

# SHADE TREE A'S

## *NEWSLETTER*

March 2016

Volume 43

Number 3



RITA & GEORGE

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### On the Cover

What dog wouldn't like riding in the back of George Gordon's pickup?

## 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.



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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Please contact Robbie Jones at [Newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org](mailto:Newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org) concerning reprinting of articles, illustrations, or photos.

## MEETING MINUTES

*February 8, 2016*

*Richard's Garage*

*Recorded by: Kathy Poole - Secretary*

President Chuck Howell called the meeting to order at 7PM and welcomed everyone. We had 29 visitors present and 1 guest, Manisha Khanal, who is an engineering student at Georgia Tech working a co-op position at Club Car. She is also on the Georgia Tech Rambling Wreck crew. The Name Tag Kitty received contributions from 2 members.

Jim McPherson gave the National Director's Report. Our article in the Restorer Magazine is still being published. Jim added that MAFFI was offering free memberships for anyone 21 years or younger who showed interest in Model A's. With this membership, MAFFI is including a patch and subscription to its newsletter. Chuck encouraged the STA membership to talk about our club with millennials to increase interest and ownership in Model A's.

Richard Dunevent gave the Treasurer's report. Robbie Jones, our Newsletter Editor, asked everyone to continue providing information concerning our cars, projects and any events attended.

Chuck asked if there was a motion to approve the January minutes. A motion was made by Doug Wilson and seconded by John Neumar to approve the minutes as published in the Newsletter.

Roz Neal's thank you note for the STA's memorial donation for Dan to St Jude's Foundation was recognized.

In Show and Tell, Larry Komp brought a hood, which he had unsuccessfully coated with a rust preventative, which caused the paint to ripple. Andrew Morse explained that rippling will occur when rust-oleum or some other similar product is applied on top of an under coat of paint which has not been cured. Robbie Jones presented and discussed flexible high temperature insulation wire and flag terminals.

Under Old Business, Andrew talked about the Moultrie Swap Meet. He said the vendor turnout and attendance were not what it had been in past years but this swap meet was still a worthy venue.

Dan Perla, Webmaster, reported that he has had about a 35 percent response rate to his request for members MAFCA and MARC Numbers. This number is located on the Restorer's plastic wrapper. Dan asked the membership to please provide this information to him as soon as possible.

Continued on next page

### 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.

## MEETING MINUTES

(continued)

Under New Business, Chuck reminded us of the up-coming Valentine Breakfast at Cracker Barrel, I-20 and Jimmy Dyess Pkwy, at 0800 Hrs on 13 February 2016. Other near events include 5 Mar 2016 STA Garage Tour, meeting at 0800 Hrs at Sunrise Grill with departure at 0900 Hrs; 12 Mar 2016 Picnic in the Park, Columbia, SC; 14 Mar 2016 STA Meeting, Richard's Garage and 14 Mar 2016 Barber Motorsports Tour, Oxford, AL. Those planning to attend the Motorsports Tour are required to register. The Augusta St Patrick's Day parade is scheduled for 17 Mar 2016 with line-up at James Brown Arena.

A discussion ensued concerning the payment of membership dues and at what date a member could be terminated for late/non-payment of dues. It was tentatively discussed that an amendment to the STA by-laws be made to change the membership dates to run from 1 Jan to 31 Dec each year. It was discussed that if a member had not paid by 31 Dec the club might consider imposing a \$10.00 late fee payable by the late paying member instead of the club paying the late fee. This would keep the STA's in good standing with national organizations.

To break up the meeting, the STA Resident Joke Purveyor, Jim Dover, was asked to favor us with something from his arsenal of humor. Jim amused us with a tale about a jerk of a cousin who worked at the pharmacy in Hooterville, NC.

The Technical Program was presented by Jim McPherson who brought a voltage meter used to test for shortages in distributors. This device provides a way to bench test a distributor before the distributor is installed.

He also demonstrated a capacitor meter which can be used to test a car's condenser.

Robbie brought some point blocs for distributors which Jim raffled off to the membership.

Misty Hooker was at the meeting and is recovering well from her second knee replacement surgery. George Gordon's 85th birthday celebration will be rescheduled due to illness in George's family. The birthday celebration will be held, and that date will be forthcoming.

With no other new business, Chuck adjourned the meeting to refreshments.



*Source: Georgia Tech Alumni Magazine*

A good article on the Ramblin Wreck is available at:  
<http://gtalumnimag.com/2013/02/the-ramblin-wreck/>

More information on the special MAFFI membership program is available at:  
[http://www.maffi.org/My\\_Homepage\\_Files/Page18.html](http://www.maffi.org/My_Homepage_Files/Page18.html)

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Club Calendar

#### March

- 5           Shade Tree A's Garage Tour, departing Sunrise Grill at 9:00 AM
- 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)
- 17          St. Patricks Day Parade, line up in James Brown Arena parking lot
- 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

#### May

- 7            Peach Blossom Parade, Johnston, SC
- 9            Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's Garage  
(Technical Program – TBA)
- 14           Penny Pinson Hot Dog Day, Emerald Farms, Greenwood, SC
- 14           ACTS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Car Show, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Burnettown Dam Road
- 20-21       Swap Meet, Moultrie, GA
- 28           Memorial Day Parade, Aiken, SC

TBA - To Be Announced

### March Refreshments



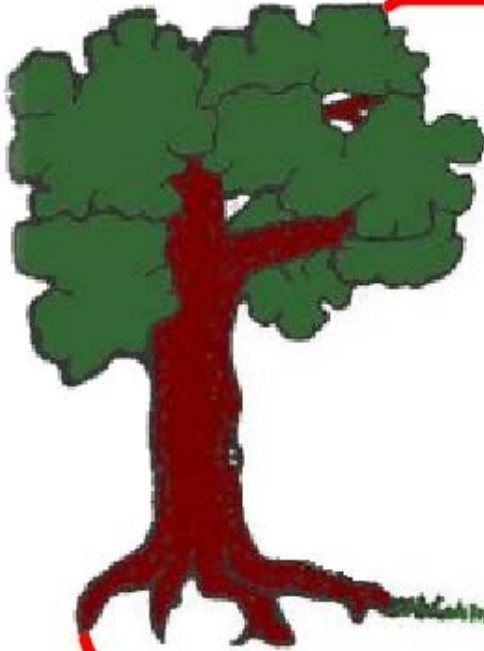
John Neumar  
Gerald Melchoirs  
Andrew Morse

### March Birthdays



- 15       Rosalind Neal
- 20       Dan Perla
- 25       Curtis Krosting
- 29       Doug Wilson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

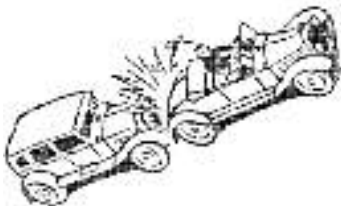


### Shade Tree A's Member News

- Richard Dunevent is recovering at home.
- Misty Hooker is recovering from knee surgery.
- Suzanne Gordon's mother (Don's mother-in-law) passed away February 19, 2016.
- George Gordon's sister passed away February 28, 2016.
- Misty Hooker had carpal tunnel surgery on her right hand and is recovering well.

### National Membership Numbers Needed

We need all Shade Tree A members to provide Dan Perla ([webmaster@ShadeTreeAs.org](mailto: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.



### March Technical Program

*Dent Removal from Fenders*

*Presented by Larry Komp and Andrew Morse*

Join Larry and Andrew as they show us how to remove dents from our beat up fenders . . . the right way.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The GREAT Garage Tour ... Saturday March 5th

Have you met Miss Flora and Pig Iron? Have you noticed the detailing on Frank Knapp's Model A's? Ever been to George Gordon's garage/restoration shop? Wonder why the neighbors are complaining about the noise at Andrew Morse's home?

Find out the answers to these and other questions while on the **GREAT Garage Tour**, Saturday, 5 **MARCH 2016**.

If you would like to join us for breakfast, arrive at the Sunrise Grill on Washington Road at 8:00 AM. We will depart from the Sunrise Grill at 9:00 AM and head for our first garage. We will be visiting four garages and will be finished by noon. Andrew and Mary Morse will be providing lunch at the end of the tour. Drive your Model A if you can. If not, come anyway.



Photos from prior garage tours

## 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 in the February newsletter.*

### Want To Go On A Picnic?

The Shade Tree A's are going on a picnic on Saturday, March 12th. At the invitation of the Palmetto A's of Columbia, SC, we are going to Saluda Shoals Park (5605 Bush River Road) for their annual Picnic in the Park. There will be forty to fifty Model A's there, from surrounding Model A Clubs, including the Queen City A's from Charlotte, NC, the Low Country A's from Charleston, SC, the Old 96 District A's from Greenwood, SC and the Aiken Model A's from Aiken, SC. There will be car games (Model A only) and homemade ice cream. Bring a dish to share (and your favorite drink) and join us at the Redbud Shelter.

If you would like to join us for breakfast, we'll eat at the Sunrise Grill on East Martintown Road in North Augusta (next to Big Lots in the Publix and K-Mart shopping center) at eight o'clock. We will depart at **nine o'clock** from the restaurant parking lot for a drive through peach country, where the peach trees should be blooming. Drive your Model A if you can, or come modern. Dan Perla and Jim McPherson will lead the tour.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Picnic in the Park



You are Invited to

The Palmetto As Model A Club's

21st Annual

"Picnic in the Park"

Saluda Shoals Park\* Redbud Shelter

Saturday, March 12, 2016

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 a leash)

COVERED PICNIC SHELTER: with tables for a relaxed lunch

RESTROOMS: permanent indoor facilities within walking distance of the shelter

PARKING: paved with room enough for car games (with prizes)

WHY NOT COME EARLY 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 Road,  
between St. Andrews Road and Highway 6 in Lexington County.

For more information email: [johnwilac@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwilac@yahoo.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Old 96 District Swap Meet

**11<sup>Th</sup> Annual**  
**All Model A Parts Swap Meet**  
**Old 96 District Model A Club**  
**314 Old Mount Mariah Road Greenwood, SC 29646**  
**( On Rt. 221 Between Rt. 25 and Rt. 225 )**

**APRIL 15-16 2016**  
**FRIDAY FROM 8:00--5:00**  
**Saturday 8:00am to UNTIL**



**Model A Display Area**  
**Model T's and Model T Vendors Always Welcome**  
**Admission: \$2.00 per adult**  
**Car Corral: \$10.00 for both days**  
**Vendor Space: \$25.00 pre-registration / \$30.00 at the gate**  
**Lunch available 11am to 2pm**  
**Door Prizes and 50 / 50 drawing daily**  
**Email: [swreynolds@centurylink.net](mailto:swreynolds@centurylink.net)**  
**Information: Warren Reynolds 864-388-0203 / Ralph Roub 864-992-3230**

## RECENT EVENTS

## Valentine's Day Sweetheart Breakfast

Twenty-eight members of the Shade Tree A's gathered for breakfast Saturday, February 13th at the Cracker Barrel restaurant to celebrate Valentine's Day. Gerald and Lois Melchiors drove their 1930 Cabriolet. It was a happy event, and everyone talked about the upcoming Garage Tour (March 5), the Barber Motorsports Tour (March 18-19) and a possible STA Model A tour to Tifton, GA, later this year.



## RECENT EVENTS

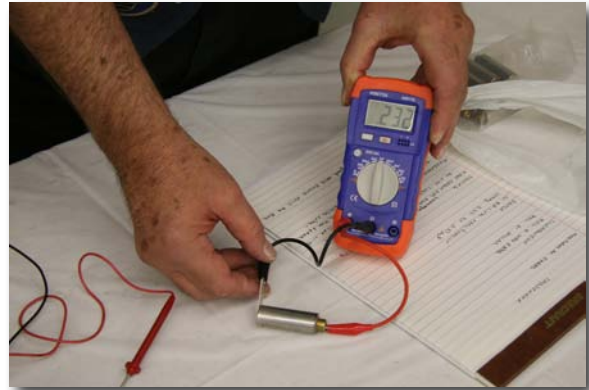
### February Technical Program

#### *More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About Condensers*



The February technical program was presented by Jim McPherson. Jim discussed the use of condensers in the Model A ignition system and described the symptoms of a bad condenser. Jim said that many Model A owners instinctively replace the condenser when problems arise resulting in a lot of condensers laying around that are suspect. Jim demonstrated a method for checking the condition of used condensers using a capacitance meter. Jim says there were no specifications for the original condensers; however, research indicates the capacitance of new condensers should be 0.27 - 0.28  $\mu\text{F}$ . New condensers are measuring about 0.23 - 0.24  $\mu\text{F}$ . Jim said he

thought the lowest acceptable value was about 0.20  $\mu\text{F}$ . The capacitance meter that Jim used is a HoneyTek A6013L available from Amazon.com. Ernie Dinkens mentioned that they also sell capacitance meters at Fox Appliance.



Jim also demonstrated how to check for shorts in the distributor with an ohmmeter. With the condenser installed in the distributor, the distributor body assembled, points installed, and a piece of paper (like a business card) inserted between the contacts, a check for continuity from the end of the condenser (the end opposite the mounting tab) to the movable arm of the points should show continuity.

## RECENT EVENTS

### February Show and Tell

At the February Shade Tree A's meeting,, Larry Komp brought in a section of a hood that he had problems painting. While feeling energetic one fair weather day, Larry decided to drag out some parts, clean them up, sand them, and prime them. Unfortunately, the primer was incompatible with the existing primer on the hood panel. Andrew Morse said the problem was the existing primer underneath was not fully cured and the solvents had not fully evaporated even though the primer appeared to be dry. The new epoxy primer reacted with the uncured primer producing a wrinkled finish.

Robbie Jones also brought in some flexible wire that can be used as a good replacement for the wire connecting the lower plate to the upper plate in the distributor. Robbie also brought in some flag terminals for soldering to the wire and attaching to the points. The wire can be purchased at hobby shops that sell radio controlled cars and such and is available in several gauges. Robbie purchased the wire he brought in from the Hobby Shop on Bobby Jones Expressway. The flag terminals are hard to find locally. Lowes, Home Depot and the like do not carry the flag terminals. Robbie mail ordered his from DigiKey ([www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com), part number A100915CT-ND). Additional information on rewiring the original point plate can be found on the Ford Garage at : <http://www.fordgarage.com/pages/adistlowerplate.htm>

### Check Out Doug Wilson's Latest Acquisition



## 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 Secretary, Kathy Poole. After the remaining Club officers have been featured, other Shade Tree A's members will be featured in future newsletters.*

### Kathy Poole



Kathy grew up in Irmo, South Carolina. She is a retired Federal Employee, having worked as an investigator for the Department of Defense, Defense Investigative Service, and Office of Personnel Management, Federal Investigative Services for 30 years. Kathy began her career in Columbia, South Carolina; transferred to Upstate South Carolina and then transferred to Augusta, Georgia. During her career, Kathy was sent on temporary assignments to North Carolina, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Kathy and her husband Tom have one son, Nathan, who is 28 years old.

Kathy says Nathan never misses an opportunity to repeat a story often told by her father that Kathy had the privilege of being brought home from the hospital in a Model A, her parents car at the time. The "A Model", as her family calls it, has always been a part of Kathy's life. The A Model has been in Kathy's family since 1945 when Kathy's dad bought the A Model after returning home from World War II. Kathy's mom even learned to drive in the A Model and got her driver's license in it. Kathy says she could go on and on about the A Model so if you want to know more just ask Kathy.

Kathy says there's a certain charm about Model A's and that you cannot help liking them. During her childhood, Kathy remembers sitting in another Model A that her dad owned with some of her cousins; laughing, talking and driving all over the world without moving an inch (the car had no motor by the way). Recently in December, Kathy was reminiscing with two of her cousins about how much fun they had sitting in that car. Keep in mind this was in the 1950's. Kathy says if you know anything about Irmo you'll understand why this was so much fun.



## SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

## Kathy Poole

(continued)

Kathy eventually inherited the A Model, a 1930 Coupe. This car is the only Model A that Kathy has ever owned although Tom has a 1929 Model A Roadster Hot Rod. Kathy says the A Model is not a show car. A fellow in Saint Stephens, South Carolina restored it in the 1970's. Richard Dunevent and Tom have done some mechanical and body work on the car since Kathy and Tom joined the Shade Tree A's 4 years ago. Kathy has driven the A Model but now lets Tom do the driving.



Kathy also likes vintage cars and muscle cars and enjoys going to car shows (and reading and gardening). Her first car was a 1970 Camaro Rally Sport that she bought in October 1970 for the huge sum of \$3,800. Kathy's dream car since she first saw one is a 1957 Ford Thunderbird. Although she doesn't yet own a 1957 model, she does own a 2005 Thunderbird Limited Edition which she has driven about 20,000 miles.

The Shade Tree A's is the only club Kathy has been a part of. Kathy gets the most fun from being a part of the Shade Tree A's by talking with members and looking at their cars. Kathy says the Shade Tree A's guys and gals have some pretty interesting rolling stock.

Kathy actually learned of the Shade Tree A's through her work as an investigator. She had to interview Theresa McMullin as part of an investigation, and as it is said in the South, "got to talking" after the interview. Theresa and Craig had actually been to Irmo and Ballentine, South Carolina the weekend before. The Club sounded interesting to Kathy and she later met former Shade Tree A's member Steve Brannon, when Tom's Roadster was being built. As they say, the rest is history.

## 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.*

**Exhaust Manifold and Gaskets** With time, the temperature of the exhaust gases heats the rear area of the exhaust manifold causing it to warp. An easy way to check to see if this has happened is to place a string from the lower inside of the first exhaust port to the fourth exhaust port. If no warpage has occurred, the string will touch each exhaust port in the same location. A string is much better than say a straight edge, because it allows you to see each side of the string. This assessment is important when using gland rings. Gland rings are split metal rings, which fit in each exhaust port. I like to hand fit each gland ring in the block and the exhaust manifold first, then place them back into the block and slide the exhaust manifold onto them. The exhaust manifold should slide near or up to the block with the gland rings in place, without the gasket in place. Then when you add your gasket, there is plenty of room for the gasket to seal. If adequate space is not there, you may crack the exhaust manifold. The gland rings are important to extend the life of the exhaust manifold gasket. They provide a relative smooth transition from the block to the exhaust manifold and protect the gasket from the hot exhaust gases. Without the gland rings, the exhaust gaskets are in direct contact with the exhaust gases, shorting their lifespan.

**The Head Gasket** Many of you may have tried the newer "Premium Head Gasket" offered by several Model A parts vendors. This head gasket is pitched to those tired of coolant weeping around the head gasket. This gasket has a solid steel core sandwiched by heavy-duty, high-density gasket material coated with silicone. Upon use, many Model A'ers found rapid head gasket failure. I am told that this gasket came with no installation instructions. Some have told me the instructions were discussed in 4E4 (Forever Four Cylinder) and SOSS (Secrets of Speed Society) Model A publications. I am now told that specific installation instructions are included with each gasket, which must be followed exactly for the gasket to seal properly. Briefly, the installation steps are:

- 1) Do not use any gasket sealer on the gasket;
- 2) The block and head must be clean and free of oil or grease, including the studs and nuts (use lacquer thinner or a similar solvent to clean);
- 3) Make sure the "this side up" of the gasket is positioned face up;
- 4) Torque the cylinder head to 55 ft. lbs. (no more!) using the proper torque sequence;
- 5) Warm the engine up slowly for 15-20 minutes;
- 6) Re-torque the cylinder head to 55 ft. lbs. after 500 miles, when completely COLD.

I am told you should never torque the head to more than 55 ft. lbs., it affects the ability of the gasket to seal. Even if you are using a high compression head, do not torque to more than 55 ft. lbs. These head gaskets are ONLY for stock Model A or B heads, or Snyder's brand high compression head. They will not seal with the Brumfield brand high compression head.

## Classified Advertisements

*Deadline for submittal – 20<sup>th</sup> of the month – Send submittals to [newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org](mailto:newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org)*

### Model A Coupe 1931

Blue body, black fenders, rumble seat, looks good, runs good, good tires, parade ready. In the last three years I have installed: rebuilt steering column with all new parts, rebuilt starter, new battery, new clutch, new pressure plate, starter ring, all rebuilt front arms with balls, rebuilt carburetor, rebuilt distributor with new gear & rods, rebuilt alternator, new ammeter, new rumble seat handle assembly and did a valve job. There are many more repairs that I do not remember.

See and drive to confirm price (\$12,729.00) then convince me there should be a price change. Contact Doug Wilson.



### Engine Stand

Best offer. Contact  
Robbie Jones.

### 1931 Station Wagon



Awards of excellence in fine-point judging from both MAFCA and MARC at the 2008 joint world meet in Dallas. 12 volts and Mitchell overdrive. Excellent mechanical and cosmetic condition. \$38,500, negotiable.

Tom Torget, [ttorget@gmail.com](mailto:ttorget@gmail.com), 830-257-8966  
Kerrville, Texas

## Paid Advertisements

**Mike's "A" Ford-able Parts**  
**Mike Butcher**

124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558  
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