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Ragtops & Rumbleseats

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• Spring Dust-Off in Jeopardy



Spread your wings.



There have been many exciting, innovative Thunderbirds over the past 25 years, and those of 1980 are destined for fame all their own. One is the beautiful Silver Anniversary Thunderbird, below, which commemorates the first quarter century of a great Ford Better Idea. All the excitement, prestige and price-setting ideas that Thunderbird has always represented are here in extra measure for 1980. If this is your year to become a new Thunderbird owner, you have chosen the greatest year yet to "spread your wings."

The Silver Anniversary edition is a winged masterpiece of engineering. Its elegant, yet also unique, exterior styling is revolutionary. One example is the three-spoke wheel, through Automatic Quarter, teamed with the 10 new "1000" V-8. It's the most powerful engine ever in a Thunderbird, and its 1980 Thunderbird is standard on Silver Anniversary, and optional on all other Thunderbirds.

Notable Standard Features appear on page 13. Measurements on page 14. Colors are shown on page 15. See your dealer for full list of colors and trim, coded by letter in the text.

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Thunderbird Silver Anniversary or Anniversary Silver Coupe (14), a four-door sedan on this model, with matching vinyl roof, vinyl interior floor matting and "hatched" doorgrain for Silver Anniversary model. See pages 4-5.

Vintage Advertising

1980 marked the 25th anniversary of the Thunderbird. Ford introduced a smaller car that year in three models - a base Coupe (bottom), a Town Landau (center) and a Silver Anniversary edition (top). Changing tastes in car buyers led personal luxury coupes to fall out of favor, with T-Bird sales falling from over 284,000 units in 1979 to 156,803 units in 1980. Sales would continue to plummet for this body style, dropping to 86,693 in 1981 and 45,142 in 1982, exacerbated by a poor economy.

We're unsure of survival rates, but these models are well-equipped, good looking and V-8 powered. Seeing one at a car show would be a real treat.

Beautiful colors and shapes outlined against the sky. The new Thunderbird Town Landau poised for take-off.



Few cars in America this year will reward their owners with as much luxury and distinction as the new Thunderbird Town Landau. We think you'll find Town Landau very impressive in its ride and handling (as a demonstration drive will prove). We're sure you'll be equally pleased with its significantly increased fuel economy ratings* and numerous outstanding features (see page 13).

Town Landau steel body includes three-spoke wheel, fuel, speed window, padded roof and roof supports, dual air vents, interior door panels, dual door sill moldings, vinyl seat backside moldings, hood, fenders and decklid accent pieces, color aluminum wheels.

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Thunderbird Town Landau with 3-tone Sport Trim, hooded front grille, 1000 steel Anniversary Coupe (14) with vinyl roof.

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Get out and drive.

Stay home and keep busy online with virtual tours.

Decor to keep you busy in the SIRAACA Garage.

Spotting cars while strolling.

Who said man was not meant to fly?



In this new Thunderbird of 1980, there is all the exhilaration of flight without leaving the ground. In its grace of movement... in its "space age" instrumentation (standard in Silver Anniversary and Town Landau), plus its best mileage estimates ever*... Thunderbird lets you take wing as in no ordinary automobile.

Interior Landau Coupe: steel body, fuel, speed window, padded roof and roof supports, dual air vents, interior door panels, dual door sill moldings, vinyl seat backside moldings, hood, fenders and decklid accent pieces, color aluminum wheels.

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Thunderbird Town Landau with 3-tone Sport Trim, hooded front grille, 1000 steel Anniversary Coupe (14) with vinyl roof.

Trivia Question: Along with the Thunderbird, what other models were available from Ford in 1980?

Answer: Mustang, LTD, Granada, Fairmont, Futura, Pinto and Fiesta.

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Minutes of the 538th Meeting

March 3, 2020

1. The 538th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:20 by President Paul Jr. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence before the minutes of the 537th meeting were read.
2. The club acknowledged the recent passings of John Savoca and Pasquale Giustino. Both were regular attendees of our shows and known throughout the car community here. John oftentimes came out with a mint green and white Chevy Belair and "Patsy" was always in his red 1958 Caddy convertible.
3. The club welcomed guest speaker Pat Colabella, who is organizing a car show at Monsignor Farrell High School in conjunction with the Verrazzano Rotary. The show is scheduled for August 30, with a rain date of September 12. Pat also joined our club afterwards. Among other cars, Pat owns a 1978 Cadillac Phaeton.
4. Early planning for our Dust-Off sorted out what was needed ahead of the show, with final details to be ironed out at the April meeting.
5. We have raffle tickets printed and flyers available to get sales underway. The car will be getting a new top along with front seat repair. After that, when the weather warms, a good detailing is all that remains.
6. AACA Grand National Meet registration is now open.
7. If anyone has yet to pay their 2020 dues, please see Jonathan Schulman to square away your membership for this year.
8. There is a meeting scheduled with Richmond Town on March 25 to sort out our monthly meeting space, the cruise night, the transportation building. Upcoming events include the BBQ Cook-Off on April 4 and Uncorked! on June 6.
9. Phil Boffa gave a treasury report and all is in order at this time.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The 50/50 collected \$22, with Paul Jr. winning \$11.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

Raffle Car Update

Our 1992 Camaro RS convertible raffle car is now sporting a brand new rag top. In addition, the front seat has been repaired. All that remains, once the weather turns for the better, is a thorough detailing. Despite it being ready to go, the current environment means there is no place to actually go. In the past, we always encouraged our members to sell tickets to family, friends and coworkers to offset lost opportunities associated with canceled events. With social distancing and working from home, the current normal, even those efforts are impacted. As a result, we are expanding our email outreach to other AACA regions to go beyond the northeast, and we are sending all of them our raffle car flyer to encourage mail-in sales. So far, we've hit 107 region or chapter presidents across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts and Florida. We will continue to hit all remaining states as well as non-geographic regions. In the meantime, please consider sending out the flyer via email to your contacts. They mail us the form with a check and a SASE, and we send them their stubs. Hopefully, we clear the air soon enough that our schedules return to normal.



(photo by Mike Signorile)

Do You Have Old Car Withdrawal?

If you are stuck indoors with symptoms of old car withdrawal, there are several options available to help you through your days. For those glued to their couch watching TV, all the usual offerings are out there, mostly restoration and customization shows. For those of you surfing the web, consider passing the time looking at cars for sale on sites like eBay, Bring a Trailer, Craigslist or Hemmings. If you are a social media fan, there are countless groups on Facebook to follow, including the AACA, local clubs, or virtual gatherings such as Quarantine Car Show. These all allow you to not only look, but post pictures and get involved. For those of you that are taking the time to go out for a stroll around your neighborhood, you'll be surprised to see what's hidden up the driveway of a house you might have driven by countless times. Recently we spotted a mid 1960's T-Bird Landau coupe rusting away around the corner, joined by a late 1970's Corvette in the driveway of the house next to it. We are guessing some of the adventurous ones might hit the beach on Sundays if it is open and keep their social distance by standing by their car.

From the President

First and foremost, I trust all of our members are being careful and vigilant in their efforts to avoid exposure to the novel coronavirus that's shutting down the world. Per current guidelines, we must maintain social distancing throughout April, which puts our Spring Dust-Off in jeopardy. We have the May 3 rain date to fall back on for a new show date, but it might be too close for comfort for many folks even if we get the "all clear" for May. We will look to reschedule to an available date. Obviously, our monthly meeting is also affected. Just as many of us are working from home and conducting business virtually, I would like to leverage some of those tools to gather as many of us for a virtual meeting. Using a tool like Google Hangouts, I could email all of you a web link that would enable you to connect via your computer camera and microphone. For those without a computer, the meeting also allows for them to phone in to the conversation. I will test this with a few members first before we decide to go forward with all. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

Sorry for the slight delay in getting this out to you. With nothing happening outside, finding enough content to fill the pages was a bit more challenging. I am not sure if we will have printed copies made at this time, but will look to backfill whatever issues are delayed by the business shutdowns. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - April 7

Our April meeting will not be held as scheduled in line with the current guidelines. We would like to try a virtual meeting for those who can attend, either by computer or simply by dialing in by telephone. We will use a Google Hangouts Meet, and the means to join will be emailed to you.

The Upside to the Shutdown

We've always said that it's difficult to enjoy a very old car on Staten Island, mostly because of the dense traffic and many distracted and inconsiderate drivers. While we cannot guarantee that those still on the road are considerate, we can see that a massive amount of cars are off the road due to the massive shutdown. As such, now is the best time to take your old car out for a less stressful drive. Your destination is simply there and back, wherever there may be. You'll enjoy less congested roads and give yourself some time out from under your roof.

Virtual Museum Tours

Perhaps you'll never get the chance to visit these well-known car museums even after they re-open to the public. Might as well visit them virtually now online. The **Mullin Automotive Museum**, home to one of the world's largest Bugatti collections, streams live tours from its California home on Instagram Live each Tuesday at 1:00 pm (@MullinMuseum). Michigan's **Gilmore Car Museum** offers free streaming video of its lecture series on its Facebook page and YouTube channel. The **National Corvette Museum** in Bowling Green, Kentucky has a free video series updated each weekday on its Facebook page and YouTube channel. Episodes go live at 11:00 am. A second series that decodes Corvette history runs around 5:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The **Lane Motor Museum** in Nashville has a YouTube series called *Uncrating the Collection*. The **AACA Museum** has begun a series of virtual visits directly on its website, aacamuseum.org. The **Petersen Automotive Museum** in Los Angeles is also streaming hour long vault tours to provide rare looks at what vehicles are not on display there. You may have to make a suggested donation for admission, at petersen.org. Some museums are also focusing on school kids with programs that combine storytelling with follow along activities, such as **The Henry Ford** in Dearborn, Michigan, the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum**, and the **NASCAR Hall of Fame** in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We are still looking through the SIRAACA Garage and marvelling at how nicely its decorated. Check out these neat items courtesy of Andrew Napoli.

Clearly we need to play some music while we stroll through the garage. Andrew has us covered with his 1962 Seeburg DS160 jukebox. Need an ice cold soda? Drop some coins into his 1950 Vendo 39 Coke machine for a refreshing pause. Afterwards, pass the time playing some pinball on his 1969 Gottlieb "Road Race" machine.

Before leaving, grab a handful of dimes and call your friends from his vintage 1957 phone booth to tell them about all the wonderful cars in the SIRAACA Garage. Just be sure not to tug on Superman's cape which is hanging inside the booth!

When you're done for the day, pass through his vintage turnstile so we can keep an accurate count of all our visitors.

Andrew restored the turnstile, soda machine, phone booth and pinball machine himself.

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.



Sharp-eyed readers will notice that Clark Kent left something behind in Andrew's phone booth (above). Andrew found it inside an old soda distributor. If you open up the soda machine, you'll see the original warranty card with postage of one penny. The pinball machine was found inside his son's rental property and the turnstile was rescued from Flemings Pumpkin Run. (photos by Andrew Napoli)





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Old Car Spotting in the Neighborhood

Aside from the two cars mentioned in the withdrawal article found inside this issue, here are two more cars spotted during a neighborhood stroll. One is a 1960 Dodge Phoenix four door hardtop. The Phoenix was top of the Dart lineup, and Dodge made over 70,000 of them. This one sports a dealership script from Showalter & Horning, which we learned was located in New Holland, PA. It also appears to have been mummified before shredding off most of its protective wrapping. The other one is a 1972 Dodge Charger, sporting a color not available from the factory that year. Plum Crazy and some of the "Hi-Impact" colors such as Panther Pink and Citron Yella were last offered in 1971. We encourage our members to send us any pics of cars the spot while out for a stroll.



(photos by Paul Jr.)



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