



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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VOL 20 ISSUE 8 ESTABLISHED IN 2000 August 2020

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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	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:

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

From the President...

August 2020

There is no question that COVID-19 has changed our hobby. Not only many activities were cancelled during March, April, and May, but every day we learn of another event cancelled. We had planned on attending the August Model "A" Swap Meet in Tucker, Georgia, but was notified it was cancelled. Also the LaGrange AACA Car Show is now cancelled. Location closures have made us conduct our Club Meeting in a different location. All of this is not what I envisioned when I told you at the beginning of the year that our 20 Anniversary year would be a great one. Know that we will continue to try to conduct as many activities in a safe manner as possible.

We had a great tour in July. Even if it was an "in car tour only" it served its primary purpose: we celebrated the memory of Paul Singer and we had a chance to drive our Model "A" s. We thank Jim Langley for once more planning a great tour. Those that participated enjoyed it very much. More details about the tour in another section of the Newsletter.



Our new temporary meeting place worked out very well. Members attending the July meeting enjoyed the great food of T-Bones Steakhouse. We are scheduled to meet there again on Thursday August 20, 2020. We are hoping that maybe the Woodmen Life Lodge will reopen in September. We will let you know.

As always, we continue to have "A" great time at MATTS. Thank you, Bobby, for continuing to host this very important club event and thank you also for letting us also conduct the Planning Meeting there, while we await for the Burger King to finish their renovation.

On July 30 we celebrated Henry Ford's birthday. We thank Henry and Edsel Ford for giving us our beloved Model "A".

In the meantime, work and drive your Model "A".

See you on the road soon,

AI

"PARICIPATE,
DRIVE, HAVE FUN"

River Cities Model A Ford Club

The July meeting of the River Cities Model A Club was held July 16, 2020 at the T-Bones restaurant in Phenix City, Alabama.

Members present were: President Al Lugo, Bob Smith, Dick Noxon, Wayne Kennedy, Tom and Sharon Ellis, Mary Nell Singer, Bob, and Connie Penny and Jim Langley.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. Meeting was called to order. There were no visitors. Members under the weather were Bill Shirley who is recovering and Barbara and Howard Ruddick.

There were no minutes from previous months of not meeting.

Dick Noxon gave the treasurer's report which was received and approved by a motion from Tom Ellis and second by Bob Penny.

Old Business:

There was some old business about becoming a chapter with AMARC but this was tabled for now. There were not enough members present.

New Business:

Because the Woodman of the World facility was not open, we met at T-Bones Steak House. A thank you to Mark Smith for suggesting the facility. It worked out very well. We missed Robert and Margie catering our dinner and hopefully in a few months can resume meeting at the Woodman Of The World facility.

A donation of \$75.00 was given to Wynnton Methodist Church in memory of Louis Willett who recently passed away as requested by the family. This is as per our by-laws for any member in good standing to receive \$75.00 for their charity requested by the family.

Matts has moved to the first Saturday of each month. T-shirts and sweatshirts older are on hold for now.

Planning meeting will be combined with MATTS until the Burger King meeting room has reopened.

Proposed Bylaw change concerning yearly dues to be voted on at the August meeting. Dues are due by January 31 of each year and if not paid by that date, the members will be dropped from the club.

The first Paul Singer Tour will be held July 18. Members will meet at the Phenix City amphitheater at 8:00 and leave by 8:20 and go on a secret cruise.

Coming Activities:

MATTS and planning meeting will be held August 1, 2020.

Modern car tour will be August 8, 2020 to the Tucker Georgia Stable of Thoroughbreds & Model A swap meet.

Next Club meeting will be August 20, 2020 at T-Bones Steak House in Phenix City, Alabama.

Next club tour will be the First Responders tour August 22, 2020. Watch for further details on this tour.

Jim Langley gave a great program on different topics of Model A's including a virus that shut down production in 1931 because of spores in the maple wood used in the station wagon wood siding. The only other mishap was broken wrists from the starting crank on Model T's. Jim al gave us a history on the steel vs wire spokes on ties and how to identify where they were manufactured. The program was remarkably interesting and many thanks to Jim Langley for all his hard work in researching it.

Having no other business meeting was adjourned by Wayne Kennedy motion.

Submitted by Connie Penny, Club Secretary

JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 20, 2020-6:00PM (EASTERN) Our next Club Meeting will be at T-Bones Steakhouse & Grill, on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

August 1	MATTS & Planning Meeting (Saturday)
August 20	Club Meeting
August 22	Club Tour (To be determined)
September 5	MATTS & Planning Meeting (Saturday))
September 17	Club Meeting
September 19	Club 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 (CANCELLED)

ANNIVERSARIES



None



August 4th Nancy Palmer
August 9th Joe Carter

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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 July 3, 2020...



"Bobby talks about a tip to improve flow when filling a container" ...



“Inserting a wire will make liquid flow better”



“The new way members have to do business”



“Several members drove their Model “A”s to MATTS”



“Don Mills talks about all the work he has done in his Model “A” during the past month”



“Members listening carefully to other members working progress on their Model A’s during the past month”



"We are encouraging more members to drive their Model A's to MATTS next month"

OLD PLANK ROAD

Following Los Angeles' winning the right to be the western terminus of the transcontinental railroad, San Diego's civic leaders proposed the Plank Road to ensure their city became the hub of Southern California's road network rather than Los Angeles.

Among those promoters was businessman and road builder "Colonel" Ed Fletcher who accepted a challenge from the *Los Angeles Examiner* to run a road race in October 1912 to determine the best route between Southern California and Phoenix. A reporter with the paper was given a 24-hour head start in Los Angeles; Fletcher would proceed from San Diego. Fletcher elected to traverse the constantly shifting sand dunes using a team of horses to pull his automobile through the sand and won the race in a seemingly impossible 19.5 hours.

Buoyed by the success of the race and with the backing of local newspapers, Fletcher raised the money to pay for 13,000 planks shipped from San Diego to Holtville, California. The first planks were laid on February 14, 1915, with the help of both volunteers and paid labor. The roadbed consisted of two parallel plank tracks, each 25 inches/63.5 cm wide, spiked to wooden crosspieces laid underneath. The total length of the Plank Road was 6.5 miles/10.4 km. Work ended nearly two months later April 4.

Though traffic and maintenance crews who cleared the wooden road with mule-drawn scrapers soon took its toll on the planking, the road was considered a success. In June 1915, the California State Highway Commission assumed responsibility for the Plank Road as part of the road system linking Southern California with Arizona.



Remnants from Old Plank Road displayed at Yuma Quartermaster Depot Historic Park

A second, more sophisticated Plank Road was commissioned in 1916. The new roadway consisted of prefabricated wooden sections laid to a width of 8 feet/2.4 m with double-width turnouts every 1000 feet/305 m. The sections were shipped to the work site via horse-drawn wagon from their assembly point in nearby Ogilby, and then lowered into place using a crane.

For the next ten years, work crews struggled against the elements to keep the Plank Road open. The cost and difficulty of the maintenance coupled with improved road technology — not to mention the incredibly rough ride the planks created and the fact that the road was only wide enough for a single vehicle — meant that the days of the Plank Road were numbered.

A new, 20-foot/6-meter-wide road with an asphaltic concrete surface constructed on top of a built-up sand embankment replaced the Old Plank Road upon its opening on August 12, 1926. The same roadway later became displaced by U.S. Route 80, itself since displaced by Interstate 8.

Today, only fragments of the Plank Road remain. They are protected under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. The fragments are both a California Historical Landmark and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Remnants of the Plank Road may be seen at the west end of Grays Well Road, a frontage road south of I-8. A monument to the Plank Road and interpretive display lie approximately three miles/5.4 km west of the Sand Hills interchange. The monument's largest feature is a 1500-foot/457-meter-long replica of the road created in the early 1970s out of existing fragments.

D.J. Freeman

Dear Model, A Supporters

This year we had planned to celebrate our tenth annual Model A Day reunion at The Gilmore. However, due to the continuing and unabated impact of the Covid-19 virus, the MAFFI Trustees have concluded that we must cancel the September 18th-19th, 2020 event. After much evaluation and conversation, it was determined that attempting to have a safe and comprehensive event with meeting seminars, swap meet merchandise and exhibits showcasing our Model A's presents too great a risk to our hobbyists this year.

Thank you for your support of The Model A Museum and for your past participation at our annual event. We plan to have Model A Day next year (2021), and will carry over our First Responders vehicle theme. We will provide further information regarding The Foundation's 2020 annual meeting and induction of Hall of Fame candidates as we get closer to September.

All of us associated with The Model A Ford Foundation wish you well and hope you remain safe during this pandemic. Please understand how difficult it was to make this decision and accept our apologies for the necessity of cancelling Model A Day at The Gilmore this year.

With Best Regards, John W. Begg, President Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.



Something is in this picture that shouldn't be, can you see it?

The first Annual Paul Singer Memorial tour “FIRST ANNUAL PAUL SINGER MEMORIAL TOUR”

By Al Lugo

On July 18, 2020, the River Cities Model A Ford Club celebrated our first “Annual Paul Singer Memorial Tour”. Thirteen members driving seven Model “A” s, and two modern cars met at the Phenix City Amphitheater parking lot. We met there early to avoid the expected hot July day. Jim Langley planned a great 79 mile “In Car Only Tour” following the CDC activity Guidelines.

The roads were indeed Model “A” roads and all the Model A’s performed flawlessly. The weather was warm but beautiful. We drove and saw places most of us had never seen even if these were in our “back yard”, stopping only once, at a great restored country home for a well needed “Pit Stop”

This tour was originally planned by Paul and Jim before Paul’s passing. It is our intention to continue conducting a yearly memorial tour to honor Paul, a past Club President, tour director and great friend of the Model “A” hobby and its members. Thank you, Paul, for all you did for all of us. We will always remember you.



Photo by Al Lugo

Scott, Lisa, and Mary Nelle Singer after the tour.



Model A Wordfinder

by Richard Kamienski

XYZASTATIONWAGONWSTSYSZBR
ETILOWTKMSNSR SAVPXNUPBUAU
BEFGHISLRTPOUDHOFODEOSCMM
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HTINEZDAODSSREEPCIONKLUHL
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NMXQMTGHIL IATMURDOPLLEBAP

DIRECTIONS: The names of various models, parts and words pertaining to the Model "A" Ford can be found among these letters. The names read forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Circle the world as you discover it!!

There's no Ford like the Model "A" Ford!!

ABELL
AR
BRIGGS
BUSINESS COUPE
CABRIOLET
CUTOUT
DOME LIGHT
DRUM TAILLIGHT
ELECTROLOCK
FORDOR
FORGINGS
HERSHEY
LEATHERBACK
MOTOMETER
MULTIPLE DISC
MURRAY
PHAETON
PICK-UP
POPOUT
POWERHOUSE

QUAIL
RADIUS RODS
RESTORER
ROADSTER
RUMBLE SEAT
SHOCK LINKS
SPARK ROD
SPECIAL COUPE
SPLASH APRONS
SPOKE WHEEL
SPORT COUPE
SPORT LITE
STATION WAGON
TOWN SEDAN
TUDOR
TWOLITE
VICTORIA
WIND WING
WISHBONE
ZENITH

TO ALL MEMBERS:

During the July Meeting we talked about two possible amendments to our Bylaws. These amendments will be brought to a vote during the Meeting on August 20, 2020.

Please note of our intention to change the Bylaws as follows:

Article III, Section 2 Dues

" Dues shall be payable in advance of the first day of January each year or as soon as possible..."

To:

Dues shall be payable in advance of the first day of January each year. Last day to pay dues and still be in good standing is January 31st.

Article VIII, Deceased Club Member

“The family of the deceased club member or spouse will be allowed to choose a club donation to the family’s choice in lieu of flowers, or flowers if family so chooses.”

To

“The family of the deceased club member or spouse will be allowed to choose a club donation to the family’s choice in lieu of flowers, or flowers if family so chooses. The donation amount shall be \$75.00”