

The "A"nnouncer



January, 2022

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

www.RunningBoardAs.com

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The Running Board “A’s” Officers

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|-------------------------|--|
| President | Tom Fritz
78 Midvale Ave
Millington, N.J 07046
908-580-0502 |
| 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 President

After a lot of consideration, I've decided to leave the club!

I think, I finally came up with an opening line that will get some attention. I'd even take bets on some being happy and some being saddened by that decision. For those of you that are happy, I've got some bad news; I'm not really leaving (but I have given it some thought). The point is, if we got this news from just a few core members of this club, the club would be in bad shape and may not survive. While our membership numbers have been fairly consistent and possibly has even grown over the last few years, we still have only a few members who host events and even fewer that organize tours. What would happen if just a couple of those members chose to leave? Maybe some of the new members would step up. Do you want to rely on maybe; the club needs more of the existing members to step up and plan events.

So, why am I telling you this? I've spoken with several members during and after the business meeting and I get a sense that some are not happy; this includes both members that frequently sponsored events and members that have never sponsored events. At least one member told me they joined another club because we have too many events in New Jersey and not enough close to him. All I can say is if there aren't enough events close to you, maybe you should consider sponsoring some. As to there being too many events in New Jersey, what can I say, other than those that sponsor events live in New Jersey. However, all the tours from the last 2 years with the exception of one met at Tinicum Park and if my memory is correct, that is in Pennsylvania. Yes, many crossed the river into New Jersey, but you really don't need a passport to come over. All these tours were sponsored by either the Bettles or Debbie and I. In both cases, it's over an hour

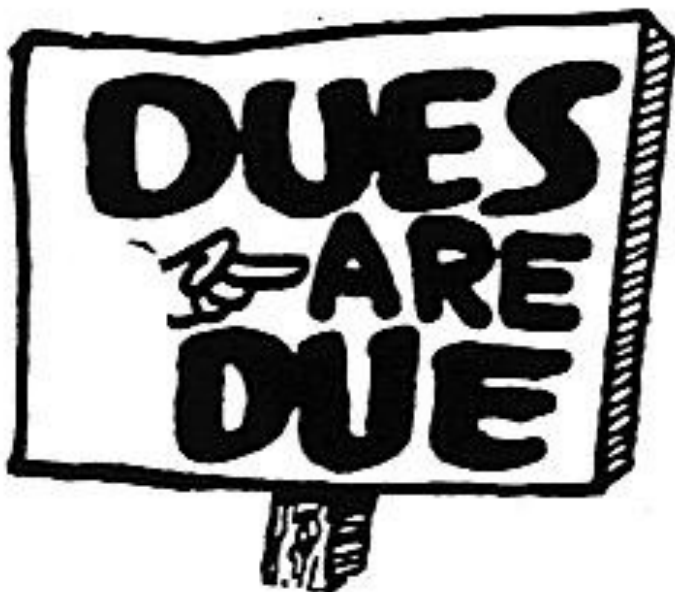
for us to get to the meeting point. I know that I was told not to take it the wrong way, but there really isn't any right way to take such a comment.

Several members have expressed concern regarding reimbursing individuals when they host events. There are two concerns. First, how are decisions made on who gets paid and who doesn't. Second, while we currently have money in the treasury, it wouldn't take many events before we would be broke. If you think about it, we have around 30 families that are members; so, our yearly income is only around \$450. That's not a lot and I'm pretty sure that people don't want to raise dues to cover these payments. I would hate to think that we could lose members that don't get paid for an event they hosted, but I can see it happening. I can't speak for everyone that host events, but I can speak for myself. I don't expect to be paid for events like the picnics from the past; the only payment I expect is that people enjoy themselves and maybe a little gratitude in return.

With Covid, we haven't had a planning meeting for the last 2 years and I think we really need to have one this year. As Covid will likely still be a problem this spring, we may want to hold this meeting outdoors. Reserving a pavilion at a park for the meeting may make more sense. This certainly is an expense that the club should cover. While I know of a few places that could accommodate us, they're not in locations that would be attractive to many members (although they would be really attractive to both the Bettles and I since they're close to both of us). If someone would like to investigate possible locations, this would be of great value to the club and definitely appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank those that have been hosting events and providing articles for the newsletter. Your efforts are deeply appreciated. A special thanks to Dave for his efforts on the newsletter and in convincing me not to leave the club.

Tom Fritz



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

Name That Tool

A few weeks ago, a neighbor, who knows that I have a couple of Model A's brought a couple of wrenches to give to me. All he knew was that they had the word Ford on them and he wanted to know if I would take them. They apparently belonged to an uncle who passed them on to him.

My knowledge of Model A's is limited, but my knowledge of Model A era tools is a big ZERO! So lets see if you can identify these tools and what they are used for.



The tool in photo #1 is about 10 inches long and on the back side it says Ford U.S.A-M-40-17017. This one was fairly easy to look up on the internet, but do you know what era it's from and what it's used for?

The wrench in photo #2 is only about 5 inches long



and has Ford U.S.A on one side and either the letter "M" or "W" on the opposite side with no other markings. The wrench sizes appear to be 9/16" and 5/8". So the question is what era is the wrench from and did it have a specific purpose?



The wrench in photo #3 above is also about 5" long and has Ford written in script on one side and on the other side, the 11/16" end has a number 1 on it and the 5/8" end has a number 2 on it. The middle of the wrench has this marking in the picture below on it.



If you can tell me what era any of these three wrenches are from and what they are used for, let me know. Next month, I will let you all know what I have learned from you and from a search on the internet.

Dave

From the Editor

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a great holiday season!

With the weather being relatively mild and no salt being used on the roads yet, I have still been driving my Tudor around. I have not installed the manifold heater in it yet, but so far it hasn't really been necessary.

I hope that the roads remain salt free for a few more days so that I can drive my roadster home from the upholstery shop when it's done. There is more on that story later on in the newsletter.

In Tom's President Report, he mentioned the need for a planning meeting. Rest assured that Diane and I are working on it. We want to see what the current spike in Covid infections does before we make any final plans. We have kicked around everything from a virtual meeting by zoom to a meeting in our church parish hall or other large venue, to an outside meeting in April. We will try to have a plan by next month. I would be open to any suggestions for what to do, or what not to do.

Finally, keep those articles coming. It's a new year and I'm sure a lot of you have been working on Model A projects over the winter. If so, let me know what you are doing, what you need help with or what suggestions related to Model A's that you may have to help out other club members.

Dave

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Running Board A's Planning Meeting

Diane and I are still working out the details for a planning meeting in the spring.

Diane is leaving shortly on a two week trip to Central America, so between that and having family here for the holidays we have not had a lot of time to spend planning this event.

We are leaning toward an outside event in April instead of March to give the weather a chance to warm up a little. We will require that everyone be vaccinated and boosted.

We will have more details in the February issue of the Announcer.

Stay Tuned

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

Model A Ford Safety
Day. I'm sure we will
have a great time! !



Raise Your “A” Day (or as some may prefer,
“Up Your “A” Day”)

10 AM-Saturday, April 30, 2022

Bob & Bernadette are pleased to once again host “Raise Your A Day”. This is a day for you and your Model A to spend some quality time together looking for those annoying rattles, cracked frames, potential suspension issues or maybe a quick lube. As always, Bob’s lift will be available for you to check things out.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING COVID RELATED RESTRICTION FOR THIS EVENT:

Fully vaccinated participants only

Coffee, donuts and sandwiches will be provided by your hosts. Please let us know (973) 568-3525 or boutw@aol.com by April 23 if you plan to attend.

Bob & Bernadette Outwater
32 Mason Farm Rd., Ringoes, NJ 08551

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.



Rambling with Ken: Three Days in Nebraska

By Ken Nygard

Editors Note: Last month we began a series on the travels of Ken Nygard in the Nebraska. We continue with day 2 of his trip here.

.Day 2: We're still in Lincoln. The Speedway Motors Museum of American Speed is a must see for any



auto enthusiast. This 3-level 135,000 square foot museum is more than just racing. They are expanding in a \$10 million, 90,000 square foot addition. It was started in 1992 by Speed-

way Motor's founder Bill "Speedy" Smith and his wife Joyce to display their collection of vintage race cars, go-karts, antique cars, pedal cars, engines, engine parts, model cars and most any



kind of automotive memorabilia that can be imagined. Our guided tour lasted 4 hours and only ended be-



cause the museum was closing for the day.

There are entire galleries devoted to showcasing Model T and Model A modifications for racing. It appears that no part of the car could not

be modified to make it go faster. From differentials to overhead valve conversions and intake and exhaust manifolds, nothing was sacred to the race enthusiast.



With the advent of the Ford Flathead V8, another chapter of hot rodding and modifications is on display.



An entire gallery of intake manifolds is on display along with complete engines displayed with all types of modifications.

There are rooms full of every kind and type of race car. Many one-of-a-kind cars are displayed.

More pictures on the next page.



The final installment of Ken's article will be in next month's newsletter.

A New Top for the Roadster Continued

The work on my roadster continues! Last month I told you about some of the issues that Vinny from Vinny's Interiors was having getting the proper materials. Now that he has the materials, he has now uncovered problems with the car. The first problem was with the wood that the snaps that hold the back edge of the top are screwed into. Over the years, most of the snaps stripped out and the wood split, so Vinny removed the wood, plugged all the holes with wooden dowels and reglued the piece.



He also found that the top of the quarter panel had cracked on both sides of the car. He was able



to make and weld reinforcing pieces in that strengthened the quarter panel but would not be seen when the seat was installed.



Vinny also discovered that I store tools and parts under the seat, so he placed a piece of trunk padding on the floor to keep everything quiet. There were a number of other



touches that Vinny included which are too numerous to mention here. He has done a museum quality job on the top even though the car that it sits on is not museum quality.

He is making a vinyl cover or “boot” for the top when it is down so it won’t be subject to dirt and road dust.

The work that Vinny has done, looks great. He has made the body of the car more structurally

sound and the top, body and tools and parts under the seat should be a lot more quiet going down the road.

If you are looking for someone to do interior work for you and you are in a hurry, Vinny is NOT your guy. If you want someone to work on your interior that will take his time and go the extra mile to make sure that every-



thing is as good as or better than new, then give Vinny a call at 215-588-0071. I think you will find that the quality of his work is well worth the wait.



**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

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