

# The "A"nnouncer



July, 2021

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 20

Number 7

# 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.**

## **View Behind the Wheel**

This month was a good month to get in the Model A and go. I did miss the “Raise Your A” event since it was limited in number of attendees, and I thought it would be good to make way for others to have a chance. I understand it all went well.

The Springtown car show is always interesting, and Chuck Savitske was planning on taking his beautiful Hot Rod. I could not attend because I was touring the Virginia Transportation Museum in Roanoke. They had lots of classic cars, as well as steam locomotives to explore.

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to next month. July is always a blast!  
Take care.

See you in the Fast Lane,  
Doug Pyatt

\$

## Treasurer's Report

Balance as of May 20, 2021	\$1386.49
Income	
Total Income	\$0.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$9.60
Total Expenses	\$9.60
Balance as of June 25, 2021	\$1376.89

Respectfully Submitted

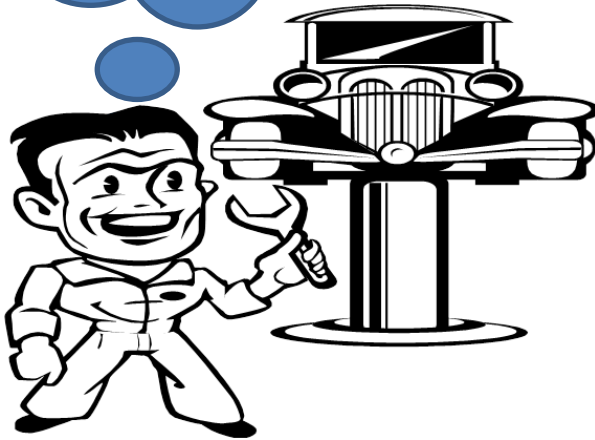
Margaret Hardy

\$

### **On the Cover:**

An original 1932 Model B Woody Wagon seen at the Silver Creek Athletic Association Car Show on Fathers Day, June 20. See the related article later on in the newsletter.

I'm hoping I'm finally "off the hook" for tying up the lift today says Tom F.  
THINK AGAIN: Shackles trump frame work every time...



## Raise Your "A" Day (or as some may prefer, "Up Your "A" Day")

Bob & Bernadette Outwater's Garage

**10 AM-Saturday, June 12, 2021**

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Raise Your "A" Day returned to the Outwater Garage. It's too bad more of our club members didn't take advantage of the opportunity to check out their Model As and say hello to friends. Sorry to say but new members missed out even more. As they say in the old west, "you can lead a horse to water, but you

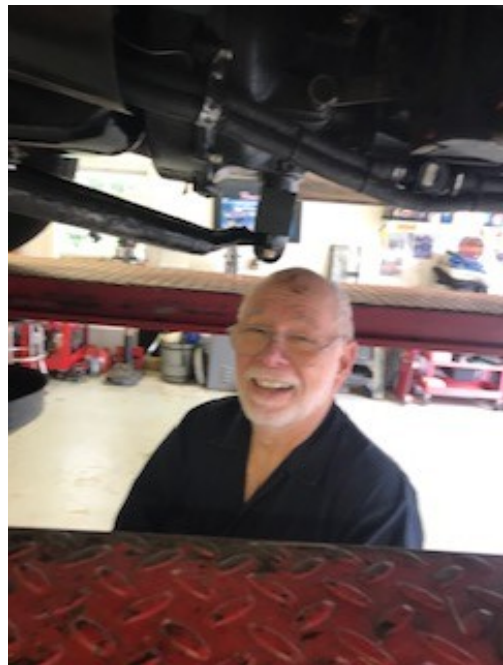


can't make him or her drink".

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, Tom Fritz, Debbie Daye, Dick Bettel, Chuck and Debbie Savitske and two guests, Bob Daurenheim and Paul Fiedler attended along with the 2021 cicadas who entertained us all day long with the melody of maracas and what

sounded like an incessantly ringing telephone! The last time they visited was 2004 and the next time will be 2038! So, mark your calendar for their next performance.

As usual everyone got their turn to use the lift to grease their trusty Model A Fords, check fluid levels, adjust tire





pressure, and confirm everything was in good shape for the 2021 touring season. Our club members are willing and ready to point out all the things they see as potential or real problems, often leading to lively debates and many very funny exchanges among our trusty Model A mechanics. Dick Bettle introduced us to his “new” Balkamp (old Napa Brand

name) alignment machine for checking for toe in /toe out. It’s amazing how well old machinery works.

Bernadette would like to thank Bobbi and Dick Bettle for the beautiful double bouquet of flowers. That was such a wonderful surprise and very much appreciated!



This event is always a fun time with a practical purpose, ensuring that our beloved Model A’s are safe to drive. Thanks to all for making it a really great and fun day.

Bob and Bernadette

# Silver Creek Athletic Association Fathers Day Car Show June 20, 2021

The Silver Creek Athletic Association, Fathers Day Car Show was very well attended with over 440 show cars in attendance. RBA member Chuck Savitske and I were in attendance with a host of Chuck's friends and relatives. It's always fun to go with Chuck to local car shows because he knows **EVERYONE!**

The weather was sunny and quite warm. There was an incident where a couple of spectators were almost hit by a falling ash tree branch. Luckily no one was hurt, but the show car that was under the branch did sustain a dent in the fender. Just a word to the wise, if you attend a car show, look up before you park to make sure there are no dead tree branches above you. Below and on the next page are some of the vehicles seen at the car show.



Chuck's Model A Hot Rod



Chuck's cousin Charlie's  
1956 wrecker





My '31 Roadster



All original  
1932 Model  
B Woody  
Wagon



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Flemington Cruise Nights**

Park on the Main Street of Flemington N.J. (if you can find a space) beginning at 4:00 PM every other Saturday and enjoy all that Flemington has to offer. The cruise takes place every other Saturday beginning on July 3rd and continues through the month of July on the 17th and 31st of July. For more information, click [here](#).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Das Awkscht Fescht

Saturday August 7, 2021

Memorial Park

Macungie PA.

We will meet at the WAWA on Route 663 just outside of Quakertown at 9:00AM. From there, Ken Nygard will lead us to the show field in Macungie.

Keep in mind that if you plan to show your car, you must be pre-registered by July 1. You can download a registration form [here](#). If you were registered for last year's show, which was canceled, you may already be registered for the 2021 show if you chose to roll over your registration. If you are unsure of your status with registration you can use the "[contact us](#)" form to check your status.

If you plan to attend, please contact Ken by August 5 at 215-822-6717 or 267-893-0638 , or [kanygard@msn.com](mailto:kanygard@msn.com) to let him know that you will attend.

# **Our trip to the MARC meet in Oshkosh, WI**

Article and Photos by: Tim & Kathy Litzenberger

We had signed up for this meet in 2019, but it was canceled for 2020 due to Covid. The meet was re-scheduled for the second week of June this year. Our first major event since Covid hit and it was a great feeling to be out for a long adventure!

In mid-May I started to get the A ready for the 2000 mile round trip. I had ordered new Stipe shocks last September and received them late January. I also bought a used two post lift last September and spent the winter months cleaning out my barn to make room to install the lift. The lift was ready to go and I installed the shocks for the first project. This was my first time using a lift to work on the A. It took some engineering to figuring out the height of the risers to use for the correct clearance for running boards etc. I also had to loosen and slide out of the way the heat shield I made for over the muffler. More on that later!

The car was on the lift. I grabbed the front bumper, then the rear bumper and gave it a shake up and down to make sure the car was securely on the lift. I was good to go! I was going to remove the left front tire first. Before I did, I shook it left to right and top to bottom. That's when I found out why the car recently seemed to wander more than I was accustomed to. I seemed to be always correcting the steering on our early spring tours. When moving the tire left/right I saw that the pitman arm was loose on the shaft. The pinch bolt must have stretched. Tightening it up did the trick. To make a long story short the four shocks were replaced, front wheel bearings re-

packed, brakes adjusted and a tire rotation was done. During the shock install I found a broken spring in the right front shock link. The car was now ready for the trip.

We left for Oshkosh on the first day of June. When we were about 10 miles from our first night stay in Clarion, PA a thought came to me that I never retightened the heat shield back into place! I never heard it fall off or rattle. WOW! I hoped it was still there. After arriving at the motel, I drove the cars right front tire up on the curb to crawl under the car. Lucky for me, it was still there lodged against the frame. I gave it a few taps with a hammer and tightened it with a screw driver. The maintenance was complete and the car was finally ready for the rest of the trip.

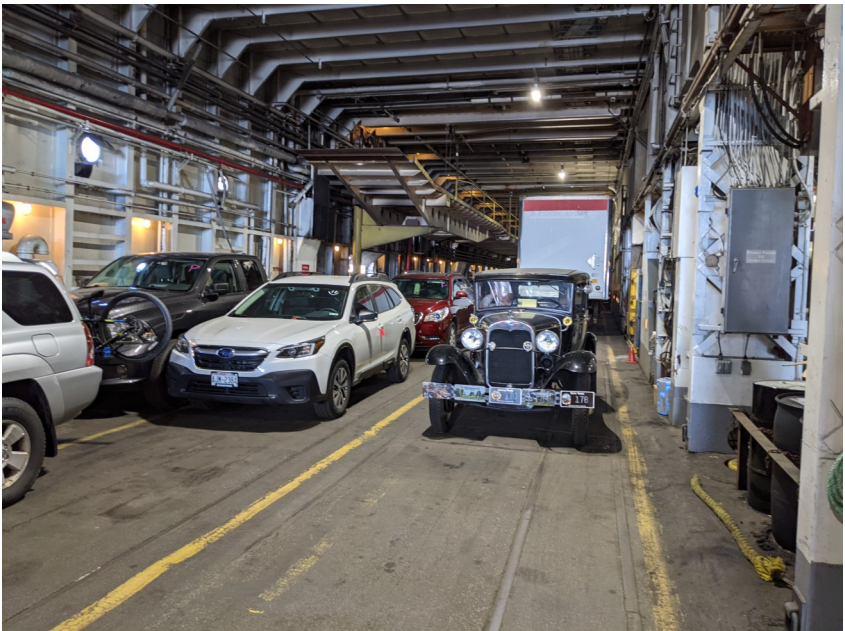
On the second of June and we were finally out of PA. We stayed overnight in Perrysburg, OH near Toledo. On the third day we drove thru Indiana and then north to Holland, MI. The fourth day was a leisurely

day of touring in Holland, MI. We visited a windmill that was relocated from Holland and restored to working order under the supervision of the Dutch Government. We also visited Nelis' Dutch Village. This was an excellent presentation of Dutch culture. Having been to Holland in Europe twice, I can vouch for its authenticity. The entire village included many demonstrations. The history on



how and why wooden shoes were created and are still made and worn today, was very interesting. We also stopped at the cheese market. If you decide to someday visit this Dutch Village, you should plan to go when the tulips are in bloom!! After a two hour ride from Holland, MI we arrived in Ludington, MI for an overnight stay.

On the fifth day we crossed Lake Michigan on the SS Badger Ferry, a restored historic steam powered ferry built in 1952. We arrived at the dock in Ludington, MI by 8 AM for a 9 AM departure. Arriving at the dock a man walked a trained German Sheppard around our car sniffing for drugs, etc. Next a woman asked our name and gave us instructions. She told me to pull the car up and park it, leave it unlocked and the keys in and an employee will drive it on the ferry. I told her I did not think that was a good idea. Do they know how to start/drive a Model A? She said if it made me feel any better, I could sit in the passen-



ger seat and give instructions. I said I still didn't think that was a good idea. Proceeding to the parking area, another woman came out and told me that my vehicle will be the last one to board, the first one to leave the ferry and I that would drive the car on and off myself. I really liked that idea!!

At noon central time we arrived in Manitowoc, WI. It was another 2 ½ hour drive to Oshkosh. A few miles out of town I realized Wisconsin looks today like Pennsylvania did when I was growing up. Their country sides are mostly farmland! There are mostly fields of growing corn and a few fields of soy beans. When we arrived in Oshkosh, there were about 185 Model A cars at the meet. Almost 300 members were registered. Seventeen A's were entered in fine point judging. Over 20 were entered in the touring class. Many events and bus tours were canceled due to Covid. Most of our time was spent on self-driven tours. One highlight was meeting up with an old army buddy and his wife who live in Wisconsin. We spent the whole day reminiscing and enjoying the sights. We toured the Air Museum which was open and well worth the visit. There were many WWII planes displayed along with their history. I would give the museum a high mark for presentation and content. One item I found interesting at the meet was the new five main bearing redesigned Model A engine on display by Burtz. A lot of thought has gone into this design. It looks well done. I think he is going to sell a lot of them for the people who love to tour or drive at a faster speed! You get a machined block, crank, rods and cam shaft. You supply all other components and build the engine to your needs. At the farewell dinner, Kathy received the award for "oldest female Model A driver." The award for who drove their A the furthest went to a man from Califor-

nia. There were numerous Henry awards given in the fine point judging. I think one has to score at least 470 points out of a possible 500 to get a Henry award.

It was time to start the four day journey home. When we crossed with the ferry the first time we were the only Model A. On the return trip there were 13 A's. In the photo you can see we were parked in a way that allowed us to get off first again. I like that driving the A finally got me to the head of the line! We spent nine days on the road, the car ran great! The weather was fantastic! There was only one day of drizzle on day two of the trip. We only had to wear a mask the first five days entering the motels. After that no masks required if vaccinated! Come on PA let's get with it!



My final comment is I never in my life saw so many “Help Wanted” signs posted everywhere. There were large highway billboards, electronic billboards and every business had signs on their doors wanting help. This was seen in all five states and walk-in interviews were available as well!

*Thanks to Tim and Kathy for the article. Model A's can certainly hold up to a 2000 mile road trip.*

*Dave*



Happy Fourth of  
July





**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