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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Sep 2019



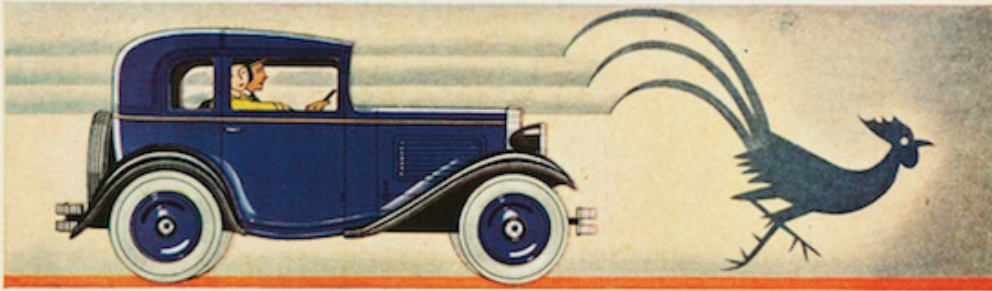
• 43rd Annual Car Show is September 15



.. the world is getting CROWDED ..



therefore



the bantam Austin

A CAR that darts through the field of traffic... swiftly... without effort. Adroit as a polo pony. A twist of the wrist and it's parked, in incredibly tiny spaces. The bantam Austin is large enough to carry you and a companion, in comfort, anywhere... no larger... a minimum bulk of metal, rubber, gasoline, to move you smoothly through a crowded world... that is sensible transportation... bantam transportation.

The facts will argue it into your choice as a second car... if only to

save mileage costs on your large car. 40 miles on a gallon of gasoline. 1000 miles for \$5.75 worth of gas and oil. Three-quarters of a penny a mile for gas, oil and tires. 20,000 to 40,000 miles on a set of tires.

The bantam Austin is made in America by American workmen backed by American capital.

Service facilities are established in all parts of the country.

This brisk, young car is priced at \$445, at the factory. It will quickly pay this back to you in large car mileage saved.



Vintage Advertising

Here is an ad from 1930 highlighting the smallness of the American Austin. "The world is getting crowded," it says, at a time when approximately 2.07 billion people populated our planet. Today, that figure is around 7.5 billion.

American Austin was another victim of the Depression, lasting from 1929 through 1934. Coupes were sold for \$445, but cheaper used cars were more appealing.

The sales pitch is similar to those used by economy and electric today. Recoup the cost through your realized savings due to cheap operating costs. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

In 1935, the bankrupt company was reorganized as American Bantam, which built cars through 1941.

In This Issue

RIP Jeff Tucker

Raffle Car at Richmond County Fair

A hot celestial body in the SIR-AACA Garage

A pair of Fords

Trivia Question: What famous stylist designed the American Austin bodies, which were built by the Hayes Body Company of Detroit?

Answer: Count Alexis de Sakhnoffsky. He's part of last month's answer too. Look him up,

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Minutes of the 531st Meeting

August 6, 2019

1. The 531st meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:37 by President Paul Jr. After reciting the pledge of allegiance and observing a moment of silence, the minutes of the 530th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The club was shorthanded for Back to Beach, only spending part of one day and taking in \$250 in raffle sales.
3. Tony DiAngelo provided an update on Jeff Tucker's serious illness. Jeff can receive visitors at the hospice located on Eger's campus.
4. Kevin Keenan's bus trip to a museum in Pennsylvania is all set for August 26. There may be a few seats still available.
5. Hershey's AACA Fall Meet registration deadline for show cars is August 15.
6. Bruce Campbell's Comet Caliente is this year's fall show dash plaque car.
7. We walked through last year's trophy donor list to ensure all are being revisited for this year.
8. We will be at the Richmond County Fair at Historic Richmond Town over Labor Day weekend. Volunteers are needed each day for car display and raffle table.
9. Keep up the hunt for a raffle car for 2020. We hope to be able to have it on hand at the New Dorp Lane show.
10. Welcome to three prospective new members, including Eric Weiss, Vito Caputi and Dennis Dellangelo. Dennis is seeking options for help in putting his 40's-era Chevy pickup back together.
11. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53. The 50/50 collected \$34.00, with Paul Arena winning \$17.00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Farewell, Jeff Tucker

Our club is deeply saddened by the passing of Jeff Tucker, a devoted member of our region for many decades. There was never a club event that Jeff missed attending. A constant at every show, every bus trip to Atlantic City, every raffle car appearance, Jeff was known by many, but well known by just a few. We all were Jeff's family, and some members were an important part of his life outside the club. I am inviting all of you to write me with a fond memory or two that you have of Jeff, and I will compile a tribute for an upcoming issue of the newsletter. We will sorely miss his deep commitment to our club, his willingness to volunteer without question, and his unique personality. May he rest in peace and remain in our memories.



(photo by Hilton Flores)

Bring in Your Raffles

The September meeting is our final general gathering before our fall show. Ideally, all sold raffles and collected money are turned in at the meeting so it can be recorded ahead of the show. In addition, any trophy donations should be finalized so the donor gets printed up in the show pamphlet. If you still have outstanding items after the meeting, it's important that they get turned in somehow before our show gets underway. We will remind all again at the September meeting.

Richmond County Fair, With Apple Fest to Follow

The Richmond County Fair got underway at the start of Labor Day weekend, with our club on hand with both our cars and the raffle car. Our new tent looked good providing both shade for the volunteers and club branding for the fair-goers. Saturday's sales were \$400. Sunday's sales topped that number, and Monday's rain-shortened effort brought in \$245 for a total of \$1,082. Thanks to all the volunteers and guests who came down to display their cars, man the tables and draw a crowd around our 1992 Camaro. Up next is Delicious Orchards Apple Fest, on September 7-8. We will need volunteers and cars to attend this event, with a stronger emphasis on Sunday. Details will be shared at the September meeting, including times and benefits of attending.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

From the President

Taking things for granted is a pervasive human trait. We wake up, go about our business, go to sleep, and expect the same general pattern day in and day out. Yet none of us will last forever. And so, we say a final goodbye to fellow member Jeff Tucker, who passed rather quickly after being diagnosed with incurable cancer. We paused, we mourned, we remembered him, and we have a responsibility to do so going forward.

Jeff wasn't the first one at Richmond Town for this year's County Fair. Jeff won't be sitting at our raffle table for two full days at the Apple Fest next week. He won't be setting up the flea market at this year's car show. But he'll be at all of these events in spirit, so long as we continue to remember him. We will name the Best Ford Award given out at each Spring Dust-Off in his honor. We will also make a better effort in using the other honors we named for other departed members. All of our Best in Show Awards in the fall are a memorial to someone, regardless of their donors. This includes Augie Oberti, Steve Trotto, Sal Gatto and Frank Consalvo. Our Best Truck Award is in memory of Joe Brancale. We will make sure these are announced at the red carpet.

It's a shame to lose friends and family. It's also a shame to forget them once they're gone. Let's do our part to remember those who played a part in our club, and by extension, in our lives.- *Paul Jr.*

- NEXT MEETING - September 3

Our September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3 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.

A T and T-Bird

Spotted together at Gateway at Great Kills one Sunday morning were Artie Guarnieri's 1979 T-Bird and Tony Ventrice's 1922 Model T. Several generations separated these two Ford relatives. If you got close, you could hear the T telling the T-Bird that back in his day, they didn't have gas pedals, and you had to lift up the front seat to fill the gas tank, and every road was uphill.



(photo by Paul Jr.)

The T-Bird was heard chuckling and boasting about V8 engines, power steering and brakes, and climate control. Then it thanked the T for being the car that established Ford firmly as the car that put America on wheels. They then spent the rest of the morning basking in the sun and providing onlookers with two examples of iconic models built by Ford more than fifty years apart. Sunday morning cruises at Gateway will continue through the fall, as long as the weather allows.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Once again we peer into the SIRAACA Garage to get a look at Bruce Campbell's 1966 Mercury Comet Caliente convertible. All of you now must say "Campbell's Comet Caliente convertible" five times fast.

Did we ever feature this car here before? Perhaps so, but we're taking another look because this car will be featured on our upcoming dash plaque. In addition, it hasn't been out of the garage recently, needing some mechanical work to make it road worthy again.

Comets debuted in 1960, without any divisional badging, similar to Valiants that technically were not Plymouths. It was officially made a Mercury model in 1962. Starting in 1966, the Comet grew from compact to mid-size. By 1967, the Comet name was relegated to a base model, and separate models named Capri, Caliente, and Cyclone all stood alone.

Bruce's Comet Caliente is powered by an optional Cyclone 390 V-8. A 289 V-8 and 200 "6" were also available.

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.



There were 15 solid Super Enamel colors offered up for these ragtops, including what we guess is Cardinal Red seen on Bruce's car. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events

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



- Richmond County Fair, Richmond Town - August 31-September 2
- Delicious Orchards Apple Fest - September 7-8
- SIRAACA 43rd Annual Car Show, Commons Cafe - September 15
- 43rd Annual Fall Englishtown, Raceway Park - September 27-29
- 2nd Annual New Dorp Lane Car Show - September 29





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2019 Fall Poster

The well-received but under utilized Art Deco theme of our doubly rained out Spring Dust-Off returned in a new color palette for our fall show. The design is once again courtesy of Dennis Simone, and superbly printed by Far Better Printing. Iconic period elements include the Empire State Building, a zeppelin, and Gordon Buehrig's distinctive Cord.



1974 THE ALL NEW ONE

ON DISPLAY TOMORROW SEPTEMBER 11th

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CAR SHOW & FLEA MARKET

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2 TELEPORT DRIVE,
OFF OF SOUTH AVENUE

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8:00AM TO 4:00PM
MAIN DATE SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Win a 1992 CAMARO RS COUPEL

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• \$20 VEHICLE ENTRY FEE • \$40 VENDOR FEE •

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POSTER DESIGNED AND ILLUSTRATED BY DENNIS SIMONE STUDIOS

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**WANTED:
DONATED VEHICLES.**
Any make, model,
year and condition.
Tax deductible.
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