

SHADE TREE A's

NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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Number 9



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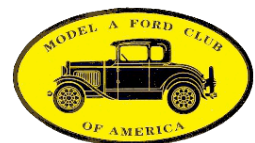
On the Cover

Shade Tree A's members enjoy dinner together at Sconyer's Bar-B-Que restaurant for the August meeting.

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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OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

Chuck Howell - President

Have you ever asked yourself, *"Why do so many people still love the Model A Ford?"* It made perfect sense that people loved to drive and own a Model A when it was the state of the art technology, but why do we still love it 90 years later? While I don't speak for anyone else, I can think of several reasons the Model A is irresistible to me.

First, I love the way the Model A looks. Designed by Edsel Ford himself, the Model A draws attention to itself. I once drove my Model A to a nearby Ford dealership to check on the repairs to my Ford Fusion. It was on the same lot as the GT Mustang, Ford F150, Ford Edge, etc., but when I came out of the shop, most customers and salesmen were gathered around my Model A admiring it. Whether driving down the road or sitting in a parking lot, people love to look at every body style of the Model A.

Second, it's still fun to drive. It wasn't designed for the Interstate Highway, but you can still drive a Model A on most public roads. Double clutching to change gears, braking before putting it in neutral, driving without air conditioning, power steering, GPS or radio, require more concentration and better skills, but just about anyone can learn to drive the Model A. And, I love the sound of the engine makes when it's idling or cruising along at 45 MPH in third gear. Most people seem to like the sound of the horn, too.

Third, you don't have to be a professional mechanic to work on it. Depending on its condition and amount daily use, Model As' require frequent operator maintenance. The average person can change the oil, flush the radiator, tighten the fan belt, replace the

condenser, replace a burnt out light bulb, adjust the carburetor or brakes, rotate the tires, etc. It's a great vehicle to learn how the automobile works.

Fourth, there are Model A clubs all across the country. It's a lot of fun to socialize with the friendly folks of the Palmetto A's, Central Alabama, Aiken Model A's, etc. Also, there are swap meets conducted at locations between clubs, where you can find original parts. Before I go on vacation, I usually check the MAFCA website to see where the Model A clubs are in the states I am visiting. I've found Model A owners are always happy to tell you about their well-preserved vehicle or their restoration project.

Lastly, I think it's cool to own a dynamic part of American history. I've owned mostly new cars, trucks and motorcycles that were reliable transportation vehicles, but they were all quickly forgotten once I traded them in for a newer car. I don't miss them and I didn't take pictures to remind me of them. But once you've owned and driven a Model A, you will treasure it and have memories that last a lifetime. I think Model A's are truly special and I think Model A owners are too.

MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2016

Sconyer's Bar-B-Que

Recorded by: Kathy Poole - Secretary

President Charles Howell called the meeting to order about 7:25 PM. He welcomed one and all. There were 46 members present. Chuck said grace over our membership and meal; he then adjourned the meeting to barbeque and conversation.

This being one of the Club's annual dinner events, no formal meeting was conducted.

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.

MAFCA Membership Renewal

By now most of us have received the ballots for the 2017 MAFCA Board of Directors and membership renewal notices in the mail. As per our current By-Laws, all members are responsible for paying their membership renewal fees to MAFCA (\$40.00) and/or MARC (\$45) directly to those organizations and no longer combine the MAFCA fee when renewing STA membership (\$25) in November.

You will also notice a new option on your MAFCA membership renewal form:

Beginning with the January/February issue of **The Restorer** magazine, MAFCA will be offering an **electronic version of the magazine** in addition to the hard copy full color magazine. The renewal form gives you the option of adding an electronic copy for only \$5 more. You will be able to view this copy with any Wi-Fi capable device – phone, tablet, or computer. The cost of membership has not changed; it remains \$40 for U.S. members. If you desire to add the electronic version it would be \$45 for U.S. members. The electronic copy will remain on the web for 3 years.

If you have any questions about these options, contact MAFCA headquarters by email at info@mafca.com or by phone (562) 697-2712 Monday - Friday from 10:00AM to 4:00PM Pacific time. Please renew your membership before December 31 to avoid late fees. MAFCA membership runs from January 1 to December 31 (calendar year).

Model A Ford Club of America
2017 Membership Renewal

You can also renew membership and shop online:
www.mafca.com

Amount \$ _____ Check # _____ Visa/Mastercard # _____ Exp: _____ CVV: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Membership	\$40.00	International Membership (U.S. Currency)	\$65.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada/Mexico Membership (U.S. Currency)	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Includes <i>The Restorer</i> magazine	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S., Canada/Mexico Add Electronic link to <i>The Restorer</i>	\$5.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add Electronic link to <i>The Restorer</i> magazine	\$5.00
A valid email address is required for the Electronic Link - Please print carefully below		<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic link to <i>The Restorer</i> magazine only	\$40.00

Valid Email Address: _____ Chapter: _____ **TOTAL Enclosed \$** _____

I give MAFCA permission to publish my phone number in future membership rosters: Yes No Phone Number: _____

Add Spouse to Membership Record: _____

Renewals received after December 31, 2016 will require a \$5 late fee to cover the cost of mailing *The Restorer* magazine. MAFCA does not issue refunds.
Please return this form with payment payable to: MAFCA

Member Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEMBERSHIP # _____

Change of Address

Member Name: _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone _____

LOOKING AHEAD

Club Calendar

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

November

- 4-6 Shade Tree A's road trip to Tifton, GA (see page 7)

TBA - To Be Announced

September Refreshments



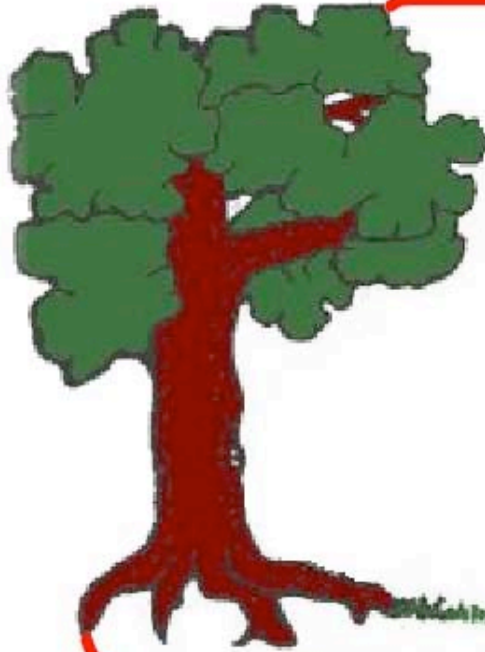
Kathy & Tom Poole
Frank Knapp
Denise Turner



September Birthdays

- 1 Sam Mason
- 8 Houston Barbie
- 11 Gail Smith
- 13 Larry Komp
- 28 Ernie Dinkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shade Tree A's Member News

- George Gordon has been approved for cochlear implants. Please keep George and the Gordon family in your prayers as they progress through these next steps.
- Mary Tilley, wife of former member Tom Tilley (deceased in 2011) passed away Friday August 12, 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

Model A Road Trip

The Shade Tree A's are planning a trip to the Agrirama (Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village) in Tifton, Georgia November 4-6, 2016. We would leave early Friday morning the 4th and return on Sunday the 6th. It is about 200 miles to Tifton from Evans. A tentative route that is all 2-lane roads and no interstate has been planned. The Jacksonville club is also going and there are 8 rooms blocked at the Holiday Inn Express at this time on a 1st come, 1st reserved basis. The actual event is on Saturday the 5th. A link to the Agrirama website is provided below. More details on the trip will be provided as we get closer to November.



For more information and photos of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, see:

<http://www.abac.edu/museum/attractions>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE DAY ONLY

11th Annual

ALL Model A & Model T SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW

sponsored by

Palmetto A's of South Carolina

Saturday, September 17, 2016 8AM to 3PM



Smith & Jones Antique Auto Parts
60 Wisconsin St, West Columbia, SC

Vendor Space: \$20 Car Corral: \$10
Palmetto A Members - Free Vendor Space
\$2 Door Prize Tickets Food Concession 50/50
Contact: Wyman Toole
hwtoole@sc.rr.com or 803-776-4925



Vendor Sign Up Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

Will you be arriving and setting up on Friday, Sept 16? _____

Are you primarily a Model A or Model T vendor? _____

Please mail this form along with a check or money order made payable to:

Palmetto A's of SC --- 200 Fox Run Drive, Hopkins, SC 29061

By participation in this event and signing this form I/we agree to hold harmless The Palmetto A's of SC Model A Club, Smith & Jones Antique Auto Parts and any of the members or agents thereof, in the event of accident or injury to any participant, person or group.

Signature _____ Date _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A.H. Stephens State Park
456 Alexander Street NW
Crawfordville, GA

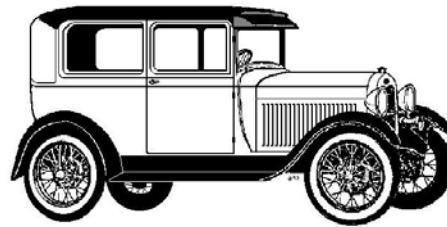
Music - Food - Playground - Zipline



Admission Rates:

Adults - \$3.00 Teens - \$1.00
Kids 0-12 Free

A.H. Stephens State Park
invites the STA's to its
Antique & Classic Car
Cruise & Sock Hop



September 24, 2016
(Saturday) 4PM to 8PM

***Classic Car drivers do not pay**
Admission or Parking Fees*

On site registration begins at 2PM.
Pre-Registration begins today.

Call 706-456-2602 or email
AH_Stephens_Park@dnr.ga.gov

International Model A Day

International Model A Day is a formal opportunity for Model "A" Ford owners and Clubs around the world to all go out for a drive or event on the same day and submit photos for submission to the national magazines. Email high resolution JPEG photos to Bruce Adams at sailbruce@aol.com.

This year's commemorative patch is now available. Patches are \$3 apiece, with a minimum order of 20 (postage included in the U.S.).



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".

TECHNICAL TOPICS

The Model A Ford Distributor

Courtesy of Bentley's Antique Auto Service

This month I thought it would be interesting to talk about Model A Ford distributors. We recently converted a customer's car to electronic ignition. We did this with the kit, which is available from Mike's. This got me thinking of some of the options that are available.

First let me say there is nothing wrong with the good old original Ford distributor. These things are very reliable and have been in service for all these years. I recommend a thorough rebuild, using premium

points and condenser, and you will have a unit which will last for decades with occasional maintenance. Lots of guys prefer the Modern Upper Plate conversion, which allows you to use the points and condenser from a 1970's Ford V8. The points and condensers are available at any auto parts store and the Modern Upper Plate makes it a little easier to install the points and condenser, since they install from the top and you don't have to reset the timing afterwards. I have found that the points are a little more difficult to adjust, but not bad.



Modern Upper Plate



Original

The next step would be to install Electronic Ignition. The first one is the kit I was talking about. This completely does away with your points and condenser, so that you never have to worry about adjusting your points again. Electronic ignition also offers a much hotter spark if you are running a high compression head or a touring engine. The only bad thing about the electronic ignition is that there is a stigma among many Model A guys that they are not reliable. I have found this to be untrue, and have had many customers with electronic ignition on their cars for decades with no problems. I will caution you against leaving the ignition switch on if the car is not running. This can overheat the ignition module and coil and cause a failure.



Electronic Ignition

TECHNICAL TOPICS

The Model A Ford Distributor

(continued)

The next step up is a complete Modern Distributor, which has the electronic ignition and advance mechanism built in. This does away with the action of the timing lever on the steering column. This option provides the perfect amount of ignition timing no matter what the engine RPM. This is especially important if you are running a high performance, modified engine in your Speedster or touring car. The drawback here is it does not look original under the hood.



Modern Distributor

The next distributor option that I know of is called a "Zipper" high performance ignition. These have all the advantages of the Modern



Zipper Distributor

Distributor with the electronic ignition and advance built in; however, they have been especially engineered to look just like an original distributor upgrade, although that might be a little pricey for some guys at approximately \$450. Let me know if we can help.

Bentley Bohanon
Bentley's Antique Auto Service, Inc.
95 W Ridgeway Road
Maysville, GA 30558
www.mymodela.com
678-407-1947

At the July meeting, Webmaster Dan Perla presented the film "*Fordlandia*". In the August President's Column Chuck Howell presented additional information on Henry Ford's attempt to become self-sufficient for rubber products. *Chemical and Engineering News* (July 25, 2016) contains an article "Dandelions, the scourge of lawns, may be a fount of rubber", mentioning the industrialist Henry Ford's early attempts to commercialize rubber. A group in Ohio, and around the world, is growing Buckeye Gold dandelions, whose roots contain 10-15% natural rubber. It appears Henry Ford should have looked closer to home for his source of rubber. The dandelion rubber's quality and performance are nearly identical to that produced by rubber trees. Work is underway to increase the rubber content and insert genes for herbicide resistance. Dandelion rubber is currently being produced in quantities for customer testing.

- Jim McPherson

Classified Advertisements

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

Paid Advertisements

Mike's "A" Ford-able Parts
Mike Butcher 
 124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558
 email: mike@mikes-afordable.com - www.mikes-afordable.com
 Fax: 706 652 2492 - Phone: 706 652 3866
 1 888 TRY MIKE (879 6453)

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