

Vol. 27, No. 11

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

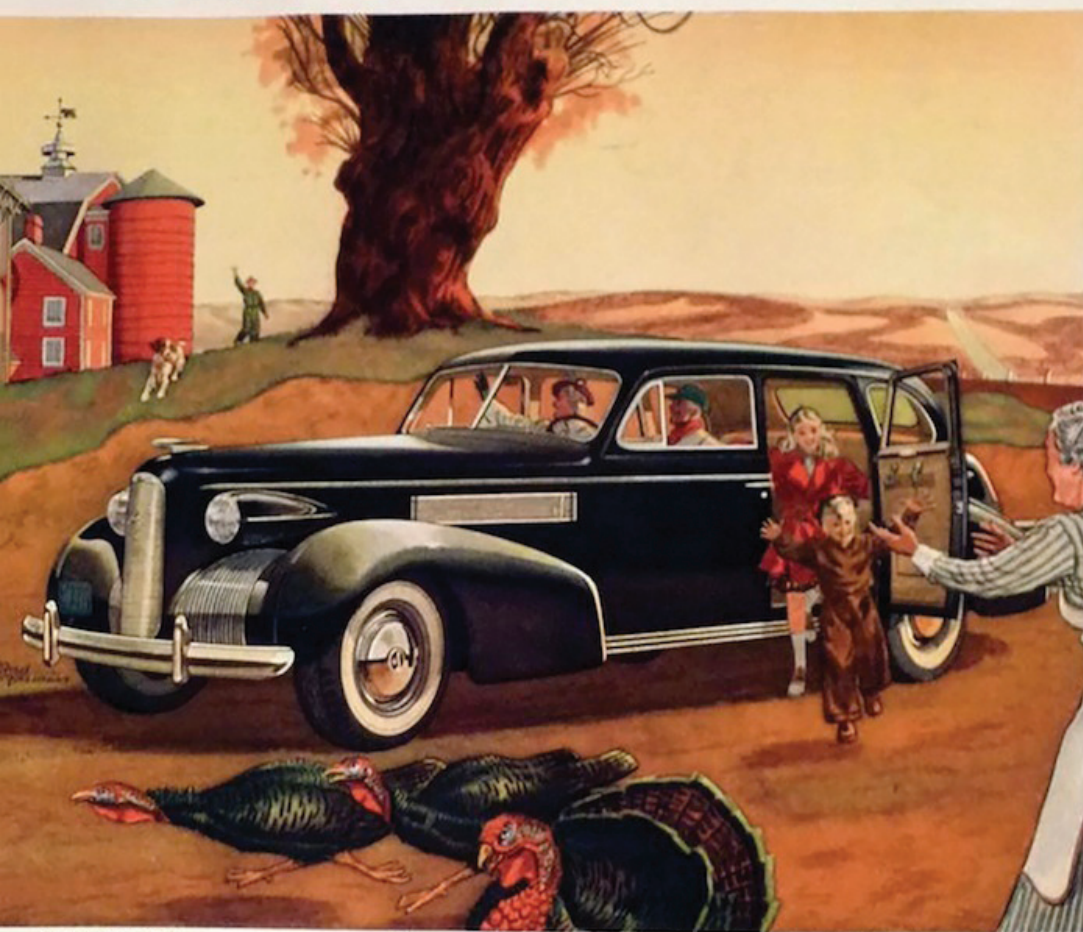
Nov 2020



• **Trunk or Treating for a Cause**



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AND UP. \*Delivered at Detroit. Transportation, state and local taxes (if any) extra.

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## Vintage Advertising

A Thanksgiving theme is served in this ad for the 1939 LaSalle, as the grandkids pop out of the spacious rear seat to greet grandma on her farm, startling her turkeys in the process.

LaSalle was introduced in 1927 as the companion marque of Cadillac, designed by Harley Earl. After early success, the Great Depression led to plummeting sales figures, and an overall rethinking of the companion marques.

By 1934, LaSalle was more Olds than Cadillac, but increased competition from the Packard 120 and Lincoln Zephyr pushed Caddy to reassert the LaSalle relation. LaSalle hung on through the 1940 model year. The '39 model seen here is easily identified by the large waterfall grilles that flank the narrow center one.

## In This Issue

Trick or Treating from the trunk.

Caravan to honor veterans.

Officer election update.

Improving the range of the SIRAACA Time Machine.

Did you know? A 1934 LaSalle Model 350 and a 1937 LaSalle Series 50 convertible each served as a Pace Car for the Indianapolis 500.

*Trivia Question: In the early 1960's, GM was developing a new model that was originally called the LaSalle II. When it was shifted away from Cadillac, what did it become?*

*Answer: Early mock-ups of a personal luxury coupe first badged as the LaSalle II eventually became the 1963 Buick Riviera.*

**EDITOR -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**PRESIDENT -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**VICE PRESIDENT -**

**Mike Signorile**

mdsignorile@aol.com

**SECRETARY -**

**Tony DiAngelo** - badbird70@aol

**TREASURER -**

**Phil Boffa** - phil.boffa@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -**

**Jonathan Schulman**

jschulman30@gmail.com

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS -**

**Rocco Pompa**

**WEBMASTER** - siraaca@yahoo.com

**Frank Nathanson**

**www.siraaca.aaca.com**

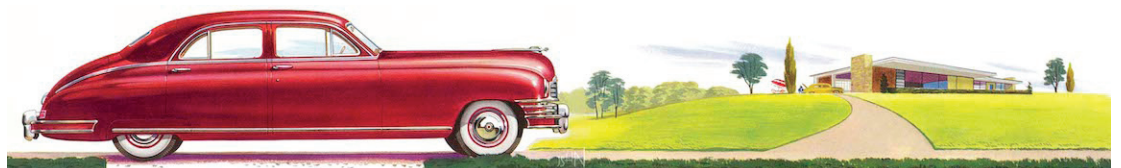


# Minutes of the 544th Meeting

## October 6, 2020

1. The 544th meeting of the Staten Island Region AACA called to order at ProSho Sound at 7:00 PM. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a moment of silence to remember those we've lost over the years.
2. The raffle car attended a pair of cruise nights at Aviation Plaza in Linden and brought in \$130 on September 28 and another \$95 on October 5. Next event is their Halloween Cruise on October 12.
3. A large number of members are signed up to attend the Linden Car Show at Aviation Plaza on October 25. Some will be assigned to man the raffle table, while others will form judging teams to help select the top cars that will win awards. The show begins at 11:00, but members are welcome to arrive as early as 9:00. Kevin Keenan will oversee the judging efforts.
4. The AACA Fall Car Show in Hershey has been rescheduled and relocated to November 6-7 in Gettysburg. Several members are registered to show their cars, and we wish them good luck.
5. There is a national Oldsmobile show being held on October 10 at The Classic Auto Mall in Morgantown, PA.
6. There has yet to be a determination on our return to Richmond Town for indoor meetings. An alternate location was suggested at St. Mark's in Pleasant Plains. Remaining meetings for November and December are to be determined. The November meeting will get postponed as it lands on Election Day.
7. Phil Boffa gave a quick treasury report, with all in order.
8. Thanks to Bob Ferone for bringing along four homemade red wines for members to enjoy, and thanks to our hosts at ProSho Sound for space for our meeting.
9. There was no 50/50 held after the meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Arena  
on behalf of Tony DiAngelo, Secretary



## Trunk or Treat

Artie Guarnieri gathered up members and friends to participate in a Halloween Trunk or Treat for the folks he works with at Lifestyles for the Disabled. Around 15 antique cars lined up along a roadside within their Willowbrook campus, with owners handing out candy as the participants came around to look and take pictures. Thanks to fellow members Rocky Pompa, Joe Rego, Frank Provenzano and Anthony Buzanca for helping out in the chilly late-October air. Reps for Lifestyles thanked them all for helping put smiles on so many faces.



(photo by Artie Guarnieri)

## Members to Attend Special AACA Fall Meet

Good luck and safe travels to those members who will be heading out to Gettysburg on the first weekend of November for the rescheduled and relocated "Hershey". Those competing include Andrew Napoli, Kevin Keenan, and Andy Barcellona, who will debut his 1965 Thunderbird on the national level. We hear that Phil Boffa is along for the ride, and hope he returns with tales to amaze and entertain.

## Final Sunday Morning Cruises as Weather Cools

As the temperatures dip to frosty levels, the Sunday morning gatherings at Great Kills Beach are coming to end. This weekly event turned out to be the primary outlet for our hobby to get out with our cars in the midst of the Covid crisis. Those who attended were always treated to something unique, including Victor Coiro's Packard "pick-up", which he calls a "pack-up". It began life as a 1952 four door before the recent conversion. The rear doors still open to access additional storage behind the seat and below the bed.

## Veterans Day Caravan

A caravan of collector cars will make their way down Forest Avenue on Sunday, November 8 to celebrate the upcoming Veterans Day holiday. There will be no marchers or parade elements involved, and cars will stop at red lights along the route to avoid disrupting regular traffic. Those interested in participating are asked to gather on Hart Boulevard near Forest Avenue around 12 noon, and the cars will begin their ride around 1:00. The event is organized by Tom Maroney of SIKK, and is open to anyone who has a collector car. If you plan to attend, please let either Paul Jr. or Mike Gorgia know so they can provide a heads up on how many cars to expect that day. Feel free to fly Old Glory along the way.



Victor is considering a color change to make the "truck" appear more workmanlike. (photo by Paul Jr.)

## From the President

Typically, the final day of our hobby is marked by the first day that Sanitation salts our roads. Not knowing when that'll be, we are on borrowed time. Throw in the additional unknown about how Covid will impact our fall and winter months, and we may be back to enjoying the hobby virtually. Like before, there will be plenty of channels online that will keep us busy. In the meantime, as Thanksgiving draws near, please take a moment to truly reflect on what we're fortunate to have: our family and friends, their health, and the freedoms to allow us to enjoy our lives, no matter the challenge. - Paul Jr.

## From the Editor

I hope you are all enjoying The SIRAACA Time Machine, even if it's half as much as I am "traveling" in it to find these photos. I can spend countless hours clicking on photo thumbnails until I discover the right location. Sometimes I know what I am hunting for. Other times, I'm "cruising" the neighborhood to see what's visible. Aside from the dealerships, I've found countless repair garages and service stations, and some great vehicles along the way. What really surprises me though, is the general lack of parked cars on the majority of the streets. It's almost as if you are looking at an empty movie set before the extras are brought in. It's the complete opposite of what our streets look like today. If anyone has a particular location they'd like visited within the five boros, let me know. - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - Undecided

Our November meeting will be postponed as it falls on Election Day. No provisions have been made as of now to reschedule the meeting, but the goal is to get together at least one more time before the December holidays.

## Officer Elections for 2021

For a good number of years, the current slate of officers has been nominated to return to their posts, and elections have been no-contests. That may be the case this year, but not all the candidates are the same. Vice-President Mike Signorile is opting to retire from his post, and he has nominated Artie Guarnieri for the role. President Paul Arena seconded the nomination, and Artie happily accepted it. We will accept any other nominations throughout November, and then elect our officers in December. Please contact Secretary Tony DiAngelo at [badbird70@aol.com](mailto:badbird70@aol.com) if you wish to nominate someone else for any of the officer roles. As for Mike, he will happily continue the work he's been doing on behalf of the club.

## Special Edition Identity

Last month we featured a "Special Edition" script and logo and asked you to identify the car it belonged to. It was a 1972 Dodge Charger SE, which featured a formal vinyl roof, along with special grille and hidden headlights, which distinguished it from Charger Coupes and Hardtops.

(photo by Paul Jr.)



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

We return to the SIRAACA Garage for our first look at another Volkswagen found inside. It's the 1966 Beetle owned by Dennis Dell'Angelo.

His wife's stepfather bought the car new, and after tiring of the stick shift, gave it to them in 1970. They used it through 1974, and then put it in storage after the "1300" engine developed a bearing slap. It sat until 2008, when Dennis decided to rebuild the engine. The new owner of a shop Dennis knew of on Alaska Street pulled the engine and dropped a "1500" loaner in the bug while he worked on the original one. When finished, they swapped in the rebuilt one (or so Dennis thought). Years later, Dennis serviced the car at Pegasus Bug Shop in Linden, only to learn that the original "1300" engine was never returned to the car. 1966 was the only year for that engine, so the dishonest mechanic on Alaska Street kept it for himself.

Dennis is slowly restoring the car. The floors are done, the front end has been replaced and it's used every day. Dennis gets plenty of smiles from other drivers and onlookers, which is one of the reasons so many of us love to drive our old cars.

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.



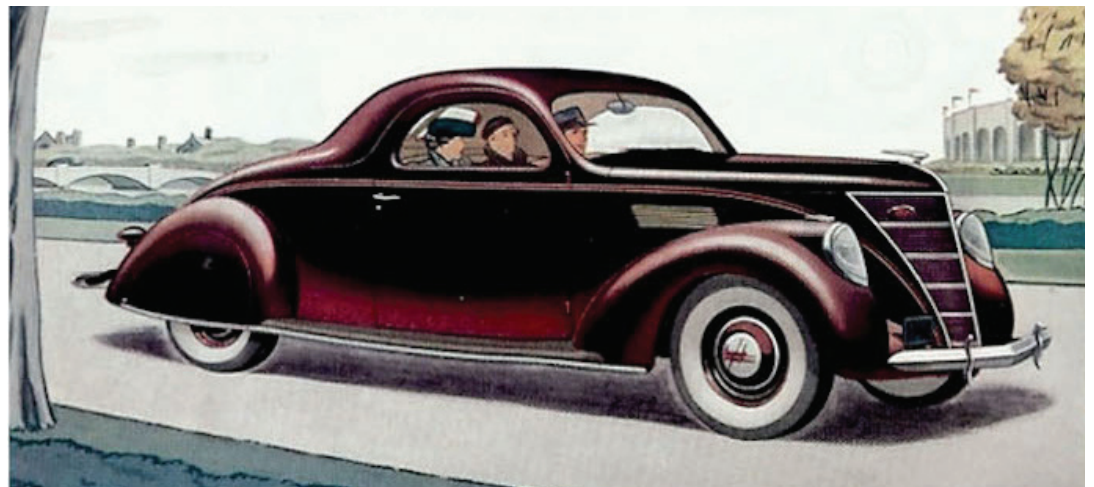
*The odometer on Dennis' Beetle reads 52,000 miles, which might be the second time around. The electrical system has been converted to 12 volt. In 1966, Volkswagen produced both the 11 millionth and 12 millionth Beetle. A total of 1,080,165 units were built for 1966. (photo courtesy of Paul Arena)*

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## One Last Event

The rescheduled AACA Eastern Fall Meet, traditionally held in Hershey each October, becomes a special Eastern Fall Meet in Gettysburg this year, to be held on November 6-7. Load up your car for the final event of the season.





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# The SIRAACA Time Machine



(photos courtesy of NYC, Staten Island Historical Society and Google)

We're starting to get the knack of setting the date on our SIRAACA Time Machine, and we are no longer dialed into just 1940. To demonstrate, we're visiting 1335 Castleton Avenue a few times in its history. At top left is Drinnan Garage, a dealer in Pontiac automobiles, circa 1940. Records show that Drinnan Garage was incorporated in 1922. Sometime later, perhaps in the late 1940's or early 1950's, it became Zilly Pontiac. At top right is our stop in 1965, when the dealership was Robin Ford. Robin Ford eventually moved over to Richmond Avenue. Jumping ahead in time, we arrive in the mid-1980's, where the building was then home to Competition Center, an auto body shop (photo at right). Today, it's Ace Auto Salvage, selling new and used auto parts. Ace says it opened its doors in 1951, but clearly they weren't at this location for their first 35+ years. Does anyone know the history of Ace? In the meantime, we're keeping our flux capacitor in tip top shape and gearing up for another run back in time. We'll continue to target the old dealerships, and might stumble upon some other gems as we criss-cross the Staten Island of decades past.



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Brooklyn, NY 11210

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