

The "A"nnouncer



March, 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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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

For most addictions there are support groups to help people overcome their addiction, but there just doesn't seem to be a formally organized group that covers my addiction. I'm a MAD man and proud of it. Did you know there are probably only a few thousand people in the world that are truly MAD (and you may be one of them)?

Now, I think that most MAD men and women really don't want to overcome their addiction; they enjoy it too much and they're not hurting anyone. So, who are these MAD people? They're Model A Drivers which may explain why the existing support groups don't try to get these people over their addiction. In fact, they support their addiction by encouraging them to drive their cars.

Each person who is truly MAD, probably has their own story of how they got addicted to that woefully under powered drug, the Model A. I think for me, it all began one day while on safety patrol duty in the fifth or sixth grade; now that's going back a really long time, so the details may be a little confused since I can't honestly remember if you could be in the patrol in the 5th grade. For those that don't know what the safety patrol was, the older (well at least then we thought we were older) got to help the younger kids cross the streets around our elementary school. We had badges on a shoulder belt and flags to block traffic. Ah, the power was overwhelming. But I digress; how did this cause me to go MAD? Well, it seems that my earliest recollection of a Model A was seeing one while on patrol duty. As I recall, it was a 30/31 roadster with dual side mounts. Even back then, I thought that it was the most beautiful car I had ever seen. Maybe it wasn't that beautiful, but it was different than the cars that our parents drove and had a lot more character than the cars of the 60's.

All through high school and college, I still wasn't fully addicted, but the addiction was starting to take root. At this point, I had started going to the local car shows in the Lehigh Valley and was always drawn to the Model A. I had started looking for one of my own, but my parents thought I was nuts and that would put an end to it for a while. Little did they know that I wasn't crazy, just a future MAD man. For someone that got their license in 1970, my taste in cars was a little weird. My friends all wanted muscle cars, I wanted a Model A. They didn't get their dream cars back then and neither did I. My first car was a 1960 VW with a 65 engine. At least it had 3 things in common with the Model A. It had a 40 horsepower engine, it had running boards, and you could hand start it (if you never hand started a VW, it was done by wrapping a strap around the pulley and pulling). Well, my VW had one other thing in common with the Model A, it also leaked oil.

As with many other addictions, it doesn't cost much to get hooked. Other than the cost of admission to the Macungie and Riegelsville auto shows, being a spectator at a show doesn't cost anything. That is until that fateful day when I brought Debbie to Macungie and made two mistakes. The first mistake was bringing my checkbook. The second mistake was checking out the car corral. From that point on, I was truly a MAD man. While these last couple of years, I haven't been driving the Model A as much as in the past; I guessing that I only did around 1000 miles last year. Hopefully that will change once we get through this pandemic.

So, that's the story of how I went MAD. What's yours; we would like to hear it.

Tom

Welcome New Members

Fred and Cindy Chapman

5266 Valley Park Rd.

Doylestown, PA 18902

Phone 215-378-7303

Email: fordchap@gmail.com

Fred has two Model A's, a 1929 Coupe with a very early 4 digit motor from December 1927 (#2091)(named Thelma) and an early 1928 Phaeton named, you guessed it, Louise.

Craig A Reed

82 River Drive

Titusville, N.J. 08560

Phone: 215-803-6473

Email: creed@innovationsalesinc.com

Craig has a 1929 Roadster Pickup.

Carmen R Morelli

3534 Newportville Rd.

Bristol, PA 19007

Phone 267-981-4271

Email: crmcamper@gmail.com

Carmen has two Model A Coupes.



**We hope to see ALL of our new members at
our upcoming events in April and May.**

From the Editor

Let me be the first to welcome all of our new members. We look forward to seeing Fred, Craig, Carmen and our new member from last month, Tuck Elfman, at our upcoming events.

We seem to have Covid on the run, so our first event is our annual planning meeting. We will be meeting in a very large church parish hall so we can social distance in the room. Doing a self covid test before you come will assure that everyone will stay safe. Bring your ideas for tours and events to the meeting.

Next up is the Steve Ryan Model A Show. You will be able to blow the cobwebs out of your car and get inspired to see all of the great Model A's on display, including yours!

Bob and Bernadette Outwater will graciously open their home and Bob's lift for Raise Your A Day so you can give your car a quick lube and let all the members do a quick safety inspection and help identify any problems you may be having.

You can then put your car to the test by attending the overnight run to Kingston NY and the Rhinebeck Auto Show the next weekend. We have a lot of fun during this event.

The Bettles will be hosting a tour from Tinicum Park to the Canal Museum in Easton. The tour will take us on almost 50 miles of back roads through beautiful countryside.

With all of this packed into a month and a half, I can't wait to see what else the touring season will bring.

Now is the time to get those cars ready to go so you don't miss a thing.

See you at the planning meeting,

Dave

*Happy
St. Patrick's Day*



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/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 24, 2022

Sunday • 9 am to 3 pm

Trexlerstown, PA

Free Admission
Free Registration
Pin Striping by Jim Brand
Paved Parking for Show Cars
Swap Meet
Concessions
Rain or Shine

Lehigh Valley Model "A" Club Presents

the STEVE RYAN

Model A/AA Show & Swap

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

Co-Host: LVMAC and the Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company

7723 Hamilton Blvd • Breinigsville, PA 18031 • Short Drive from Rt 78 and Rt 222

Swap meet spots are a \$10 Donation • Model A / AA & Early Ford Parts Only

NO household items • NO dolls • NO modern tools • NO modern toys

An associated car club is not required for show. Interest in Model 'A' Fords Recommended.

RSVP your swap space or your club space for the day: 484.548.0632 or lvmodelclub@gmail.com

Lehigh Valley
Model 'A' Club



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

Rhinebeck Auto Show

May 7 and 8, 2022

Hey everyone, this is Steve and Kathy Belton. We have dual membership with Running Board A's and The Lehigh Valley Model A Club. The Rhinebeck Auto Show is on this year! It is May 6, 7, and 8th this year with antique autos being shown on Sunday May 8. The Running Board A folks will be meeting at the intersection of Rt 212 and Rt 611 in Durham Township PA on Saturday May 7 at 9:00 AM. Most folks will be staying at the Quality Inn, 114 Rt 28, 114 Onteora Trail Kingston on Saturday night. Phone 845-339-3900. There is also a Best Western and a Super 8 just down the road that can also be used. We will head up Rt 611 through the Delaware Water Gap and eventually get on Rt 209 and stop at David Helm's Garage in Milford Pa. We usually hang out a short time with him and check vehicles for oil, water, and gas and then get lunch in Milford. From there we head to Kingston and our hotels. You may want to register at the hotel early as this year the show will be well attended by vendors as well as car enthusiasts. Please call Dave Allison at 267-733-3708, if you plan to attend. You can also call me or Kath at (908) 362 6344 for any questions. Also my cell is (908) 334-8661. We go out to dinner as a gang Sat. night, and then go back to the front porch of the hotel and hang out together for awhile and have great conversation and good laughs. Bring your favorite wine. If your vehicle is 1931 or older registration is free. On Sunday we usually head home after the show, at about 2:00 PM, but you can always stay overnight in Kingston and head home the next day if you would like. Hope to see you there! Steve

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!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARC 2022 National Meet Hosted by the North Penn A's Morgantown PA

June 5 to June 11, 2022

**The Meet will be held at the Classic Auto Mall in
Morgantown PA.**

**[Click here for more information](#) or call Bob
Msrtno at 610-637-0140**



How To Get Three Camels in a Model A

I must have received my love of old cars from my Dad. Back in the 60's when I was growing up we always had a car that was a least 10 years old or more. My Dad loved to tinker with them mostly to just keep them running. Not only did he tinker with our cars, he also tinkered with all the neighbors cars. My mom used to say that when she couldn't find him around the house, all she had to do was look around the neighborhood for the hood up on one of the neighbors cars and he would be there.

When Diane and I got married right out of college, we would rebuild cars and either sell them or use them until something better came along, just to make ends meet. We rebuilt a '63 4WD International pickup truck with a plow that we bought for \$100 and made money plowing snow with it. We also did a '76 MG Midget, an '80 Oldsmobile and I even rebuilt a 1978 motor home that we then drove to Alaska, but I never had an old car to just play with.

In 1998, we had a little more extra cash, but also had one kid in college and one more about to enter college. The service station where we took our cars for inspection had a Model A sitting outside with a For Sale sign on it. I looked at it and pestered Diane about it, but got a firm NO when I talked about buying it. I knew nothing about Model A's except that they were really old and looked really neat.

About a month or so later, I came home from work one day, late again after a rough day , and I was greeted at the door with a bag of recycling and told to

take it out to the garage and hurry up because dinner was getting cold. I begrudgingly did what I was told, but when I opened the garage door, there sat the Model A that I had bugged her about. She said the look on my face was priceless.

Up to this point in our marriage, Diane had never bought ANYTHING on impulse, so this was a huge shock to me. She took one of our cars to the service station to have a noise checked out and the owner really pushed her to buy the Model A for me. To this day, I'm not sure why, but she did under two conditions. The first was that the car owner (the service station owners dad) had to bring the car down and put it in our garage and the second was that she wanted the registration and title signed over to her. To this day the title and registration are still in her name.

I knew nothing about Model A's, but if I did, I would have known that the motor was shot, the transmission was shot, the front axel was bent, the brakes were shot the frame was cracked, the rear axel was shot and that the interior should be taken out and shot to put it out of it's misery. I discovered that one



of the officers of the Mercer A's lived right up the road from me. He was kind enough to come take a look at the car and told me where to



go to get parts and an interior kit. I focused on the interior first for obvious reasons. I gutted the interior and then got very friendly with the La-Baron Bonney company. Be-

lieve me, I did my fair share to keep them from going bankrupt. I even sent the car to a local body shop to sandblast and repaint the interior. I couldn't stand the spray can blue.

After 24 years of owning my car, (I mean Diane's car) I have most of the issues worked out of it and it is pretty dependable for both short trips and longer tours. In the process, I've gained a pretty good working knowledge of the car and better yet, I know who to go to in the club if I need help. In the beginning, the Mercer A's and now for the last 22 years, the Running Board A's have been a huge part of my enjoyment of the Model A hobby. So only one burning question re-

mains; how do you get three Camels in a Model A. The answer is, you buy it that way!



Dave



**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