



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

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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	Bryan Chin
Vice President	Mark Smith
Secretary	Connie Penny
Treasurer	Richard Noxon/Joe Carter
Benevolence	Mary Singer

OTHER POSITIONS:

Newsletter Editor	Bill Shirley
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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

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

Tommy Ellis Dec 2021-2022

Bob Smith DEC 2001-200

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 2019-2021

Bryan Chin 2022-2023

The October Drive Train

November Drive Train: Ramblings from your President

October has come and gone. Hershey 2023 was a great adventure that I will never forget. I am told that Hershey is evolving after Covid and the rise of On-Line sites linking sellers of scarce car parts and memorabilia with searching buyers. I and my wife flew into Harrisburg, PA on Monday morning, October 2. Harrisburg PA is less than 25 minutes by car from Hershey. The line for picking up our rental car was very long (estimated 75 people waiting in line). Things moved quickly, but it must have took a good hour to get the rental car and proceed to Hershey.

We arrived in Hershey at about 11:30 EST and proceeded to the local Wendy's for a quick lunch.

We arrived at the Tru Hotel by Hilton in downtown Hershey before 1:00 pm and deposited our luggage in our room. We then proceeded to the AACA museum arriving about 1:40 pm. We had to pay \$27 admission because I forgot to bring my AACA membership card. The museum does not have access to member information and hence if you do not have your membership card, there is no free entry. My wife and I enjoyed our third visit to the museum. Exhibits in many of the galleries change every 6 months so while the dioramas do not change, many of

the cars do. Therefore, repeat visits are enjoyable. The museum closed at 5 pm and we left for dinner in downtown Hershey. Unfortunately, we did not have reservations and after being told by 3 restaurants that they were entirely full for the night, we ended up at Fennicis' Italian Restaurant directly across from the Story of Hershey museum. We had eaten here before. It has been in business since 1935 under ownership by the same family. It had a big sign welcoming AACA Car Show Participants. Every table and seat at the bar was filled with car guys and gals. Enjoyable and Affordable, Busy and Noisy. After a good night's rest we ate our free breakfast at the Tru Hotel, departing for the AACA car event at 6:45 am. We arrived a few minutes before 7 am and already the parking field across from Chocolate Field was full and cars were being directed to parking across from Giant Stadium. Parking was \$20. Tuesday turned out to be very, very hot with temperatures reaching 87 degrees. My goal was to walk both Chocolate fields, but this turned out to be impossible. I was able to only cover the main Chocolate field and its vendors. I wore a sign, indicating what car parts I was looking for along with my Orange Columbus Club Model A Hat and Shirt. I was only called over by one vendor saying he had what I was looking for. On Tuesday morning there were many Model A's for Sale (over 12 in Chocolate Field alone). Many were very well restored and seemed to me at bargain prices (\$18,000 and less). Model A parts were plentiful. By Wednesday morning all but a few of the Model A's for sale were gone or had sold signs on them. My wife, because of the heat, spent most of the day in the MARC Tent. The MARC (Model A Restorers Club) provided an escape from the heat and free cookies, pretzels and treats. They had cold bottled water for a donation of \$1. It was a great place to meet and talk with other Model Aers. MARC also provided a Wednesday Chili and Hot Dog Lunch at the

tent for \$1. MAFCA also had a tent, but it did not have snacks and water for members. The MARC tent was located directly across from the AACA Registration Tent, the Fixed Restroom Facilities of Chocolate Field and Food Truck Row, a great central location. Hershey vendors start early with many being open by 7:00 and all closing down by 4:00. I had made reservations Tuesday morning for dinner at Devon's at 5:30 pm. It was located again near the Hershey Story Museum. We had a Wednesday and Thursday I had reservations for a golf cart. This changed the whole game, enabling us to quickly get around. First, we could park in Handicap parking right next to the golf cart rental at the Stadium (eliminates a 15-20 minute walk from normal parking to the vendor fields). With the golf cart we could whiz off to the Hershey Park entrance, visit Chocolate World, eat at Hershey Park Pavilion, cool off at Giant Stadium, or visit the AACA library. This would have been impossible by foot. Most attendees never make it to these areas because it would take 30 minutes or more to reach by foot. My wife was extremely pleased with airconditioned clean restrooms and yummy sit-down restaurants with Chocolate oriented food.

We were able to cover the Chocolate Field Annex, Green Field and Orange Field all in one day.

All the Green and Orange fields were full of new vendors with very few empty spaces.

Wednesday night we had reservations at the Hershey Hotel Circular Restaurant. This grand hotel from the 1930s era was where all the wealthy Hershey Participants must have stayed. We spent hours walking the gardens, buildings and watching the rich come and go in immaculate Duessies, Packard 12s, and Auburn Boat tail speedsters.

Many of the wives were dressed in era appropriate Flapper Dresses and Gowns, coming for dinner at the Circular Restaurant.

Thursday was a repeat of Wednesday with most vendors packing up to leave at noon.

Noticeably most of the cars were sold or gone by Wednesday at 4:00pm. We returned our golf carts early at 3:00 pm because of the lack of vendors that were open. Thursday evening, we had reservations at the Hershey Lodge for dinner at 5:30 pm. We arrived to find that the AACA auction was being held here. RM Sotheby's began by auctioning off collectible lots generally selling for \$800 to \$2000. By the time we finished a wonderful dinner, we joined the auction crowd and saw cars selling for \$50K to \$250K. We went outside to watch the cars being prepared to cross the auction block. It was amazing that cars spent only 3 to 5 minutes on the auction block and see the bidding in action. Many of the cars were sold for less than 50% of the estimated sale price, a sign that the car market is currently receding.

Friday was judging and concourse day. It rained Friday morning and hence we did not go to the field until 8:00 am. When we arrived, judging had already started. Trained Judging teams of 3 persons each were already branching out across the field. Each car that arrived was described by an announcer as the car entered the field. We spent the entire day walking the field (all cars had to leave at 3pm) and did not see all the cars present. We spent a wonderful evening at the Hidden Stills restaurant very close to our Tru hotel. I was amazed by the quality of the restaurants and food that is available in the small town of Hershey.

Our experience at Hershey was truly a memorable event. A lifetime of memories in only a few days. All Car Guys Need to Make this Pilgrimage. Next year, Hershey and Carlisle.

River Cities Model A Ford Club

The October meeting of the River Cities Model A Club was held on October 19, 2023 at the Woodman of the World building. Members present were: Mark Smith, Bob Smith, Joe Spooner, John Roberson and guest DeeDee, Will and Jackson Jeter, Tommy and Sharon Ellis, Bob and Connie Penny, Mary Nell Singer, Scott Singer, Bryan Chin, Keith Dixon, Al Lugo, Richard Noxon, Skipper Barfield, Susan Peters, David Powell, Mike McBride, Joel, Nelson Robles and Scott Conkel.

Meeting was opened with Pledge of Allegiance and blessing. Members proceeded to the buffet.

President Bryan welcomed all members and guests.

October birthdays and anniversaries were read.

Congratulations to all.

There were no members under the weather.

President Chin read thru a list of upcoming events. Please

check our newsletter.

Old Business: All officers from 2022 continue to be the list of nominations for 2023. A motion from Al Lugo and second by Mark Smith that nominations be closed.

New Business: A committee for the decorations for the Christmas Party were discussed. Sharon Ellis will head up this committee.

President Chin gave an excellent program about his trip to Hershey Pennsylvania with a great slide show. Thanks Brains for sharing this with the club members.

No further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Connie Penny

Club secretary

JOIN US!

BY AL LUGO

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 16, 2023-6:00 PM

(EASTERN) and will be at Woodmen Life Lodge on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 4 MATTS & AMP; PLANNING MEETING (SATURDAY:
9:00 AM

NOVEMBER 16 CLUB MEETING (ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS)
PROGRAM: MARK SMITH

NOVEMBER 17-19 MOULTRIE SWAP MEET

DECEMBER 2 MATTS & AMP; PLANNING MEETING (SATURDAY:
9:00AM)

DECEMBER 2 TRI CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 9 CLUB ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND
CHRISTMAS PARTY

CRUISE EVENINGS

EVERY 1ST TUESDAY- COOKS HOT DOG ON MILLER & AIRPORT
THRUWAY

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY CULVERS IN PHENIX CITY

EVERY 3RD TUESDAY JASON DELI (CLOSE TO THE OLD SEARS)

EVERY 4TH TUESDAY COUNTRY'S AT MAIN STREET VILLAGE

EVERY 5TH TUESDAY DON CHUCHOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT
(5770 MILGEN ROAD)

EVERY 2ND SATURDAY OPELIKA HOME DEPOT CRUISE IN
EVERY 3RD SATURDAY PHENIX CITY HOME DEPOT CRUISE IN
EVERY 4TH SATURDAY STEAK AND SHAKE (BRADLEY PARK
DRIVE)

LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH OPELIKA CRUISE IN AT THE
TRACKS

EVERY SUNDAY AM IHOP ON VETERANS PARKWAY NORTH
NATIONAL:

NOVEMBER 30-DEC 2 MAFCA NATIONAL AWARDS BANQUET

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Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return (706) (Use separate instructions for each state.)

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Information and photos by Al Lugo

“Members met at Bobby’s shop on October 7, 2023”...



“Bobby talking about distributor issues”...



"Mark Smith showing some of the Flag Holders Bobby made"...



"Having problems removing the outer ring of your gas gauge? Al has made this tool with an extended handle to make removing it easier"...



“Al showed this brass float, an alternative to a cork or rubber gas gauge float” ...

Club Members Birthdays

November 2nd Dexter Walden

November 8th Tom Penny

November 12th William Jeter

November 12th David Powell

November 17th Donna Carter

November 23rd William Quam

November 28th Bobby Penny

November 28th William Shirley

November 30th Laura Penny

Club Members Anniversaries

November 3rd Jeff & Phyllis Whaley

November 25th David & Joni Hoxsey

Ford customers made it clear in the mid-1920s that the venerable Tin Lizzie – the Ford Model T - had run its course and that it was time for Ford to develop the “next big thing” for the automobile market. While competitors were building cars that were better suited to the quickly modernizing roads and consumer tastes, Henry Ford believed that the Model T was still the best option for those living in rural areas, as well as those who desired accessible prices. It became clear to everyone that updates and lower prices for the T would no longer suffice, so in late 1926 Henry Ford directed his engineers to start work on a new Ford – the Model A.



Doug Fairbanks and Mary Pick with a 1928 Ford Model A Sport Coupe

The new Ford was a completely different car that did not carry over any parts from the Model T. It was lower and sleeker than the Model T and had beautiful bodylines that were the direct influence of Edsel Ford’s styling ideas. While it still used a four cylinder, similar to the Model T, the Model A was more powerful and smooth and was capable of 55 to 65 mph. It came with Triplex shatterproof safety windshield and hydraulic shocks, both a first for Ford and unheard of in the low-priced field. It was also the first Ford to carry the famous blue oval logo and the first car assembled at the new Rouge manufacturing complex. As for the name, Henry Ford said that the car

was so new and different that they would “wipe the slate clean and start all over again with Model A.”

Introduced to the public in December 1927, the 1928 Model A was an immediate sensation. Some 10 million people viewed the new vehicle in the first week. The crowds gathered in such numbers that many cities needed to send police to help direct traffic around those who lined up to see the new Ford. While enthusiasm and demand were high, production lagged. The newly installed assembly line for the Model A at the Rouge was not up to full capacity until the middle of 1929, when they were able to produce 9,000 units a day.

The Model A showed that customers’ tastes were developing as fast as the newly installed paved roads and manufacturers needed to change as quickly. It also showed that Henry was indeed “able to make a lady out of the Lizzie!”