



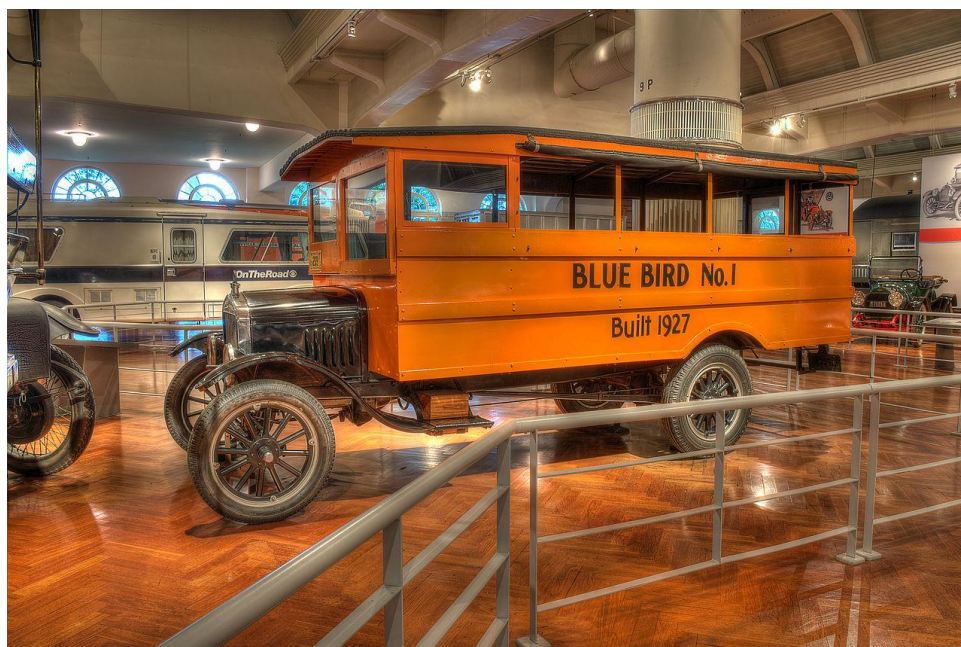
"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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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	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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Publicity Director	Mark Smith
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 2019-2021
Tommy Ellis Dec 2021-2022	Bryan Chin 2022-2023

The August Drive Train

It has been hot and humid around my place and typical of all the Alabama summers that I can remember. But fall is just around the corner with its cool days and nights. I really enjoy the fall because this is the best time for finding treasures at swap meets, estate sales and the once ubiquitous yard sale. It seemed that everyone was ready to make that deal and raise a little cash for the Christmas Holidays. However, things have definitely changed since Covid. There are fewer and fewer vendors at the monthly Scotts Antique Market in Atlanta and very few buyers. I would estimate a drop in vendors of 20 to 25%. The number of yard sales in Auburn have definitely dropped. Before Covid, a typical good Saturday would have 10-to-15-yard sales.

These days a good Saturday has but 5 sales. People just don't seem to be interested in getting out. There are no longer crowds of people at 6:00 am hunting goodies at yard sales.

It seems that Facebook Marketplace is the new place to find the goodies. I have a very difficult time running through all these adds, especially finding the "old" stuff that I am addicted to collecting. For the last three years I have been saying things will get back to normal. But I guess times have changed for good. A true dinosaur I am!!!

The Annual Model A Meet at the Gilmore is coming up in late September, followed by The

Hershey AACA Swap Meet in early October. For over 40 years I have wanted to go to Hershey, but never took the time. I am looking forward to making up those lost years. I am super pumped that this year my wife and I will finally get there. I got my airplane tickets, rental car, hotel and golf cart reservations for Hershey. I plan on experiencing the entire 5 days of the show and making a Lifetime of Memories.

HAPPY HUNTING and Don't Sweat the Details.

Bryan Chin, President

River Cities Model A Ford Club

The July 2023 meeting was held July 20, 2023 at the Woodman of the World building. President Brian Chin opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Al Lugo gave the blessing. Members present were: David and LeeAnn Powell, Joe Spooner, Mary Nell Singer, Catherine and Robert Wharam, John Robertson, Joe Carter, Dick Noxon, Mark Smith, Bob Smith, Brian Chin, Bill Hooper, Keith Dixon, Bob and Connie Penny, Al Lugo and Will Jeeter. President Chin recognized birthdays and anniversaries for the month of July. Under the weather: Tommy Ellis is recovering from surgery.

The group will be going to the Lunchbox Museum on Saturday. Members are urged to meet at Howies for breakfast and then travel to the museum. Please check the newsletter for future tours and outings.

Program: Joe Spooner gave a great program of the purchase of his Model A truck several years ago and how he rebuilt it. That truck now belongs to club member Bill Hooper. Thanks, Joe, for taking us on a memory of your experience in rebuilding your Model A.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Connie Penny
Club secretary.



August 18th Tommy & Sharon Ellis
August 29th Dave & Donna Quam



August 4th Nancy Palmer
August 6th Savannah Jeter
August 9th Joe Carter
August 27th Sharon Ellis

JOIN US!

BY AL LUGO

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 17, 2023-6:00 PM (EASTER)

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

COMING EVENTS

August 5 MATTS & Planning Meeting (Saturday:
9:00AM)

August 12 Tour: To Alex City joining Central A's in
Garage Tour to Gordie Sherman's Model A Ford
Complex and lunch at Big B Bar-B-Q

August 17 Club Meeting (Program: "Show & Tell")

September 2 MATTS & Planning Meeting
(Saturday: 9:00 AM)

September 2 Motor at The Museum Car Show (Civil
War Naval Museum)

September 4 Russell County Court House Festival

September 15-16 MAFFI International Model A Day
September 21 Club Meeting
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:

July 30-August 4 MARC National Meet, Hamilton, Ohio

September 15-16 MAFFI Annual Model A Days,
Hickory Corners

November 30-Dec 2 MAFCA National Awards Banquet

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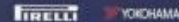
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RESTORERS CLUB



MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP

"Members met at Bobby's shop on July 1st, 2023" ...

Video recommended by Scott Singer, to open click on the site then do a control left click on the mouse

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW-WtwdC1uY&list=RDCMUCsfu-jdkX2_v2t3_igVQebg&index=2

The photos from the July meeting were not downloaded

MATTs is a one Saturday (normally the first) where club members and others are invited to come and discuss issues with their Model A's and find solutions.

Model A Frame and engine number locations Thanks to Jim Mason for use of information.

Number locations



Looking Back in time

1927–1930s

As the second quarter of the 20th century began, [Albert Luce Sr.](#) was an entrepreneur who developed some of earliest purpose-built school buses, transitioned from [wagons](#). What is now Blue Bird Corporation began life as a side project in a [Ford Motor Company](#) dealership in [Perry, Georgia](#). Along with the dealership in Perry, Luce owned the Ford franchise in [Fort Valley, Georgia](#), a rural farming community south of [Macon](#).

In 1925, Luce sold a customer a [Ford Model T](#) with a wooden bus body; the customer sought to use the bus to transport his workers. Due to a combination of unsatisfactory construction quality of the bus body and the rough conditions of the rural Georgia roads, the wooden bus body started to disintegrate before the customer had finished paying for the vehicle.^{[5][6]} Driven to produce an improved design to sell to his customers, Luce sought input to develop a stronger bus body capable of surviving unimproved roads.^[5] In place of wood, Luce constructed his bus body from steel and sheet metal; wood was used as a secondary material.^[6] Completed in 1927, the bus was put into use as a school bus.

While buses would initially remain a side project for Luce (with only nine bus bodies produced between 1929 and 1931^[5]), the onset of the Great Depression would change his company forever. Following a 95% decline in car sales in 1931, Luce sold both of his Ford dealerships, using the \$12,000 proceeds from the sale to begin his own company, concentrating solely on bus production.^[5] Inspired to begin production in order to support the local economy, Luce also felt school buses would be a necessary resource as part of the shift towards consolidated schools.

The early use of farm wagons on a part-time basis soon evolved into purpose-built school bus products, each with economy and function as major priorities. In 1937, the company began production of full-steel bus bodies, an innovation which soon replaced the wooden bodies which were then in common use around the United States.

In a 1939 conference, Blue Bird engineers contributed to the selection of [school bus yellow](#), still in use today.

Completed in 1927, the first bus completed by A.L. Luce was sold to a customer and put into use as a school bus.^{[5][6]} Following the establishment of Blue Bird Body Company in 1932, the bus became retroactively known as Blue Bird "Number One".^[5] In 1946, the bus was reacquired by the Luce family; as part of the restoration, the body was placed on a [Ford Model TT](#) chassis,^[8] undergoing a second restoration in the 1970s.^[5]

In 2008, Blue Bird "Number One" was donated to [the Henry Ford Museum](#), marking the 100th anniversary of the Model T Ford and the 80th anniversary of its construction.^[6]