



## "The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

VOL 24 ISSUE 3   ESTABLISHED IN 2000   March 2024



# Happy St. Patrick's Day

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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 e-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	David Powell
Tour Director	Bob Smith
Publicity Director	Mark Smith
Program Director	John Robertson
Club Liaison	Joe Spooner
Membership Director	Al Lugo
Awards Director	William Jeter
Historian Director	Lisa Farrar
MATTS Team Leader	Bobby Penny

The River Cities Model "A" Ford Club's 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 2001-2000  
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 2022-2024

## The March Drive Train, Ramblings from Your President:



The weather has turned warm and now is the time to get that Model A out for a wonderful drive. We have great Model A trips planned for March 23rd and April 13th. On March 23rd, we will venture out starting with breakfast at the Old Country Store near Callaway Gardens. We will then attend the Vietnam Veterans Day Event at Roosevelt State Park to see the military equipment and history that will be on display. Attendance at this event is limited and reservations are required. Al, being on top of all requirements, as always, has made advance reservations for us to attend. Please join us for fun and excitement on this great trip.

On April 13th, our club will join the Central Alabama A's at Gordie Sherman's place for their Fish Fry Luncheon followed by a tour of the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum in Alex City. I understand that the North Alabama A's will also be in attendance. This should be an especially exciting event. We will need to plan ahead so that the Central Alabama A's have a good number as to who will attend their legendary fish fry.

Please remember that May is the month that we travel to the Opelika Outlet Mall to join our sister club (East AL Old Car Club) for their 50th Anniversary Car Show. This year is planned to be very different with a large vendor swap meet, car show for modern vehicles (year 2000 and newer) and traditional car show for vintage vehicles (year 1999 and older). As always there will be a trophy class just for Model A vehicles. Get that Model A shined up for events of the next three months

If you missed it, check out some of the pictures that were taken at our February trip to the Savoy Museum. It was a real treat to see the cars and the fellowship of club members made it a day that will not be forgotten.

Have Fun with that Model A !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Make the Memories !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Bryan A. Chin, President River Cities Model A Ford Club*

## From the Editor



Well, 2024 is off and running and it's almost time to get our "A's" out and enjoy the great Spring weather. I for one am looking forward to capturing more moments of our tours, meetings and generally documenting our times together for future reflection and memories and sharing them in the newsletter and on the web.

Much appreciation to those that have shared content for the newsletter for the enjoyment of all. As a reminder, this newsletter your newsletter and I'm here to serve by sharing the information you as members need from multiple sources, SO KEEP THEM COMING! Contributions on topics of interest are welcome and much appreciated, whether they are technical, historical, or general items of interest. Anything you think would be good to share with others, please send it to [editor@rivercitiesrunningboard.com](mailto:editor@rivercitiesrunningboard.com) or share it in person at events and I will see how to work it into upcoming newsletters.

I have continued to include the new items and features that were added to last month's newsletter and added a couple of new things this month. In my mind, one of the great features of our Model A's is that they are "time machines", taking us back to another place and time in history, so I am including a glimpse into what fashion was in the era of the "A". I have also begun including technical articles, and these can come from the wealth of knowledge we have in our own ranks of members, some from national MAFA, and members of other chapters.

*"Dave Powell"*

*Newsletter Editor*

## Tours and Times Together

*Contribution by Mark Smith, Vice President/Publicity Director*



### TRIP TO STREETSIDE CLASSICS – JANUARY

With the weather still being somewhat cool, several of the club members decided to take a “Modern Car” tour up to Streetside Classics just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. The trip started with a country breakfast in Lagrange, Georgia, and on to Streetside. The group of A’ers enjoyed looking over the 250+ vehicles ranging from early 1920’s to current specialty vehicles. Several Model A’s were on display. The trip back to Columbus, Georgia included a stop at Frank’s Family Restaurant. We are looking forward to Spring for some Model A tours.



### THE GROUP AT THE SAVOY MUSEUM – FEBRUARY

The River Cities Ford Model A Club participated in a group trip back to The Savoy Automotive Museum in Cartersville Georgia, just south of Atlanta. The Savoy brings in several exhibits each year. This visit included; Chip’s Garage, Chip Foose collection, Wooden Wonders (Woodies), and Rolling Sculptors. Additionally, Savoy includes sections of the home museum vehicles. Anyone that is considering travels to this area should visit this incredible venue. You will not be disappointed.

# **River Cities Model A Ford Club Meeting Minutes**

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The February meeting of the River Cities Model A club was held February 15th at the Woodmen of the world facility. The members present were William Jeter, Al Lugo, Bryan Chin, David Powell, Mark Smith, Bob Smith, Joe, Carter Bob and Connie Penny, Joe Spooner, Mary Nell Singer, Scott Singer, John Robertson and guest, Dick Noxon, Skipper Barfield, and Mike and Susan Quam.

President Bryan Chin opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and then President Chin gave the blessing. Members proceeded to the Buffet.

President Chin recognized all February birthdays and anniversaries.

Treasurer's report: An audit of the treasury was conducted by Bob Smith and Scott Singer. It was reported that everything was in order, and the audit was successful. A big thanks to Bob and Scott for the audit, and also to Richard for doing a great job.

Please check your newsletter for all upcoming events and car shows. There was a modern car trip to the Savoy auto museum in Cartersville. Members were to meet at 7:30 at the IHOP in LaGrange and then proceed to the museum.

Members are invited to a fish fry at Gordy Sherman's home in Alexander city. A field trip to the Welborn Muscle Car Museum will be after the fish fry. All members are invited.

Scott Singer brought up about having an app on the website to propose pictures and other business matters. Scott then suggested using the club's Facebook page for this function, and a general discussion on accessing the current Facebook page, and making the needed adjustments was had. Scott Singer has volunteered to take on maintaining the Facebook page and is working with transitioning access from Mark Smith. More to come.

Program: The program was given by Al Lugo and included videos on the life of Henry Ford and it was enjoyed by all members. Thanks Al for doing such a great job.

Mike and Susan Quam brought a door prize that was one by Mary Nell Singer. Thanks to Mike and Susan for doing this.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Connie Penny

Club secretary



## Monthly Model "A" Technical Article

As car enthusiasts, members enjoy reading technical articles and expectedly, technical articles about the Model A Ford have been a mainstay of the MAFCA Restorer Magazine for years. As part of the monthly chapter newsletter, selections from the technical archives will be included from time to time and will hopefully be both informative, and at times entertaining. This month's inclusion is one from MAFCA member Jim Cannon published in 2021.

### Jim's Tech Tip by Jim Cannon



#### **Towing your Model A on a Trailer**

*There will be times when you need to transport your Model A on a trailer. Here's a tip on trailer loading to help you tow safely.*

*When the car is loaded on the trailer, the tongue weight of the trailer on the trailer hitch (on the back of your car or truck) should be between 10-15% of the total weight of the combined "trailer+Model A". If you load the trailer with less than 10% of the weight on the hitch, the trailer will sway as the speed increases, which is very dangerous. Over 15% can put too much unnecessary load on the back of your tow vehicle, which can take weight off of your front wheels (needed for steering and braking)- which is also not good.*

*How do you know the weight of your "trailer+Model A"? I took my car on the trailer to my local feed store where they have a scale. Many truck stops also have scales. I parked the loaded trailer on the scale, disconnected my truck, and moved the truck off the scale. They charge a small fee to give you the weight. Once I had that total weight, it was easy to calculate 10% and 15% of that. For example, if your "trailer+Model A" is 4,200 pounds, your Target Tongue Weight is 420 to 630 pounds, call it 525.*

*Once you know the Target Tongue Weight that you are shooting for, how do you know what the actual tongue weight is when you put the Model A on the trailer? You can figure it out with a ruler or tape measure. Go to a building supply store (like Home Depot) with your tow vehicle and no trailer. Measure and record the distance between the bottom of the trailer hitch and the ground. Now start loading 80# bags of dry concrete mix into your car trunk or truck bed until you have loaded your Target Tongue Weight. (I had a helpful young guy at HD load them in for me.) The exact load is not critical, but it must be above your 10% number. Now measure and record the distance between the bottom of the trailer hitch and the ground again. Once you have those 2 numbers, you can ask the helpful/ad at the store to unload all those bags and put them back! Thankfully, you only have to do this exercise one time.*

*With these 2 measurements, before and after the load was added, you can quickly figure out the change in height above the ground when you have your Target Tongue Weight on the back of your tow vehicle. This CHANGE in the height of your trailer hitch is the HITCH DROP that you need to get when you load your Model A on the trailer. Before attaching the trailer to your tow vehicle in the future, measure the height of the trailer hitch above the ground. Now attach the trailer and load your Model A on it. Pull the Model A forward on the trailer until your trailer hitch has dropped by your Target Hitch Drop. You can roll the Model A forward and backward a bit on the trailer to get the amount of drop that you are shooting for. Now tie the Model A down in this position on the trailer and be confident that you have enough, but not too much, tongue weight on your trailer hitch.*

*I have marked on my trailer the best spot to load a Model A to get the target tongue weight and hitch drop. When I put them on the mark, the tongue weight is correct.*

*For more tips on safe towing, check out the following web site:*  
<https://www.curtmfg.com/towing-safety>

*Let's be careful out there, and Have a Model A Day!*

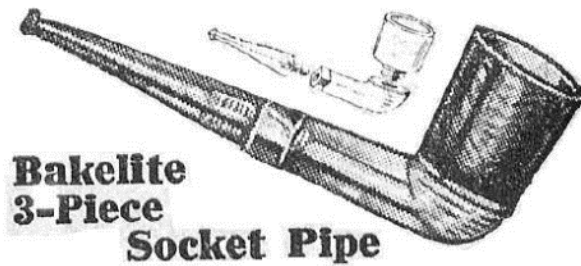
*Jim Cannon*



## Fashion & Accessories from the Model A Era

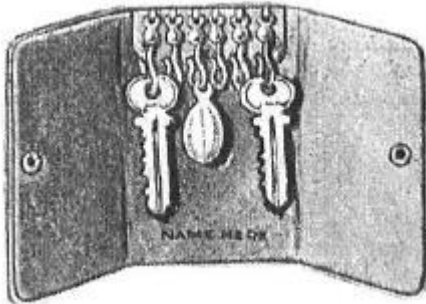
The accessories for this month's newsletter come from an article published by Judy Smith in September of 2009. I read her article and wanted to share a few items that were popular from the late 1920's and early 1930's.

The first selection is a stylish 3-piece Socket Pipe made of Bakelite and came from the Sears catalogs in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931.



The pipe length is 5 ½". The screw bowl is made to resemble briar while base and tasteless mouth piece looks like clear amber. Gold plated band. Full size bowl. Easily taken apart for cleaning.

Next is a key holder and auto license carrier.



Key Caddy and Auto license carrier made from genuine cowhide. Patented swivel hooks turn in all directions.

Finally, we have some earrings from Sears.

A

B

C



- A. Earrings for pierced ears in 10 karats solid yellow gold with ruby red color set.
- B. This earring looks like an earring you could find today and any department or drug store. It was made of 10 karat solid gold.
- C. Sears just sold this as an earring for pierced ears.

## Member Minute

Bob Smith must have Model A Safety in mind with this contribution, thanks Bob!



# March Events

# 2024

## Join Us For These March Events!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 MATT'S & Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.
3	4	5 Cooks Place on Miller & Airport Thruway	6	7	8	9 Jordan Car Show (re-scheduled from 3/2)
10	11	12 Culvers in Phenix City	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Jason's Deli	20	21 Club Meeting 6:00 p.m.	22	23 Club Tour Old Country Store/Roosevelt State Park
24	25	26 Country's at Main Street	27	28	29	30 County Cars & Handle Bars Car Show
31						



# April Events

# 2024

## Start Planning For These April Events!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway	3	4	5	6 MATTS & Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m.
7	8	9 Culvers in Phenix City	10	11	12	13 Club Tour: Fish Fry & Wellborn Museum with Central A's
14	15	16 Jason's Deli	17	18 Club Meeting 6:00 p.m.	19	20
21	22	23 Country's at Main Street	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Metro Diner				

# JOIN US!

By Al Lugo

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 21, 2024 - 6:00 PM (Eastern)

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

## COMING EVENTS

March 2	MATTS & Planning Meeting (Saturday 9:00AM)
March 2 9	Jordan Car Show, Hollywood Connection
March 21	Club Meeting
March 23	Club Tour: To be determined
March 30	County Cars & Handle bars car show, Harris County
April 4-6	Moultrie Swap Meet
April 6	MATTS & Planning Meeting (Saturday: 9:00 AM)
April 13	Club Tour: Fish Fry & Wellborn Museum with Central A's
April 18	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's Deli (Close to the old Sears)
Every 4th Tuesday	El Carrizo Mexican Restaurant (Near BMW)
Every 5th Tuesday	Metro Diner (The Landings)
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

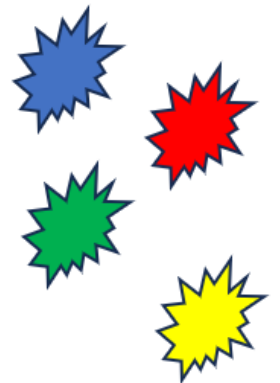
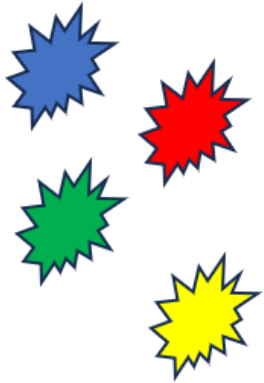
## NATIONAL:





April 4-7	MARC Membership Meet – Joliet, Illinois
May 21-23	MARC National Tour – Berlin, Ohio
June 23-29	MAFCA National Convention – Ruidoso, New Mexico
July 15-18	MARC National Meet – Asheville, North Carolina

# March

# 2024

## Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> Michael & Christine Moye	6  Kathy LaClair Jessica Pagan Michael Moye	7	8	9  Mark Babb
10	11	12	13	14 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> Scott & Lisa Singer	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22  Renate Shirley	23
24	25  Ronnie Pagan	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## **Club Members Birthdays**

March 6th – Kathy Laclair

March 6th – Jessica Pagan

March 6th – Michael Moyer

March 9th – Mark Babb

March 22nd – Renate Shirley

March 25th – Ronnie Pagan

## **Club Members Anniversaries**

March 5th – Michael & Christine Moyer

March 14th – Scott & Lisa Singer





*The Model "A"*  
RESTORERS CLUB



## MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP

Information and photos by Al Lugo

**"Members met at Bobby's shop on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024"**



**""BOBBY PRESENTED ALL IN ATTENDANCE WITH ONE OF HIS CUSTOM CLUB CALENDARS""**

**"Photo by Al Lugo"**



**"THE TOPIC OF THE DAY WAS THE MODEL "A" CUT OUT"**  
"Photo by Al Lugo"



**"BOBBY TALKED ABOUT HOW THE CUT OUT WORKS AND HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER"**  
"Photo by Al Lugo"



**"HE SHOWED HOW TO IMPROVE IT WITH A DIODE"**  
**"PHOTO BY AL LUGO"**



**"WE TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING A WORKSHOP AND IMPROVE THE CUT OUT WITH A DIODE"**  
**"Photo by Al Lugo"**



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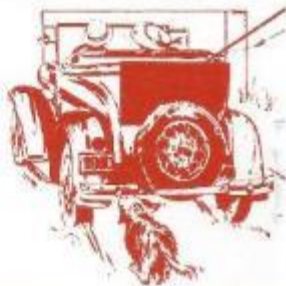
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Valve Clearance.....	.016
Rod Journal.....	1.500
Main Bearings.....	1.625
Firing Order.....	1,2,4,3
Bore.....	3 7/8"
Stroke.....	4 1/4"
Compression.....	78 P.S.I.
Horsepower (SAE Rating).....	24.03
Compression Ratio.....	4.22 to 1
Wheelbase.....	103 1/2"
Cyl. Head Torque.....	50 Ft. lb.
Engine No. on L.H. Side of Block	
Main Torque.....	80-100 Ft. lb.
Rods Torque.....	40-50 Ft. lb.
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