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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Feb 2020



• **Farewell Bob**



Vintage Advertising

The General Motors 1954 Motorama allowed Chevrolet to demonstrate its commitment to the new Corvette with a few concept designs seen here. At top was the Corvair, a fastback-styled coupe that also hinted to the split-window coupe still to come nearly 10 years later. Vertical A and B pillars meant this car also had roll up windows. Below that is the first Nomad, a sporty two-door wagon that predates the production Nomad that debuted in 1955. In both cases, the originals were destroyed, and any that you might see at auction or on the show circuit are recreations.

The Chevrolet Corvair



Here in this experimental two-passenger model with its glass fiber reinforced plastic body, Chevrolet brings new aerodynamic design to the closed sports car. The ultra-streamlined top sweeps back to a jet exhaust-type rear opening.

The Chevrolet Nomad



Here for the first time is an experimental model combining the sleek styling of a sports car with the versatility and utility of a Station Wagon. The glass fiber reinforced plastic body affords unusual visibility with seating

space for six passengers. The electrically operated rear window automatically retracts into the tail gate as it is unlocked, and may also be controlled by a push button on the instrument panel.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*



Trivia Question: Along with the Corvair and Nomad, what was the third experimental Chevrolet that was shown at the 1954 GM Motorama, building off of the first generation Corvette that debuted the year before?

Answer: A Corvette convertible coupe, featuring a removable hardtop. It was an after-market accessory in 1955 and an option in 1956.

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Minutes of the 536th Meeting

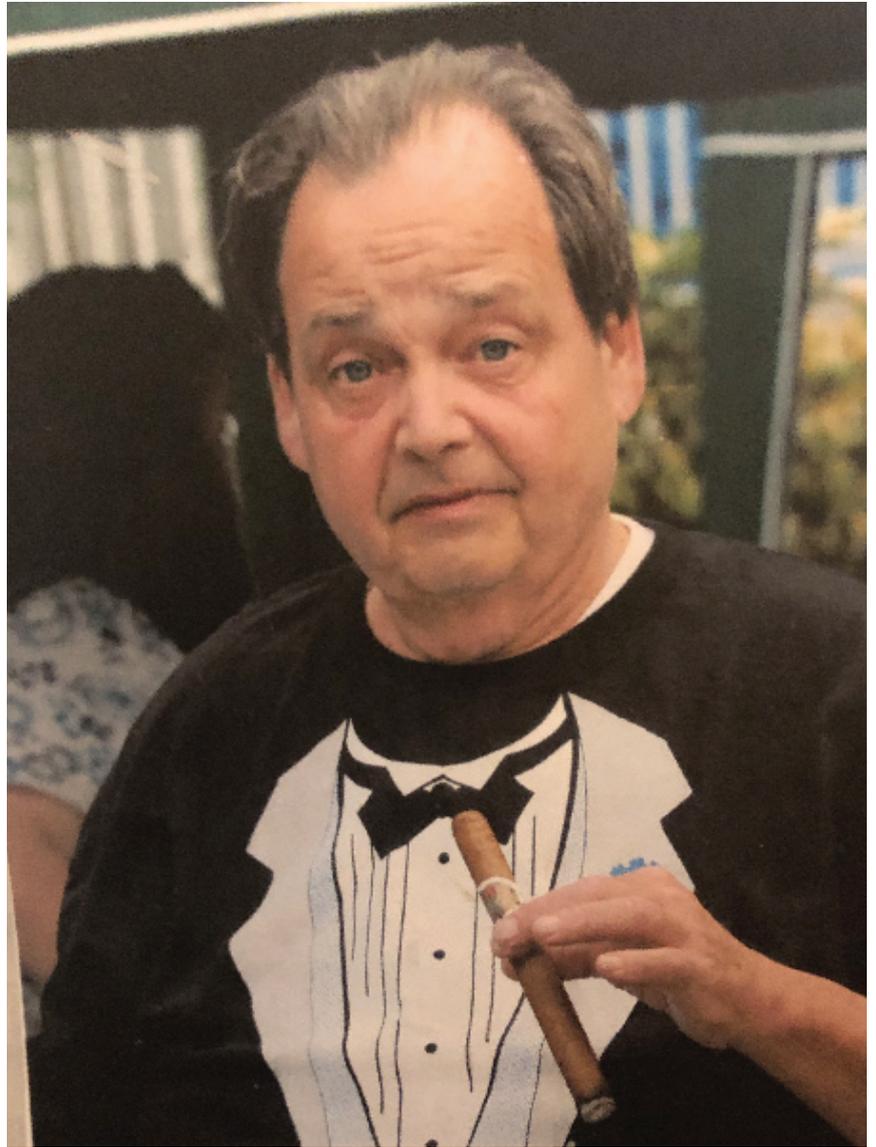
January 6, 2020

1. The 536th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:30 by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 535th meeting were read.
2. Our 2020 show dates have been confirmed and as are follows - Spring Dust-Off is April 26, rain date is May 3. Fall Show is September 13, rain date is September 20.
3. Upcoming events include Automania in Allentown from January 17-19. Members who have been there in the past described it to those who have never gone.
4. Atlantic City Auction is being held from February 7-9. In addition, there will be a "Deuces Wild" competition car show in the convention center limited to 40 cars. Alongside that will be a "Jokers Wild" car show at Showboat. Each show is giving away cash prizes.
5. The raffle car has gotten its mechanical needs taken care of and will need some additional cosmetic work in the spring. This may include a new convertible top.
6. Rocky Pompa would like the club to consider bringing back its annual picnic. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and will get details to hold it there.
7. There was a discussion about getting club member badges made up, and to consider red hooded sweatshirts as another "Show Staff" option.
8. Consider getting a single donor for all trophies for the Dust-Off, somewhere in the \$300-\$500 range.
9. Spring Dust-Off flyers are printed for members to share.
10. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report and all is in order at this time.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. The 50/50 collected \$21, with Artie Guarnieri winning \$11.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Remembering Bob Stephens

The club once again is greatly saddened by the loss of another member with the recent passing of Bob Stephens. In recent years, Bob was slowed down by a recurring ankle problem, limiting his participation, but his long tenure as a club member is remembered fondly by those who knew him. Whether he was donning his Santa Claus costume at club holiday parties, or puffing a big cigar as he judged pre-war cars at our shows, Bob was always happy around the hobby. Bob also served as a national AACA judge, and used his FDNY connections to secure unique city-owned vehicles for display at some of our shows. Some of the cars he owned included a 1964 Corvair Monza coupe, a 1968 Dodge Polara convertible, a 1978 Malibu Classic and a 1936 Nash (below). He will be sorely missed.



(photos courtesy of the Stephens family)

Flashback - 1983

Found in an old album of our car shows of years ago is this picture of a mid-1930's Lincoln Model K Town Car, most likely bodied by Brunn. This dates to around 1983 and is taken in the quadrangle at CSI's Ocean Terrace campus. We believe the owner is Manny Konstantinidis, who remains a well-known collector of pre-war Lincolns. His spectacular cars are typically seen on concours lawns as well as at the AACA Hershey fall meet. Can our Jersey members who see Manny at his diner ask him if this is his car?



From the President

Dates for 2020 shows are being confirmed now that January passes and we move another month closer to spring. The New Dorp High School show is Sunday, June 14. There is a plan to resurrect a Monsignor Farrell High School show on August 20. The New Dorp Lane Show is set for September 27. If anyone hears about other local shows that may return for this year, such as Tottenville High School or the Kiwanis Club, let us know.

We also need new ideas to further support our return to Richmond Town for weekly cruise nights. I fear that the inability to "monetize" this event places it on the endangered list. How can we show HRT to make money off the back of the cruise night without charging cars to come in or having the club "foot the bill"? - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

Switching over to my editor hat to let you know that we are debuting an expansion of the SIRAACA Garage this month. Along with our members' cars, the SIRAACA Garage now also features the decorations that make it unique. All of our garages are personalized with items we collect alongside our cars - license plates, posters, tools, toys, trophies and so much more. Bringing all of them together each month through your submissions will continue to decorate the SIRAACA Garage with the ultimate collection of stuff. And we all like accumulating more stuff! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - February 4

Our February meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 4 in the Courthouse at Historic Richmond Town. Parking is available in the main lot on Clarke Avenue, where you can enter the courthouse from the rear entrance.

2020 AACA Grand National Update

The 2020 AACA Grand National brochure is out, and here are the new details. Show vehicle registration will open shortly, with a deadline of July 2. There is a 700 vehicle maximum, so don't delay. The host NB Center's mechanical, fabrication and upholstery shops will be open on Friday. The collection buildings will be open both Friday and Saturday. Friday also offers up tours to America on Wheels, the Mack Museum, and Martin Guitars, along with other activities. The Saturday night awards banquet will be a buffet held at The Palace Center in Allentown. The show itself is Saturday, July 25.

A Washing Machine Racecar?

Spotted at the AACA Eastern Spring National last year was the rare Maytag Winston Toy Racer seen on the cover. 498 such racers were built by the Maytag Company between 1934 and 1941. Early versions like this one are powered by Maytag's Model 92 one-cylinder engine. 1937 brought about use of a two-cylinder engine. Some were dealer promotional items, some were given away in contests and others were sold to amusement parks. It is estimated that 35 or so survive today.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

What's a garage without stuff hanging on the walls or displayed in showcases and on shelves? The SIRAACA Garage is no different. We are expanding this monthly feature to include not only the cars within the garage but the way we decorate it (by way of how we decorate our own garages).

We'll start with an unfinished license plate collection. With so many ways to organize or build a license plate collection, a little planning can help guide its growth. In this case, Paul Arena is collecting plates from each state from 1968, the year he was born. In the course of his search, he's added many of the Canadian provinces, along with one from Washington D.C., Mexico and the US Virgin Islands.

So far, 43 plates make up this collection, with 23 more on the wish list. The majority have been purchased on eBay, and a few were found at Hershey's flea market. Many are embossed with the year, and others are carryover designs with updated registration stickers. In some cases, the year is known by the colors and letters used.

Help us decorate the SIRAACA Garage by featuring the items you display in yours. Send in pics and details of your signs, tools, toys and more and we'll share them with everyone.



Plates typically reflect their states in novel ways. Above, Wyoming features a cowboy riding a bucking bronco and Colorado features a mountainous horizon. Note that both Pennsylvania and Kansas include the shapes of their states.



Some of the Canadian provinces still missing include Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Yukon. Note the Mexico plate below bottom left, which featured the Olympic rings that year as host of the Summer Games. Just above it is Manitoba, featuring a buffalo. (photos by Paul Jr.)





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Atlantic City Getting Wild in February

In conjunction with Atlantic City's Auction, the host organization is adding two competition car shows that weekend. The Deuce's Wild show is limited to just 40 vehicles vying for cash prizes in five distinct categories. This show will be held in the conventions center alongside the auction. The second one is the Joker's Wild show, to be held in the Showboat Casino. It too has five classes, each with a "Best" award and a Top 25. While the auction has gotten smaller over the years and the swap meet continually shrinks, this is a step in the right direction to keep the crowds coming.

Limited to ONLY 40 Vehicles



COMPETITION CAR SHOW

Vehicle Classes
 - Truck - Custom - Restored -
 - Street Rod - Street Machine -

Vehicle Resumes NOW Being Accepted
 EMAIL - INFO@GPKAUCTIONS.COM

\$100
Registration Fee

Awards in Each Class

1st Place \$1,000

2nd Place \$500

3rd Place \$250

OVER \$8,500 in Prize Money

FIRST ANNUAL

ATLANTIC CITY February 7th - 9th 2020
CONVENTION CENTER

1ST ANNUAL



COMPETITION CAR SHOW

\$50
Registration Fee

\$500
CASH PRIZE

Best Truck
 Best Custom
 Best Restored
 Best Street Rod
 Best Street Machine

\$2,500
Prize Money

**Top 25 Awards -
 Discount Hotels
 Complimentary
 Trailer Parking**

SHOWBOAT
ATLANTIC CITY

February 7th - 9th, 2020

Vehicle Resumes NOW Being Accepted
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WANTED:
 DONATED VEHICLES.
 Any make, model,
 year and condition.
 Tax deductible.
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