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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

May 2019



• **Spring Dust-Off is a Double Rain-Out**



Vintage Advertising

Apparently Dodge was still trying to capture the wild muscle car days that had petered out in the early 1970's, as evidenced by this 1978 Dodge Aspen Super Coupe. Have you ever seen one, much less heard of one? We hadn't, until a couple of weeks ago when we spotted a mint one on Route 17 North in New Jersey. If you follow the Classic Car & Truck Spotter group on Facebook, you probably saw us post a couple of pictures of that car.

Only 531 such cars were offered, all with a 360 V8 good for, ahem, 175 hp. At least it looked the part.

In This Issue

Double rain out!

Raffle car appears at the Chili Cook-Off

Cruise Nights are coming

Tupelo Tucker transfer

A peek at a Polara from a past parade

Pristine Porsches

A look inside Tony's Toy Box

THE SUPER COUPE IS ALIVE & LIVING IN ASPEN.

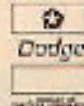


Aspen Super Coupe. Some car. Some package. There are a lot of guys who'd buy it just for its looks alone. And admittedly, this street dream does exude a load of very heavy charm. See for you self: Satin Tan metallic paint with contrasty body side and lower rear panel striping and roof tape. Plus a Cab-Black finish for the hood, front fender tops, wheel faces, wiper arms, front and rear bumpers, spoilers, and racing mirrors. Why, it's enough to moisten the eye of any veteran tuner from FM. But there's more. Quarter window covers. And those lovely big eight-inch-wide road wheels fitted with CR90015 white letter Aramid fiber-reinforced radial 1.60EHR10 tires. Report.

On the other hand, there are a lot of guys who'd prefer our Super Coupe Package for

the way it runs. Smooth. Big. It now. With its gutsy optional 6-cylinder 360 that's ideally suited to the slick-working TorqueFlite automatic. Another thing. You'll find our Super Coupe is just as smooth in the handling department. We've got the heavy-duty pieces where they're needed. In the suspension and added a rear airway car to make the Super Coupe a bear in the corners.

So there you are, enthusiasts. The fun can't get any away. And your Dodge Dealer would like to prove it to you. Ask him for a super test... in the Aspen Super Coupe Package. Or in one of the other two V8 special packages you can buy us lesser: the R/T Sport Pak or the super-fun Aspen Street Kit Car.



Trivia Question: Of course, Dodge wasn't the only MoPar who'd offer a Super Coupe variant in 1978. What Plymouth model was even rarer?

Answer: The Volare Super Coupe was Plymouth's offering, with just 494 built.

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Minutes of the 527th Meeting

April 2, 2019

1. The 527th 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 526th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The Dust-Off planning continues. Dash plaques will feature Joe Rego's 1965 Thunderbird. The club has purchased a new pop-up canopy tent emblazoned with our name and logo. Members are asked to be on site for the show by 6:30 that morning.
3. Before the Dust-Off, we have the opportunity to bring the raffle car out to a few events, including Spring Englishtown (pending approval) as well as the BBQ and Chili Cook-Off events at Richmond Town. Volunteers are needed for all events and sign up sheets were passed around.
4. We continue to meet with the new director at Richmond Town to sort out the details for this season's cruise nights, which are expected to begin at the end of May.
5. Tony DiAngelo discussed some of his findings related to bus rentals for club trips.
6. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. The 50/50 collected \$34.00, with Bruce Campbell winning \$17.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Rain, Rain, Go Away!



The threat of rain ahead of the April 28th Spring Dust-Off prompted a decision to postpone the show until its rain date of May 5. Sure enough, it rained on the 28th. What's worse, the forecast then made it clear it was to rain again on our rain date. This may be the first time we've been rained out on both dates, and now we must decide what's the best option - try for a third date, or pass altogether?

Raffle Car at Chili Cook-Off

Historic Richmond Town held its annual Chili Cook-Off on April 27, and our club was on hand with our raffle car. The weather was, ahem, chilly, and the gates weren't overflowing with spectators this year. Nonetheless, we pitched in by helping with the admission gates, and made approximately \$50 in sales. It remains important that we continue to help HRT in return for the opportunities they present us. Next up is Uncorked! on June 8.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

Cruise Nights Are Returning to Richmond Town

Center Street in Historic Richmond Town will host historic vehicles once again on Wednesday nights as we bring back our weekly cruise night, beginning on May 29. As always, cars can arrive no earlier than 5:00, via the top of Center Street at St. Patrick's Place. In addition to our raffle car, the club will be holding a 50/50 each week to help with a donation to HRT for the season's program. Expect additions that focus on the educational aspect of our rides, with select cars to be chosen and featured for a bumper-side chat with their owners. Brush up on your make and model, whether it's a personal tale of your ownership or something particular about your car's past and place in automotive history.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

From the President

To quote good ol' Charlie Brown, "Good Grief!" Our rain date was also rained out. Many folks asked me for the next rain date. When I told them we didn't have one, they were shocked. I guess not too many people realize what's needed to plan and book a car show. Nonetheless, we'll discuss what's possible, keeping in mind the pros and cons of a third attempt now that show season is in full swing. In the meantime, we make progress in our discussions with the new executive director at Richmond Town with regards to our returning cruise nights. I'll discuss those as well at the next meeting. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

Although lately I've been delayed in getting these out by the beginning of the month, due in a large part to a lack of things to report on, I can now report that we have rescheduled the Spring Dust-Off for Sunday, June 23. Hopefully, the lousy spring weather is behind us and there will be plenty of sunny days to get out and enjoy our cars, meaning we can fill these newsletters up again in no time and have them out to you when expected. I appreciate your patience as I work through this dry spell (a dry spell caused by rain!) as well as any submissions you have to share with others. If you attend a local show or cruise night, let us know, send us a picture or two and we'll write it up for you. It's as simple as that! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - May 7

Our May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7 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.

Tupelo Tucker Moves to Maine

The Tupelo Automobile Museum collection was recently liquidated at auction, as we reported last month. Once again, a Tucker was being sold, and this one is making the jump from a closed museum to one that is about to open for the first time. The new owner is the Maine Classic Car Museum, which will feature the Tucker when it opens in June. They paid \$1.985 million for the car, so they'll have to sell a lot of admission tickets to get that back. We are happy to hear that in times where museums are closing there are others that are opening. Other cars we noted for sale included the prop car from the film "The Great Race", which fetched \$112,000. A 1934 Duesenberg changed hands for \$450,000, while a 1976 AMC Gremlin did the same for just \$7,280. A 1976 Lincoln Mark IV, once owned by Elvis and sporting just 9,800 miles since new, sold for \$47,000.

Porsche Heaven in Long Island

We were invited to attend the grand opening of Porsche Gold Coast in Jericho, NY recently. The five story dealership is one of just 11 in the US authorized as a factory classic shop. They had a host of antique and collectible models on display and for sale. Have a look below and on the back cover.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

From the SIRAACA Archive

Here's a look back at Tony DiAngelo idling his 1968 Dodge Polara down Victory Boulevard during a Travis 4th of July Parade. He was chauffeur to 'Stan Laurel' & "Oliver Hardy" that year.

Traditionally, the 4th of July Parade attracted many of our club cars, yet the risk of overheating in the July sun while crawling along at idle was a tough one to endure. Nonetheless, our members participated quite often, driving faux celebrities, local dignitaries, and older military veterans being honored for their service.

Dodge provided several engine options for the Polara beyond the standard 318, including the 383 and 440. A three speed manual on the column was standard with the 318 and 383. The 3 speed TorqueFlite automatic was optional. Tony will have to fill you in on how his car was equipped.

The 1968 Dodge lineup was quite crowded. Along with Polara, they offered the Dart, Coronet, Charger and Monaco, in plenty of variations. Advertising encouraged drivers to come down with 'Dodge Fever'

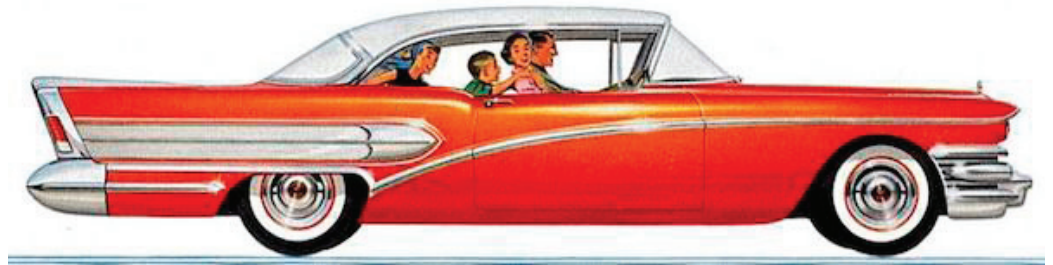
We'll soon return to the SIRAACA Garage, home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



Tony DiAngelo drives Laurel & Hardy along the Travis Fourth of July parade route (photo courtesy of Paul Arena)

Upcoming Events

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



- Hot Rods and Harleys, Rahway, NJ - May 11
- No. Central Kiwanis of SI 3rd Annual Car Show, Mt. Loretto - June 8
- Uncorked!, Historic Rischmond Town - June 8
- New Dorp High School Car Show - June 9
- The Elegance at Hershey - June 9





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Another Fine Find from Tony's Toy Box

Most of us extend our love of cars beyond a full-size one in our garage. Many of us also collect models or old ads or literature and other automobilia to satisfy our cravings. Tony DiAngelo happens to like old tin toys, like this early 1950's "Oldsmobile" remote controlled car. Made by TM out of Japan, the remote is wired directly to the car to allow the operator to control forward and reverse motion. The front wheels must be set into a turn manually if you wish to go in a circle.



(photo by Tony DiAngelo)



(photos by Paul Jr.)

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