

SHADE TREE A's

NEWSLETTER

August 2016

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Number 8



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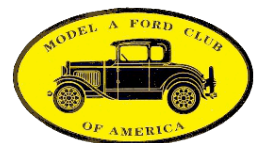
On the Cover

Jim and Sheila McPherson attended the MAFCA and MARC national meets recently. Read all about their trip on page 10.

Shade Tree A's Model A Club



The Shade Tree A's Model A Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile. Shade Tree A's annual dues are only \$25. Members are urged to join the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA, \$40 annual dues) and the Model A Restorer's Club (MARC, \$45 annual dues) to enjoy the benefits of these national organizations including their respective magazines: *The Restorer* (MAFCA) and *Model A News* (MARC). The Shade Tree A's club is also a member of MAFFI, the Model "A" Ford Foundation, Inc.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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Please contact Robbie Jones at Newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org concerning reprinting of articles, illustrations, or photos.

OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

Chuck Howell - President

The Model T was Ford's greatest success and the Model A was a close second, but what would you say was Ford's biggest blunder? *The Edsel*? Only 84,000 were made between 1958-60 and even less were sold. *The Pinto*? Nearly 4 million were sold between 1971-80, but the early models would catch on fire or even explode in rear end collisions. More than 180 people burned to death in Pinto crashes, and the Ford Motor Company paid the largest punitive fine in a Product Liability and Personal Injury lawsuit in 1978. Since then crash testing to ensure passenger safety has been an essential step in designing and building Ford cars and trucks.

However, I would say Ford's biggest flop was his rubber production venture in Brazil. Cars need rubber for tires and a Dutch-English cartel controlled the world's supply of natural rubber. In 1929, Ford bought 1000 square miles of land along the Amazon to create the largest rubber tree plantation on earth. His engineers planted rubber trees on native soil as far as the eye could see.

To this end, Ford built a whole city with hundreds of free houses for workers, a large modern hospital, four churches, a library, a golf course, a hotel, a public school, water tower, sewer system, electrical power plant and provided free cafeterias for workers. Immediately, Ford's miniature America-in-the-jungle (Fordlandia) attracted a slew of Brazilian workers. And, he paid them twice the going rate of pay for their labor.

But despite the perks, the locals would not work an eight-hour shift. It was their custom to work a few hours in the morning, take a

siesta during midday, and work a couple of hours in the late afternoon. They weren't accustomed to self-serve cafeterias, and refused to eat fast food like hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, deli-sandwiches, etc. They violated Ford's prohibition of alcohol consumption, and stole and sold everything of value in the hospital. Many workers exchanged their generous pay for the comforts of rum and prostitutes in bordellos that sprung up on the outskirts of town.

Never a quitter, Ford bought new land 50 miles downstream and started all over again. After 10 years, this plantation (Belterra) produced only 750 tons of latex rubber, which was far short of the 38,000 tons he needed each year. All of this cost Ford about 200 million dollars in today's money—and the venture was an absolute failure.

In 1940, a B.F. Goodrich chemist found a way to produce cheap synthetic tire rubber from petroleum. In 1945, Ford abandoned the rubber plantations in Brazil. The FMC sold both plantations and all their facilities to the Brazilian government for only \$250,000. It was a colossal loss of money and none of the locals benefited from it.

Despite grand commitment and good intentions, Ford discovered that America's industrial culture, medical care, language and lifestyles could not be transplanted to a foreign land or imposed on another people. Our national strategy in the Middle East has pretty much duplicated this experience at a cost of a trillion dollars. Even with all our progress the last 70 years, we can't really say that we are any smarter than ole Henry.

MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2016

Richard's Garage

Recorded by: Kathy Poole - Secretary

President Chuck Howell called the meeting to order on or about 7 PM by welcoming everyone to the meeting. There were 31 members in attendance and two visitors: Rob Collier, Jr. and Matt Barrett. All members were named tagged.

Jim Dover favored us with two amusing stories: A young married Georgia couple snowed in while visiting Maine and a drunkard Uncle Carl who had clothing issues.

Treasurer, Richard Dunevent, gave the treasurers report, which included a \$200.00 deposit for a Newsletter advertisement renewal.

Chuck asked if there was a motion to approve the June minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published in the July Newsletter.

Jim McPherson, National Director, reported that he and Shelia had attended the MAFCA National Convention in Colorado.

Robbie Jones, Newsletter Editor, welcomed articles and photos for the Newsletter. We continue to need topics for the technical portion of our meeting. Please contact Vice President, Mike Gordon, with topics.

No member illnesses were reported. No members were reported as having passed. George Gordon has been approved for a cochlea transplant.

We had no items for Show and Tell.

Under Old Business, Chuck asked if we had members who attended any July events other than Jim and Shelia who attended the MAFCA National Convention. No other members had attended events.

The refreshment list was again passed around for volunteers sign ups.

Under New Business, Chuck spoke about the Edgefield Moonshine Festival. He also asked us to think about small group, short drive events for camaraderie and to get our cars on the road, blistering heat permitted.

No date was set for visiting Danny Norman's Old Farm Days, Richmond Hill, GA. Other upcoming events are listed in the Club Calendar section of the Newsletter.

Our traditional August Meeting at Sconyers will occur again this year. Chuck will e-mail all members with the date and time.

The Technical Program, a video on Fordlandia Rubber Plantation, Brazil, showed the failed efforts Henry Ford expended to produce rubber for tires and break the Britain/Holland rubber cartel.

The meeting was adjourned to refreshments, conversation and clean up.

MEETING TIME & LOCATION

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at Richard Dunevent's garage, 4338 Owens Road, Evans, GA. Meetings begin at 7PM and are followed by refreshments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Club Calendar

August

- 11 Shade Tree A's Dinner Meeting, 7:00 PM, Sconyers BBQ
 (Note: No meeting at Richard's garage in August)
- 13 Swap Meet, Tucker, GA

September

- 10 International Model A Day
- 12 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's Garage
 (Technical Program – TBA)
- 17 Swap Meet, Columbia, SC (Palmetto A's)
- 19-22 MARC National Tour, Newburg, NY
- 22-25 Charlotte Auto Fair

October

- 4-8 AACA Eastern Regional Fall Meet, Hershey, PA
- 26-29 Sweet Home Alabama Tour, Tuscaloosa, AL

TBA - To Be Announced

August Refreshments



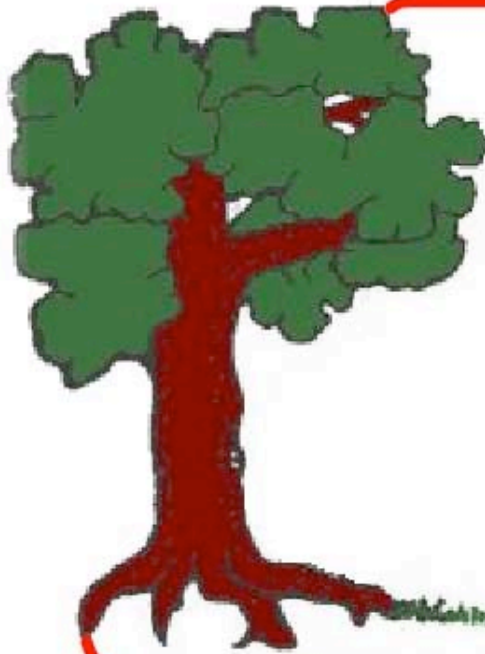
Kathy & Tom Poole
Frank Knapp
Denise Turner



August Birthdays

- 2 Abbie Prince
- 3 Laraine McCain
- 8 Alan Stewart
- 10 Walker Crosby
- 11 Sheila McPherson
- 13 Pascal Bryant
- 16 Henry Jones
- 23 Rita Thornhill
- 25 Dan Snider
- 27 Tony Gazette

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shade Tree A's Member News

- George Gordon has been approved for cochlear implants. The next step in the process is an evaluation for the surgery. Please keep George and the Gordon family in your prayers as they progress through these next steps.
- Former Shade Tree A's member Ronnie Chance passed away July 24, 2016.

*Send Items for Shade Tree A's Member News to:
newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org*

Monthly Technical Program

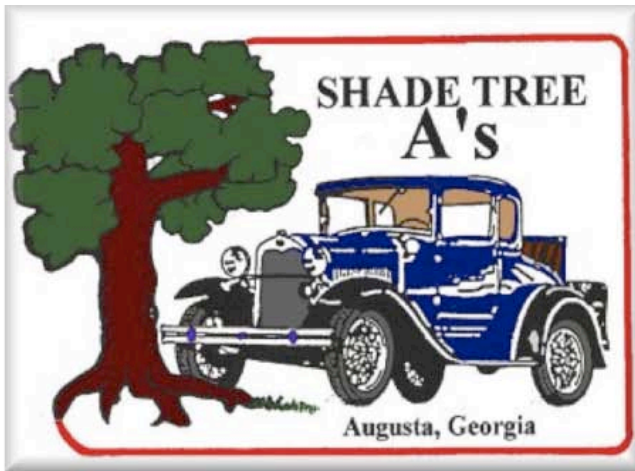
Got an idea for a technical program for presentation at a monthly meeting?

Got a topic you would like discussed during a monthly technical program?

Do you want to volunteer to present a technical program?

If so, contact Mike Gordon at vp@ShadeTreeAs.org or 706-513-7619

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us
for our
annual

Bar-B-Que Dinner

Thursday, 7:00 pm,
11 August 2016



2250 Sconyers Way,
Augusta, GA 30906

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**8TH. ANNUAL
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sweet Home Alabama Tour

You are invited to the Tenth Annual Sweet Home Alabama Tour October 26 - 29, 2016. The Tour will be conducted as a hub tour from Tuscaloosa, Alabama and will feature spectacular scenery, County back roads, and local attractions.

Registration will be on Wednesday, October 26th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the motel registration room. From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., we will have an ice breaker at the motel to greet old friends and meet new ones that share the Model "A" Ford hobby.

We have planned a great three day lineup of touring this year. Thursday morning we're off to tour the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Visitor's Center. After the tour we will continue to Moundville, AL for lunch and a tour of the Moundville Archaeological Park and Museum. In the evening, you will be free to explore the many fine restaurants in the area. A list of restaurants will be provided in the registration packet. Friday morning we're off to Carrollton, AL and a drive-by of the Pickens Co. Court House to see the famous face in the window. We continue on to tour the U.S. Snag Boat Montgomery, and have lunch and tour the Aliceville Museum. Supper again will be on your own. On Saturday morning we will saddle up in that "ole" A Model for a tour of downtown Tuscaloosa, AL, the Paul W. "Bear" Bryant Museum, and the Alabama Museum of Natural History. After lunch we continue on to the Warner Transportation Museum. The day will end with the "Farewell Banquet," an evening of dining, fellowship, and door prizes.

Call (205) 750-8384 and make your reservations directly with the Courtyard (Host Motel) 4115 Courtney Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405. Overflow motel is the Fairfield Inn 4101 Courtney Drive, Tuscaloosa AL 35405 (205) 366-0900. Tell them you are with the Sweet Home Alabama Tour to get the special tour rate of \$119.00 plus tax per night (this includes breakfast). The cutoff date for the tour rate is September 1, 2016. The designated tow vehicle parking area will be located in the side parking lot of the K-Mart shopping center which is located ¼ mile south of the motel. The Tour Registration Form is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Gary Wheat at (205) 799-4887 / wheatapp@charter.net, wheat1215@charter.net or

Henry Hinds at (205) 345-3246, (Cell) (205) 799-8307 / hhinds@iplett.com.

Bring "Henry's Finest" and get ready to do a lot of tire kicking, touring, and having a good old time on the "Model A Highway".

RECENT EVENTS

Model A National Meets

By Jim McPherson

Model A Ford Club of America

The Model A Ford Club of America held its National Meet June 19 - 24 in Loveland, Colorado. The entire event was held on a 265-acre complex known as The Ranch. There were approximately 600 registered families representing 1,200 people and 550 Model A Fords. Two large buildings housed the meet. The first building had a larger room in which the indoor swap meet was held on Monday and had eight vendors. Twelve vendors were set up outside. It also held the Hospitality Room where the usual goodies and drinks were available, including five hundred dozen cookies baked by club members for the meet. The building also contained several smaller rooms where various meetings and seminars were held. A larger arena type building held the larger events including the Welcome Party on Monday night. As you might expect, the food served featured BBQ. Larger rooms in this building accommodated seminars.

There were many self-guided tours around the Denver area, and bus tours to The Rocky Mountain National Park (where snowball fights were reported on this tour) and the Terry Bison Ranch. The Grand Tour on Thursday was to Estes Park where a BBQ lunch was served. The meet concluded on Friday with a banquet and awards ceremony. The next MAFCA National Meet will be held in Reno, Nevada in 2018.

Model A Restorers Club

The Model A Restorers Club held its National Meet June 26 - July 1 in Perrysburg, Ohio. The event was held at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, the same location as the MARC National Meet in 1989. There were approximately 350 registered families representing 700 people and 300 Model A's. There were about twenty-five swap meet vendors in the back parking lot. The swap meet lasted the entire week, but you needed to be there on Sunday to get the harder to find parts. The Hospitality Room had the usual goodies and drinks including homemade cookies and cobblers. There were many meetings and seminars. Car judging, the Fashion Show and Ice Cream Social were held at Owens Community College on Wednesday. The Grand Tour to the Toledo zoo and aquarium was held on Thursday. The meet concluded on Friday with an awards banquet. The next MARC National Meet will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 2017.



Photos from both meets are on the next page.

RECENT EVENTS



More photos from both meets are available on the Shade Tree A's website.

SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

This article continues a series of articles that feature Shade Tree A's members and their Model A's. Shade Tree A's membership coordinator, Frank Knapp is the featured member this month.

Frank Knapp

Frank's earliest remembrance of Model A's is from his high school days. A neighbor on his street, Hinton Baker, was very involved with Model A's. Although Frank was more involved with his first "modern" car, he spent many days in Hinton's garage but really had no interest in owning or restoring Model A's at that time.

Later in life during the 1980's, Frank was restoring Mercedes 230 and 250 SL Roadsters. One Sunday morning Frank picked up the *Augusta Chronicle* and there was a full page article complete with color pictures of a large group of Model A Fords lined up for a weekend tour to Abbeville, South Carolina. Frank was hooked! He had been looking for a group and had always loved the Model A. Frank sold all three of his SL Roadsters, bought his first Model A (a 1930 Town Sedan) in 1989, joined the Shade Tree A's and the rest is history!

Over the past twenty-six years since then, Frank estimates that he has owned over three dozen Model A's. Frank has completed thirteen frame off restorations: one 1930 Town Sedan (his first Model A), two 1931 Deluxe Roadsters (one of which was his second Model A), one 1929 Speedster, one A400, one Victoria and seven Hucksters. Other Model A's Frank has bought, repaired and sold include two Tudor Sedans, two 1930 Town Sedans, one 1931 Closed Cab pick-up truck, one 1930 Coupe and three Victorias. Frank prefers the 1930-31 body style; only two of the Model A's Frank has owned have been 1929 models.



SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

Frank Knapp

(continued)

Frank currently owns four Model A's; the original 1931 Deluxe Roadster he restored in 1992, a 1930 Town Sedan, a 1931 Deluxe Coupe and an unrestored 1931 Leatherback Victoria. Frank says his favorite Model A will always be his 1931 Deluxe Roadster; although, his first Model A, the 1930 Town Sedan, has special meaning to him. The Deluxe Roadster was Frank's second frame off restoration. Frank loves the color and says it has survived over 20 years, still running perfect and looking pretty good for her age. The Town Sedan was Frank's only show car. Frank says he learned more about Model A's from that restoration, especially getting VERY familiar with *The Judging Standards*! During the restoration of the Town Sedan, after many parts continued to arrive at his door, Montie, Frank's wife, said "there's something at the door for Lola". Frank responded, "Lola?", in which Montie replied, "Yes, whatever Lola wants, Lola gets!". The Town Sedan was "Lola One" followed by Lola Two and so on. Frank now has a plaque on his shop given to him by his daughters that reads "Lola's Place".



Other cars, especially Corvettes, still interest Frank. Frank owned a Corvette after graduating college and later purchased another one just like it. Frank kept that Corvette three or four years and decided it was easy to get into but too hard to get out. Frank sold the Corvette a couple of years ago.

Frank drives his Model A's frequently and puts about 2,000 miles per year on them combined. Each Model A gets their share of Frank's time, getting out on the road once a week.

SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

Frank Knapp

(continued)

Frank has been a member of the Shade Tree A's for twenty-six years. Frank also belongs to the Model A Ford Club of America and the Model A Restorers Club. The most enjoyable aspect of the Shade Tree A's for Frank is all the friends he has made along the way, the help he's received from members and all the tours he never would have been able to enjoy without being a Shade Tree A's member.

Frank, a retired pharmacist, enjoys driving all of his cars. He did show his first car, the 1930 Town Sedan, in shows sponsored by the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) winning a First Junior and a Senior National Award. Frank's Roadster also won the Touring Class MARC of Excellence Award. Frank attended the Hershey meet for 16 years straight and judged the car show there every year. He returned to the Hershey meet last year after missing a few years. Frank has not only judged in AACA events as a Master Judge but has also judged in both MARC and MAFCA meets.

Frank does some of the bodywork on his cars including upholstery installation but not paint. Frank also does all the mechanical work on his cars. Although Frank believes he is getting a bit old to tackle those complete restorations anymore, he still enjoys the social interactions of the Shade Tree A's, maintaining his cars and of course driving them.



Monroe Wade gives Frank some advice at Darlington Raceway while Bobby Jones looks on in approval.



TECHNICAL TOPICS

And the Model A Ford Kept Rambling Right Along

By Jim McPherson

This column contains maintenance, diagnostic, and technical tips to aid you in keeping your Model A on the road and operating at peak performance. I have stolen this information from a variety of sources, including forums, websites, books, publications, and discussions with fellow Model A owners.

Fuse Block. Many Model A owners add a fuse, several fuses, a fuse block or an auto reset fuse to their electrical system for safety reasons. Last month we discussed a faulty ignition switch as a possible cause for infrequent backfiring and the engine stopping. A larger group of Model A owners are reporting several backfires in a row, and have traced the problem to the fuse holder commonly seen attached to the starter switch. The problem is with the rivets used to hold the fuse assembly together. Over time, vibration causes the rivets to loosen, and then they may short out. The vibration allows the rivets to make and break contact often, resulting in several backfires in succession.

One simple fix is to replace the rivets with a bolt and nut. The ultimate fix is to remove this type of fuse assembly from your electrical system; however, the importance of a safety fuse, or several, cannot be overstated. They can protect your Model A from fire. Several placed throughout the electrical system can protect individual circuits. When an electrical short occurs, the electricity passing through the wire to ground generates a tremendous amount of heat. The wiring harness from the terminal box to the instrument panel is the most prone to failure. You can smell the characteristic odor of an electrical fire beginning, the wiring insulation melting, and the smoke coming out around your instrument panel. Other areas known for electrical shorts include the headlight sockets, the stop light switch, the horn, and the amp meter. These areas can be protected with individual fuses.



Get those Model A's out for a drive ... but get 'em clean first!

Thanks to Abbie Prince for finding this interesting photo.

Classified Advertisements

Deadline for submittal – 20th of the month – Send submittals to newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org

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