

Vol. 27, No. 12

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats



Dec 2020



***• A Staten Island Star in Michigan***



## Vintage Advertising

"Christmas - a new car - the surprise - the excited shouts - the joyous exclamations - whole family happy - that's a real thrill!" So reads a special Ford brochure from 1926. It goes on to say, "A Ford car costs so little that you can buy one and still have money left over to spend for the other things that go to make a Merry Christmas."

Seen here is the Fordor Sedan. Standard equipment included sun visor, windshield wiper, dome light, rear view mirror, dash light, nicked radiator shell, starter, five wire wheels and four balloon tires. Optional colors on closed cars included Gray, Green or Maroon. Price? \$545 F.O.B. Detroit.



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*a*

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### In This Issue

SIRAACA attends Linden show to end the season.

Ed Vomero's donated Star goes on display.

Is that a Duesy in the SIRAACA Garage?

Another trip in the SIRAACA Time Machine.

Did you know? When auto prices said "F.O.B. Detroit" (or any other city) it meant that the car cost more if you took delivery anywhere else.

*Trivia Question: What animal did Plymouth executives want to name their new sporty compact before designer John Samsen prevailed with "Barracuda"?*

*Answer: Panda. (Only slightly better than Sloth, in my opinion).*

## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**December 2020**

**Volume 27, Number 12**

### **SIRAACA Who's Who**

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# Minutes of the 544th Meeting

## REPRINT - 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



## Special AACA Fall Meet

Several members made the trip to the rescheduled, relocated Fall Meet in Gettysburg in early November, and were greeted by fantastic weather and more than 600 cars competing for the final awards of 2020. Congratulations to Andy Barcellona for winning a First Junior with his 1965 Thunderbird, and Kevin Keenan for a Repeat Preservation for his 1982 Riviera. Along for the ride was Phil Boffa and Andrew & Rosemarie Napoli. This show was the third and final AACA National Meet of the year, and all special National Award Winners announced in February, 2021 will have come from one of these shows.

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## Cold Weather and COVID Scraps Meeting Plans

The club passed on a meeting in November and is doing the same for December as cold temperatures and renewed restrictions have limited its ability to safely gather together. Another casualty of the conditions across the island is the efforts of the Richard Gardner Memorial Toy Drive. The club and its members have traditionally donated new toys to them for distribution across the island, but they have told us they are on pause this year for similar reasons.

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## Officers for 2021

There have been no other nominations for office for the upcoming year, so each position is uncontested, and the expected slate of officers for 2021 is as follows: Paul Arena, Jr. - President; Artie Guarnieri - Vice President; Tony DiAngelo - Secretary; Phil Boffa - Treasurer; Jon Schulman - Membership Secretary. Rocky Pompa returns as Sergeant-at-Arms. Artie moves into this position after he was nominated to run by outgoing VP Mike Signorile. Artie's efforts as a membership ambassador, his enthusiasm for the club and the hobby, and his network of fellow hobbyists will serve him and us well in the coming year. Best of luck to all for a rebound in 2021.

## Linden Show

The City of Linden, NJ hosted its 6th Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show on October 25. Our club was out in full force manning our raffle car table as well as serving as judges determined to pick the winners among more than 700 vehicles. The raffle car took in \$395 that day, and we will collaborate with the show organizers to return next year for their weekly cruise nights. Our webmaster Frank Nathanson was on hand to take some photos of the show.



## From the President

I'm sure we all are ready to put 2020 in our rear view mirror. We passed on two car shows, a season of cruise nights, and expected appearances at places like the Richmond County Fair and Delicious Orchards, all because of a virus that's turned the world upside down. I'm grateful that we found ways to still get together as a club this year, and that all of us have navigated the chaos safely thus far. I usually have the pleasure to wish each of you a happy holiday season in person, but this year those greetings will have to come from this page. Stay well, stay safe, and celebrate the good things we are blessed with. Good science will prevail after all, and I am hopeful that 2021 brings with it a familiar sense of normalcy.

- Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - Undecided

Our December meeting is typically passed over in light of our annual holiday party, but no plans are made to meet in person this month as conditions across the island are tilting towards greater restrictions. We will consider a virtual meeting similar to those we held in early spring.

## Staten Island Star Moves to Michigan

We recently reported that Ed Vomero had donated one of his 1923 Star Model C Touring cars to the Durant Motors Museum Foundation, which will eventually establish a presence at The Gilmore complex in Hickory Corners, Michigan. Not wanting to wait until then, the Foundation loaned the Star to The Gilmore, where it is now on display alongside a Ford Model T to highlight the differences between the two. As noted on the display, the Star offered 33 hp (13 more than Ford), an extra two inches in the wheelbase, and a three-speed manual all for the same price as the T. Even so, the Star lasted six years and Durant Motors was done by 1931, on the eve of Ford's adoption of the V-8.

## Renew Your Dues

This is a reminder that your national AACA membership expires on December 31 and should be renewed before then for the upcoming year. The annual dues for the AACA are \$45.00 and can be paid online through [aaca.org](http://aaca.org) using the "renew" tab. You can also mail them a check, using the renewal form that was mailed along with your Nov/Dec issue of *Antique Automobile*. Along with receiving the magazine, did you know that members are entitled to free research by the AACA Library & Research Center Staff? Regarding our local dues, we will settle that up in the new year.



(photo by Ed Vomero)

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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

For those of you around the club in the early 1980's, you'll certainly recall that the SIRAACA Garage once housed a Duesenberg. This is the 1931 Model J Derham Tourster, owned at the time by member Bill Vaccaro.

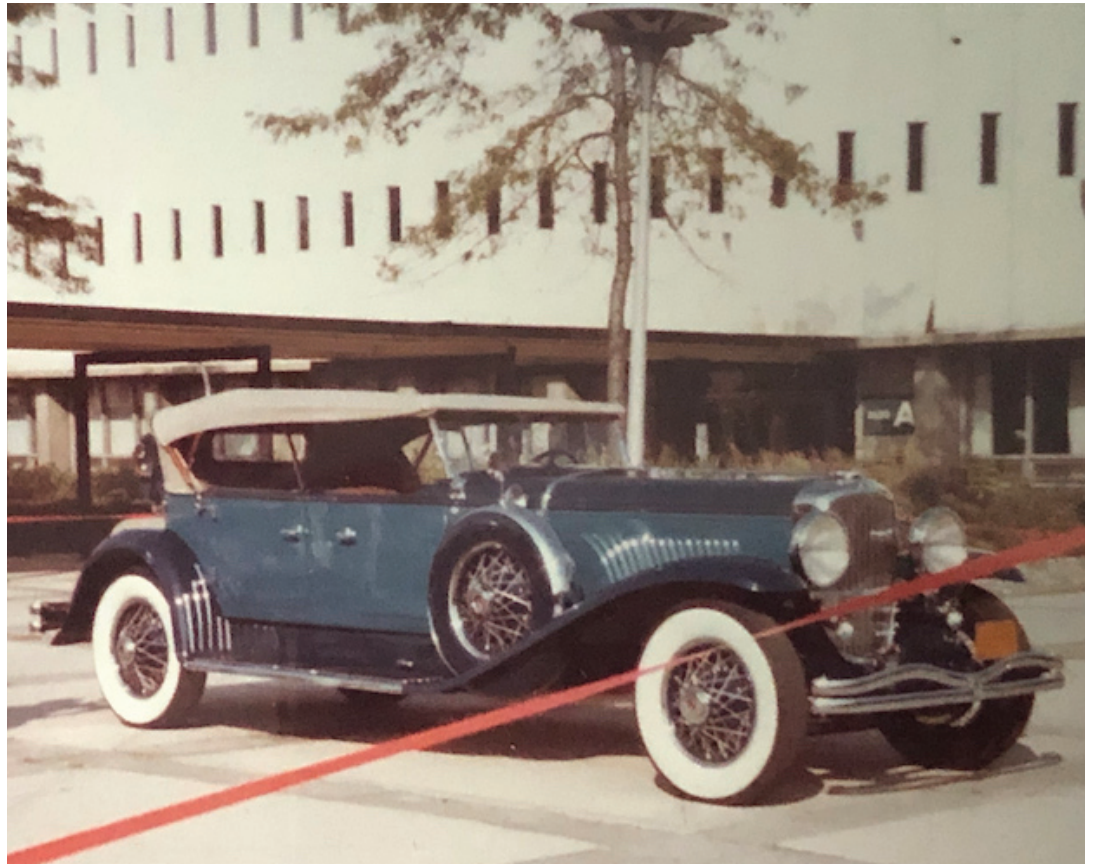
In 1983, this was one of two Duesenbergs on display at our Fall Show at CSI. The other was a 1934 Model J Murphy Beverly Berline owned by Joe Martin. There are many years where you won't see two Duesenbergs at Hershey, let alone a local show like ours.

Bill's car is J-489, one of eight Derham Tourster-bodied Duesenbergs. Its original owner was Mrs. Payne Whitney, a prominent socialite in New York.

Today, the car resides within the collection of the Haynes International Motor Museum in Somerset, England. If you want to see a video of the car close up and driving around the museum track, visit [www.haynes-motormuseum.com](http://www.haynes-motormuseum.com) and click on the link for Restoration Projects.

Thanks to Chris Summers from the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Club for positively id'ing this car for us.

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 Derham Tourster was designed by Gordon Buehrig, who went on to design the Auburn 851 Speedster and the Cord 810/812. He also invented the removable T-Top. The Derham Tourster was the first dual-cowl phaeton to feature a crank-operated rear windscreen. Gary Cooper and Joe E. Brown each owned one. (top photo by Sal DeFrancesco, bottom photo courtesy of Haynes Motor Museum)*





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# The SIRAACA Time Machine

Our first stop back in time is in 1940, outside the Cornell Motor Car Company, a Cadillac dealer located at 438 Richmond Avenue (which is now 438 Port Richmond Avenue, at right). Jumping ahead to April 14, 1953 the dealer is now called Hosler Cadillac, and we are glimpsing their corner lot at Burden Avenue, where they still promise to service your old LaSalle. Before heading back to 2020, we dialed in November 16, 1959 to pick up a copy of the Staten Island Advance to find this ad from Hosler highlighting the new 1960 Fleetwood Sixty Special. This dealership eventually became Crest Cadillac (the earliest reference we can find to that name is 1968).



*Eagle-eyed readers might notice an oval Ford script just below the big Cadillac sign on the front of Cornell Motors (above). The adjacent service building seen below is now home to a laundry and nail salon, while the showroom is now a deli. In the old ad at bottom left, the vertical chrome strips on the rear fender are the tell-tale signature of the Fleetwood Sixty Special. (photos courtesy of NYC, Staten Island Historical Society and the Staten Island Advance).*



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