

The "A"nnouncer



May, 2020

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

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

Volume 19

Number 5

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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.

View Behind the Wheel

Well, another month of “lockdown” is behind us. No complaints though. We still have our health, family, and Model A Fords. So, count your blessings and smile. After checking with a few members this month I learned ways to wholesomely spend time. There were walks, gardening, on-line courses, homeowners meetings, and a host of other ways to keep busy.

For those of us who have shops there is always a long list of projects waiting for our attention. Rebuilding some axle housings took some time and effort for me. Still another member was fixing his daughter’s lawn tractor. Tractor? Bet you can’t guess who that person is, but if you’re thinking Ed Hardy I’d say you’re on the right track.

The hope is that when we finally can meet up and take some drives we will also have many show-and-tell sessions with all the things your creative minds have come up with. Good luck with that head gasket, Dick!

See you in the fast lane,
Doug Pyatt

COVID Trips

By Bobbi Bettle

I miss driving all over the place in the Ford to visit museums, planning meetings and seeing my Running Board A friends. So, Dick and I are doing the next best thing.

On Tuesday, April 14, we started out for a ride down the Millstone River and Weston Canal. Well, the best laid plans soon went right out the window. It should have been a 2 hour ride / 80 mile drive along the river and canal. After 15-20 miles, the car was making awful noises, and the tach was bouncing all over the place. Dick got out and looked under the hood (eyes closed ... mouth open style) and didn't find anything. We headed home. That evening, Dick went in the garage and checked the distributor. It is my understanding that some kind of bolt was almost unscrewed and the distributor was hanging on by a thread. Dick fixed it.

On Wednesday we decided to take a drive to Hacklebarney State Park. Yeah, I know, the park itself is





closed, but the back roads leading to the park are not.



On the way we saw cows not social distancing & horses following the 6 ft apart rules, beautiful flowers, overfilled creeks

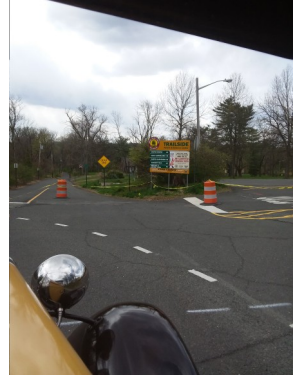
and some upscale houses in Far Hills & Bedminster (Steve Forbes and Christine Todd Whitman), and Trump National Golf Club. 60 miles later we were



back home and not so cranky. Rolling along in our automobile seems to be a good fix for the covid blues.



Thursday (April 16) we headed off to Watchung Reservation Park. Most of the park buildings are closed, but most of the roads are not. We passed the Schiff Scout Reservation (one of two Boy Scout reservations located in the United States). Dick went there as a kid. Surprise Lake was closed off, but quite beautiful; the horse stables and the museum are also closed. All in all, we traveled on some really nice roads and passed some fantastic houses in Summit.



A Little Covid 19 Humor

Submitted by John Leydon



It's like being 16 again
Gas is cheap and I'm Grounded.

Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.



What is happening?
Humans are all wearing muzzles.



I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY DOGS GET SO EXCITED WHEN THEY SEE AN OPEN DOOR.



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From the Editor

I want to thank everyone who has responded to my request for articles for the newsletter. The response has been amazing. Please keep up the good work. If you don't see your article in this month, have no fear, it will appear in a future newsletter.

Some of the projects that I have heard about that our members are doing are truly amazing. You can read about some of them later on in the newsletter.

You make me feel like I am really slacking off on my Model A's. The biggest thing I have done is put gas in the tudor and take it for a ride to a local orchard to pick up some apples and cider that Diane pre ordered and paid for over the phone. No human contact on this trip, but I did still have my mask with me just in case.

We have not been sitting home twiddling our thumbs, however. We have had two of our grandkids, ages 7 and 10, here for several weeks while their mom and dad figure out how to arrange work schedules so that can also accommodate children being at home. While here, we developed daily school curriculum for both kids before online activities were available and then dealt with finicky software when online classes became available. Oh yeah, we have the kid's dog too.

Diane has also developed an on line Earth Day Celebration service for our church. We have become proficient at Zoom meetings for 2nd and 4th graders, Zoom soccer practice, and we even had a family game night on Zoom with our kids and grandkids in California the grandkids here, and their parents in Harrisburg. Needless to say, we have not been bored.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Social Distancing Tour **May 16, 2020** **10:00AM**

Bobbi and I have been taking little cruises here and there, and want to invite you to join us.

We are planning to repeat the Delaware River Tour we did last year; down the NJ side of the river and back up the PA side on May 16 at 10:00 am (rain date May 23)

This will have to be a "safe distance" tour. Start with a full tank and empty bladder as stops along the way are not possible. Bring your CB radio if you have one and have it tuned to channel 30. I may keep Bobbi 6 feet away and put her in the rumble seat.

If you want to join us, let me know.

Contact Dick and Bobbi at 973-966-2947 for more information and to let them know that you will attend. Please note that NO RESTROOM facilities are available on this tour.



Remember When?

May 2012

Do you remember what you were doing in May of 2012? For me, 2012 was a very memorable year because after 30 years of working for Johnson & Johnson, I retired. Retirement began at the end of January 2012 and by March, I purchased a retirement present for myself, a 16 ft fishing boat, to support my other hobbies, fishing and boating. By May, I was getting accustomed to my new toy, and was making lots of visits to Lake Nockamixon with it.



From a Model A perspective, Chuck Savitske was President of the club and Dick Bettel was Vice President. Diane will never let me forget that she was the club Secretary! Peg Hardy was and still is our Treasurer.

In May of 2012, the Automatic Switch Auto Show was still being held just about in the Bettles backyard in Florham Park

N.J. At that time, members Tom Peterson, Jack and Jean LeCarl, Don and Lorraine Fox, and Tom Fritz attended



the event. This was an AACA event and judging was done for each class. Don and Lorraine Fox took first place in their class.

The Bettles graciously hosted a lunch at their house after the show.



The other event that took place that month was the Trinity Show and Shine Auto Show at the Trinity Church in Pleasant Valley PA. I met Chuck at the show. Chuck knows almost everyone in the area. He worked on what seemed like almost everyone's car at the show. After a while, Ed and June Schwartz showed up in their Tudor and Jack and Louise Martin showed up in their modern car. It was a beautiful day for a show. I started to drive off in the roadster at the end of the show, and one of the organizers flagged me down and asked me to wait for the winners to be announced. It turned out that I won a trophy for one of the top 15 cars out of the 100 cars that attended the show. I wondered if I would have done any better if I had actually washed the car!

Rebuilding Axle Housings

By Doug Pyatt

Since we are currently restricted and cannot go on any trips or drives officially, I decided to work on a few projects. When rebuilding my '29 Deluxe Delivery, it was necessary to replace my rear axle housings because the shackle bushing holes were worn out, and the wheel bearing races, both inboard and outboard, were worn too badly to be used. Suitable used housings were located and installed. I set the old housings aside for rebuilding at a later time.

These axle housings are no longer made, and rebuilding old ones is an acceptable method. Snyder's Antique Auto Parts sells rebuilt ones for about \$400 each, plus shipping, and, you must send your old housings to them first. They will send rebuilt ones from their stock after they determine that your housings can be rebuilt. So, for both sides you are looking at a minimum of \$800, plus shipping both ways. I did purchase replacement outer races from Bratton's for \$25 each for my rebuild.

I got the bug to do this from Chuck Savitske, who is working on a Model A for one of our members. Chuck needed to rebuild the outboard race on one housing which required that the old race be machined off, then a new aftermarket race can be pressed on. Since the outer race is hardened it was thought that the heat treating process needed to be reversed. This can be done using a oxy-acetylene torch to take the hardness out of the metal by heating the race to cherry red and letting it cool slowly. This removes the hardness in the steel that was put there initially making the bearing race harder/tougher and giving it a longer service life. Now, the housing can be placed in a

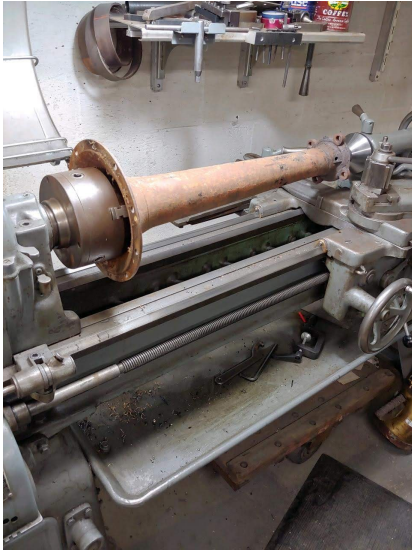
lathe. The machining of the surface can begin in order to press on a new outboard axle race.

This machining is necessary because the old surface can measure incorrectly, and also may be rusted and pitted on the bottom, as mine were. To use old pitted races would cause bearing noise coming from the rear end. Additionally, these bearing surfaces are important because they keep the axles centered, and the brake drum properly aligned with the brake shoes and backing plate -- so, new surfaces (races) are a must.

As an experiment, I only heated one of the housings that I was going to machine, and left the other housing with the original hardened surface intact for my project. I decided to compare the workability difference between the two housings. I used carbide cutting tools to cut both, and noted that the one that was heated and cooled cut much more easily. Removing the heat treating allowed deeper cuts, and it took less time to remove material. It also saves wear and tear on your tooling and lathe.

First, I removed the inner race on the banjo end of the housing. This was also worn and replaces much easier than the outer one. Once removed, the surface where the race sits provided a nice flat area to mount the housing in the lathe chuck, and it is already centered for you. The outer end that is about 30" away has to be supported with a "bullnose" live center

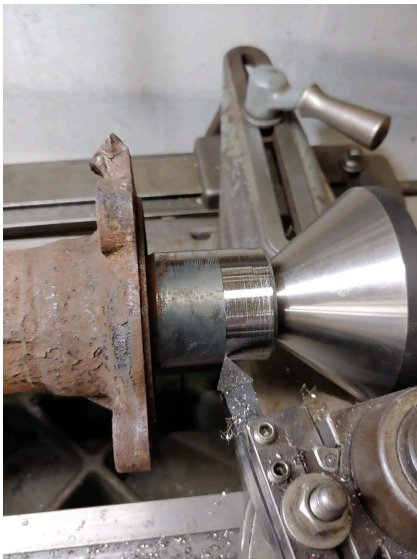
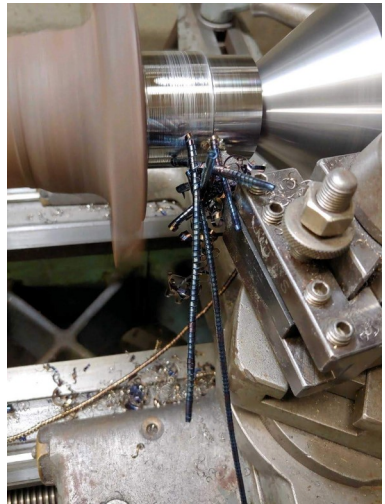




in the lathe tailstock. The pictures show this set-up in a 13" South Bend lathe. The outside diameter of the bearing race is about 2.061" diameter and needs to be machined (turned) down to about 1.6915". This will allow the new race to slip on, and be the correct size at the diameter of 2.061".

I started the machining process on the heated axle by

making a skim cut in the lathe at a medium speed. Then, a heavier cut about 1/8" deep was next until enough of the diameter was removed to press on the new



race. Upon reaching my desired diameter of 1.6915" it was time to do the second housing. This unheated and still hard race cut slower, and I could not take as deep a cut. So, what I learned is



that it is best to pre-heat bearing surface to cherry red to reduce the heat treated hardness before machining. It is no problem taking the heat treating out because the new race that you are installing is already heat treated and provides a nice new hard surface for the bearing to ride on.

Now everything is back in place and

the spring shackle bushing holes are built back up with welding. The race is installed and the unit is painted black and is ready to be installed. It was a fun project, and cost saving to boot.

My next project will be to install the interior in my '29 Phaeton. The seat springs are in and I'm just waiting for



warmer weather and sunlight to soften the fabric and other interior material.



GOTS AND WANTS



FOR SALE:

To all Running Board A's members: My friend Dan Chervenak is selling a Model A Coup for his Dad. The car is in pretty good shape, maybe a number "2". He is asking \$9,000.00 and it's negotiable. Call Dan for info and pictures (201) 317-3398. Sent in by Steve Belton. It sounds like a great Father's Day present to me! LOL



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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

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

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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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