

SHADE TREE A'S

NEWSLETTER

February 2016

Volume 43

Number 2



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On the Cover

Honorary member Calvin Carruthers enjoys a rare sight below the dam at Clark's Hill Lake (see page 13 for more)

Shade Tree A's Model A Club



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, \$45), which includes a subscription to the *Model "A" News* magazine. The club also is a member of MAFFI, the Model "A" Ford Foundation, Inc.



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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 winter month of February is full of memories and milestones. I hope you will mark your calendar for a few of them.

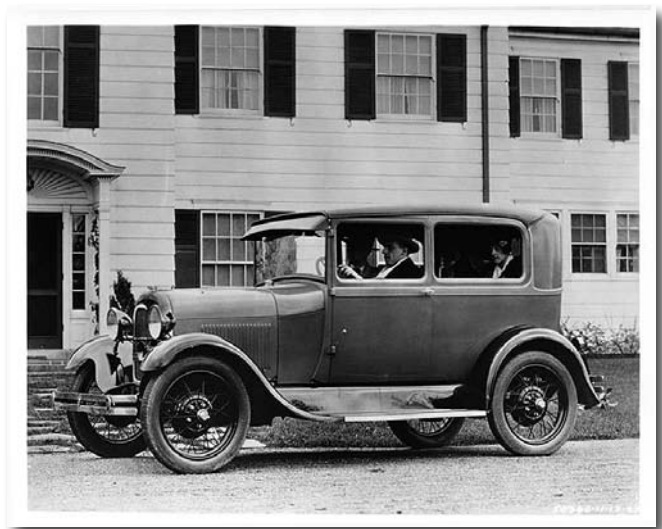
Respectfully, I will remember the four Army Chaplains who gave their lifejackets, gloves and lives to save the troops abandoning the USS *Dorchester*, which was torpedoed on 3 February 1943. As a proud owner, I will recall that on 4 February 1928, Ford had sold 1,000,000 Model A's in the first 60 days of production. On 7 February, many of us will watch Super Bowl 50 via television as it is played in Santa Clara, CA. All of us will celebrate the birthdays of President Washington and President Lincoln this year on 15 February (3rd Monday). In honor of our WWII veterans, let's remember the Navy Medic and five Marines who raised the US Flag on Iwo Jima on 23 February 1945. The photograph of that moment was published in more newspapers and on TV than any other picture in the 20th century.

And while it is not really a holiday, there is a happy observance that people have celebrated for centuries—Valentine's Day (14 February). The Shade Tree A's have many couples who have loved each other for a long time. Along with flowers or chocolates, a ride in a restored Model A can be a romantic way to celebrate Valentine's Day and show how much you love your sweetheart.

Accordingly, we invite you and your sweetheart to the STA's Valentine's Breakfast on Saturday, 13 February. We will meet at the I-20 Cracker Barrel restaurant at 0800 am. Hope to see you there.



Source: National Archives and Records Administration



Early AR Tudor

CORRECTION

The "Off the Running Board" column in the January 2016 newsletter was incorrectly attributed to Eric Shogren instead of Chuck Howell. My apologies to Eric and Chuck.

Robbie

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2016

Richard's Garage

Recorded by:

Robbie Jones for Kathy Poole - Secretary

President Chuck Howell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone. Chuck noted that this meeting marked the 28th anniversary of the Shade Tree A's meeting at Richard Dunevent's garage. There were no new members or guests in attendance; however, Dan Perla stated that one new member, Calvin Carruthers, the son of Kent and Heidi Carruthers, joined as an honorary member. Two members without name tags submitted a quarter each to the penalty jar.

Richard Dunevent gave the Treasurer's report. Club President Chuck Howell presented the minutes of the December 2016 meeting in the absence of the Club Secretary, Kathy Poole. The minutes were approved unanimously after a motion was made by Doug Wilson to accept the minutes as published in the January 2016 newsletter and seconded by John Neumar.

The National Director, Jim McPherson, reported that MARC is behind in publishing the Model A News. They don't want the January/February issue to contain summer activities, so they deleted all submissions for the September/October issue. Since more recent submissions had already been submitted, there was no new information to submit.

The Newsletter Editor, Robbie Jones, thanked everyone for their input to the January newsletter. Robbie explained the new series of articles begun in the January newsletter featuring Shade Tree A's

members and their Model A's. Robbie encouraged everyone to complete his or her questionnaire for these articles in a timely manner when requested.

Former, longtime member of the Shade Tree A's, Jim Miller, has been admitted to a nursing home. The Shade Tree A's have donated \$75 in honor of each of the Shade Tree A's members who passed away in 2015 to the Model A Ford Foundation Memorial.

Jim Dover provided what appeared to be a key fob or watch fob with a 1931 Model A on it for show and tell.

The New Year's Day breakfast at the Cracker Barrel was well attended with almost 40 members present. A lunch tour to the Crossroads Café in Gibson is planned for Saturday, January 16. Participants will depart Richard's garage at 9:30 AM. Other upcoming events include the Moultrie Swap Meet on February 5-7, the Shade Tree A's meeting on February 8, and the Valentine's breakfast on February 13 at the Cracker Barrel at I-20 and Belair Road. Upcoming events in March include Picnic in the Park in Columbia on March 12, the Shade Tree A's meeting on March 14, and the Barber Motorsports Tour on March 18-19. Information on the Barber Motorsports Tour was published in the January newsletter.

Dan Perla stated that he needs all members to provide their MAFCA and MARC membership numbers to him for inclusion on the membership roster. Membership numbers are shown on the address labels for each organization's magazine.

Andrew Morse suggested the Club organize an event such as a garage tour. Discussions included possibly participating in a progressive breakfast, which the Club has done in the past.

Club President Chuck Howell has assembled a collection of Club documents, procedures, forms, etc. to transfer to future Club officers.

Robbie Jones conducted a Technical Program on woodgraining. Refreshments were provided by Jim McPherson, Larry Komp, Dan Perla and Eric Shogren. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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 7p.m. and are followed by refreshments.

LOOKING AHEAD

Club Calendar

February

- 5-7 Swap Meet, Moultrie, GA
- 8 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's Garage
(Technical Program – More than you ever wanted to know about condensers)
- 13 Valentine's Breakfast, 8:00 AM, Cracker Barrel, I-20 and Belair Road

March

- 5 Shade Tree A's Garage Tour, date tentative, more information to follow
- 12 Picnic in the Park, Columbia, SC
- 14 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's Garage
(Technical Program – Dent removal from fenders)
- 18-19 Barber Motorsports Tour, Oxford, AL

April

- 7-9 MARC Membership Meet, Flint, MI
- 7-10 Charlotte Autofair
- 11 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's Garage
(Technical Program – TBA)
- 15-16 Swap Meet, Greenwood, SC

TBA - To Be Announced

February Refreshments



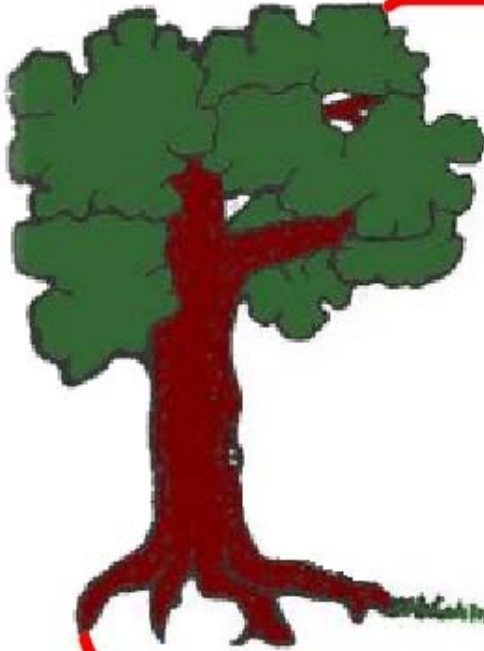
Bob Collier
Ralph Neitzke
Stuart Smith



February Birthdays

- 3 Mary Morse
- 11 Larry Duvall
- 11 Ralph Neitzke
- 17 George Gordon
- 24 Craig McMullin
- 27 Stuart Smith
- 27 Art Towe
- 28 Rachel d'Entremont

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shade Tree A's Member News

- Misty Hooker (George Gordon's daughter) had her knee replacement Friday, January 15, and is doing well. She is scheduled to spend two weeks at Stevens Park Rehab.
- Richard Dunevent is recovering at home.
- Former, long-time member of the Shade Tree A's, Jim Miller, is now living at Golden Living Community on Lee Street behind Trinity Hospital; Room 16 in the building to the left as you enter the parking lot. He welcomes visitors but might "dose off" occasionally during your visit. Other than that he's doing fine! (Thanks to Frank Knapp for this update)

MARC DRIVING AWARDS PROGRAM

It's that time of year to report your mileage to the MARC Driving Awards Program. If you are a member of MARC and a participant in the program, please provide your mileage as of **December 31, 2015** to Robbie Jones, the Shade Tree A's Driving Awards Coordinator. If you are a member of MARC and have never registered for the program and would like to participate, contact Robbie for a registration form at the next meeting or at the following email address:

DrivingAwards@shadetreeas.org

A one-time registration fee of \$1.00 is required per car to enroll in the program 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 accumulates from year to year. Additional information on the program can be found on the MARC website at:

www.modelaford.org/drivingawards.htm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Membership Numbers Needed

We need all Shade Tree A members to provide Dan Perla (webmaster@ShadeTreeAs.org) your MAFCA and MARC (if applicable) membership identification numbers to update our membership roster. You can find your membership numbers on the address label of the current **RESTORER** and **Model A News** magazines.



February Technical Program

More Than You Ever Wanted to Know About Condensers

Presented by Jim McPherson



The mysterious condenser is possibly the most changed part on the Model A. When there seems to be a problem, the answer is to change the condenser. What is the function of the condenser, and how do you tell if it is "good" or "bad"? Find out at the February meeting. For those of you with a drawer full of used condensers, bring them to the meeting and we'll test them for you.



Shade Tree A's *Valentines Breakfast*

Saturday, February 13, 8:00 AM
Cracker Barrel at I-20 and Belair Road

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Barber Motorsports Complex Tour

Jim McPherson and Dan Perla

Dan Perla and Jim McPherson will lead a tour to Oxford, Alabama to participate in the Barber Motorsports Complex Tour, hosted by the Central Alabama Model A Ford Club. For this tour, we will trailer our Model A's to Oxford, AL, then drive our Model A's on the tour activities. To participate in this tour, you must make your hotel reservations by February 19th, and register by March 1st.

- On Friday March 18th, we will meet for breakfast at the Waffle House on Jimmy Dyess Parkway and I-20 (near the Cracker Barrel) at 8 o'clock. There is plenty of trailer parking in the Belair Conference Center parking lot, just behind the Waffle House. We will depart the Waffle House at 9 o'clock.
- We will be staying at the Quality Inn (256-835-2170) in Oxford. The rate is \$66.60, including tax. Breakfast is included. Tell them you are with the Model A tour when making your reservations.
- Friday night we will attend the Welcome Party at Gerald Grizzard's Model A Museum. You do not want to miss the home cooked Firehouse Dinner.
- On Saturday we will depart at 8 o'clock for the Barber Motorsports Complex. We will tour their museum which has 600 motorcycles on display from their 1,200 motorcycle collection, plus the largest private collection of Lotus racecars. Then, you can drive your Model A on their road course. This is a completely different driving experience compared to the high banked oval of Darlington or the super-speedway of Talladega. We will tour to Lanney's Country Kitchen for a buffet lunch.
- After lunch, we'll return to Oxford. You have two options. You may load up your Model A and return home, or spend a leisurely Saturday afternoon in Oxford, and return home Sunday morning. Oxford has a number of antique malls for us to visit, and our Shade Tree A's members have made significantly large purchases there in the past.

Additional information including a registration form is available on the pages that follow.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Central Alabama Model A Ford Club

Fellow Model "A"ers,

You are invited to tour the Barber Motorsports Complex with the Central Alabama Model "A" Ford Club. The March 18 & 19, 2016 meeting will be filled with a lot of activities of fun & excitement including kicking tires with fellow club members from around the south, dinner in a great Model "A" Ford Museum, visiting the Barber Motorsports Museum and the opportunity to put your Model "A" Ford on the Barber Motorsports Track.

FRIDAY March 18, 2016: Arrival and check in at the Quality Inn in Oxford Alabama, with registration in the motel lobby 12 noon to 5 p.m. After check in you can visit local antique stores looking for those great finds you just cannot do without. p.m. The fun will continue Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. with some good "ole" Model "A" fellowship, 50/50 drawing, great door prizes, and the famous "FIREHOUSE DINNER" in Gerald Grizzard's Model "A" Ford Museum, 1 mile from the host motel.

SATURDAY March 19, 2016. After breakfast and check out, you will depart on your own or in club groups for the Barber Motorsports Museum and Track (To arrive by 9:30 a.m.) for a picture in front the museum, a tour of the museum and a spin on the race track. The trip to the Barber Complex will take about an hour along a scenic route provided in your packet. Upon arrival Model "A" Fords will park in the designed area in front of the Museum where the group photo for the National Newsletter and Club Newsletters will be taken. The Museum has over 1200 vintage and modern motorcycles as a substantial collection of lotus and other race cars. These bikes range from 1902 to current-year production with approximately 600 of the 1200 motorcycles on display at any given time. Taking your Model "A" Ford on the 46' wide, 2.38 mile long track with a 80' of elevation and 17 turns most of which are flowing and will be a real treat for Henry's finest. After the tour we will proceed to Lanney's Country Kitchen (2 miles from the track) for a buffet lunch. After the meal our weekend activities will be complete and you can head out for home by club or individually with the completion of another great Tour on the "MODEL-A HIGHWAY"

If you would like to tow your Model "A" Ford to the speedway tour there will a designed parking area for tow vehicles 1 mile from the host Motel. Coordinate requirements with Gerald Grizzard at (256) 835-2998 or Cell (256) 310-6463.

All reservations at the Quality Inn must be made no later than February 19, 2016 in order to receive the group discounted rate of \$66.60 (Room rate includes tax). Be sure to mention you are with the Model "A" Ford Tour when making your reservations, Contact the Quality Inn at (256) 835-2170, Fax (256) 835-2133.

Fire up Henry's Finest and join us in Oxford, Alabama. Registration form attached, if you need additional information: contact Gerald Grizzard: Office (256) 835-2998, or Cell: (256) 310-6463, Email: Gfireman52@aol.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MARCH 18-19, 2016

BARBER MOTORSPORTS TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

<u>Name:</u>		<u>Name of Guest(s):</u>		
<u>Street Address:</u>		<u>City:</u>	<u>Apt./Suite:</u>	
<u>Zip Code:</u>	<u>Phone Number:</u>	<u>Email:</u>		
<u>Cell Number:</u>		<u>Car Club:</u>		
<u>Year of Car:</u>	<u>Model of Car:</u>	<u>License No.:</u>	<u>Trailer:</u> Y / N (Circle One)	<u>Arrival:</u> FRI / SAT (Circle One)
<u>Auto Insurance Company:</u>		<u>Auto Insurance Policy Number:</u>		

Event Registration:	Qty.:	@	Fee:	Total:
Registration Fee (Per car)		@	\$10.00 (per car)	\$
Friday – Welcome "Firehouse" Dinner		@	\$15.00 (per person)	\$
<u>Saturday:</u> Barber Vintage Motorsports museum tour and Track Admission		@	\$20.00 (per person)	\$
Buffet Lunch: Lanney's Country Kitchen		@	\$10.00 (per person)	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (No Refunds After March 10, 2016)				\$

Make your reservations directly with the Quality Inn by calling (256) 835-2170.

If reservations are made by February 19, 2016, you will be eligible for the group room rate of \$66.60 (room rate includes tax).

The signers below, agree to indemnify and hold harmless for any and all liability due to my attendance and participation in the 2016 Barber Motorsports Tour, The Barber Motorsports Park Officials, the Central Alabama Model "A" Ford Club (CAMAFC), CAMAFC Members, their officers, directors, staff and any and all constituents acting on behalf of the aforementioned affiliations and/or Tour Volunteers. Submission of this Tour Registration Form (signed or unsigned) constitutes acceptance of the terms of this release. The vehicle being used has all required automobile insurance established by state statute.

Please Make Your Checks Payable to the "Central Alabama Model 'A' Ford Club"
Please send completed registration form and payment **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2016 to:**
BARBER MOTORSPORTS TOUR, 6740 Coosada Road, Coosada, Alabama 36020

Signed _____ Dated _____

RECENT EVENTS

Shade Tree A's New Year's Day Breakfast

Close to forty Shade Tree A's members woke up early New Year's Day and met at Cracker Barrel for breakfast. Cracker Barrel seated all of us in their large back room so we could all be together. The weather was great that morning and seven Shade Tree A's members drove their Model A's.



RECENT EVENTS

Shade Tree A's New Year's Day Breakfast

(continued)



RECENT EVENTS

For the first time since 1998 (or the turn of the century), all twenty-three flood gates were opened at J. Strom Thurmond Dam at Clark's Hill Lake on the Savannah River. Calvin Carruthers with his 1930 Standard Roadster is pictured on the South Carolina side below the dam, January 9, 2016. Calvin is an honorary member of the Shade Tree A's.

- Kent Carruthers



RECENT EVENTS

January Technical Program - Woodgraining

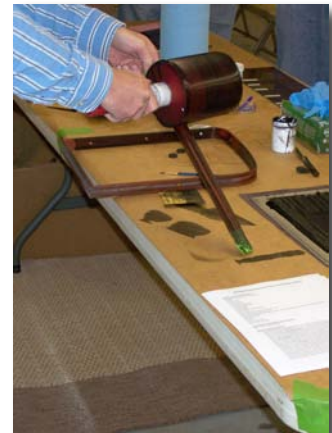
At the January meeting, Robbie Jones conducted a technical program on woodgraining. Robbie discussed the steps necessary to woodgrain Model A trim pieces including sandblasting, priming, painting, graining, clear coating and polishing.



The woodgraining process Robbie described uses products and tools sold by Grain-It Technologies. Robbie also discussed many lessons learned from his experience woodgraining the dash and garnish moldings for the 1936 Ford Tudor Touring Sedan he is restoring. Major lessons learned include:

- Practice, practice, practice. Grain-It provides plenty of ink to woodgrain probably three cars so there is plenty of ink for practicing.
- Don't get in a hurry. Take your time and don't hesitate to wipe off the ink and start over.
- Computer monitor settings significantly effect the appearance of the patterns on the Grain-It Technologies website. You may not achieve the results you expect if you only look at the website.
- Some tools/supplies provided by Grain-It didn't work as expected. For instance, Robbie had better results with 800 grit sandpaper instead of the 320 grit paper Grain-It supplies for "blending paper".

After the general discussion, Robbie briefly demonstrated the woodgraining process.



RECENT EVENTS

A Forty-Nine Mile Drive for Hot Apple and Peach Pies

Jim McPherson

On Saturday, January 16, nine Model A's and seventeen members from the Shade Tree A's gathered at Richard Dunevent's for a tour to Crossroads Café, near Gibson Georgia. It was an uneventful tour through rural Georgia on a bright crisp Saturday morning. Many of you may remember Crossroads Café as the lunch destination when attending the Gibson Christmas Parade. This time we took a different route, and each time we rounded another curve or topped a hill we thought our destination was just ahead. Finally, our destination was in sight. We quickly departed the comfort of our Model A's and headed inside, to be greeted by one of the owners who was just starting to prepare the apple and peach pies. We ordered our barbecue lunch and proceeded to the back room. Just as we were finishing lunch, the staff brought out the hot fried pies. As I bit into a peach pie, I could see my grandmother standing in the kitchen frying peach pies in a cast iron skillet. These fried pies are the nearest to what she made. Needless to say, we ate *ALL* the fried pies they prepared!



RECENT EVENTS

A Forty-Nine Mile Drive for Hot Apple and Peach Pies

(continued)

After lunch, we proceeded to the parking lot where some members took the opportunity to have engine guru, Billy Garland, diagnose an assortment of engine noises. Then, it was time to head home, but Bob Collier's 1930 DeLuxe Fordor refused to start, providing us with a training session. The problem was quickly diagnosed as no fire from the coil. The coil was replaced, and we were soon on our way. All returned home without further incident.



January Show and Tell

At the January Shade Tree A's meeting, Jim Dover brought in what appears to be a key fob or watch fob with a 1931 Model A on the front. The rear of the fob reads:



FORD
1931 MODEL A
WHEELBASE 103 1/2 INCHES
ENGINE 200 CUBIC INCH
 L-HEAD - 4 CYLINDER - 40 H.P.
ROAD SPEED 50-60 M.P.H. @ 2200 R.P.M.
IMPROVEMENTS TRANSVERSE LEAF
 SUSPENSION - WATER PUMP - 4 WHEEL
 MECHANICAL BRAKES - HYDRAULIC SHOCK
 ABSORBERS - BATTERY DISTRIBUTION
PRICE \$385.00 TO \$570.00



Thanks Jim for bringing this in for all of us to see!

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. The first few articles in the series will feature the officers of the Shade Tree A's. This article features Shade Tree A's Vice-President, Mike Gordon. After the remaining Club officers have been featured, other Shade Tree A's members will be featured in future newsletters.

Mike Gordon



Mike has been in the grocery business for twenty-eight years having worked his way up through every position available including store manager. His last position was Market Manager. Mike grew up in Augusta but has had to move fourteen times in twenty-four years for work. His work has taken him and his wife Tonya to two different states (Georgia and South Carolina) and seven different towns. Mike and Tonya have three children, Michael, Dustin and Heather.

As a teenager, Mike remembers his parents taking him to Christmas parades where he enjoyed seeing Model A's and hearing their funny sounding horns. Mike first became involved with Model A's personally when, about 9 years ago, his father George Gordon bought his 1929 Model A pickup truck. George had Mr. Jim Brown restore the truck back to mint condition.

Mike remembers seeing George's expressions as he traveled down memory lane and telling him about the Model A he had as a young man in Pennsylvania. Mike has never owned a Model A personally, but has helped his dad work on his and has also helped him when he purchased two of the ones he owns.

Although Mike does not currently own a Model A, he hopes to one day inherit a 1928 Model A Tudor, which is his favorite body style, from his father. Mike did a lot of the bodywork on the Tudor including stripping and grinding the entire car. Although not a Model A, Mike also has a fondness for 1919 speedsters. Mike and his dad are currently working on a 1931 Fordor. It has been challenging for the two of them to work on. Mike is committed to completing the work on the car since his dad has dreamed of owning and restoring one. Mike knows they will succeed with the help of fellow Shade Tree A's members.



SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

Mike Gordon

(continued)

Other than an interest in Model A's, Mike's dream car is a 1967 (his birth year by the way) Ford Mustang GT 350. Mike says having one of those would make him feel 20 years younger. Mike has owned a 1978 Camaro and a 1981 Z28 Camaro, which he would one day like to own once again. For now though, Mike's dreams of owning any of these cars are being lived out through his children, especially Michael. Michael owns a 1966 Mustang and a 1997 Mustang Cobra. Michael has a love of cars, and has grown up the last eight years around Mike's dad, George. Michael, a mechanic, graduated from UTI NASCAR school in Mooresville, NC. If it weren't for being around his pappy, Michael would not be where he is today. His pappy has taught him a lot and has been there for him every step of the way.

Mike loves to work on their cars and keeping them running top-notch. Mike is able to do 80% of his own bodywork. Mike maintains his and his dad's Model A's and keeps them running, and stopping (brakes). Mike is going to expand his bodywork abilities soon by attempting to paint the 1931 Fordor that he and his dad are restoring.

Mike has been a member of the Shade Tree A's for six years. He enjoys meeting new people and participating in parades and car shows. Mike really enjoys the Model A hobby, especially the Shade Tree A's and fellowship and friendships among its members. He enjoys learning about the Model A and understanding it from his fellow Club members because of their tremendous knowledge of the Model A. Mike enjoys showing and driving, but doesn't get to



drive as much as he would like. He still managed to get 500 miles driving this past year though. Mike enjoys other automobile related events having been to Hershey twice. He was amazed at how big the Hershey show was and how much variety was available. Mike has also been to the Charlotte Motor Speedway and absolutely loved it, including the huge car show there.

Additional photos of Mike and George's 1928 Tudor can be found on the Shade Tree A's website, particularly Technical Sessions 14 and 15 from 2008.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

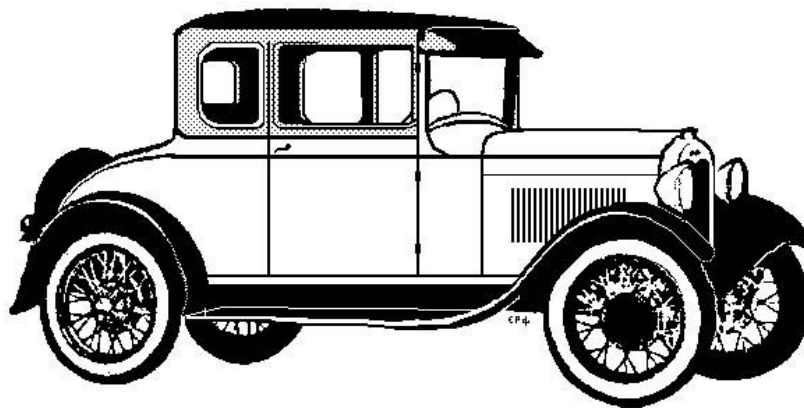
And the Model A Ford Kept Rambling Right Along

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.

Gas Tank Sealers In the late 70's, someone had the idea to use aircraft gas tank sealer in their Model A gas tank. The idea was to capture the rust particles in the sealer and seal the tank from the air, preventing further rust. Problem solved. Now, with reformulated gas containing ethanol, this sealer is now failing, coming off the gas tank, sometimes in sheets. The gas tank sealer was reformulated. Problem solved. Or is it? Some are reporting the sealer is coming off their gas tank. If you have this problem, the solution is to wash your gas tank with methyl-ethyl ketone (MEK), available at Lowe's and Home Depot. MEK will remove both the old and newer sealers. Then reseal your gas tank, following the instructions provided by the manufacturer. For the newer sealers, what chemical interaction might be causing the gas tank sealer to fail? Some think it might be the gas stabilizer they are using. Sta-Bil, or Sta-Bil Storage, is one suspect, but Sta-Bil does not contain MEK, and others using a variety of gas tank additives report gas tank sealer failure. So, be careful what you add to your gas tank. I can tell you it is no fun cleaning the gas tank coating from a clogged shut-off valve, the inside gas line, the sediment bowl, the outside gas line, or the filter, jets and passageways of your Zenith carburetor (don't ask me how I know).

Rubber Floor Mats When removing the front rubber floor mat, it tends to tear around the floor studs. They also tend to crack where the flat floorboard meets the angled floorboard. The original floor mats had a fabric reinforcing molded into the rubber. There are several ways you may strengthen these areas. Duct tape, hidden on the back side of the floor mat, may be the easiest to use. A more permanent solution may be to use a tightly woven burlap or canvas cemented to the backside of the floor mat.



TECHNICAL TOPICS

And the Model A Ford Kept Rambling Right Along

(continued)

Distributor Many Model A problems are either fuel or electrical related. When driving your Model A, and it doesn't feel or sound right, or stops altogether, one of the first things many do is to remove the distributor cap, body and rotor and check for an electrical spark at the points. Lack of a spark may mean an electrical short. In the past, the short was often between the post holding the movable point arm to the upper distributor plate and the distributor housing. We quickly learned to wrap this connection with electrical tape. The cause of this short is due to how close the wire of the electrical terminal being bent toward the nut is to the distributor housing side of the upper plate. The short wire, between the lower plate and the upper plate, made bending the terminal in this direction easier, but made the electrical connection closer to the distributor housing. This location of an electrical short was solved with the introduction of the wireless lower plate. The wireless lower plate is not without its problems, but we will save that for another discussion. Sometimes the short wire between the lower and upper plates would get between the coils of the spring keeping tension on the upper plate, causing a short. Replacement of this wire with a longer multi-stranded wire will solve these two problems.

The other problem, which has more recently been causing a short, concerns the lower plate. The new lower plate is being made with a much thinner metal. It is so thin, that you can bend it with pressure from your thumb. The ignition switch cable was designed to screw into the distributor housing and make contact with the lower plate. With the new lower plate, screwing in the ignition cable too far will bend the contact on the lower plate, resulting in a short between the lower plate and the distributor housing. If you have an intermittent problem with your Model A, this may be your problem. One solution is to unscrew the ignition cable one to one and a half turns. In the old days, as a precaution, we placed electrical tape on the back side of this contact on the lower plate. More recently, I have been cutting a rectangle from an old floor mat and placing it between the contact and the distributor housing. This rubber is thick enough to prevent a short, regardless of how far the ignition cable is screwed in. Placing a new, longer, multi-stranded wire on your old lower plate might not be a bad idea.



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