



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

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



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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:

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Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Benevolence

Al Lugo
Mark Smith
Connie Penny
Richard Noxon
Mary Nelle Singer

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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...



June 2020

As I mentioned last month as we get ready to open back the country and our daily activities we will do so taking into consideration the health of all our great members. Any activity that we conduct will be done safely and we will follow a safety protocol to eliminate any possibility of virus transmission. To that effect I will send a message to members of how we can do this. Of course each member should continue to decide if they want to participate in any of these activities.

Please note we will start our activities with one of our favorite events MATTS. Several members that normally attend are now working Friday's, so we have decided to do MATTS on Saturday's starting in June 6, 2020. Hope many of you can attend.

Jim Langley has planned a "In car tour only" for June 20. This will be the First Paul Singer Memorial Tour. More details about this will follow later.

Even with the rain I hope you had an opportunity to take your Model "A" for a "spin". I believe

mine "moves a bit" every time I go by it like it was saying "please take me out".

I have greatly missed all of you and I am now looking forward to seeing as many of you very soon. Come and join us as we start our Club activities safely.

See you on the road soon,

Al

On the Model 'A':

"But this is a brand-new car from the ground up. It was a long time coming, because we were determined that each part should be done right and thoroughly in the first place"

Henry Ford

December 4, 1927, New York Times

"PARICIPATE,

DRIVE, HAVE FUN"

"Celebrating the 20th Year of the Founding of Our Club"

River Cities Model A Ford Club

Normally this spot in the Newsletter is for the club meeting Minutes, however due to the health alert, our meetings have been cancelled.



Before



JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 18, 2020-6:00PM (EASTERN)

Our next Club Meeting will be at Woodmen Life Lodge, on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

June 6	MATTS (New date- Saturday)
June 6	Opelika Parts Swap Meet (11-4:00 PM Central) (TO BE DETERMINED)
June 12	Planning Meeting
June 18	Club Meeting
June 20	Club Tour
July 3	MATTS (Date may change)
July 10	Planning Meeting
July 16	Club Meeting

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

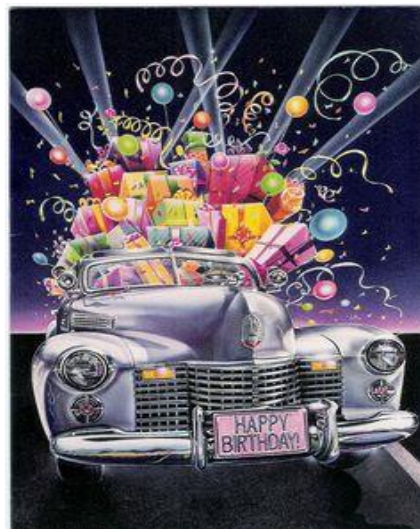
NATIONAL:

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

ANNIVERSARIES



June 15th Bryan & Teresa Chin
June 16th Bill & Renate Shirley
June 22nd Chris & Kathy LaClair



June 3rd Russell Lester
June 6th Anna Quick
June 15th June Spooner
June 25th Barbara Ruddick
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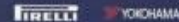
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MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP

As with the Monthly meetings, the Tinker Time shop has been closed.

Ron Harper, owner of an “Oil Decarbonizer”

Ron Harper, long time Model A friend, was many things in life. He was always on the edge of the envelope when it came to fun and playing with our Model A's.

He showed up at one Northwest Regional Group meet about 25 years ago with a bunch of wires & tubes connected to a small domed can with a spark plug on top. All this was mounted on the passenger side of the engine in front of the carburetor. That side of the hood was always open so everyone at the meet could see this thing and of course ask about it.

This 'thing' attached to his engine was an “Oil Decarbonizer”! Ron was famous for wearing cowboy boots and the stuff really got deep when someone asked about the “thing”. Straight faced, Ron would explain this item was #3 of 4 “Oil Decarbonizers” invented and built in the early 1930's. The others were destroyed by a big oil company that bought the rights to the invention to keep it secret from the public.

He would continue to explain he had not changed oil since installing it about five years earlier. Ron would pull out the oil dipstick and show the oil being almost perfectly clean as proof of the functioning. Somehow, he never remembered he had changed to oil just before leaving home and that was not part of the story anyway.

People just had to know more about this incredible accessory & Ron explained how it functioned so ingeniously. Engine oil was cycled through the small domed container and the spark plug would fire on every fourth revolution of the engine, burning the carbon out of the oil. People were amazed. Amazed at the story, the delivery and the inventive mind that created all that crap. The story was honed and improved over time, but any con man would have been proud of the delivery from the beginning.

Reactions were mixed but most people took it as fun and part of the good fellowship of the meet. Some were convinced “Big Oil” would do such things and still others were agitated that anyone would modify a Model A Ford in any way.

The highest compliment came a year later at the next Northwest Regional Group’s Meet when another guy had had built a similar one of these contraptions! It was called an “Acme Electrosark” this time and it even had a nice decal on the side to prove it. Most of the details of the Electrosark were different from the Decarbonizer, but the story line was still evolving and continued to improve.

This adventure all started when Ron was cleaning stuff out of his desk at the end of the school year and found many of the random components. This same man was a teacher to middle school kids who loved him dearly for his creativity and dedication. He made their days more fun and they were learning during History class.

He is missed.



They just opened a Mac Donald's Drive thru in town.

Cute Prankster story

Houston Ave. was the main connecting highway between the town of Klink, (Ivanhoe), and Visalia. Every Friday morning one of the residents of Ivanhoe drove his car to Visalia to buy the weeks supplies. The name of the gentleman escapes me, but I am sure dad told me. Anyway, this fellow was well known as a very simple-minded man. He was smart enough to function in society, but he was always known as a "simpleton". On his trip to Visalia he would always stop at the small market close to my dad's house. He stopped both on his way to town and again on his return trip to Ivanhoe. One summer day, my father and a few of his friends decided to play a trick on the man. (Remember, dad was about 10-12 years old at the time). When the fellow stopped at the store on his way to Visalia, the boys turned his car around and headed it in the direction of home instead of it facing toward Visalia. The man came out of the store, hopped into his car, and headed east toward home. The boys, of course, thought this was great fun!!

About an hour later, the man drove by, headed for Visalia again. This time he did not stop at the market! While I do not condone such pranks, I always thought it was an interesting, if not funny, story.

“A” Technical Tip Battery Maintenance by Lynn Sondenaa

Touring season is upon us and going strong. Have you checked your battery lately? It is the life blood of the electrical system. It is the power source for starting the engine, it also acts as a stabilizer of the voltage for the entire Model A electrical system, and it provides current for a very limited time when the electrical demands exceed the generator output. Now that we are approaching summer with rising temperatures, we need to check for corrosion on the battery terminals and battery cable ends, water level in each cell, and the specific gravity level of the battery. If you are rich and have an Optima battery you only need to check for corrosion. Batteries are activated by adding electrolyte. Electrolyte is a mixture of sulfuric acid and water. This solution causes a chemical action to take place between the lead in the battery. The fully charged battery should have a specific gravity reading of 1.265. This is tested using a hydrometer. To clean the corrosion off the terminals and battery cable ends use a homemade paste of baking soda and water. Place the paste on and around the corrosion (wearing rubber gloves & eye protection) and let it stand for 5 minutes. Flush with water, wire brush and let air dry. When the terminals are dry, spray the battery cable ends, and battery post with Permatex battery protector & sealer (Item #80370). Then place a battery terminal protector on each battery post. These are special treated felt washer that help stop corrosion. Fill each cell with distilled water to the proper level. Chlorine in city water is bad for the electrolyte; also, well water is bad for the battery due to the mineral content. Be sure the battery cables are tight, and the battery is secured to the battery tray. You are now ready for a touring season with no battery problems!

Typewriting while driving



Henry back in the day