

# SHADE TREE A's

## NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Volume 45

Number 3



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### On the Cover

Gerald Melchioris presents the February technical program on rebuilding Model A shock absorbers. Gerald described the entire process of rebuilding the shocks and gave many invaluable tips along the way. Thanks Gerald for a great technical discussion.

## 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, \$50 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

*Matt Barrett - President*

Hello fellow club members 🤪

I am so excited about the upcoming tours that your board has planned for you in March. There is also the St. Patrick's Day Parade that we will drive in as a club. If you have not participated in the parade before, you have missed a great time driving your car. The dates and times for these events are in last month's Newsletter. If you no longer have that letter, feel free to call me for this information. Be sure to get your car ready: change the oil if necessary, check your brakes and be sure that your radiator is working properly.

I spoke with the sales manager at Fairway Ford and we can display our Model A's at their store on Washington Road. All we have to do is call and set up a date and time. We will discuss this at the March meeting.

In April, our club has been invited to tour with the Washington, Ga. Antique Car Club to Jewel, Ga. to see an antique car collection and have lunch in downtown Warrenton, Ga. We will discuss this as well at the next meeting. Hope to see you at Richard's Garage on the 12th of March starting at 7:00 p.m.

This just in: I received an email from Dotti Shogren and the Aiken Model A Club will join us for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. We're excited to have them with us.

Best regards,  
Matt Barrett, President

## MEETING MINUTES

*February 12, 2018*

*Richard's Garage*

*Recorded by: Frank Knapp - Secretary*

The monthly meeting of the Shade Tree A's was held February 12, 2018 in the clubhouse meeting room at Richard Dunevent's garage. President Matt brought the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM. Twenty-eight members were in attendance.

Our "Name Tag Penalty Collection Cup" received three donations. Dan Perla, Jim Dover and Richard Dunevent all reluctantly made the appropriate contributions.

One guest, Skip Stewart, was recognized. Skip has been a member in the past and hopefully he will renew his membership and rejoin.

Jim Dover was once again called upon for his "Joke of the Month" but instead recalled a very interesting story concerning his "Hillbilly Relatives". Unfortunately, I could never recall all of their names as well as he did. I do remember an uncle named "Ben Dover", Ben's wife, "Ilene Dover" and Doctors Butcher and Cutter. Quite amusing.

President Matt encouraged the group to purchase raffle tickets for a set of tires to be given away at the MARC National meet to be held in Branson, Missouri this summer.

Under "Show & Tell" Abbie Prince passed around a very interesting box of antique tools. Unfortunately, no one was able to identify the set. Answer: They were used to "Form Babbitt" during engine rebuilds according to Abbie. Nice find!

*Continued on next page*

## MEETING MINUTES

*Continued*

No Treasurer's Report was given due to a "computer glitch". Richard promised a quick fix and a complete report in March.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the January Minutes as published in *The Newsletter*. That motion received a second and passed by unanimous vote.

No National Director or Newsletter Reports were given.

No items were discussed under Old Business.

Dan Perla noted that fifty-six members had renewed their membership by the deadline.

Under new Business, several events scheduled for March were discussed.

1. Our "Shake Down" tour to Aiken for lunch and a tour of Eric Shogren's Shop. Saturday, March 10th.
2. The St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, March 17th.
3. The annual "Picnic in the Park" Tour, March 24th.

Tour details were published in the February issue of *The Newsletter* and will also be included in the March edition.

On the technical side, Gerald Melchior provided an excellent program concerning the operation and restoration of the Model A "Houdaille" Shock absorbers. Everyone agrees our club is very fortunate to have Gerald share his expertise and experience in restoration techniques. Thanks Gerald for a job well done!

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM after which much Model A "Chit-Chat" could be heard as cookies and soft drinks provided by Robbie Jones and "Yours Truly" were enjoyed by all!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Frank Knapp, Secretary

### MONTHLY 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.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Club Calendar

#### March

- 10      Shade Tree A's Spring Shake-Down Cruise
- 12      Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – Video: *Model A Tour of the Ford Rouge Plant*)
- 15-17   Central Alabama Race Track Adventure
- 17      Saint Patrick's Day Parade
- 24      Palmetto A's Picnic in the Park, Lexington, SC

#### April

- 5-8      Charlotte Autofair
- 9      Shade Tree A's Meeting, 7:00 PM, Richard's garage  
(Technical Program – Andrew Morse will present a program on the mechanics of painting a car - how to actually lay the paint on the car)
- 13-14   Moultrie Swap Meet, Moultrie, GA
- 14      Tour to Jewel, GA with the Washington, GA Antique Car Club
- 20-22   Greenwood Swap Meet, Greenwood, SC
- 27-28   Spindale 2018 Hillclimb, Spindale, NC

#### May

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

TBA - To Be Announced

### March Refreshments



Gerald Melchiors  
Ernie Dinkins  
Ralph Neitzke  
Abbie Prince

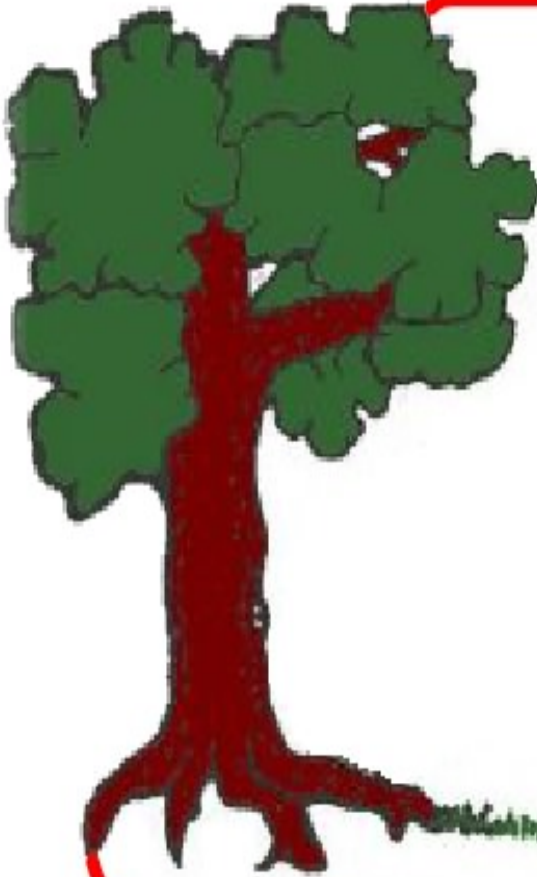


### March Birthdays

- 20      Dan Perla
- 21      Darrell Henderson
- 25      Curtis Krosting
- 29      Doug Wilson



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### **Shade Tree A's Member News**

- Jim McPherson is recovering from recent shoulder surgery.

*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

### Shade Tree A's Spring Shake-Down Cruise

Come join us for a chance to shake out the gremlins in your Model A before the primary touring season begins. We are going on an easy tour to Aiken, SC to visit Eric Shogren's Model A repair shop and have lunch at a popular Aiken location.

Date: March 10, 2018

Depart from: Carolina Pottery (old K-Mart) on Washington Rd, Martinez

Depart time: 11:00 AM

Purpose: Have a Model A day!



### Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall "The Wall That Heals"

The Shade Tree A's are going to visit "The Wall That Heals" on Saturday the April 28, 2017. The Wall will be setup in Lincolnton, GA April 26 through April 29. The plan is to leave from the Food Lion parking lot at the corner of Hereford Farm Road and Columbia Road at 11:00 AM and tour the scenic back roads to Lincolnton. The Wall will be on display at Curry Colvin Recreation Park, 1792 Rowland-York Road, Lincolnton, GA 30817. We will have lunch at a location to be determined. Here is a link to the Wall's website: <http://www.vvmf.org/twth> Hope to see you join us on this short tour.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Central Alabama Race Track Adventure**

You are invited to attend the Central Alabama Model "A" Ford club's Race Track Adventure March 15- 17, 2018. The 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 recently expanded museum and the opportunity to put your Model "A" Ford on the Motorsports track for several laps. For attendees who have never visited the Talladega Speedway an early bird option will be offered, a bus tour of the Talladega Speedway and a visit to the International Motor Sports Hall of Fame museum.

**THURSDAY March 15, 2018 (EARLY BIRD OPTION)** Arrival and check in at the motel Visit local antique stores looking for those great finds you just cannot do without. Prepare to visit the Talladega Super Speedway tour. The speedway track is 2.66 miles long with 33 degree bank turns, seats 175,000 peoples and cost 4 million dollars to build. The museum tour is a walking self-guided tour that takes approximately an hour to complete the three exhibit halls. A 12 seat bus leaves every 20 minutes for a tour of the track.

**FRIDAY March 16, 2018** Early bird option members depart for the Talladega Super Speedway. Other tour attendee's arrival and check in at the motel. Visit local antique stores looking for those great finds you just cannot do without. The fun will continue Friday evening with the welcome dinner at 6:00 p.m. with some good "ole" Model "A" fellowship, 50/50 drawing, picking and grinning with the Dan Nelson Players in Gerald Grizzard's Model "A" Ford Museum, 1 mile from the host motel.

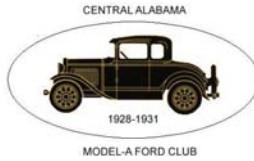
**SATURDAY March 17, 2018.** After breakfast 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. we will assemble in the parking lot of the Lone Star Restaurant (Across from the Motel), at 8:00 a.m. we will depart for the Barber Motorsports Museum and Track (To arrive by 9:30 a.m.) The trip to the Barber Complex will take about an hour and half along a scenic route provided in your packet. Upon arrive 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 take in front of the building.. 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 have lunch at Laney's restaurant in Leeds Alabama.

If you would like to tow your Model "A" Ford to the meet there is 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 Sleep Inn, must be made no later than February 15, 2018 in order to receive the group discounted rate of \$79.00 plus tax. Be sure to mention that that you are with the Central Alabama Model "A" Ford Club when making your reservations, Contact the Sleep Inn at (256) 831-2191, the address is 88 Colonial Drive, Oxford, Alabama.

Fire up Henry's Finest and join us in Oxford, Alabama. Registration form attached (next page, Ed.). If you need additional information: contact Gerald Grizzard: Office (256) 835-2998, or Cell: (256) 310-6463, Email: [Gfireman52@aol.com](mailto:Gfireman52@aol.com) or Paul M Majerick (334) 312-3029 email [paulmajerick@aol.com](mailto:paulmajerick@aol.com)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**MARCH 15-17, 2018**

## BARBER MOTORSPORTS AND EARLY BIRD TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Name of Guest(s):</b>			
<b>Street Address:</b>		<b>City:</b>		<b>Apt./Suite:</b>	
<b>Zip Code:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Cell Number:</b>		<b>Car Club:</b>			
<b>Year of Car:</b>	<b>Model of Car:</b>	<b>License No.:</b>	<b>Trailing: Y / N (Circle One)</b>	<b>Arrive: TH / FR / SA (Circle One)</b>	
<b>Auto Insurance Company:</b>		<b>Auto Insurance Policy Number:</b>			
<b>Event Registration:</b>		<b>Qty.:</b>	<b>@</b>	<b>Fee:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
Registration Fee:			@	\$10.00 (per car)	\$
Early Bird Option:			@		
Self-guided tour of the Talladega Speedway Museum and bus ride on the track. I WILL TAKE THE TOUR YES____ NO____			@	\$16.00 (per person) Museum tour & Bus ride around track	<b>SELF-PAY AT MUSEUM</b>
Friday – Welcome Dinner			@	\$15.00 (per person)	\$
Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum Tour (Museum tour and laps on the track).			@	\$20.00 (per person)	\$
Lunch at Laney's Restaurant (buffet, drink & dessert).			@	\$10.00 (per person)	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Refunds on a case by case basis)</b>					<b>\$</b>

Make your reservations directly with the Sleep Inn no later than February 15, 2018, by calling (256) 831-2191. Make sure you mention that you are with the Central Alabama Model "A" Ford Club to receive the group room rate of \$79.00 plus tax.

The signers below, agree to indemnify and hold harmless for any and all liability due to my attendance and participation in the 2018 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 your completed registration form and payment **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2018** to:  
BARBER MOTORSPORTS TOUR, 1309 Magnolia Curve, Montgomery, Alabama 36106-2010

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Picnic in the Park

#### Join the Shade Tree A's in 2018 for a tour to Picnic in the Park

On Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> we will tour to Lexington County, SC for lunch and Model A car games with other Model A Ford clubs. For those who would like to join us, we will meet for breakfast at 8 o'clock at the Sunrise Grill on Washington Road, near Carolina Pottery. We will depart at 9 o'clock for Lexington County, taking the backroads thru peach country. So pack a picnic lunch and join us. See the flyer below for additional information, or call Dan Perla (706-373-5730) or Jim McPherson (706-592-4835).



You are Invited to

The Palmetto As Model A Club's

23rd Annual

"Picnic in the Park"

Saluda Shoals Park Redbud Shelter

Saturday, March 24, 2018

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)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SPINDALE 2018 HILLCLIMB

#### Spindale, NC

**Friday & Saturday - April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Open to pre-1935 4-cylinder vehicles**

Classes for all **Model A, B, and Model T Fords, bone stock, modified and speedsters**

Other **pre-1935 4-banger** entries run for time only

**F.A.S.T. Southeast Rules Apply**

We start the weekend off on Friday morning with a tour of Rutherford County. On Saturday morning, the Thermal Belt Model A Club, in conjunction with F.A.S.T. Southeast, will conduct a Hill Climb on Callahan Koon Road.

**FRIDAY**

**10:00 am – Tours begin at hotel**

**SATURDAY**

**Inspection** – All competing entries must pass a technical inspection before allowed on the hill.

**9:00 am – Trial / Practice Runs** - Entries can run as many practice runs as time allows.

**12:00 noon – Break for lunch**

**1:00 pm – Official Timed Runs** - Each entry will have 2 runs and best time will be recorded.

**6:00 pm – Awards Banquet – To be determined.**

**HOST HOTEL** Baymont Inn & Suites, 164 Jameson Inn Drive, Forest City, NC 28043....828-287-8788

- \$74.00 plus tax. Mention you are with the [Model A Hill Climb](#).
- Rooms are blocked at the Hotel until April 12th. Make reservations early.

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**For additional information contact:**

**Jeff Hodge, Hill Climb Chairman**

**828-755-1498**

[ironcreekreunion@msn.com](mailto:ironcreekreunion@msn.com)

**Mark Hodge, Thermal Belt Model A Club**

**828-429-2766**

[mhodge6@bellsouth.net](mailto:mhodge6@bellsouth.net)

**Trailer Parking Available**

**Not Responsible for Accidents**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SPINDALE 2018 HILLCLIMB Spindale, NC - April 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

#### Registration Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Friday tours: 10 am - Tours begin at Hotel.

Free  
(Separate check for lunch)

Hill Climb Entry Fee – (List each Driver separately)

\$40 Entry Fee, FAST members \$10 discount

Driver 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driver 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Driver 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Banquet Reservations – Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Event Registration Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to:

F.A.S.T. Southeast

Forward with payment by no later than May 16<sup>th</sup> to:

Jeff Hodge  
 970 Old Caroleen Road  
 Forest City, NC 28043

I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless from any and all liability whatsoever due to my/our attendance and participation in this event all of the following: The state of North Carolina, The North Carolina Department of Transportation, The Model A Restorers Club (MARC), The Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA), F.A.S.T. Southeast, Thermal Belt Model A Club, the city of Spindale, Rutherford County NC, and the individual members of the forgoing organizations.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete the form on the back of this entry if you are running the HILL:**

Car Number (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

**RECENT EVENTS****2017 Shade Tree A's Economy Run**

Photos from the Shade Tree A's Economy Run held last year on International Model A Ford Day were published in the January-February issue of the *MARC Model A News*. In case you missed it, here are some of the photos that were in the magazine.

**Show and Tell**

Abbie Prince brought in these tools for show and tell at the February meeting. They are bearing scrapers for babbitt motor bearings.



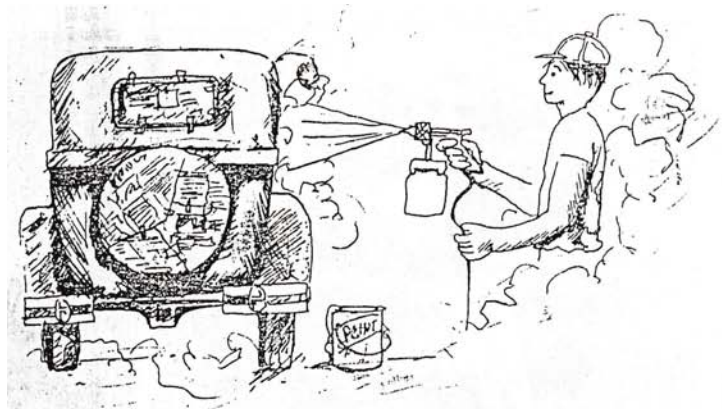


## THE SHADE TREE A'S – THIRTY YEARS AGO

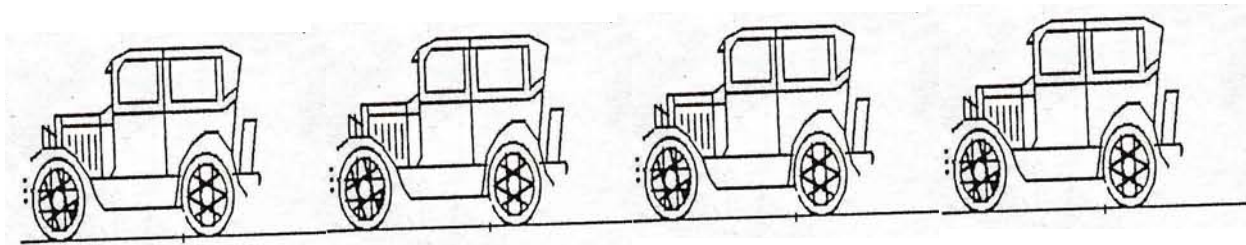


The 1985-2005 Shade Tree A's newsletters are now available on the Shade Tree A's website. They can be accessed via the same "button" as the other newsletters, but they are password protected. The same password used to access the member roster is used to access the newsletters. Thank you Dan Perla for scanning these and posting on the website.

The March 1988 issue of the Shade Tree A's Newsletter advertised newly improved rebuilt water pumps for sale for \$84. The water pumps had centerless ground stainless steel shafts and improved bearings to "keep that A cool during dog days".



Also in this issue was an article on the "SWAMPTHING". Also an answer to a trivia question was published. I'm not sure what the question was but the answer stated that a 103-year-old lady in Connecticut was the oldest person to purchase Ford stock when it first went public in the 1950's.



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## TECHNICAL TOPICS

*The following Technical Topics were provided by Bentley's Antique Auto Service.*

### Model A Q&A's

The shop is as full as always. Sometimes I have a tough time getting through the door in my wheelchair. But that's okay, I love the work and love to see all those classic cars. Here are some Questions and Answers from the last few weeks.

**Q: I am in the process of restoring my 1929 Briggs body Fordor. I'm having a tough time getting the doors to close properly. What's the trick?**

**A:** I wish there was a trick, it's really just a lot of hard work to get the body lined up properly on any Model A after it's been apart for paint. First make sure your frame is perfectly straight. You can check this with a long straight edge. The frames usually sag near the motor mounts. We usually start at the radiator and work our way back. Allow a couple of days and plenty of head scratching to get everything right. Here is an excellent article I found on the Internet: [www.abarnyard.com/workshop/door-1.htm](http://www.abarnyard.com/workshop/door-1.htm)

**Q: The speedometer on my 1930 Coupe is not working properly. Sometimes it just sweeps back and forth, and sometimes I get a loud screaming noise like the transmission is going to fall out or something.**

**A:** That sounds like your speedometer cable. You could probably fix it by dropping the instrument panel, then unscrew the cable from the back of the speedometer, then pull the center cable out of the housing. There are some special lubricants available, but regular axle grease will work just fine. Be careful, the cable is about 6 feet long so don't let it touch your upholstery. Slide the cable back down through the housing while coating it with a thin layer of grease. That should solve your problem.

## **TECHNICAL TOPICS**

**Q: Whenever I park my Model A in the garage overnight, my wife complains of the smell of gasoline. I always shut off the fuel valve, but it leaks a few drops anyway. What can I do?**

**A:** This is a very common problem with our beloved Model A's. The fuel system is a simple gravity flow design. This has been very reliable for the last 80+ years. The car is designed with 2 valves to stop fuel flow when the car is not running. #1 is the fuel valve under the gas tank. #2 is the float valve inside the carburetor. If you are leaking gas overnight, then both of these valves are probably leaking. There are rebuild kits available for the valve under the tank, but we always just replace them with a new one. Then replace the float valve inside the carburetor with an original style valve and you should be leak-free. Let me know.

**Q: I drive my 1931 Sport Coupe nearly year-round. We get lots of enjoyment out of it going to visit family, and I always drive it to coffee on Saturday morning. I keep having to replace the cork float on the fuel gauge. This is not a big job, but it seems like I have to do this every year. What's going wrong?**

**A:** I am glad you are enjoying your car. Wish everybody would drive them more. You are probably using regular fuel in your car. You can get by with this since you are driving it so often. The ethanol in the fuel is attacking your cork float. There are neoprene and brass floats available which will solve your problem. Try one next time you change your float. These will stand up to the ethanol in your fuel just fine. I recommend ethanol-free fuel.

## **Enjoy the Drive...**

## 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  
 email: [mike@mikes-afordable.com](mailto:mike@mikes-afordable.com) - [www.mikes-afordable.com](http://www.mikes-afordable.com)  
 Fax: 706 652 2492 - Phone: 706 652 3866  
 1 888 TRY MIKE (879 6453)  
  
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 Order Desk 800-422-1928  
 [www.snjparts.com](http://www.snjparts.com)

  
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**Allstate Insurance Company**  
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