

The "A"nnouncer



April, 2023

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

www.RunningBoardAs.com

Volume 22

Number 4

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'm excited! I'm excited that April is here and it's the start of our touring season. First up is our planning meeting. The newsletter may not be published before the planning meeting, but I consider the meeting to be the first step to a successful touring season. We hope to get lots of good ideas for tours and events. That's what this club is all about and it's up to the members to make it happen.

The next event is our annual Raise Your A Day hosted by Bob and Bernadette Outwater. Now that we have all of these great events to go to, you want to make sure your Model A is in tip top shape, and this is the place to do it. For those that are new to the club, this is a great opportunity to put your car on lift and hit it with some grease and check the oil levels in the trans, rear axle and steering box. While you are doing that, the rest of the club will be glad to give your car the once over and point out any safety issues that they see. It also gives you the opportunity to check out Bob's car collection, including his pristine '29 Woody Wagon and several of his hand built hot rods. Just give the Outwaters a call and let them know what you will bring for lunch to share.

Finally, at the end of the month, is the Steve Ryan Memorial Model A Car Show in Trexlertown. This is a great show where you can definitely get your fill of Model A's. It's a nice ride to get there as well. So this is why I'm excited. I hope you are too!

Dave

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of February 18, 2023 \$1693.69

Income	
Dues	\$90.00
Total Income	\$90.00

Expenses

Total Expenses \$0.00

Balance as of February 18, 2023 \$1783.69

Respectfully Submitted
 Doug Pyatt
 Treasurer

\$

On the cover: Members of the Running Board A's at the Vacu Braze Factory Tour.

(Yes, that's me actually on the cover thanks to Bobbi Bettle).

Vacu Braze Plant Tour

March 15, 2023

Hosted by Dennis Peters

Photos by Bobbi Bettle

On Wednesday, March 15, a few Running Board A members met at Dennis Peters garage to begin our tour of the Vacu Braze plant in Trumbauersville Pa. The day was bright and sunny, but there was still that March chill in the air.

Those in attendance were Tim Litzenburger with his Fodor Sedan, Ken Nygard, Dick and Bobbi Bettle and me in my Tudor sedan.

Dennis drove his '32 Chevrolet to the plant to lead the way. Tim followed in his Fodor. Ken rode with me in my Tudor while Dick and Bobbi brought up the rear in their modern car. (Their Model A was home, up on jack stands at the time).



We enjoyed the ride over to the plant from Dennis and Donna's house. Once we arrived, we were met by Kirk, the VP of operations.

We were ushered into a conference room where Kirk gave us an overview of what the company does, what industries they work with and the kind of lead times that the company works with to get products turned around.

My apologies to Dennis and Vacu Braze if I get any of the facts in the article wrong. I am writing this from memory. Kirk explained that the company started out to be relatively small, but as they expanded over the years, they actually built a larger building around the existing building. You could actually see this on our tour.

The company deals with the medical industry, aerospace industry, nuclear industry, defense industry, automotive industry and basically any other industry that needs to have parts heat treated and hardened for use.



The heat treatment is specialized in that most parts are heated under vacuum to prevent oxidation or discoloration of parts while being heated. In some cases, once the parts are heated under vacuum, the oven is then filled with a gas such as nitrogen or some other type of gas to achieve the desired hardness of the parts being treated.

Most of the chemistry has been worked out ahead of time so that the company can take a part and subject it to the proper amount of heat, vacuum and gas if needed to achieve the desired degree of hardness.

Some parts are subjected to oil baths directly after heating. These ovens with the oil baths integrated



into them were built in the 1940's and are still in use today.

The brazing part of the company is where Dennis comes in. He demonstrated some of the brazing techniques that they use. One piece that he was working on was a honeycomb type of material that had to be brazed to a housing so that the honeycomb would act almost as a cylinder wall for a turbine fan. As the turbine rotates, the turbine fan blades come in contact



with the honeycomb material which wears instead of the fan blade.

They also do a lot of brazing using precious metals such as a gold slurry to make the braze. Finally, Dennis demonstrated the use of induction to heat treat certain parts. Induction works by inserting carbon based metals (any metal that can be magnetized) into

a copper coil. Electricity is applied to the coil and heats the metal part to glowing red in a matter of sections due to magnetism. They make up their own copper coils to match the shape of the item they are trying to heat. Dennis demonstrated how this can heat up just the valve seat of a valve instead of the whole valve. This technology has been around for a long



time but is now gaining more popularity with induction stoves. Finally, we had a tour of their Quality Assurance lab where things like hardness are checked o the

items being treated.

It was a fun and very interesting tour, especially when you consider that most of the parts are treated for companies that reside no more than about 100 mile away from here. Who says America doesn't make anything anymore?

Finally, Dennis led us back toward Quakertown after the tour for lunch at a local sandwich shop and general store. Thanks to Dennis for a great tour and to Bobbi Bettle for taking all the pictures and making sure that I was in just about every one of them.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Planning Meeting
April 1, 2023
11:30 AM
Christ Lutheran Church
Parish Hall
353 East Dark Hollow Rd
Pipersville, PA

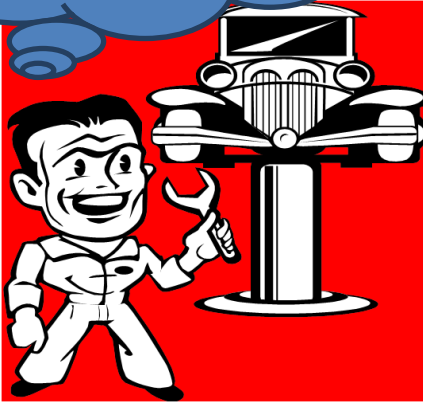
Bring your ideas for the new touring season. We will provide sandwiches, water, coffee and ice cream sundae fixins for dessert. Call Diane and Dave to RSVP by March 30th and to sign up for a side dish to bring. 267-733-3868. If you can't make the meeting, you can always let me know ahead of time what event you would like to lead.

Hope to see you there!



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 22, 2023

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 and top off of fluids. Sorry no oil changes. Tire pressure check will be an optional extra charge (ha ha it’s a joke). As always, Bob’s lift will be available for you to check things out.

Please feel free to bring any small parts you may need for your “quick” repair. Donations of grease and transmission oil will be most welcome.

Sandwiches will be provided by Bob and Bernadette. Please let us know what side salad or dessert, or other things you will bring to share.

Please let us know (973) 568-3525 or boutw@aol.com by **April 15** if you plan to attend so we can get a headcount for lunch.

Bob & Bernadette Outwater

32 Mason Farm Rd.,

Ringoes, NJ 08551; 973 568-3525

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 Striping 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

Overnight tour to Rhinebeck Auto Show

**Hosted by Steve & Kathy Belton
May 6th and 7th
Rhinebeck N.Y.**

This is an overnight run to Rhinebeck N.Y. to attend the Rhinebeck auto show on Sunday May 7th. Registration for Model A's is free. We drive up along the Delaware River to Milford PA. After stopping for lunch in Milford, we work our way up to Kingston N.Y. where we stay overnight. Steve and Kathy will most likely stay at the Best Western in Kingston. Please call 845-338-0400 to make your own reservations. There are other hotel options in the area if needed. Contact Steve and Kathy on their land line at 908-362-6344, or Steve's cell at 908-334-8661. You can also reach them at burnedbelly72@yahoo.com. They can tell you meeting times and locations for the event.



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)

Hubley 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>

Raffle Donations Needed

Do you have any Model A items that you would like to donate to the Model A Ford Club of Long Island?

They will be hosting the 66th annual New England Meet from September 6th to the 10th, as seen on the previous page. They are currently looking for items or gift certificates that have been donated to the club for their raffle.

If you have an item or want more information, contact :

Debby Duprez
Raffle Room Coordinator
212 Holly Lane
Smithtown, N.Y. 11787
631 265 2597
Wduprez@optonline.net



A Short History of Windshields in Ford Vehicles

We all take our windshields for granted in our modern cars. They are tinted and curve with the body of the car to make the car more aerodynamic. Many have radio antennas hidden in them along with a whole bunch of other technology that we don't even think about.

It turns out that windshields were only offered as an option in Model T Fords in 1909. The windshields were plate glass and were made to fold down so the driver could still see if the glass got too dirty.



It wasn't until 1915 that Oldsmobile offered windshields as standard equipment on automobiles. It wasn't long until the other auto manufacturers followed suit.

In 1927 Ford began putting laminated glass into their

windshields. It had been discovered that glass coated with cellulose would not shatter. Ford began offering windshields that had cellulose laminated in-between two layers of glass after several people, including his employees were hurt in traffic accidents. Law suits followed for Ford after at least one accident involving windshields made with plate glass. The laminated windshields were labeled as “triplex” glass and was standard in all Model A windshields.

As early as 1925, glass suppliers were having trouble keeping up with Ford’s demand for glass. When Ford decided to build a manufacturing plant in St. Paul Minnesota, he chose a site that was not only good for manufacturing automobiles because of it’s location close to the Mississippi River, but it also sat on top of a huge deposit of pure white sand. Just the ticket for making glass.



So as vehicles were coming off the assembly line above ground, 100 feet below ground sand was being mined to help meet the demand for all the glass needed for his automobiles.



In the photo at left, workers are using air hammers to mine sand for Ford windshields in the 1930's. The tunnels eventually ran for 4 miles under the plant until the mine was closed

in 1959. Laminated glass had its place in windshields, but didn't work well in side windows. By 1937 tempered glass began to appear. Tempering is done much the same way as steel is tempered, by heating it. Tempering allows glass to be stronger and even somewhat flexible. It also breaks into small relatively harmless pieces when broken, so it was ideal for side window glass.

As of January, 1934 the state of Pennsylvania made it mandatory that any vehicle produced after 1934 must have safety glass in all of its windows.

So there you have it. Something that we pretty much have taken for granted has evolved over the years to something pretty remarkable.

If you are replacing glass in your car, make sure it is with safety glass. Original equipment is not always the best. If you are unfortunate enough to get into an accident, or just have a rock or other debris hit a windshield, having safety glass installed in your car can be a lifesaver.

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"

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