plymouth made just 64 Formula S convertibles that year, 40 with four speed manuals, and 24 with three speed Torqueflight automatics. This car was once part of John Staluppi’s collection.

We returned to winter in Staten Island, counting off the days until our opening day in April.



From the President

It's a good bet that many of you as kids built plastic model kits of cars. There are probably a handful of you that may have continued to do so as we got older. In addition, many of you may have replaced those aging or broken models of your youth with die-cast models on display in their homes or garages today. On the flip side, I'd bet that many of you did not play with Lego blocks as a kid, although you may have helped your kids or grandkids with a brick or too. Well, it's not too late to try new things. If you are craving a project suitable for your kitchen table, where Testors paint and model glue aren't needed, check out the Lego Creator kits "geared" for car nuts. The latest one debuted this month - a first generation Mustang fast-back. Snap together 1471 pieces and end up with an incredibly detailed, functioning model that's over 13 inches long. The doors, trunk and hood all open to reveal a detailed interior and engine. It comes with optional add-ons for customization, including a supercharger, spoiler and more. You can even adjust the lift of the rear axle for a vintage looking stance. The cost is \$149. Other Creator auto kits include James Bond's '64 Aston Martin, a Volkswagen Camper Van and Beetle, and a Mini Cooper. The Mustang is the first American vehicle in the line, and I hope it's the start of more kits. A 1950's car would be great. A big 1930's classic or an early Model T would be great, too. Check out the Mustang at the Lego store near you or online at Lego.com. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - March 5

Our March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. We meet upstairs and can enter from the parking lot on Clarke Avenue. As usual, each member is asked to contribute \$3.00 for coffee & donuts.

When Model T Also Meant Cadillac

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This ad ran the Advance back on May 23, 1908. Gilbert B. Hall, an electrician in West New Brighton, was also an agent for Cadillac sales. This one is the Model T touring car, selling for \$1,000. Note they also offered 20hp models for twice the price. That must have been their Model G, which had a four cylinder engine. The T was the last of their single-cylindered cars. What remains puzzling is the address in the ad - 80 Columbia Street. Today, there is no mention of Columbia Street on Staten Island, just a Columbia Avenue near St. Joseph Hill Academy in Grasmere. What became of that address? Renamed? Built over?

From the SIRAACA Archive

Our club has been giving away cars at almost all of our fall shows since 1981. Back in 1986, our raffle car was this 1958 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88 Holiday coupe.

The Dynamic name appeared in 1958 to denote the entry level series at Oldsmobile. Holiday referred to the pillarless body style, meaning there is no post between the front and rear side windows.

The standard engine for the Dynamic 88 was the 371 cubic inch V8 with an economy two-barrel, but the optional Quadra-Jet four barrel or the potent, triple-carb'ed J2 were available. Three speed manuals were standard on all 88 models, with the Jetaway Hydra-Matic as an option.

Olds offered up 17 colors plus five extra cost metallic hues. We believe our raffle car was Banff Blue.

In 1958, Olds introduced their New-Matic Ride, an optional air suspension in place of conventional steel springs. Only 6% of the 296,374 model year autos had it installed.

We'll soon return to the SIRAACA Garage, 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.



Oldsmobile introduced the 88 badge in 1949. By 1951, the 88 was the entry-level Olds. In 1958, Oldsmobile was ranked number four in US production, trailing Chevrolet, Ford and Plymouth, and atop GM siblings Buick and Pontiac.

Bonus points for our eagle-eyed readers who can tell where on Staten Island this photo was taken. (photo courtesy of Paul Arena)

Upcoming Events

Load up the car with friends and family en route to one of these events.



- NYC BBQ Cook-Off, Historic Richmondtown - April 6
- 37th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park - April 12-14
- NYC Chili Cook-Off, Historic Richmond Town - April 27
- SIRAACA 13th Annual Spring Dust-Off, Commons Cafe - April 28





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Joint Public Statement: Antique Automobile Club of America and the AACA Museum Agreement

The Board of Directors of the Antique Automobile Club of America and the Board of Directors of the AACA Museum, Inc. entered into an agreement on October 10, 2018 resolving all issues relating to the various trademarks of their respective organizations. The Club and the Museum believe that they can peacefully co-exist offering their respective services under their respective trademarks without causing confusion. As of this date, neither organization will oppose trademarks entered with the United States Patent and Trade Office (USPTO) by the other party, consistent with their agreement, and both recognize the sovereignty of those marks. As part of the agreement, on a going forward basis, AACA Museum has agreed to include, where appropriate, the following statement with their communications to the public, "Not Affiliated with the Antique Automobile Club of America." The Boards of both organizations wish each other well and hope that they both can continue to support the greatest hobby in the world, the antique car hobby.

While You Weren't Paying Attention...

Some of you may have heard or seen that Toyota has resurrected the Supra for 2019, last built in 2002. So what's an old Supra worth? We will all find out after RM Sotheby's runs its Amelia Island Auction in early March. They will present a 1994 Toyota Supra Twin Turbo Targa with less than 11,200 miles, and the auction estimate is between \$100,000 and \$120,000! Apparently, these cars were very popular with aftermarket tuners, and original, low-mileage examples are hard to find. The car is part of what's billed as "The Youngtimer Collection", a group of 1980's-1990's autos. For comparison's sake, a 1993 Mazda RX-7 is pegged for \$40,000-\$45,000 and a 1996 Nissan 300ZX Twin Turbo is pegged for \$30,000-\$40,000. This Supra is in Acura NSX territory now.

New York Bill Introduced

A new bill has been introduced in New York that would require a biennial safety inspection instead of an annual inspection for antique, classic and collector vehicles. The bill (A.4906) recognizes that these vehicles are generally driven significantly fewer miles than other passenger vehicles, and recognizes the burden that safety inspections place on hobbyists. The bill is now to be considered by the Assembly Transportation Committee. To show support for this bill, you can write or email the members of this committee. The full list can be found on nyassembly.gov. Local members include Mathylde Frontus, Jo Anne Simon, Jaime Williams, Tremaine Wright and Nick Perry (Brooklyn), and Alicia Hynzman (Queens). There are no Staten Islanders on the committee. The Chair is William Magnarelli from Syracuse.



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