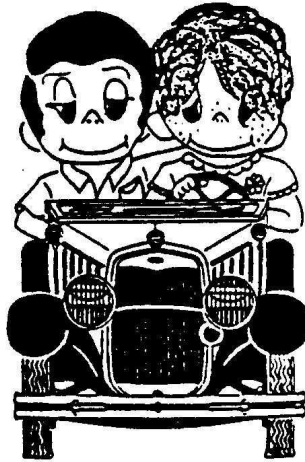


# The "A"nnouncer

love is...



...trusting her to drive  
your Model "A" Ford.

February, 2022

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 21

Number 2

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

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- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| President               | Tom Fritz<br>78 Midvale Ave<br>Millington, N.J 07046<br>908-580-0502           |
| 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       |
| Editor/Publisher        | Dave Allison<br>108 Ervin Rd.<br>Pipersville PA 18947<br>(267) 733-3708        |
| Web Master              | Dick Bettle<br>170 Crescent Road<br>Florham Park, N.J. 07932<br>(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**

I think I've entered the 8<sup>th</sup> time (I may be off a couple of years; I'd have to think more about it and thinking just hurts) that I've served as president of this club. (*Ed. Note* Club records indicate 2 terms and 4 years) That may not sound like much, but I've only owned a Model A since August of 2002 and it was a few years after buying the car that Debbie and I joined this club. So, I've been president for between 1/5 and 1/4 of the time that I've been a member. This time, I was dumb enough to say that I would accept the job if no one else did. Did I make a mistake in doing that, maybe, only time will tell? The only one that seems to be better at making mistakes is Dave, since he's was already newsletter editor when I joined (at least he was if my memory is correct).

This club has changed drastically since the time that I joined. In my early years, a large percentage of members hosted events every year. The club was active and almost everyone helped in making it so by hosting events. Events had much higher participation than we have now, and we were more of a family than just a club and knew that we could count on each other. Yes, it was still difficult to find people to serve as officers and that's how I became vice president before I was a member.

While we suffered from the deaths of several active members and having some active members quit for various reasons, I think the club may be larger now than it was when I joined. It's just that the family feeling no longer exists and I, quite honestly, miss it. It still exists between many of the old-time members and I know that I can rely them for help solving problems when needed, even if it's just a phone call to

bounce ideas off with them. But that family feeling doesn't seem to exist in general. Yes, some newer members have regularly hosted events. So, how do we get that family feeling back? I'm not sure, but I think it's certainly worth the effort. The obvious answer is that we need increased participation; particularly in the planning and sponsoring of the events. We really shouldn't be dependent on just a few members to do this. A second thing is to learn more about each other. I think that one of the things that was successful in the past was the series of articles that Mitch Bunkin did where he interviewed club members and wrote a newsletter article on each member. While it would be great if someone were to pick up this effort, I suspect finding someone that is willing to do it isn't likely as it is a lot of work. However, what takes little effort is for each member to write their own introduction and include how you got interested in the Ford Model A. I think this would be a good way to find out more about each other, particularly about the newer members and of course for the newer members to get to know the older members. I've already provided Dave with an article on Halloween at Debbie's for the October issue. Now, that should give you some inspiration to write something up for some of the Announcer issues between February and October. Remember that Valentine's Day is coming up; don't forget to get something nice for your loved ones (that is the ones that live in the garage) and get them ready for the upcoming touring season. I've already started getting the sedan back in shape with replacing radiator hoses. OK, I didn't have much choice in this as it leaked most of its coolant on the garage floor due to the mushiest hose I've ever seen, and it was only a few years old. I think I might just buy her some nice antifreeze (I think she'll appreciate it).

Tom

\$

## Treasurer's Report

Balance as of December 20, 2021                      \$1359.29

Income  
    Dues    \$145.00  
    Total Income                                         \$145.00

Expenses  
  
    Newsletter    \$9.60  
    MARC Region Registration                         \$10.00

Total Expenses     \$19.60

Balance as of January 20, 2022                      \$1484.69

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

*Happy Valentines  
Day*

# 1911 International Autowagon Project

By Dennis Peters

I thought I would share a unique experience/project I had the opportunity to be a part of. I'm deeply involved in the antique hit and miss engine hobby and make authentic reproduction carts to mount the engines on as when they were new. I also put an "antique" patina finish on them. Through this hobby I met Tom from Kentucky who has bought a number of my carts and really liked my antique finish that is applied on the carts. In the spring of 2021 Tom contacted me about a project he was working on and asked me to be a part of it. Tom owns a 1911 International Autowagon "Highwheeler" truck. Tom had bought the Autowagon in the 1980's just a few miles from his house. Although complete mechanically the overall condition was pretty poor. In the mid 1990's a tornado went through his property and destroyed his



house and outbuildings, including where the Autowagon was stored. The building collapsed on the truck and crushed the wooden body and broke the wheels.



Tom made the decision to rebuild the Autowagon. He sent the wooden wheels up to a New Holland, PA, carriage/wagon shop to be rebuilt, so he could move it around.

Once it was mobile Tom sent the whole Autowagon to Kansas to a shop that has worked on several



Autowagon's. They made a complete new wooden body and went through the engine (a 2 cylinder opposed air cooled). They spent about 2 years off and on time on the truck and finally sent Tom a video of it running and driving. After receiving the Autowagon back it sat for a year until Tom decided to finish the project. It just needed paint and upholstery.



Tom didn't want a new paint job, he wanted it to look old and original. That's when he contacted me to apply my "antique original" finish on the Autowagon. After several conversations we de-

ecided I would travel the 13 hours to Kentucky to his shop and finish it up for him. My finish requires multiple steps to

achieve the "look" and color he wanted. After a week of long days (and nights) we rolled it out of the shop for a few pics. Tom and I were both happy with



how it turned out. What a great piece of history that was saved and I was honored to be a part of it. The pictures show the Autowagon after the tornado, then with the newly rebuilt wheels installed, then when it returned from Kansas, and then after the paint work. It just needs upholstery and little things buttoned up to be ready to enjoy. Although not a model A project, I hope you enjoyed the experience.



*Editors Note: Dennis is one of the newest members of the Running Board A's*

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Running Board A's Planning Meeting**

**April 2, 2022**

**11:30 AM**

**Christ Lutheran Church, 353 East  
Dark Hollow Road,  
Pipersville PA**

Bring your ideas and appetites to our planning meeting, which will be held in the parish hall of Christ Lutheran Church. There will be plenty of room to social distance. Let the Allison's know that you will attend by calling 267-733-3708 and find out what food you can bring to share. As usual, the Allison's will provide sandwich fixings and drinks.

**Note: We are requesting that everyone have a negative at home Covid test the morning of the event since we are going to be inside, unmasked and eating. This may change depending on the severity of the pandemic. Free tests may be obtained at [www.covidtests.gov/](http://www.covidtests.gov/)**

# 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](mailto:boutw@aol.com) by April 23 if you plan to attend.

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

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Tour Hosted by the Bettles Saturday May 14, 2022 Start Time 11:00 AM**

The Bettles will host a driving tour beginning at Tinicum Park and ending at the Canal Museum in Easton.

Watch the newsletter for more details as we get closer to the date.



*Getting  
There Is  
Half the Fun!*



**Tuck Elfman**  
**316 Hollow Horn Rd.**  
**Pipersville PA**  
**Phone 215-348-2731**

Tuck has quite the collection of Model A's. His present collection consists of;

- '31 Slant window 4 door Murray Sedan
- '30 Deluxe Roadster
- '31 Wide Bed Pickup body by Budd

He says that they are all drivers.

# Rambling with Ken: Three Days in Nebraska

By Ken Nygard

*Editors Note: This is the conclusion of Ken's 3 part series.*



Day 3:  
We're on the move to North Platte. North Platte is home to the Bailey Yard, the largest

railroad classification yard in the world. Railroad cars and locomotives are sorted, serviced and re-

paired. It is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. The yard and operation can be viewed from the Golden Spike Visitor's Center.



The Bailey Yard is big. It is 8 miles long and approximately 2 miles wide. It covers 2,850 acres and has 400 miles of track with 11,000 turn outs.



The yard employs about 2500 workers and they are hiring. About 150 trains per day come through the yard. Up to 3000 train cars per day are sorted or “humped”. They burn through 18 million gallons of diesel fuel in a month.

So,  
what  
does  
all  
that  
mean?  
A train  
may  
be  
19,000



feet long. That is nearly 4 miles. That’s a lot of train cars. Those cars are all going to different places. At the yard, the trains are broken down car by car and sent on different tracks to build new trains going to different places. The process is called “humping”.





What is “humping”? The yard has two humps or elevated sections of track. One is for eastbound and the other for westbound. As train cars are pushed to the top of the hump they are released from the train and directed to other tracks where the new trains to other destinations are built. A car spends 1 – 3 days in the yard before being sent on its way. Once released on the top of the hump, the entire process happens with gravity, no locomotives required.

While the sorting is controlled by switches and is largely computerized, each train is still run by the engineer standing on the front of the train and operating the locomotives by remote control. The humping is also manually done. There is still a guy standing in the middle of all that track and train cars who releases the cars and sends them on their way down the track towards the newly formed train.



Ken

# Name That Tool

Last month I had 3 wrenches that were given to me by a neighbor. I asked for your help in identifying the wrenches and I had some help from the internet, that is never wrong (yeah right)



Wrench # 1 appears to be a Model A head bolt and spark plug wrench. It fits the head bolts and spark plugs on my cars, so I assume that is correct.



No one had any guesses on wrenches #2 and # 3. They were not as easy to identify, even on the internet, but I suspect that they were both from the Model T era. What do you think?



**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

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