



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



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

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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**VOL 17 ISSUE 10    ESTABLISHED IN 2000    October 2017**  
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**MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009,  
2011 and 2013**

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



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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 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:**

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Program Director  
Club Liaison  
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Scholarship Director  
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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 Dec 2015-2017

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 Down the Road**

## **By Jim Langley**

Can you believe it, Fall is here which means cooler weather and more getting the Model A's out touring the cities. The trip to Seal was wonderful as was the display down town in Columbus for International Model A Day. A lot of folks young and old came by and talked to us about our cars and wanted photo ops. According to the local news paper, "it was the largest turn out ever for an Uptown Event. Mark your calendar, the Mayor's Motorcade at West Central Georgia Regional Hospital will be in Early October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 so Contact Paul Singer if interested in participating in this annual event. We still have the club picnic at the Spooners lake cabin on October the 14<sup>th</sup>. Our Club library is really taking shape down at Bobby's shop and all club members are welcome to check out any of the books. Matts continues to be a big success and here is where you can bring a problem and the members pool their resources (experience) and find solutions.



**How Club Members see our Newsletter**

**Editor - Bill Shirley...**

**As seen by me.**

*JIM*

# JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: October 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

October 6	MATTS
October 13	Planning Meeting
October 14	Spooner's Lake Cabin Picnic
October 14	LaGrange Car Show
October 19	Club Meeting- Officer Nominations are due
November 3	MATTS
November 10	Planning Meeting
November 11	Veterans Day Parade
November 16	Club Meeting- Club Officer Elections
November 17-19	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 (By Hobby Lobby)
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Jason Deli (Close to Sears)
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Country's on Broadway
Every 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant (Stadium Drive, Phenix City)
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Opelika Home Depot Cruise In
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Phenix City Home Depot Cruise In (Starts March 18)
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 September 21, 2017**

The September meeting of the River Cities Model A Ford Club was called to order by Jim Langley at 6:00PM EST followed by the Pledge of allegiance. Grace was given by Joe Carter followed by a buffet dinner.

**Members Present:** Joe Carter, Wayne Kennedy, Neil LaClair, Glen and Cindy Williams, Dick Noxon, Joe and June Spooner, Tom Ellis, John Robertson, Bob Smith, Al Lugo, Jim Langley, Mary Nelle Singer, Bobby and Connie Penny, Mark and Pat Gamble, Sharon Webb, Skipper Barfield and Bill Shirley.

#### **Sunshine Report:**

Following the meal Jim Langley ask for a report on members on our sick list. The Club will keep Bobby Shackelford, the Lesters and Diane Watkins in our thoughts and concerns.

#### **Old Business:**

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as read. Treasury report was given by Joe Carter and approved by members present.

#### **Matts:**

Matts meeting was well attended on Sept 1, 2017. Members are encouraged to attend the next meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **New Business:**

Nominating Committee is progressing with selections for recommending Office Candidates for the 2018 election.

At the planning meeting in September it was decided to table the discussion on ways and means to reduce use funds and maintain a cap of these funds until the October planning meeting. A plan devised to by books from MAFCA, MARK and other sources for the Club Library. A list is being complied of books to be purchased.

International Model A Day was held at Uptown Columbus. There were 10 Models A's and 14 Model A'ers in attendance.

#### **Upcoming Tours:**

Our annual picnic will be held Oct 14, 2017 at the Spooners Cabin at Lake Martin. Joe and June Spooner gave a report on their trip to The Gilmore Museum in Michigan and encouraged everyone to see the Museum. Sharon Webb won the meal ticket for next month.

#### **Program:**

Jim Langley had a quiz on the Ford's Twenty Millionth Passenger Car.

Meeting adjourned by Jim Langley,

Respectfully submitted

Mary Nelle Singer  
Secretary

## A's on Broadway

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September we celebrated International Model A day at Uptown Columbus with all the good folks that came out for Market Days. There were a lot of interest (both young and old) in the cars and us as Model A'ers. We had Ten Model A's and 14 Model A'ers



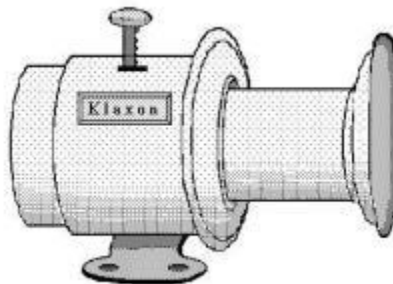
Mark your calendar. The Mayor's Motorcade at West Central Georgia Regional Hospital will be on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Contact Paul Singer if interested in participating in this annual event.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES**



**OCTOBER 19- Joe & June Spooner**  
**OCTOBER 24- Harry & Sherry Williams**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**



**OCTOBER 1- Bob Smith**  
**OCTOBER 2- Larry Farrar**  
**OCTOBER 3- Lizbeth Lugo**  
**OCTOBER 6- Wayne Kennedy**  
**OCTOBER 11- Jim Miller**  
**OCTOBER 12- Bill Buck**  
**OCTOBER 24- Carolyn Shackelford**  
**OCTOBER 25- Kathryn Foster**  
**OCTOBER 28- Neil LaClair**  
**OCTOBER 31- Harry Williams**





**Joe Spooner with Grand Daughter, Mary Malloy Hankes. She received one of the two \$500.00 Scholarships from the Club.**





**Photos by Al Lugo**

**Come join us on the first Friday of each month at Bobby's shop for fellowship, hot coffee and doughnuts, while learning about the Model A's.**

**We discussed how the "Key Ring" type timing aid presented at last month's MATTS meeting function.**



**Al Lugo describes how the new Timing Calibration Tool he purchased permits locating the detent and position of the timing gear. This timing gear position corresponds to the TDC (Top dead Center) location of Number 1 piston before timing of the distributor can begin.**



**The timing calibration Tool sometimes referred as a Timing Indication Tool is available from large Model A parts suppliers. Al got his from Bratton' Antique Auto Parts, PN 7893.**



Thread the tool into the timing Gear Case until the key ring on the end starts to loosen. Now rotate the motor with the hand crank until the key ring flops as it falls into the detent on the timing gear. This indicates TDC of Number 1 piston and you are now ready to time the distributor.



The hand tool is shown with the timing gear detent. This detent may be quite shallow requiring slow rotation of the motor so the detent is not misse

We are saving a parking place and chair for you. Come join us on the first Friday of each month at Bobby's shop for fellowship, doughnuts, and coffee as you learn about the Model 'A' s and how to keep them on the road.

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# 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.

.....

## The Ford Model “A” and “AA” Mail Truck



1931 Ford Mail Truck  
National Postal Museum  
Photo by Matthew Bisanz, 2009

- After recognizing the need for a Central Post Office Department, Benjamin Franklin was appointed as the first Postmaster General of the Continental Congress.
- At first mail would be moved in the most efficient manner. This included horseback, ships, rail, and when the airplane was invented even by airplane.
- After the automobile was invented, many different, non-standard vehicles were used. In 1927, Harry S. New, the Postmaster General, appointed by President Harding, reported to Congress that 85% of the Post Office vehicles were nonstandard vehicles that basically were received from the War Department. He recommended that a fleet of standard trucks be purchased to reduce the cost to the tax payer. They would be maintained by regional maintenance shops that used standardized parts.
- Two types of vehicles were to be constructed to meet the mission of the Postal Department. The two missions were number one Collection and Delivery Service and number two Screen Wagon Service.
- The Collection and Delivery service was used to collect mail from mail boxes, delivering parcel post, transporting carriers to and from their mail routes. For this mission they would commission 100 cubic foot bodies, the Ford Model A Ford Mail Truck. The second mission, the Screen Wagon Service was to be used to transport mail between post offices, postal stations, railroad stations and points where bulk mail is received or sent. For this mission they would commission 200 cubic foot bodies, the Ford AA Mail Truck.
- In May of 1929 a bid was placed to purchase standard trucks. The Ford Motor Company provided the standard four cylinder engine and ½ ton chassis (103 ½ wheelbase) with a load capacity of 1800 pounds. This would be the Ford Model A Mail Truck. The wood bodies were then built by other contractors and mounted on the Ford chassis.
- Three different companies were contracted by the Postal Service to build the standard Mail Trucks bodies for the 3 car companies that would build Mail Trucks. The companies building mail truck bodies were York-Hoover of York, Pennsylvania, Mifflinburg Body Corporation of Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania and General Woodworking Corporation.



- In 1929 the Ford Model A Mail truck would total 1400 trucks. York Hoover would build 900 bodies for Ford and Mifflinburg Body Corporation would build the remaining 500 bodies.
- York Hoover would also build 400 Mail Trucks for Chevrolet and General Woodworking Corporation would build 1000 bodies for Hudson/Essex.
- The Ford Model AA Postal Truck was built on the four cylinder 1 ton chassis that had a 131 ½ wheelbase and a load capacity of 4200 pounds. The number of Ford Model AA trucks was 2900. These were built by three companies. August Schubert Wagon Works of Syracuse, New York, built 400 bodies for Ford. Metropolitan Body Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, built 1000 bodies for Ford and General Motors Truck Division of Pontiac, Michigan, built 1500 bodies for Ford.
- Two other companies built bodies for Chevrolet with 4200 pound capacity. The Weatherproof Body Corporation built 400 bodies for Chevrolet and General Motors Truck Division built 550 bodies for Chevrolet.
- Ford built Ford Model A Mail Trucks in 1929 and 1931. Some of the 1931 trucks had 1932 Ford parts. Ford built Ford Model AA Mail Trucks also in 1929 and in 1931.
- Before the contract, the Postal Service used mainly WWI surplus vehicles. The government had a large amount of surplus olive green paint, because of this olive green would be the color of the Model A and AA Mail truck. The Postal Department also wanted the wood bodies painted with a brush.
- These trucks were used up to the 1950's because during WWII there were very few nonmilitary vehicles available to build Mail vehicles.



1931 AA Mail Truck  
Gerald Grizzard  
Oxford, Alabama

Those of us that have participated in “Sweet Home Alabama” have seen Gerald Grizzard beautiful AA Mail Truck. Gerald also owns a very nice Model A Mail Truck...



A non-standard Mail vehicle used by the Postal Service...



**Early on airplanes were used to transport mail to far distance...**



**A Model "A" modified to transport mail...**



**Another non-standard vehicle converted to deliver mail...**



**The mail has to be delivered in all kinds of weather...**





**Another non-standard mail vehicle...**



**Another Model A modification (non-standard) to transport mail...**

**Two different non-standard Model A's designed to transport mail in very severe climates...**





# CARBURETOR WORKSHOP # 2

By Al Lugo

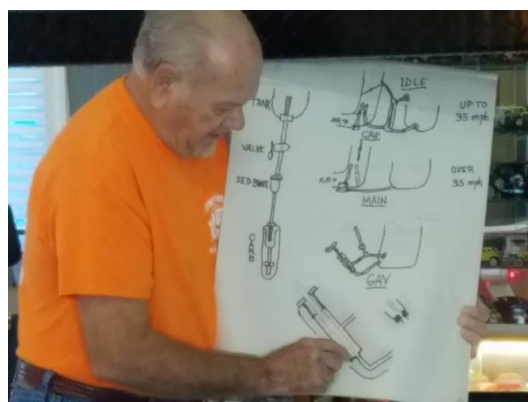
On Saturday September 9, 2017 the River Cities Model A Ford Club held our 14<sup>th</sup> workshop. This time the topic was "The Model A Carburetor-Part II". The weather was perfect even if the weather folks were forecasting Hurricane Irma on Monday.

Members met at Al Lugo's garage and Joe Spooner and Bobby Penny served once more as the instructors, giving us a superb presentation that included in-depth information on how the Carburetor works on the Model "A", how to rebuild and restore it, including checking the float and jets, and how to properly rebuild and adjust them.

Members participating were Sharon Webb, Joe Spooner, Dick Noxon, Bobby Penny, Neil LaClair, Howard Ruddick, Jim Langley, Larry Farrar, Mark Gamble, Bill Shirley, Jason Conry, Bob Smith, Bill & Norbert Quick, and Al and Liz Lugo.

After a good lunch catered by Robert, we came back to the garage to learn how to adjust the carburetor.

We hope you will join for other All workshops in the coming year...



photos provided by Al Lugo.

## Tidbits from members and friends

A note from Taylor Merrill, LaGrange

Hello All, I have recently run across a tire company here in LaGrange that can spin balance our Model A tires as well as mount split ring truck/tractor tires.

I thought maybe you could put their information in the newsletters if anyone might be interested.

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I loaned them a wheel and they figured out how to do it. For them it was just a matter of using the right mandrels that they had available. Ask for Major, a young man who was on our Little League baseball team.

By the way, I was at their shop getting valve stems inserted in a couple more wheels so I can run my tires tubeless. I have tried this on several tires on numerous Greatraces with no problems (several thousand miles). If you have good powder coated wheels you should have no problems. Occasionally a spoke might have a real slow leak, but this can be corrected with a little sealing caulk.

### Skipper Barfield shares an experience with his Model T

I had a Model T expert drive to Columbus from Florida and “get my T running.” He is a retired fireman from NY State who now lives near Panama City,

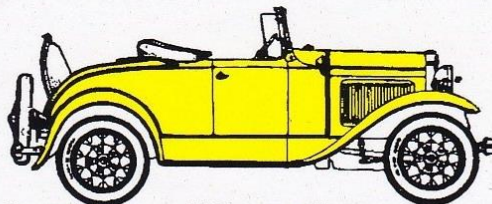
FL. He got it running and we heard all the noise coming from inside the engine so he pulled the head and front covers. The 92 year old engine had never been overhauled. It had the original 2 piece valves. He asked me to trailer it to Florida where he would pull the engine and send it to Texas so a babbitt shop could "short block" it. I called Paul Singer to tell him I had finally begun to take action toward getting our Ford Model T on the road again. Paul said he had his Model A engine done and was well pleased. I asked who and he told me Perry Swanson in Douglas, GA. I have trailered our T to Douglas, had the total tour of his babbitt service and saw the fine Ford Model A's and Model T's that he has. This man is truly the expert in our entire region having a babbitt service. I even saw the pouring of the babbitt process and the machining that follows. Precision stuff. I attach two pictures here, one of his Model A huckster in which he just completed a 2,600 mile trip, The Great Race, and an image of his card which is a great resource.



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## **MAFFI Newsletter Minute September 2017**

**It will be a challenge to top this year's Model A Day! With over 120 Model A's attending we were grateful to be able to view a number of very rare and unique Model A's brought to our museum by hobbyists from many parts of the country. You know you are in special company when you are looking at "1 of only 2 existing in the world". But that's what Model A Day brings to our hobby...an opportunity to meet and exchange information with other hobbyists and to explore rare items and exhibits associated with the Model A.**

**Model A Day also offered us the opportunity to welcome Larry Wallace, Ross Milne and Tom Mack as new trustees carrying on our tradition of bringing in new talent each year to help us make MAFFI and our museum the bet experience for our hobby. We also welcome Olle Bergstrom as our newly installed International Liaison who will help promote MAFFI in Europe as well as provide information about the European Model A and operations.**

**To all in attendance this year's Model A Day, we're glad you came and hope you really enjoyed this special weekend! If you weren't able to attend this year, join us in 2018. Yes it will be a challenge to top 2017, but we're working on something great for next year.**

**John Begg  
MAFFI President**



**MAD (Model A Day) up North**