

The "A"nnouncer



August, 2019

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/runningboardas/>

Volume 18

Number 8

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The Running Board “A’s” club is a Model “A” Ford touring club. We are a region of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC). MARC recommends that all region members become members of MARC. See <http://model-a-ford.org/> for more information.

From the President



Leslie and I have a golden retriever we named Windy. She is 13 months old and has proven to be the hardest critter to train that we have ever had. As she cannot be trusted to be left out at night she still sleeps in a crate. Windy has an affinity for paper of any sort. Paper towels, dollar bills, mail etc. She also likes paper in its raw state before being made into pulp...that is to say wood. We believe she got some of her bad habits from Harry Glickman (a golden for whom we dog sit). He taught her that butter off the kitchen counter is a true delicacy. She agreed, but decided it was not a stand alone, but required a loaf of bread to go with it. Last week she was invited to a swimming party. She was reluctant to go into the pool, but seeing all the other goldens having such a great time she decided to join them. By now you must be saying where are you going with this. I would like to point out that sharing your interests and adventures are part of what this model "A" club is about. We have seen miniature steam engines, steam powered boats, hot rods, and hand bells. What things interest you? Why not share them with the club. Remember, we are a driving club and have the means to travel to great adventures. Hoping to see YOU out there.

Bob

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 20, 2019	\$1058.89
Income	
Total Income	\$0.00
Expenses	
Newsletter May	\$9.60
Total Expenses	\$9.60
Balance as of July 25, 2019	\$1058.89

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On the Cover: Two future Model Aers checking out the rumble seat of my roadster at the America On Wheels Summer Camp.

Salvaging a collapsed pop-up canopy

Those that came to the picnic may remember that Bob's canopy had a couple of problems. OK, it only had one problem; it collapsed when we tried to set it up. With a couple of ratchet straps, a tree, and the lattice work on my deck, we managed to get it functional for the picnic, but not generally usable. Bob asked me to dispose of it for him, but you know that I just can't throw things out and had to try to fix it.

The problem was that some of the side diagonal pieces had collapsed and/or had the pivot holes ripped open. After several attempts to fix these with washers and JB Weld (with no success), I decided that the failed pieces needed to be replaced. These pieces are made from rectangular metal tubing, which I may have been able to find somewhere, but being frugal (ok, cheap) I needed to find some common material that could be used. It turns out that the diameter of ½ inch emt tubing is the same as the thickness of the original square tubing plus the plastic fittings at the pivot points and is also the same as the height of the original tubing. Replacing the 4 failed pieces used 2 10-foot lengths of emt which only cost around \$3.50 apiece (actually I had one piece that had been used as a tomato stake, so my total new expenditure was around \$3.50, I told you I was cheap (I mean frugal). In addition, I had to cut part of some of the remaining plastic fittings to take things apart; these needed a couple of washers to act as spacers (these came out of my stock pile, so no expense). A side benefit of the emt is that the wall is heavier than the original tubing, making the canopy more stable. So, if you break your canopy, you now know how to fix it. Or you can bring it to Fritz's fixit shop and for a nominal fee (as in the cost of the materials) get it repaired. Fritz's fixit has many customers, it would be a good business if it only had paying customers.

Tom

America On Wheels Summer Camp

Friday, July 26 was a beautiful day for a ride in the roadster. What made it especially good was that we had suffered through temperatures in the high 90's the week before, so being outside was not a fun experience, no less in a Model A.

The children's summer camp held at the America on Wheels auto museum in Allentown provided the destination for the ride in the roadster.

Ken Nygard agreed to meet me at my house at 8:30 in his 1951 F1 pickup. It was a top down day for the roadster. I led the way up Route 611 to Route 412 eventually going through Hellertown and then taking back roads through Bethlehem and finally into Allentown.

Dick Bettel made the trip from his house in Florham Park N.J. and met us at the museum.

Tim Litzenburger, also a member of our club and a member of the Lehigh Valley Model A club was there as well with his 1930 Fordor Sedan.

The event was sponsored by the Lehigh Valley club and Nelson Chegezy was the contact person.

The roadster and the truck were added to the collection of antique vehicles for the kids to see and touch. In addition to our cars and truck were Tim and Nelson's Fordor Sedans, and a beautiful roadster pickup truck as well as a '66 Corvair and a Shay roadster



bodied, Ford Pinto.

Nelson gave a quick talk on the Model A's and on Ken's truck and then let the kids look at each individual car and ask the owners questions.

Tim was kind enough to let the kids sit in the car and he took a bunch of them for a ride around the parking lot.



I think it's important for the future of the hobby to let kids know that these cars exist, and not just in museums with signs all over them that say *DO NOT TOUCH!*

While Tim was giving rides, Dick and I were letting the kids try out the rumble seat. Most of the kids wanted to know what happens when it rains when

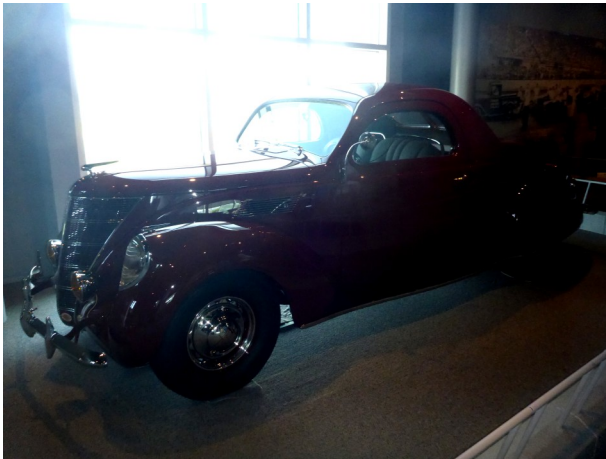


you are in a rumble seat. The answer is, "You get wet".

After we were done with the kids, Ken gave

Dick and I a behind the scenes tour of the museum. They are always changing the displays, and right now they have one of my favorite cars

on display, a 1937 Lincoln Zephyr V12, 3 window coupe. Ken, Dick and I finished the day with lunch at a local diner. It was a fun day that hopefully will have an impact on at least a few of the kids.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Das Awkscht Fescht Saturday August 3rd, 2019 Macungie PA

We will meet at the WAWA on Route 663 outside of Quakertown at 9:00 AM Contact Ken Nygard at 215-822-6717 if you plan to attend, so we know who to wait for. **Please note that you have to be registered by July 1. There are no day of show registrations.**

Rough and Tumble Engineers Thresherman's Reunion August 14 to 17, 2019 Kinzers PA

The 71st Thresherman's reunion is the largest gas and steam engine show on the east coast. If you would like more information [click](#) here, or contact Chuck Savitske at 610-573-4378. This is a fun show with lots of things to see and do. Model A's get free indoor parking.

Wheels of Time Auto Show August 23, 24 and 25 Macungie, PA

Hot Rod and Custom Car Show. Contact Bob Outwater at 908-237-9322 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

Duryea Days August 31, 2019 Boyertown PA.

If anyone would like to pre-register for Duryea Day being held on August, 31 in Boyertown Pa. contact Bob Adams. Pre-registration checks in the amount of \$12.00 must be received by Boyertown Museum before August 24. After that date registration is \$15.00. If you have any questions about Duryea Day, the telephone number at the museum is 610-367-2090. If you are interested in going, we will meet at the Wawa on 663 near the turnpike at 9 am. Please contact me so I will know to wait for you. My number is 215-538-2425 or email boblesadams@verizon.net

September

Belvidere Victorian Days

Saturday September 6, 2019

Tom Fritz will host the event. We will meet at the event on Saturday September 6th. Contact Tom at 908-580-0502 or 908-432-4264 to let him know that you will attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

63rd Annual New England Meet September 13-15 2019 Hancock MA

Contact Irene Eskett (413)-967-5440, email eskett1@comcast.net or Theresa Menko (413)-665-3957 for more information or go to the Western Massachusetts Model A Ford Restorers Club <http://clubs.hemmings.com/wmmafrc/> .

Tour to the Wharton Esherick Museum 1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern, PA 19355 Friday September 20, 2019 Hosted by Deb Savitske

We will meet at the G Lodge on Rt. 23 1371 Valley Forge Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460 (5 minute drive to the Wharton Esherick Museum) for a "down home" breakfast. Then to the museum for a tour and time to explore the grounds (usually about 90 minutes to two hours). Then, if the weather cooperates, an informal dessert buffet (provided by Chef Deb) , picnic style, before heading back home.

For those coming from the Lehigh Valley area, the trip to the breakfast spot will take an hour - not sure how

long the ride will be for the Jersey bunch. Our destinations are a stone's throw from Valley Forge. Museum tour tickets are \$15, \$13 for seniors. There will be a special Juried Woodworking Exhibit on display at the museum during that time. The theme of the exhibit is LIGHTING - should be a very interesting addition to the tour. I would like to have a count of those interested in going by August 17 so that I can firm up reservations and get tour times booked. I'm hoping to get museum tours booked for 11 or 12. Details on departure times/places to follow. Call Deb at 610-573-4378!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

Annual Fall Car Show

Delaware Valley Fire Company

75 Headquarters Rd, Erwinna PA

Sunday September 22, 2019

**Rain date September 29 (in case of rain
call 610-249-9385) morning of show.**

Pre registration is \$12, day of show \$15. Show time is 9:00AM to 2:00 PM. Registration is 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Judging done by all attendees. Top 25 trophies awarded including best in show and chief officers pick.



Those Pesky Rattles

I think most cars, especially 88 + year old cars, have a few rattles. For the most part we live with them because we know what they are and we know that they don't involve impending doom, like the motor falling out. Doors rattle, hoods rattle, brakes sometimes squeak, no big deal.

I have a few of those kinds of rattles in my roadster, but I had one that was really annoying and worst of all, I didn't know what was making the noise. It was more of a thud than a rattle, but it happened on rough roads, which are most roads in the state of Pennsylvania, and it seemed to be getting worse. At one point, I had myself convinced that it was the new timing gear coming loose that I had installed about 2 years ago. Nah, I torqued that thing down so it would never come off!

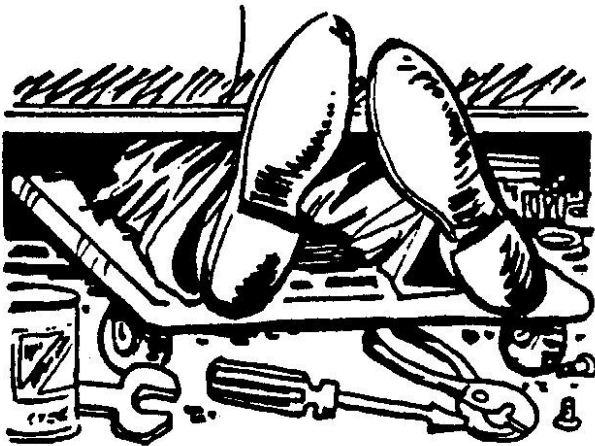
I finally decided to make a concerted effort to find it. I thought the most obvious thing would be something in the suspension, since I could hear it on rough roads. I jacked the front of the car up and supported it under the frame with jack stands. I was able to shake the suspension, but everything was tight. I took a look at the wishbone to make sure there was no play in it. It was fine. The shock links were OK and the steering seemed to be in good shape.

While I was lying under the car, trying to decide what to do next, I looked up and saw that the pedals, especially the clutch pedal, were hitting the floor board. I took the floor boards out to see if I could adjust the pedals so they wouldn't hit the boards. There was not enough adjustment to lower them so they wouldn't hit

the board. While I was taking the floor boards out, I noticed that some of the screws holding the floor boards down were loose.....hmmmmm. I put everything back together, making sure the screws holding the floor boards down were nice and tight and low and behold, no more thud. The car sounds like the day I bought it. I guess the screws were loose enough to allow the board to rattle or thud while going over rough roads, especially with the spring loaded pedals always trying to push them up.

While I had the boards out, I decided to give the throw out bearing a shot of grease, top off the battery with distilled water and per Tom Fritz's recommendation, clean out the vent hole on the shift tower. It was so plugged up that it took a while for me to find it. A fine wire did the trick to unplug it after I found it.

All in all, it was an afternoon well spent, to find that pesky rattle.



Who Knew?

As many of you know, I exchange our newsletter with some of the other local Model A clubs. The other day, I received the *Quail Mail* newsletter from the Lehigh Valley Model A Club. In it, there was an article by Darwin Schafer about a Model A gear shift lever trick that I was not aware of. Did you know?

In the article, he claimed that the gear shift lever could be pulled straight up and that you could swing it out of the way toward the gas tank.

I was intrigued so I went out and tried it on my car.



The picture above shows the gearshift lever in normal position.

In the next picture you can see that the gear shift



lever has been swung out of the way.

So that works, but then the question is what was the purpose?

Darwin speculated that it could make it easier to service things under the floor like the battery and throw out bearing. It also makes it easier to take the floor mat out. It also makes it easier to lock the drivers door and then slide out the passenger side. He also speculated that it would be easier to “get to know” your partner in a drive in movie.

There is no documentation that states why the ability to swing the gear shift out of the way, but it does work and it’s fun to speculate the reason for it.



**Membership Application
For the Running Board "A's"**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

Dues are \$15.00 annually. Please make checks payable to:

Running Board "A's"

Mail to:

Running Board "A's"

P.O. Box 9

Hilltown Pennsylvania 18927-9711

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

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