

# The "A"nnouncer



June, 2020

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 19

Number 6

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

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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 Editor

Doug decided to yield his Presidents Message space to me in this issue of the newsletter, so here goes!

There continues to be lots of projects being worked on by members of the club during the quarantine. In addition to the ones reported on last month, Ken Nygard has been working on the dashboard of his Ford F1 pickup. I think it's the last area of his truck to be restored. There is more on this story later on in the newsletter.

The biggest (and only) event that took place in May was the social distance tour hosted by the Bettles. This was a fun day for a small group of Running Board A members and guests. More about this event later on in the newsletter.

If you missed this event, never fear, Dick and Bobbi will be doing a repeat of the 2018 Covered Bridges Tour through Bucks County with some modification. I've had a sneak preview of the tour. There will be six covered bridges crossed, a stop for a bring your own picnic lunch and ....you guessed it, ICE CREAM. You can find more details in the calendar of events.

Finally, the weather is getting nicer and things are starting to open up somewhat. If you have an idea for an event, let me know. Let's get out and DRIVE those Model A's

Dave



# Ken Nygard's Restored Ford F1 Dashboard

Our quiet, mild mannered club Secretary, Ken Nygard has been steadily working on various parts of his 1951 Ford F1 pickup. Over the spring quarantine, he has been doing various projects on his truck including redoing the body work on the front fenders to make the curves in the fenders more closely resemble the original shape. Over a period of years, Ken and worked on almost every surface of the truck. He started out by having the engine rebuilt. From there, he has moved on to working on fenders, cab exterior and various aspects of the truck bed. He has also done things like replace the gas tank and repair and replace gauges in the dash.

One area that he has not touched, until now, is the sheet metal on the dash. He finally got inspired this spring to work on the inside of the truck instead of the outside. The picture below shows the dash apart and in the middle of the sanding process.



As previously stated, he did a lot of work on the gauges, and even installed a vintage looking radio with all the newest bells and whistles on it. The gauges and radio all had to be removed again or at least masked off.

His statement to me at one point was, “Hard to know when enough sanding is enough”! I think that you will agree that he found out if enough sanding was enough by the results seen in the picture below.

Great job Ken, keep up the good work!



So what are you working on???? I'd love to hear your story.

Dave

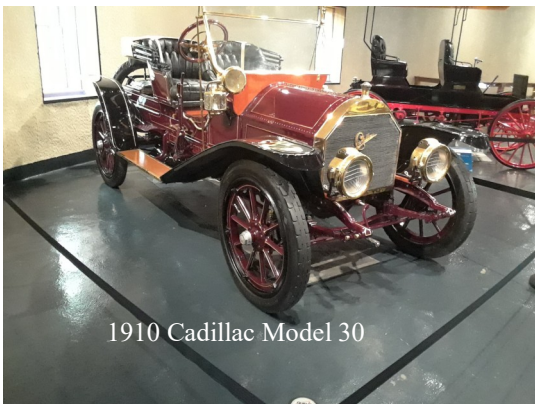
# A Road Trip Find

By Ken Nygard

When we can travel again; a stop along the way or for a destination on its own could be the **Heritage Museum & Gardens** in the town of Sandwich on Cape Cod.



We had an opportunity to visit the “Cape” last June for several days and in planning things to do I came across an article in Hemmings about an auto museum so it got added to the list along with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Cape Cod National Seashore. Both are also worth a visit!



1910 Cadillac Model 30

The Museum and Gardens was founded in 1969 by Josiah K. Lilly III of the pharmaceutical family. To say that Josiah was a collector would be an understatement. He started collecting cars in



Interior view of the Round Barn replica



1916 Simplex-Crane Model 5 Touring 1st car collected.

1964. He also collected almost anything else you can think of from art to cast miniature soldiers, to trains and carousels. And more...including custom silver castings of cars, trains and ships. Needing a place to store and display his collections, the Museum was started. It consists of several buildings each housing a different collection all connected by pathways through many gardens of exotic and native plants and trees interspersed with sculptors.

The car collection is housed in a large round stone barn, a replica of an 1826 barn found at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Cars on display sometimes rotate out of storage because even as large as it is, the collection doesn't fit on the 2 floor round display area. If it is rare it is probably here!



President Taft's White Steam Car



1917 Milburn Light Electric



1936 Cord Westchester



1925 Rickenbacker 8 Coupe

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## **Covered Bridge Tour 11 AM-Saturday, June 20, 2020**

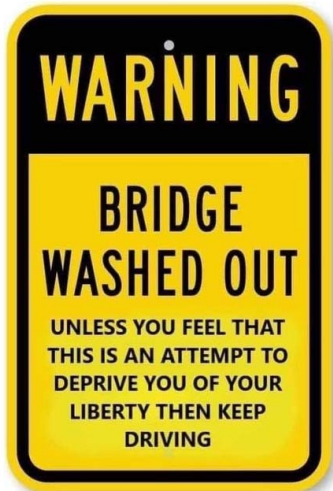
Dick and Bobbi Bettle are again doing the Covered Bridge Tour . We will start at Tincum Park in Erwinna, Tincum Township (behind the John Stover house) and visit 6 different bridges with a nice, leisurely drive through the countryside of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Our final stop will be at Owowcow Creamery in Ottsville.

Depending on the COVID 19 restrictions, we plan on having a bring your own picnic at Peace Park. Hopefully, bathroom facilities will be available by then. Please bring your chairs

(the picnic spot has a limited number of picnic tables).

Please let us know (908.354.8236 or bobbi170b@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Dick and Bobbi Bettle



# **Social Distancing Tour**

## **May 16, 2020**

### **Hosted by the Bettles**

The Bettles picked a great day to begin our touring season in the midst of a pandemic, where social distancing has become the norm. The weather was clear and sunny.

Our small group met behind the barn in Tincum Park. Those in attendance were Dick and Bobbi of course, Doug and Gail Pyatt, guests and neighbors of the Bettles, Wayne and Ivette Gardner, and me. Doug decided to bring his '29 Tudor sedan, Dick brought his '30 coupe and I had my '31 Tudor sedan. It was kind of fun to see the 3 of them lined up together so you could compare the three different years of manufacture.



To add some big time class to our tour, Wayne and Ivette attended and brought their 2018 Audi R8 10 cylinder rear engine sports car. This car looked like it was moving fast just standing still!



Above; Wayne and Ivette Gardner  
Below; Their 2018 Audi R8



The Gardners must have the patience of saints to follow a bunch of 90 year old cars doing no more than 40 mph all day.

We left the parking lot of Tinicum Park and headed north on River Road to the Frenchtown Bridge, where we crossed over the Delaware River and into N.J. We made an immediate right turn after crossing the bridge and traveled some of the back roads of Frenchtown, enjoying the sights and sounds of the river and the surrounding area.



From there, we headed out onto RT 29 in N.J. and followed the road through Stockton and then through Lambertville. We continued at a leisurely pace on Route 29 until we got to the Titusville area, where we turned off Route 29 and continued on more scenic back roads, with the river to our right and quaint neighborhoods to our left. I think we brought some smiles to some of the scores of people that we passed who were out for a walk while social distancing.

From there, we continued on through Washington Crossing State Park in N.J and then crossed over the Washington Crossing Bridge back into PA. The bridge is always a challenge even in modern cars because of the narrow nature of the bridge, and in a Model A, its even more fun because of its open grate deck. Model A's, especially with their original narrow tires, tend to



wander from side to side while crossing the bridge.

Once we crossed the bridge, we made an immediate right on Rt. 32 and headed north. We traveled a very short distance and turned into the parking lot of the Washington Crossing Park in PA., where we stopped to stretch our legs, use the facilities, and get a little something to eat. There was a lot of activity in the



park and we had a lot of questions about the cars. Everyone that came up to us was wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

From there, we continued our trek north on Rt. 32. Just outside of New Hope, we ducked down a back road that took us around the center of town and through an area of beautiful homes and farms. We then got on Rt. 232 and headed back toward the river. The lure of ice cream at Dilly's corner was too much for the Bettles and Gardners to pass up. This proved that the Gardners are definitely Model A Club member worthy, they are just driving the wrong car!

The Pyatts and I didn't succumb to the temptation of ice cream and said our good-byes over the CB radio. The Bettles hosted a great tour as usual. We thank them for that. I would also like to thank Wayne and Ivette Gardner for some of the pictures used in this article.

The next tour is the Covered Bridges Tour again hosted by the Bettles. It promises to cover even more scenic areas of Bucks County. There has already been a lot of interest in the tour according to the Bettles. We may even see those elusive Running Board A members Steve and Kathy Belton. Check out the details for this event in the Calendar of Events section of the newsletter.



# Benefits of Club Membership

I have said this many times before, but there are lots of benefits of belonging to a club if you own a Model A. Here are just two examples.

I received an email from Steve Belton a few months ago stating that his panel delivery van, which had been off the road for a while, was now back on the road, but it was stalling whenever Steve came to a stop with it. He had tried all kinds of things to fix it but was out of ideas. I put his email out to several members of the club that have helped me out and we all felt that it was a float valve issue. We proposed several ways to fix the issue, but according to Steve, a gasket under the float valve seat did the trick and solved his problem. Not bad, diagnosing by email!

My experience is the second example of the benefit of being in a Model A club. While crawling around under my roadster doing annual maintenance, (boy did I miss using Bob Outwater's lift for this), I found that I had some excess play in the steering box. This allowed the front end to wobble, especially when hitting the brakes on a rough road. I was describing my dilemma to Doug on the tour and I told him that I wasn't real confident doing adjustments to the steering box. Years ago a former member of the club tried to make adjustment to his steering box and messed it up so badly that he had to seek professional help to fix it. Doug assured me that it wasn't that bad and he felt that I could handle it. He gave me the confidence to give it a try. (Besides, I could get him to fix it if I really screwed it up)! I Took my trusty *Model A Repair Handbook* out to the garage and followed the directions step by step, and low and behold, the wobble is gone. It hasn't driven that well in years!

There are a lot of years of experience working on Model A's in this club. Don't be afraid to ask questions to get **YOUR** issues resolved. That's what being in a club is all about.

Dave

## 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:

**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

Running Board "A's"

PO Box 9

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