

The "A"nnouncer



April 2017

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

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

Volume 16

Number 4

The Running Board “A’s” Officers

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| President | Bob Outwater 32 Mason Farm Rd. Ringoese, N.J. 08551 (908) 237-9322 |
| Vice President/Director | Tom Burrell 110 Red Mill Rd Glen Gardner, N.J 08826 (908) 334-1415 |
| Secretary | Ken Nygard 39 Holland Drive Chalfont, PA 18914 215-822-6717 |
| Treasurer | Peggy Hardy 2012 Perilli Drive Telford PA. 18969 (215) 828-9185 |
| Editor/Publisher | Dave Allison 108 Ervin Rd. Pipersville PA 18947 (610) 847-2085 |
| Web Master | Dick Bettel 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



As I write this column (March 14, 2017), we are enduring a sizeable snow storm only a few days after 60 degree weather! We have some 6 plus inches of snow so far today. Weather forecasters promised a blizzard but the conditions have not been that bad today.

I'm not complaining about the winter so far this year but I'm happy it's almost over. I guess I'm anxious to get the old cars on the road again. Bernadette and I recently returned from a few weeks in Florida to very chilly weather here. The ironic thing was that it was in the 60s and 70s here while we were away.

I remember the March 13, 1993 snowstorm on my Birthday. That storm was better known as the “The Storm of the Century” and also the “Great Blizzard of 1993”. What were you doing back then? I purchased my first Model A Ford that year.



It was great to see so many of you at the planning meeting on March 11. It looks like we are off to a very good start with lots of events to anticipate. Thanks for coming. Thank you to Dave and Diane Allison for hosting.

Next month brings two events. April 22 is the annual Raise Your “A” Day and the following week (April 29) is the Hellertown Model A show/swap meet. Bernadette and I truly enjoy a chance to share our garage with all of you at Raise Your “A” Day, so plan to come by for some fun and good food.

See you soon,
Bob

\$

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of February 14, 2017 \$840.57

Income

| | |
|------|---------|
| Dues | \$15.00 |
| Hats | \$15.00 |

Total Income \$30.00

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Newsletter (Copies & Postage) | \$6.95 |
|-------------------------------|--------|

Total Expenses \$6.95

Balance as of , 2017 \$863.62

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Hardy

\$

On the Cover: Tom Fritz at the annual planning meeting where we “meet to eat”.

A Tale of Two Cities, Two Model A Ford Hot Rod Projects and Two Determined Builders

Story by Bob Outwater, photos by Bob Outwater,
Chuck Savitske and Doug Pyatt

Over the past decades, Bob Outwater and Chuck Savitske have been quietly pursuing their passions of creating unique custom cars and hot rods. Bob and Chuck have been honing their mechanical skills for years in their respective well equipped shops in Ringoes, NJ and Hellertown, Pa. What Bob and Chuck have in common is a passion for most things mechanical, unique and often complicated. They also share a long time interest in the Model A Ford and its place in American automotive history, and are both owners of restored Model A Fords (Bob's car is a '29 Woody wagon and Chuck's car a '30 coupe).

It's as good a time as any to give you a glimpse of what these two young men (well at least in their own minds) have been up to for the last few years in their garages. Bob and Chuck always welcome visitors if you want to see what's going on in their shops.

As you probably know, both Chuck and Bob's latest hot rod creations involve the Model A Fords. In Chucks case, a '28 Model A Ford Tudor serves as the base vehicle. Bob's project started life as a '30 Model A Ford pick-up truck. It is safe to say that both projects started with a vision of creating something different in the eyes of the builder and in both cases were and are evolving in their respective designs.

Bob's Project

Bob's choice of a Model A pick-up truck was more or less a chance happening. A few summers ago, Bob had completed his 1929 Model A Ford flathead V8 powered hot rod



project and was pacing in his garage like a caged tiger, a definite sign of the creative builders "itch". In a chance review of Ebay projects in late August of 2015, Bob stumbled on an interesting "project" car, a Model A pick-up truck hot rod project with lots of brand

new hot rod parts. The price was right, Bernadette "approved" and the seller was hungry to sell. The owner wanted a quick deal and asked how quickly the car could be picked up in New Hampshire; Bob and Bernadette were on the road to New England the following morning with their trailer in tow. The deal was almost too good to be true consisting of a complete (but totally apart) Model A pick-up, new (in boxes) 4 wheel disc brakes, independent front suspension, rack and pinion steering, 4 wheel air ride suspension, new radiator, rear axle housing. The original Model A frame had been boxed and an X-frame installed. Even patch panels to repair the cab cowl, cab lower rear, and sub-rails were included.



It did not take long for Bob to assess the parts inventory and determine the basic build plan for the project. It was

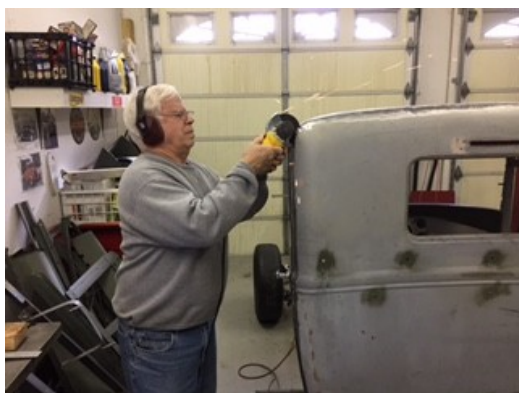


decided that the pick-up truck would be a lowered ride stance (air ride allows this to happen) and would be Ford powered. The original owner had started the project ten years earlier planning to power the truck with a Chevy V8. He had some serious financial problems and simply wanted to recoup some of his money. For Bob, the truck's engine choice is a Ford small block engine (302 CU) with a Ford C-4 automatic

transmission. Bob has spent the past 18 months replacing the bad body panels, designing and building the steering system, modifying the frame for the rear axle, modifying the bed for the rear axle frame, fuel tank and battery box, installing "bear claw door latches" for safety and modifying the steel late 1931 roof to fit a 1930 pick-up, design a 1932 style dash panel/instrument cluster, assemble rear axle and rear disc brakes...and much more.

As with any hot rod, street rod or custom project, there are many decisions to make that affect the design of the end product and how well it functions. Sometimes, the prospect of major design changes involves a tremendous

amount of work and design challenges that make or break a plan.



One such modification in design that Bob has begun after much thought and input from friends was to increase the interior

leg room of the pick-up truck. Anyone who has owned or sat in the Model A Ford pick-up knows how tight the space really is in terms of leg room. Anyway, Bob finally “bit” the bullet and decided to stretch the cab 4 ½ inches and shorten the truck bed by the same amount. Chuck Savitske was a prime mover in pushing for the stretch. Chuck put his money where



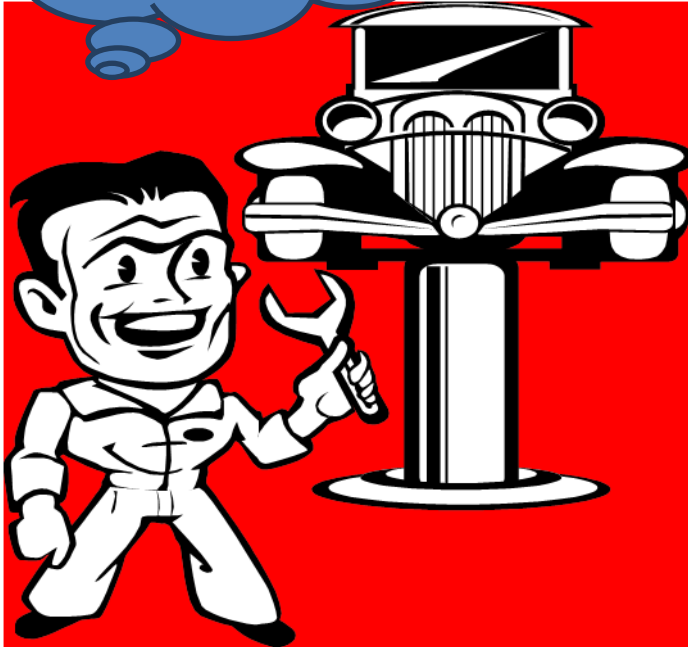
his mouth was spending two long days in the body cutting process and helping to fabricate and tack welding the new 4 ½ inch steel panels. Any job of this magnitude requires careful planning and precise execution. Chuck and Bob truly enjoyed the journey they took together. With much work to be done yet (welding/body work) Bob's new pickup is coming a little closer to his vision of a cool and comfortable hot rod. Stay tuned for progress reports.

Thanks again to my friend Chuck for his help and encouragement.

Continued after the Calendar of Events

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, 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

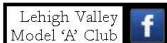
9 am to 3 pm



- **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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

Rhinebeck New York Antique Car Show and Flea Market Saturday and Sunday May 6th and 7th

The car show and swap meet will be rain or shine in Rhinebeck, NY. We will initially meet on U.S. 611 and RT 412 and travel along 611 to 209 up to New York on May 6th. We will be spending one night at the Super 8 Motel in Kingston, NY. The next day (May 7) we will meet early and travel to the fairgrounds for parking on the show field. Model A cars (and occupants) get in for free, but newer cars have to pay a registration fee. There are many places to obtain food, etc. on the grounds and we usually start leaving around 2:30 PM for the return trip home. The Super 8 is located at 487 Washington Ave., Kingston, NY 12401 (phone: 845-338-3078). Let Doug Pyatt know who will be going, PH 610-974-9718.

AACA 66th Annual Spring Meet Mennen Arena 161 East Hanover Rd Morristown N.J

This is the AACA event that replaces the Automatic Switch show in Florham Park N.J. It is hosted by Dick and Bobbi Bettle. Please call to let them know that you are coming at (973) 966-2947.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued

June

- June 3** Covered Bridges Tour hosted by the Bettles.
- June 9-11** Race of Gentlemen, Wildwood N.J. Hosted by Tom Burrell
- June 9** Delaware Valley Fire House Spaghetti Dinner, Erwinna PA
- June 17** Picnic at Tom Fritz's house, Millington N.J.
- Every Friday** Somerville N.J. Cruise Night
- Every Other Saturday** Flemington Car Show

Watch for more information on all of these events in next months' newsletter.

A Tale of Two Cities, Two Model A Ford Hot Rod Projects and Two Determined Builders Continued

Chuck's Project

Chuck's project is a '28 Model A Ford Tudor sedan that has been a work in progress for several years. His idea has been to create a "sedan delivery truck out of the two door sedan by fabricating a new door in the rear of the car from scratch. The model A frame and suspension are being used.

The original idea for a power plant was a flathead Ford V8 engine with a late 30s 3 speed transmission. From the beginning, Chuck, was interested in adding additional power to the flathead. He collected a few mid 70's Buick V6 turbo chargers (he now has several turbochargers) and set out to build a manifold that would be adapted to use on the Ford flathead engine.



Things have progressed well on the project with major pushes on the rear door and engine building.

Chuck decided on a plan to build the rear door by using the existing sheet metal and build a double perimeter frame with 3 hinges to support the structure. Chuck found a set of "Universal" door hinges in Speedway's catalog. Using $\frac{3}{4}$ inch steel tubing the frame was fabricated for both the inside and outside edges of the door. Once the frame was constructed, the original sheet metal panel was carefully marked and cut. The hinges were

lined up on the frame using a ¼ inch rod to ensure perfect alignment. Easier said than done, the Tudor is now a SEDAN DELIVERY!

Now, remember that Chuck's vision was to power the hot rod with a flathead Ford V8. Again, it's easier said than done to find a usable (not cracked) engine block. After acquiring and dismantling 7 or 8 engines to find a good one, Chuck finally hit pay dirt recently. The machine work on the new engine has begun and the parts ordered to assemble the "new" flathead V8.

Just watch the newsletter for updates on these projects or better yet, stop by to see Bob and Chuck.



March Planning Meeting

Many thanks to the 21 members of the Running Board A's who attended our annual planning meeting. As a result, we have 24 events on the calendar between now and December. I will be putting out a complete calendar as an attachment to the newsletter. If there are other events that you think the club would be interested in, but we didn't discuss, please let me know and I will be sure to include them in the calendar.

Thanks to everyone for another successful planning meeting.

Tour of the Bulgari Auto Collection Allentown PA.

You might remember that last summer a request for help from the Lehigh Valley Model A Club went out for help with parking at the National Buick Club's 50th Anniversary Meet in Allentown. The meet was held at the Bulgari complex. Tom Burrell, Bob Adams and I answered the call and made a small contribution to the success of the meet. The payment for this assistance was a tour of the Bulgari complex at a later date. That date turned out to be March 18, 2017. We accepted the invitation along with close to 50 members and friends of the LVMAC.

The tour was led by Keith Flickinger, head of restoration at the Allentown site. He explained that Nicola Bulgari, an Italian billionaire has a great passion for American automobiles, especially the ones from the 20's through the 50's. He has amassed a huge collection of unique automobiles, and spares no expense to restore them, show them and run them on a regular basis. He has 9 full time employees working on all facets of the restoration process, including fabrication, mechanical, upholstery and paint. Basically, if parts are not available, they fabricate them. He has even gone so far as to have upholstery material custom woven to match the original material used in an auto interior.

One thing that impressed me was the desire to expose young people to all aspects of the restoration process through internships and other programs. Bulgari feels that to keep the future of these vehicles alive, more young people need to acquire a passion for them., and he is doing something about that.

Keith was a wealth of knowledge about all aspects of the restoration process and showed us how some of the metal shaping tools work, explained how the state-of-the-art paint booth worked and shared many stories about the individual cars, such as how they were acquired, what was done to them and why they are being preserved. He also explained a program that they are doing to document vehicles much like buildings are listed on a national historic

register. Vehicles are brought in and photographed in a very high tech photo booth at precise angles and the photos are archived in the Library of Congress. This was an extraordinary tour and we thank the Lehigh Valley Model A Club for including us in the event.





**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

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