

Vol. 29, No. 6

# Ragtops & Rumbleseats

Jun 2022

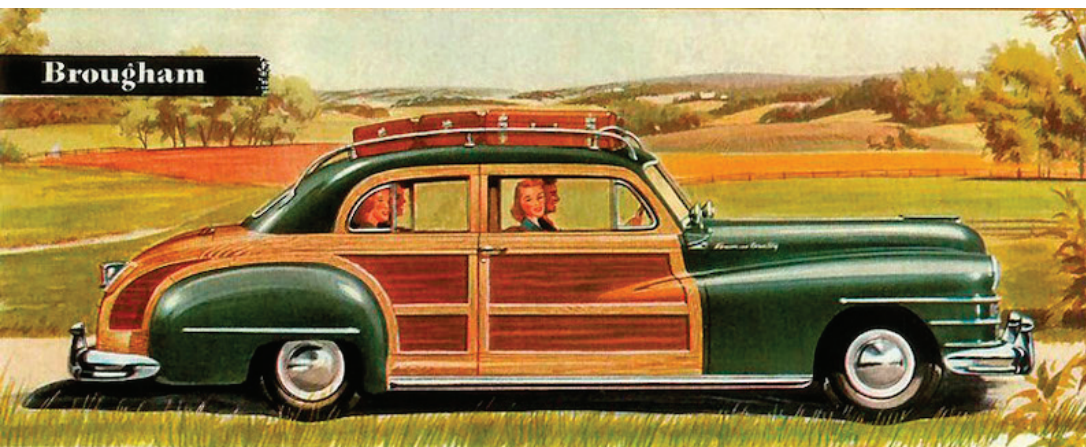
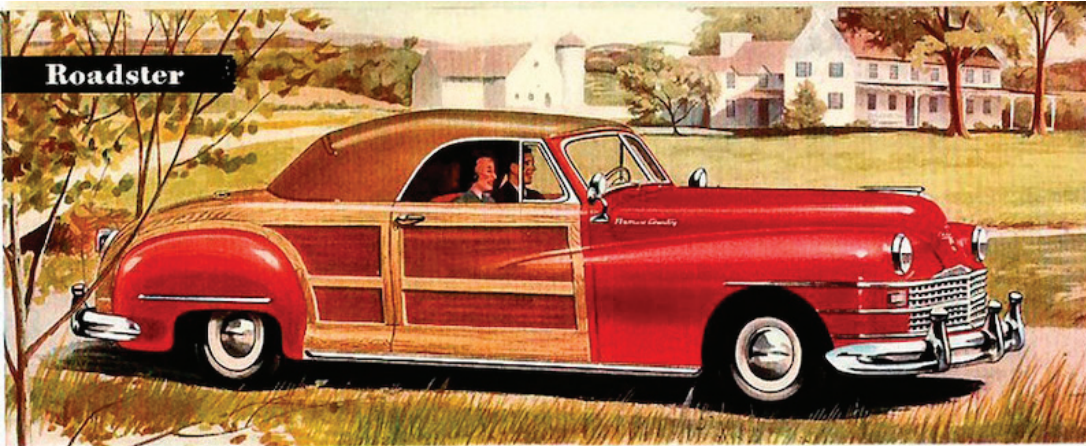
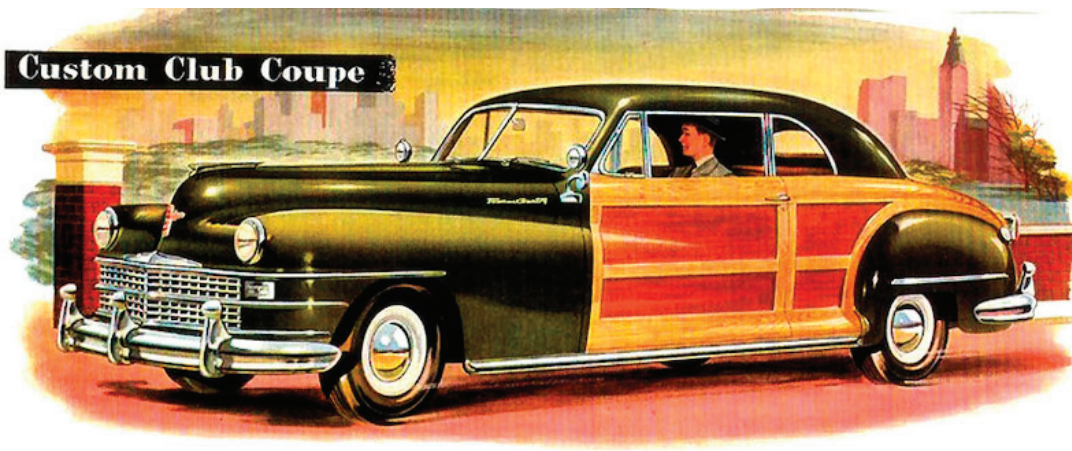


• **SIRAACA Out and About**



## Vintage Advertising

When you think of the first round of the post-war Chrysler Town & Country, you probably picture the Convertible Coupe or 4-Door Sedan. Chrysler had bigger plans for the T&C line that never came to pass. These are catalog illustrations from 1946 showing three other planned models - a Custom Club Coupe (2-door hardtop), a Roadster and a Brougham (2-door sedan). While Chrysler built 8,368 convertibles and 3,994 4-doors from 1946-1948, they built only seven Club Coupes, no Roadsters and maybe a prototype Brougham (at least the chassis for that is accounted for). The Convertible and Custom Club Coupes were built on the longer New Yorker chassis and featured a straight eight; all but 100 4-door sedans were built on the shorter Windsor chassis with an inline six.



Did you know? By definition, the seven Custom Club Coupes were the first modern hardtops, beating out GM's 1949 models by three years. Apparently, no one noticed (or cared) at the time.

## In This Issue

SIRAACA out and about

Looking back at a rare car in the SIRAACA Garage

The SIRAACA Time Machine runs into John Killian and his eponymous Auto Company.

*Trivia Question: Only 35 buyers chose what option available on the 1958 Chrysler 300D, DeSoto Adventurer, Dodge D-500 and Plymouth Fury?*

*Answer: This rare option was Chrysler's "Electrojector" fuel injection set-up. It featured two dual-point distributors (one for ignition and another for the injectors).*



## **RAGTOPS & RUMBLESEATS**

**June 2022**

**Volume 29, Number 6**

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

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# Minutes of the 556th Meeting May 3, 2022

1. The 556th meeting of The Staten Island Region AACA was called to order at 7:25 on May 3 at Pro Sho Sound. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and offering a moment of silence, the minutes of the 555th meeting were accepted as read.
2. The organizers of Hot Rods & Harleys visited to go over final plans for our participation in their event in Rahway on May 14.
3. Paul Jr. recapped our Spring Dust-Off, which was a great success. We had over 400 cars on the field and our receipts were up across the board. The raffle car took in \$1,790. Thanks to all who contributed their time and efforts to ensure such success. Joe Rego added that several motorcycle owners insisted they can park on the show field even though they are only spectators. This will be addressed for the fall.
4. Paul Jr. reiterated the importance of trophy donations and read aloud all of the donors from last year, which come courtesy of a small number of members. If each member can get at least one additional donor, it goes a long way to covering our largest fall expense. Need help? Ask Tony DiAngelo, Paul Arena or Mike Signorile for tips.
5. Upcoming events include the Food Truck Festival at Mt. Loretto on June 10, 11, 12. Our raffle car will be there and we will need volunteers each day to help sell tickets.
6. Phil Boffa gave an updated treasury report, showing all in order.
7. Prospective new member Richie Amuso was introduced to the members. Many of you recall Richie and his 1923 Detroit Electric as a Best in Show winner at last year's fall show. Richie also owns a Model T and VW Beetle.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. The 50/50 collected \$47. Tony Ventrice won \$24.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tony DiAngelo, Secretary

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## Hot Rods & Harleys Recap

This year marked a pair of firsts for our club and the annual Hot Rods & Harleys gathering in Rahway, NJ. While many of our members have been to this event in previous years, this time we were hired by organizers to help them with judging. In return for a \$1,000 donation to our club, nine members pitched in to evaluate hundreds of show vehicles displayed throughout the closed off streets of Rahway’s City Hall area. In addition, several other members manned our club tent and raffle car, selling \$1,235 worth of chances. Despite a foggy start to the day, and a threat of rain that eventually came after 3:00 pm, the event was well attended by those who wanted to see the cars, enjoy street food and listen to live music.



1928 Studebaker in police disguise was the oldest car on hand. (photo by Paul Jr.)

## SIRAACA at Grand Nats

This year’s AACA Grand National Meet was held in Virginia Beach, and our club saw two members show their cars in competition for an award. Grand National Meets only allow entry to cars that have already won an AACA Senior Award. Congratulations to Andy Barcellona for winning a Second Grand National Award with his 1965 Thunderbird, and to Kevin Keenan for winning a Senior Grand National Award with his 1982 Riviera. The annual Grand National Meet is also where the 13 top restored cars shown at AACA annual meets the year before are gathered to compete for the Zenith Award. This year, that honor was given to a 1929 Du Pont Model G Club Sedan, one of just 25 made.



DuPont sold 537 cars between 1919 and 1933, with far less known to still exist. The Zenith winner features a custom body by Merrimac, and was restored from basket case condition. (photo courtesy of AACA)

## SIRAACA at Mecum Indy

Members Al Gargiulo and Joe D’Amore recently attended the Mecum Auction in Indianapolis and reported back that around 3,500 vehicles crossed the block, with selling prices ranging from decent to off-the-wall. Neither of them bought a car out there, so we can say with certainty that the 1969 Dodge Hemi Daytona 4-speed Super Track Pak (the most highly optioned Hemi Daytona known to exist) that sold for \$1.32 million won’t appear inside The SIRAACA Garage.



Custom-built 1981 Seville sold for \$33,000. (photo by Joe D’Amore.)



## From the President

How many of you know about the National Historic Vehicle Register? It's a program designed to preserve America's auto heritage, managed by the Hagerty Drivers Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. So far, 32 vehicles have been documented for this program with their records permanently archived in the Library of Congress, and the two newest entries are a 1963 Chrysler Turbine Car and a 1952 Fabulous Hudson Hornet NASCAR racecar. These join 30 other cars, including the first Ford "Jeep", the Tucker prototype, the '68 Mustang used in "Bullitt", and the first car to win the Indy 500 in 1911 (the Marmon Wasp). The best part of this registry is the variety of vehicles on it. It matches the wide appeal of our hobby - old or new, restored or original, exotic or basic. There's something for everyone in our hobby, and each car holds significance to its owner through the story it tells. Have a look at the register online and see for yourself why a 1984 Plymouth Voyager minivan is as important as a 1921 Duesenberg, the first fiberglass Meyers Manx dune buggy or the DeLorean from "Back to the Future". - Paul Jr.

## - NEXT MEETING - June 7

Our June meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 at 6:30 PM, at the Pro Sho Sound building at 4401 Arthur Kill Road. Thank you as always to Frank Provenzano for his hospitality. Food will be served.

## Great Day for a Parade

This year's Staten Island Memorial Day Parade was held once again along Forest Avenue under beautiful blue skies. Our club was one of several local groups that provided cars for the event, led by Artie Guarnieri in our 2005 Mustang raffle car. Bob Ferone, Joe Rego and Bruce Campbell (with some four-legged friends) joined in as well.

(photo by Artie G.)



## Raffle Car To Be at Food Truck Festival

Please remember that the raffle car will be at Mt. Loretto for the upcoming Food Truck Festival from June 10-12. The weekend event features plenty of good food and live music for all. We will ask members to volunteer some of their time across the weekend to help sell tickets. Times and details to be discussed at the June meeting.

## \$142 Million Mercedes

\$142 million. Not a typo. It's been confirmed that Mercedes-Benz has sold one of the two famous 1955 SLR "Uhlenhaut" Coupes for that amount at a private auction. The price makes it the most valuable car in the world, and within the top 10 most valuable items of any kind sold at auction. Both coupes were always owned by M-B until now. They are named after chief engineer Rudolf Uhlenhaut, who created them to compete in the Carrera Panamericana race in Italy. They were capable of 180 mph and are as beautiful as they were fast. The buyer agrees to make the car accessible for public display on special occasions. The other coupe remains on display at M-B's museum. Proceeds will establish a Mercedes-Benz Fund to provide educational and research scholarships in environmental science. Check out the highlight video on RM Sotheby's website or YouTube.



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## Inside the SIRAACA Garage

Once a car calls the SIRAACA Garage its home, it remains inside even if it's been sold, or the owner has moved on (kind of like the Hotel California, where "you can check out any time you'd like, but you can never leave"). So we present to you this month a 1966 Plymouth Belvedere II 426 Hemi convertible once owned by former member John Piazza.

John was the fourth owner of this rare car. It is one of only ten made, one of six with an automatic transmission, and the only one originally painted in Mauve Metallic. John treated it to a rotisserie restoration, using NOS and date coded parts in order to compete at the highest level MoPar events. John debuted the car at Hershey in 2004.

We recall seeing it sell at Mecum in Indy back in 2013, but aren't sure if John was the seller at that time. Last time we checked, this car was part of the private museum known as The Brothers Collection in Salem, Oregon. which may possibly be the most comprehensive collection of muscle cars in the world (look it up). Even so, it's still a car found in the SIRAACA Garage.

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.

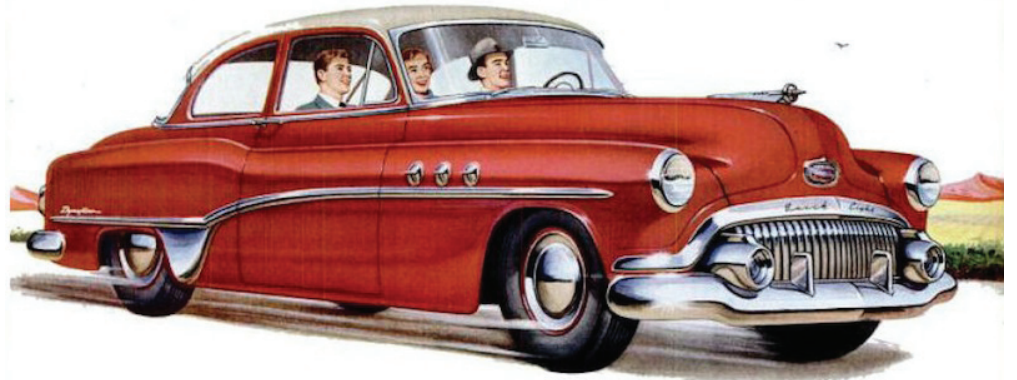


*JKLNHYDE license plate sums up the dual nature of this mild looking Plymouth and its monster motor lurking within. (Photo by Paul Jr.)*

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## Upcoming Events

Load up your car and head out to one of these upcoming events in our area:



- Food Truck Festival (SIRAACA raffle car event), Mt. Loretto - June 10-12
- NJRAACA Tour to Joe's Garage, Wall, NJ - June 11
- New Dorp High School Car Show - June 12
- AACA Eastern Spring National, Beckley, WV - June 16-18
- ATCA 42nd Annual National Truck Meet, Macungie, PA - June 17-18
- Carlisle GM Nationals, Carlisle, PA - June 24-25
- 112th Annual Travis 4th of July Parade - July 4
- First Wednesday Cruise Night, Woodbridge Olive Garden - July 6
- 59th Annual Das Awkscht Fest. Macungie, PA - August 5-7
- 65th Annual New Hope Automobile Show, New Hope, PA - August 13-14







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# The SIRAACA Time Machine

We dialed back the SIRAACA Time Machine over 100 years and found ourselves motoring alongside this stately early touring car (right). At the wheel was John D. Killian, but the type of car remains unknown, despite an ongoing debate that we started on the AACA Forums. Below is a local newspaper ad from 1920 pointing out Killian's company and his offering of Essex automobiles. We tried locating taxi driver Peter Antanozio to ask him about his Essex, but couldn't find any record of him. We then stopped at Pier 7 in Tompkinsville in 1927 to visit his display at the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce exhibition (bottom right). The sign in the center of the group of cars reads, "John D. Killian Auto Co./Dodge Brothers/Graham Brothers Trucks". The latest reference we have to his company is a listing at 388 Bay Street in a 1933 Polk's directory.



*We know what the car above isn't, but have yet to positively identify its make. (Above and below via S.I. Historical Society. Ad from July 3, 1920 Staten Island Advance)*

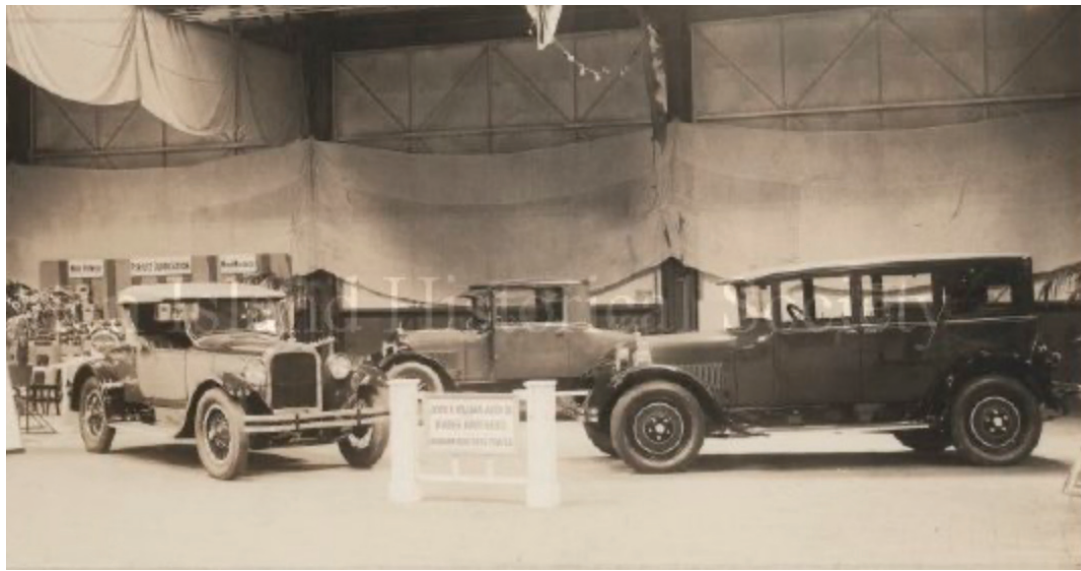
**This is Essex Week**

This is a picture of Mr. PETER ANTANOZIO and his ESSEX; the car has run 28,000 miles, of taxi service in eleven months, and is still in prime condition.

We say a lot about the ESSEX and ESSEX owners are our boosters. Ask MR. ANTANOZIO about his car, and also

Mrs. Charles Ackerman, (4)	Mr. Curtis Van Pell.
Mr. Walter Runger,	Mr. Edward J. Roe,
Mr. Bernard Levinson,	Mr. Edmund Volkman,

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