

The "A"nnouncer



September, 2020

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

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

Volume 19

Number 9

The Running Board “A’s” Officers

President	Doug Pyatt 1419 E. University Ave. Bethlehem, Pa. 18015 610-974-9718
Vice President/Director	Deb Daye 275 Greenfield Rd. Bridgewater, N.J. 08807 908-685-1935
Secretary	Ken Nygard 39 Holland Drive Chalfont, PA 18914 215-822-6717
Treasurer	Peggy Hardy 2012 Perilli Drive Telford PA. 18969 (215) 828-9185
Editor/Publisher	Dave Allison 108 Ervin Rd. Pipersville PA 18947 (267) 733-3708
Web Master	Dick Bettle 170 Crescent Road Florham Park, N.J. 07932 (973) 966-2947

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 relinquished his space for the President's message to me this month, so here we go!

September typically marks the end of summer, but we usually have a full calendar for the fall touring season. Tom Fritz has taken the lead on tours for September by hosting a tour of the Bridges of Hunterdon County. Look for more information in the Calendar of Events.

Over the summer, the Bettles have done a great job hosting tours while keeping everyone safe and socially distant. In the process, we have even gained a few new members. Great job guys!!!

Do you have an idea for a tour? There is still plenty of great touring weather left in the season, so if you have any ideas, let me know.

How are those Model A projects coming?? New member Mike Ulmes has been working on an electrical problem on his closed cab pickup. I know work is being done on the Model A pickup hotrod project, and more work is being done on the Model A Phaeton by a certain President. How about an update on some of those projects.

Finally, I have been taking a walk down memory lane by trying to sort out and organize our old newsletters. I even found my very first one as editor from January of 2002. Little did I know that I would still be editing it almost 20 years later.

See you down the road, Dave

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of July, 24, 2020	\$1181.49
Income	

Total Income	\$0.00
--------------	--------

Expenses

Newsletter	\$9.60
------------	--------

Total Expenses	\$9.60
----------------	--------

Balance as of August 25, 2020	\$1172.89
-------------------------------	-----------

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On the Cover: Two Tudors up close and personal at the meeting place before the Central Jersey Drive By car show. I guess I should have been more careful to social distance the cars when I parked.

LED Headlights?

One concern that many of us have while driving our 90 year old cars is the lack of brightness of our headlights and tail lights. Dim tail lights are hard to see, especially during the day, when stop lights and turn signals are being used.

There are two things that folks usually do to compensate for this. The first thing is to change the electrical system from a 6 volt positive ground system to a 12 volt negative ground system. This is relatively expensive because you need to change your generator or alternator, change out all your bulbs and add resistors so your horn and other accessories work properly without burning out.

As LED lighting technology has advanced, a simpler solution is to change your tail lights over to LED bulbs. Bulbs are now available that look original, but burn very brightly, so that even in direct sunlight, you can still clearly see stop lights and turn signals in use.

It only took one time for me to find out just how hard the original stop lights are to see. Once while on tour with the club, I heard brakes squealing behind me. I looked in the rear view mirror to see one of the other club members sliding to a halt just behind me. Luckily his brakes were in good shape and he stopped before we kissed bumpers.

That got me thinking what would happen if I was the last one in line, or out by myself. Could Joe General Public see me in time? I decided then and there to put

LED tail lights in both cars. They work great and I have even had compliments on how bright they are, so I know I can be seen. It may not help if I have someone behind me texting or talking on a cell phone, but at least I have a fighting chance.

LED technology has been a little slower coming to headlights, especially for antique cars. Many of us don't drive our Model A's at night anyway, but I have had occasion to drive after dark when coming home from an all day event, and I have driven after dark while attending banquets for national or regional Model A events. It's especially fun to do on unfamiliar roads where you can't see far enough ahead to anticipate turns and stops.

LED headlight technology has now caught up to tail light technology and there are now LED headlight bulbs for your Model A. Imagine being able to actually see ahead as well as you can in your modern car while driving your Model A!

I noticed that a few of the Model A parts vendors are starting to offer these LED bulbs, but I was not enamored with the price. I started to do a little research on the internet and found a company that offers the bulbs for a much more reasonable price. The link to the website is here. <https://www.ledlight.com/led-headlight-5-to-30-volt-ba15d-dual-filament-non-polarized.aspx>.

I am going to order a set of bulbs for each of my cars,. If you are interested, I will do a large order for the club and save a little on a quantity discount and maybe even get free shipping to boot. The price is \$16 per bulb plus tax, and may be cheaper depending on how many more we order. Please let me know

by September 30th if you are interested. I will be placing the order on October 1, so don't be left out in the dark. I think this will make our Model A driving experience that much more enjoyable.

Dave



A Little Pandemic Humor

From John Leydon

Note what is says in the windshield!!





Peg Hardy underwent surgery on July 31. She is back on her feet and her recovery is going great. I'm sure a card or phone call would be most appreciated!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hunterdon County Bridge Tour Friday, September 4, 2020

While you all know that Pennsylvania has a large number of covered bridges, I'll bet you didn't know that New Jersey has an enormous number of historic bridges. In fact, Hunterdon County has one of the largest number of old and historic metal truss bridges in the entire country for any single county and they have a good preservation track record as well. Don't worry, this tour won't even attempt to go over all of them. It will concentrate on some of the bridges between Stockton and Flemington and will visit around 10 of those bridges.

The tour will also go over the one and only covered bridge in the state of NJ. In fact, you will not only get to see the inside of this bridge but will also get to see all of it's exterior as we drive past it on an adjacent (non-historic) bridge during the tour. For those interested in bridge architecture, this bridge uses a Queenpost truss design rather than the lattice truss design commonly used on the Pennsylvania bridges.

Included on the tour are three through truss iron bridges, one of which may be the most beautiful through truss bridges you'll ever see. If you're into bridges, this bridge uses Phoenix columns, making it somewhat rare.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

As always, members of the Running Board A's are free to drive whatever they want. If you want to invite friends to join the tour, that is fine, but I'd like to add one restriction. Non-Running Board A members will be restricted to driving pre-World War II cars. The last tour that was open to everyone was too large to manage. If interested please let Tom know that you are going by contacting him at 908 580-0502.

Tour Date	Friday, September 4th
Meeting Place	Tinicum Park at the usual spot near the bathrooms
Departure Time	10:30
Lunch	At a local park. Bring your own food

For those with smart phones, the directions may be viewed through MapQuest (if you don't have it, it's a free app that you can download). The route is available at <http://mapq.st/2XIS6jr>. I haven't dry run it yet, so the route may change.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

Belvidere Victorian Days Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 13, 2020

It appears that the Victorian Days Auto Show is also a go for this year. The antique car show is on Saturday September 12. The cost of registration is \$20 day of show. The show is held around the Garret D. Wall Park in Belvidere, NJ. Check out their [website](#) for more information.



Central Jersey Drive By Car Show

The NJ AACA (American Automobile Club of America) was asked by one of the central New Jersey 55+ Active Adult Communities if they thought they could pull a few cars together for a drive by car show on Friday August 21.

Dick and Bobbi Bettle are part of the AACA group, so since they opened their covered bridge tour to the AACA group, it was only fitting that they invite the Running Board A's to this event.

Doug and I were up for the challenge, but on the day of the show, Bobbi was not. Feeling a little under the weather, the Bettles understandably decided to stay home for the event. We hope Bobbi is now well and has made a quick recovery.



Doug and I met at the Frenchtown bridge, and with Google directions and GPS in hand, Doug and I navigated our way across N.J. to the meeting point for the cars at Colonial Park, parking lot G, in Somerset N.J. It was a beautiful ride across Rt 12, then just a short hop on Rt 202 and finally on scenic back roads to our destination. It took us about an hour to get there, and as we arrived, Tom Fritz and Deb Daye pulled in too.



Doug and I had probably come the farthest and we were in some of the oldest cars in the event. There was another Model A Coupe, but it was hot rodded, so it doesn't count.

There were lots of muscle cars as well as cars from the late '40's, '50's and '60's. There were probably 50 cars that had gathered for the parade.



At 10:45 a representative from the Canal Walk Active Adult community led us from the parking lot to the facility. We drove through the gate onto the main street of the facility and were greeted by hundreds of people of all ages in lawn chairs by the side of the road waiting for us to go by.



We drove by slowly enough that some people were asking us questions about the cars. Most folks wanted to know how old they were or what year they were.



One lady was so surprised to hear that they are around 90 years old, that she yelled back to me, "They are older than me!"

Our horns got a lot of exercise and people really seemed to love hearing them! There is nothing like a long AHOOOOOOOOGA to get waves and high fives from the crowd. (I think we had the coolest horns out of ALL the cars).

The slow speed had me a little concerned about overheating. Neither of my cars likes parades and both have overheated in them.

You may be able to see in the picture on the next page that my motometer was starting to creep up about half way through the parade, but the



temperature never got into the danger zone, so I was quite happy about that.

After going down the main street of the community, we circled the square in the center of the community and headed back out the way we came with more waves, horns and questions.

From there it was on to the next facility. The other one was just a mile or two down the road from the Canal Walk. Somerset Woods is a nursing home and skilled care facility. When we arrived, many of the residents were lined up in their wheel chairs outside of the facility to wave and cheer us on.

We did a lap around the building and then we were done. Dick and Bobbi gave us directions for another tour that they had planned going up and down the Millstone River, but Doug and I decided to save that for another day when the Bettles could join us.



Doug decided to head over to the NJ Live Steamers club, of which he is a member, and I just retraced my route and headed home.

It was a leisurely drive back through central N.J and then back through Frenchtown and finally home. To my knowledge there were no issues with our three cars, except that when I got home I realized that my odometer stopped working.....again. I've already bored you with a story about repairing it, so you can look it up again if you are interested in how to fix it.

Thanks to Dick and Bobbi for inviting us along for the ride. It was a fun day and it gave the cars a lot of good exercise. I think the residents of both facilities appreciated seeing the cars.

Next up, Tom Fritz and the Hunterdon County Bridge Tour.

Dave



**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

Hilltown PA. 18927-9721

First Class Mail