



"The River Cities Running Board"



RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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VOL 17 ISSUE 1 ESTABLISHED IN 2000 January 2017
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**MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009,
2011 and 2013**

OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010



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
Vice President
Secretary & Benevolence
Treasurer**

**Jim Langley
Al Lugo
Mary Nelle Singer
Joe Carter**

OTHER POSITIONS:

**Editor
Tour Director
Publicity Director
Program Director
Club Liaison
Membership Director
Awards Director
Historian Director
Scholarship Director
MATT Team Leader**

**Bill Shirley
Paul Singer
Sharon Webb
John Robertson
Joe Spooner
Al Lugo
Dick Noxon
Mickey Timbes
Bill Shirley
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
Mickey Timbes
*Dan Palmer
Dan Diener**

**Bob Smith
Al Lugo
Lawrence Farrar
Bill Buck**

**Bobby Penny
*Robert Jackson
*Bettie Jackson
(*Deceased)**

PAST PRESIDENTS:

**Jim Timbes NOV 2000-DEC 2001
Mickey Timbes DEC 2003-2004
Joe Spooner DEC 2006-2008
Jim Timbes DEC 2009-2010
Paul Singer Dec 2012-2014
Jim Langley Dec2015-2017**

**Bob Smith DEC 2001-2003
Jim Langley DEC 2004-2006
Jim Langley DEC 2008- 2009
Al Lugo DEC 2010-2012
Joe Spooner DEC 2014-2015**

EZ ON.....

Well it is 2017, and we are going to have a great year of Model A Fun.

Paul Singer has a great looking Tour/Activity Schedule already in the Works, so it is time to get the ole girl tuned up, spiffed up, check drive completed, so that you will be ready for touring. First up in January, is a tour to Warm Springs, lunch at the new Bullock House (remember the old house burned down last year) and a return trip on Model A Roads from Warm Springs back to Columbus. READY – SET – LET's GO...

Chairperson appointments for 2017 have almost been completed, look for a full listing in the February Running Board... If you are called upon by these chairpersons for assistance, Please step up and say yes...

Quote Worth Remembering:

There are ery few who can fly with the Eagles during the day, and stay up with the Owls at Night...

When you have a great and difficult task, Something perhaps almost impossible, If you only work a little at the task every day, Suddenly the work will finish itself. Isak Dinesen...

If you try to operate an organization in a manner that is going to avoid criticism or anybody dissatisfaction, then you can't do anything. Wally Parks, Hotrod Magazine, 1981...

See You Down The BackRoads.....

Jim

JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2017-
6:00PM (EASTERN) Our
next Club meeting will be at
Woodmen of the World Lodge, on
Highway 80, in Phenix City.

COMING EVENTS

January 6	MATTS
January 19	Club Meeting
January 21	Club Tour
February 3	MATTS
February 3-5	Moultrie Swap Meet
February 16	Club Meeting
February 25	Jordan Car Show

CRUISE EVENINGS

Every 1 st Tuesday-	Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway
Every 2 nd Tuesday	Jim Bob's (By Hobby Lobby)
Every 3 rd Tuesday	Jason Deli (Close to Sears)
Every 4 th Tuesday	Country's on Broadway
Every 5 th Tuesday	El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant (Phenix City)
Every 2 nd Saturday	Opelika Home Depot Cruise In
Every 3 rd Saturday	Phenix City Home Depot Cruise In
Every 4 th Saturday	Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)
Every Sunday AM	IHOP Airport Thruway

NATIONAL:

October 1-6	MAFCA National Tour- Pacific Coast Hwy
November 29- Dec.3	MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Oklahoma city, Oklahoma

**River Cities
Model A Ford Club
Meeting Minutes from Decemberr 15th, 2016
Club Meeting**

The December meeting of the River Cities Model A Club was held 6:00p.m. EST, Thursday, December 15, 2016 at the Woodman of the World facility.

President Jim Langley called the meeting to order. The following members were present: Paul & Mary Nelle Singer, Jason & Tiffany Conry, Jim & Pat Langley, Al & Elizabeth Lugo, Dick Noxon, Tommy & Sharon Ellis, John & Rickie Robertson, Howard & Barbara Ruddick, Joe & June Spooner, Bob & Connie Penny, Glynn Williams & Cindy, Wayne Kennedy, Mickey Timbes, Kevin Adams, Bob Smith, Joe Carter, Mark & Pat Gamble, Bill & Louann Buck, Sharon Webb,, Louie & Gloria Willett and Jim & Linda Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

Grace was given by Al Lugo. Members proceeded to the buffet line.

In appreciation to the cater, Robert and Margie, President Jim Langley presented a check to them for their service. They have been serving the club for 10 years.

Sunshine Report: Mike Alexis is at home after knee surgery and rehab. Russell Lester is finally at home after 18 weeks of hospitalization. Tommy Ellis had a knee replacement and is present tonight.

President Langley called our attention to the article in the Columbus Ledger Newspaper about the River Cities Model A Club and the MATT meetings. Al Lugo, Bobby Penny, and Jason Conry were interviewed.

Installation of officers for 2017 was done by Joe Spooner

President-Jim Langley

Vice President-Al Lugo

Secretary-Mary Nelle Singer

Treasurer-Joe Carter

Minutes from the November 19th meeting were approved by majority as reported in the newsletter.

Joe Carter, treasurer, gave the treasury report and it was approved.

Dick Noxon presented the Road Runner Award for the most driven miles in their Model A to Joe Spooner with a total of 2,499 miles. Coming in second was Paul Singer with 1,952 miles and third was Bob Smith with 1,043 miles driven.

The President's Spark Plug Award was given to Bobby Penny for excellent service to the club by President Jim Langley. Bobby Penny was a charter member, organizer and founder of the MATT meeting.

Forthcoming Tours and Activities by Paul Singer:

Next Club meeting will be January 19, 2017.

Jack Frost tour will be January 21, 2017, to Warm Springs and the Little White House. We will eat lunch at the Bulloch House. More details will be given at the January meeting.

Mary Nelle Singer thanked everyone for bringing toys for the Valley Rescue Mission and the ladies for the decorations. Everyone enjoyed playing Bingo.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned by President Jim Langley.

Respectively submitted by Pat Gamble, secretary.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

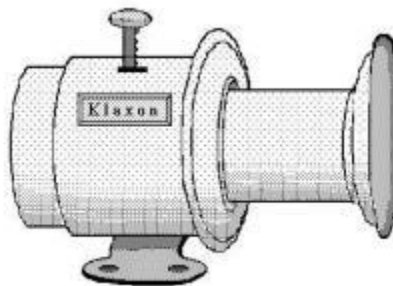


JANUARY 3- Jim & Pat Langley

JANUARY 15- Burton & Maxine Williams

JANUARY 17- Larry & Lisa Farrar

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 24- Mike Alexich

JANUARY 27- Darlene Adams

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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THE FORD 999



Henry Ford and Barney Oldfield and the Ford 999...

- Henry Ford's first race car was built in 1901 and that car was used to defeat Alexander Winton. With that win Ford attracted enough investors to create the Henry Ford Company, his second company.
- In 1902 Ford left that company because of disputes with his stockholders. This company then became Cadillac, under Henry Leland.
- He then built 2 separate racing cars with a bicycle racer named Tom Cooper and a team of several assistants. One was painted red, the 999 and the other yellow. He called one of these racing cars the 999 from a famous steam locomotive that had previously set a speed record in 1893, this was the first man made vehicle to exceed 100mph. The second car, the yellow, was called the Arrow.
- These two cars had a huge engine, 1156 cubic inches with 70-100 horsepower. This massive engine was mounted in a wood frame. These cars had a clutch but no transmission, no rear suspension, no differential and a very crude steering that had a pivoting metal bar.
- Henry was reluctant to drive this powerful automobile and hired Barney Oldfield who at the time was a bicycle racer.
- Later Henry sold his share of the 999 to Oldfield. Oldfield won many races with the 999 becoming one of the first nationally famous race car drivers. Henry's name continued to be attached to these cars. He reserved the right to the promotion and publicity of these cars.
- The success of 999 was what helped Henry Ford promote his company, the Ford Motor Company.
- The arrow was crashed in September of 1903 killing its driver Frank Day. Henry Ford bought back the damaged vehicle and after repairing it renamed it 999. In this car, Henry Ford himself set an automobile speed record of 91.37 mph in 1904.
- After the 999 was retired from racing, it was on display at Billy Hughson's Ford dealership in California. This dealership was the first official Ford dealership. Mr. Hughson later gave the car back to Henry Ford when Henry built his museum. If you look very close at the wooden frame rails you can faintly see Hughson's name stenciled on the side of the wooden rail. The 999 can still be seen at The Henry Ford museum.



Barney Oldfield at the tiller of the fearsome 16.2-litre "999" on the Grrosse Pointe, Michigan, track. The engine produced 70-80 h.p. at 1,500 r.p.m.

Barney Oldfield in the 999. This is the car that made him famous...

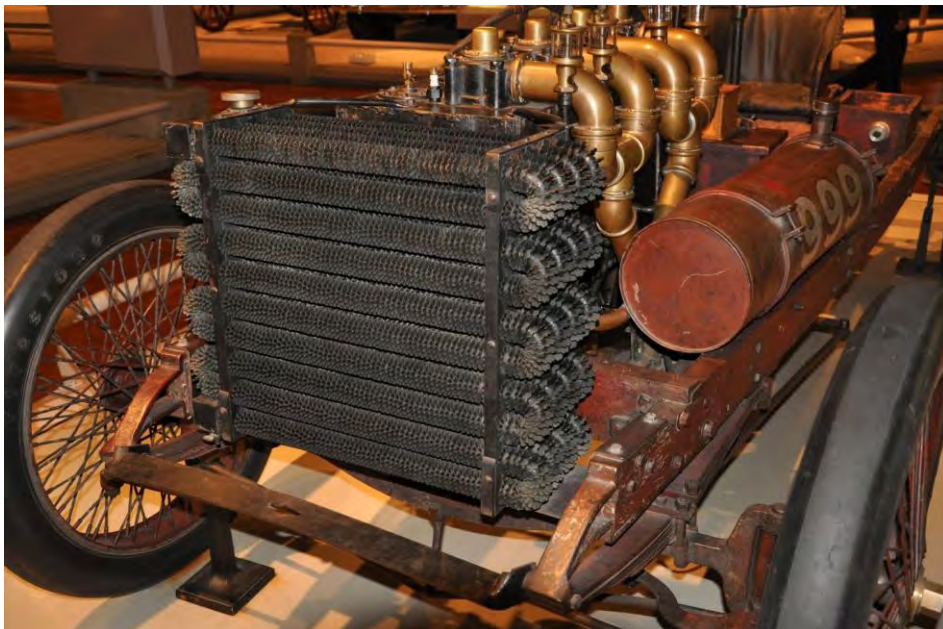


Henry Ford driving the 999 race car

Henry Ford driving the 999 in 1903...



The massive engine in the Ford 999...



Another view of the engine in the Ford 999. Note some modification common with a car that was raced...



Notice the wooden frame and the crude steering...



The Ford 999 at The Henry Ford museum...

Columbus group bringing Ford Model A back to life



Seth Hon and his two children, Audrey Hon, 2, and Samuel Hon, 4, stop by the sidewalk to check out Ford Model As on Sep. 10 in downtown Columbus.

A group of seniors gathers monthly to tinker with their Ford Model A collection, with a mission to bring the cars back on the road in and beyond Columbus. With the youngest member, Jason Conry, 30, joining the club two months ago, the senior members hope to pass on their knowledge and love for Model A.

Remodeling Ford Model As and bringing them back on the road reminds Al Lugo of a family connection.

Lugo, 63, is membership director at the River Cities Model A Ford Club.

He started his collection of Ford Model As with his father's car, Julito (little July), in 1986, when he was in a pediatrics dental residency program at The University of Texas-San Antonio.

"It has brought me closer to him," said Lugo, whose father was in Puerto Rico at the time.

Julito is just one of the four Model As that Lugo owns. He names the others Willie — his father-in-law's nickname — Milly and Woody. Lugo said it is a common practice to name Model A vehicles and sometimes cars come with names.

Lugo said that he thinks his love for old cars as a child influenced his father's decision in purchasing them.

"We call it a fever," he said. "I think I gave him the fever and I expanded it with him owning a Model A."

Julito costs \$5,000 when his father struck the deal in 1979. Lugo estimates that the car is now worth \$12,000. The current market price for Milly, which Lugo won in a raffle, is approximately \$26,000.

On a crisp October morning, Lugo welcomed nine senior club members to their biannual workshop at his garage. They gathered around a table full of Ford car starters, picking up hammers and wrenches to fix the problems, cracking jokes from time to time.

The club was founded in November 2000. James Timbes, an honorary member, placed an advertisement in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer about the first group meeting. Eleven people showed up. The club has around 40 people.

"The car is what keeps us united, but the people is what makes it fun," Lugo said.

The group started by doing tours in their vintage cars. However, Lugo and some members felt that they needed more hands-on experience, so they started doing workshops twice a year in his garage six years ago.

In 2013, Bobby Penny, another founding member, added monthly meetings called Model A Tinker Time Shop, and about 15 people regularly attend.

Unlike Al Lugo, Penny started his interest in Model A cars later in his life because his son drove Ramblin' Wreck, a 1930 Model A that Georgia Institute of Technology uses as its mascot. When Penny retired, he purchased his first Model A in 1992. He is now an owner of six Ford Model A cars.

The club started to grow and it focuses on two missions: One is to restore Model As and keep them running on the road. The other one is to raise awareness about the cars among younger generations by going to car shows, parades and charity events.

Despite the lack of radio, heater and power breaks, Penny said he enjoys driving Model As.

"It is just fun, and you are not driving 90 miles per hour, so you can even read people's mailboxes when you go by," he said. "I don't think I can go home today without at least 10 people blowing their horns, waving at me, or taking pictures of the car with their iPhone. It really puts a big smile on my face more than anything else.

"What I like even more is when I blow the Ahgoga horn and look at the smiles on their face," he added.

Lugo echoes the sentiments. He said Ford Model As take up half of his vintage car collection because of the connection with his dad, the simplicity of the vehicle and the low maintenance the car needs.

Though the club has 40 members, Lugo worries their hobby would disappear with the older generations since he thinks 45 mph, the speed of Model As, could not satisfy younger people.

Jason Conry, who joined the Model A club two months ago, raised hope for older members like Lugo. Conry, a contractor in his 30s, aspires to pass on the knowledge about Ford Model A.

"It's part of our history," he said. "If I didn't join, older generation would die off, the vehicles would be obsolete."

Article and picture by Ang Li of the Ledger Enquirer

A LOOK BACK IN TIME



The above picture was taken in 1979 and was Al Lugo's Fathers 1928 Tudor which was built in July of 1928. Al currently has this very same car in his garage in the restoration phase. In the picture is Al (With his Father's straw hat that he still wears when he is out and about in his Roadster), his Father in law on the left with Al's dog Shelty and his Dad on the left by the passenger door. Also in the picture is Al's Son Werner in his Mother-in-Law's arms. Werner is now 37 years old.

WANTED

Wanted: 1930-31 two-door Deluxe Phaeton. Interested in a good looking, well cared for driver vs. a well-deserved museum piece. Seeking the Model A for the 2019 Peking-to-Paris Rally.

Contact-
Lee Harman
425-422-5406
leeharmanmd@gmail.com
Camano Island, Washington, USA



Harry Williams with his 1930 Coupe at the 2016 BI-City Christmas Parade



This is how I feel when I try to find a Lee County Road in Lee County AL