

The "A"nnouncer



August, 2021

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

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

Volume 20

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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

There wasn't any Model A activity for me during the month of July, but I did manage to go steamboating in Vermont for 10 days. We cruised Otter Creek and Lake Champlain with 15 other steamboats, and had a lot of fun.

While there, during a rainy day, I went to a used book store and looked around in the transportation section for anything on old cars or boats. The owner directed my attention to a paperback that was published in 1951 on Henry Ford, titled "We Never Called Him Henry." It was the musings of a Ford executive named Harry Bennett, who went to work for Ford after mustering out of the U.S. Navy in 1916. This book is fairly hard to find; because it is not a flattering portrait of Henry, the Ford family purchased all of the copies of this book that they could find and had them destroyed. A lucky find for me!

Harry didn't appear to have many formally trained skills, but was "good in a fight." According to Harry, he worked for Ford for 30 years, becoming closer to him than Ford's own son. This placed him in position to learn Henry Ford's true beliefs and personality traits, like "never give anything without strings attached to it," and many more such tenets.

Both men, along with Ford's personal driver, traveled each day armed with pistols. There were even holsters fixed in the car with two more guns to provide extra fire-power. Having just traveled to Vermont and back safely (unarmed), I thought a lot about the difference 100 years makes!

I'm very happy to see that today we can drive our dependable Model A's devoid of fear (for the most part). Of course, one should always avoid areas that appear to be unfriendly and unsafe to us, and we should be on our best behavior on the road and elsewhere -- two simple rules that if followed, will yield a fine traveling season.

Next stop is Das Awkscht Fescht, and the only danger there could be a little too much ice cream...

See you in the Fast Lane

,Doug Pyatt

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 25, 2021	\$1376.89
Income	
Total Income	\$0.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$9.60
Total Expenses	\$9.60
Balance as of July 25, 2021	\$1367.29

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On the Cover:

11 year old Brinley getting ready to enjoy a ride in Grandpa's Model A Roadster.

Car Rally European Style

Article and Photos By John Leydon

Editors Note: With the heat and rainy weather in this part of the country, there has not been a lot of activities for our club. I thought you might enjoy the story of a European Road Rally experienced and written by RBA member John Leydon.

As some of you know, I belong to a couple of European vintage auto clubs (*Le Cercle Pégase* in France and the *Amilcar Register* in the UK). Both of these are centered around the care and feeding of the 1920s French Amilcar, although both clubs welcome its two prime French competitors - Bugatti and Salmson of the same era (1920-30s). In addition to local and regional rallies and races, once every few years the *Cercle Pégase* puts on an international meet (mostly pan-European - although occasionally the Aussies and the Kiwis will send a contingent). The last one I was able to attend (as co-pilot with my French doctor friend, Alain, and his 1925 Amilcar CGS - see photo) was to La Rochelle - Île de Ré - Cognac on the Atlantic coast of France in 2017. The international meet is open to all European "cyclecars" of the



1920s and early '30s, which is why you will see a smattering of 3-wheel Morgans, MGs, Renaults, Delage, BNCs, etc. The rally this year in Vichy, France -

about four hours south of Paris - was a bit special, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Amilcar marque. Alas, due to the pandemic and its travel restrictions on the continent, the Brits, Spanish and the Aussies couldn't make it. But the



French decided to go ahead and take the chance they could pull it off with just themselves, Germans, Austrians, Swiss and the Low Countries in attendance (110 showed up). Alain and I made it thru to the 4th day and then crapped out (magneto problems) but it was a heckofa ride. About 1,160 km through some of the most beautiful countryside imaginable. The



French, of course, are not known for skimping on luxury, which is why you see a lot of shots of banquets at chateaux, black-tie affairs at the Opera House, etc. Navigating a rally circuit in a narrow 96 year old chariot at 95kph with no passenger windshield,





squinting thru goggles, takes a little concentration, which is why you will see few camera 'action shots' of cars careening around corners in classic French country villages. But trust me; there were plenty of those. Most of the cars - including ours - are sport models and we just

keep up as best we can and enjoy the ride. Some - the Amilcar C6s, BNCs and the Type 30s Bugattis - would race each other around us in great shows of testosterone on the straight-aways. That, too, is part of the vintage sport/racing auto schtick.



For context, the Amilcar is the buggy I and my two brothers, Ed and Chris, restored as teens (we each had to build a car from scratch before father would allow us to drive - and he had hidden away a bunch of Amilcars in North Carolina tobacco barns to save

them from being melted down for the war effort).

They still live on ... although long since cashed in for mortgages, tuition, etc. Photo # 19 is identical to my 1929 CGSs and a couple of other photos (#s





13, 37) are of the actual C6 brother Chris restored and eventually sold to build his and Rita's dream manse in

the mountains of Colorado. It was wonderful to see it out-and-about, with its new owner and his daughter. (Don't know why the photo order always gets scrambled in the sending, but go by the numbers). The rest of my month in France was charming old friends, few tourists, sparsely attended museums and the occasional surprise American welcomed! Wonderful while it lasts.





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 to let him know that you will attend.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

55th Annual Duryea Day Saturday September 4, 2021 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Boyertown PA

I plan to attend this event. If you would like to join me, please meet at the WAWA on Route 663 just outside of Quakertown PA at 9:00 AM. From there, we will travel to Boyertown and the show. Preregistration forms can be obtained [here](#). Registration before August 27 is \$12. The day of show registration is \$20.

This show is held in a beautiful shaded park with lots of vendors. Food is also available at the show, and there is usually a bus to take you to the museum if you would like make a visit during the day.

Please call or text me at 267-733-3708, or email me at dalliso@mail.ptd.net if you plan to attend.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Delaware Valley

Volunteer Fire Company

Annual Fall Car Show

Sunday, September 26, 2021

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Day of Show Registration \$15

Rain Date October 3rd, 2021

Door prizes, 50/50 raffles and food available. Trophies for various categories awarded. Cars are judged by show participants. All proceeds benefit the Del Val Volunteer Fire Company. For more information click [here](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Polo in the Park
Tinicum Park PA
Saturday October 2,
2021 12:45 PM

Join the Allison's at Tinicum Park for the last Polo match of the season by the Tinicum Polo Club. We will meet at Delaware Valley Fire Department, 75 Headquarters Rd., Erwinna PA, at 12:45. We will then travel as a group to the park when the gates open at 1:00 PM. We will be able to park right next to the field, set up our chairs and munch on snacks etc for the duration of the match. The match lasts in total of about an hour and a half to two hours. The entry fee is \$10 per car. This should be a fun way to spend the afternoon, watching some of the best Polo on the east coast and socializing next to all the action. If you want to brush up on your Polo rules and etiquette, check out [Polo Life Magazine](#).

If you plan to attend, contact Dave and Diane Allison by phone, text, or email at 267-733-3708 or at dalliso@mail.ptd.net by Friday October 1.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Other Events in the Works

Road Kill Rally

Club Business Meeting

Holiday Club Party

If you have an event that you would like to add to the calendar of events, please let me know. Generally the more notice you give, the more participation you have.

Activities Build Membership.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022 MARC National Meet Morgantown PA

June 5 to 11, 2022

**Hosted by the North Penn Model
A Ford Club.**

The MARC National Meet will be held almost in our back yard at the Classic Car Museum in Morgantown PA. For more information, click [here](#) to go to the MARC website for more information. There is hotel information and more at the MARC website. It's not too often that we have a national event just about in our back yard, so lets take advantage of it.



Those Red Jammers of Glacier National Park

In July, we had the opportunity to visit Glacier National Park, with our whole family. We flew to Kalispell Montana with our daughter, son-in-law and two grandkids from Harrisburg and met our son, daughter-in-law and two grandkids who drove in from California.

We knew the park would be crowded and were even able to obtain the newly instituted park entry pass to gain access to the park.

The park is beautiful and one of the best ways to see it is to let someone else do the driving. We decided to get tickets on one of the Red Jammer Buses that are famous in Glacier National Park.



It was a great way to see the park by way of the Going to the Sun Highway. The road was opened in 1932 to the public and links the east side and the west side of the park by crossing the Continental Divide. The scenery that can be taken in by traveling on this road is truly breathtaking, especially if you are afraid of

heights.

The “jammers” have been traveling the road since 1936. They are 1936 to 1938 White tour busses. They can fit about 25 people



and have a soft top that can open to give an even greater view of the area. There are 33 buses in operation today.

As you can imagine, there is a fair amount of upkeep to keep these vehicles on the road and over the years, they have gone through a number of total restorations. As anyone knows who drives a Model A, synchronized transmissions were not very common back in the 1930's, so these busses got the name “jammers” due to the jamming of gears during shifting.

The latest restoration to these vehicles was done at no cost to the park, by the Ford Motor Company. The chassis that Ford used was actually one that they developed for the UHaul corporation. It still didn't fit the jammers perfectly, so the chassis also had to be stretched somewhat for a perfect fit. Gone are the mechanical brakes and under powered engines. These vehicles now have all the amenities, power brakes, power steering, and they even incorporated hybrid electric technology into the busses. A far cry from the original chassis, but believe me the more technology, the better when traveling this road.

The driver even passes around some pictures of some of the other tour busses used in the park prior to the jammers.



I think you'll agree that if you make the trip the smiles make the "jammer" a worth while experience for everyone.





**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