

### COLD, IT'S ALL RELATIVE

My son, Brian, and daughter, Anna, visited from Switzerland and Los Angeles, respectively, for a few weeks in December and early January when Aiken, and much of the Country, experienced record-breaking cold weather.

That didn't stop Brian from using the 1928 open Roadster as his main form of transportation while he was here.

Wrapped in his wool coat, winter scarf, leather gloves, and wool cap with ear flaps, he was seen driving all around town with the top down! Poor Anna went along with it, also in a winter coat, mittens, wrapped in a thick scarf with a borrowed fuzzy hat. That's true sibling love.

Because his phone is on a Swiss plan, he couldn't use it here without it resulting in an extremely high phone bill so Brian was driving around (at one point in 16 degree weather, at night) in an unheated car with no telephone. Needless to say, I worried that the car would break down on some dark road and he would freeze to death before anyone found him. Fortunately when he and Anna decided to take a day trip to Clemson, they took the 2011 Honda!

Before it got terribly cold, Brian was having a bit of trouble getting the car started (though it was working fine for me before he got home) and after making some adjustments, had the car starting right up. What was really impressive is that it started right up after spending the night in an unheated detached garage when it got down to 14 degrees. Most 86-years-olds slow down a bit when it gets that cold but not my Roadster!

But Model A's aren't unacquainted with cold weather. I'm sure everyone's seen picturesque snow-filled photos of Model A's at Christmas but something I just learned was that the Model A Ford, fitted with skis, went with Admiral Byrd in

# Shade Tree A's News

1929 to the South Pole, where the average *high* in the warm season is –14 degrees F. and a high of –68 F. during the cold months!

So I guess warm and sunny Aiken's 14 degrees was not that much of a challenge for the Model A (and it appears Admiral Byrd crew drove an open car with the top down, too!). Wow!



Snowmobile Built on a Ford Model A Chassis Used During Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition, circa 1929

### **ABOUT THE SHADE TREE A'S**

http://www.shadetreeas.org

The Shade Tree A's is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile. Shade Tree A's annual dues (\$65) include membership in the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA, \$40) and a subscription to *The Restorer* Magazine. Members are also urged to join the Model "A" Restorers Club (MARC, \$38) which includes a subscription to *Model "A" News*. The club also is a member of MAFFI, the Model "A" Ford Foundation, Inc.

### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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> Sketch 1930 Model A Tudor Sedan Steven Brown



Congratulations to Eric Shogren for being the recipient of the 2013 Monroe Wade award. This is the most prestigious award offered by our club and those of us who know Eric fully agree with his selection. In spite of a very hectic work schedule he is always willing to help individual members or the club in general in any way that he can, freely sharing both his valuable time and talent. Eric has been in the Shade Tree A's for many years and is a true friend to our hobby.

In spite of the "monsoon-like" rains forcing a postponement of our tour to Jack Shepard's shop, the first regular Shade Tree A's meeting of 2014 was a success. Following the business meeting, Greg Jones led off with a very good tech program on timing and adjusting the points on a Model A Ford. This was immediately followed by an excellent "show and tell" session with Larry Komp and Andrew Morris detailing how Larry repaired the rusty and damaged doors on his 1930 Model AA Ford truck. It is always a pleasure to work with members like these who are so willing to share their expertise and time for the benefit of the club.

As many of you probably already know, a water line froze and burst in the section of Richard's garage where we have our meetings. What a mess! Soaked insulation, pieces of ceiling all over the floor and water everywhere. Despite this catastrophe, Richard, with the help of Doug Wilson and Dan Perla, took an afternoon of their time to clean and prepare the "old" shop to try and make the club meeting go as smoothly as possible. I feel that they deserve a vote of thanks from the club for their work. Their extra effort went a long way in making this Saturday's meeting as enjoyable as it was.

Because of the disaster at Richard's, the board agreed with the suggestion that we hold our annual "Valentine's Day Sweetheart's Breakfast" at a local restaurant. Immediately following our regular February 8<sup>th</sup> club business meeting, we will tour with our Model A's to the Cracker Barrel located at the corner of I-20 and Bel-Air Road. The Cracker Barrel management said they would try and reserve the "Sun Room" for us so be sure to attend if you can. This is always a fun event.

At our January Shade Tree A's board meeting Greg Jones said that he would look into schedules and times to see if an overnight tour centered around a Newberry Opera House performance would work for our club. No date has yet been set but tentatively we would like to schedule that event for some time in May. If you have any ideas or would like to help with planning give Greg a call.

If you have ideas for changes you would like to see in our club that would better support the Model A Ford hobby, do not hesitate to bring them up to our officers or board members. The Shade Tree A's is your club. Only with your input and support that our club can remain responsive to your interest as a Model A enthusiast.

Remember..."A busy Model A is a happy Model A"

See you at the February meeting. Bring your Model A, your sweetheart, and come hungry!!!

Gerald Melchiors

### NEW MEETING SCHEDULE Gerald Melchiors

Starting in January and continuing through April, the regular club meetings will be on the second Saturday morning of the month (January 11, February 8, March 8, and April 12) at 10:00 a.m. at Richard's garage.

From May through September, the meetings will be on the second Monday evening (May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, and September 8) of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Richard's garage.

In October, the meetings will revert to the "winter" schedule of the Saturday morning meetings (October 11, November8, December 13).

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY BREAKFAST**

January 1, 2014 Gerald Melchiors

It was an enthusiastic group of Shade Tree A'ers that met that chilly morning at 8:00 for our annual Shade Tree A's New Year's Day Breakfast. The Cracker Barrel restaurant at Bel-Air road and I -20 had reserved the "back room" for us and, like our New Year's Day breakfasts in the past, the room was full.

After a brief welcome and introduction of visitors and guests by the club president, Ralph Neitske said the blessing and we started out the new year like the Shade Tree A's should, with a great breakfast!

We had a good turnout of Model A Fords in the parking lot. As usual, our cars made quite a hit with the restaurant patrons and several of them reminisced about "their granddad's old car".

All in all, a really fun way to start out 2014. After all, what could be better than driving your Model A and having a good meal with your friends.

### MARC DRIVING AWARDS PROGRAM

Robbie Jones has volunteered to be the Shade Tree A's MARC Driving Awards Program coordinator.

If you are currently registered in the program, your mileage has not been updated since about 2010. If you want to continue participating in the program, please send Robbie your mileage as of December 31, 2013 to

### drivingawards@shadetreeas.org

If you are a member of MARC and have never registered for the program and would like to participate, contact Robbie at the email address above for a registration card.

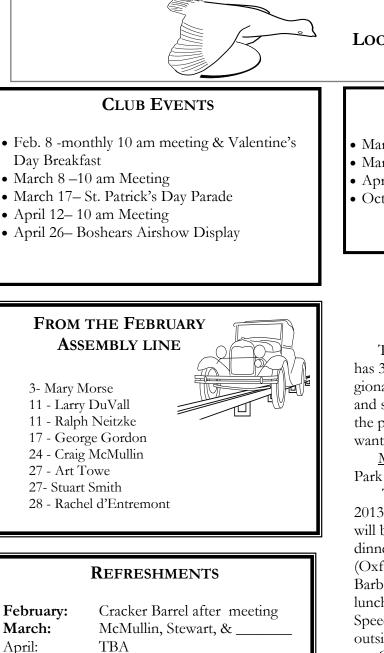
A one-time registration fee of \$1.00 is required and the program is open to all MARC members. The first award is given at 2,000 miles and every 5,000 miles thereafter. Mileage does not have to be earned all in one year and can accumulate from year to year. Additional information on the program can be found on the MARC website at:

www.modelaford.org/drivingawards.htm

### **CONTACT INFO**

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## NEWS FROM UNDER THE SHADE TREE

If you have news to share, let me know at newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org

 Dotti Shogren is recuperating from foot surgery.

# LOOKING AHEAD

# **OTHER EVENTS**

- Mar. 21&22-Barber Motorsports Park Tour, AL
- Mar. 22-Palmetto A's Picnic in the Park
- April 25 & 26– Greenwood Swap Meet
- Oct.16&18 -Sweet Home Alabama Tour

## CENTRAL ALABAMA MODEL A OPPORTUNITIES

The Central Alabama Model "A" Ford Club has 3 activities scheduled for 2014 that are of regional interest the highlight being a visit and seminar by Les Andrews. The following are the planned 2014 activities your members may want to attend.

March 21-22, 2014: Barber Motorsports Park Tour, Oxford & Birmingham, Alabama.

This will be a follow up to the very successful 2013 Talladega Speedway Tour. The club meeting will be two days with a Friday-evening Fireman's dinner at Gerald Grizzard's Model A Museum (Oxford Alabama) and on Saturday a tour of the Barber Motorsports museum including a catered lunch on site in the shop area, and laps on the Speedway. The Barber Motorsports Park is located outside of Birmingham Alabama.

<u>October 16-18, 2014:</u> 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweet Home Alabama Tour, Montgomery & Prattville, AL.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Sweet Home Alabama Tour" will be conducted as a hub tour from the Montgomery and Prattville Alabama areas with visits to some attractions in the central part of the state.

For information contact: Paul Majerick Centeral Alabama Model "A" Ford Club, Activities Director. Telephone (334) 312-3019 email <u>paulmajerick@aol.com</u>

### THE PARADE

### Keith Lewis

About 25 years ago when I was a young 50 year old, I participated in a memorable 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. I was asked by a friend to participate in his annual neighborhood celebration. He was the chairman of the organizing committee. It was a neighborhood parade, in the town of Shoreline. It was an annual event that the neighborhood had been hosting for about 4 years at that time.

Shoreline is a bedroom community, a suburb of Seattle. The population of Seattle was about 500,000. The population of shoreline was 30,000. The neighborhood hosting the parade was 3 streets in length and 2 streets wide. It was known as the Acacia neighborhood or Acacia for short. A beautiful old cemetery bordered the neighborhood on the north. The cemetery was named Acacia for the beautiful trees planted there decades earlier in 1928. There were about 35 families in the neighborhood.

Every year Seattle hosts a parade and tens of thousands line the streets to watch the floats and marching bands and other sights. Think of Macy's day parades. That's Seattle. The City of Shoreline had no parade. The neighbors in Acacia had a neighborhood barbeque one summer in June and someone suggested they host a parade of their own. A parade like the ones they remembered as children living in small communities. Parades with kids in it! Now recognize that these 35 young families had lots of children. Thus a new tradition was born.

The first year they just had a parade. The second year they got a permit from Shoreline and had a parade. (The powers that be "jumped down their throats the first year for not having a permit.) The parade went around the "block" twice. The parade staging area was a church parking lot next to the cemetery on the north. The parade route went south 3 blocks on 35<sup>th</sup> street to the Shoreline Nursing Home crossed through the Nursing home parking lot and turned north again on 36<sup>th</sup> street 3 blocks to the church parking lot, crossed through to 35<sup>th</sup> and repeated the circle until ending at the church once again.

Children decorated their wagons, bicycles

and trikes with bunting and signs and pulled them dressed in patriotic costumes and attire. My friend Norm dressed up as "Uncle Sam". Families paraded together with family pets on a leash. One little girl carried her cat dressed up as Betsy Ross. [It was a much better parade than Seattle's.)

My friend Norm tried for years to get me to participate in the parade. Since I did not live in the neighborhood and typically was out of town on the 4<sup>th</sup> I had always respectfully declined. But on this particular year I agreed to drive my 1923 Touring car and lead the parade with the Grand Master in the rear seat. Mr. Willkie, the Grand Master was a resident of the Nursing home and was 101 years old.

I didn't know what to expect and was a little apprehensive about getting a centenarian into the back seat of my car. I drove up to the front door of the home with my wife Mildred. Millie was dressed in a fine 1920's flapper costume and I was dressed as a chauffer with an apple cap sleeve garters and spiffy white shoes.

Mr. Willkie appeared at the front door of the home with two male attendants' flanking him and strode down the walk, greeted me with a broad grin, stepped up onto the running board grasping the door post with his right hand and sat down in the seat just like he knew what he was doing! He had a tear in his eye and was grinning from ear to ear.

We drove to the church to line up the parade with my Model T in the lead. As we started down 35<sup>th</sup> a 7-year-old boy from a young family I knew hailed me with a wave and a shout. "Grandpa, Grandpa, he shouted, can I ride?" (In those days most of the children that I knew up to the age of 16 or so, adopted me as their Grandpa.)

I stopped the parade and he jumped into the rear seat beside the Grand Marshal. Millie introduced them to each other. "How old are you sonny," the old gentleman asked?" "Seven sir how old are you?" He responded. I'll be 101 years old in 3 weeks", was the reply. As I started to resume the forward motion of the parade, Jimmy asked in wonder and awe as he tried to wrap his mind around just how old 101 is, "Are you going to live to be 200 sir?" That wonderful old man just

### The Parade—continued from page 7

laughed and wrapping his arms around the boy exclaimed, "Sonny I'm just trying to make it to 102!" And with that we went around the block twice as Jimmy and Mr. Willkie waved to the spectators. When we drove through the nursing home lot on the first pass the residents of the home lined the walkway in chairs, attended by the staff, waving and shouting and clapping their hands with glee.

On the second pass the plan was for me to stop and for Mr. Willkie to disembark from my car. As we approached the home for the second time the old gentleman touched me on the shoulder and said to me, "Thank you son it was wonderful!" I turned to look at him and detected a tear in the corner of his eye. "Want to go for a real ride? I asked. He nodded his head yes. And so much to the dismay of all who were watching especially the staff of the nursing home, instead of stopping, we speeded up, turned right, and proceed to Lake City Way and went on a 45 minute tour of the shoreline of Lake Washington, along the twisting roads that line the lake, with Mr. Willkie and 7 year old Jimmy chattering away and having the time of there lives. Millie kept telling me to go back and tell every one what we were doing. But on the theory that it is easier to beg forgiveness than ask permission I ignored her council. Latter after we returned I was chastised by the Nursing Home director and Millie smugly whispered "I tried to tell you."

Mr. Willkie had a wonderful time as he basked in the fresh air and the thrill of once again riding in an automobile that he remembered well when he too was young. I went to visit him a few times in the Nursing home after that, but sadly he didn't make it to 102. I remember that parade and that day with a fond memory.

Keith joined the Shade Tree A's at the beginning of 2012. He has 2 Model A's and a few Model T's.



#### **MEETING MINUTES**

January 11, 2014

President Gerald Melchiors called the meeting to order at 10am. Five members were fined for lack of name badges. There were 41 members and spouses present. Two new members and two visitors were present. January birthdays were listed in the newsletter.

Minutes from the December meeting were approved and seconded after a correction to add the announcement of the Monroe Wade Award to Eric Shogren and the awarding of membership pins for long service in the club.

Richard Dunevent gave the Treasurers' Report.

Old business and past events can be found in the newsletter.

New business: Robbie Jones reported on the restart of the MARC Mileage Awards Program and 2014 meeting schedule was announced (see newsletter).

Dan Perla encouraged attendance at the Talladega Road Course.

Technical Program: Greg Jones demonstrated the preferred method of roadside (if necessary) ignition timing. He had lots of help.

Refreshments were provided by the team McPherson, Sheila and Jim.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Cerefin, Secretary

### YOUR MODEL A PROJECT PHOTOS

Dan Perla, webmaster, is asking members to provide photos for the Photo Collection. He's suggesting a new section for photos covering the restoration process of individual cars. He also has a section with photos of members' cars which is very much out of date.

Dan needs your help so get out your cameras and send your pictures to Dan .



STILL AROUND AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS...

VINTAGE VISIONS Anne Neely-Beck



Smart Daytime Frocks Woman's World February 1931

Pattern 2682 is modish and practical and designed for 16 and 18 years, and bust sizes 36-46. Pattern 2890 is decidedly slenderizing and designed for sizes 36 through 48-inch bust measurement. Pattern 2662 is chic sophistication designed for bust sizes 36 to 48. Patterns were 15 cents each and a spring fashion book could be bought for 10 cents.

# We invite you to come!

Palmetto As

South Caroli

# 19th Annual "Picnic in the Park" Saluda Shoals Park\* Redbud Shelter Saturday, March 22, 2014 10:00 - 3:30 (lunch at noon) \*\*Bring a picnic + some to share and drinks for your family\*\* \* RIVERFRONT TRAILS: 1.5 miles of paved trail is available (pets on leash) \* COVERED PICNIC SHELTER: with tables for a relaxed lunch \* RESTROOMS: permanent indoor facilities within walking distance of shelter \* PARKING: paved with room enough for car games (with prizes) WHY NOT COME FARLY AND STAY ALL DAY

Entry to the park is FREE; just say you're with the Model A Club \* Saluda Shoals Park is located on Old Bush River Rd., between St. Andrews Rd. and Highway 6 in Lexington County. For more information email happybegg@sc.rr.com or daustin002@sc.rr.com

### BARBER MOTORSPORTS TOUR Jim McPherson

Several of us have driven our Model A's on a super speedway, speedways, short tracks, and the flat oval Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Now we have the opportunity to drive our Model A's on a road course at the Barber Motorsports Complex. At the Barber Motorsports Complex, we will tour their museum containing over 1200 vintage and modern motorcycles and the world's largest collection of 42 Lotus race cars, eat lunch in their restoration shop, and drive our Model A's on their 2.38 mile road course containing 17 turns. The Central Alabama Model 'A' Ford Club has arranged this tour. We thoroughly enjoyed their tour last year to the Talladega Superspeedway, and we don't want to miss this tour.

A group of us are planning on attending. We will trailer our Model A's to Oxford, Alabama, departing on Thursday morning March 20th. We will stop for breakfast along the way. On Friday, I am working on arranging a tour to see the Model A and Model A accessory collection of Roy Frost. Roy has a fine collection of Model A's, mostly 1931 models, which includes a very rare 1931 Town Car Delivery, and the last Model A built, by Ford Motor Company in 1940 for Edsel Ford. This Model A has a Ford built Jeepster type body. You will not want to miss the "Firehouse Dinner" with entertainment by the Blue Grass Buddies at Gerald Grizzard's Model A Museum Friday night. On Saturday we will visit the Barber Motorsports Complex. You may return home Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Please call Jim McPherson (706-592-4835) for additional information.

### NUTS & BOLTS

- Recycle that empty clear-topped Christmas or Valentine's Day divided candy box as a storage place for tiny bolts, snaps, and other parts that would be lost in a larger box.
- As you make improvements to your "A" take photos for documentation in case you need to file an insurance claim.

### **ANNIVERSARY AWARDS**

The following earned anniversary pins this year which were distributed at the Christmas party. Let Craig know if you didn't get one and are on the list. If you received a new pin, please return to old one to be recycled.

> 2 yrs (joined 2012) James Batton Steve Brannon Misty Hooker Robbie Jones Keith Lewis Andrew Morse Kathy Poole David Sutherland Rita Thornhill

### 5 years (joined 2009)

Alan Stewart Art Towe

15 years (joined 1999) Joe Holley

Tom Roberts

# 20 years (joined 1994)

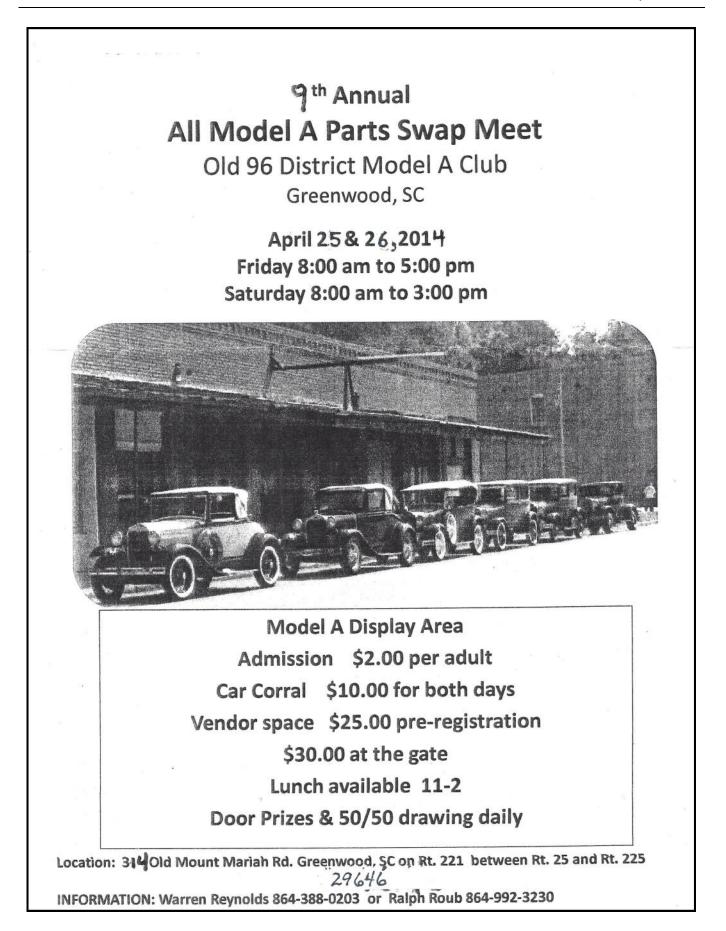
Dan Perla Walter Smith

### ANNUAL SWEETHEARTS VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST Gerald Melchiors

The plan is to have the regular 10:00 meeting in Richard's garage on February 8. Immediately following the meeting we will caravan to the Cracker Barrel at Bel-Air Road & I-20 for our "Sweetheart's Valentine's Day Breakfast".

### **NEWS LETTER ON THE WEB**

If you can't find your newsletter or it doesn't show up in your e-mail, it is available, along with past newsletters, at www.ShadeTreeAs.org.



### THE CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE:

Working Model A generator. \$25.00 Jim McPherson, 706-592-4835.

### **PARTS FOR SALE:**

Two original shock absorbers for 1931 Model A Ford, one front and one rear. Two shock arms, one front and one rear. Ken @ 803-642-4623.

### HATS FOR SALE

Navy blue Shade Tree A's hats for \$12.00. See Richard or Frankie.

### WANTED

Stories and photos of your Model A projects so you won't have to read about your editor's car every month!

# FOR SALE

License Plate Topper



To benefit the Model A Ford Foundation Endowment Fund. \$15.00 plus \$2 for shipping and handling. Make checks out to:

MAFFI 4532 Merridock Ct Santa Maria CA 93455

Questions: Jay McCord 805-598-8133









