

# SHADE TREE A's

## NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Volume 44

Number 1



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### On the Cover

Shade Tree A's President Chuck Howell presents the 2016 Monroe Wade Award to Curtis Krosting (more on page 10).

## Shade Tree A's Model A Club



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



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**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**  
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## **OFF THE RUNNING BOARD**

*Kent Carruthers - President*

HAPPY NEW YEAR SHADE TREE A'S!

It is my hope that the New Year finds everyone in good health and good spirits. My guess is by the time this is published, we will have opened our year with the annual Cracker Barrel morning breakfast.

I am very excited about the upcoming year and hope with your assistance and patience we will have an outstanding year. I want to thank Chuck Howell for his exceptional service and efforts given over the past year. His leadership was responsible for continuing the outstanding opportunities which the Shade Tree A's offer; technical education, touring, fun and fellowship. Many thanks are offered to Chuck and Andrew Morris for planning and delivering a Christmas Party that truly was spectacular. The exposure to past preserved, as well as a wonderful dinner is worthy of our gratitude.

I look to everyone in the organization to share their views and ideas of what they would like to see start, continue, expand or cease in the function or operation of the Shade Tree A's. By offering your recommendations of past successes, failures or experiences, I hope to help coordinate a busy year of technical programs, tours, group tune-up sessions, and mechanical assistance. The wealth of information, experience and expertise in regards to Model A's is unrivaled. Please feel free to contact me via phone (706-962-2361) or email. I look forward to hearing from everyone and working with the old and new Board members to provide a full year of planned activities.

Stay tuned for a prosperous, happy and healthy New Year.



## MEETING MINUTES

*December 15, 2016*

*Jack Sheppard's Country Store*

*Recorded by: Kathy Poole - Secretary*

President Charles Howell called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM by welcoming all to the Shade Tree A's annual Christmas party. He thanked our host, Jack Sheppard, for graciously allowing us the use of his country store for this party. There were 60 plus attendees including 7 visitors.

Jim Dover, club humorist and story-teller, started off the get together with three light hearted stories.

The meeting was abbreviated; therefore no treasurer's report, minutes or national director's report were given.

Officers for 2017 were announced: Kent Carruthers, president; Mike Gordon, Vice President; Kathy Poole, secretary; Richard Dunevent, treasurer, and Matt Barrett, tour director.

Chuck thanked our nominating committee, Jim McPherson, Frank Knapp and Dan Perla for their due diligence.

This year's recipient of the Monroe Wade award is Curtis Krosting. Congratulations Curtis and well deserved.

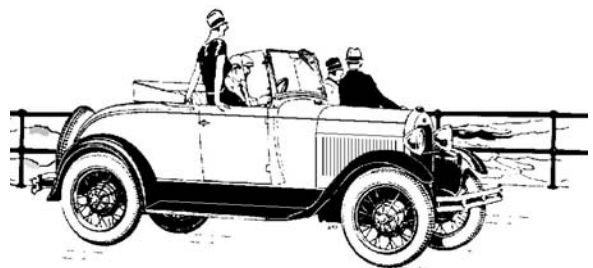
All members were reminded of the MARC/MAFCA scholarship award. Every one is asked to donate \$1 at the January meeting to this endeavor.

MARC Driving Award Program participants were reminded to turn in their mileage as of December 31, 2016 to Robbie Jones at the January meeting.

Per tradition, the Shade Tree A's will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the Cracker Barrel on I-20 and Jimmie Dyess Pkwy on New Years Day.

Chuck thanked one and all for contributing their time and talent to making this Christmas party a truly memorable event.

The party concluded with a poinsettia raffle, and Chuck's best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Club Calendar

#### January

- 1 Shade Tree A's New Years Day Breakfast, 8:00 AM, Cracker Barrel at I-20 and Belair Road (460 Park Way Drive, Grovetown, GA)
- 9 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – TBA)

#### February

- 13 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – TBA)

#### March

- 13 Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – TBA)

TBA - To Be Announced

### January Refreshments



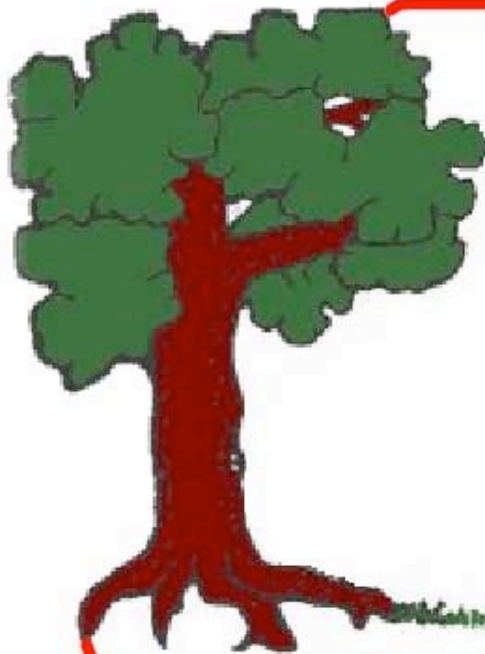
Dan Perla  
Larry Komp  
Jim & Sheila McPherson



### January Birthdays

- 7 Mary Griffin  
12 Frankie Dunevent  
14 Carrie Horner  
20 Leonard McCain  
24 Ed Griffin  
24 Sharon Stewart  
27 Marvin Vanover  
29 Heidi Carruthers  
31 Jack Horner  
31 Janet Neumar

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Shade Tree A's Member News

*Send items for Shade Tree A's Member News to:*  
[newsletter@ShadeTreeAs.org](mailto: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](mailto:vp@ShadeTreeAs.org) or 706-513-7619

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Years Day Breakfast



# *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Join the Shade Tree A's for our annual New Years Day breakfast at the Cracker Barrel near the I-20 and Belair Road interchange (460 Park Way Drive, Grovetown, GA). Be there by 8:00AM for good food and fellowship.



### MARC Driving Awards Program

If you are a participant in the MARC Driving Awards Program, please send your mileage (i.e. odometer reading) as of December 31, 2016 to the Shade Tree A's Driving Coordinator, Robbie Jones as soon as possible. Mileage must be reported to the national office by February 28, 2017 in order to be eligible for an award in 2017.

If you are a member of MARC and have never registered for the program and would like to participate, contact Robbie for a registration card at the following email address:

[drivingawards@shadetreeas.org](mailto:drivingawards@shadetreeas.org)

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

[www.modelaford.org/drivingawards.htm](http://www.modelaford.org/drivingawards.htm)



## RECENT EVENTS

### Gracewood Hospital and School Christmas Parade

*By Chuck Howell*

Ernie and Ann Dinkins, Richard and Frankie Dunevent, Gerald and Lois Melchoirs, Ralph Nietzke, John Newmar, Ralph Nietzke, Stuart Smith, my grandson (Josh Jr.) and myself participated in the Gracewood Christmas Parade. I drove Doug Wilson's 1931 Model A Coupe.

The event had a host of parade groups; Buffalo Soldier Motorcycle Riders, a marching band, JROTC Marine students, GasCar, Shade Tree A's Model A Club, and even Batman, Green Lantern, Spider-Man and Superman were there.

All were well received by the patients, staff, teachers and students of Gracewood State School and Hospital.





## RECENT EVENTS

### Shade Tree A's Christmas Party

A total of seventy-three Shade Tree A's members and their guests attended the Christmas Party. There was plenty of good food and great fellowship and the location couldn't be beat.



## RECENT EVENTS

### 2016 Monroe Wade Award

Congratulations to Curtis Krosting, this year's recipient of the Monroe Wade Award. The award was presented by Shade Tree A's President, Chuck Howell, at the Shade Tree A's Christmas Party. Chuck read the following citation prior to presenting the award:

The nominee selected for the 2016 Monroe Wade Award has been a member of the Shade Tree A's for eleven years. During that time he has driven his Model A to many National and Regional Meets throughout the southeast and mid-west, and participated in many local Model A events and parades. This person restored his own Model A, as well as other antique cars. He has participated in many Shade Tree A Club activities and has assisted others working on their Model A. The two activities he enjoys most are driving his Model A and helping others maintain a safe and reliable Model A. His grandchildren love his Model A and love riding in it with their grandpa. He has been a frequent presenter and participant in the STA Model A Tech sessions. It gives me great pleasure to name Curtis Krosting as the Monroe Wade Award recipient for 2016.



### Monroe Wade and the Shade Tree A's

New members might wonder who Monroe Wade was. Monroe was a man who loved Model A's and who loved the Shade Tree A's Club! A man you could **ALWAYS** depend on to help a fellow member regardless of the time or weather. Monroe worked hard for the Club and you could usually find him leading a tour or carrying in refreshments or door prizes that he had talked some local business into donating.

After restoring a 1930 Tudor that had belonged to his Mother, Monroe went on to restore a number of other A's. All of them were award-winning cars!

After his death in 2003, his wife Betty and his daughters, Deborah and Joyce, have continued to be active in the Club and to drive Monroe's beloved cars.

Monroe was a great friend and we miss his enthusiasm and his ability to make a Model A purr like a contented kitten.





## RECENT EVENTS

### Christmas Luncheon at Auto Tech

*By Chuck Howell*

Four Shade Tree A's members, Larry Duvall, Doug Wilson, Richard Dunevent and myself, attended the Christmas luncheon hosted by our Aiken Shade Tree A's members, Steve and Tina Young, at their business location, Auto Tech, Inc. in Aiken, South Carolina. We met fellow Shade Tree A's member, Art Towe, there as well.



### Crossroads Bar-B-Que

*By Chuck Howell*

The Shade Tree A's drove to Crossroads Bar-B-Que in Gibson, Georgia on December 17, 2016. Richard and Frankie Dunevent, Larry Duvall, Billy Garland, Abbie Prince, Stuart Smith, Doug Wilson and myself (and five Model A's) participated. The meal and fellowship was very good.





## 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.*

**The Battery.** Battery life in the Model A is viewed by many to be relatively short, one to two years. That is probably our fault. With the battery located under the floorboard it is out of sight and difficult to access. Regular maintenance extends the life of a battery, and with the location of the Model A battery it is just too easy to put off. Battery maintenance includes keeping the terminals clean and protected against corrosion. Even a small amount of corrosion can have a huge impact on the charging system's ability to recharge a battery. A prolonged undercharged condition dramatically reduces battery life. There are several ways to protect your battery from corrosion; felt impregnated rings that go under the battery terminals, a spray protectant and Vaseline are a few.

If your battery is in a drained condition, maybe from your Model A not being run in some time, use a battery charger at its lowest setting to bring it back to a full charge. Driving our Model A's for short trips with a drained battery, even if it starts, shortens the battery life. Charging a battery just enough to start the car is a bad idea because driving a car for short periods on a barely charged battery can shorten its life. You should fully charge the battery before taking a trip.

A battery maintainer is a good way to keep your battery at a full charge and extend its life. Use a battery maintainer if you are not going to drive your Model A for more than a month. Lead-acid batteries, like most of us use, lose up to 25 percent of their charge per month, even in warm weather and when disconnected from the car. A lead-acid battery at 70 degrees F self-discharges about 1 percent a day, so you can see how important it is to maintain your battery.



When purchasing a new battery, it is important to choose a battery with the cold cranking amps (CCA) specified for the Model A. A battery with higher or lower CCA may not perform as well and may actually have a shorter life span. It is very tempting to buy a new battery with higher CCA's, but it might not be in our best interest.

## TECHNICAL TOPICS

The newer, absorbent glass mat (AMG) batteries are designed to withstand deeper and more frequent discharge rates and cycles, such as a hard to start Model A or driving short distances. They have fiberglass mats between the battery plates to hold the electrolyte. Several Model A owners have switched to this type battery and are reporting battery life of 10-12 years. It is important to secure any battery in its battery box, and that is especially true with the AMG batteries. One important caution when using these batteries, you cannot charge them with a conventional 10 amp battery charger. The high amperage charge shorts out the battery inside. You can charge these batteries successfully with a battery maintainer. OPTIMA is one such brand.



### ★ ABSORBENT GLASS-MAT SEPARATORS

Holds electrolyte like a sponge  
to eliminate acid spilling.



And if you are in need of a jump-start, remember to connect the cables correctly for a safe start. Depending upon the ground of your vehicle, connect the positive cable clamp to the positive terminal on the dead vehicle and clamp on the other end to the positive battery terminal on the good vehicle. Then connect the negative cable clamp to the metal engine part far away from the dead battery before connecting the other clamp to the negative battery post on the good vehicle. Remove the cables in the reverse order. Let the dead vehicle battery charge for at least five minutes before you try starting.

## Classified Advertisements

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

## Paid Advertisements

**Mike's "A" Ford-able Parts**  
**Mike Butcher**  
  
 124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558  
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