

# The "A"nnouncer



December, 2024

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 23

Number 12

# 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

Congratulation to Dennis Peters, our newly elected President of the Running Board A's. I think that with your help, Dennis will do a great job. As many of you know, Dennis and Donna only owned Chevrol-  
lets....until now. Dennis is now the proud owner of a 1929 Model A Tudor Sedan. After looking all over the



Northeast, Dennis finally settled on this one, found in Middletown N.J. We wish him a lot of luck with it.

I think we have a good start on activities for next year. A few activities in January and February would be great to come up with. Let me know if you have any ideas.

This is my last column as President. I would like to thank the club officers that I had the pleasure of working with, Chuck Savitske, Peg Hardy, Doug Pyatt, Cindy Chapman Ken Nygard and Dick Bettle. You, as well as the rest of the club membership, have made this job a pleasure to do. You are all part of my Model A "family". Like any family, we may be a little dysfunctional at times, but I can always count on you for a fun time and for help when it's needed.

Dave



# Running Board A's Business Meeting Held Saturday November 2, 2024 Pipersville PA.

We had a successful business meeting on November 2nd. There were 18 club members in attendance. The meeting minutes appear on the next two pages, but some of the highlights are below.

- Awards handed out for the Road Kill Rally.
- Club voted to donate \$200 to the MARC Youth Scholarship Fund.
- Club voted to donate \$100 to the church for the use of the parish hall.
- A joint luncheon will be planned with the Active A's in April.
- A new feature in the newsletter will be a member profile. Doru will be the first member profiled.
- Dennis Peters was nominated and elected as the new President of the club for the 2025-2026 term. All other officers remain the same.

**Running Board “A’s” Business meeting Sat. Nov 2, 2024**, at Christ Lutheran Church parish hall, Pipersville

**Attendance:** 18 members were present:

Roger & Kathy Bagley, Doru & Linda Popescu, Chuck & Debbie Savitske, Kathy & Tim Litzenger, Dennis & Donna Peters, Dave & Diane Allison, Bobbie Sliker & Carl Weissman, Jack & Sharon McCann, Doug Pyatt, Ken & Judy Nygard

**Meeting called to order** at 12:38 p.m. following lunch

**RESULTS OF CAR CLUB RALLY** held on 10/26/2024

Deb S unpacked items in paper bags with consolation prizes and big winner prize.

Consolation prizes: Adams (absent), Dennis Peterson, Gruvers, (not here), Tim L, Felton (not here), Doru, Craig and Lynn (absent), Cindy & Fred (not here), Doug, John (absent). Prizes will be brought to the Christmas party for absentees.

Grand prize of 2 matching mugs with Swiss Miss, 2 bowls with instant oatmeal: 3 winners, Bettles (not here), David and Diane Allison, Roger and Kathy Bagley

The Bettle prize for spirited participation: golden cheerleader award.

President Dave Allison called the business meeting to order at 12:50

**READING MINUTES** of Nov. 4, 2023

Secretary Ken Nygard read the minutes aloud. Approved 1st Diane, 2nd Doug.

**REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

33 families on roster

20 local events and some other national events

Events are advertised in newsletter

Special thanks to these for organizing large events:

Outwater’s for Raise Your A Day

Dennis and Donna for Christmas in July

Fred and Cindy for two overnight trips

Deb and Chuck for Roadkill Rally

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Cindy Chapman was absent due to a family emergency

\$1908.59

No expenses or bills due

1989.50 total balance 1st Diane, 2nd Doug, Approved

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Philanthropy discussed last year but nothing was done to send \$100 to MARC scholarship

Motion to have the discussion: 1st Doug, 2nd Chuck

Do we still want to make this donation?

Bobbie: \$200 since we didn't give \$100 this past year

Ken: List of youth projects sponsored by MARC in the last newsletter.

Diane: our "oath" to give cars to someone who loves them. Need future repairmen.

Dave: Need people

1st Bobbie, 2nd Doug to give \$200 to MARC scholarship. Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Member profiles

Suggestion for the newsletter so that we can get to know each other better.

Doru has agreed to be the first profile. Doru received citation while back in Romania as one successful emigree from Romania. Nominated by his nephews. Newsweek magazine published bios. and pictured him with his Model A.

Please send a little write-up about yourself, especially your interests.

### Christmas Party at Harvest Moon Inn located in Ringoes, NJ

Date: Saturday Dec 14

\$47.50 per person, sent to Cindy Chapman at the address in newsletter

Reservations by Dec. 1.

Need 25 people to attend.

Gift exchange \$20 item

### Events for Jan. Feb

No events lined up for Jan or Feb

Please let Dave know ideas.

Joint Model A Club Breakfast again with another club Active A's.

Dave will try to get private room in same restaurant in April

Alfa Romeo collection in Skippack with Active A's—need a minimum number of people to tour this private collection. Keep eye out for it in newsletter

Other New business?

1st Doru, 2nd Doug, to discuss: Donate \$100 to church for use of space

Approved

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Terms begin Jan. 2025)**

President: Doug nominated Dennis Peters, who agrees to serve. No other nominations. Acclamation.

Vice-President: Chuck S in absence of other nominees--continues

Treasurer: Cindy Chapman (absent) continues

Secretary: Judy was thanked for helping today. Ken continues.

Adjourned 1st Diane, 2nd Doug at 1:18 p.m.

# Member Profile

## Doru Popescu

I grew up in Bucharest, Romania where I went to college for a degree in Electrical Engineering. Shortly after completing my studies, I moved to the US in 1977, initially to New York, but then settled in New Jersey.



Here I started an engineering and management career in the computer industry with Unisys, while completing two Master degrees at night.

Here I also met and married Linda, settled in Flemington,

had 3 daughters now 34, 31 and 28. We moved to Pittstown 25 years ago, and we are still there.

After 17 years with Unisys, I moved to Hewlett-Packard (HP), which spun off Agilent and then Keysight Technologies. In the 28 years there, I held various leadership positions in R&D, strategic planning, and marketing for electronic test instruments.

I retired in 2022 and turned my attention to a new project and hobby, acquiring a vintage car. I was always fascinated by the looks of the late 20's early 30's cars.

I eventually narrowed down my options to the Ford Model A, and joined two clubs, the LVMAC and the



Running Board A's. A few months later I found the right car in Bethlehem and bought it in the Spring of 2022. I enjoy the camaraderie of the members of both clubs and I continue to learn from their vast experience.

I returned from Romania a couple of weeks ago, where I had the honor to attend a Gala at the Parliament and be recognized in the “Top 100 Romanians around the world” in the Management category. The event was organized by the RePatriot group in partnership with the Newsweek magazine (local edition). As part of the interview they requested several photos, and to my surprise they published the one with the Model A. The article is in Romanian, I could translate it but it's all about my career, not sure it's relevant. The title is “Doru Popescu, the Romanian engineer who pursued the American Dream”.

**Management**

**Doru Popescu, inginerul român care a urmat „visul american”**

**D**ORU POPESCU s-a născut în București și a copilărit în cartierul Băneasa, apoi în Drumul Taberei. A urmat cursurile Facultății de Automatică la Institutul Politehnic. După absolvirea facultății și plecarea din țară în 1977 a continuat studiile universitare în Statele Unite.

Ajuns în compania de calculatoare Unisys în timpul celui de-al treilea mandat la New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) în Ingineria de Electronică (MSEE), și al doilea în Divizia Calculatoarelor (MSCS). După absolvirea cursurilor ca candidat de doctorat, a devenit profesor și a produs cursuri de Adresare și Calculatoare la nivel de doctorat și am produs timp de patru ani, încă și prezent cartea profesională la Unisys, apoi am început Doru Popescu.

Început după soțieră în SUA, s-a angajat la un laborator de calitate electronică din New York. După un an, s-a mutat în statul New Jersey și a început o carieră de „răzoi” la compania de calculatoare Burroughs Corporation, care prin fuziune cu Sperry a devenit Unisys Corporation. În 1995, s-a mutat la Hewlett-Packard (HP), care, mai târziu, a dat naștere companiei Agilent Technologies și apoi companiei Keysight Technologies.

„După numai 4 ani de activitate ca inginer la Unisys, am fost ales în 1982 (la 39 de ani) să devin manager și să conduc echipa din care făceam parte. Apoi am avansat treptat și, în 1991 (la 48 de ani), am devenit director general al unui centru de protecție pentru comunicații de date, cu o echipă de 150 de ingineri de software. Am avut o traiectorie similară la HP, Agilent și

Keysight, unde, pe parcursul a 27 de ani, am deținut posturi de conducere în Protecția & Conector și apoi în Planificare Strategică. Am încheiat ultimii 13 ani la Keysight în domeniul Marketing”, spune Doru Popescu.

După 1990, a început să revină treptat în țară și să viziteze România din ce în ce mai des.

Vine în țară în fiecare an să și vadă rudele, foști colegi și profesori, precum și reprezentanții Keysight în România.

„Ca vizitator, sunt înlocuit de tot ce văd în țară în ultimii 20-30 de ani.

Modernizare rapidă pe toate planurile și oportunități noi, mai puțină corupție și plăgă mai puțină și face mai mult.

Ca o observație, au venit să vadă România înclusiv în mai multe domenii de tehnice complexe, cu un nivel al integrității complete în lumea occidentală, ne-a spus Doru Popescu.”

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*CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

**Annual Holiday Party  
Saturday December 14, 2024  
12:00 Noon  
Harvest Moon Inn  
1039 Old York Rd, Ringoes, NJ  
08551**

**Time to get into the holiday spirit and celebrate with your Model A friends.**

**The cost is \$47.50 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. RSVP by December 1st**

**There will be our usual gift “exchange” and a whole lot of fun!**

**Gifts should be between \$10 & \$20 in value and should be marked for a man or woman.  
Hope to see you there!**



## *Menu*

*Choice of Soup or House  
Salad*

*Choice of Three Entrees from  
the Lunch or Dinner Menu*

*Choice of Desserts: Rice Pud-  
ding in Phyllo, Assorted Sor-  
bets and Fresh Fruits*

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

**We are looking for events (breakfasts, lunches, tours, etc) for January and February. If you have any ideas, please let me know so I can get them in the newsletter.**

## **Model A Event!**



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Spring Planning Meeting Time and Date to be Determined**

The Allison's will host our spring planning meeting again this year in March. The meeting will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Pipersville. The Allison's will provide wraps, coffee, tea and water. Please let us know what side you will bring to share. Watch the January newsletter for more details.



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Joint Luncheon with the Active A's**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025  
12:00 PM**

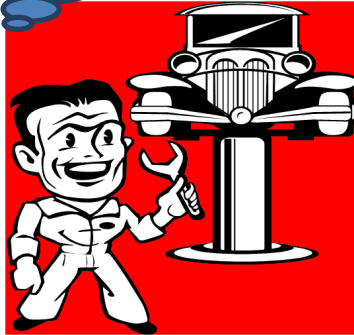
**Franconia Café & Market  
513 Allentown Road  
Souderton, PA. 18964**

We will have a joint lunch with the Active A's on Saturday April 12. This year, we have the café's private room reserved for the event. The room only holds 30 people, so we are limiting the event to only two clubs. If we have less than 30 people signed up for the event a week before we will open the event to other area clubs. Contact Dave and Diane Allison @267-733-3708 if you plan to attend.



# 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 19, 2025**

Bob & Bernadette are pleased to once again host “Raise Your A Day”. This is a fun day for you and your Model A to spend some quality time among friends looking for those annoying rattles, cracked frames, real or imagined suspension issues or maybe a quick lube and a top off of fluids. **Sorry, no oil changes** due to time constraints. 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, etc., will be most welcome to help defray costs of this event.** Sandwiches will be provided by Bob and Bernadette. Please let us know what side salad, dessert, or soft drink you will bring to share.

Please let us know (973) 568-3525 or [boutw@aol.com](mailto: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; [boutw@aol.com](mailto:boutw@aol.com)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 27**  
**2025**

**Sunday • 9 am to 3 pm**  
**Trexlerstown, PA**

*Lehigh Valley Model "A" Club Presents*

**the STEVE RYAN**

*Model A/AA Show & Swap*

**Model A Ford**  
**Stock / Original**  
**Era Equipment**

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

**Co-Host: LVMAC & Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company**

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

Swap meet spots are 20' x 20' with a \$10 Donation • Model A / AA, T & early Ford parts only

NO household items • NO dolls/toys • NO modern tools • NO home services

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 via email ONLY: lvmodelclub@gmail.com

- Rain or Shine • No Dogs •
- No Drugs & Alcohol •

Lehigh Valley  
Model 'A' Club



# What's Your Diagnosis? Mystery Solved

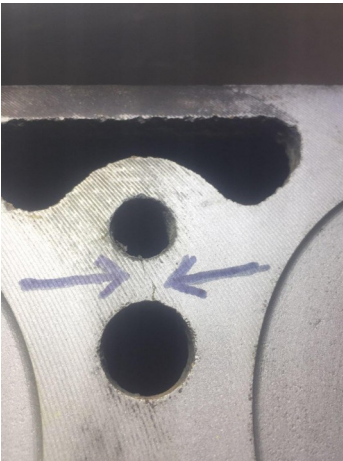
You may recall last year that Running Board A member John Grier purchased a 1931 Roadster and was working to get it into good running order.

There was a persistent noise coming from the engine that he hoped could be diagnosed at "Raise Your A Day". The diagnosis at that time was that there was a valve tap and the valves just needed to be adjusted.

Being new to the hobby, John was a little apprehensive about doing the valve adjustment himself, but with his trusty new Model A Mechanic Handbook in hand, he tackled the job. After making the adjustments "a jillion times", he put the valve cover back on and fired up the engine. The noise was still there. The next step was to remove the oil pan and cylinder head to look for trouble. Unfortunately, trouble found John when he found anti-freeze in the oil pan. There was

nothing obvious in the block, but when he had the head machined, he found a crack, not to mention 6 heli-coils in the block that the head bolt studs were screwed into. A new high compression head was ordered, and all the bearings and wrist pins were checked.

John put the engine back together and fired it up and the noise was **still there!**



John decided to just drive the car in the fall and worry about it in the spring.

Fast forward to the Spring and the pesky noise was still there. John decided to take the engine to Schwalm's and have it totally rebuilt. The only issue was that it was going to take until August to get it done.

John finally got the engine back in late summer and reinstalled in the car. He was diligent about breaking in the new engine by keeping it at 35 mph for the first 500 miles, but during the break in time the head bolts needed to be re-torqued to 65 ft-lbs. When John went to do this, one of the heli-coils let loose, causing antifreeze to leak . The good news was that the engine was under warranty, so the whole car went back to Schwalm's. The bad news was that it happened just before the Hershey car show, so they had no time to work on it.

John finally got it back again in October and worked very hard to complete the break in process before the weather got too cold. He even was getting up a 4 AM and bundling up to take the roadster out to put break in miles on it when there was no traffic. That was finally accomplished in early November, just in time to put the car away for the winter. While the engine was out, John had a friend, who owns a body shop, help him clean up and repaint the engine bay.

The car looks great, and runs even better. John has also become an expert Model A mechanic.

When I spoke to John last, I asked him what was the source of the tapping noise. He stated that they think that one of the cam lobes for the number 3 cylinder was ground incorrectly. Instead of the lobe being nice and rounded, it came to a relatively sharp point, causing the valve to make noise as it slid over the cam lobe. Now how many of you guessed that? I know I didn't!!!



**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 Cindy Chapman**

**5266 Valley Park Rd.**

**Doylestown, PA. 18902**

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

**Running Board "A's"**

**5266 Valley Park Rd**

**Doylestown, PA, 18902**

**First Class Mail**