



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009, 2011 and 2013
OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010



Visit our Web site at www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com

RIVER CITIES MODEL “A” FORD CLUB

This newsletter is the official publication of the River Cities Model A Ford Club, a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. It is mailed monthly to all members in good standing. Dues are \$25.00 per year per family. Membership in the MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA is a requirement for membership in the River Cities Model A Ford Club.

CLUB OFFICERS:

**President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Benevolence**

**Al Lugo
Mark Smith
Connie Penny
Richard Noxon
Mary Nelle Singer**

OTHER POSITIONS:

**Newsletter Editor
Tour Director
Publicity Director
Program Director
Club Liaison
Membership Director
Awards Director
Historian Director
MATTS Team Leader**

**Bill Shirley
Jim Langley
Pat Gamble
John Robertson
Joe Spooner
Al Lugo
Richard Noxon
Lisa Farrar
Bobby Penny**

**The River Cities Model “A” Ford Club permanent address is:
P.O. Box 342, Columbus, GA 31902**

**All mail should be sent to the River Cities Model A Ford Club address above.
Matters concerning the newsletter should be sent to the editor to insure timely publication.**

FOUNDING MEMBERS:

***Jim Timbes
Mildred Timbes
*Dan Palmer
Dan Diener**

**Bob Smith
Al Lugo
Lawrence Farrar
Bill Buck**

**Bobby Penny
*Robert Jackson
*Bettie Jackson
(*Deceased)**

PAST PRESIDENTS:

**Jim Timbes NOV 2000-DEC 2001
Mildred Timbes DEC 2003-2004
Joe Spooner DEC 2006-2008
Jim Timbes DEC 2009-2010
Paul Singer Dec 2012-2014
Jim Langley Dec 2015-2017
Jim Langley Dec 2018-2019**

**Bob Smith DEC 2001-2003
Jim Langley DEC 2004-2006
Jim Langley DEC 2008-2009
Al Lugo DEC 2010-2012
Joe Spooner DEC 2014-2015
Sharon Webb Dec 2017-2018
Al Lugo Dec 2019-2020**

From the President...



April 2020

We sure miss all our regular activities and miss seeing each and every one of you, but I know we made the right decision when we decided to cancel some of the activities. We want to keep everyone safe and be able to see all of you soon.

Please note April MATTS is cancelled and other activities are “to be determined”. Our activities will resume when it is completely safe to do so. As I find about some of the re-scheduled activities, I will notify members and place it in our “Coming Events” in the future. Check your email regularly as I will try to keep all of you informed.

During WWII Ford Motor Company was known as the “Arsenal of Democracy” Once more, Ford is “pulling out all the stops” to help during the current pandemic. They are making face shields and ventilators. As an American I am very proud that the maker of our beloved Model “A” is helping during this great crisis.

A few members (4), have not paid the 2020 dues, please do it now. If the current

crisis is preventing you from doing so, please let Richard or I know and we will work something out. Members not in good standing at the end of April will be dropped from the rolls.

Please stay healthy and safe. We will get thru this in the very near future, just like we have done in the past. The American people are strong and resilient and will beat this crisis.

See you on the road soon,

AI

“My particular job, this time on earth, is to give the world the very best car I can make at the lowest possible price”

Henry Ford

August 28, 1929, New York Times

“PARTICIPATE,

DRIVE, HAVE FUN”

“Celebrating the 20th Year of the Founding of Our Club”

River Cities Model A Ford Club

A short History of the Model-A Ford

The year was 1926. Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzie" was getting old. It had been produced since Oct. 1st, 1908. There had been very few major changes to the car even though it did look quite different. With his son Edsel pushing to move past the Model T and design and build a "new ford" the order was finally given on July 20th, 1926 to start work on a new ford, the "Model A", although that name had not been picked yet!.

Henry made the last of the Model T's on May 26th, 1927. It was car No. 15,000,000. It is said Henry spent \$100,000,000 (Yes, 100 Million Dollars!) on the new car design and for retooling of the Rouge plant to build the new Model A. Quite a sum in the 1920's! The car contained over 6800 parts whereas the Model T only contained about 5000.

Model A No. 1 rolled off the production line on Oct. 20th, 1927 but the public didn't see the car until Dec. 2nd, 1927. Unlike the Model T, the new ford came in seven body styles and an amazing four colors!

The Engine was an L-head 4-cylinder, 'cast en bloc' type. It had a 3-7/8" X 4-1/4" bore and stroke with a displacement of 200.5 cubic inches. SAE horsepower of 24.03 with brake horsepower rated at 40 at 2200 rpm. Typical gas mileage was between 20 and 30 mpg using a Zenith one-barrel carburetor. It's 103.5" wheelbase rode on 4.50 x 21" tires with a gear ratio of 3.77:1. The transmission was a 3 speed sliding gear unit with 1 speed reverse. The Model A had 4-wheel mechanical brakes and Houdaille, double action hydraulic shock absorbers with semi-elliptic front and rear transverse springs. Top Speed was around 65 mph. Standard equipment on all Models included a Starter, Five Steel Spoke Wheels, Dash light, Mirror, Windshield Wiper, Gasoline Gauge, Rear and Stop Light, Speedometer, Tools and Pressure Grease Gun Lubrication.

The "Model A" Tool kit included with each car had the following items: Adjustable wrench, 2 open end wrenches, 2 tire irons, jack, pliers, screwdriver, tire pump, grease gun, combination spark plug wrench and head bolt wrench and Instruction book which all fit into Snap Pouch.

As for price. The new Model A Tudor Sedan sold for \$495.00 with the Fodor bringing \$570.00 F.O.B. Detroit. For \$385.00 you could get a Roadster and \$395.00 would get you a beautiful Phaeton. At \$495.00, the new Ford Coupe was nice but for \$550.00 the Sport Coupe with a standard Rumble Seat was a hot seller.

JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 16, 2020-6:00PM
(EASTERN) Our next Club Meeting will be at Woodmen
Life Lodge, on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

April 3	MATTS - CANCELLED
April 4	MT Zion Car Show - CANCELLED
April 10	Planning Meeting – TO BE DETERMINED
April 16	Club Meeting
April 18	First Annual Paul Singer Memorial Tour- TO BE DETERMINED
April 18	Strut the Hooch Parade
May 1	MATTS
May 8	Planning Meeting
May 9	6 th Annual Masonic Lodge Car Show (Lanett, AL)
May 16	East Alabama Old Car Club Car Show
May 21	Club Meeting
May 23	Tour- TO BE DETERMINED

CRUISE EVENINGS

Every 1 st Tuesday-	Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway
Every 2 nd Tuesday	Jim Bob's (By Hobby Lobby)
Every 3 rd Tuesday	Jason Deli (Close to Sears)
Every 4 th Tuesday	Country's on Broadway
Every 5 th Tuesday	El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant (Stadium Drive)
Every 2 nd Saturday	Opelika Home Depot Cruise In
Every 3 rd Saturday	Phenix City Home Depot Cruise In
Every 4 th Saturday	Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)
Last Saturday of month	Opelika Cruise In at the Tracks
Every Sunday AM	IHOP Airport Thruway

NATIONAL:

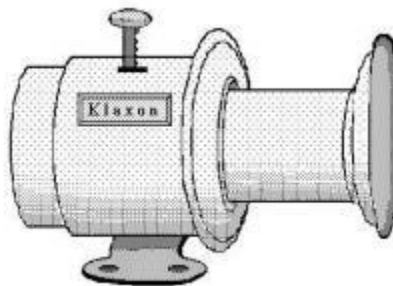
June 21-26	MAFCA National Convention-CANCELLED
December 3-6	National Awards Banquet, Fort Worth, TX

ANNIVERSARIES



**April 12th Leroy and Krystal Napier
April 28th Lee and Becky Coxwell**

BIRTHDAYS



**April 16th Connie Penny
April 24th Mark Smith
April 26th Sharon Webb
April 27th Joe Spooner**

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Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (1040) Use separate sheets for each page.

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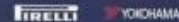
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MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP

Information by Al Lugo; Photos by Mark Smith & Al Lugo

Members met at Bobby's shop on March 6, 2020...



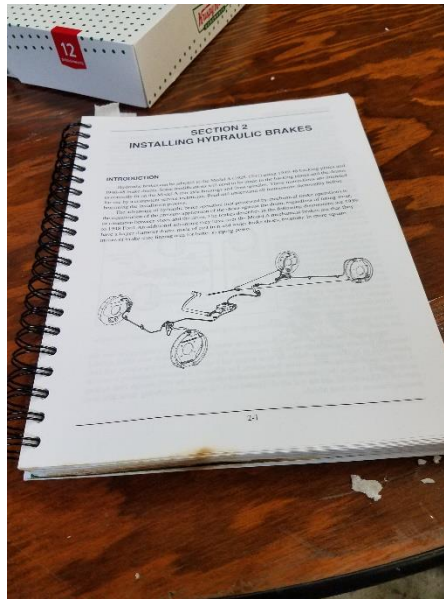
"Bobby talks about how to make a dust cover for a front hub"...



“Showing how to modify the front bearing grease retainer washers” ...



“An easy way to prevent damaging the dust cover” ...



"Bobby talks about what it takes to change to hydraulic brakes" ...



"Larry and Quasi listen carefully all that is presented. Larry and his service dog never miss a MATTS" ...



“Joe Talks about participating in a past “Texas Tour” This was going to be the site of the 2020 MAFCA convention which has been cancelled and will take place in 2022” ...



“Before MATTS begins, members enjoy the fellowship” ...

TINY TIPS

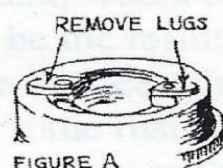
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SECURING RADIATOR ORNAMENTS

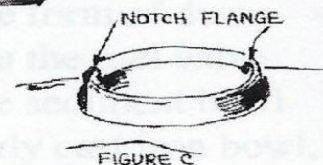
If a quail or other permanent base, flip-top radiator ornament fits loosely or is chipped, it may come off too easily. This procedure will remedy the situation and make the ornament solid - removable only with an Allen wrench. My quail used to fit so loosely that I removed it whenever I left the Ford unattended. Remove the brass lugs on the bottom of your cap. These are usually held on with Allen head screws. See figure A.

Cut a piece of metal bar with the same width as the removed lugs. The bar should be about the same thickness as the lugs. The length of the bar should be as long as possible within the diameter of the radiator neck under the flange. Test the cut bar for fit. It should have about 3/16" play on the ends. Drill and tap the bar to accommodate the Allen head screws. See Figure B. Some of the material may have to be removed from the area of the lugs on the cap base. If so, file very carefully and remove only the necessary material for the bar to fit snugly. Notch the radiator neck flange with a small file (or a broken round file chucked in an electric drill) where the new bar will be when the cap is in place. File and fit until this notch is as deep as practical for your cap. See Figure C.

With the new locking bar loosely attached, put the cap on and tighten the Allen head screws. As the screws are tightened, the bar will be pulled up into the notches, holding the base firmly. The bar does cover part of the radiator opening, but it doesn't keep you from checking the coolant level nor does it interfere with the overflow tube.



CUT BAR, DRILL
& TAP HOLES



Submitted by Ron Harper, Corvallis, Oregon



This lovely silent newsreel item comes to us from British Pathé News without an audio track or documentation, but it's probably safe to presume that this unusual vehicle is the handiwork of Marcel Leyat. A French aircraft pioneer who first flew in 1909, Leyat built several propeller-driven automobiles in the hope of putting them into volume production. Experts say Leyat built as many as 25 or 30 of these vehicles between 1919 and 1926, which he named Hélice—*hélice* is French for propeller. Leyat's reasoning: Without the need for a transmission or drivetrain, the vehicle could be much lighter, and more efficient and economical to manufacture. Toward that end, he employed several elements of aircraft construction, including light alloy components and a plywood monocoque fuselage. Kudos to M. Leyat, but we also detect a few drawbacks with this propulsion system, starting with the deafening noise and the extreme hazard to pedestrians. At least the citizens of Paris could hear him coming. Bless the heretics and iconoclasts of the automotive world. They make life so much more interesting.

MAFFI Newsletter Minute April 2020

Did you get your commemorative pin from Model A Day 2019?

Each year for Model A Day we create a pin with our feature car. This year we had 2 pins, one with the Unrestored A-400 and another one of the Twenty Millionth Model A. Both pins are still available, but the quantity is limited on the A-400. The cost for the A-400 pin is \$7.00 and the Twenty Millionth Model A is \$6.00. This includes postage and handling. It is more economical for us to mail out larger quantities of these (4 or more) so keep this in mind when you order them. We are happy to mail out single ones as well.

These make fun giveaways at your club meetings or a special little something for the Model A person in your life and it is a great way to support our Museum.

Please send a check made out to MAFFI enclosed with a list of what you would like to:

Suzan O'Neale

477 Beaver Pond Way

Mineral, VA 23117

THE LITERARY DIGEST AUGUST 16, 1930

Tests for Decrepit Autos

EVERY State should have laws requiring a periodic inspection for all automobiles, and a certificate of their fitness before license plates are issued or renewed. This is the recommendation of a report presented to the National Conference on Highway Safety at a recent meeting. Says *Science News-Letter*, a Science Service publication (Washington):

"Stressing the need for a periodic health examination for cars, the report states that in the course of special investigations defective brakes were found in about one car out of four. Defective lights were found in from 13 to 25 per cent. of the cars. Steering gears, horns, windshield wipers, and other accessories which figure in driving safety, were found to be out of order in other cars.

"Since so many individuals will not keep their cars fit, the report recommends that every State should have an adequate highway patrol force whose members are trained to recognize the symptoms of mechanical defects."



RIVER CITIES Today



Eagle Phenix mill production



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Phenix City back in the day



Ford dealer show room back in the day.



What is it