

# The "A"nnouncer



October, 2022

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

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Number 10

# 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

I'd like to start this month's column by thanking Bobbie and Carl for their picnic and tour. I'd recommend the tour for anyone that thinks of New Jersey as that ugly state you see from the turnpike. Some of the views were truly incredible. This event has special significance to me for a couple of reasons. First, it reminds me of my first event with the Running Board A's; that was the pancake breakfast at the Califon firehouse. I have to admit that this year's tour went a lot better than that first tour with the club. That tour started with trying to push start the Outwater's woodie; unfortunately, it had a shorted cell in the battery and no amount of pushing was going to get it started (by the way, this was also my introduction to Bob and Bernadette). So, we were down one car before the tour even started. Then shortly after the start of the tour, our car went into death shakes and we had to drop out. If I remember correctly, Don and Lorraine Fox were behind me. Don said he thought my wheel was going to come off and that was my introduction to Don and Lorraine. Like I said, that was a tour that I'll never forget. The other reason that this last tour has special significance to me is that it was the first time all summer that I drove my Model A to an event and made it home under my own power.

That's right, the sedan is finally back on the road again. It was only laid up from June 4<sup>th</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>. Actually, I had the car finished for the last Somerville cruise night on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and met the Outwater's there for dinner. We got to Somerville with no problems; in fact, the car never ran better or quieter and I was pleased with finally having a car

again. Well, things didn't go quite as well on the way home. The car stalled about 4 miles from my house and refused to start again. At least I got to use my AAA service that I've been paying for all these years. This time, it was a bad ignition cable; the plunger that goes into the distributor no longer plunged (as in the end of the cable was stuck, so the spring did nothing). I have no idea how that happened, but at least I had an original cable end that I could splice in and had the car running again in no time. Well, no time is relative to how long it took to fix all the other problems this year. I'm not certain that this was the problem, as there were also some shorts in the headlights that had caused the fuse to blow and was the actual cause of the car stalling. But I do think the ignition cable was the reason that it wouldn't start once I replaced the fuse.

So, the story that never ends has finally reached its end, and the car is once again a pleasure to drive. While I still like working on Model A's, I hope to take a break from that for a while and just enjoy driving it for a while. The only thing I plan to do is replace the ignition cable with a new one since I am a little worried about running with a spliced cable.

That brings me to the Christmas party. Last month Dave said that he hoped that I was working on the Christmas party. There is a problem with that in that I am still not comfortable dining indoors at most restaurants. In fact, there is only one restaurant that I go to on rare occasions. The only reason that I am somewhat comfortable there is the ventilation system they put in at the beginning of the pandemic to hopefully minimize the spread of Covid. Unfortunately,

this is a 4 star Michelin restaurant, and those stars don't come cheap, and I rarely get out of there for under \$300 for dinner for two. The good news is that holding the party there, looks like the price would be in the \$55-70 range (this would be for a three-course meal) which many may feel is too high and would be limited to around 18 people. The gift exchange is too rowdy to even consider using part of one of the main dining rooms. The other problem is that they aren't open for lunch on the weekend and if I had to go to their private party dinner menu, the price is significantly higher. I'm checking both menu options and availability. Given that I'm unlikely to attend at most other locations, I am not looking for an alternative location, but if someone else would like to arrange a party at a different location, feel free to do so.

Tom



\$

## Treasurer's Report

Balance as of August 22, 2022	\$1428.05
Income	\$0.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$16.34
Total Expenses	\$16.34
Balance as of September 25, 2022	\$1411.71

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

## On The Cover:

Chuck Savitske, Tim Litzenburger, Bob Adams, Diane and I all attended the Duryea Day car show on September 3rd. We had a great day and we even got a chance to visit the Boyertown Auto Museum.

## **Halloween at Debbie's**

Halloween has always been a special day for Debbie. It all started when she was 2 years old. Her mother took her down to the basement where she was greeted by her first jack-o'-lantern. Now that doesn't sound all that unusual, does it? What made this special is that this was the great pumpkin and not only talked to her, it even knew her name.

Now it's really hard to find talking pumpkins and generally takes many trips to the pumpkin patch before you can find one; it seems that pumpkins are quite shy and don't like talking to people. Debbie's father was a bit of an audiophile, so he took a few shortcuts in finding the pumpkin. Rather than spending weeks interviewing pumpkins hoping to find that one special one that would talk to humans, he added a speaker, amplifier, pre-amp (and this was all vacuum tube Heathkit equipment, those were the days), and microphone so he could provide the voice. Yes, that's a lot of equipment just to provide a short conversation with your little girl, but Debbie's father was a special person.

The tradition of the great pumpkin continued throughout Debbie's childhood and even continued when she was a young adult. Since bringing all the trick-or-treaters down into the basement to talk to the pumpkin would have been a bit inconvenient, it was brought outside for the neighborhood children to enjoy. The news of the great pumpkin spread throughout her area and was a regular stop for many families; in fact, some children that remembered the pumpkin from their childhood brought their own children to talk to the pumpkin many years later. When she moved to her own place, the pumpkin moved from Elmwood Park to Bridgewater. Her father still

provided the voice of the pumpkin until his death using the same equipment that he used to surprise his little girl many years earlier. We have continued this tradition to this day, with a few modifications. I now provide the voice of the pumpkin and we replaced Debbie's father's speaker, amplifier, pre-amp and microphone with more modern equipment, so it only takes a few minutes to setup rather than the hours of moving everything from the basement and debugging it. Originally, we replaced it with a wireless speaker and amplifier, which definitely improved setup time. For the last couple of years, we further simplified by using the Bluetooth speaker that I use in the Model A and an app on my cell phone to act as the microphone.

With the advent of Covid the tradition of the great pumpkin was in jeopardy. To be honest, the thought of interacting with the 100 or so kids that generally show up was a bit worrisome. This led to adding the candy chute. The candy chute consists of some old plastic flue pipe and a cardboard panel that replaces the lower sash of Debbie's kitchen window; this can be seen in the picture. To get the kids to notice the chute, I added a well-lit arrow. Making the arrow was the most difficult part of this whole new setup and took some time at the drill press to add all the holes for the lights. The chute actually makes giving out the candy much easier since you don't have to keep going to the door and will probably continue as part of our Halloween tradition once this pandemic is over. It also makes it easier for me to hear what the kids are saying so at times we can have an interactive conversation.

Unfortunately, the candy chute has taken away a lot of the charm of the great pumpkin since the kids now find the chute to be really cool. But there's always a couple of kids that make it all worthwhile. For many

years now, I've tried to get the little kids to share their candy with the pumpkin by telling them that I (as in the pumpkin) was hungry. In the past, I've had a couple of kids come close to feeding the pumpkin.; this was the first time, however, that one actually managed to put one of their prized candy bars into the pumpkin's mouth and really did feed the pumpkin.

Tom



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

**Flemington Speedway Historical  
Society Car Show  
Ringoes N.J  
Saturday October 15, 2022,  
Rain or Shine  
Hosted By Bob Outwater**

Meet Bob at his home at 32 Mason Farm Road at 7:45 AM. Please contact Bob to let him know that you are coming at 908-237-9322 This is a fun show with lots of cars and flea market stuff to see. For more information on the show, click [here](#)



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Fall Tour Friday, October 21, 2022 Hosted by Tom Fritz**

Tom will lead the group on a tour through Western and Northern New Jersey. The leaves should be in their best fall colors at this time. Contact Tom at 908-580-0502 if you plan to attend.



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Road Kill Rally and Annual Business Meeting**

**Hellertown PA**

**Saturday, October 29, 2019,**

**10:00 AM**

Don't miss this fun event to cap off our touring season. Deb and Chuck Savitske always have a great rally laid out and there is always plenty of food and drink after the rally. Contact Chuck and Deb at 610-838-2338 by October 25th to let them know that you will attend and to let them know what you will bring to share.

Also our annual business meeting will take place where we will elect officers and conduct any club business. You won't want to miss this event!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Tour the Holcombe-Jimisin Farm Museum Route 29 Lambertville N.J. Sunday, October 30, 2022**

This event will be hosted by Craig Reed and Fred Chapman. The farm dates back to 1742 and it preserves the agricultural heritage of Hunterdon County. This is a special tour of the farm and we will be joined by another Model A club for the day. We will meet at the farm at 12:30 and be prepared to stay until closing at 4:00 PM since this is the last day of the season for the farm. We will then go to Solebury Orchards for apple picking and then onto the Plumsteadville Inn for dinner and finally to the Chapman residence for dessert. **Fred will need to know how**

**many will be attending the farm visit and Solebury Orchards by October 6.**

Please contact him at 215-378-7303 or at ford-chap@gmail.com if you plan to attend any or all of these events.





**Scott Goodwin**  
**1435 Woodcock Lane**  
**Kintnersville, PA. 18930**  
**Phone 215-262-6087**  
**Email:**

**[Scott@ScottGoodwinmasonry.com](mailto:Scott@ScottGoodwinmasonry.com)**

Scott has inherited a beautiful 1928 Sport Coupe and is in the process of working all the bugs out of it. I met Scott at the Delaware Valley Fire Department Car Show. He is anxious to learn about Model A's and to get out and drive his car with other Model A's. I'm sure we can help him out!

# September 10, 2022 A Fine Day at Califon, New Jersey.

The day could not have been better to drive old cars, gather with friends and eat good food!

Attending the event were Dick & Bobbi Bettle, Debbie Daye, Tom Fritz, Ed & Peg Hardy, Ken & Judy Nygard, Bob & Bernadette Outwater,

Craig & Lynn Reed and Hosts Bobbie Sliker & Carl Weissman. Apologies if I've missed anyone!



After the usual gathering with talk, greetings and checking out who drove what; Bobbie and Carl led a tour through the Hunterdon County countryside. Ken and Judy rode with Bob-

bie and Carl in "Adelaide".

Califon seems to be a village that time forgot...in the best sense of the phrase! A beautiful but small downtown with all the essentials anyone could need. The houses were mostly from the first part of the 20th century, circa 1920's and well kept with nice yards and lots of trees.

After passing through the village



we explored with a few wrong (err, extra) turns the creeks, valleys, hills and beautiful vistas of western New Jersey. Absolutely stunning and unexpected views with narrow twisty roads that were for the most part empty of traffic other than our Model A's.



Returning to Carl & Bobbie's home we enjoyed a great meal as has been the tradition of most "A's" events. And of course ice cream with Sundae toppings. And Pie! What a great day.



Ken Nygard

Photo credits to Ken Nygard and Bobbie Bettle.

# Wildwood Fall Classic Car Show September 22 to September 25, 2022

Article based on an email and Photos  
by Craig Reed

Running Board A members Fred Chapman, Carmen Morelli and Craig Reed took a ride to the beach to attend the Wildwood Car Show on September 24 and 25, along with two members of the Delaware Valley Model A Club.



While there, Craig Reed was awarded one of the “Best Top 40” out of a field of over 400 entries for his 1929 Roadster Pickup. Congratulations Craig! Also prior to the show, they stopped at the Wildwood

Aviation Museum and their A's got special entry into the museum and a lot of attention.





**Membership Application  
For the Running Board "A's"**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$15.00 annually. Please make checks payable to:

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**Hilltown Pennsylvania 18927-9711**

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

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