

Vol. 26, No. 8

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Aug 2019



• ***Phil's Tale of Tragedy Turned Triumph***



Vintage Advertising

In 1952, Nash celebrated 50 years of automaking with this ad that highlighted much of its history, beginning with the 1902 Rambler that started the journey. The Rambler was actually produced by the Thomas B Jeffery Company. Charles W. Nash acquired the company and founded Nash Motors in 1916.

Unfortunately, Nash wouldn't get to celebrate many more anniversaries. They acquired Hudson in 1954 and created AMC. Nash and Hudson production ended in 1957. Ramblers and Metropolitans endured a bit longer. AMC remained a brand name through the 1988 model year, finally being bought out by Chrysler.

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Tales from Parsippany - A Phil & Kevin Story.

Back to the Beach recap.

"Toon" in to this truck from the SIRAACA Archive.

Bus trip invitation for SIRAACA members.



1902—In its first year, the Rambler became one of the World's first mass-produced cars

Nash

Great Cars for 50 Years



1907—This \$2,500 model seated five, weighed 2600 pounds, had a 40-horsepower engine.



1909—This was the first automobile to offer a spare fifth wheel and tire.



1911—The smart Rambler Landulet was one of the early "convertibles".



1912—The Rambler "Knickerbocker" Limousine carried seven passengers, sold for \$4,200.



1914—This sleek car was named in honor of the founder, Thomas B. Jeffery.



1918—Introducing the first high-compression, valve-in-head six-cylinder Nash engine.



1922—America's first car with the engine mounted on rubber to defeat vibration.



1928—Here was a big Nash car in a big Nash year. The 7-passenger sedan was a sales leader.



1934—1,000,000th Nash built. Clutch pedal starter, pioneered by Nash, was introduced.



1941—The greatest basic improvement in 40 years, Nash Airflyte body-and-frame.



1946—Nash becomes one of first manufacturers to resume production after the war.



1949—First true aerodynamic car with enclosed front wheels, christened "Airflyte".

TODAY—Fifty years later, the revolutionary Nash Rambler is writing success stories in sales, style, performance. This new, different kind of car, introduced in 1950, set the all-time record of 31.05 miles per gallon in the 1951 Mobilgas Economy Run.

Nash Motors

DIVISION, NASH-KELVINATOR CORPORATION
DETROIT, MICHIGAN



Trivia Question: Which Nash automobiles are recognized classics by the CCA?

Answer: The 1930 Series 490, the 1931 Series 890, the 1932 Series 990 and 1090, the 1933 Series 1190, the 1934 Series 1290, and the 1940 Special Cabriolet by Sakhnoffsky.

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Minutes of the 530th Meeting

July 2, 2019

1. The 530th 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 529th meeting were accepted as read.
2. Phil Boffa and Paul Jr. recapped the results of our rescheduled Dust-Off. We had 261 paid car entrants plus several others that were comped. The raffle car took in \$575 and the cafe donation back to us was \$589. Our profit for the day was \$5071.
3. The club agreed that tents should be kept of the parking field at our fall show, and we will consider pre-ordering our lunch with the cafe to speed up service for the members.
4. Several members recapped our participation and efforts at the Kiwanis show, the New Dorp High School show and Uncorked!. The raffle car took in \$405 at New Dorp and \$235 at Uncorked!
5. Paul Jr. and others that attended the AACA Spring National spoke about the show. Congratulations to all the members that won awards and continued to serve as a national judge.
6. Back to the Beach is scheduled fro July 13-14 and volunteers are needed each day to sell raffles.
7. No cruise nights on Center Street for the next two weeks to allow for the street to be resurfaced. We could relocate to the parking lot, but feel that's not worth it.
8. Fall posters were given out to start promoting the show and helping with trophy donations and sponsors.
9. It was noted that Len Misuraca, former member and son of club founder Joe Misuraca, passed away at the age of 64.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52. The 50/50 collected \$16.00, with Joe Rego winning \$8.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Parsippany 2019: The Phil and Kevin Story

As the designated wingman for Kevin Keenan, I always have a tale to tell about him and our national meet adventures. This time, the tale is about me. Last year, we learned that the Spring Meet was being held in Parsippany. This is one of the closest national meets we ever had, in an area I knew well. I took three months deciding on which car to bring, opting for my '68 Chrysler 300 convertible. With a second junior already on its resume, I decided to try for a first junior this time out. Then I did the math, and realized I won the second junior on the same weekend of the infamous OJ Simpson white Bronco chase, 25 years ago! Oh boy, 25 years, my mind started spinning. Must do a radiator flush, new hoses, new belts, an oil change, repaint the engine, etc. I spent the winter in the garage, sweating every detail for six months. I was ready, or so I thought.

On the Thursday before my 60 mile trip, I packed everything I could possibly need: spare fuel pump, hoses, belts, tools, JB Weld, etc. I topped off my fluids and went to bed. My anxiety was in high gear, waking me up at 4:40 Friday morning. At that moment, I thought, "do I have spare fuel line hoses?" I grabbed a bunch of fuel line hoses in different sizes and threw them into the trunk, had a bowl of Cheerios, and went to meet Kevin at his house. When I arrived, he noticed antifreeze coming out of the radiator and power steering fluid splattered on the engine. We checked, and decided it was overflow on each. We hit the road, and at highway speeds, I felt a bit of shake in the wheels, and I realized I have 20 year old tires. The shake went away in a few minutes, but all I could think about was the radiator and power steering pump. Thankfully, we arrived at the hotel with no issues.

Later that night, we stop by the cars one last time, and I smelled gasoline. Not a whiff from a gas can, but a smell like a refinery! Gas was dripping from the hose at the base of the fuel pump at a good clip. Kevin jumped into action and went to tighten the clamp, only to have the hose disintegrate in his hands and the flow goes from a good clip to Niagara Falls! Holy crap! We looked for anything to stop the flow, like a pen or a bolt. Our arms were crossed under the manifold in a tight game of mechanic's Twister, and Kevin said, "Oh, where are we gonna get a piece of hose like this?" I replied, "What size?" and he said, "You have fuel line hose?" and I repeated, "What size?" Kevin cut and secured the new hose to one side. I opened the line and he connected the other side. I tightened everything up, and noticed Kevin's hands were bleeding, and his blood was on my spark plug wires. I said, "Can you clean up your mess?"

I might have lost a lot of gasoline, but did not care. What if the hose blew on RT 287 or on the show field? It could have been much worse. What impressed me, aside from Kevin's mechanical talents and up close good looks, was the number of guys who came over to offer help or supplies. That meant something to me, and I made sure to thank them again on the show field the next day. That's what this hobby's about, and I'm proud to be a car guy.

Years ago I was ridiculed for having too much stuff in my trunk. Never underestimate me. For 35 years I never needed anything other than a rubber gorilla mask (another story) but here was the first time, and I was ready. After a day of brutal heat and brutal competition, I took another second junior. I'm proud to have done so against cars with multi-year, big buck restorations. Many people, including national judges, stopped to talk about the car, and I learned its a bit more rare than I knew. Many friends stopped by too, making it a great day. *(continued on back page)*



(photo courtesy NJRAACA)

From the President

Some of you may be aware that fellow member Jeff Tucker has taken ill and remains in the hospital. While he was admitted for a gastro-intestinal infection, subsequent tests discovered cancer, and it appears it may not be treatable. Jeff's been a member for several decades, and might be one of the most visible of us all, participating in every single event we host or attend. He is extremely devoted to the club and his fellow members, and we must be equally devoted to helping him through this. As of this writing, he's been moved over to the facilities at Eger. As soon as I have additional details, I will share with all of you.

In the meantime, we're entering the dog days of summer, with recent temperatures pushing triple digits. This weather is as equally disruptive to the hobby as the rains that plagued our spring. Who wants to sit in a hot asphalt parking lot with their old car, when you can instead cruise into our weekly Wednesday night gathering on the shady streets of Historic Richmond Town? They completed their resurfacing project and we're back on Center Street. Plenty of folks come out for ice cream at Egger's, sit in front of the historic buildings, and chat among friends and the car owners in a setting that cannot be duplicated anywhere else on Staten Island. Spread the word, come out with your car, and experience a small-town feel away from the strip malls and big box stores that dominate the island. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - August 6

Our August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 6 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.

Back to the Beach

A lack of volunteers to cover our raffle car's appearance at the Back to the Beach weekend forced us to close up on Saturday evening and pass on Sunday. As a result, we took in only \$250 or so. Spotted among the food vendors was this 1929 Ford Model A pickup, drawing attention to Juicy Lucy BBQ. One of the partners owns this truck, which is also seen often at the H2O Auto Spa on Hylan Boulevard near New Dorp Lane.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

It was a lost opportunity that highlights why we cannot always rely on a few members who normally help out, as they too will eventually have conflicts that keep them from participating. We recognize that the club competes with plenty of other draws on our time. If possible, let's make up this shortfall by upping our personal efforts to sell raffles to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

From the SIRAACA Archive

This month we transition back to the SIRAACA Archive for a look back to a special vehicle that was on hand for our 2008 fall show. It's a 1928 Ford Roadster pickup owned by Robert Luczon of Clifton, NJ. As you can see, it's no ordinary Ford.

Robert spent at that time over 2,500 hours airbrushing thousands of cartoon and comics characters on every visible inch of the truck. It includes the first comic strip character, The Yellow Kid, and continues forward with over 100 years of cartoon history. The tailgate is a massive group portrait of every Simpsons character to ever appear on that show.

The truck has appeared in many cities, even appearing at concours events like the Glenmoor Gathering in Canton, OH.

Robert's son served in Afghanistan, so he sets up a donation box with the truck to collect for the Wounded Warrior Project. He also donates any appearance fees to the same cause.

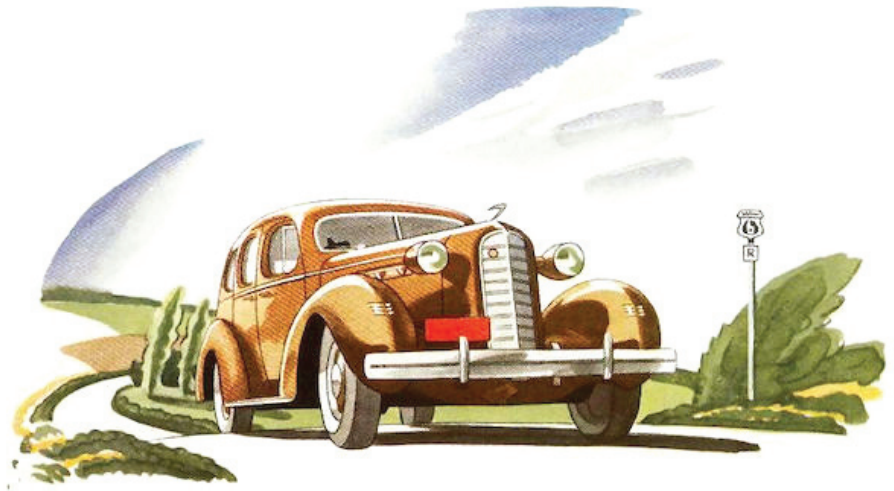
The SIRAACA Archive is a treasure trove of old photos, articles and artifacts that represent our club's history dating back to our founding in 1974. These are not centrally collected, but in the hands of the many members past and present. If you have something from the past that you'd like to share here, let us know.



Eagle eyed readers may notice we also had a certain crime fighter's car on hand in 2008 as well. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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



- 56th Annual Das Awkscht Fescht Car Show, Macungie, PA - August 2-4
- New Hope Auto Show, New Hope PA - August 10-11
- Staten Ireland's 1st Annual Car Show, Mt. Loretto - August 18
- Richmond County Fair, Richmond Town - August 31-September 2
- SIRAACA 43rd Annual Car Show, Commons Cafe - September 15





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Phil and Kevin

2019 Fall Flyer

(continued) It was an even better night at the awards ceremony. Congratulations to all. Every member from our club, and some additional friends from Staten Island, won. We came, conquered, and made it back safe.

The lesson learned? Not using a car regularly has its issues. Time passes by quicker than you realize. Check your car often, including your fuel lines. Today's gasoline blends don't play nicely with some older cars. Lastly, use your cars more often, or grab yourself a brand new convertible for care free cruising! - *Phil Boffa*

Bus Trip

There are a few seats open on the August 26 bus trip from Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck to the American Treasure Tour Museum and another auto museum in Pennsylvania. The cost is \$67.00 per person, which also includes a buffet lunch. Contact Kevin Keenan if you are interested in going. The bus trip is organized by The North Shore Antique Automobile Club.

The Staten Island Region AACA presents its
43rd Annual Antique Car Show & Flea Market
Sunday, September 15, 2019
Commons Cafe at The Teleport
2 Teleport Drive off of South Avenue
Gates Open at 8:00 AM • Rain Date: September 22



WIN A 1992 Camaro RS Coupe
Drawing held onsite before awards ceremony
Raffle Tickets are 8 for \$5.00

SIRAACA is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization
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flip for more show details for 2019 >



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year and condition.
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