

# The "A"nnouncer



June, 2025

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 24

Number 6

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

\*\*\*\*\*

President	Dennis Peters 332 Franklin Street Quakertown, PA 18951 267-374-4856
Vice President/Director	Chuck Savitske 3379 Reservoir Rd Hellertown, PA. (610)-573-4378
Secretary	Ken Nygard 426 Foulkeways Gwynedd, PA. 19436 (215)-283-7225
Treasurer	Cindy Chapman 5266 Valley Park Rd Doylestown, Pa 215-378-8753
Editor/Publisher	Dave Allison 108 Ervin Rd. Pipersville PA 18947 (267)-733-3708
Web Master	Dick Bettle 170 Crescent Road Florham Park, N.J. 07932 (973) 966-2947

**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*



Hi everyone, I hope you had a relaxing Memorial Day weekend, maybe driving your Model A. I have been and will be very busy getting ready for an antique engine show in western Pennsylvania in a few weeks. My Tudor will be resting until after the show. We do have some events coming up in June. The Father's Day car show at Silver Creek in Springtown, then the MARC meet in Gettysburg, and also a very interesting Mill tour organized by John Rothrock (details later in the newsletter). Summertime brings lots of opportunities to drive your Model A and your experiences with others. Donna and I have been visiting Lake Towhee to see the Purple Martins and always find someone to talk to about the Model A and even the 32 Chevy. To me that's what makes ownership fun. I did get a report from the Oak Hill trip and it sounded like a very nice trip, wish I could have joined that one. Lots of events in the newsletter and always remember to check the calendar on our website for upcoming events. I'll keep it short this month as I need to get back to work. As always Happy Motoring.

Dennis



# **Model A Gathering at Oak Hill Aldie, Virginia May 16 to 18 2025**

**Article and Photos by  
Dick and Bobbi Bettle**

Thanks to Steve Meyer, activity director of the Greater Baltimore Model A Club and John Leydon of the Running Board A's and the GBMAC, who lives on the property at Oak Hill, we were invited to this Oak Hill Plantation in Aldie, VA. We left home on Thursday, and stayed with our daughter in Stephens City, VA, about 40 minutes from Aldie.

Friday morning we met Steve and about 6 other Model A's to start the tour at George Marshall's Dodona Mansion in Leesburg. Marshall



was a prominent figure in WWII where he became Chief of Staff of the Army under Roosevelt and Truman and then went on to become Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. We parked in front of the

house. The docent was wonderful, as was the house and gardens. What an interesting collection of memo-



abilia from General Marshall's long service in the US army, including an original black and white landscape painted by Soong Mei-ling, wife of the president of the Republic of China, Chiang Kai-shek. Madame Chiang and the Marshalls became close friends when Marshall was President Harry Truman's special envoy to China. Over 90% of the furnishings and memorabilia in the house were owned and used by the Marshalls.

After the tour, with permission, we left our cars at the Dodona. We all walked across the street and ate at Puccio's Italian Deli. If you are ever in Leesburg it's well worth the stop. It was almost as inexpensive as fast food, but so much better. But nothing beats the pie at Mom's Apple Pie Bakery on the way back to our cars.

Onward to Oatlands Plantation with an interesting tour of the Greek Revival mansion, built around 1804 out of brick. Originally the property was gifted to

George Carter by his grandfather, in 1861. George Carter's widow Elizabeth, fearing that the war was imminent nearby, fled to another of her properties. The Carters' eldest son, George Carter II, reopened the mansion in 1863. In 1897, the mansion was sold to Stilson Hutchins, founder of The Washington Post newspaper, who never lived on the property. He later sold Oatlands in 1903 to William & Edith Eustis. Mrs. Eustis restored the neglected gardens, and added statuary, a rose garden, a bowling green, and a reflecting pool. The garden is beautiful, and well worth the visit. The house was also upgraded with modern amenities including indoor plumbing, heating and gas lighting, along with pine floors placed over the original Carter flooring, an elevator, and a custom first floor bathroom for childhood friend, Franklin D. Roosevelt. After Mrs. Eustis' death in 1964, her daughters, Margaret and Anne, donated the mansion, furnishings, and estate grounds to Margaret's husband, David E. Finley, founder of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971. Most of the furnishings and paintings are original to the house, donated back by the family and neighbors.

On day 2, we went to the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum. Kathy and Tim Litzenberg joined the group on Saturday at the hotel. The GBMAC group also expanded by a few more cars as more of their members joined on Saturday. They had an early



morning guided tour and then wandered. We were a little late because a train decided to park itself across the road on route 17. Waze just kept trying to put us back on that road. We finally called our daughter Helen to get us out of there. (We joined that tour about  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through). After lunch with Steve and his wife Sue at the Shake Shack inside the museum, we decided to stay at the museum and skip the Manassas battle-field. We took another guided tour, this one with a different guide. Although some of the information was the same, each guide had a different field of interest, which definitely added to the experience.



On Sunday, we met Steve and the rest of GBMAC in Middleburg for a back-roads riding tour of the countryside. Although we had been driving 40 minutes on the back-roads of Virginia each day, it was a very interesting ride. Stone walls for miles, some with fences built over them, and some odd “roofs” built into the ground interspersed within the fences.

This tour ended at the gate to Oak Hill Plantation. The main mansion of the property was constructed in 1822 for James Monroe and it was one of his residences for 22 years. Our host, John Leydon, lives on the property in “the Farm House”. As the Manor





House was not open for tours, we had a tour of John's house instead. The event included a Bluegrass Band, a groaning ta-

ble for a picnic (including Brisket, BBQ Chicken, and home-made goodies from the Oak Hill neighbors), a walk through the beautiful gardens, and over 50 Model A's, a 56



Ford and a 52 Ford Convertible. A minor breakdown on my Ford was fixed with the help of Steve & John among others. What a great trip, Thanks to GBMAC and John Leydon.



# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **23rd Annual Father's Day Car Show Silver Creek Athletic Association**

**Sunday - June 15, 2025**

**9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Gates open at 8:00 AM**

**RT 413 Springtown PA**



**[Click here for registration form](#)**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## How It's Made Tour - Castle Valley Mill Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 10:00 am

We will meet at the Weis Market, 432 Dublin Pike, Perkasie Pa. (Intersection Rts. 113 & 313 above Dublin)

### **Be ready to Roll at 10:20**

Route to the mill takes back roads past Lake Galena, over the Pine Valley covered bridge, and over “featherbed” hill.

Castle Valley Mill is located at 1730 Lower State Road in Doylestown Township. It was established as a mill in 1730 and still remains in operation today . . . providing all natural stone-ground whole grain products (from local farms) for flours, meals and mixes sold to restaurants, bakeries and specialty retail stores. Much of the milling machinery in use today dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



The current owner is Mark Fischer who runs the mill with his family. It was inherited from his grandfather who gathered milling machinery from Bucks County mills as they closed down operations.

Mark, a retired engineer, has managed to fulfill his grandfather's dream of bringing the mill back to life. Mark has graciously offered to provide us with a tour . . . showing us how milling was done back in the day. There are ample picnic tables at the mill if you would like to pack a lunch. Optionally, I would suggest lunch at the New Britain Inn, a mile away on old route 202 in New Britain, or the Crossroads Tavern north on Rt. 152 in Hilltown.

To get a head count, please call or drop a text to John Rothrock at 315-383-0265

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2025 MARC National Meet**  
June 16 thru  
June 20, 2025



**2025 Meet Raffles**

---

**Four-Goodyear Tires**  
(Value of \$1140.00)

**Model A Rebuilt Transmission**  
(Value of \$1100.00)

**COMPLETE Model A INTERIOR Kit by**  
**Classtique Upholstry!**  
Your choice for a 1928-31 Std. Roadster, Coupe or Tudor.(Value \$3000.00)

**Model A Block Kit PLUS\***  
**by Burtz Engine**  
Including  
**Connecting Rods, Crankshaft,**  
**Camshaft, Flywheel,**  
**High Compression Head**  
(Value \$5600.00 \*Engine is unassembled)



ONE Ticket Drawn for Each Item

---

**Tickets are \$5.00 Each or Five (5) for \$20.00**  
Winners need not be present & must arrange shipping by Saturday Morning

[Click here for a registration form](#)

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Tentative July Events**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>: Parade at Titusville, NJ.**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>: Holcomb/Jimison Event.**

**July 26<sup>th</sup>: Christmas in July**

If you plan to host any of these events, please get the details to me as soon as possible so I can include them in the next newsletter.

**If you plan to attend the Das Awkscht Fescht car show on Saturday, August 2nd, you need to be pre registered by July 1st.**

[Click here for a registration form for the event](#)



*Wanted*  
*Your Member Profile*

I have had a lot of nice comments about the member profiles that we have run so far in the newsletter. I need YOURS next. It can be on any aspect of your life, how you got interested in Model A's, other cars that you have owned, your job, other hobbies, crazy things that you did as a kid, etc. If you are not comfortable writing a story, just send me the facts and I'll weave them into a story. I hope to hear from you soon.

Dave

**Hellertown and Lower Saucon  
Heritage Days  
Saturday May 17, 2025**

It was a beautiful day to go for a ride so I took the roadster for a ride up to the Heritage Day Event in Hellertown. We had been invited by Nelson Chegezy from the Lehigh Valley Model A's. I got there around noon and was able to park under a nice shady Sycamore tree. For awhile, I was the only one there with an antique car, until Jessie James from the Lehigh Valley club showed up with his '29 roadster pickup.

As soon as I parked the car, the public was on me like flies on.....you get the idea!

I soon came to realize that this crowd was a lot different from a normal car show crowd. They had no idea what the car was, ( guesses were Cadillac or Duisenberg) or what year it was. This was a real novelty for them. The kids really got a kick out of it. There were lots of questions like, “Why did the Model T come before the Model A” and “What are the two buttons on the floor” (gas pedal and foot rest). One lady even offered me \$25 to take

her for a ride, which I promptly turned down.

I also took the opportunity to teach some kids not to touch an antique car unless invited to by



the owner. It turned out to be a really fun day. I also got to know and talk to Jessie quite a bit. You can't ask for a better afternoon.

Dave

# That Sinking Feeling

It's the feeling you get when you fill your Model A with gas and the gauge still reads **zero**. That's what happened to me a couple of weeks before Rhinebeck. I didn't want to go all the way there and back without a working gas gauge.

It had been a long time since I had done anything with the gas gauge, so the first thing I did was to check out a couple of "how to" videos on the internet and the ordered a new float and gaskets from Brattons.

The parts came in a few days, so I decided to tackle the job. The first thing to do is disconnect the battery. Good ol' Henry decided to make the connections for the ammeter and the dash light right next to the gas gauge, so even with the



tank empty, you still have the potential with one spark to make the whole car go **BOOM!**

The next step was to drain the gas tank. I made sure that the gas tank valve was closed and then disconnected the fuel line at the carburetor. I slid a long piece of plastic hose over the gas line and ran it into an empty 5 gallon gas can. It took awhile but after draining 5 gallons of gas out of the car, I



was confident that the gas level was below the opening for the fuel gauge.

I have the proper tool for removing the gas gauge, so it was easy to do after removing the dash panel.



When I removed the gauge, I found that the wire was bent and the cork was in bad shape as seen in the photo to the left. I also saw in one of the videos that if the gauge was corroded, you could buff it with a Dremel to clean it up. Below are the before and after pictures of the buffing process. The video also recommended painting the gauge and then wiping it off with paint thinner to leave paint only



in the recessed numbers.

You then had to bake the gauge in the oven for a couple of hours. I decided to by-pass this step because there would have been a real loud boom if Diane found out that I had placed a gas gauge in her oven. I straightened the wire out and installed a new gas resistant float on the gauge.

Using the proper tools and a new gasket, it was easy to reinstall the gauge with no leaks. I can even read the gauge now!



As it turned out, I didn't go to Rhinebeck due to the threat of bad weather, and it did pour rain when I would have been driving home, but at least I now have a functional gas gauge that is easy to read.

Dave

# **For Sale**

## **1930 Tudor Sedan**

**It has not run in several years. It has been stored in a dry garage. The paint and interior are very nice. The gas tank looks good, is completely empty and dry. Shocks are missing.**



**Car is located in Washington N.J.  
If interested, call Chuck Savitske for  
more information, at 610-573-4378  
or Todd (the owner) at 610-442-  
1874.**



**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**