

Vol. 28, No. 1

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jan 2021



• **Happy New Year!**





## Vintage Advertising

Easy living in the 1970's might have meant getting your hands on this 1974 Dodge Street Van, a rolling art canvas, apartment and vehicle rolled into one. Dodge included detailed plans that guided owners to customize their ride with sunroofs, port-holes, sound systems, and more.

Buyers were also enrolled in something called the Dodge Van Clan. Along with travel services, we guess members could gather to compare their rides and their bell bottoms.

One key element to spot a Street Van in the wild is the custom logo on the doors that replaced the Tradesman name. Chrome trim on the windshield and grille are other identifiers.

## In This Issue

Planning for 2021.

Someone found a huckster.

What's a Dort?

Timeless ways to track the days in the SIRAACA Garage.

Curbside wonders courtesy of the SIRAACA Time Machine.

**HOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR VAN**

**WANT A VAN WITH A VIEW? Make a port-hole or two.**

Hey, check out the high-back buckets.

Wow, a seat freak.

Did you know Street Van spelled backwards is Teerts Nav?

Roger put me into a Street Van. And I'm not comin' out.

Fat Polyglas® tires, flashy chrome road wheels. Ve-ry hea-vy.

**The New Dodge Street Van.**

It's the first van that comes factory-customized.

Complete for the street with: Great-looking fat tires, flashy chrome wheels (or our new painted spoke wheels). Extra bright trim on the outside. High-back buckets with fold-down armrests. And as a treat for your feet, thick carpeting up front.

Plus, every Street Van comes complete with a Dodge Customizing Idea Kit. It's loaded up with trick paint designs for the outside. Full-size templates for the inside custom work. And much more.

When you put yourself into a Dodge Street Van, Dodge also puts you down for a one-year membership in the new Van Clan—a van association that gives you travel services, van theft protection, and more.

That's how Dodge starts you out. How your Street Van ends up is up to you.

**Dodge Trucks**

**CHRYSLER CORPORATION**

Send for free information on the Van Clan!

The Van Clan  
P.O. Box 125, Birmingham, Mich. 48012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

adflip.com

Did you know? Goodyear Polyglas tires were announced in 1967 and combined features of bias-ply and radial tires.

*Trivia Question: What is the term generally used to mean a simulated convertible, which has an origin as a convertible carriage design named after the German city where they were first made?*

*Answer: Landau.*



**RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**January 2021**

**Volume 28, Number 1**

**SIRAACA Who's Who**

**EDITOR -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**PRESIDENT -**

**Paul Arena, Jr.**

parena2@verizon.net

**VICE PRESIDENT -**

**Artie Guarnieri**

artie.guarnieri@verizon.net

**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](http://www.siraaca.aaca.com)



# Passing the Minutes

January, 2021

1. With no meetings held since October, we are passing on reporting the minutes, instead giving you another way of passing the minutes. Here are a couple of cars for you to color as you whittle away time waiting for our next meeting (hopefully in February). Should we make this a contest? Coloring pages are courtesy of Classic Industries, a major parts and accessories supplier. Crayons not included.





## Questions As We Plan For 2021

It's January, which typically means we're confirming car show dates for our spring and fall shows and preparing ourselves for the upcoming season's events. This year, however, remains filled with uncertainty with respect to a return to normal. Nonetheless, we need to get underway with planning under the assumption that things will be better, if not by April, than certainly by September. As such, we have requested the following dates from the staff at the Nicotra Group, who runs our car show site: Spring Show - April 25 with a Rain Date of May 2; Fall Show - September 12 with a Rain Date of September 19. Note that September has four Sundays this year. Assume that our dates are sandwiched between Labor Day weekend and the New Dorp Lane Car Show. These dates were clear with Nicotra (as are just about all other dates at this point), but they have shared with us areas of concern that we'll need to consider, based on their experience over the last nine months. Will we enforce mask wearing? Will we provide masks to those without one? Will we take temperatures upon entry? Can we provide hand sanitizer? How will food be addressed? All of these will be discussed and a plan will be drawn up to ensure we can hold a safe and successful show.

---

---

## NYS Failed Legislation

The NYS legislature adjourned its 2019-2020 session allowing several bills related to our hobby to die. One bill would have reduced safety inspections for antiques, classics and collector vehicles to every two years. Another would have created a new titling and registration class for rods and customs. The last one was hoping to exempt owners of historic vehicles in several cities in NY from paying the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District supplemental registration fee. Currently, owners of such vehicles in certain areas must pay an extra \$25 per year for this. Follow the SEMA Action Network to help support such legislation in 2021.

## Huckster Barn Find

Former member John Charitis reached out to us to let us know about his latest acquisition. He recently purchased this Ford Model A "huckster", which was stored in a barn near Syracuse, NY. He's opting to keep it at his Poconos house as his two car garage in Staten Island is already home to his 1930 Model A street rod and 1934 Ford coupe. Looks like he has room for a couple of more in the Poconos.



*(photos by John Charitis)*





## From the President

I hope everyone found a way to celebrate the new year in a way that made them comfortable, and that 2021 proves to be a year remembered as the light at the end of the tunnel. We've hit pause on so many aspects of our day-to-day lives, and eagerly await the opportunity to do as we please once again. This time of year is typically quiet for our hobby, so the withdrawal symptoms should be minor. Take care of yourselves, and we'll see you soon. - Paul Jr.

## From the Editor

The winter months typically are a challenge when it comes to the lack of events we could report on to fill the newsletter. The pandemic magnifies that. We are doing our best to inform and entertain. If anyone has ideas for what they'd like to see written about, please let me know. - Paul Jr.

## AACA Forums

Killing time online as winter drags on, with no real place to go? Be sure to peruse the AACA Forums, found at forums.aaca.org. There are tons to choose from. Our favorites include the Photo Forum known as "What is It?" where folks ask for help identifying old vehicles in photos or the wild; "Buy/Sell", the free classifieds section; and "Our Cars & Restoration Projects", which serves as an ongoing photo documentary of fantastic restoration work happening across the hobby. There's also "AACA Shows & Tours" for coverage of national events.

## - NEXT MEETING - Undecided

Our January meeting was passed over in light of ongoing Covid-related restrictions. We are working on holding our February meeting as normally scheduled on Tuesday, February 2. Stay tuned for details on how and where.

## Dorts at Drinnan's

In the November newsletter, the SIRAACA Time Machine visited 1335 Castleton Avenue, which at one time was the Drinnan Garage, selling Pontiacs. Member Mike Gorgia than alerted us to an ad in the Advance from October 1, 1921, that advertised Dorts at the Drinnan Garage, then located at 195 Broadway. What's a Dort, you ask? The Dort Motor Car Co. emerged from the Durant-Dort Carriage Company, building cars beginning in 1915. While it wasn't one of the makes within the Durant hierarchy, the companies were affiliated. Dort was the 13th largest automaker in the US in 1920, but wouldn't survive past 1924. Despite the ad claiming it to be the "only car at so low a price that combines so many artistic and mechanical merits", the less artistic Model T of the day was about one-third the price. We wonder what Drinnan sold after Dort folded? Pontiac wouldn't debut until 1926.

**DORT**  
*Quality Goes Clear Through*

Beauty of line is fully revealed by this finely modeled molding carried completely around the body.

Dort sales are easy when comparisons are made.

Not only mechanical comparisons and style comparisons—but price comparisons as well.

The Dort is a car of sterling units, skillful construction, unusual simplicity, dependable performance, low maintenance and long life.

The Dort is a car of individual beauty, artistic lines and perfect comfort.

The Dort is the only car at so low a price that combines so many artistic and mechanical merits.

It is the one best buy.

**DRINNAN GARAGE CO.**  
195 Broadway, West Brighton  
Phone P. R. 970

*Quality Goes Clear Through*

Compare  
**DORT**  
Prices

PRICES  
Touring \$ 985  
Roadster 985  
Sedan . . 1685  
Coupe . . 1535  
F. O. B. Factory  
Wire Wheels and spare tires extra

**DORT**  
TOURING CAR  
NOW  
**985**

(courtesy SI Advance)

## Did You Forget Your AACA Dues?

This is a reminder that your national AACA membership expired on December 31 and should have been renewed for 2021. If you forgot, the annual dues for the AACA are \$45.00 and can be paid online through 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*.



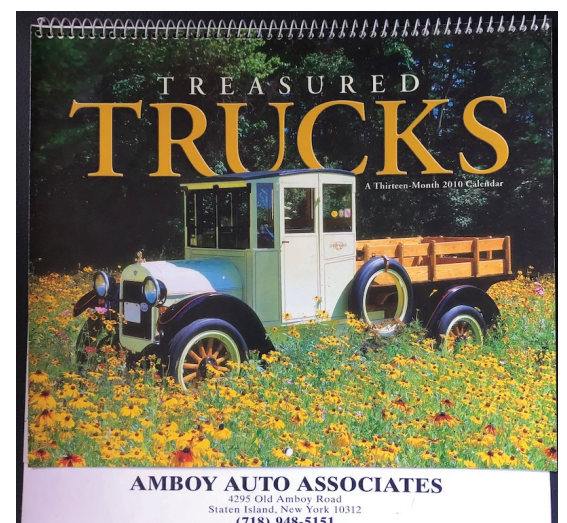
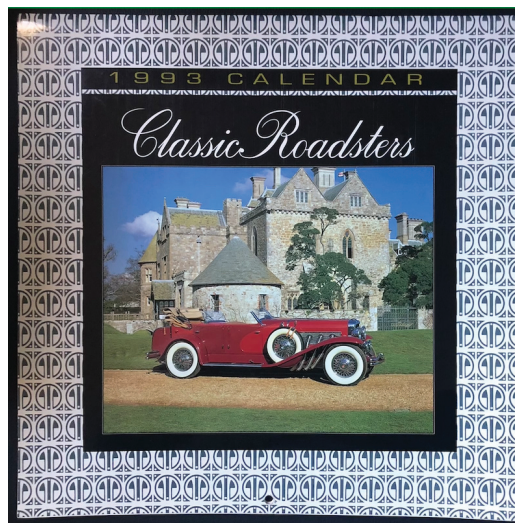
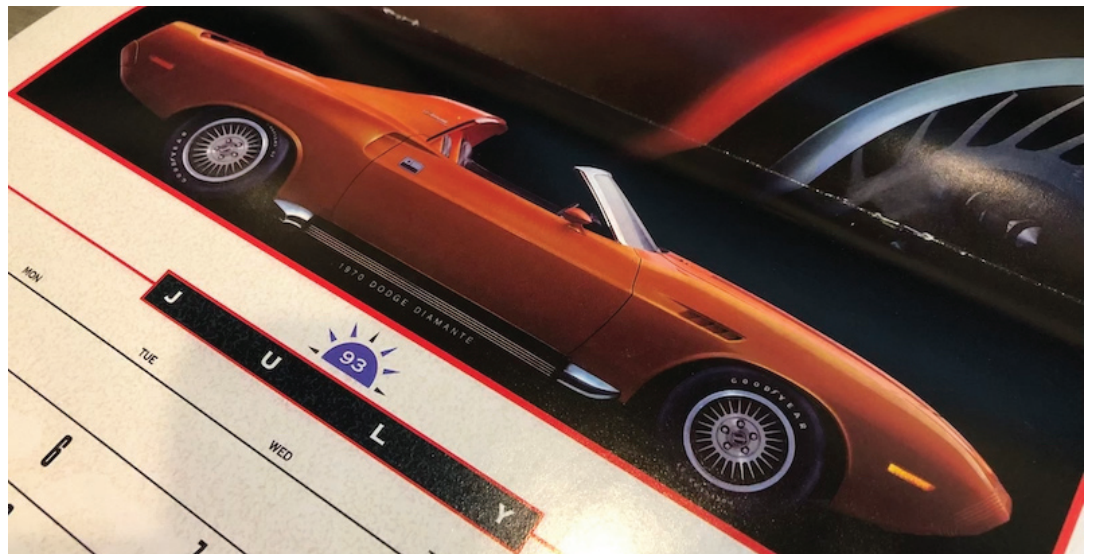
## Decorating the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Garage is such a massive building, home to all of our members' cars, past and present. It's also decorated with the countless items our members collect, from signs and toys to oil cans and license plates. It also features automotive calendars from years past, courtesy of Bruce Campbell.

Since there are only 14 different calendar patterns possible, Bruce routinely hangs up an older calendar to display the current year. For 2021, he's chosen this 1993 Snap-On Dream Car edition, featuring some well-known and not so well-known show cars. It includes a 1954 Packard Daytona on the cover, as well as a 1970 Dodge Diamante and a 1964 Pontiac Banshee.

He could have opted for the 1993 Classic Roadsters calendar if he preferred to look at Duesenbergs, Bugattis, and Packards. If he preferred a year of REO Speedwagons and Internationals, the 2010 Treasured Trucks would serve him well. In fact, any calendar from 2010, 1999, '93, '82, '71, '65, '54, '43, '37 or '26 would work this year.

Help us decorate the SIRAACA Garage by featuring the items you display in your garage or man cave. Send in pics and details of your signs, tools, toys and more and we'll share them with everyone.







# J.C. TAYLOR

INSURANCE

JCTAYLOR.COM

1-888-ANTIQUE



## The SIRAACA Time Machine

As we travel through time across Staten Island, we're spotting some pretty unique vehicles along the way. It's too bad we don't have a way to bring them back to the present with us. On Van Duzer Street was this 1937 Ford Sedan Delivery dressed up to advertise and probably distribute Pepsi-Cola. It's most likely sporting a red, white and blue paint scheme and hand-painted graphics, as opposed to today's vinyl wraps. On Richmond Terrace, we spotted a 1937 Plymouth coupe doing duty as a New York City police car. This one would also feature a three-tone color scheme painted white, green and black. Note that they used regular license plates like civilian cars in 1941. Lastly, along Richmond Road near what's now the Staten Island Expressway we spotted the nose of a worn out Marmon Sixteen peeking out of a lot promising "cash for cars". Is it a sedan? A coupe? Some other special body? We wonder where that one ended up, as only 390 were built from 1931-33, and only 75 are known to exist today. A '31 coupe sold for more than \$1,000,000 in 2018, and a '32 sedan is expecting \$300k+ at auction soon.



(photos courtesy of NYC)

 **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**