

Vol. 27, No. 5

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

May 2020



• ***Rotting Relics Require Recognition***



Vintage Advertising

We are picking up a little Mother's Day vibe with this 1938 Oldsmobile ad that highlights "their safety", obviously referring to the mom and daughter seen in the inset.

Olds was pushing many safety features, including a regrouping of gauges in their Safety Instrument Unit, and Fisher Body's Unisteel Turret Top. Most interesting for that year was the optional Automatic Safety Transmission. This forerunner to the Hydra-matic required a clutch to get the car rolling and shift between a low and high range of gears. In motion, the transmission would shift gears within each range (first to second, or third to fourth).

Olds offered the AST from 1937 through 1939. Buick offered it for one year in 1938.

In This Issue

Members participate in Gilmore's virtual show.

Rotting relics for you to identify.

Tony DiAngelo opens up his toy box.

We spot another fine Packard in the SIRAACA Garage.

Think Twice of their Safety!

No other car gives you all of Oldsmobile's safety features. Oldsmobile originated the Safety Instrument Unit which groups all instruments directly before the driver's eyes. Oldsmobile developed the Automatic Safety Transmission which provides easier, simpler, safer car control. In addition, Oldsmobile offers a score of other safety advantages — including Safety Dash, Safety Interiors, Knee-Action Wheels, Center-Control Steering, Super-Hydraulic Brakes and Unisteel Turret Top Body by Fisher. Think of Safety first when you select your new car — and you'll think first of Oldsmobile.

THE EIGHT

NOWHERE ELSE CAN MONEY BUY SO MUCH:
Style-Leader Styling • Safety Dash with Safety Instrument Unit
Safety Interiors • 95-Horsepower Six • 110-Horsepower Eight
Knee-Action Wheels • Super-Hydraulic Brakes • Center-Control
Steering • Unisteel Body by Fisher • No Draft Ventilation
Automatic Safety Transmission—Optional at Extra Cost

THE SIX

New Safety Instrument Unit with Safety Dash Controls, speedometer and gauges are grouped in a single clearly viewed unit directly in front of the driver. The dash is free from sharp projecting knobs and handles. The car illustrated is equipped with the Automatic Safety Transmission... optional at extra cost on all 1938 models.

Step Ahead and Be Money Ahead!
DRIVE AN
Oldsmobile
A GENERAL MOTORS VALUE

Trivia Question: Which independent auto manufacturer is generally credited as the first to offer four-wheel brakes?

Answer: Duesenberg. Their innovation began on race cars as early as 1915, and in 1921 they were the first production car to offer four-wheel hydraulic brakes.

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Minutes of the 539th Meeting

April 7, 2020

1. The 539th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was a virtual meeting beginning at 7:00 on Tuesday, April 7. Members in attendance dialed in by phone or connected via Google Meets.
2. The main discussion points were the postponement of the Spring Dust-Off and the possibility that the disruption from COVID-19 continues through to our fall show.
3. The Commons Cafe has not opened their book to consider dates for a June event, so the Dust-Off has not been rescheduled yet.
4. Members agreed that planning alternate scenarios for a fall show makes sense at this point in time. We expect that many trophy donors will be unable to contribute this year. Perhaps this year's trophy is simply a participation award for all as a "welcome back".
5. Members also agreed that raffle sales will continue to suffer without public gatherings. In addition, selling tickets at work is harder with so many people staying home. We are looking at the possibility of delaying the drawing if the 2020 shows are canceled.
6. The club will look into organizing a convoy of members and their cars to drive over to some hospitals and donate food to those on the front line.
7. Members chatted for some time, wished each other well and gradually signed off.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Member Cars Spotted at Gilmore Virtual Show

The Gilmore Museum hosted a virtual car show on their website, posting pictures of collectible cars and trucks submitted by over 2000 hobbyists across the country and beyond. They were unable to post all submissions in time for the initial showing, so they extended the “show” for two more weekends to allow for the rest to be posted. The initial posting included several of our members’ cars, including Paul Arena’s 1964 Riviera, Tony Ventrice’s 1922 Model T, Tom LaGuidice’s 1982 Datsun 280 ZX and Mike Gorgia’s 1980 Coupe de Ville. Additional rounds included Artie Guarnieri’s Ford trio, Mike Gorgia’s 1966 Biscayne, Mike DiPilato’s ‘67 Firebird 400, Andy Barcellona’s ‘57 Chevy and Paul Jr’s 1967 Cutlass.

Rotting Relics in the Greenbelt

Debra Colchamiro is an old friend and lover of the great outdoors. She routinely shares photos on social media of her hikes through local woods as well as areas far beyond our island’s borders. She recently posted photos of some old car remains spotted along the trails within our Greenbelt. We identified them for her, and now we’ll ask all of you to try and identify them as well (answers on the back cover).



From the President

Once again, I hope this finds you all well and staying safe. By now, we've passed the initial date of our Spring Dust-Off, and there is no date available to reschedule it yet. We are now planning contingencies around the possibility that the fall show will also be impacted by the pandemic, even if public gathering restrictions are lifted by then. Lingering reluctance to gather, combined with the economic impact to our supporting business owners, are issues we'll need to contend with. In the meantime, our focus is shifting to providing a lift to those who could use it. We are organizing a food donation run with our old cars, perhaps to our local hospitals, as a way to give back and show our appreciation to those on the front line. If any of you have a connection with the hospitals that could help us coordinate such a run, please let us know. Until then, enjoy the additional time we've been given by finishing up that project you've put on hold for so long. The weather is about to change, and our cars will be out again soon. - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

We may not have shows to report on or events to feature, but we will continue to provide a monthly newsletter about our members and how the hobby is coping with the current pandemic. We've brought back "Tony's Toybox" to showcase more of his tin, and relying on our readers for additional submissions. Stay well! - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - May 5

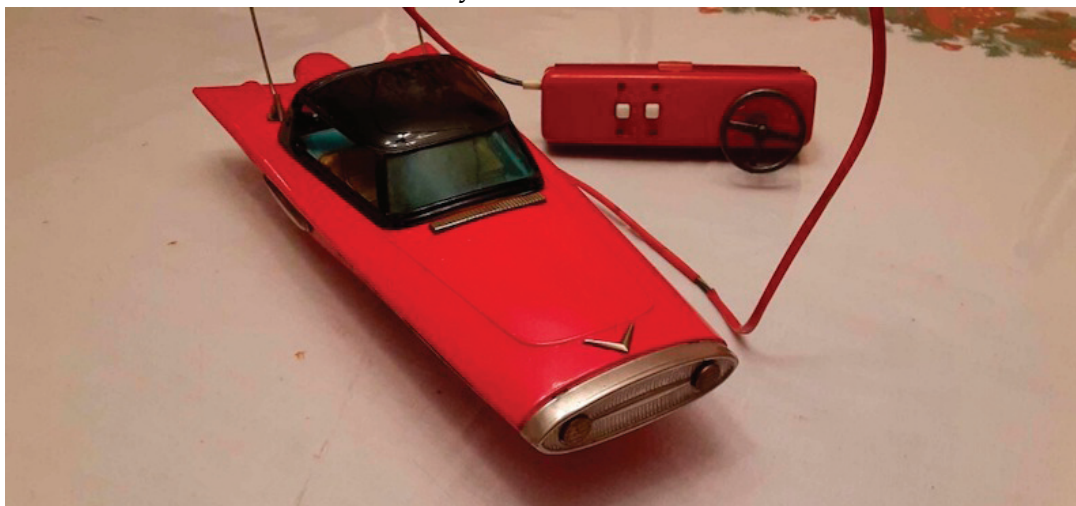
Our May meeting will be another virtual meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 5. Those who can attend can do so either by computer or simply by dialing in by telephone. We will use a Google Hangouts Meet, and the means to join will be emailed to you.

Tony's Toybox Returns!

Tony DiAngelo is finding plenty to do during his time staying home, tinkering with his vintage tin toys. Some of these were relegated to storage some time back, only to come out again for a needed repair, cleaning or simply a spin around the table.



This gathering above includes a Wyandotte woodie convertible pulling a camper, circa 1948. The middle two vans are friction powered. One is a food truck, the other a bank truck. Each have wind-up opening doors with ringing bells. The bus is a Romanian friction tourist bus manufactured in the early 70's for the UK market.



Tony tells us that this is a SKK Sinsei Futuristic Space Car from Japan, late '50's/early '60s. The wired remote not only controls the car's motion, but raises the canopy too. It's over 12 inches long.

Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We remain quarantined in the SIRAACA Garage this month, giving us time to admire a newcomer among the vehicles here. This is Vito Caputi's 1953 Packard Mayfair Hardtop.

There were three series of Packards available in 1953 - the Clipper, the Cavalier and the Patrician. The Cavalier series included a four door sedan, the Mayfair Hardtop, a Cavalier convertible and the new Caribbean Custom convertible.

The handsome Mayfair is a relatively uncommon car, with only 5,150 produced that year. It's powered by a 327 cid inline eight topped by a Carter four barrel good for 180 horsepower.

We believe that Vito's car is painted Topeka Tan with a Sunset Red Metallic top, one of seven two-tone combos that cost \$20 extra. The graceful cormorant, or what others call a pelican, makes for an impressive hood ornament. The shape of its grille still recalls the shape Packard used since its very beginnings.

We look forward to hearing from Vito and the tales specific to this car.

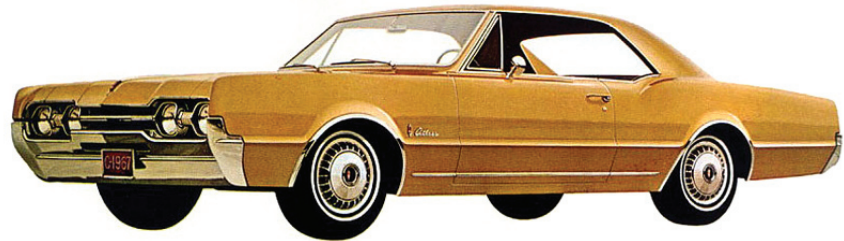
The SIRAACA Garage is home to all of our members' cars, past and present. Has your car been featured yet? Make sure you get the details to Paul Jr. if you want to share your car with us all.



The Mayfair was Packard's entry into the popular two-door hardtop market that developed after WWII. A two-door hardtop has no post, or b-pillar, to divide the side window from the rear quarter window. (photo by Paul Jr.)

Upcoming Events?

Clearly many of these events are contingent on forthcoming guidelines for public gatherings. If you load up the car, keep it idling for now.



- Carlisle Ford Nationals - June 5-7
- Uncorked! at Historic Richmond Town - June 6
- 7th Annual New Dorp HS Show - June 14 - CANCELED
- Antique Auto Assoc. of Brooklyn Car Show, Floyd Bennett Field - June 14
- Spring Carlisle - June 17-20
- 38th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - June 26-28





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Old Car Spotting in the Neighborhood

This month's neighborhood old car spot comes from Mike Signorile, who gets out for a walk to pass the time as we continue to practice social distancing. He sent along this picture of a local project car in Princes Bay, which he says has been in this state for many years. Can our readers guess the year, make and model? The answer is found below the photo. If you are also strolling your neighborhoods to pass the time and stumble across an old car along the way, send in a picture and we'll continue this feature in upcoming newsletters.



(photo of 1949 Dodge Coronet by Mike Signorile)

Rotting Relics Identified

Identifying the remains of four cars featured inside the newsletter, starting from top left and working clockwise: 1963 Chevrolet (based on the headlight/parking light configuration); 1956 Chevrolet 210 wagon (based on original brochure image at right); 1970-72 Olds Cutlass (the taillights would allow us to pinpoint the year); 1961 Chevrolet Bel Air (the Impala had six lights across the rear, not four. Can't be a Biscayne because it has chrome trim on trunk lid).



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