

Vol. 27, No. 6

Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jun 2020

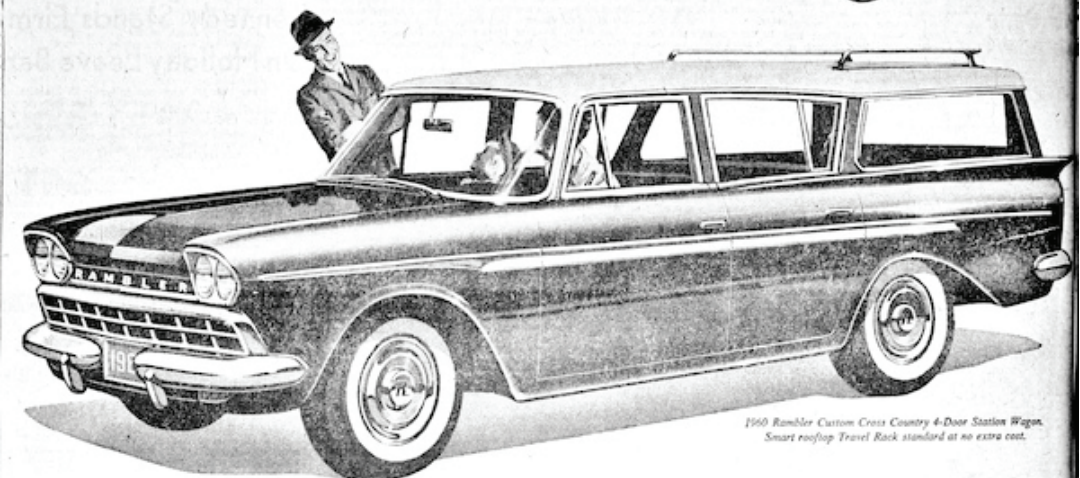


• A Birthday Surprise



This is the time shrewd buyers wait for...

Year End Clearance of 1960 Rambler Wagons



1960 Rambler Custom Cross Country 4-Door Station Wagon. Smart rooftop Travel Rack standard at no extra cost.

Now own Rambler—the world's most popular 6-cylinder wagon—for less than you'd pay for most sedans!

Here's why you save so much more when you buy a Rambler wagon right now from us. We Rambler dealers just set our 35th consecutive monthly sales record. We're winding up the biggest year in our history, selling more compact cars per dealer than any other dealer group.

That means our sales costs per car are lowest. And Ramblers cost least of all U.S. cars to start with. That's why nobody can match our low, low, low prices.

So hurry in while we still have a good choice of smart, double-useful station wagons—the world's best sellers in the 6-cylinder field. Don't delay. Prices of big used cars are plummeting—waiting may cost you hundreds of dollars. Buy today and save big money. Get a quality-built Rambler with *proved* top resale value.



1960 Rambler American Custom 2-Door Station Wagon.

You can own a Rambler for as little as

\$39²⁵ per month



Rambler American Deluxe 2-Door Sedan.

Monthly payments for Rambler American Deluxe 2-Door Sedan based on manufacturer's suggested delivered price, factory with 1% down payment, 36-month contract with normal carrying charge. Federal taxes paid. Automatic transmission, other optional equipment, transportation, insurance, state and local taxes, if any, extra.

Today! Get the wagon buy of your life at your Rambler dealer!

KIERAN & WICKERT MOTORS, INC.
340 BAY ST., STATEN ISLAND SA 7-7619

Vintage Advertising

Here is a local ad from the Staten Island Advance promoting year end clearances on 1960 Rambler wagons, including the Custom Cross Country 4 door and the American Custom 2 door. Our local dealer was Kieran & Wickert Motors at 340 Bay Street. That location eventually was the home of Angiuli Dodge.

Despite a recession and a trend towards economy cars, that two-door wagon must not have been popular. Only 1,430 American Custom 2 door wagons were built for 1960. The 2-door American Deluxe sedan, advertised for \$39.25 per month, did much better with 23,960 produced.

In This Issue

Members join a special birthday parade.

Another rusted ruin requires your guesses.

More shows are canceled, others still trying to go on.

Decorating some more in the SIRAACA Garage.

Trivia Question: The popularity of Mercury's Cougar led them to choose what name for their version of the Ford Pinto (which was inspired by the Mustang nameplate)?

Answer: Bobcat. Mercury built over 224,000 Bobcats from 1975 to 1980. It was re-placed by another feline, the Mercury Lynx.

RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS

June 2020

Volume 27, Number 6

SIRAACA Who's Who

EDITOR -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

PRESIDENT -

Paul Arena, Jr.

parena2@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT -

Mike Signorile

onehot51@aol.com

SECRETARY -

Tony DiAngelo

TREASURER -

Phil Boffa - phil.boffa@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -

Jonathan Schulman

jns@jonathanschulman.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -

Rocco Pompa

WEBMASTER - siraaca@yahoo.com

Frank Nathanson

www.siraaca.aaca.com



Minutes of the 540th Meeting

May 5, 2020

1. The 540th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA was a virtual meeting beginning at 7:00 on Tuesday, May 5. Members in attendance dialed in by phone or connected via Google Meets.
2. The minutes of 539th meeting were recapped by President Paul Jr.
3. Members were updated on the different scenarios possible for a fall show. With less time to plan accordingly and an uncertainty around what could be allowed in mid-September, we could put on a limited show or no show at all. Many shows throughout the summer have already been canceled.
4. A canceled show could allow for the cancellation of our raffle, so long as every ticket buyer is offered their money back (or the option to be rolled into next year, where they would be given new tickets of equal value).
5. The Sunday morning cruises have begun again at Gateway Park in Great Kills.
6. The club discussed the possibility of a drive-by food donation focused on EMT workers instead of hospital staffs.
7. Members chatted for some time, wished each other well and gradually signed off.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



Cars for a Cause

Michael Capolongo celebrated his 14th birthday on May 20. Of course, the celebration was anything but ordinary in these trying times, but then again, Michael happens to be extraordinary himself. He is the Michael of "Michael's Cause", a local charity founded by his parents to fund a cure for Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. Michael is afflicted with the disease, which robs boys of a normal life by slowly deteriorating their muscles. To celebrate, Michael was expecting a drive by parade of some friends and family. What he didn't expect was a parade filled with NYPD emergency vehicles, The Carl Bini fire truck, a police helicopter fly over, and more than a dozen of our members and their old cars, all tooting and honking past his home while a DJ played music to entertain the neighborhood. We were happy to play a small part in giving a special boy a special day. (Photos: Tom LaGuidice's Z leads a lineup that includes our 1992 Camaro raffle car; Bob Columbia's Mustang; a 1980 Plymouth Volare NYPD car).

Fall Meet Falls Victim

The AACA Eastern National Fall Meet, known simply as 'Hershey' has fallen victim to the coronavirus. It was just announced that the flea market and car corral are both canceled for this year, and the show itself remains in jeopardy as well. The Hershey Region executive board struggled mightily with this decision, as it will be the first time in the meet's history that it will be canceled, dating back to 1955. The fact that the swap meet draws an estimated 200,000 people to the area for the week's event makes it impossible to plan for in light of the restrictions we all face now and for the unforeseeable future. They are still working on the possibility that the car show can be held on their traditional October Saturday.

Some Hope for New Hope?

For 60 years, The New Hope Automobile Show has been a Bucks County tradition that many of our members have attended. This year, the organizers have announced that they are still planning an antique and classic car event for Saturday, August 8, but it will not look anything like their usual show. As we too are unsure what our fall show will look like, we are monitoring their website for an upcoming announcement about their new, temporary format. The focus will be on maintaining proper social distancing, if that's still a thing in the months to come.



From the President

Once again, I hope this finds everyone doing well and staying safe. We have reached a point where we seem to know less, not more, about what is going on. The beach on Sunday morning is overrun with cars and people, prompting park police to limit entries. At the same time, social gatherings in organized settings such as graduations are not allowed. It leaves us in limbo with respect to our September show. We have seen major car events outright cancel their events because of this uncertainty and the inability to do the work ahead of time to plan and prepare for a show. This includes Macungie in early August as well as Hershey in October. Those were clearly difficult decisions that cannot be faulted. In fact, I think a decision made in either direction has merit.

By the time this is sent out, I will have met with the folks at Richmond Town to discuss several topics, including the cruise nites and their Model T. I will update all at our next meeting, wherever that may be. Stay well! - Paul Jr.

From the Editor

We're hanging in there with some recent submissions that allow me to fill up our monthly newsletter. Please keep me up to date on what you're doing in your garages, under your hood, or driving around. Have any old photos of cars you once owned, even if they were new at the time? Write me and we'll feature them in the SIR-AACA Garage. - Paul Jr.

- NEXT MEETING - June 2

Our June meeting will be an outdoor gathering at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2. Bring a chair with you to the parking lot of Historic Richmond Town, where we can safely maintain our social distancing.

Another Rotting Relic

Once again, we're challenged by local hiker Debra Colchamiro, who sent in these pictures of the rusted remains of a vehicle spotted along a Greenbelt trail. This one should give all of our members plenty of head scratching guesses. Check out the back page for the answer.



Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We remain quarantined in the SIRAACA Garage this month, giving us time to work on things to keep us busy. Think of all those projects we have in our mind that we can now tackle with so much time on our hands. That's what Andrew Napoli did with stacks of dash plaques that he's accumulated through the years.

He's filled two large poster frames with plaques and now has them displayed nicely for all to see.

We've spotted a good number of our plaques here, including one's that feature former member Birger Nilsen's 1930 Lincoln (21st Annual Show), Paul Arena's '48 Dodge (25th Annual), Mike Signorile's '57 Chevy (31st Annual), and an early 1990's one featuring former members Bob Kramek's 1956 Chevy and Bill Vuoto's Model A. There are many others. A decent collection of our dash plaque artwork can be found on our club website as well.

Andrew's 1958 Impala was featured alongside Sal Gatto's 1964 Riviera on our 30th Annual Show plaque, which was reproduced as a commemorative t-shirt that year. That too is framed and displayed.

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.



(photo by Andrew Napoli)

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 - POSTPONED to July 31 - August 2
- Uncorked! at Historic Richmond Town - CANCELED
- 7th Annual New Dorp HS Show - June 14 - CANCELED
- Antique Auto Assoc. of Bklyn Show, Floyd Bennett Field - POSTPONED
- Spring Carlisle - June 17-20
- 38th Annual Spring Englishtown, Raceway Park, NJ - June 26-28



J.C. TAYLOR

INSURANCE

JCTAYLOR.COM

1-888-ANTIQUE



How Many Gussed Correctly?

The rotting relic in this issue is a circa-1976 Datsun B-210 2-door sedan, similar to this nicely restored one pictured here. The key features that would have led you to the correct answer included the composite taillight assembly, the rear license plate lights, and the distinctively shaped rear sail panel. If anyone cares to share a photo of a rotting relic or rusting remains for our members to identify, send the editor an email.



This Car Matters

Still killing time during the lockdowns and curfews, and are tired of what's on television? Check out a fantastic collection of videos put together by the Historic Vehicle Association. More than 60 cars from the 1900's through the 1970's are profiled to celebrate the automobile's historic impact on modern culture and the lives of everyday people. From a 1901 Packard Model C to a 1936 Duesenberg to a 1976 AMC Pacer, they can all be found online by visiting www.historicvehicle.org/this-car-matters.



 **farbetterprinting**

ON-DEMAND PRINT CENTER

43 Hillel Place
Brooklyn, NY 11210

Tel 718.859.3137
Fax 718.421.4761

sales@farbetterprinting.com
www.printingservicebrooklyn.com

Joseph Portagallo

M - Th 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Fri 8 AM - 5 PM
Sat 10 AM - 3 PM

**WANTED:
DONATED VEHICLES.
Any make, model,
year and condition.
Tax deductible.
Call 917-626-0233**

SIRAACA