



# **"The River Cities Running Board"**



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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**VOL 20 ISSUE 7   ESTABLISHED IN 2000   July 2020**

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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:

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President      | Al Lugo           |
| Vice President | Mark Smith        |
| Secretary      | Connie Penny      |
| Treasurer      | Richard Noxon     |
| Benevolence    | Mary Nelle Singer |

### OTHER POSITIONS:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Newsletter Editor   | Bill Shirley   |
| Tour Director       | Jim Langley    |
| Publicity Director  | Pat Gamble     |
| Program Director    | John Robertson |
| Club Liaison        | Joe Spooner    |
| Membership Director | Al Lugo        |
| Awards Director     | Richard Noxon  |
| Historian Director  | Lisa Farrar    |
| MATTS Team Leader   | 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    | Bob Smith       | Bobby Penny     |
| Mildred Timbes | Al Lugo         | *Robert Jackson |
| *Dan Palmer    | Lawrence Farrar | *Bettie Jackson |
| Dan Diener     | Bill Buck       | (*Deceased)     |

### PAST PRESIDENTS:

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Jim Timbes NOV 2000-DEC 2001</b> | <b>Bob Smith DEC 2001-2003</b>   |
| <b>Mildred Timbes DEC 2003-2004</b> | <b>Jim Langley DEC 2004-2006</b> |
| <b>Joe Spooner DEC 2006-2008</b>    | <b>Jim Langley DEC 2008-2009</b> |
| <b>Jim Timbes DEC 2009-2010</b>     | <b>Al Lugo DEC 2010-2012</b>     |
| <b>Paul Singer Dec 2012-2014</b>    | <b>Joe Spooner DEC 2014-2015</b> |
| <b>Jim Langley Dec 2015-2017</b>    | <b>Sharon Webb Dec 2017-2018</b> |
| <b>Jim Langley Dec 2018-2019</b>    | <b>Al Lugo Dec 2019-2020</b>     |

From the President...

**July 2020**

**A**s I get ready to type this column, we learned about losing our member Louie Willett. Louie was a long-time member, joining our club in September 2004. It was always great to have Gloria and Louie around our club activities. Louie enjoyed life to the fullest, restoring antique machinery and working on his beautiful 1931 Model "A" Pickup. He has instilled his love of Model A's on his grandson and his grandson will continue Louie's legacy by taking care of grandfather's pickup. Please continue to keep Gloria and the Willett family in your prayers.

**W**e started our activities with a great MATTS in June. We did it safely taking temperatures, providing masks for those that did not have one, having hand sanitizer and gloves available. We will continue to do so at any activity that we have until "Covid" is a "thing of the past". You might notice MATTS is again on a Friday since the Fourth of July is on a Saturday. We will return to Saturday MATTS in August. As always, I will notify members by email if there are any changes.

**DRIVE, HAVE FUN"**

**A**s of this writing the administrator of our meeting location still does not know if the Woodmen Life Lodge will be open for activities.



He will let us know after July first, so please "stay tuned"

**J**im Langley has again planned a "In car tour only" for July 18. This will be the First "Paul Singer Memorial Tour" and more details about this will follow later.

**O**ur World has changed a lot since March, and it is my hope that our lives will get back to normal soon so we can enjoy life to its fullest and our beloved Model "A" hobby.

See you on the road soon,

**AI**

"A machine that has been used for 25 years is always more interesting than a new one; it has a story to tell, and shows where its weaknesses were"

**Henry Ford**

May 11, 1926, Boston Daily Globe

**"PARICIPATE,**

**DRIVE, HAVE FUN"**

**"Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**



Harrison Avenue from old City hall - Panama City, Florida

# JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 16, 2020-6:00PM (EASTERN)**

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

## COMING EVENTS

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| July 3    | MATTS (Friday)                       |
| July 10   | Planning Meeting                     |
| July 16   | Club Meeting                         |
| July 18   | Club Tour- Paul Singer Memorial Tour |
| August 1  | MATTS (Saturday)                     |
| August 14 | Planning Meeting                     |
| August 20 | Club Meeting                         |
| August 22 | Club Tour                            |

### CRUISE EVENINGS

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday  | Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway     |
| Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  | Jim Bob's (By Hobby Lobby)                    |
| Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  | Jason Deli (Close to Sears)                   |
| Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday  | Country's on Broadway                         |
| Every 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday  | El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant (Stadium Drive) |
| Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Opelika Home Depot Cruise In                  |
| Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday | Phenix City Home Depot Cruise In              |
| Every 4 <sup>th</sup> 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<br>(CANCELLED) |

# ANNIVERSARIES



**July 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe and Donna Carter**  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup> Mark and Laura Smith**



**July 3<sup>rd</sup> John Robertson**  
**July 4<sup>th</sup> Mary Nelle Singer**  
**July 11<sup>th</sup> Dick Noxon**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup> John Gilson**  
**July 22<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Farrar**  
**July 28<sup>th</sup> Laura Smith**



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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 June 6, 2020...**



**"Bobby talks about the drums and brakes in his new Model "A" ...**



**"Don Mills showing a "centering tool" he made" ...**



**"Members Scott Singer & Bill Quick following CDC Guidelines, wearing masks and social distancing" ...**



**"Bobby quoting one of our repair "bibles", Les Andrews books" ...**



**"Joe Spooner talks about how to modify a modern ignition cable to look like what "Henry" made" ...**



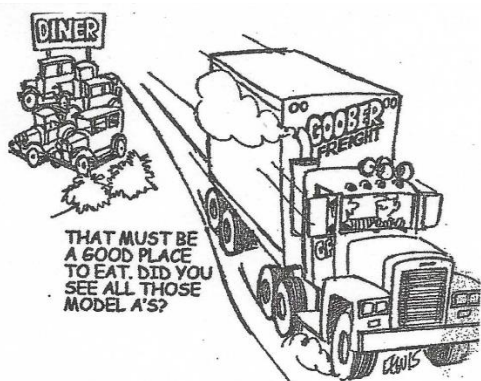


**“Tour Director Jim Langley checking the seal on his mask” ...**



**“Bobby talks about what he found on the hydraulic brakes of his “New” Model “A” ...**





## ON "THAT" ROAD AGAIN A Time to Remember...

*By jim langley*

**AHH YES!** That road created the age of the Hamburger Stand, Filling Stations and Motor Courts with refrigerated air. On that road, travelers stopped at the cafes where they spied the parked 18-wheelers knowing full well the legions of truckers always dined where the gravy was the tastiest and the bisquits were the lightest. Now days we got all of them - Mickey D's, Burger King, Arbys, Hardees - anything you want, **EXCEPT** good food...

At night out on that road, yeah, that old two-lane, it was common to drive mile after mile without seeing another pair of headlamps, or rolling along for miles without seeing an encouraging highway sign, we would sense a feeling of tension creeping into the car. *Were we still on the right road? How is the fuel?* No filling stations out here. Then suddenly up ahead in the black darkness, some tiny oasis of light would appear, then the friendly roadside neon like airport runway lights guiding us to a cheese burger, cup of coffee and then a good nights rest.

If you hair is silver or with a good touch of gray, Yeah, you have been there and done that, just remember, **OUR** road is still out there, you just have to put the GPS aside and find it...

Do you know your A B C's?



## IT MUST HAVE BEEN EDSSEL'S IDEA...

By Jim Langley

Did you realize that in 1928 and 1929, Ford did not offer Model A bodies in black? Do you know why? Well Henry would probably say, "it was Edsel's idea". Quite true, Ford did not offer black as a standard color, and could only be used as a special order from the factories. When the new Ford was first introduced in December 1927, there were four color options, black was not included...

What happened to black? To answer this question, let's look back a few years in Ford history. In the Model T's first years, it was offered in red, green blue and black. These early "T" bodies were finished with varnish which was slow drying causing delays in producing assembled Model T's. As faster and faster productions became reality, Henry made the decision to paint all bodies with black enamel which dried faster and was more durable. After 1914 and through 1925, all Fords were black only. Never proven as actually said by Henry Ford, "Any Color you like, as long as it's black." This diddy did sound good.

Because of Edsel Ford's urging as early as 1922 (ignored by Henry) that the Model T was outdated and a new car should be designed and built, color was used on Edsel's secret "prototypes" from 1923-1925. Because of declining Ford sales and increasing Chevrolet sales, Edsel finally got Henry to agree to make some slight styling changes and add color to the 1926 Model T Ford.

After the decision was made to produce a new Ford car and with Edsel in charge of designing and styling the new car (along with Henry's yes and no's) color was to be a big factor to change the Ford image from drab black (but functional) Model T to a stylish and colorful new Model A.

Another major factor in the choice of pigmented paint was the pyroxylin lacquer was well developed by the time the first line was drawn on a Model A blueprint. In 1926, Ford had offered closed cars in Deep Channel Green (Coupes and Tudors) Windsor Maroon (Fordors) and as other colors became available, open cars were optioned in Phoenix Brown and Gunmetal Blue... My point, Edsel was trying to change the image of his cars being available only in black. That had become synonymous with driving an out of date car. When the Model T era ended in May 1927, more new Model T's were wearing colors other than black...

Now, look ahead to the introduction of the Model A, "The New Ford Car." Were there black Model A's? Of course, and lots of them. BUT black was always a stand-by color that could be special ordered until 1930 when black made an official return as a standard color.

Using black is certainly more defensible than today's yellow Tudors and bright red coupes/. I do not find these combinations in the charts, but boy, do you see them. You like black on your Model A? Paint it black and enjoy. It may not be right, BUT AIN'T IT PRETTY...

## 1956 Ford Ranch Wagon Memories by D.J. Freeman

Back in the early '70's I had a '56 Ford Ranch Wagon. (It was the one with the plastic seat covers with all the different cattle brands, know the one?) It was getting tired and the oilers for the rocker arms were plugged. I ran it with the valve covers off and just poured some oil on them occasionally. Every time I open the hood at a gas station to oil the rockers, the attendant would say, "You can't run an engine like that." And I would look at them with an innocent stare and ask, "Why not?". They would explain that all the oil will run out. And I would point out that it was not oiling the rockers so how could it run out. So, one day I saw a '56 Ford wagon on a car lot in Eugene for sale. Wife and I drove in and ask about the wagon. The price was very reasonable, and I ask if I could test drive the wagon. He said sure and we all went out to the car on the lot. I got in and it started right up, sounded great. So, I looked over my right shoulder and started backing out of the space it was parked in. I swung the front end to the left to get the rear end to the right where I was looking, and I heard a "Thunk" and the car stopped moving. Well it turned out there was a brightly painted yellow light pole on the driver's side of the car that I had not noticed and it was now denting in the left front fender of what had been a very straight, un-dented car. I was freaked out. I pulled the car back into the space it had been parked in and the nice light blue car now had a up and down bright yellow stripe and dent on the left front fender. The Salesman walk back to his office shaking his head, my wife was left standing there looking at me. When the salesman did not return, I told my wife he is probably calling the police. We stood there waiting for the worst to happen, but nothing happened. I walked slowly to the sales office. The salesman was at his desk doing something and I said, "Now what?" He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "I wrecked your car." He said, "Ah, you didn't hurt it." I said, "I wrecked it." He repeated that it was not hurt. So, I boldly ask, "How much do you want for it now that it's wrecked?" He dropped the price \$50 and I bought it on the spot. Wife and I drove both Fords home. At home I swapped the left front fender of our white Ford with the left front fender of the light blue Ford. Everything was good. Maybe I should title this, "How to dicker the price of a used car on a car lot." D. J.