

# The "A"nnouncer



December, 2021

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

[www.RunningBoardAs.com](http://www.RunningBoardAs.com)

Volume 20

Number 12

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

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- |                         |                                                                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President               | Doug Pyatt<br>1419 E. University Ave.<br>Bethlehem, Pa. 18015<br>610-974-9718  |
| Vice President/Director | Deb Daye<br>275 Greenfield Rd.<br>Bridgewater, N.J. 08807<br>908-685-1935      |
| Secretary               | Ken Nygard<br>39 Holland Drive<br>Chalfont, PA 18914<br>215-822-6717           |
| Treasurer               | Peggy Hardy<br>2012 Perilli Drive<br>Telford PA. 18969<br>(215) 828-9185       |
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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 From Behind the Wheel

Well, another year is ending, and a good year it was! Perhaps not as good as other years, considering all of the obstacles we faced, but we made the best of it, for sure. We managed to put on or attend some of our usual fine events, like Das Awkscht Fescht, Raise Your “A” Day, and the Roadkill Rally, along with several countryside jaunts that Dick and Bobbie hosted.

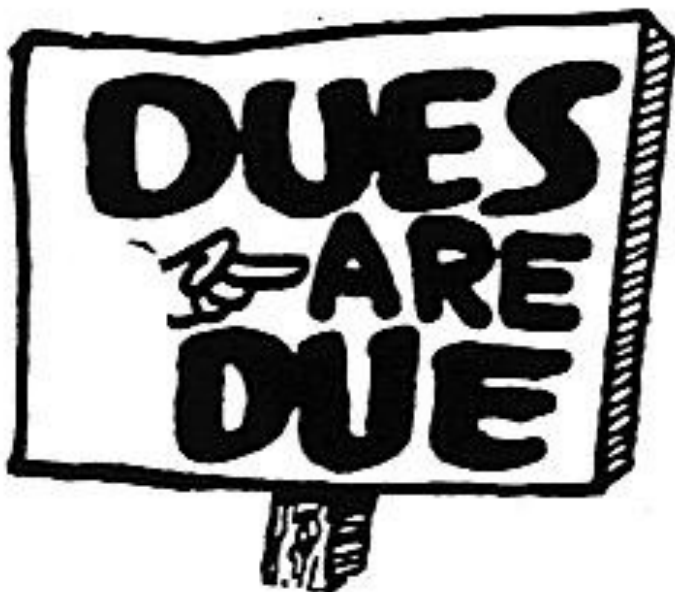
A “running” theme to our events is teamwork – we work together toward the common goal of fully enjoying our automobiles, be they Model A’s or other types of vintage cars. The all-important Raise Your “A” day kicks off the touring season with oil changes and safety checks on our autos, and all participants offer their opinions and suggestions while the cars are on the lift, thus maximizing the experience and knowledge of our “A” enthusiasts.

Teamwork was front and center during the scavenger hunt drive of the recent Roadkill Rally - a fallen tree was completely blocking one road on the route. Did we turn back? NO! As the drivers and passengers walked down to the obstacle, discussing and attempting different methods of removal, we eventually settled on sheer person-power to move the tree off of the road. Challenge met via teamwork! What shall we do next? We have time to think about the coming year and prepare some suggestions for the Planning Meeting in March. Perhaps a trip that is a few days long, or a group car build? Something to maintain our camaraderie and success in group endeavors, to prove that outstanding is normal activity for the Running Board A’s.

Thanks for letting me serve as your President for the past two years, and please welcome our new leader Tom Fritz. Tom has experience and creativity to bank on, and I’m sure he will do a fine job – with your help!

See you in the fast lane,  
Doug Pyatt





Dues are due **NOW** and  
are still only \$15.00

Make checks payable to:  
Running Board A's

Please mail them to:  
Running Board A's  
PO Box 9  
Hilltown, PA. 18927-9721



## *Welcome New Members*

**Bill McCarthy**

**3425 Glengariff Lane**

**Rieglesville, PA. 18077**

**RESMILLWORK@gmail.com**

**&**

**Dennis Peters,**

**332 Franklin Street**

**Quakertown, PA 18951**

**267-374-4856**

**dpeters15@verizon.net**

# **Running Board A's Business Meeting Minutes October 30, 2021 Road Kill Rally**

- Meeting was called to order by President Doug Pyatt at 2:30 p.m.
- Attendance: 21 members were in attendance. Roster attached to the printed copy of minutes.
- Minutes from the November 16, 2019 meeting were read and approved. (There was no 2020 meeting due to the Covid 19 pandemic)
- Treasurer Peg Hardy gave the current balance after all expenses to date as \$1,339.29. Report was approved.
- Old Business: There was no old business requiring any actions.
- New Business:
  - Website – Hemming's is no longer sponsoring free website support for car clubs. Dick Bettle has migrated our site to a different sponsor but there is an annual fee. Motion was made and approved to reimburse Dick for the fee and pay the fee in future years. Approximate annual cost \$50 - \$60. The new site address is [www.runningboardAs.com](http://www.runningboardAs.com)

Holiday party: A discussion was held regarding feasibility for this year. Frenchtown Inn is unable to host due to lack of staff. They suggested the Narrows on PA Rt. 32. Doug made contact and they were available to host the event. After more discussion it was decided by voice vote to not hold the holiday party this year due to Covid concerns.

Alternative to the Holiday Party: Bobbie Sliker and Carl Weissman proposed and offered to host

an outdoor picnic during the summer as a social event to take the place of the event. Their offer was enthusiastically accepted. Details to follow. Election of officers for 2022: The following were nominated and accepted by unanimous vote for each office except as noted.

- President: Tom Fritz      1 opposing vote by the candidate
- Vice President: Debbie Day
- Secretary: Ken Nygard
- Treasurer: Peg Hardy

Expenses for the Road Kill Rally: A motion was made to give Chuck \$100 as a partial payment to help cover the expenses of hosting this event as this event has costs and he has hosted for many years. The motion was approved. More discussion regarding this and other events followed.

Expenses for other events: Though a formal motion was not made, the group voiced support of an informal “Pass the hat” at the host’s option to help cover expenses for events.

Good of the order:

Newsletter: Dave’s continued hard work as editor was noted and thanks expressed. It was asked that everyone should contribute and support the newsletter. If anyone is interested in helping Dave directly as an “Assistant” or “Apprentice” editor they should contact Dave.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Ken Nygard

# New Running Board A's Website

**[www.RunningBoardA's.com](http://www.RunningBoardA's.com)**

Our webmaster, Dick Bettle, works quietly behind the scenes, maintaining and updating our website. This year, he was informed that Hemmings will no longer host websites, so Dick scrambled to find a new place to host our website.

Why is this important? All of our newsletters are archived on the website, so if you accidentally (or intentionally) delete a newsletter and want information, you can just go on the website and pull it up. The calendar of events is also maintained there.

We have also gotten new members from reading our website and filling out the online application.

In this day and age, websites are an important communication tool for any organization.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Right now our calendar of events is pretty anemic. You may have noticed that our holiday party is not going to occur for the second year in a row because of Covid.

If you have an event, or even an idea for an event that you would like to suggest, please let me know. Driving events are always good. Indoor events are doable, especially if you stipulate that attendees have to be vaccinated and/or wear a mask.

Diane and I are discussing the best way to hold the annual planning meeting in March. Rest assured that there will be a planning meeting!

In the meantime, put those thinking caps on and lets get some events on the calendar.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, April 24, 2022 • 9 am to 3 pm**  
**Trexlerstown, PA**

*Lehigh Valley Model "A" Club Presents*

**the STEVE RYAN**  
*Model A/AA Show & Swap*

**Stock or Original Model A Ford and Era Equipment Only**



# *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 backyard 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 backyard, so let's take advantage of it.



# 2021 Road Kill Rally

Article and Photos by  
Ken Nygard

Chuck and Debbie Savitske did it once again! It was another fantastic day touring through beautiful back roads in the Hellertown area followed by the ever amazing Road Kill meal and the many delicious desserts and sides provided by the club members.

The party started Thursday with several of us helping Chuck clean up and help rearrange and convert his shop into Road Kill Central.



(Actually, it started sooner with Chuck moving around his many cars and equipment to make space to provide the correct ambiance for the event.)

The weather forecast for Saturday was mixed at best and Friday and Friday night

saw heavy wind driven rain throughout the area. Saturday dawned with a mix of sun and clouds, light breezes and mild temperatures. A perfect fall day!

The group gathered shortly after 10:00 a.m. and under Debbie's dictatorship (errr...leadership) the first cars got going on the rally route shortly after 10:30.

Shortly into the drive several club members coordinated moving a fallen tree from the road so the rest of the gang had a trouble-free pas-





sage for the remainder of the trek.

The route featured lots of colorful scenery, the leaves were at their peak. If there is a single descriptive word for the rally, it would be hills. Lots of hills, with lots of curvy gravel roads. Perfect for old cars. We

provided quite a parade for neighbors cleaning up after the previous day's wind and rain.

One noteworthy point along the route was a perfect view of the barn on the original Savitske farm (I think I have this right...) where Chuck's Great Grandfather settled.

On returning, our test papers were graded and all passed with flying colors! Then Debbie led a round of a Trivia game based on famous duos, trios, and quartets from years past. The knowledge of some of us was amazing.

Next of course, was food. Lot's of food. We lived up to our reputations as hearty eaters and lovers of dessert.

Then the business meeting was held in good spirits.

Attendance and cars participating: Adams', Battle, Fritz &

Daye, Hardys, Nygards, Litzenbergers, Pyatts, Sliker & Weissman, Outwaters, Mareks, McCarthy & friend, Peters and Savitskes of course as host.

Additional guests included various relatives and friends of Chuck and Deb.



# Rambling with Ken: Three Days in Nebraska

By Ken Nygard

Nebraska. Why would you spend three days in Nebraska? Some folks don't even know Nebraska is a state, never mind where it is. Suffice it to say it's in the mid-west, somewhere west of Iowa and south of South Dakota. Wyoming is to the west and Colorado takes a chunk out of the southwest corner. It's pretty flat. They grow a lot of corn there.

We had some time to kill on the way to a wedding in Colorado, and it turns out that, if you go to Colorado by way of Wisconsin and Minnesota, it's not really out of the way. Also, it turns out, that somehow old cars, hot rods, trains and motorcycles all have a history in Nebraska, so here we go.

**Day 1:** Lincoln, in the east is the state capitol. It's worth a stop at the Nebraska History Museum.

We all use Vise-Grip pliers for those stubborn rounded nuts and bolts. William Petersen patented them, right there in Nebraska in 1924 and founded the Petersen Tool Company. Needless to say, they are still in business.





The Cushman Motor Company started in Lincoln in 1903. They are famous for their Scooter which was produced from 1936 -1966. By 1950 they had produced 200,000 of them including

15,000 for use by troops in WWII. The company moved to Augusta, GA in 2003 and is still in business.



Kawasaki became the first foreign company to build vehicles in the U.S. in 1975. It began with the production of the KZ 400 Parallel Twin motorcycle. Kawasaki continues to build all types of recreational

vehicles in Lincoln. They also produce railroad cars in use by the New York City subway system.

Nebraska closely follows Iowa in the production of corn and ethanol for fuel production. Just about every gas station in Nebraska sells fuel **without** ethanol as a mid-grade fuel.

**To be continued next month**

# A New Top for the Roadster

The top on my roadster has never been in good shape. Even when I acquired it in 2007, the top was faded, water stained and worn through in several spots.



This year I decided to take the plunge and have a new top installed. I put the word out to the club and got several recommendations. I settled on the shop that did Sliker's 1940 Ford convertible.

Vinny's Interiors came highly recommended and the shop was located in New Britain PA, so it was only a half hour from my house. Not only that, but the Sliker's Ford had just been accepted into the AACA museum in Hershey and Vinny's shop was mentioned on the plaque that described the history of the car.



I met with Vinnie to discuss the job, and he pointed out several obstacles that needed to be overcome. The first was that LeBaron Bonny had gone out of business so there were no good quality top kits available. Since my top was still in tact, he could use it for a pattern and make a new one from scratch.

The second issue is that the correct canvas for the top was very hard to come by due to Covid shortages. Vinnie was able to track down 20 yards of canvas from a friend in the business. There were some spots on the canvas that he had to work around, but there was still plenty to make the top and also a “boot”, or cover for the top when it is down.

My spot in the shop finally opened up toward the end of October, so work has begun. I made a visit to see the progress a few weeks ago and found that Vinnie is making great progress. Vinnie has a one man shop,

and he always has several projects going at once, so I expect it to take some time to get the roadster top done. The quality of his work and attention to detail will make it well worth the wait.



I can't wait to show the car off in the spring.





**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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