

# The "A"nnouncer



November, 2018

Newsletter of the Running  
Board "A's"

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

Volume 17

Number 11

# The Running Board “A’s” Officers

\*\*\*\*\*

- |                         |                                                                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President               | Bob Adams<br>525 Rich Hill Rd.<br>Sellersville, PA 18960<br>215-538-2425       |
| Vice President/Director | Doug Pyatt<br>1419 E. University Ave.<br>Bethlehem, Pa. 18015<br>610-974-9718  |
| Secretary               | Ken Nygard<br>39 Holland Drive<br>Chalfont, PA 18914<br>215-822-6717           |
| Treasurer               | Peggy Hardy<br>2012 Perilli Drive<br>Telford PA. 18969<br>(215) 828-9185       |
| Editor/Publisher        | Dave Allison<br>108 Ervin Rd.<br>Pipersville PA 18947<br>(267) 733-3708        |
| Web Master              | Dick Bettle<br>170 Crescent Road<br>Florham Park, N.J. 07932<br>(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.**



Well, the steamboat folks have it all over Steamboat Willy aka Mickey Mouse. Despite a rainy start to the day they pulled off a successful rally. The Running Board "A"s were well represented and were given rides by our own Debbie Daye. Tom Fritz showed off his notable fashion styling, sporting beach shoes and pants rolled up to his knees. Folks in this local area may have a keen interest in the development of the steamboat. It was here on the Delaware River in 1787 that John Fitch built and launched the first successful steamboat in the U.S. He built 5 boats altogether, but they were too costly to build and operate so his venture soon ended. In 1806, Robert Fulton began building a steamboat which he used in 1790 to go from New York city to Albany in a mere 8 hours, traveling some 40 miles. The steamboat era was born. For anyone interested, there is a museum in Bucks County dedicated to the life of John Fitch. It is located in Warminster, Bucks County, at the intersection of Street and Newtown roads.



# *Welcome New Members*

Tim and Kathy Litzenberger  
605 Povenski Rd.  
Quakertown, PA. 18951  
Phone 610-282-4740  
Email. talwrench@yahoo.com

\*\*\*\*\*

Larry and Pat Whitaker  
307 Green Circle  
Exton, PA. 19341  
Phone 610-363-8426  
Email.whit1782@gmail.com



# Thomas Edison National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

By Dick and Bobbi Bettle

*Thomas Edison's home and laboratory are a step back in time, when machines were run by belts and pulleys and music was played on phonographs.*

On Sunday afternoon, after the rainy non “road kill tour” which was replaced by a fabulous day of eating and talking, Bobbi and I decided to take a tour of Edison National Historic Park in West Orange, New Jersey. It’s not too far from our house, and sounded like a nice thing to do.



The entrance to the Laboratory Complex is right on Main Street, with a parking lot across the street. The Model A got lots of attention as it was in the first space in the

lot. Thanks to the tour of Grey Towers National Historic Site, (Gifford Pinchot House) where Dick bought a \$10.00 Golden Age Passport (thanks Diane), entrance to the Edison Complex was FREE (up to 4 adults in a car). The regular Entrance Fee is \$15.00 and includes the Laboratory Complex and Glenmont (the house), and the garage.



Built in 1893, the Black Maria was the world's first film production studio. It was made in West Orange, New Jersey, for the purpose of making film strips for the Kinetoscope.



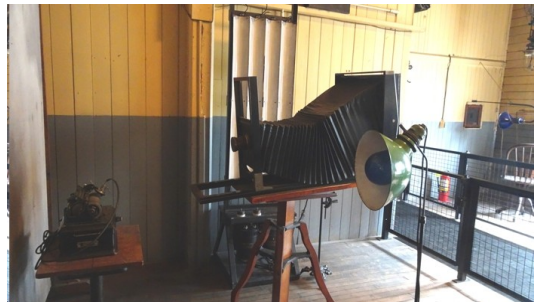
Located on the first floor of the laboratory was Edison's working desk....And just in case he needed a power nap, here is his bed in an alcove.

One of many light bulbs on display.



Movie Projector

View camera - slightly larger by a lot than the one we have!





Belt Drive machines powered by remote steam engine

After exploring all three floors at my pace (translate out to really slow - I am an engineer you know), we drove up to Glenmont, the estate of Thomas and Mina Edison (his second wife). He purchased this 29 room home and property for his second wife, in 1886 at a discount (\$125,000.00, including most of the furnishings). The original owner/builder had financed the building, at a cost of over \$250,000.00, with money embezzled from his employer.



Pictures are not allowed to be taken inside the house, but found this one of a stained glass window in the hallway going up stairs.



Also found this video in case anyone is interested in looking at the house. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSuu5ezQ-ho>

After wandering around the grounds with the park ranger, peeking into the conservatory (glass panels falling so you could not go in until they repair), we headed for the garage. Edison rarely drove a car as he found that roadside ditches and trees conspired against him (and people were often in his way). Many of the photos show Thomas Edison riding in a vehicle and someone else

driving, often his wife or one of their sons.



All in all, a great day.

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## **Annual Fall Roll Out**

**Saturday November 4th**

**Riegelsville PA**

This is the last car show of the season.

Contact Bob Outwater if you plan to attend  
at 908-237-9322.

## **Annual Business Meeting and Lunch**

**Saturday November 17, 2018**

**11:30 AM**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**353 East Dark Hollow Rd,**

**Pipersville PA**

This is our only business meeting of the year. We will elect new officers and conduct the business of the club. Please contact Bob Adams at 215-538-2425 to let him know that you will attend and what you will bring to share for lunch.

# *CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

## *Holiday Party and Gift Exchange Sunday December 9, 2018 Frenchtown Inn Frenchtown NJ. 12:00 Noon*

Our Holiday Party will be held at the Frenchtown Inn, hosted by Bob and Leslie Adams. Don't miss the fun event that caps off our touring season. The cost is \$37 per person. We will do our annual gift exchange. Please bring a gift, \$10 to \$20 in value marked for a man or woman. The menu for the event can be found on the next page. Contact Bob and Leslie at 215-538-2425. Checks can be made payable to the Running Board A's and send to Peg Hardy, 2012 Perilli Drive Telford PA. 18969





***The Frenchtown Inn***  
***Happy Holidays***



***Choice of Appetizer***

***Puree of Wild Mushroom Soup***

***New England Style Seafood Chowder***  
*with Shrimp and Crab*

***House Salad***  
*Seasonal Selection*

**Choice of Entree**

***Salmon***

***New York Sirloin***  
*Served with Garlic Whipped Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables*  
*finished with Red Wine Au Jus*

***Chicken Penne***

*Penne Pasta tossed with Chicken, Sundried Tomatoes, Wild*  
*Mushrooms, Spinach,*  
*Garlic, Pecorino Romano, and Shallots finished with White Wine*  
*Cream Sauce*

**Choice of Dessert**

*Chef's choice*

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*



## October Events

The weather has not been particularly cooperative for any of the Running Board A events in October. We have had rain and wind, more rain and even a nor'easter for our events this month, but after the summer that we have had, we are kind of getting use to it.

Our first event of the month was the joint **Steamboat/Model A** event on Saturday October 13 at Nockamixon State Park. The weather was cold and windy, so it was good to huddle around the boiler of Deb Daye's steamboat the *Jimmy D*. Deb kept a full



head of steam up while the boat was being piloted by Tom Fritz. Those in attendance included Ken Nygard, Ed and Peg Hardy, Bob and Leslie Adams, Sonny Scirretta, Joni Thor, Ray and Nel DeMarco

and new members Tim and Kathy Litzenberger and Larry and Pat Whitaker. Deb was kind enough to give a turn to anyone who wanted a ride in the steamboat. Several of the members brought lunch to have at the picnic tables along the lake. There were at least 6 steamboat on the lake at any one time and several Model A's and Ken's 1951 F1 pickup there as well.



At about 5:00 several members along with the steamboat members moved to the warmth of the Quaker-town train station for a catered dinner. We all enjoyed a great meal that was organized by Don Fenstermacher of the steamboat club. Thanks to Don Fenstermacher and Deb Daye for organizing this great joint event.

Next up was the **Flemington Speedway Historical Society Car Show** on Saturday, October 20th. The event was hosted by Bob Outwater. He and Beradette were in attendance as well as Tom Fritz, Dick Bettle and me. We met at Bob and Bernadette's house a little before 9:00 AM and then made the short run to the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds. This day also started out with some rain and threatening skies, so there wasn't a huge line waiting to get into the show when we got there.

As the morning progressed, the weather improved and more and more cars showed up. We did a lap around the flea market and then we did a lap around the cars themselves.



I think we had some of the oldest stock vehicles in the show, which seemed to draw a lot of attention from the spectators. No one won any awards this year, and we were all on the road headed for home by about 3:00 PM.





The final event for the month was the ever popular **Road Kill Rally** on October 27th. This event was hosted by Chuck and Deb Savitske. Even a nor'easter blowing up

the coast on this day did not prevent anyone from coming and joining the fun. No one brought Model A's and we decided to do the rally on another day. Attending this event were Dexter Hutchins and friend Nancy, Bob and Bernadette Outwater, Ed and Peg Hardy, Dick and Bobbi Bettle, Lorraine Fox, Bob Adams, Deb Daye, Tom Fritz, Lee Stoudt with friend Jennifer and son Corey.

The road kill stew was excellent as always and the food brought by the members of the club was delicious. If there is one thing this club can do it is cook...and eat. (OK two things).

Chuck got to try out his new (to him at least) propane burner so he didn't have to keep a fire going outside.

There is nothing like hot road kill stew to warm you up on a cold rainy day.



It was fun to have nothing to do but eat and talk for the afternoon. Many thanks go to Chuck and Deb for all their hard work to set this event up and to everyone who brought something to contribute to the meal. It's always fun to get together at these events. Don't forget out annual business

meeting next month. It's another opportunity to get together to EAT!





**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

First Class Mail