



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



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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**VOL 11 ISSUE 12 ESTABLISHED IN 2000 DECEMBER 2011**  
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MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009  
OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010



**Inside this issue; The Presidents Corner, Callaway Steeplechase article by Reporter Bob Smith, a look back 100 years ago, plus the continued story of the birth of the Model A and what is it?**

## **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 \$20.00 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  
Vice President  
Secretary & Benevolence  
Treasurer

Al Lugo  
Paul Singer  
Sharon Web  
Bettie Jackson

### **OTHER POSITIONS:**

Editor  
Tour Director  
Publicity  
Program Director  
Club Liaison  
Membership Director  
Awards Director  
Historian  
Scholarship Chairperson  
Car Show Director  
Mechanical Director

Bill Shirley  
VACANT  
Mickey Timbes  
John Robertson  
Jim Langley  
Jim Miller  
Howard Ruddick  
Mary Nelle Singer  
Connie Penny  
Bobby Penny  
Bob Jackson

**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  
Mickey 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,  
Mickey 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 - 2011

# The President's Corner..



**H**ope you are planning in joining your fellow members in our Annual Business meeting and Christmas party. Our party will be December 15, 2011. As you saw in our Website we are asking members attending to make reservations before December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. You can make reservations by sending ten dollars per person to cover the meal to our PO Box. This will help us insure we have the proper amount of food and prevent us from wasting food as we did last year. One of the activities planned is the "Crazy Santa" so we ask you to bring a ten dollar gift per person for this fun game. (Please mark it male or female gift)

**T**hank you to Joe Spooner for his great meeting program presentation on the restoration of his Model A Coupe. It was great to see that he restored his Model "A" the "Right Way" completing most of the areas of restoration, and also making many tools used in the restoration. We were also very proud to see June Spooner help with many areas of the restoration.

**A**lso please remember our club dues are due by the end of December. You can pay at the meeting or send it to the Club's P.O. Box.

**E**lections for the 2012 Club Officers were conducted at the November Meeting. Officers will be installed during the December Annual Business meeting and Christmas party. Officers elected were:

Al Lugo- President  
Paul Singer- Vice President  
Sharon Webb- Secretary  
Bettie Jackson-Treasurer

**W**e have many blessings to be thankful this year. We take a moment to reflect this season on all of our friends that have made our lives' richer. We also thank all of our Service Members for serving and keeping us free. Our family will like to wish you the best Christmas ever. May the Lord bless you and your family with many years of happiness, health, and good fortune.

See you at the meeting,

AL

**NEXT MEETING: December 15, 2011-6:00PM (EASTERN) Our  
Next meeting will be at Woodmen of the World Lodge, on  
Highway 80, in Phenix City.**

December 3	Christmas in the Park Parade in Cusseta, GA
December 9	Board Meeting
December 10	TriCity Christmas Parade
December 15	Club Meeting and Christmas Party

**NATIONAL:**

Nov 30- Dec 4, 2011 MAFCA National Awards Banquet

**CRUISE EVENINGS**

Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thru Way
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	2nd Tues La Pareja Mexican Restaurant toward Waverly Hall
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Jason Deli
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Cook's Hot Dog stand on Airport Thruway
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Opelika Home Depot
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)

## Model A Trivia

### History of the Model A (continued)

With its lower chassis, the Model A seems much longer and more substantial than the spindly Model T. The Model A's hood and cowl have considerably more heft than the T with its diminutive engine compartment, and that spoke to the bigger, more powerful engine that was hidden underneath. The car's all-new 200.5 cubic inch L-head engine yielded exactly twice the horsepower (40) of the Model T. Designed by Harold Hicks, the engine was also considerably more modern with its 4.22:1 compression ratio, battery ignition and integral water pump.

Joe Galamb was the body designer chiefly responsible for the Model A's good looks. He adeptly took the themes from the Lincoln, rounded fenders, the shape of its nickel-plated radiator shell, its hood-to-passenger space relationship, and re-constructed them for a car that was substantially shorter. The amazing success of the design (or more accurately designs, since the Model A was offered in more than half a dozen body styles) was the fact that he was able to keep the proportions right.

When it was introduced to the world in 1928, the Ford Model A created a frenzy unheard of in the car business. Within 36 hours of its debut, more than 10 million people had seen the car in person. Even in these days of mass media and larger-than-life promotion, this type of response to a car is unheard of.

Within a matter of months, Ford Motor Company had transitioned from building what was nearly an antique piece to building a thoroughly modern car. The Model A offered its buyers all the modern conveniences of four-wheel brakes, standard gearbox/clutch arrangement and safety glass (a first in the industry) at a remarkably low cost. The lowest priced model was the phaeton at just \$460, but the biggest seller during its first year in the market was Tudor (two-door) sedan at \$550.

With 40 horsepower, the Model A offered better than average acceleration and a top speed of 65 miles per hour. In contrast, the Model T had a top speed of just 43 miles per hour. The Model A's 103.5-inch wheelbase and revised suspension also delivered much better ride quality than the 100-inch wheelbase of the Model T.

"TO BE CONTINUED"

## River Cities Model A Ford Club

### Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2011

#### Opening:

The regular meeting of The River Cities Model A Ford Club was called to order at 6:00 pm on November 17, 2011 at the Woodman of The World Lodge by President Al Lugo. He then led the group in The Pledge of Allegiance. The blessing was given by Jim Timbes and all proceeded to the buffet.

#### Present:

Paul and Mary Nelle Singer, Dick Noxon, Glen Williams and Cindy, Al Lugo, Bobby Penny, Joe and June Spooner, Bob and Bettie Jackson, Jim and Mickey Timbes, Russell Lester, John and Rickie Robertson, Don and Evelyn Carlisle, Bob Smith, Neil R. LaClair, Buddy Graves, Bill Shirley and Sharon Webb.

Al Lugo called the meeting to order and reminded the club that we celebrated our 11th year anniversary yesterday. Many members were missing because they were attending the Moultrie show. Several members are under the weather and need our care and concern: Brad Whitaker was in the hospital several weeks ago with a leg infection and Bill Buck had elbow surgery. Get well wishes will be sent via a card from the club to each of them. Bad weather hit last week and has caused severe damage to George and Ann's home. They are ok but are without electricity. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers and possibly stop by to offer help. The Nominating Committee Report and Elections: Micky Timbes announced the following members have accepted the nominations for these positions:

Al Lugo – President, Paul Singer\_ Vice President, Sharon Webb- Secretary and Bettie Jackson- Treasurer. The floor was open to any other nominations. No further were made. John Robertson made a motion to accept the slate of nominations. Jim Timbes seconded it and the motion passed with a show of hands. Bettie Jackson and Sharon Webb announced that this would be their last year serving in their respective positions. Bettie has served as the treasurer for the last ten year. Al recommended that the members consider carefully their commitment to the club and volunteer for these positions.

#### Program:

Joe Spooner gave the program this evening called: "Restoring your Model A". He used pictures of his Model A which he began from the beginning of disassembling and sanding all the way to the completed project. The picture's gave a detailed account of the process and reflected the

meticulous method by which he accomplished this task over a 2 year period. He showed how he created a "rotisserie -like" device to use to place the body up so he could rotate it around to work on the parts without having to get on the ground. The presentation was very entertaining and informative.

#### Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved with the following revisions: John Carlisle made a motion to accept the minutes as written Jim Timbes seconded the motion. The members unanimous approved the motion.

#### Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was read by Bettie Jackson and a motion by Bob Smith to accept the report was made. Bobby Penny seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

#### Old Business:

The visit by a number of members to the Spring Harbor was a big success on October 22, 2011. Six members were able to attend with 6 Model A's. The club also visited the Parkwood Nursing Home on Friday October 28, 2011. Three members were able to attend with 3 Model A's. Pictures of these events have been posted on the web site. Al Lugo encouraged all the members to participate as much as they can in events and activities as it is good to get out and about with our Model A's. On the first weekend in November the club participated in the Steeplechase at Calloway Gardens. Lots of pictures were taken and much fun was had by all. Pictures are posted on the website. Nine members and 1 member from our sister club were in attendance.

#### New Business:

Our next meeting will be the annual Christmas party and we need to go ahead and make reservations so we will have adequate food catered. Your reservations need to be made by Dec 9th (The meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2011) Micky was nominated to be the chairperson to plan the event and it has been recommended that each person bring a \$10 gift to participate in a "Crazy Santa" game. Remember club dues are due by December 31, 2011. Don't forget the Columbus/ Phenix City parade on December 3, 2011. On December 4 there is a Toys for Tots being collected at the Columbus Convention Center from 10am-12 noon. On December 10 the Tri-City Christmas parade is scheduled. Al Lugo asked the group if they have been to the website recently and could answer the question of who was depicted in the old picture of a young looking fellow. Bill Shirley spoke up after several suggestions and stated it was his grandfather. Al Lugo commended Bill Shirley on the great job as the web master and recommended members check the site frequently as

it is constantly being updated. He also reminded the group of the next Board Meeting Friday December 9, 2011 at the Burger King on Wynnton Road at 9am.

Reports from Committee Chairpersons:

Vice President: Paul Singer stated that he read where in the Restorer Magazine there is free subscription for children of the magazine "A World" which gives information on the Ford Model A's. He also announced that in the magazine it was announced that a club in Dallas TX would be sponsoring a tour through the Smoky Mountains in 2013.

Programs: Nothing to report at this time.

Publicity: Nothing to report at this time.

Historian: Mary Nelle Singer requested folks to submit some pictures from the Steeplechase so she can update the scrap book.

Secretary: Sharon again requested the members to submit any cards they would like to donate that can be used to send out to members in times of illness, death or other needs.

Scholarship: Nothing to report at this time.

Membership: anything to report.

Mechanics: Nothing to report.

50/50 DRAWING: The winner was Mary Nelle Singer.

Adjournment: Russell Lester made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8pm

Minutes submitted by: Sharon Webb

***"A man who stops advertising to save money, is like a man who stops a clock to save time." Henry Ford***

(Quote Provided by Joe Spooner)



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

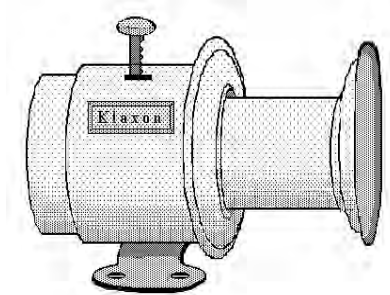


DECEMBER 5- Jim & Mickey Timbes

DECEMBER 29- Mark & Marie Babb

DECEMBER 29- Billy & Joan Pugh

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 10- Rodney Milner

DECEMBER 17- Bill Blankenship

DECEMBER 20- Steve Carlisle

DECEMBER 25- Jim Durfy

DECEMBER 27- Bob Jackson

DECEMBER 27- Mary Ann Lester

DECEMBER 27- Gloria Willett

DECEMBER 30- Maxine Williams

DECEMBER 31- Robert Fish



River Cities Model A Club has been asked to appear at the Callaway Steeplechase for several years now and everyone that attends seems to really enjoy the daylong event. Bill Buck gets us the tickets, mailing some to the northern clubs so they can just come right into the heart of activities from their motel.

Bill met us at the morning meeting point even though he had been out with a sports team till the wee hours the night before. We had Neal, Sharon, Bob, the Singers, the Timbes and the Penny's with grandson Kyle, while the Spooners and LuAnn Buck showed up at Callaway Gardens. The Charles Brown family from Newnan was already parked when we got there.

It was a nice drive up River Road to Whitesville with lots of beautiful color along the way. A great time of year to tour with our 7 Model As. Maybe we were a bit late as the water truck had already wet down the gravel drive into the center of the action, so we drove slowly to our grassy area to display the cars. We put our tents up and set the tables for our lunch later on in the day.

Met lots of new people and even some Model A owners from Roba, Al near Hurtsboro, with a 28 Sports Coupe they have owned since they were 13 yr old. Maybe a new member someday.

Late afternoon we loaded up and headed back the way we had come, over to Whitesville and then down to Columbus to the extra autos and on to home. No troubles with the cars of course. Nice day tour.

Roving Reporter,  
Bob Smith



Let's take a look back 100 Years

## 1911 Ford Model T



### THE YEAR IS 1911

\*\*\*\*\*

The year is 1911 --- One hundred years ago.  
What a difference a century makes!  
Here are some statistics for the Year 1911:

\*\*\*\*\*

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for this car was sold in drug stores only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.  
The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower !

The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year ...  
A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year,  
A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000  
per year,  
and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home ..

Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!  
Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which  
were condemned in the press AND the government as  
"substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.  
Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.  
Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month,  
and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from  
entering into their country for any reason.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis

3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars...

The population of Las Vegas , Nevada , was only 30!!!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, Regulates the

Stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!"  
(Shocking?)

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.....

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.!

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.....

**What is it?**



**Last Months who is this....It was Bill Shirley's Grand Father, William B. Shirley**

Notes from the Editor: If you have pictures and/or articles please e-mail them to me at [randb5640@att.net](mailto:randb5640@att.net) or give them to me at the meeting. You can e-mail via the Web site and the will also get to me. I also need to know of the upcoming year activity dates so I can put them on the web calendar.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

It's not a Model A but it is a Ford



### 39 Ford sedan \$15,000

TCI chassis

new Air ride front suspension

292 bored to 312

C-4 auto

All new wire

New gauges

four wheel disc brakes

new gas tank

new radiator

ididit steering column

Contact Phil at [philjohnston105@yahoo.com](mailto:philjohnston105@yahoo.com)

Referred by Bob Smith