

Vol. 26, No. 11

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Nov 2019



• *A Special Show*



IMPERIAL



IMPERIAL CROWN FOUR-DOOR SOU'WESTPORTER IN ALABAMA WHITE, DRESS DESIGNED BY BOKANNE FOR SAMUEL WINSTON

IMPERIAL OF 1961 is something of an engineer's triumph. Its already enviable status as America's most drivable, maneuverable fine car has been improved. Its traditionally unmatched ride is now even easier.

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a handsomely upholstered instrument panel.

One thing has not, and will not, change: the careful, deliberately paced manner of Imperial's building and assembly . . . the skill and patience which make it America's most carefully built car.

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Vintage Advertising

In 1961, the longest non-limousine American car was the Imperial, at over 227 inches. The design changes that took effect that year included the free-standing headlamps mounted on short stalks within recessed front fenders. This was Virgil Exner's last gasp at Chrysler, as he was removed as president of design in 1962.

There were three series of Imperials to choose from: Imperial Custom, Imperial Crown and Imperial LeBaron. The Custom came in two- and four-door hardtops. The Crowns did as well, along with a convertible. The LeBarons were all four-door hardtops with a formal roof treatment. Note that nine limos were also built, with a flipped name of Crown Imperial.

Total sales were 12,258 units. Just 429 were convertibles.

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A different kind of car show

Trivia Question: What car company partnered with Philco to introduce the first transistorized car radion in mid-1955?

Answer: Chrysler.

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Minutes of the 533rd Meeting

October 1, 2019

1. The 533rd 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 532nd meeting were accepted as read.
2. The club offered their condolences to Don Bosco on the passing of his dad. We will make a donation in his memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.
3. The club was on hand for the Delicious Orchards Apple Fest the weekend before our show and sold \$1,100 in raffles.
4. Several club members volunteered to help the organizers of the New Dorp Lane Car Show, which drew over 530 vehicles.
5. Our fall show drew 430 vehicles and saw a great number of spectators enjoy the day. The raffle car was given away at the end of the show, with the winner driving down that afternoon to claim the car. The raffle car will end up making around \$5,400 in profit.
6. The AACA Fall Meet in Hershey is October 9-12. Good luck and safe travels to our members who will be competing, judging, shopping or just enjoying the show.
7. The Holiday Party is booked for Sunday, December 8, from 3:00-7:00 at The RoadHouse on Clove Road. Once again, we will be collecting and donating new, unwrapped toys to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive.
8. Artie Guarnieri is coordinating a special gathering of cars for his Lifestyles for the Disabled organization. He is still ironing out a location for the show, which will be held on October 17.
9. The club welcomed two new members - Albert Gargiulo and Joe D'Amore.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report with all in order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. The 50/50 collected \$30.00, with Mike Gorgia winning \$15.00, and Bruce Campbell winning a \$25 Rock Auto Gift Card..

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

SIRAACA at Hershey

We received an early morning report directly from Hershey the day after the Fall Meet, telling us that Andrew and Rosemarie Napoli were coming home with an AACA Senior Award for their 1984 Oldsmobile Delta 88 Brougham. In addition, Andy Barcellona and Fred Howe each won Repeat Preservation Awards for their 1957 Chevy 210 wagon and 1978 Caprice, respectively.. We hope to have more detailed stories to share when they all return.

Start Them Young

That's Paul Arena's grandson Vincent taking a bird's eye view of him replacing a fuel line on his 1948 Dodge. Take the time to show the younger generation even the basics of your old car, since they might be the next caretakers.



New Dorp Lane Car Show



The second annual car show on New Dorp Lane drew over 525 vehicles, lining the thoroughfare from the railroad to the boulevard. Many SIRAACA members volunteered to help by directing traffic and selecting the award winners. This year, a simplified effort to pick out the Top 50 allowed a team of four judges, led by Mike Signorile, ride up and down the lane in a golf cart driven by Andrew Napoli and note their picks. Live music filled the air, a handful of vendors dotted the sidewalks, and the merchants along the lane opened their doors to large crowds of spectators. That's Don Bosco's 1925 Lancia Lambda up top, a very unique auto among all the Caddy's and muscle cars that day.



(top and left photos by Paul Jr., bottom photo by Bob Ferone)

From the President

There were a couple of reasons that I was unable to attend the Fall Meet at Hershey this year. In the days leading up to that weekend, I was focused on what I needed to take care of at home, so I wasn't disappointed about missing it. It wasn't until Thursday rolled around, where I found my inner voice telling me that I should be strolling the car corral right about now, or on Friday that I should be checking out the RM Auctions lots for sale, or on Saturday that I should be pulling onto the show field. I really missed the routine, which is anything but routine each year. New discoveries in the flea market, new debuts on the show field, new friends to be made, and so on. For those of you who went, I'm certain you had a great time. I plan on being there in 2020.

Here's an early reminder that our December meeting coincides with our Holiday Party, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 8. As usual, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toy donations to join with our donation to the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive.

Although there aren't many local shows left on the calendar this year, the Sunday morning gatherings at Great Kills Beach will continue so long as the weather cooperates and we can tolerate the falling temperatures. Of course, we don't always need a place to go to give our cars a run. A drive to nowhere and back might be just what the doctor (and mechanic) ordered as we approach the winter months. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - November 5

Our November meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5 at 7:00 PM at the Courthouse at Richmond Town. We meet upstairs and can enter from the parking lot on Clarke Avenue. We will be serving XXXXX this month.

The Car You Wear

If you attended the New Dorp Lane car show, and made sure to look down the side streets, you hopefully ran into this rare car. It's a 1969 Plymouth Barracuda Sports Coupe with the Mod Top optional roof and interior. The floral pattern was available to order on various Plymouth and Dodge models (Dodge called it a Floral Top). Only 937 Mod Top Barracudas were built that year, advertised as "the car you wear". We didn't see the owner to ask more about the car (like what's under the hood), so we hope this car comes out to play some more on Staten Island.



(photos by Paul Jr.)



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We are back inside the SIRAACA Garage to have our first look at the 2020 raffle car. It's a 1992 Camaro RS convertible, a drop top version of the Anniversary Coupe we raffled off this year.

The car was located near Smithtown, Long Island. Mike Signorile's friend Sal Signorile (no relation) has a repair shop in the area, and agreed to look the car over for us since many of us were in Hershey. He gave it the thumbs up, the seller knocked off \$1000, and we agreed to buy the car.

It's currently at his shop to have some minor mechanical work done and we'll look to get it home soon.

Total production of 1992 Camaros was 70,007. Of that, only 2,562 RS convertibles were made. To note, just 1,254 Z28 convertibles were made that year. Compare that to the nearly 61,000 RS coupes, such as our 2019 raffle car, that made up the majority of them.

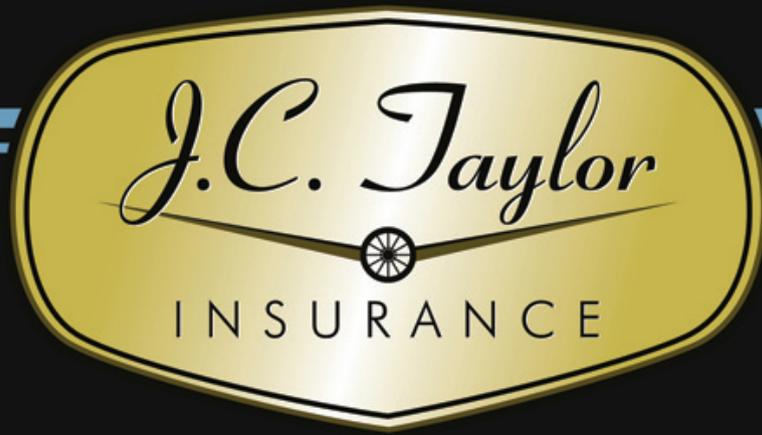
We know some of you are eager to start selling tickets, so we'll sort out what they should look like and have them printed soon.

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.



We can't recall raffling off a blue car yet, although we did buy a blue Mustang once and painted it red. This color is known as Medium Quasar Blue. (photos Sal Signorile)





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Offering Up a Different Kind of Car Show

Club member Artie Guarnieri works for Lifestyles for the Disabled, an organization devoted to providing developmentally disabled adults with realistic work settings and experiences here on Staten Island. For the second year, Artie put together a small car show for the program participants to enjoy. Unlike traditional car shows, this gathering provided the chance to sit behind the wheel of several of the cars on display, including Artie's 1950 Ford F1 pickup and 1971 Ford LTD convertible. The cars gathered in South Beach on Thursday, October 17. Other members on hand included Joe Rego, Frank Provenzano, Bruce Campbell, Anthony Buzzanca, Rocky Pompa and Tom LaGuidice. Friends from the SIKK and a few lone wolves we know very well were also on hand. A complete album of photos can be found on the Lifestyles Facebook page. It's clear from the big smiles that the program participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Artie for bringing together two groups he's actively involved with. Our hobby can do wonderful things for all sorts of people.



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