

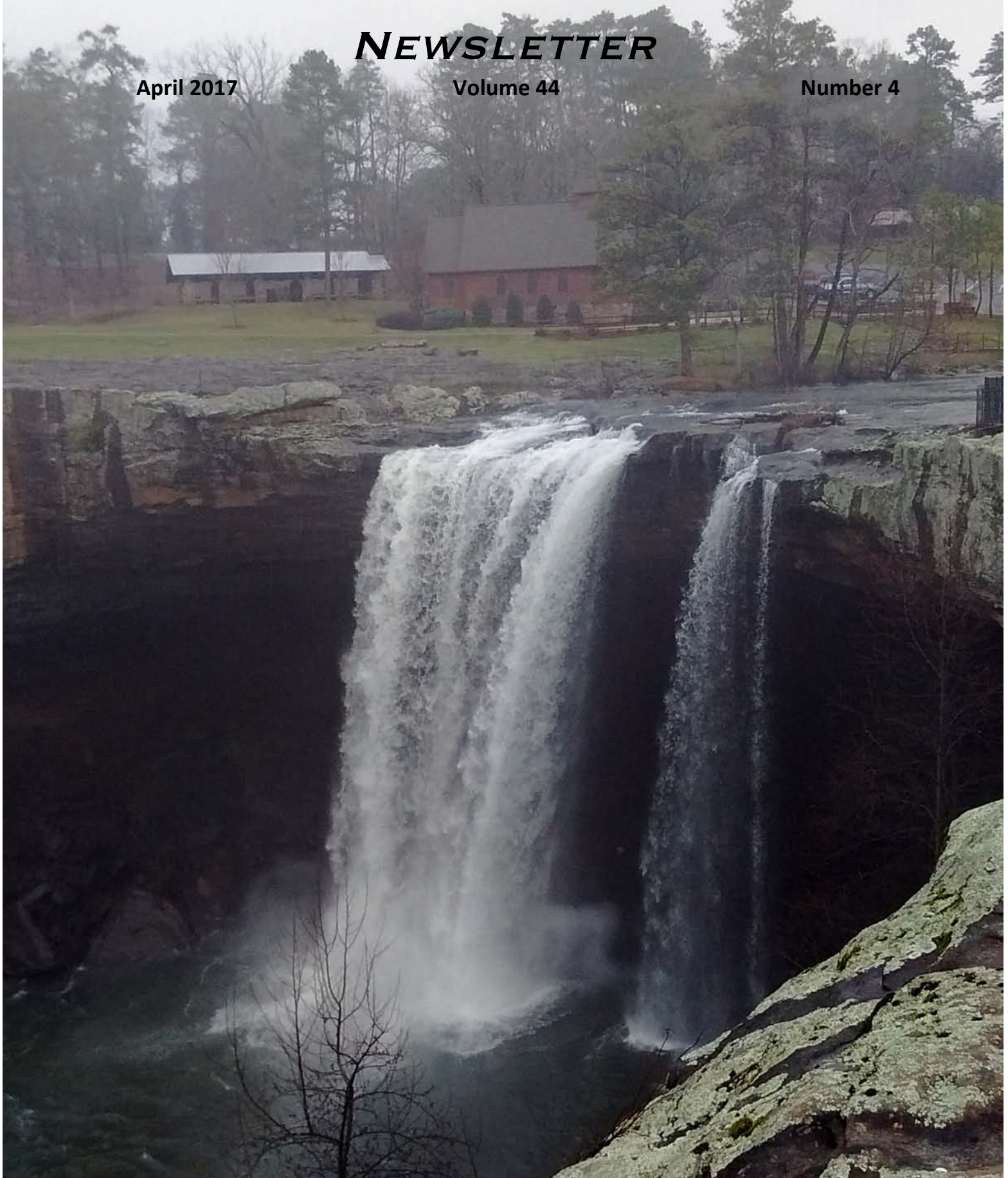
# SHADE TREE A's

## *NEWSLETTER*

April 2017

Volume 44

Number 4



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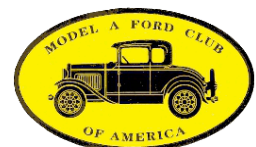
### On the Cover

Shade Tree A's members toured Noccaluta Falls with the Central Alabama Model A Ford Club. March was a busy month for the Shade Tree A's. Read more about this tour and others beginning on page 8.

## 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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Facebook: Shade Tree A's Model A Ford Club

#### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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## OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

*Kent Carruthers - President*

Greetings hobby enthusiasts as All Fool's Day once again gives us the excuse to step out with our best efforts of pranks and humor. My family tradition involved the surprise around me realizing that once again the 1<sup>st</sup> of April had snuck up on me by one or both of my parent's well-planned deception. On one of the most lighthearted day of the year, what could be more enjoyable than teaming it with a Model A Ford?

If we didn't need any more motivation than the excitement of seeing the crowds smiling and waving when you roll past in your Ford, this year MAFCA has set up a challenge for Chapters and members who don't belong to a chapter, **the 100,000 mile challenge**. The challenge is to see if we, as a club (all MAFCA Clubs) can drive 100,000 miles in any one day.

**The Goal** is to get as many MAFCA members in their Model A's on the road and excited about driving their Model A Ford. Have each chapter choose one day to tour and accumulate mileage that will then be added to an aggregate of MAFCA members trying to achieve 100,000 miles driven in a day.

**The Reward**, if we reach our goal, MAFCA will send window decals to all MAFCA member participants. And everyone knows, you can never have enough really cool MAFCA window decals. We've had a good March, but we should be able to aid this goal with a well-attended local tour. Your ideas and encouragement in this department will definitely be appreciated.

I look forward to seeing as many as possible at the monthly meeting, as day length increases and weather improves. Sharing your knowledge and experience with others is invaluable to preserving the history we guard. Be safe and don't take any wooden nickels on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

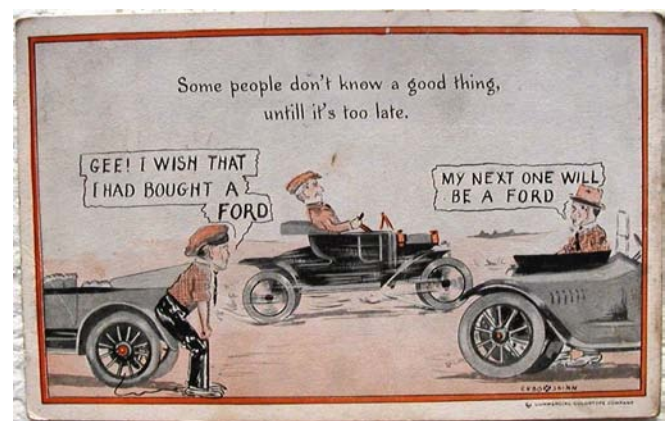
Respectfully,  
Kent Carruthers  
President

Find us on   
The Shade Tree A's are now  
on Facebook!

Join the conversation, share tips, photos and experiences.

Find the Shade Tree A's on Facebook under the following group name:

**SHADE TREE A'S MODEL A FORD CLUB**



## MEETING MINUTES

*March 13, 2017*

*Richard's garage*

*Recorded by: Frank Knapp – Acting Secretary*

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree A's was held March 13, 2017 in the clubhouse meeting room at Richard Dunevent's garage. President Kent called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM. Twenty-six members braved the chilly, rainy weather to attend.

The group was once more entertained by Jim Dover's "Joke of The Month". Something about a "Cow".

A motion to approve the January and February Minutes was made, seconded and passed as published in *The Newsletter*. Past President Chuck suggested we follow Robert's Rules more precisely leading to a new motion, second and a proper vote by those attending.

Several members contributed to our "Name Tag" penalty cup due to not having the proper ID required.

Under the Treasurer's Report, Richard Dunevent assured the membership we still enjoy a very healthy treasury, sighting several deposits and withdrawals also noting all outstanding bills have been paid in full.

National Director, Jim McPherson, commented on a format change concerning club activities reported to *The Restorer*. That section is now separated by state.

President Kent also discussed two new MAFCA programs. Those being a "Membership Contest" and a "Come-Back Program", both designed to increase membership and interest in our hobby.

One visitor, Paul Ianuario (also a former member) was welcomed by the group. It's always a pleasure to have Paul attend when visiting his brother-in-law, Ernie Dinkins.

Matt Barrett commented on what "road items" he intends to carry in his recently added trunk. Everything from extra parts to Duct Tape! He also demonstrated his newly acquired Digital Thermometer explaining its many uses.

Under Old Business, Andrew Morse reported on his visit to The Moultrie Swap Meet remarking it was sparsely attended this year. Richard Dunevent also discussed his recent trip to Florida along with Dan Perla to attend a "Hit'n Miss Engine" festival.

Under New Business, an invitation to attend "The Gold Rush Celebration" in McCormick, S.C. was discussed as well as The St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Trenton Peach Festival and Picnic in The Park. A show of hands indicated a good turnout should be expected at all future outings. A complete list of upcoming calendar events is available on our website and in *The Newsletter*.

Another excellent technical program was presented by Robbie Jones on *Rust Removal Using Electrolysis*. Even without the assistance of his prepared projected images, his replication of items needed worked well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM after which refreshments provided by Doug Wilson, Matt Barrett and John Neumar were enjoyed by all.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Club Calendar

#### April

- 6-9 Charlotte Autofair, Charlotte, SC
- 10 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – TBA)
- 21-22 Greenwood Model A Swap Meet, Hosted by the Old Ninety-Six Model A Club,  
Greenwood, SC
- 28 Hill climb, hosted by the East Tennessee Model A restorers Club, Unicoi, TN
- 29 20th Annual Fiddlers and Fiddleheads Festival and car show, Farmhouse Gallery  
and Gardens, Unicoi, TN.

#### May

- 6 Johnson, SC Peach Blossom Parade, Start time 10:00.
- 11 Memorial Day Parade, Aiken, SC, Start time 11:00.
- 13 Penny Pinson Hot Dog Day, Hosted by the Old 96 District Model A Club  
at Emerald Farms, Greenwood, SC

#### June

- 2-3 Summer Moultrie Swap Meet

TBA - To Be Announced

### April Refreshments



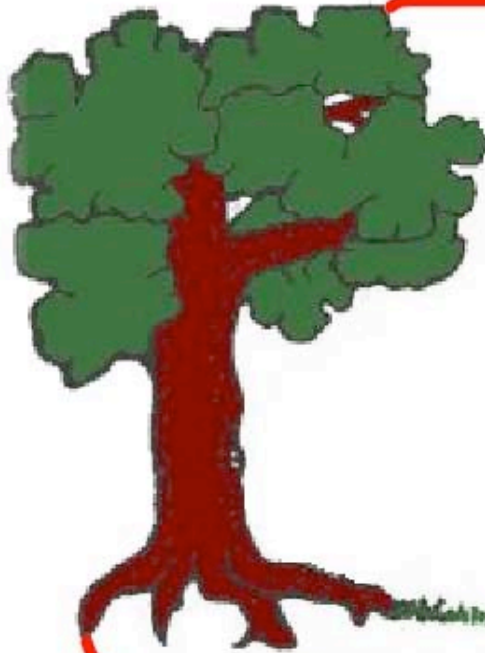
Charles & Sharon  
Howell  
Eric Shogren  
Curtis Krosting



### April Birthdays

- 3 Pamela Crosby
- 4 Eddy Barrett
- 10 Theresa McMullin
- 10 Tom Poole
- 12 Susan Thielke
- 14 Ann Dinkins
- 17 Denise Turner
- 20 Richard Lawson
- 22 Annette Jones
- 27 Merry Dirksen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Shade Tree A's Member News

- Kathy Poole is recovering from recent surgery. She has started physical therapy to strengthen hand.
- Anne Neely Beck's mother passed away in March
- Leta Jones's mother passed away February 15



### Ethanol Free Gas

Frank Knapp reports that the Murphy gas station on Wrightsboro Road has ethanol free gas. The following website lists other ethanol free gas stations in the area as well as across the country.

<http://www.pure-gas.org>

Thanks for the update Frank!

### 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](mailto:vp@ShadeTreeAs.org) or 706-513-7619



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# **WANTED**

## **Old Shade Tree A's Newsletters**

**Dan Perla is scanning old newsletters to preserve them for the future. He is missing some of the really old newsletters. Do you have a stash of old Shade Tree A's newsletters? If so, Dan may need to borrow them to scan, especially ones prior to 1990.**

**Report any missing newsletters to  
Dan Perla at:**

**706-855-5730**

**or**

**webmaster@ShadeTreeAs.org**

## RECENT EVENTS

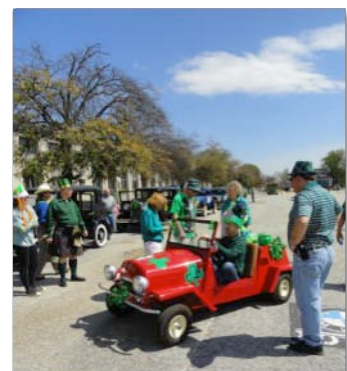
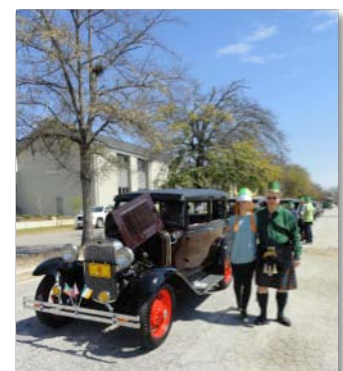
### Saint Patrick's Day Parade

March 17, 2017

*Story by Chuck Howell*

We had a total of 7 Model A's (plus Gerald Melchoirs mini-car) to drive in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade and 15 members plus friends and family members to attend: Matt Barrett, his wife's daughter, Richard and Frankie Dunevent, Chuck Howell, Gerald and Lois Melchoir (plus 2), Ernie and Ann Dinkins (plus 2), John Neumar's family (4), Doug and Sheila Wilson, Larry Duvall, Ralph Neitzke, Frank Knapp and two grandsons.

The STA's were last in the line up this year. We had perfect weather. The event was well attended and everyone seemed to stay just to see our motorcade.





## RECENT EVENTS

### Noccaluta Falls and River Canyon Tour

#### Central Alabama Model A Ford Club

**March 17-18, 2017**

*Story by Jim McPherson*

Dan Perla and Jim McPherson participated in the Spring Tour, hosted by the Central Alabama Model A Ford Club in Oxford Alabama. We traveled to Oxford on Thursday, stopping at antique shops along the way. After checking into the hotel we went to visit Gerald Grizzard. Gerald was having a problem cranking his 1928 Fire Truck, with symptoms of a sticking starter switch and a weak battery. No success in starting the Fire Truck. Friday morning we visited several antique shops, then decided to return to Gerald's and work on his Fire Truck. On closer inspection the electrical system appeared to be in good shape so we decided to remove the starter. Have you ever tried this in a Fire Truck with the ladders blocking access to the starter? Well Dan was successful in both removal and reinstallation. We discovered evidence of the starter switch sticking to the starter post and the Bendix reluctant to move due to hardened grease. Those problems were corrected and the parts replaced and the Fire Truck cranked right up and ran nicely. Gerald could now drive his Fire Truck and display it at the Firehouse Dinner that night. We attended the spaghetti dinner with about eighty other Model A'ers in Gerald's garage which housed some of his collection of Model A's.

Saturday morning we were up early for an eight o'clock tour departure to Gadsden Alabama and Noccaluta Falls. There was a fine mist in the air, but the train was running so we could view the park and visit the attractions. The weather cleared while we were at the ninety-foot falls and the Black Creek George. We ate a buffet lunch at the Western Sizzling restaurant (remember them?), then we were off to Little River Canyon. If someone placed you in the area of this tour, and ask you where you were, you would have never guessed you were in Alabama. The amount of granite visible was unbelievable. By the time we returned to the hotel we had driven 160 miles. That evening the group had dinner at the M & J Country Buffet near the hotel. Sunday morning we loaded up and headed home.

See many more  
photos on the Shade  
Tree A's website.



## RECENT EVENTS

### “You Could Have Been There Too”

**Picnic in the Park**

**Palmetto A's Model A Club**

**March 25, 2017**

*Story by Jim McPherson*

As we pulled in to the parking lot for the Sunrise Grill, a parking lot seminar was well underway. It was a very minor problem, a broken fan belt, but don't tell that to Mike and William Gordon. Have you ever replaced a fan belt with a hot engine, a fan shroud and a thick radiator core? Not an easy task, but they handled the repair with ease.

Six Model A's were in the parking lot while thirteen members were inside eating breakfast and discussing the days' event, a tour to Lexington South Carolina and a picnic with fellow Model A'ers. We were soon on the road and in the middle of peach country. We saw everything from peach trees with no sign of blossoms to trees which appeared to be in full bloom. Quickly we were driving over the dam and into Saluda Shoals Park. The picnic lunches were spread out on the tables and we began filling our plates. Following lunch there were car games and homemade ice cream compliments of Smith & Jones. Mike Gordon, Jim and Sam Mason, Kent Carruthers, and Dan Perla participated in the car games. Kent drove the obstacle course while Sheila McPherson tossed bean bags and placed second. The Shade Tree A's had seven Model A's in attendance, Jim & Sam Mason and their 1930 Pickup, Mike Gordon in his 1928 Tudor with sister Misty Hooker, William & Faye Gordon in their 1929 Pickup, Larry DuVall in his 1931 Coupe, Kent Carruthers in his 1930 Standard Roadster, Richard Dunevent in his 1930 Tudor, Dan Perla in this 1930 Town Sedan with passengers Jim & Sheila McPherson and George Gordon & Rita Thornhill. This year there were thirty Model A's in attendance representing five Model A Clubs.



See many  
more photos  
on the Shade  
Tree A's  
website.



## RECENT EVENTS

### March Technical Program

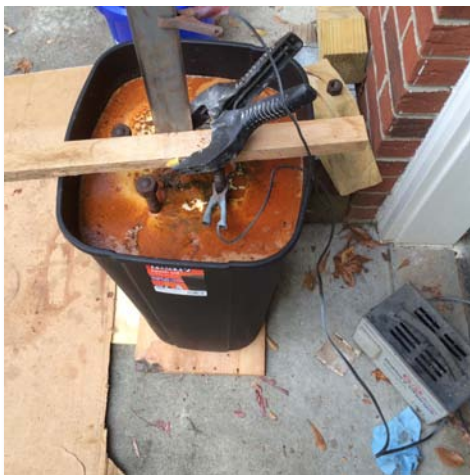
Robbie Jones presented the March Technical Program on using electrolysis for removing rust. Although many present at the meeting had heard of the process, most had not used it before. Robbie recently used electrolysis to remove rust from the cylinder of a hit and miss engine he is restoring. Robbie showed how to use a 5 gallon bucket but used a plastic trash can for the hit and miss engine cylinder. An old rusty Model T wheel spindle was presented to show how the cleaned surface appears.

Instructions for using electrolysis were passed out at the meeting. For those that weren't able to attend, the instructions can be found at the website below:

<http://antique-engines.com/electrol.asp>



The Model T spindle partially cleaned using electrolysis. The black residue that is formed during the process has not been completely removed.



Hit and miss engine cylinder being cleaned. Note the electrode in the center of the cylinder instead of outside.



Exhaust manifold beginning to be cleaned. Bubbles forming but little rust on the surface of the solution yet.



## 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.*


### Joe Christian

Joe's earliest remembrance of Model A's goes back to 1949 when he saw one in a high school parade in Smithfield, Virginia. It took a while though, retirement actually, for Joe to become interested in the Model A hobby. In 2000, Joe purchased his first Model A and now owns three: a 1928 Roadster, a 1929 Phaeton, and a 1931 Closed Cab Pick-up truck.

Joe enjoys driving his Model A's and drives them about 150 miles every year. Joe keeps them on the road by fixing the simple mechanical problems himself. A retired orthopedic surgeon, Joe has been a member of the Shade Tree A's for 16 years and enjoys how active the Club is. Although he has not been active in the Club for several years he enjoyed it very much when he was!

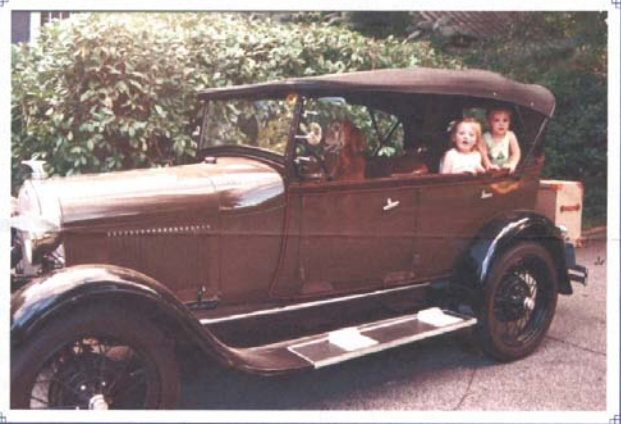
## Shade Tree A's

### Newsletter



SHADE TREE A's  
Augusta, Georgia

Shade Tree A's, Volume 34 Number 9
September 2003
Serving the Augusta, GA Area



**Joe Christian's 1929 Phaeton**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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Miss Lucy's Phaeton with Mr. and Mrs. Santa. Joe's Phaeton appeared on the front cover of the September 2003 Shadet Tree A's Newsletter.



## SHADE TREE A'S MEMBER PROFILE

Joe's Model A story can probably best be told by a poem he wrote titled *Miss Lucy's Limo*. The remainder of this article was written by Joe.

### **Miss Lucy's Limo**

*By Joe Christian*

The year 2000 was an interesting one,  
As I retired and was looking forward to lots of fun.  
With time on my hands and not much to do,  
Grocery shopping at Publix became a favorite venue.

Thus one day to Washington Road I did go,  
When what did I see but an old car show.  
The ice cream melted, the milk became sour,  
But it turned out to be my finest hour.  
Model A's of all sorts lined up in a row,  
It was a swap meet, not a show.  
There it happened on the lot,  
I fell in love right on the spot.  
With a 1929 Phaeton in mint condition,  
To have that car became my mission.  
Was it for sale? I asked with brows knit,  
Yes, but I must talk to its owner, Tom Hitt.  
This Model A, had quite a past I learned,  
It lived in Argentina, it was discerned.  
The steering wheel was then on the right,  
But McPherson and Meloan had the foresight,  
Knowledge and skills to fix the car inside and out,  
So it would drive like new without a doubt.

A deal was struck, the car was mine,  
I now knew what to do with my time.  
Along with the car I discovered a club,  
Who would help me to learn a bolt from a lug.  
The Shade Tree A's has kept me in the know,  
And whenever there is trouble, "Help" call Monroe.

What fun we've had with many a ride,  
Miss Lucy, wagging her tail, there by my side.  
She thinks it's her car, is always ready to go,  
Thus the Phaeton has become "Lucy's Limo."  
A trip for ice cream with grands, Abby & Jay,  
Makes for our family – a happy day.  
Road trips to Abbeville & Hinesville went without a hitch,  
And this novice driver didn't even end up in a ditch.

With confidence then a drive to Hilton Head was made,  
To take part in the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.  
We've been to meetings, parties, and the Radisson at noon,  
And driven a bride and groom away on their honeymoon.  
Driving my Phaeton gives me pleasure with every mile,  
As do the greetings from passers-by who always wave and smile!

PS: The word, phaeton, comes from the Greek mythology figure, Phaeton, who was the son of Helios, the sun god. He borrowed his father's sun chariot and through careless driving would have set the world on fire had not Zeus struck him down with a thunderbolt. It now refers to an open automobile with front and back seats and a folding top, usually furnished with side curtains.

***Thanks, Shady A's!***

## 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.*

**Air.** Maintaining the correct air pressure ensures both good steering and longer tire life. However, adding air to the inner tubes of your Model A may be difficult. The inner tube may have a long rubber stem or the original metal valve stem, allowing the wire spoke wheel to interfere with the addition of air or checking air pressure. Bending the rubber valve stem outward to better access the valve is a common practice, but results in the valve stem being cut by the rim, often resulting in failure down the road. The inner tub with a short valve stem has not been manufactured for some time.

An additional problem is the shape of the part of the air filler chuck which contacts and pushed open the valve stem valve, called the poppet valve. This part may be too large to work easily with the poppet valve, making it difficult for the chuck to open the valve. The air filler chuck can be easily taken apart and the shape of the contact part of the chuck modified by filing, so that it better fits and opens the poppet valve.



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To easily add air to your inner tubes, you might consider purchasing a 90 degree valve extender, or a set of them. This is not a new invention, but is a newer version. The valve extender has a female threaded cap on one end which attaches to the tube valve stem. The other end has a male threaded end over which the air chuck fits. The valve extender may pivot while the threaded cap is loose so that you can position the extender to make the addition of air easier. If you decide to leave the extenders installed permanently, make sure they are tight. They may tend to loosen while driving. Tire pressure is affected by a variety of factors and should be checked once a month, and for accuracy, only when the tire is cold.





## **Classified Advertisements**

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

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