



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



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

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

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**VOL 17 ISSUE 12    ESTABLISHED IN 2000    December 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:**

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 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

The Veteran's Day Parade was enjoyable, a bit long, but with lots of units and marching bands including five Model A's from our club and lots of late Model Corvettes from the Corvette Veterans Club. We missed you.

Thank you **PAT GAMBLE** for all you do in bettering our club, and to all who have made this such a great Model A Club for so many years...

**DID YOU SIGN UP** for THE Bi-City Christmas Parade on December 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Mayor's Motorcade on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>? (The patients there rarely see anything other than the hospital campus), Surly, Not a Model A. **NO ? Then call Paul Singer** and he will get you on board...

**DO YOU REALIZE IT HAS BEEN 17 YEARS THIS MONTH SINCE OUR CLUB WAS FOUNDED. 2000-2017 AND COUNTING...**

**MEMBERSHIP REMINDER - If you have not sent in your dues for 2018, NOW IS THE TIME. This will prevent the usual "Rush" for our great Treasurer Joe Carter at the December Christmas Party...**

Did you know that Ford's Atlanta Ponce de Leon Assembly plant produced 62822 Model A and AA units from April, 1928 until December, 1931??? Look for a forthcoming Running Board article in early 2018...

**TIME TO MOVE ON - SEE YOU on that back road**

*Jim...*

# JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: December 21, 2017- 6:00PM  
(EASTERN) Our  
next Club Business Meeting and Christmas  
Party will be at Woodmen of the World  
Lodge, on Highway 80, in Phenix City.

## COMING EVENTS

December 1	MATTS
December 2	Tri-City Christmas Parade
December 8	Mayor's Motorcade Parade
December 9	Cooks Hot Dogs Car Show
December 21	Club Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Party
January 5, 2017	MATTS
January 10	Planning Meeting
January (Pending)	Club Meeting- Club Officer Elections
January 20	Tour to Callaway for Breakfast

### 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:

November 29- Dec.3 MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma

## **River Cities Model A Ford Club**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**November 16, 2017**

The November Meeting of the River Cities Model A Ford Club was held at 6:00PM in the Woodsmen of the World building.

Members attending were Paul and Maryellen Singer, Joe Carter, Dick Noxon, Bobby and Connie Penny, Sharon Webb, Wayne Kennedy, Joe and June Spooner, Mark and Pat Gamble, Tom Ellis, John Robertson, Bill Shirley, Louie and Gloria Willett, Bob Smith, Al Lugo, and Jim Langley.

President Jim Langley called the meeting to order, after the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer by Al Lugo members proceeded to dinner.

#### **Old Business**

Minutes of October Meeting were approved, and treasury report was read by Joe Carter and approved. MATTS meeting continues to have good attendance and gets more interesting each month. Veterans Day Parade was on November 11<sup>th</sup> with 6 model A's participating.

#### **New Business**

Al Lugo announced selection of candidates for 2018 club officers. President Sharon Webb, Vice President Al Lugo, Secretary MaryNelle Singer, Treasurer Dick Noxon. Motion was made to accept nominations and was approved by members.

Annual contribution of \$75.00 was made and approved to defray cost of officer liability insurance. Annual contribution of \$100.00 to be presented to Robert and family was approved by members.

#### **Tour Activities**

Paul Singer reported on upcoming events. Annual BiCity Christmas parade will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, those participating will meet up at 8:30AM on Colin Powell and Dillingham Streets in Phenix City. Columbus Mayor's Motorcade will be Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3000 Schatulga Rd in Columbus. Form up at 1:30PM for parade at 2:00PM. West Georgia Regional Hospital.

There will be a tour to the Callaway Country Store on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We will depart St Marks Methodist Church parking lot at 9:00AM.

Club Christmas Party will be held December 21 at the Woodsmen of the World facility.

Members are asked to bring an unwrapped gift of approx. \$10.00 value for needy children to be donated for the Salvation Army to distribute.

A second wrapped gift to be used for a prize for Bingo.

Program was presented by Joe Spooner. He presented slides of their trip to the Gilmore Museum.

Jim Langley thanked members for supporting him during his time as Club President and is looking forward to the New Year.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted

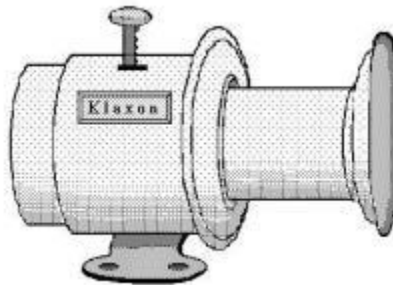
Mary Nelle Singer

Secretary

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES**



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAYS**



**DECEMBER 1- Kathleen Walden**

**DECEMBER 4- Joe Watkins**

**DECEMBER 25- James F. Durfy**

**DECEMBER 27- Mary Ann Lester**

**DECEMBER 27- Gloria Willett**

**DECEMBER 30- Maxine Williams**





Photos by Howard Ruddick



Joe Spooner reported on the Central 'A's Sweet Home Alabama Tour. There were 62 cars that participated from 11 states. The tour was 370 miles long in Alabama. Joe also reports that his A has developed a sharp bang in the front of the car. This bang occurs only occasionally when going over a bump. Members made suggestions as to what is causing this noise.



Bobby Penny leading a general discussion about Model 'A's.



Bob Smith and Neil LeClair taking in the discussion.



A general discussion and fellowship going on here.  
Come join us on the first Friday of each month at Bobby's shop. We have hot  
coffee , doughnuts, and lots of fellowship.



## **2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**In accordance with our Bylaws our Club Membership Dues are due to our Treasurer Joe Carter by December 31. I would like to ask as many of you to pay in November to reduce dues collection during our Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Party. If you can't attend the November Meeting, you can send dues to the Club P.O. Box.**

**Al Lugo- Membership Director**

**Christmas Party Reservations - IF you have not signed the headcount sheet for the December 21st Christmas Party, please call Mary Nelle Singer or Pat Gamble NOW. Please send you check for \$15.00 per person to Treasurer Joe Carter NOW. Mail your check to Joe at his home address or the Club mailbox, Box 342 Columbus, GA 31901. Reservations deadline is December 7th. Sending your check to Joe NOW will allow him to better enjoy the Party. Many Thanks Folks,**

**Jim Langley...**

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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" TAXI 135-A





- For the last few months we have talked about rare Model “A” Fords. Another very rare Model “A” Ford is the Model “A” Taxi, designated as body 135-A. Note: The photo above shows cowl light, and these would not appear on the production models.
- The Model “A” Taxi was a very low production Model, with only 5354 produced from 1928 to February 1930 when production ceased. Its production was first announced on December 4, 1928 and the Ford sales department advertised it for \$800 when picked up in Detroit. 94% of the total Ford Model “A” Taxi cab production was done in 1929. In 1930 the cost was \$725 or less if you purchased more than one.
- One of the reasons for such a small production was that some special body builders were producing taxi cab bodies on Model “A” chassis. Another reason was that the big taxi cab companies were making fleet purchases of the Model “A” Fordor and Town sedan and converting them to a taxi application.
- The Ford cab bodies were made by the Briggs Manufacturing Company. The body was a Briggs Fordor with a modified front seat and partition. Ford ordered 2500 bodies on December 12, 1928 with additional orders in April, May, and June of 1929.
- At first the rear-view mirror and automatic windshield wiper were standard equipment. The Ford produced Taxi cabs were equipped with a meter made by the Ohmar Fare Register Company, which was attached to the drive train via a cable. These meters had an option of calculating a price for multiple passengers. This eliminated haggling with the driver. The area where the meter was located also served as a luggage area for the passengers.
- Wiring for “flicker lights” that were located at the front of the front roof corner and “vacant” sign mounted on the front center of the roof was standard.
- The first shipment was painted Balsam Green below the belt and the upper bodies were medium cream. The fenders and splash shields were painted black like the other production Mode “A”s.
- In 1929 they announced a second color combination, Duchess Blue lower body and Medium Cream upper body. Companies that purchased more than ten taxi cabs could request special color combinations at no additional cost. Companies could also purchase bodies in primer if they wanted to paint their own color combination.

- The driver's seat was fully enclosed, separated from the passenger compartment by metal and glass partition. It would accommodate three passengers in comfort and also included a folding auxiliary seat. It had a strong post mounted in the driver's compartment that supported a taxi meter.
- For safety It included Triplex shatter-proof glass in the windshield, the glass partition, the rear door windows and the rear quarter windows. They used larger tires (475 X 21) because of the rugged use.
- The interior trim material was different for the driver and the passenger compartment. All interior hardware was plated in bright nickel. Also in 1929 the clutch was replaced with the AA truck clutch disc and pressure plate. Also later a new hand-grip handle was added to the rear door. This allowed the rear door to be closed by pulling on the handle and not the window glass.
- Early in the production solid roller bearings were installed in the taxi transmission. Since maximum speed was not needed a 9:37 ratio gears and pinions were installed. This reduced speed but increased pickup. It was also suggested that tires be inflated to 40 pounds instead of 35.
- Since Taxicabs did not have telephones or radios, they would look for passengers flagging them down or they would return to their company base for further assignments. Some cities also had pickup zones which were usually near a train depot.
- Since Taxi cabs were abused, running them constantly day and night, the life expectancy of the taxi cab was one of the shortest of most Model "A"'s and because of this very few remain. At one time the state of Georgia had 3 Ford Model "A" Taxi cabs in different degrees of restoration.



**This restored Taxi was donated to the Model "A" Ford Museum at  
Gilmore...**



The driver's area and meter of a Model "A" taxi...



Another photo of the Model "A" Taxi at the Ford Model "A" museum ...



While not original, this shows different accessories that someone used in a reproduction of a Model "A" Taxi...





**Another Model "A" Taxi cab reproduction. Companies could Purchase a body in primer and paint it any company color they wanted...**



**A nice Model "A" Taxi cab reproduction...**



**At one time Georgia had 3 Model "A" Taxi cabs in different degrees of restoration...**



**An original photo of a Model "A" Taxi with company colors...**

## **WANTED**

A friend in Cullman, Al. is looking for a (Complete) Model A Basket case or a running car that needs to be restored. Give me details: Body Style, condition & price and Location of the car. Picture if possible..... Thanks

Email me or call me 256/339/3234

David A Black

Cull<sup>👁️</sup>man, Alabama

Curt Warner from the Santa Maria A's is looking for a nice 1930-31 Four Door Phaeton. Please help Curt find one.

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## **Bentley's Antique Auto Service**

Christmas Open House and Car Show Friday, December 15, 10 am-2 pm

The Open House is a special day we set aside each year to have fellowship and show our appreciation to all our Model A friends and customers. The shop will be opened up for a day of fun, and a nice lunch for everyone at noon. We invite everyone to bring snacks and food to share. Bring your families and friends, all are welcome to this day of fun. We will even have some nice door prizes to share. This is our way of saying Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our

**Model A Friends. Bentley's is located at 95W Ridgeway Rd. Maysville, GA 30558**

**This year we will have a Car Show, so drive your Old Car!**

### **MAFFI Newsletter Minute**

Send a Brick for Christmas!

Since 2011, when we first started raising money for the construction of the Model A Museum, over 1400 bricks have been ordered in memory or in honor of our favorite Model A'ers, Model A clubs and regions. We have room under the gas canopy at the Museum for about 200 more bricks. It would be a wonderful thing if we could finish off that area this year! You could help us make that goal by ordering a brick for a loved one for Christmas. It would make a great gift for that loved one in your family who really doesn't 'need' anything and of course, it would benefit the Model A Museum as well. If your Model A region or club doesn't yet have a brick at the Museum, now would be a good time to do that as well. Use the brick order form in this issue of the 'A' Preserver to order your engraved brick. It will be in place at the Museum by next September.

Merry Christmas and thank you.

Loukie Smith, Brick Coordinator

This "MAFFI Newsletter Minute" was sent to you as the editor of your club's newsletter. It is for you to use at your discretion. If you are no longer the editor, please notify me with the name and email address of the new editor. If you no longer wish to receive this, please notify me as well.

Thank you,

Marsha Quesnel, MAFFI Trustee

[clubcontact@maffi.org](mailto:clubcontact@maffi.org)



# THE 1928-1931 FORD ASSEMBLY PLANTS AND THEIR PRODUCTION OF THE MODEL A FORD "PASSENGER CARS" ...PART 1



STEVE CHARLES PLUCKER

Part 1, of a 3-part series of books about the Model A/AA Ford Assembly Plants and their production numbers is now available. Part 1 will be about the Model A Ford Passenger Cars; Part 2 will be about the Model A Ford Commercial vehicles; and Part 3 will be about the Model AA Ford Trucks.

Part 1, a 234 page book, deals with the Model A "Passenger Cars" which the Ford Motor Company produced from 1927 thru 1931 including 1932 post production vehicles and the assembly plants, worldwide, that assembled them and much more.

You can purchase this book, Part 1, for just \$25.00 by check or money order (USA only).

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Steve Charles Plucker