

The "A"nnouncer



December, 2022

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

www.RunningBoardAs.com

Volume 21

Number 12

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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 Thanksgiving and time to think about all the things that we have to be thankful for. For me, the thing I am most thankful for is that Debbie is starting to feel better. I am also thankful for this club and the many friendships that have developed. While many clubs have experienced a loss of membership over the years, our club continues to be stable and may have actually grown over the last few years. I would like to thank those that have organized events, especially the new members; it's people like you that make this club a success and ensure its future.

I'm also extremely thankful that I once again have a running Model A to bring to events. While I may have been able to get the car back on the road myself, it wouldn't have been as much fun if it hadn't been for the help that I received from some club members. I'd like to thank Chuck and Dick for their support and especially my good friend Bob for all the time he spent working with me.

Since this is my final president's report, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Peggy for all the years that she served as president and Dave for all the time he spends on putting out the newsletter. Also, let me assure you that there will be a peaceful transition of power to Dave as he takes over the role of president. I have already turned over all of my documents to the club's archive. Of course, that was really easy as there were no documents, and the club doesn't have an archive.

So, as my term as president ends, let me wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza. Happy Boddhi Day, Happy Pancha Ganapati, or whatever holiday you celebrate. If I missed your holiday, let me know so I can add it to my list.

So, I leave you with one final thought, the version of The Night Before Christmas that I wrote many years ago.

While the coupe is in more pieces now than when I wrote this, at least the sedan's radiator no longer leaks

T'was the night before Christmas and in the garage,
no work had been done, I drank too much nog!
The coupe was in pieces, the sedan had a leak. It
would be a bad time for Santa to peek!
Tools were all strewn from the bench to the
floor. Clean I don't think it would be any more!
With the pain in my head, I wished I were dead and
so I decided it was time for bed!
And when asleep, I had such a dream, Santa had
come and made the garage clean.
He looked at the leak and started to joke all I need for
the hole is something to poke!
The sedan was now ready to drive in the snow and
Santa thought it was time to go.
But, he looked at the coupe; in pieces it lay. He said
to himself it can't stay that way!
The body he painted; the wheels he did fix. It would
take me forever, but this was St. Nick!
When he was done, he looked at his job and pleased
with himself his head he did nod!
The cars were now ready to go to a show and Santa
decided it was time to go!
I awoke from my dream with very much glee; to the
garage I ran, Santa's work to see.
When I opened the door, my heart sank to the
floor. It was just a dream, unfortunately no more.
The coupe's still in pieces, the sedan still has a
leak. Maybe I'll start to work on them next week!

Tom

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of October 22, 2022	\$1410.37
Income	\$0.00
Dues	\$120.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	\$16.34
Total Expenses	\$16.34
Balance as of November 18, 2022	\$1514.03

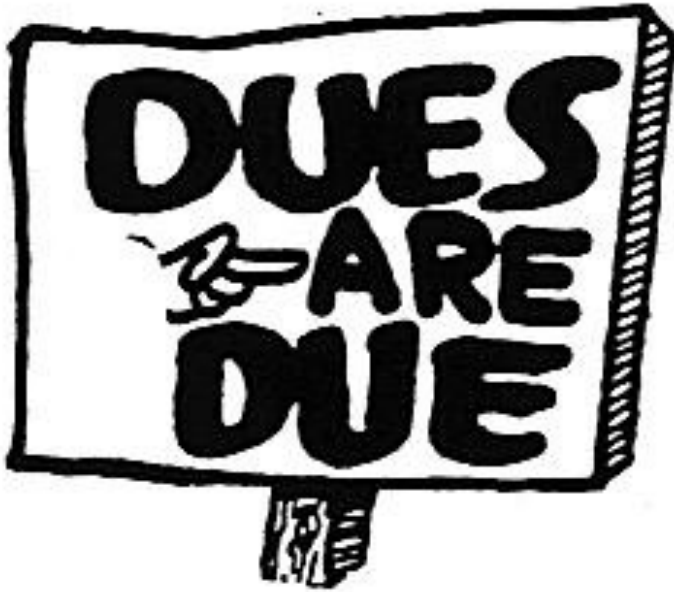
Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On The Cover:

*Happy Holiday to our
Running Board A Family*



Your 2023 dues are due NOW

Please make checks

for \$15 payable to:

Running Board A's

Mail to:

Running Board A's

C/O Doug Pyatt

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, PA. 18015



New Address

**Please note that the
Running Board A's have
a new address for all
correspondence:**

**Running Board A's
C/O Doug Pyatt
1419 E. University Ave.
Bethlehem, PA 18015**



**Welcome New Member
John Grier
717 Raikes Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Phone: 215-313-4933
Email: John.Grier@infor.com**

John is very actively looking to buy his first Model A. If you know of one for sale, let him know.

Happy Anniversary

That's right, this month is the 95th anniversary of the introduction of our beloved Model A Ford to the public.

According to the book, *The Ford Model A "As Henry Built it"* the Model A was introduced on December 2, 1927. There was so much excitement about the Model A that it was estimated that over 10 million people saw the Model A in the first two days after the introduction.

Unfortunately, Ford could only produce about one hundred cars per day, so there was not enough cars to go in every dealer show room, no less have any to sell.

Previously Ford could keep up with demand for Model T's by constantly retooling existing equipment as improvements were made on the Model T. Ford did not allow the engineering department to work on future projects, so when they shut down Model T production in 1927, they had to start from scratch working on the Model A.

Ford had demands for the new car; it must have a sliding gear transmission and the engine must reach 40 HP at 2500 RPM. It was up to the engineers to reach these goals. Some of the new presses for body panels were around 30 ft tall and weighed over 240 tons, more than twice the size of presses used to make Model T's. Ford thought that the cost of retooling for the Model A was about \$100,000,000 but some experts thought it was a lot more. By the end of 1928, most production problems were solved and in 1929, the company put out a single day high total of 9100 vehicles.

So what have we learned in 95 years? Not much. Car companies still have months long backlogs for cars!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Holiday Party **December 11, 2022** **1:00 PM**

Our holiday party is back on this year! It will be a pot luck lunch held in the parish hall of Christ Lutheran Church, 353 E. Dark Hollow Road, Pipersville, PA. 18947. Please contact Fred Chapman at 215-378-7303 to let him know you are coming. He will also guide you on what to bring to share.

We will also have our famous “Gift Exchange”. To refresh your memory, or for those new to the event, if you wish to participate, please bring a gift of about \$15 in value. It should be wrapped and labeled for a man or woman. You will receive a number in exchange for the gift. When your number is called, you can select a wrapped gift, or steal one that has already been opened. A single gift can only be stolen 3 times.

Come join the fun! We hope to see you at the last event of the year!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 30

2023

Sunday • 9 am to 3 pm

Trexlerstown, PA

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

Vintage Fords from 1903 - 1942 also welcomed.

Lehigh Valley Model "A" Club Presents

the STEVE RYAN

Model A/AA Show & Swap



Swap Meet • Concessions • Tech Session

Rain or Shine • Free Admission • Free Registration

Pin Stripping by Jim Brand • Paved Parking for Show Cars

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/toys • NO modern tools

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

Save the dates! September 6th – 10th, 2023

Hosted by the Model A Ford Club of Long Island



Hyatt Regency Hotel
1717 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, NY
800-233-1234

Welcome Dinner Thursday night
Guided tour on Friday
Dinner Friday at the hotel
Grand Tour Saturday
Banquet at the Hotel Saturday night
Sunday afternoon Tour
Car Judging

Make reservations by 8/1/2023 for
the Special Meet Rate of \$159 a night
Listed under Model A Ford Meet
[https://salesportal.hyatt.com/env-
web/gsm/ui/#/booking/26523323](https://salesportal.hyatt.com/env-web/gsm/ui/#/booking/26523323)

Hublely Derby
Onsite Trailer Parking
Secure Parking
Maintenance Tent
Awards Breakfast Sunday morning
Raffle Prizes and more!

For more information contact: 2023NEM@gmail.com

Join our Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nem2023>

T's & A's Along the Mother Road

In September, I took a trip along with a friend and neighbor from the beginning to the end of Route 66, the Mother Road of the US. This tour was recommended to us by Fred Chapman, who, along with his wife, went on the same tour in June. The tour starts in Chicago at the beginning of Route 66 and ends at the pier in Santa Monica California, the official end of the road. Our tour guide arranged all of our hotel reservations and all of the stops that we made along the way. All we had to do was play follow the leader in our car caravan, just like on a Model A tour and enjoy all of the sights and sounds that Route 66 had to offer.



The 13 day tour was a great way to take in all the history of the road itself and the history of the country as the road developed and then eventually declined. There is too much to tell here, but I was impressed with the role Model T's and Model A's had in the history and development of Route 66. To that end, I'd like to share some of the Model T's and A's that we encountered along the way.



One of the very first

Model T's that we saw was in the Dwight Ambler Texaco Station in Dwight Illinois seen on the previous page. This is a 1914 Model T with an American La-France fire truck body on it. It is in the longest continually operated service station on Route 66 until it stopped pumping gas in 1999.

We found this '29 Phaeton in Lebanon MO. It was in the Lebanon Route 66 Museum that had a nice display of photographs and artifacts on what Route 66 looked like when it was built. I think with some gas and a battery, I could have gotten it started.



The next day, our first stop was at Gary's Sinclair Station in Everton MO. They have stopped pumping gas here a long time ago, but there were plenty of old cars and trucks on the property, but no Model A's or T's. You may notice in the picture above, a Model A wheel from a '30 or '31 Model A. It was a place full of nostalgia.



From there we crossed over briefly into Kansas. Route 66 cuts just through the south east corner of Kansas. The cars and some of the people we encountered were the basis for some of the cartoon characters in the *Cars* movies.

The next stop was at the Coleman Theater in Miami (pronounced *my-am_uh*) Oklahoma.



This theater was built in 1929 at the height of the Model A era by George Coleman, who made his riches from lead mines near by during World War II

and beyond. Unfortunately, while Coleman got rich, the people who worked for him succumbed to lead poisoning and the town Picher, OK and the mines surrounding the town were eventually abandoned. The theater, through the hard work of dedicated volunteers and a lot of luck, has been restored to the grandeur of it's original 1929 beginnings. Lunch was provided on the stage of the theater as we listened to the history of the theater and stories of it's restoration. What a way to have lunch!

The next Model A that we encountered was in the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton Oklahoma. This was another great museum that had a lot of information about



the Model A era when the road was being built. This car showed how durable these vehicles were when they were in operation in the west. There were things



tied on it everywhere.



everywhere.

It was on to Texas, where we found the Magnolia gas station that was opened on May 18, 1929 in Shamrock Texas. It was very fitting that the sign on the previous page in front of the station has a Model A on it. Shamrock even boasts it's own Blarney Stone from Ireland!



No trip on historic Route 66 would be complete without a stop at the iconic Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo Texas. Here my friend Bill is having his way with a can of spray paint on one of the cars. The paint was provided by our guide. The original Cadillacs were buried in 1974 and were relocated farther out of town some time later. Every so often the cars are repainted one color to give everyone a fresh start.

We passed the Mid Point Café, which is located just inside the New Mexico border at the mid point of Route 66 and came across the car museum at Russell's Truck Stop in Glenrio NM. The museum had this beautiful '27 Model T on display as well as lots of other cars and trucks from the '50s and '60s. It was a nice small museum and our introduction to New Mexico.



Our next stop was the Route 66 Auto Museum in Santa Rosa New Mexico. This was a Saturday and we found out from the head of the museum that most of the cars had been

taken out to a local car show. So off to the car show we went!

The setting was a beautiful park next to a lake. The show was dominated by muscle cars and hot rods, but just about every car show has a least one Model A, and I found it! It was a beautiful car in a beautiful setting and well worth the detour.



Although not a Ford, the hulk of this 1932 Studebaker is located on the spot where Route 66 actually went through the Petrified Forrest National Park in New Mexico. The park was a spectacular

stop on our tour.



Most of us know the song *Take it Easy* from the Eagles, where they made “standin on the corner in Winslow Arizona” famous. Well, this is the corner and there is even a flat bed Ford there, right on Route 66. It was really neat to be

in this iconic location, with a flat bed Ford.

In Seligman Arizona, we found the Model A Coupe parked off to the side of the Hackberry General Store. It looks like it has been parked there since the 1930’s

and is just waiting for the owner to come out and fire it up. The General Store was one more place to stock up on Tee Shirts, signs and souvenirs.



Our final old car location was the Barstow Route 66 Museum in Barstow California. It was not open on the day we arrived, but our tour director arranged to have the museum opened for us. They

were excited to see us and show off their museum. One of the highlights was to be able to sit in a Model T Ford. That's something that I have never done before. It even had instructions on how to operate it.

This was the last day of our tour. We covered 2400 miles in 13 days. What I have described here is only a small sampling of all that we experienced on the Mother Road. If you are interested in learning more, talk to Fred Chapman or me. It was definitely an experience of a lifetime.





**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"

C/O Doug Pyatt

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, PA. 18015

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

Running Board "A's"

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, PA. 18015

First Class Mail