

# The "A"nnouncer



April, 2022

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 21

Number 4

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

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- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
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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

It's been a while since I wrote new lyrics to an old so, so I thought I'd give you a musical column this month. It should be sung to the tune of Louis Prima's "Just a Gigolo" (OK, he's not the composer, but is the first one to do a popular version of the song) or maybe you know the David Lee Roth version.

I'm just the President, a role that I regret  
When I have to write this column  
I used to have ideas, but it's been too many years  
And now I just don't got them  
We need some events, you know  
' cause we've got no place to go  
And events don't just appear  
So, if you have some ideas  
Please have them printed here  
Or life will be really slow  
When there's just no place to go  
And for this club to stay afloat,  
we need a schedule full of bloat  
It's time to have some fun  
Now that touring season has begun  
So, if you're really quite sick  
of this Covid pandemic  
And things are looking gray  
Just get out and drive your "A"

Tom

## From the Editor

I'm excited...really excited!!!! Why am I so excited? I'm excited because Spring is here, which means the start of a new touring season. Hopefully this touring season will be free of worries about Covid 19. I'm also excited to meet and get to know the new members of the club. Since last October, we have had six new members and their spouses join the club. I hope the infusion of new blood in the club will be a good thing.

The first step in kicking off any good touring season is to come up with a plan. By the time you get this newsletter, the planning meeting may already be in the books. The upcoming events that we already know about are the Steve Ryan Car Show put on by the Lehigh Valley Model A Club. It's a Model A only show and it's a good way to start off the car show season. Next up is the Raise Your A Day hosted by the Outwaters. It's nice to get your car up on a lift and check it out after a long winter. It's the most fun event you can have with a cup of coffee and a grease gun in your hand. We already have 5 club members signed up for the overnight Rhinebeck tour and car show and there is always room for more. It should be a great trip and lots of fun. We follow back roads all the way to Kingston N.Y. with a stop for gas and lunch along the way. Finally, the Bettles will be leading a tour in mid May from Tinicum Park to the Canal Museum in Easton. This is not just a ride up River Road to Easton. It will cover over 50 miles of scenic back roads that are just right for Model A's.

Finally, you may notice on the next page that the cost of the newsletter has gone up. It is a reflection of increased copying rates, increased postage rates, and an increase in the number of members getting a paper copy of the newsletter. I have not adjusted my reimbursement costs since 2019, so I was a little surprised to see what it actually costs.

Dave

\$

# Treasurer's Report

Balance as of February 15, 2022 \$1531.09

Income	
Dues	\$15.00
Total Income	\$15.00

Expenses	
Newsletter	\$16.34
Total Expenses	\$16.34

Balance as of March 18, 2022 \$1529.75

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

## On the cover”

Cars lined up for the planning meeting in April. Touring season, here we come!!!!

# Getting Your Model A Ready for Touring Season

There has been a lot written and discussed about how to get your Model A ready for the touring season. Here is my take on what to look at and what to do. The first thing to consider is how much effort you put into winterizing your car. I don't put a lot of effort into winterizing since I will go out and at least start the car and take it out for a spin if the roads aren't too salty. About the only thing I do is to make sure the gas tank is full to prevent rust.

Starting at the front of the car, lets take a look at the major systems of the car.

## Battery

If you have had your battery on trickle charge all winter, make sure it is holding a charge, and that the battery has water in it. It's also a good time to check the connections for corrosion.

## Lights

Once you know your battery is good, it's time to check your lights. Make sure your head lights and tail lights work as well as your turn signals if you have them. This may be a good time to consider LED bulbs for head lights and tail lights, especially if you are planning on attending any long tours where you may be out after dark.

## Horn

Since you are right there checking your lights, check your horn too. You should take the back cover off and make sure to oil the felt pads on the front and back of the armature and make sure the horn is adjusted correctly to get that distinctive AAAOOOOOGHA sound.

## **Cooling System**

If you drained your cooling system in the fall, now is the time to fill it again. If you didn't drain it, at least make sure it is topped off. It's also a good time to check the hoses for soft spots or leaks. A few minutes now can save a lot of time and frustration along the side of the road.

## **Oil**

If you didn't change your oil in the fall, now is the time to do it. It is especially critical if your engine is not pressurized. Oil should be changed every 500 miles. A pressurized system with a filter can go a little longer, like 3000 miles between changes, but why push it. Oil is still cheap compared to paying for a rebuilt engine. The folks that rebuilt my engine recommended using 20W-50 weight oil. It's a relatively heavy oil, but provides excellent lubrication to the engine, and the engine turns over just fine even in cold weather. Don't forget to check your transmission, steering box and rear axle oil levels too.

## **Lubrication**

There is more to lubricating a Model A than just changing the oil. There are about a million grease fittings that need to be lubed on a Model A. . Raise Your

A Day is a great time to do this since your car will be on the lift and you can get the club members help to make sure you get them all. Don't forget the throw out bearing when you have the grease gun in your hand. Make sure you get the throttle linkage, distributor shaft top and bottom, and all the brake clevis pins with some light oil. Check your cotter pins while you are at it. I know from experience that losing a cotter pin on a brake rod clevis pin can lead to a very exciting experience when trying to stop the car.

## **Tires and Wheels**

Check the air pressure in your tires. Pump them up to 35 PSI if they need air. Check that all the lug nuts are tight. While you are at it, check the tires for uneven wear and any damage that may cause a flat. Also check your wheels to make sure you don't have any cracks in the spokes or around the rim or center of the wheel. I have Firestone tires on my Tudor Sedan, so the spare doesn't fit well in the fender well. I keep it low on air and always carry a portable air compressor to blow up a tire or the spare if I need it.

## **Brakes**

Hitting the brakes in a Model A should not be a white knuckle experience. There are all kinds of references on how to adjust Model A brakes, so I won't go into detail here. Suffice it to say that if they pull to one side or the other, they need to be adjusted. If they just don't stop well at all, now is the time to pull each wheel and check the brakes for worn linings, oil or grease soaked linings, broken springs or other brake parts that need to be repaired or replaced. Don't for-

get to check the emergency brake too. It's no fun to have your car roll away without you in it. While you are checking the brakes, don't forget to check the front wheel bearings. Every so often you should remove them, clean them, inspect the seals, repack them with grease and reinstall them. It goes a long way to keeping the "death wobble" gods away from your car.

## **Test Drive**

After you performed all of the work above, take the car out for a test drive. Does it have power? If not, it may need a tune up. Does it shimmy going down the road? It may need new suspension or steering parts. Does it stop? If not, something may be out of adjustment. Now is the time to check all of this out, not when you are ready to leave on a tour in 15 minutes.

## **Final Thoughts**

This is certainly not an all inclusive list, but it's a start. You may have your own list of things to check that works for you. If you do, I'd love to hear from you. There may be things that I should be checking but don't. Anyway, keep this in mind as we get closer to the touring season. Hopefully, this will help you have a break down free touring season.

Dave

# 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.**

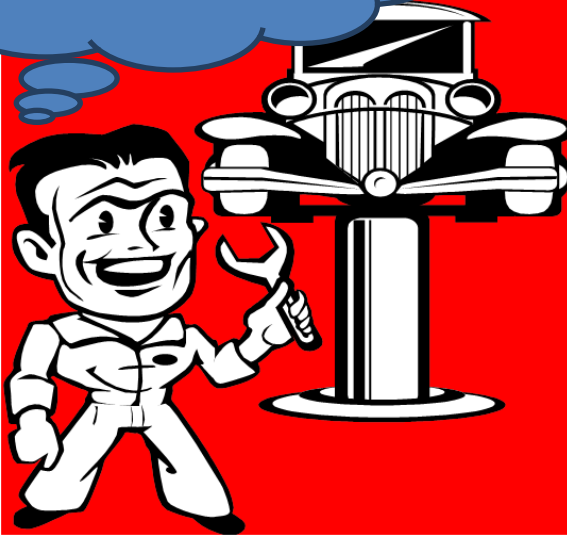
**RSVP your swap space or your club space for the day: 484.548.0632 or lvmodelclub@gmail.com**

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](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*

## **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 Tincum Park and ending at the Canal Museum in Easton. Bring your own picnic lunch along for the ride.



# *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**



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# HAPPY EASTER!



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# 2022 Planning Meeting

Hosted by Dave & Diane Allison

Our planning meeting was held on April 2, which is a little later than usual and was held in the parish hall of Christ Lutheran Church which is a lot bigger than my basement! These changes were done to help mitigate any fears about Covid that were out there since this was our first indoor meeting since the Covid pandemic started.

We had 15 people in attendance, in addition to Diane and I, we had Doug and Gail Pyatt, Ken and Judy Nygard, Ed and Peg Hardy, Chuck and Deb Savitske, Catherine Marek, Dennis Peters, Fred Chapman and Chuck's friends Eddy and Robin.



We had a great meal thanks to Diane and everyone else who contributed side dishes or dessert to the menu. No one went away hungry.



After everyone finished, we got to the planning portion of the meeting. We have some fresh new ideas for events and have also kept most of the old standby events. Many thanks to our very capable Secretary, Ken Nygard who kept notes on all the activities that were being planned.

I am not going to include the complete calendar here. We will put it out to everyone when Ken has a chance to put it all together. Suffice it to say that we have several local tours, a picnic and a few long tours in the making. How about a Route 66 tour beginning in the Mid West and ending in Santa Monica California. One of our members will be doing it in his Model A and invited anyone interested to look into it. One thing we did do was to combine the Road Kill Rally and the Business Meeting again this year. We also picked a mutually agreeable date for the Christmas Party. That date is December 11. The only problem is that the Frenchtown Inn has been sold and may not be open on that date, so we may have to look for a new venue to have the party.

Once the planning portion of the meeting was over, out came the dessert. Since we are a Model A club, ice cream was on the menu....and it kept coming....and coming....and coming.



It was a fun day. We got to talk to some of our newer members and we got to know them a little better. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the day. We are looking forward to the next club event, Raise Your A Day.

A final thought. Soon after we set this meeting up, we realized that there is still a lot of differing opinions within the club about whether Covid is a threat or not. We also realized that although we respect everyone's opinion, there was no way to hold a meeting that would make everyone comfortable, so we did what we thought was best to accommodate as many people as possible and still make everyone attending feel safe. You may not have agreed with our plan, but your input is always welcome and appreciated.

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"

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Hilltown PA. 18927-9721

First Class Mail