



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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VOL 12 ISSUE 1 ESTABLISHED IN 2000 January 2012
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MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009
OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010



Inside this issue; The Presidents Corner, A Tech Tip from Al, An article on How The Model A got Her Name, plus the continued story of the birth of the Model A, Who is it? Joes tech tip corner and a look ahead in 2012.

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..



Hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and are now ready to start a new year of enjoyment of our beloved Model "A".

Thank you to Mickey Timbes and her Christmas Committee for decorating the room for our party and organizing the "Crazy Santa" game. The place looked great and we had a lot of fun with the game. If you have any suggestions for next year please let me know.

Congratulations to Jim Langley, Bob Smith, and Bill Shirley for winning a MAFCA Certificate of Merit for their work on our Club Newsletter. Thank you to the three of you for your great effort and dedication publishing the Club Newsletter, which is the "glue" that keeps the club together.

Also congratulations to Bobby Penny, Bill Shirley, Bettie Jackson, Connie Penny, and Sharon Webb. They were nominated by the Awards Committee to receive a Club Certificate of Appreciation for their great efforts in their respective Committees.

Plaques given by the President were the "President's Award" to Bettie Jackson for her many years of total dedication to the club, and the "President's Spark Plug Award" for always helping the club in many different ways.

If you have not paid our Club's dues please do it now. Dues were due on December 31, 2011

The Program for the January meeting will be conducted in two parts. I will present a short film provided by the Model A Ford Foundation about the future Model A Museum. The DVD is titled "A Virtual Stroll through the Museum" This will describe the future content of the Model A museum. The second part will be conducted by Jim Langley who will conduct an open bid auction of Model A and other items. Items should represent a value of at least \$10 and we would also like to encourage ladies to bring some items for the ladies to bid on. All proceeds from this auction as well as any donation (if you do not want to bring an item for the auction) will be sent to the Model A Museum fund

See you at the meeting, Al

JOIN US!

NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2012-6:00PM
(EASTERN) Our
next meeting will be at Woodmen of the World
Lodge, on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

January 13	Board Meeting
January 19	Club Meeting
February 3 – 5	Moultrie Swap meet
February 10	Board Meeting
February 16	Club Meeting

TO BE ANNOUNCED	Tour to the Georgia Rural Telephone Museum, Leslie, GA
February 25	Jordan Car Show
March 9	Board Meeting
March 15	Club Meeting

CRUISE EVENINGS

Every 1 st Tuesday-	Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thru Way
Every 2 nd Tuesday	El Carrizo on Whittlesey Blvd.
Every 3 rd Tuesday	Jason Deli
Every 4 th Tuesday	Fudruckers
Every 2 nd Saturday	Opelika Home Depot
Every 4 th Saturday	Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)

NATIONAL:

June 18-22-MAFCA National Convention, Marquette, MI
December 9-12-MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Charleston, SC

Model A Trivia

History of the Model A (continued)

The changeover from T to A had cost Ford Motor Company the market share and sales titles (not to mention about 250 million 1928 dollars.) But the Model A quickly revived Ford's fortunes. By July 1929 more than two million Model A had been produced, and when the year was over Ford's U.S market share had rebounded from its nadir during the dark days of 1927 to 36 percent.

The Model A was updated in 1930, and Ford's market share jumped to 41 percent, but actual sales numbers were down as the first full year of the Depression took its toll. In 1931 sales and production fell still further, and it became obvious that the Model A would not have nearly the "shelf life" of its predecessor. During the year Chevrolet overtook Ford for the number one sales spot, and it became clear that the Model A's days were numbered. But as the car that allowed Ford to join the modern era, it was one of the most significant vehicles of its era.

Although the Model T was the best-selling car in the United States of America in the mid-1920s, the growing popularity of low-priced competitors forced Henry Ford to bring out a new product. The first Model A rolled off the assembly line in October 1927. It offered more comfort and performance than comparably priced cars and came in nine different models, ranging from the \$500 Tudor Sedan to the \$1,200 town car. By the end of 1930, Ford had sold over four million Model A's.

River Cities Model A Ford Club

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of The River Cities Model A Ford Club was called to order at 6:30 pm on December 15, 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 Langley and all proceeded to the buffet.

Present:

Paul and Mary Nelle Singer, Dick Noxon, Glen Williams and Cindy, Al Lugo, Bobby and Connie Penny, Joe and June Spooner, Bob and Bettie Jackson, Mike Alexich, Jim and Mickey Timbes, John and Rickie Robertson, Neil La Clair, Ann and George Travis, Bob Smith, Bill and Renate Shirley, Jim and Pat Langley, Michael and Christen Moye, Bill, Louann and Victoria Buck, Buddy Joe and Dorma Carter and Sharon Webb.

Al Lugo called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He stated some members are under the weather: David Black who just came out of the hospital in Auburn.

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Bob Smith was made to approve the minutes as written in the newsletter. John Russell seconded the motion. The members present then unanimously approved the minutes.

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was read by Bettie Jackson and a motion by Jim Langley to accept the report was made. Jim Timbes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Program:

Paul Singer presented the "Cooling System in the Model A." He shared a number of useful facts about how to take care of your Model A and how the cooling system works. He stated the ideal temperature for the cooling system is 160 degrees. The radiator holds 1 ½ gallons of water. Oil is another important item in the cooling process. You need to use 5 Quartets of non-detergent all which should be changed every 6 months.

Old Business:

Mickey Timbes reported on the Christmas parade. Many cars from the club attended. Al Lugo commented on the Car Games that are available to look at at the MAFCA website.

New Business: Money has been approved to donate to the MAFCA Museum. Al brought up the suggestion made at the last Board meeting that we have an auction in January, where you will bring an item to auction that is worth at least \$10. Al also reminded the members that the dues for the New Year are due now and are to be paid to Bettie before 12/31/2011. There was discussion on the website. The editor reminded us that it takes entries by the members to make the newsletter and web site new and exciting. The mystery photo on the web site in December was one of an aero more valve for a car whistle which was to sound like a train whistle. Bobby Penny is working on the club's annual calendar and will have it out by the next meeting. AL read the wonderful thank you note from Victoria Buck for the scholarship. Bobby and Connie Penny showed a short animated film called the "ornament" It was very cute and had us all smiling!

Awards Presentation: Al Lugo presented the following awards: Certificates of appreciation: Bettie Jackson for the hard work and dedication with working with the club's treasury; Sharon Webb for dedication in writing the thorough club minutes every month; Bill Shirley for the dedication to putting out the newsletter monthly and keeping our website current. Paul Singer made the presentation of the Road Runner Award. He stated the club collectively drove 76998 miles for the year. The winner for the most miles driven this year was Bobbie Penny at 1712 miles for the year. The President's awards were made by Al Lugo: The Spark Plug Award to Mickey Timbes for her consistent dedication and always steps up to volunteer. The Presidents Award for always serving the club was given to Bettie Jackson. The Editor's Certificate of Merit was given to Jim Langley, Bob Smith and Bill Shirley for their dedication in continuing to make the newsletter worthy of national awards. Bob Smith helped with the installation of the 2012 Officers: He administered the oath for Al Lugo, President, Paul Singer, Vice President, Sharon Webb, Secretary; and Bettie Jackson, Treasurer. Al Lugo took the opportunity to brief the club members of his pride to have the honor and privilege of serving the club this past year. He stated that it takes everyone working together to make this club a real success and called on the members to consider stepping forward to participate and take responsibility for the clubs actions. The more we all participate the better the club will be. He also took the opportunity to recognize the importance of the soldiers who help make this country a safe place to be. He read a beautiful poem to salute them. The next Board meeting is January 13, 2012 and the next club meeting is January 19th here at the Woodsman of the World. There were no reports to be made from the committees or further business.

Adjournment:

John Roberson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Timbes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The business meeting adjourned and Mickey Timbes began the Dirty Santa program. Everyone had brought a gift. Numbers were picked from a bowl by each member. The member with #1 began by picking out a gift from the gift display table. Then #2 had the opportunity to either pick from the table or take one that was already opened. The exchange continued. The group had a wonderful time swapping out gifts and socializing.
Minutes submitted by: Sharon Webb

"The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young" Henry Ford

(Quote Provided by Joe Spooner)

A sneak peek at possible 2012 activities

January 19th

Auction -- Each member brings at least one Model A item valued at \$10.00 or more to be auctioned to the highest bidder. No item to auction? You could donate at least \$10.00 which would go to the cause of donating all proceeds to the New Model A Museum in the name of the River Cities Model A Ford Club.

February

Driving tour to the Georgia Rural Telephone Museum at Leslie, GA

March 10th

Overnight tour with the Central A's and Southside A's to the Anniston area. Fun fellowship, food antique shopping and the Motor Sports Museum at Talladega Speedway AND an on Track ride in your Model A.

April

Annual River Cities Model A Ford Club Car Show

May

Driving tour to visit Alexander City, AL. which includes a guided tour of the Horseshoe Bend Battle field.

11 and 13 May

Social Security Tour (HCC) along with the LaGrange Chapter (AACCA), Southside A's and possibly the Central A's

June 2nd

Wheels, Wings and Interesting Things driving tour to Williamson, GA and the Chandler Field Museum

July

Mystery Tour

August

Ice Cream Social, Local tour "Drive you're A"

September

Tuskegee Airman Museum joint driving tour with the Central A's

October 26th

Sweet Home Alabama Tour to Huntsville, AL.

November

Mystery Tour

December

Annual Christmas Parades, Christmas Party, and possible Toys for Tots Run

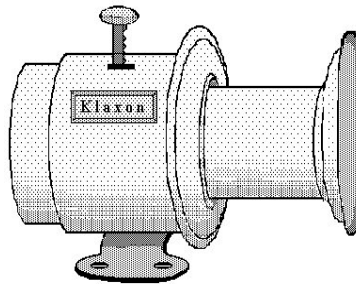
All events are tentative and will be confirmed as we approach the event month. There will also be other tour opportunities.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES



JANUARY 1- Donald & Anita Barron
JANUARY 1- Don & Evelyn Carlisle
JANUARY 3- Jim & Pat Langley
JANUARY 15- Bob & Bettie Jackson
JANUARY 15- Burton & Maxine Williams

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 2- Donnie Morrison
JANUARY 15- Joy Whitaker
JANUARY 19- George Travis
JANUARY 24- Mike Alexich
JANUARY 27- Darlene Adams
JANUARY 30- Marie Babb

TECH TIP

By Al Lugo



(Photo by
Al Lugo)

As we get older we learn to do our work smarter instead of harder. While setting up my new garage I decided to equip my parts cart with as many of the items I could use to make it more convenient. As the photo shows, I added a paper towel holder; an inexpensive towel rack to keep a clean towel that can be placed to protect a fender or any body panel when working on my vehicles. The cart also has a box of gloves, eye protection, a flashlight, jack stands, and a kneepad for when I have to kneel on the floor. Now, when I for example change my oil, I can roll the cart to the car with all I need next to it.

On another sad note, PLEASE ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST when working on your car. Not Long ago, I received an E-mail from a sister club in Alabama stating that a member of the Scenic City Model A club in Chattanooga recently lost his life when his Model A fell on him. He had jacked up his car without wheels on, using a floor jack under the rear end. He had jack stands next to the car but did not use them. Getting under the car without adequate support is dangerous. Always use jack stands, ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST.

How the A got its Name and a little more trivia

The name Model A was first used by Ford in 1903 and also known as the "Fordmobile". This was the first vehicle produced by the Ford Motor Company and its first owner was Dr. Ernst Pfenning of Chicago, Illinois who purchased the Model A on July 23, 1903. Production of the first generation Model A lasted from 1903 through 1905 with 1750 examples being produced.

Automobile production was new and experiments with design, techniques, and technology were still being experimented with. Many early producers of the automobile had been in either the coachbuilding business or the bicycle business. Upon the invention of the automobile, they switched to the production of horseless carriages.

Henry Ford had \$28,000 in investment capital to begin his new business. Upon completion of his first motorcar, he had spent all but \$223.65. The Model A's were available as either a two-seater runabout or a four-seater tonneau. A flat-2 engine was horizontally-mounted midship and capable of producing 8 horsepower. A three-speed planetary transmission was mated to the engine. Dimensions and weight varied but the advertised top speed of the vehicle was about 45 miles per hour. The base price was \$750 and was available with options such as a rear seat for \$100. A rubber roof would set the buyer back an additional \$30 while the leather roof was \$50.

The Model A was replaced by a sequence of 'letter cars' until Ford produced the perfect combination of affordability and reliability with the Model T. It was mass produced and by 1914 the adaptation of the assembly line streamlined the process even further. By the 1920s, Ford had mobilized the United States with their customers wanting more and willing to pay more for it. Chevrolet's were becoming popular because they were similar to the Ford but offered a few extra amenities at a slightly higher but still reasonable price. Near the close of the 1920's and after sales began to slip, Ford realized that a replacement was needed.

So as production came to a close for the Model T, Henry Ford halted all production for six months to retool the equipment and prepare for the production of the Model A. The second generation of the Ford Model A began on October 20th, 1927. Sale of the Model A began on December 2nd, 1927 and was offered in four colors. The Model had been available in the United States only in black because it dried the fastest.

The public eagerly awaited the sale of the Model T's replacement and were not disappointed. It was a stylish and elegant vehicle, which had been designed by Henry Ford's son, Edsel. In comparison to its predecessor, it was more sophisticated and complex.

The cost of the second generation Model A, produced 24 years after the original Model A was sold for \$365 less, with price ranging from \$385 through \$570. The car was powered by an L-head 4-cylinder engine with just over 200 cubic-inches in displacement. A three-speed sliding gear transmission with 1 reverse speed was used. Top speed was achieved a little over sixty-miles per hour with the average fuel mileage being rather exceptional at over 40 MPG.

Just like the Model T, the Model A was available in multiple configurations such as the top of the line Fordor in either 2 or 3 window, Victoria, Station Wagon, Truck, Town Car, Convertible Cabriolet, Phaeton, Business Coupe, Sport Coupe, Roadster Coupe, and Coupe to name a few.

During the production lifespan of the Model A, lasting until August 31, 1931, Ford produced 4,320,446 Model A's. It was replaced by the Model B.

By Daniel Vaughan | Mar 2006

The first traffic light!

In 1920 a Detroit policeman named Williams Potts adapted a railroad signal and cobbled together red, amber, and green lights into the tricolor traffic signal so familiar today. Potts installed his automatic light at the corner of Woodward and Michigan Avenues in Detroit. A year later fifteen more were put up around the metropolitan area; by the end of the decade, ever major U.S. city controlled its traffic with the tricolor lights. Garrett Morgan a gifted African American inventor whose parents had been Kentucky slaves, followed up by patenting the modern four-way traffic light used all over the world.

from "Wheels for the World" by Douglas Brinkley,

Provided by Joe Spooner

Joe's Tip Corner

Does your bumper have a good coat of wax?

Why?? Iron will rust under chrome if moisture gets to it. A voluble spot is the back side of the rear bumper on the passenger side. This is due to being close to the exhaust heat and moisture coming from the tail pipe.

Solution - Clean the front and back of both the upper and lower bars of the bumper with a chrome polish and then apply a heavy coat of paste wax.

Do this approximately every six months.

Remember, If it goes Ahooga, drive it!.....Joe

Who is this?



Last Months "What is it?" ... It is an Aero More Valve for a Model A exhaust whistle.

This enabled the car to sound like a train rather than/or plus Ahooga.

CLASSIFIED ADS

If you have a Model A, Model A parts for sale let the editor know.