

The "A"nnouncer



March 2017

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

<http://clubs.hemmings.com/runningboardas/>

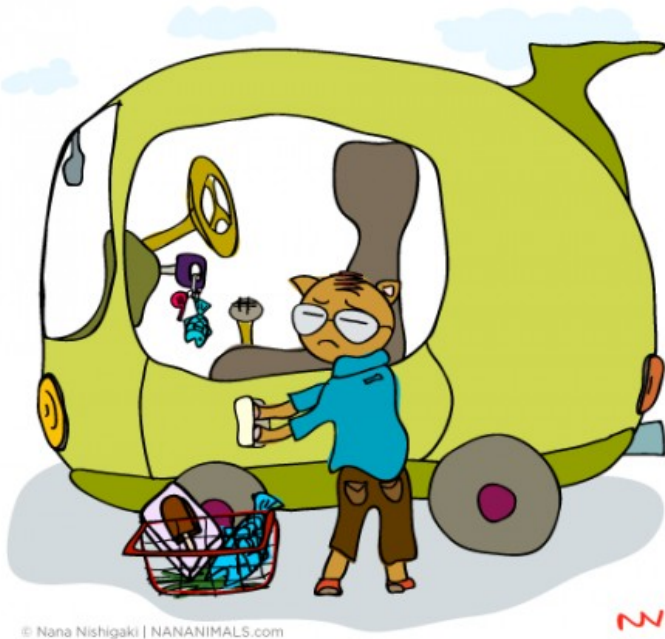
Volume 16

Number 3

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- | | |
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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.



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From the President

As I write this column (February 9, 2017), it is somewhat bizarre that mother nature gave us the gift of 6 inches of snow less than 24 hours after a beautiful sunny 60 degree day. This is February I think...or is it late March or early April.

Speaking of a nice spring day, on February 8 many of us attended Ken Nygard's America on Wheels Museum event in Allentown, Pa followed by lunch at a wonderful local restaurant. I think it was the first mid-week event (other than a muti-day tour) that I have attended since I have cut back on my work schedule. It was a fun day.

As a side note, some of us met at Chuck Savitsky's house before the museum event to carpool together. Somehow, I managed to leave my car keys on the center console and exit the vehicle; the car locked itself... a GM "feature". I have managed to avoid locking myself out of the car during my 14 years of owner-

ship, until now. It was amazing how our resourceful members scrambled to come up with varied solutions to open the car like AAA (no good takes too long), call On Star (no active subscription), call Bernadette (no she would laugh and tell me to call ghost busters), make a "slim Jim" to manually trigger "unlock" switch (tried but failed), call police (not practical) and many other options. Someone asked if there was a hidden key but there was not. Since we were running out of time before scheduled meeting time, we decided to think about the problem and come back to it later in the day.

It was really nice to get many offers to drive me home to pick up a spare key. Well the brain cells were apparently working overtime following the museum tour and lunch. We decided to give the slim Jim idea another try. This time, we made a long section of some thin welding rod into a 4 foot rod with a hook on the end to try to catch the key ring on the center console. The top of the door was wedged with a thin piece of wood. After a few tries, Ray Campbell (Chuck's friend), hooked the keys. The keys were pulled to the top of the door, but the gap was too small to get the keys out. Another piece of welding wire and a few pokes at the key fob and success!

Thanks to everyone who helped solve my little problem. I guess I need to hide a key somewhere or buy On Star...maybe a new truck.

It was great to see that Tom Burrell is feeling better and up to joining everyone in Allentown.

As you know, we will hold our Annual Planning Meeting in March to discuss 2017 events. Please make every effort to attend this critical meeting. Everyone is encouraged to sponsor a tour or event in 2017.

April brings at least two events. April 22 is the annual Raise Your "A" Day and the following week on April 29 is the Hellertown Model A show/swap meet.

See you soon,
Bob

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 27, 2017	\$787.52
Income	
Dues	\$60.00
Total Income	\$60.00
Expenses	
Newsletter (Copies & Postage)	\$6.95
Total Expenses	\$6.95
Balance as of February 14, 2017	\$840.57

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On the Cover: Members and guests of the Running Board
A's at the America on Wheels Museum

What Is It??



Think you know all about Ford tools? If so, maybe you can identify this little gem with the word Ford on it. To confuse you even more, the socket at the bottom of the handle is for a 5 point nut or bolt head, not the usual 6 point.

Let me know what you come up with, I would love to hear your ideas because I have two of these tools.

For those of you that *don't* like a mystery, the answer to the question, "What Is It?" can be found later in the newsletter.



MARC Raffle Tickets

MARC will be holding a raffle at the National Meet in Gettysburg PA on August 4, 2017.

The first prize is LeBaron Bonney interior worth up to \$3800. Second prize is 4 Goodyear Model A tires worth up to \$860 from Keisey Tire. Third prize is a Gift Certificate worth \$500 from Bratton's Antique Auto Parts.

The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. You do not have to be present at the meet to win. Winners will be responsible for shipping costs.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please let me know.

Dave



AMERICA ON WHEELS

By Ken Nygard

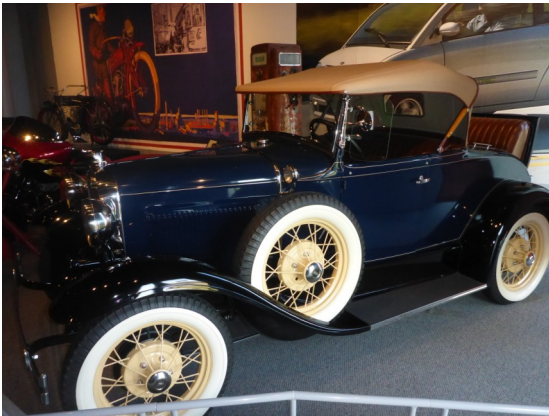
On February 8th, 10 members and several guests enjoyed the

America on Wheels auto museum followed by lunch at the Brass Rail, in Allentown. Though it was a nice day for February, everyone arrived in modern cars.

Members attending were Ken Nygard, Doug Pyatt, Ed &



Peg Hardy, Dave Allison, Tom Burrell, Chuck Savitske, Bob Outwater, Tom Battle and Dick Bettle. Guests included Ray Campbell, Joe Kuhl, Carl Swope and Gary Monesmith. The featured show at



the museum was “Fender Skirts and Poodle Skirts, Cruis’ in the Fabulous 50’s”, though there were a few from the 60’s in the mix as well. The cars were all beautiful as would befit a mu-

seum show and all brought back memories and stories as they were viewed. From the ubiquitous '57 Chevy to Desoto's & Buicks, an Edsel, some hot-rods and convertibles the



decade was well represented. If you missed the trip, the current display runs through March.

The next show will be "Pony Cars, Then and Now" starting on April 8th.

The commercial truck section of the museum had also been revised with some new Mack displays. That was fortunate since the Mack Truck Museum was closed for renovations.

Lunch was at the well known and

classic Allentown hang out the Brass Rail restaurant. The food was good, very reasonably priced and plentiful. As would be expected, many of us enjoyed dessert. Chuck received a double helping of whipped cream on his ice.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

Annual Planning Meeting

Saturday March 11, 2017

Starting at 11:30 AM

Hosted by the Allison's

Come to our annual planning meeting on Saturday March 11th, 2017. During this meeting we will establish the club touring schedule for 2017.

Bring your ideas for tours, breakfasts, cruise nights etc. to the meeting so we can include them on the club calendar.

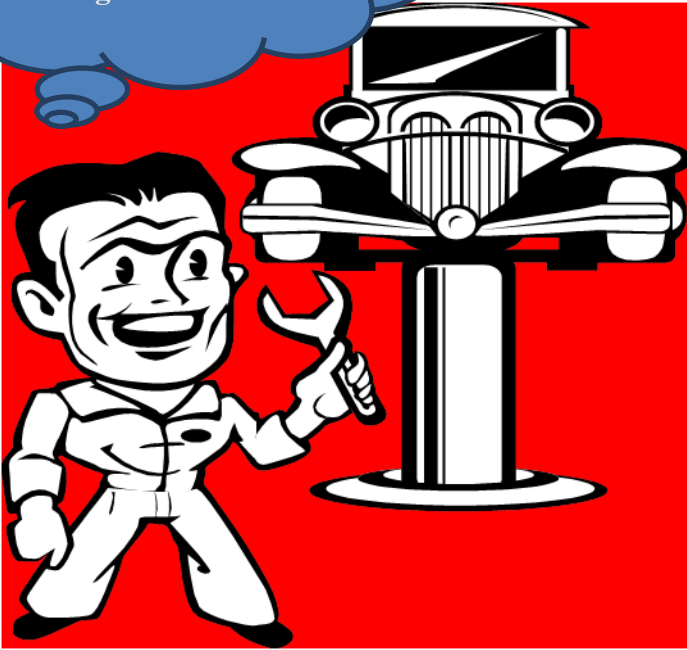
Call or email the Allison's at 610-847-2085 or at dalliso@mail.ptd.net **by March 8th** to let us know that you are coming and what side you will bring to share. We will provide sandwich fixings and drinks for lunch.

See you at the meeting!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

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, 2017

[Details on the next page](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

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. 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 repair.

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

Please let us know (908 237-9322 or boutw@aol.com) by April 20 if you plan to attend so we can get a headcount for lunch.

Bob & Bernadette Outwater
32 Mason Farm Rd.,
Ringoes, NJ 08551
908 237-9322

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

Hellertown

Model 'A' / 'AA' Show & Swap

Hosted by: Hellertown Historical Society & Lehigh Valley Model A Ford Club

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Event is Rain or Shine

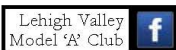
9 am to 3 pm



- **NO Car or Entrance Fee • Local PA History •**
- **Technical Sessions • Swap Meet • Concessions •**
- **Pinstriping by Jim Brand • Hubley Display •**
- **All Types of Model "A" Cars •**

Swap meet spots are a \$10 Donation • Model A / AA & Early Ford Parts Only

Grist Mill Park GPS Users: 150 West Walnut St, Hellertown, PA 18055.
Located on West Walnut Street right off Route 412 (Main Street), Hellertown, PA



RSVP your "A" space or club: Nelson Chegezy,
610.867.4395 or nsc0646@verizon.net



Oak Tree Supply · timzavacki@gmail.com

Ken Nygard's '51 Ford F1

A Work in Progress

Many of our members have been working on projects over the winter. In January, I reported on Doug Pyatt's '29 Phaeton which is progressing nicely. Ken Nygard has been working this winter on the bed of his '51 Ford F1 pickup. Ken's truck was a project truck when he bought it. He has had the motor redone and is now working on various parts of the body. What I think is exceptional about this project is that this type of work was not Ken's vocation, or even a hobby before he bought this truck. He is doing as much work as he can by himself, but he is also getting help by the experts in the club when he needs it and is eager to learn under their guidance. The truck bed had



a lot of dents, dings and rust as any 60 year old truck bed would. It was also missing the wood floor and the hardware that holds the wood in place. Dismantling things are always a lot of fun, so Ken asked

Chuck, friend Carl and me to give him a hand removing the bed from the frame. You know it's a good day when you get to make a lot of sparks!!!!!! Years ago, someone had welded part of the bed to the frame, so the picture above shows Chuck grinding the welds off. It didn't take too long before we had the bed off the

frame. We could see that the back of the cab was going to need some attention too. In no time the bed



was disassembled down to all its individual parts. Ken took the parts to be sand blasted and ordered the



components that were too badly rusted to be salvaged. After receiving the new parts, the sand blasted panels and parts were taken to Chucks shop for welding. Ken got to practice his welding skills,

Chuck got to use his seldom used spot welder and I got to make sparks with a grinding wheel. This has been a great winter project and an excellent learning

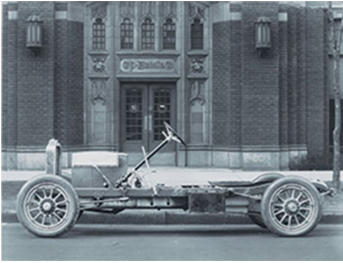


experience for all involved. Hopefully the truck will be on the road soon.

A BIT OF STEAM CAR HISTORY

By Ken Nygard

One of the cars on display at America on Wheels is a Stanley Steamer. Quite by coincidence (actually because



Stripped Down: A Doble-Detroit chassis parked in the city that gave the car its name. (The Bancroft Library University of California Berkeley, CA)

Judy is an avid reader) I came across a story in the April edition of “American History” magazine about the “Doble Model E”. It is yet another car I never heard of but was really quite amazing. Jay Leno

contributed to the article and owns one of the few in existence.

The car was invented and built by Abner Doble and his brothers. Abner’s first prototype “Model A” came out in 1912. There were several failures, a bankruptcy, World War I and other delays but eventually the



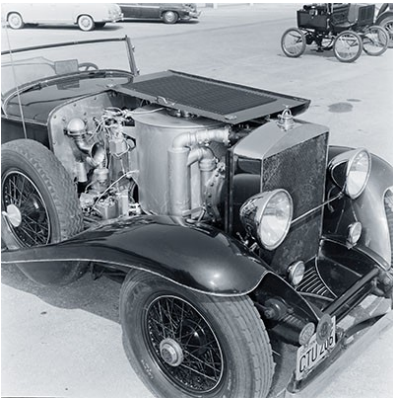
Doble Driving: Abner Doble at the helm. The inner wheel controls the vehicle’s speed. (Doble Steam Motors Corporation Photograph Collection)

Model E hit the luxury market in the mid 1920’s. The car cost about \$18,000 (about \$250,000 today). So, why does this matter? Here are just a few facts about this car.....

- The car started reliably in cold weather and built up steam in 90 seconds!
- Acceleration was 0 – 75 mph in 10 seconds.
- 1000 lbs/ft of torque.
- Howard Hughes was clocked at 132 mph in his 1925 Model E.
- It burns kerosene to generate steam. It burns so cleanly it passes current California emissions standards.
- It could travel “many hundreds” of miles on 26 gallons of kerosene and only 17 gallons of water.

There are downsides. The car weighs about 5600 lbs. It only has rear brakes and is hard to stop. The super-heated steam is at about 800 psi and also at about 800 degrees F. The

steam generator has about 600 feet of tubing and the flame burns at 3000 degrees F.



Oldie but Steamy: At a 1958 steam car meet, a Doble and its steam generator were the talk of the tarmac. (Photo by Colin Creitz/The Enthusiast Network/Getty Images)

Jay Leno compares driving it most closely to his Tesla P90D which also comes in weighing approximately 5000 lbs. I would guess the Tesla would be easier to stop!

Give Up?

If you have gotten this far in the newsletter and still haven't figured out what the tool is for, here is the story. I found two of these while cleaning out my mother-in-law's garage.

You can see clearly that the word *FORD* is on the left side of the handle. What is not as clear is the word *WABASH* that is on the other side of the handle. Also notice that the word Ford is not in the typical



Ford script. It is printed in block letters.



This was my first clue that this didn't come from old Henry's garage.

It actually came from Edwin Ford, who developed the first water meter box in about 1898 for Hartford City Indiana. He dug a hole in his back yard during cold weather and figured out how deep the hole needed to be to put an outside water meter in, so it would not freeze in winter weather. He then made a box to house the meter.

He went on to establish the Ford Meter Box Company, which is still in operation today selling all types of municipal plumbing supplies from their location in Wabash, Indiana. These wrenches are tools to open a water meter housing, which has a 5 point bolt head on the latch.

This all made sense since my father-in-law had worked for a municipal water authority in lower Bucks County. Apparently there was more than one "creative" Ford at the turn of the century!



**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"

P.O. Box 9

Hilltown Pennsylvania 18927-9711

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

Running Board "A's"

PO Box 9

Hilltown PA. 18927-9721

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