



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



**RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB**

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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VOL 15 ISSUE 10    ESTABLISHED IN 2000    October 2015  
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**MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009, 2011 and  
2013**

**OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010**



**Bettie and Robert Jackson, May they Rest in Peace**

**Visit our Web site at [www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com](http://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	Joe Spooner
Vice President	Bob Smith
Secretary & Benevolence	Connie Penny
Treasurer	Joe Carter

## OTHER POSITIONS:

Editor	Bill Shirley
Assistant Tour Director	Jim Langley
Publicity Director	Sharon Webb
Program Director	John Robertson
Club Liaison	Jim Langley
Membership Director	Al Lugo
Awards Director	Dick Noxon
Historian Director	Mickey Timbes
Scholarship Director	Bill Shirley
Car Show Director	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
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 2010-2012
Paul Singer Dec 2012-2014	Joe Spooner DEC 2014

## **Presidents Rattles for October 2015**

Displaying our "As" at the Uptown Market was a great way to celebrate National Model A Day and to promote our club. We had a good turnout of about nine cars and a good time was had by all. Sharon, Mary Nelle, and Paul were all decked out in period attire. The weather was good to us for this year's club picnic. We had four "As" to show up and twenty plus members. There was a lot of tire kicking, fellowship and eating! Hotdogs and hamburgers by Robert, cookies, brownies, pudding, cheese cake, and icecream by members. Was fun trying to eat some of everything! There games and boat rides to enjoy. All who missed it should plan to make it next year. Thanks to all who helped in the setup. Thanks again to the Ruddicks for sharing their lake site and facilities. Hope to see you at our club meeting.

**If it says "Ahooga", drive it!  
Joe**

**It was very sad to hear of the passing of one of our club family's member. Bettie Jackson was a founding member and a dedicated member who graciously served as our club treasurer for thirteen years. She will forever be missed.**

# JOIN US!

BYAI Lugo

NEXT MEETING: October 15, 2015-  
6:00PM (EASTERN) Our  
next meeting will be at Woodmen of  
the World Lodge, on Highway 80, in  
Phenix City.

## COMING EVENTS

October 2	MATTS
October 3	AACA Car Show-LaGrange, GA
October 9	Board Meeting
October 10	Al's Garage Workshop-Ladies Driving the Model "A"
October 15	Club Meeting
October 14-17	Sweet Home Alabama
October 17	Pioneer Museum
November 6	MATTS
November 6-7	Museum Tour (CAMAFC)
November 7-8	Tour Patsiliga Museum or Harvest Days in Old Talbot
November 13	Board Meeting
November 14	Columbus/Phenix City Veterans Day Parade
November 19	Club Meeting/Elections
November 20-21	Moultrie Swap Meet

### *CRUISE EVENINGS*

Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday-	Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Jim Bob's
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Jason Deli
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Harley Davidson on Williams Road
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	BoJangle's on Schomberg Road
Every 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Country's on Broad Street
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Opelika Home Depot
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)

Every Sunday AM IHOP Airport Thruway

**NATIONAL:**

December 3-5 MAFCA National Awards Banquet- Medford, Oregon

**River Cities Model A Ford Club  
Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2015  
Club Meeting**

The September meeting of the River Cities Model "A" Ford club met Thursday, September 17, 2015 at the Woodman of the World building.

Members present were: Bob and Connie Penny, Bobby Shackleford, Joe Carter, Wayne Kennedy, Sharon Webb, Paul and Mary Nell Singer, Jim Langley, Al Lugo, Dick Noxon, Kevin Adams, Mickey Timbes, Pat and Mark Gamble, Don and Evelyn Carlisle, Bettie Jackson, June and Joe Spooner, Gabriel Hanks (grandson of Joe and June Spooner) Bill Shirley, Jim and Linda Miller.

President Joe Spooner opened the meeting and reported on members who were under the weather: Bobby Shackleford recovering from an accident in his Model A, Louie Willett, Pat Langley, Don Carlisle, Russell and Mary Lester.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and blessing we proceeded to the buffet.

Joe Spooner told a short story about working on his truck brakes.

Jim Langley gave a program on the origin of the Quail hood ornament. It was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks Jim.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Joe Carter gave a treasurer's report.

Old Business:

The Brick for Jim Timbes has been ordered.

**June Spooner needs Veterans service sheets she passed out.**

**Dick Noxon gave a report on the Callaway Garden car show.**

**New Business:**

**Bill Shirley needs member to submit articles for the newsletter.**

**Members are to meet at Country's downtown for International Model A Day at 8:30**

**Club picnic will be September 26. Members meet at Glenwood school at 9:00. Please bring dessert and yard chairs.**

**Nominating committee has filled offices for 2016. Names can still be nominating from the floor. Nominees are President- Jim Langley, V.P.- Mark Gamble, Secretary-Pat Gamble, and Treasurer-Joe Carter.**

**A workshop will be October 10 at Al Lugo.**

**Dick Noxon needs members mileage for 2015 for the Road Runner award. Drawing for raffle and the winner was Mark Gamble,**

**Meeting was adjourned.**

**Submitted by  
Connie Penny**

**Coming soon in the News Letter Articles written by our own Jim Langley**

<http://www.jigidi.com/solve.php?id=GKQJH546&s=e>

Life is a puzzle. Make sense - solve the puzzle! Go to the above site. Hold down control and left click your mouse.

## **How “Chief” Received Heart Surgery and Survived**



**Chief, our beloved 1929 Model ‘A’ Tudor had been purring along after a major frame off restoration. He had slept 42 years quietly in a dark barn. Only Chief knew the history of his engine. After restoration he was sporting many new parts, a spiffy new paint job, white wall tires, and vintage upholstery.**

**Chief’s odometer was registering over 96,000 miles as he purred through our neighborhood. Suddenly the dreaded knocking sound of a bearing was just audible! He returned to his comfortable garage.**

**Chief felt he was in surgery as his engine pan was removed exposing his inner being. His connecting rod bearing caps were removed to reveal chipping failures of on the ends of the rod bearings.**





The crank shaft bearing surfaces were measured and found to have been previously ground to .040" undersize. No scoring or damage to the crank bearing surfaces was evident. Chief's main bearing caps were then removed. The main bearing surfaces showed no scoring or damage. Measurements with Plastigages indicated main bearing clearances were within tolerances. Next Chief's head was removed and the ridges at the top of the cylinders were removed with a ridge reamer. Chief's four pistons were then removed.

Chief thought "What is next"? Replace his babbitt rod bearings and do a complete engine rebuild? No Wait! How about another way? Why not use the new precision of machining that allows bearing replacement with common mechanics tools and provides improved modern bearing materials? Sets of new connecting rods are now available with inserted bearings. These inserts come in standard sizes to .040" undersize. These inserts do not require shims to provide recommended bearing clearances.

New .040" oversize pistons and piston rings were also purchased. The cylinder walls were honed and wiped with oil. A local auto engine shop fitted the new rods and pistons with new piston pins. Final assembly was made with ZPaste. Plastigages confirmed clearance tolerances. Finally Chief had his pistons back.

Chief was happy to have Lucas break-in oil with a zinc additive. After 1000 miles Chief's oil was changed. He is now happily "purring" along with Castrol 10W-30 oil!





## **MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP SEPTEMBER 4th, 2015**

Photos and captions by Howard Ruddick

Our group met at Bobby's shop on Sept 4, 2015. Bobby was prepared to show us in detail how wheel and steering parts fit together. But first we needed to raid the coffee and donuts.

Here Bobby is giving Joe, Mark, and Larry an overview how the various parts fit together.



The front end parts are laid out in relation to each other. Note the front end spindle has both bearings mounted. The king pin is shown as it will be inserted

through bushings to mount the spindle assembly to the front axle. The front Spring Perch is shown as it would be inserted through the front axle and secured with a castle nut



Bobby showed us how to ream the front end spindle bushings to accept the king pin. Note the reamer should be long enough to ream both bushings in line. Of course both bearings must be removed to prevent metal chip contamination.



Larry and Al listening to Bobby



**Dick and Larry in discussion. Is that Neil looking at the running chassis?**



**Bobby, are you sure that these parts need to be cleaned?**



**Come and join us every first Friday of the month at Bobby's shop. You will learn many things and enjoy the fellowship along with hot coffee and donuts.**

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

**By AL LUGO**

**The Ford Motor Company has one of the richest histories of any Automobile Company. This was possible because of the preservation of documents, photos, and short films. It is my purpose in the coming months to bring you significant facts of Ford history presented in short "bullets". Please join me in honoring our rich Ford Motor Company History.**

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## **Ford & Edison Winter Estates at Fort Meyers, Florida**

- **One of Henry and Clara Ford's vacation retreat was in Fort Meyers Florida.**
- **Henry had worked for the Edison Illuminating Company in Detroit as an Engineer. He met Edison in 1896 at a professional convention. During this convention Henry shared his invention of the Quadricycle. Edison was fascinated by Henry's invention and encouraged him to continue to work on it. This started a lifelong friendship with Edison.**
- **Edison first visited Florida in 1885 and purchased a property to build a winter home. He completed the home in 1886 and named it "Seminole Lodge". This home served as his winter retreat and place to relax until Edison's death in 1931.**

- The Ford's first visit Fort Meyers in 1914 at the invitation of Edison to go camping in the Florida Everglades. Ford and Edison would later take many camping trips.
- \* Henry Ford purchased the adjoining property from a Robert Smith of New York in 1916. The property was named "The Mangoes". Mr. Smith built a craftsman style home in 1911.
- The purchase price of "The Mangoes" was \$20,000 and included over 3 acres of riverfront gardens and the bungalow built by Mr. Smith.
- After Edison died in 1931 Ford seldom came back to Fort Meyers. Ford sold the estate to a private owner in 1945. In 1947 Mrs. Edison deeded the Edison Estate to the City of Fort Meyers to be opened to the public.
- In 1988 the city of Fort Meyers was able to purchase the Ford Estates for 1.5 million and opened it to the public in 1990.
- The combined properties were re-named The Edison and Ford Winter Estates. These estates have become one of the top ten most visited historic homes in the nation. The estates are run by a non profit corporation.
- The estates contain a historical museum and a 21 acre botanical garden. The gardens features plants grown for industrial purposes (like bamboo used in light filaments) and plants that Mina Edison planted because of their beauty.
- The historical museum includes exhibits of Edison's work as an inventor including the telegraph, telephone, x-ray machine and Thomas Edison's original custom made Model T, a gift from Henry Ford. The museum also includes Henry Ford's original 1918 Model T camper used in the camping expeditions of "The Vagabonds" as Ford and his friends called themselves.
- During World War I (1914-1918) Edison became concerned with America's reliance on Foreign supplies of rubber (This was a problem also during WWII). He partnered with Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford to try to find a rubber tree or plant that would grow quickly in the United States and that would contain enough latex to support his research. In 1927 the 3 men contributed \$25,000 each and created the Edison Botanic Research Corporation at Fort Meyers, in order to find a solution to the problem. The laboratory was completed in 1928.
- Edison did the majority of his research at Fort Meyers planting the trees and sending results and sample rubber residues up to West Orange, New Jersey, the location of his laboratory also known as "Invention Factory".



- After testing 17,000 samples Edison discovered a source of rubber in the plant Goldenrod. After his death in 1931 the rubber project was transferred to the United States Department of Agriculture.



**Henry Ford's Fort Meyers Winter Estates, "The Mangoes".**



**Thomas Edison's Winter Estates "Seminole Lodge"**





**Edison's Botanical Research Corporation laboratory at the estate.**



**Edison's Movie Making equipment found in the museum**





**Original custom Model T, a gift from Henry Ford**



**Two young ladies enjoying a seat in Joe's A**

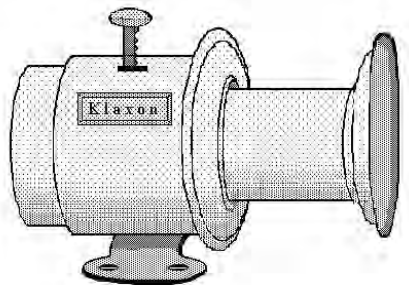
## HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES



OCTOBER 19- Joe & June Spooner

OCTOBER 24- Harry & Sherry Williams

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



OCTOBER 1- Bob Smith

OCTOBER 3- Lizbeth Lugo

OCTOBER 11- Jim Miller

OCTOBER 22- Evelyn Carlisle

OCTOBER 25- Kathryn Foster

OCTOBER 30- James R. Durfy

OCTOBER 2 – Larry Farrar

OCTOBER 6- Wayne Kennedy

OCTOBER 12- Bill Buck

OCTOBER 24- Carolyn Shackelford

OCTOBER 28- Neil LaClair

OCTOBER 31- Harry Williams

**What a great hobby we all enjoy. Just think of it, we keep these Model A's on the road, enjoy driving them on beautiful days. We get to go places we perhaps may never go, always being greeted with a smile and a wave from passersby. It's fun to work on them, learning new things, and making them better. Then if we do it right, we can consider these old cars an investment, maybe earning a little money over the years, much more fun than a bank CD. And the best part of all is how these old cars tend to pull the family together. Rarely can you start one up without someone wanting to go for a ride.**

**Q: I have a 1931 Deluxe Roadster that was repainted several years ago. The car looks nice, but it does not have pinstripes. Can I use pin striping tape? How will I know what color to use?**

**A:** I would suggest hand-painted pinstripes. If you are in North Georgia, contact me and I will refer a young man who does a great job on all the cars in our shop. Get a copy of the Model A Paint and Finish guide, available at Mike's "A" Ford-able. This has good diagrams of each model and how the pinstripes should look, and what color goes with each paint scheme. Generally you match the colors of the wheels.

**Q: I am working on my 1929 Tudor. I would like to install a new top. I see the top kits are available, is this something I can do myself?**

**A:** I believe with a little patience, some basic tools, and a good plan of action, you should be able to handle this. One thing to look out for, if your top is old and has been leaking then the wood will probably need to be replaced. This can be a bigger job than the actual top. I believe the "Les Andrews Model A Mechanics Handbook Vol. II" has some pretty good information about this job.

**Q: I have owned my 1930 Coupe for many years now. Last week I was driving it and had a real scare. I came down a long hill to an intersection when the light suddenly turned red. I put all the weight I had on the brake pedal, but the car would not stop. I went right through the intersection. Fortunately there was no accident, but I am thinking now I really need some brake work.**

**A:** Unfortunately Model A's have a reputation for poor brakes. This reputation comes from old original brakes which have never had anything done to them. Your car has probably been fine for short drives around town at low speeds, however, you found out the brakes are no good for a Panic Stop. I am sure your car needs a brake job. If you do a full brake job with cast iron drums, new brake shoes, and new hardware, then your car will stop like it is supposed to. Look at my website for more information on brakes. A good quality, properly done, mechanical brake job on a Model A Ford will provide a safe, reliable car, even in a "panic" stop.

**Enjoy the  
Drive...**

**BentleyBohanan**  
**Bentley's Antique Auto Service, Inc.**  
[www.mymodela.com](http://www.mymodela.com)  
**678-407-1947**

**FOR SALE**

**1929 Model A Ford closed cab pickup, Rock Moss Green, Tacoma Cream  
wheels, oak stock racks on the bed.  
Body off restoration in 2004.  
Running condition. \$12,000**





**Jim Fletcher 419-536-2505**

**1931 Ford Model A Roadster Deluxe Model # 40B. Beautiful all steel black with apple green strip and 6 wheels. Professionally restored to original except 12V and accessories. Interior and rumble seat tan grained leather. Chrome side mount covers and mirrors. Black leather trunk and wood grained luggage rack. Leakless water pump, dual taillights with turn signals, dual cowl lights, step plates, etched wind wings, quail, stone guard and seat belts. Cowl, fender and head light visors, tool set, books and twenty-year collection of mostly small used and new parts. AND Miss Clara our rumble seat mannequin passenger. \$28,000 Cheryl Clark 623-695-4095**

**Fred Hoffman has his 2 Model A's for sale.  
'29 Roadster \$16,500 7,000 miles since restoration  
'31 Tudor \$6,500 needs restoration  
Fred's C# is 757-871-9536 if interested  
Cars located in Gloucester, Virginia**

**PARTS WANTED**

**WANTED; 1930-31 Model A Cowl with tank and Hood  
& related parts.**

**Mark Gamble 706-333-7586 (cell)**

**Need a 1931 rear bumper for a `31 Coupe.**

**Call Maynard Ellman  
Santa Barbara, CA  
805-845-0333**

### **CARS WANTED**

**Mike Hogg looking for a 31 Slant Window. Cedartown,  
Ga. Call him at (770) 490-1996.**

**Charles Andrews is looking for a Touring Coupe for  
Sale. No rust or Show cars please. Email Charles at  
[cha3724@charter.net](mailto:cha3724@charter.net)**

**Mr. Selwin Spalpwin of Gardendale, Al. (Birmingham,  
Al. Suburb) [205-631-2887](tel:205-631-2887)**

**Wanted: A 30-31 Model A Tudor to restore. 95%  
complete please. No basket cases please and no  
other body style. NO restored cars...**