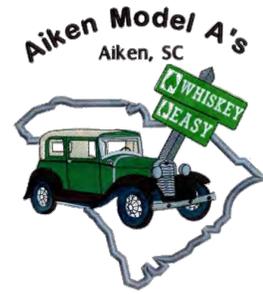


AIKEN MODEL A'S NEWSLETTER



Aiken Model A's Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America

September 2017

Fellowship at Cars and Coffee

Some 'new' Model A Fords were seen in the parking lot at Atlanta Bread Company on Saturday, August 19 when several members of the Old 96 District Model A Club joined the AMA's for Cars and Coffee. Our regular Saturday morning fellowship was elevated to a new level with the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones as well.

It was inspiring to have a fresh



brain-trust visiting; several plaguing Model A maintenance issues were discussed, and members from both clubs left with new wisdom.

Fred Clark, who has since joined the AMA's, also came to C and C that morning for the first

time. Fred and his wife Patti have retired to Aiken to enjoy the abundant equestrian opportunities. Fred's 1930 Roadster was in need of a little doctoring, and he had reached out via the AMA's web-page.

(Continued on page 2)



The Roberts' had their wonderful custom Panel Woody Delivery on display in front of Atlanta Bread Company on August 19th.

In This Issue

- Sept 30 Picnic/Map
- The Spark
- August Meeting Minutes
- For the Love of the A
- Famous MAFCA Member
- News from Nat'l Clubs
- "Death Wobble"
- Photo Essay
- Era Zippers
- Event Calendar



(Continued from page 1)

Naturally, our members responded and it's been reported that Fred's car is now running well.

A big welcome to the Clark's and a big thank you to the members of Old 96. We enjoyed meeting you and we hope you'll be back soon!



Richard and Susan Buff from Lexington, members of the Old 96 District Model A Club, were in route to meet up with their club members and the AMA's at the August 19th Cars and Coffee fellowship. A roadside technical seminar took place instead (see photo above) when their Model A decided to create a change of plans.

Susan later e-mailed Dotti with an update: "We have been getting the car ready for...upcoming tours with points and condenser and carburetor adjustments, so I'm glad we're getting the kinks out... We had members from both clubs looking out for us so we were in good hands. One thing is for sure, there is always help when you need it."

We missed having the Buff's with us, but are glad it all worked out. Susan, you summed it up well; Model A-ers are always going to be there for each other!



Our friends from 'Old 96' at Cars and Coffee

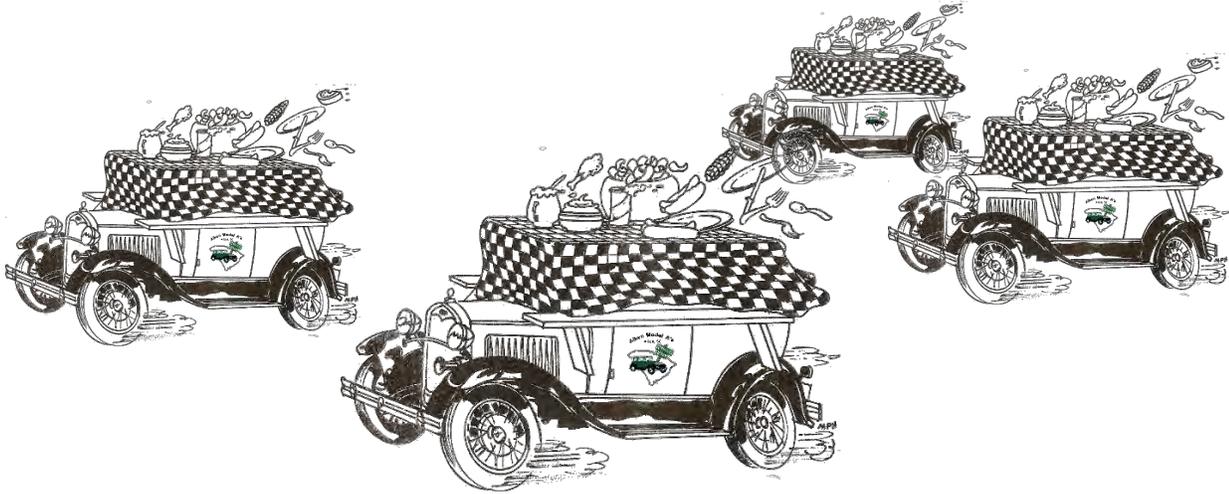
PICNIC REMINDER

Our club picnic is September 30th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Odell Weeks. Plan to drive your Model A and let's try to get as many Model A's on display as possible.

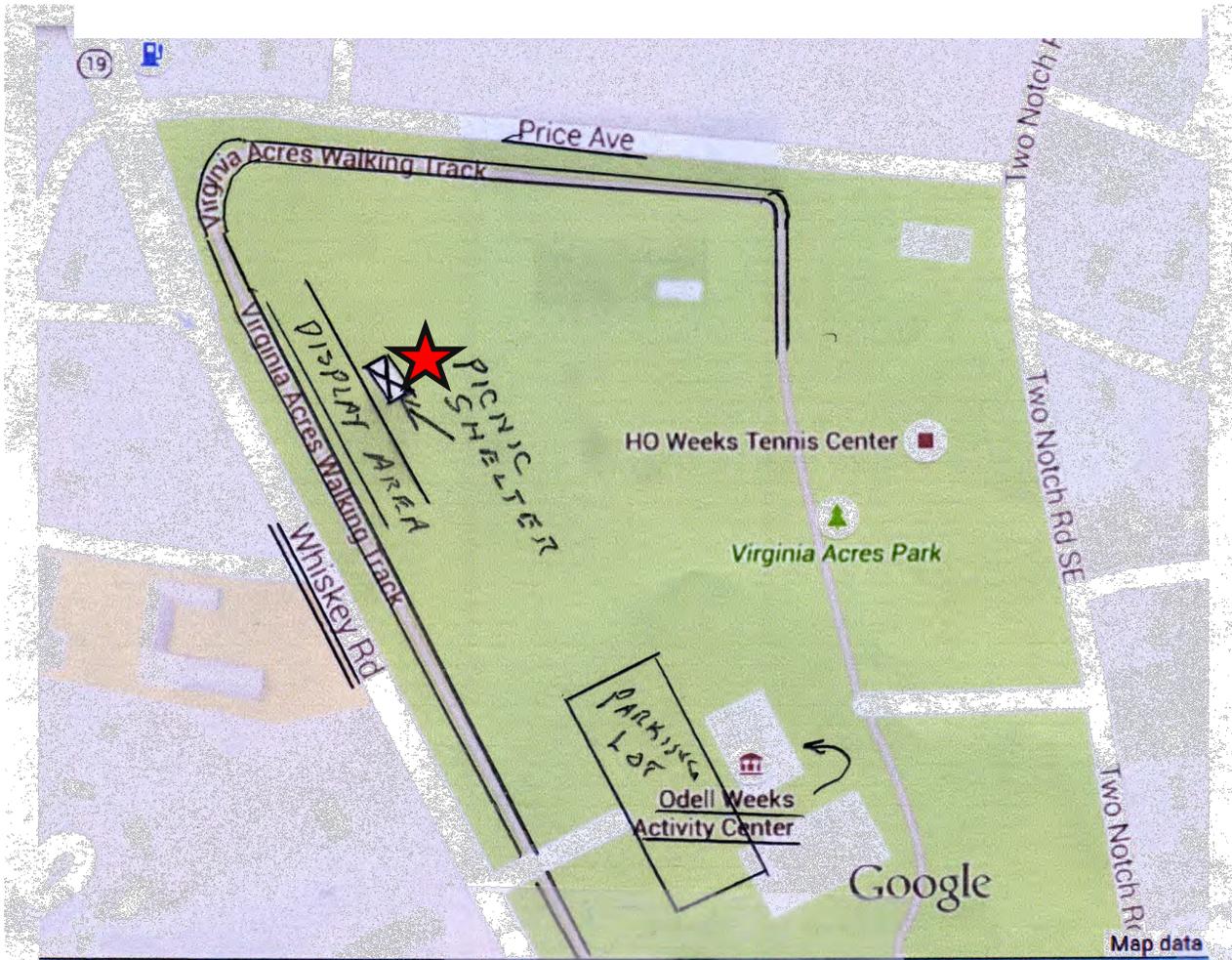
Larry and Cheryl Lamb are cooking for us again (yeah!!). Remember to bring a covered dish (with some food in it). If you want to do more to help out with our picnic, please contact Pat Roberts.

Please see map on page 3 for details.





**RACE to the
Aiken Model A's Picnic on September 30, 2017
Odell Weeks Activity Center, 11 am - 3 pm**



From Whiskey Road, turn in to the Odell Weeks Activity Center. Then turn left on the walking track. Walkers have the right of way!! Park on the right side, near the picnic shelter.

The Spark

Ken Bernacchi - President

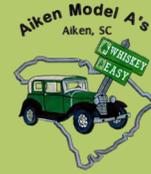
Things are “rolling on” and picking up speed here at the Aiken Model A’s. We have been invited to and/or scheduled for several activities this month, including our picnic at Odell Weeks Park on Whiskey Road. Please plan on attending our picnic. We would like a large turn out because we get a lot of exposure at Odell Weeks and it is a unique opportunity to meet others who share our passion for Model A’s. Our picnic will be held September 30th, from 11-3.

On September 6th (6-8 pm) our local SPCA has invited us to attend their “Hot Dogs and Hot Cars’ event. Registration is required. See me for further info. This should be a good chance for us to help a good cause and get a lot of exposure in a two hour period. See the ‘Yappy Hour’ flyer on page 5.

On September 16th, the Shade Tree A’s have asked us to join in on a mileage run/tour in celebration of International Model A Day. Hope to see you there.

Make sure you have a good ground, and drive carefully!

Ken Bernacchi
(803) 514-4647



AMA's Officers Fiscal Year 2017-2018

President - Ken Bernacchi
Vice President –
Rachel d'Entremont
Treasurer - Woody Malone
Secretary - Eric Shogren
Director at Large -
Dotti Shogren

Club Helpers

Webmaster - Pat Roberts
Parade Coordinator -
Tom Roberts
Membership Coordinator -
Pat Roberts
Program Coordinator -
Greg Jones
50/50 - Misty Hooker
Nat'l Rep - Bill Cox
Newsletter Editor -
Dotti Shogren

WEBSITE:

www.aikenAs.org

CONTACT US:

aikenmodelAs@gmail.com

MEETINGS:

The 1835 Room
Cumberland Village
3335 Wise Creek Lane
Aiken, SC
Monthly, First Tues. 7 P.M.
Guests Welcome

Have a hot car? Bring it to our car show!
Advance registration required. Spaces limited!
Email: Outreach@LetLoveLive.org



 **WED, SEPT. 6, 6 - 8PM**
199 WILLOW RUN RD, AIKEN SC

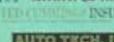
YAPPY

HOT DOGS & HOT CARS

HOUR

FREE ADMISSION!
CAR SHOW, CASH BAR, HOT DOGS, OPEN DOG PARK, LIVE MUSIC BY 4 CATS IN THE DOGHOUSE

Event Sponsors:   

Gold Sponsors:          

"The SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare has been caring for homeless dogs and cats for more than 80 years. We are a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we do not receive government funding, or any regular funding from national humane organizations such as the ASPCA or the Humane Society of the United States, completely separate organizations. To continue our important life-saving work, we rely solely on sales from our Thrift Shop locations, support from businesses in our community, and from special people like you. Every donation enables us to help the many animals in our care, and support the programs we provide to the community." letlovelive.org

Don't forget.. 12th Annual
ALL Model A & Model T
SWAP MEET & PEOPLE'S CHOICE CAR SHOW
at
Smith & Jones Antique Auto Parts
60 Wisconsin St. West Columbia, SC



sponsored by
Palmetto A's of South Carolina



Friday, September 8, 2017 8am to 5pm Swap Meet
Saturday, September 9, 2017 8am to 3pm Swap Meet & Car Show
Vendor Space: Early registration: \$15/one day \$25/two days \$20/\$30 at the gate.
Car Corral: \$10 for two days
Palmetto A Members - Free Vendor Space
\$2 Door Prize Tickets Food Concession 50/50
Contact: Dick Fraser
dickfraser@earthlink.net 803-622-7582

Shade Tree A's

Celebrate



With an

Invitational *Fuel Economy* Tour Saturday September 16th, 2017

Please note:
Registration deadline
has passed however,
you can call Kent
Carruthers, STA
president (see
number below) and
ask if there's still time
to join the tour. Don't
be left out of a great
event!

Activities:

Saturday morning centralized start at Evans Towne Center Park – 10:00 a.m.
Country side tour of back roads and bridges, approximately 90 miles
Top off gas tanks at Pollard's Corner gas station for calculations
Catered lunch at [Below Dam South Carolina Recreation Area](#), South Carolina.
Winning vehicle awards and presentations

Tour includes:

2017 MAFCA International Model A Day Patch
Choice of Ham or Turkey catered lunch by Jason's Deli
Chance to log approximately 90 miles for MAFCA's 100,000 mile day!
Car Classifications
\$25 Cash Prizes
Bragging Rights

Details:

Shade Tree A Members – donation \$7.50
Visiting Club Members – donation \$15.00
Please return the attached confirmation with payment prior to August 15 to:

Kent Carruthers
6942 Moontown Dr. E.
Appling, GA 30802
706-564-7304

Lodging opportunities can be provided upon request

Nothing could be finer than touring in a
Model A with other MAFCA Members

Thoughts from the Editor

Dotti Shogren

The September 2017 issue is packed full - much like last month. I didn't set out to do that again this month, but I was having so much fun on www.shorpy.com that I just had to share some vintage photos with you from that website. I hope you enjoy the tongue-in-cheek 'story' I put together, starting on page 18.

Adding to the size of this

edition are several flyers for September events. There's a great many web links in this issue as well. If the link won't open the first time you click on it, try, try again. It may help to highlight the text and then click.

I know this leaves those of you who read this newsletter as a print issue at a disadvantage. I do apologize. I uncover so many fascinating and educational articles when I'm researching monthly content, that I can't restrain my enthusiasm to share it ALL.

If you do have trouble with a link, let me know.

Thank you to Sheila, for the photos that captured the fun of the morning fellowship on August 19th, and the Buff's roadside tech seminar.

Finally, a shout out to the Clarks, our newest AMA's members. Welcome Fred and Patti!

I hope you all enjoy this issue...because I'm typed out. Next month, I might just have to take a sabbatical. (Only kidding...)



Privacy concerns....from the editor

In this age of social media, preserving one's privacy is next to impossible. Individual tolerance for "connection" when it comes to Facebook and other social outlets, is as varied as are people. What's "innocent fun" for a person who posts can feel like an intrusion to someone else with "elevated privacy filters."

As the editor, I no longer give specifics about health issues, and I try to be aware of any personal information that is put in print. That is why the birth of grandchildren hasn't been mentioned and birth days aren't published (only the month). The question becomes, "How much is too much?"

It would be a pretty sterile newsletter if there were no photographs identifying our members, or of our events and especially our occasional "bloopers." Seeing each other's names in the newsletter helps grow recognition and friendships, and gives us a basis to get to know our new members.

However, if you are sensitive to something in the newsletter, let me know. It will be good information to have as we go forward, and could present some good talking points in a club meeting. If there needs to be more structure to our newsletter privacy let's get it on the table.

Dotti

Meeting Minutes
Aiken Model A's
(AMA's)
August 1, 2017
Cumberland Village
1835 Room

President Ken called the meeting to order. He noted that due to family health issues, this was the first meeting he had been able to preside over since his election. Ken called for a motion to accept the June 2017 meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Reports Treasurer Woody said he intended to follow up with his accountant to see if there were any additional filings with the IRS that were required for the club. Vice-President Rachel reported that Tom (Parade Coordinator) and Pat (Webmaster & Membership Coordinator) Robert's were not feeling well and thus absent, but that Pat wanted to remind everyone of the upcoming club picnic on September 30th at Odell Weeks. Bill Cox, National Director, reported that the next club events report for *The Restorer* had been submitted.

Old business The 50/50 drawing was discussed and since participation is voluntary the consensus was that it was a good thing to continue. During last month's meeting, the possibility of selling the club's 10' x 30' tent was discussed. It was reported that Tom Robert's had approached another Model A club in the area, but there was no interest.

The topic of buying Model A "how to" DVD's for the club was revisited. Greg Jones stated that he would catalog any DVD's that members would be willing to share. Once that inventory has been compiled, it was suggested that the information be posted on the "members only" section of our website. The club could then consider buying other DVD's to "fill the gaps."

Bill Cox, the Youth Committee chair, reported the Committee's plan is to contact two named Aiken teachers after school starts, and arrange a meeting to discuss how the AMA's could help the schools kick off a Model A youth program.

Under new business, Ken brought up that there used to be a local United Way

sponsored car show. Ken shared his feelings that participating in similar events would be a good membership recruiting opportunity. Woody Malone, who's office is close to the United Way office, will follow up with them to see if that is an event they are planning to hold again.

Everyone was reminded about Saturday's short tour that will wind up at Atlanta Bread Company.

For "Show and Tell" Eric passed around a Felpro 35614 gasket. He explained that while designed for use in modern cars, it also works very well in Quail radiator caps. The rubber gasket is the proper diameter and slightly thicker than the replacement gasket available from Model A parts suppliers. The advantage with the thicker gasket is that it provides a better seal.

The meeting was adjourned and Rachel provided a presentation on buying and selling on the eBay and Etsy websites.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Shogren, secretary

TINY TIPS

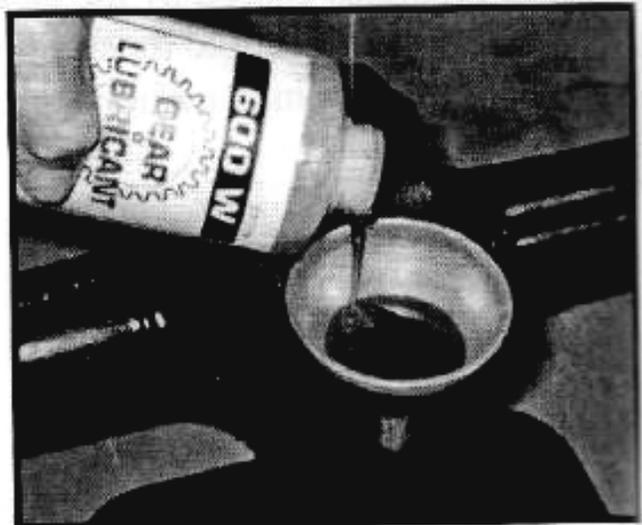
MODEL A CAPACITIES - 600W OIL

Having just completed rebuilding the running gear portion of my current Model A project, I needed to procure 600W oil for the differential, transmission, and steering box. So off I went to hit the books to determine just how much I should buy. Much to my consternation, I found a number of opinions as to how much 600W I needed for the differential. The following sources offered a variety of information:

- Ford Service Bulletins, page 227 = 1 1/2 pts.
- Model A Ford Service Bulletins. page 375 = 1 1/2 qts. (obviously a typo).
- Model A Miseries & Cures. page 99 = 1 1/2 pts.
- How To Restore Your Model A, Vol 5, page 10 = 2 1/4 pts.
- Model A Mechanics Handbook, page iv = 2 1/4 pts.
- How To Restore Your Model A, Vol 2, page 17 = "up to and not above filler hole."

Undaunted by the diversity of opinions. I decided the last one listed above was the best course of action. It also agreed with my recollection of what we did when I was employed at a gas station 50 years ago.

My finding, when I filled the complete empty differential, shown in the accompanying photo, was that it took exactly one quart bottle or 2 pts. of 600W oil to reach the level of the filler hole.



Submitted by Norm Rowe, Oakhurst, California

Reprinted with permission of MAFCA. From chapter newsletter editor's email, August 2017



Eric and his passenger

For the Love of the 'A'

The phone rang at the Shogren's residence about 8 p.m. and the caller I.D. indicated it was an acquaintance not spoken with in many years. The caller needed a favor; transportation for a friend-of-a-friend's father to ride to an anniversary dinner in a Model A Ford.

Unbeknownst to a 90 year old gentleman, the occasion of his 70th wedding anniversary would not pass unnoticed. His children wanted to take him out for a special dinner, even though their mother is in memory-care and unable to participate. Riding to dinner in a Model A would be a special way to start the evening since dad used to own a Model A.

Once all these details came to light, of course Eric knew in his heart, there was only one answer. The following evening, it was Eric's honor to drive the few miles to the gentleman's home, load up the collaborators and their father, and deliver his passengers to a restaurant in downtown Aiken. Eric even donned his tuxedo for the event!

Many club members, Eric included, feel that it is a privilege and a responsibility to generate good-will by sharing the experience of a Model A Ford.

Jim's technical tip

by Jim Cannon, MAFCA Technical Director



Adding Oil to Your Differential

Trying to add oil to your differential is not easy. The thick 600W gear oil that we use makes it even harder. Look for one of these "Gear Oil Spouts" in your local auto parts store, Wal-Mart, etc. They screw on to the bottle of 600W oil that you can buy from our Model A parts vendors, and allow you to hold the bottle up above the differential fill hole. Once the oil starts to flow down the tube, you can squeeze the bottle gently to help the thick oil along. It can also help you put oil into the transmission fill hole from under the car (without having to remove the floorboards). When you are done with it, leave the tube on the bottle and the thick oil will drain back in with no mess.

Reprinted with permission of *The Restorer*, July/August 1989

COVER STORY

MAFCA member Andy Griffith

by Fred Carlton, editor

'The actor inside the car has won five Emmys for Best Supporting Actor in a comedy series . . . the man outside the car has never won anything. However, he owns the car.'

Thus began a letter to the editor of *The Restorer*. What caught the editor's eye was not only the readily recognizable faces in the photo, but the letterhead upon which the letter was sent. It read, "Law Offices, Benjamin L. Matlock" and was signed "Ben Matlock."

The letter went on to say that the 1930 Cabriolet was a gift to "the man with his foot on the running board" by none other than Bill Harrah of Reno, Nevada.

Andy Griffith, aka Ben Matlock, aka Sherriff Andy Taylor, aka "Deacon" Andy Griffith, has been a dues paying member of MAFCA for several years and the editor had heard that if Andy's copy of *The Restorer* was a few days late, the office staff in La Habra would receive a call from Andy wanting to know where it was . . . apparently we have a mutual admiration society; we've long been a fan of Andy's work, and he of ours.

In a telephone interview Andy confirmed that the car had in fact been a gift by Bill Harrah. As Andy put it, "Bill would have his headliner over to his mansion at Tahoe for dinner and after the meal Bill asked me if I wanted to see his car collection. Of course I did and he proceeded to show me through several warehouses full of classic cars; there must have been 500 of them. Later I asked Bill's wife whether he would sell me a Model A and she said, 'why don't you ask him yourself; he's standing right behind you.' I mentioned that I liked a Cabriolet he had shown me and as it turned out about a year later I was on the set of the Andy Griffith show and someone told me I had a visitor.

"I walked outside and there stood Bill standing beside this Cabriolet with a big grin on his face and said, 'this is for you.'

"I said, I don't know what to say, and he said, 'how about thanks.'"

Andy's love affair with the Model A developed from having grown up in a small furniture factory/mill town in North Carolina where both he and his father worked for the furniture factory (Andy started there at age 16).

"Most of the cars in Mt. Airy were Fords and Chevys, but we didn't have a car. I couldn't drive until I was 23. I took a friend's '41 Chevy Coupe out on a dirt road trying to learn how to drive and was so frightened when I met an oncoming car that I took to the wrong side of the road . . . in fact I went all the way to the left and into a deep ditch. To this day I still can't parallel park.

"My personal involvement with Model A's really began when we were on the set one day and I noticed a Model A Coupe parked outside. I asked whose car it was and was told that Jim Nabors (who was then doing the Gomer Pyle show) had bought it as a gift for Carol Burnett. I remarked, why not give it to me, I gave him his job. My manager overheard that comment and bought me a Tudor for Christmas."

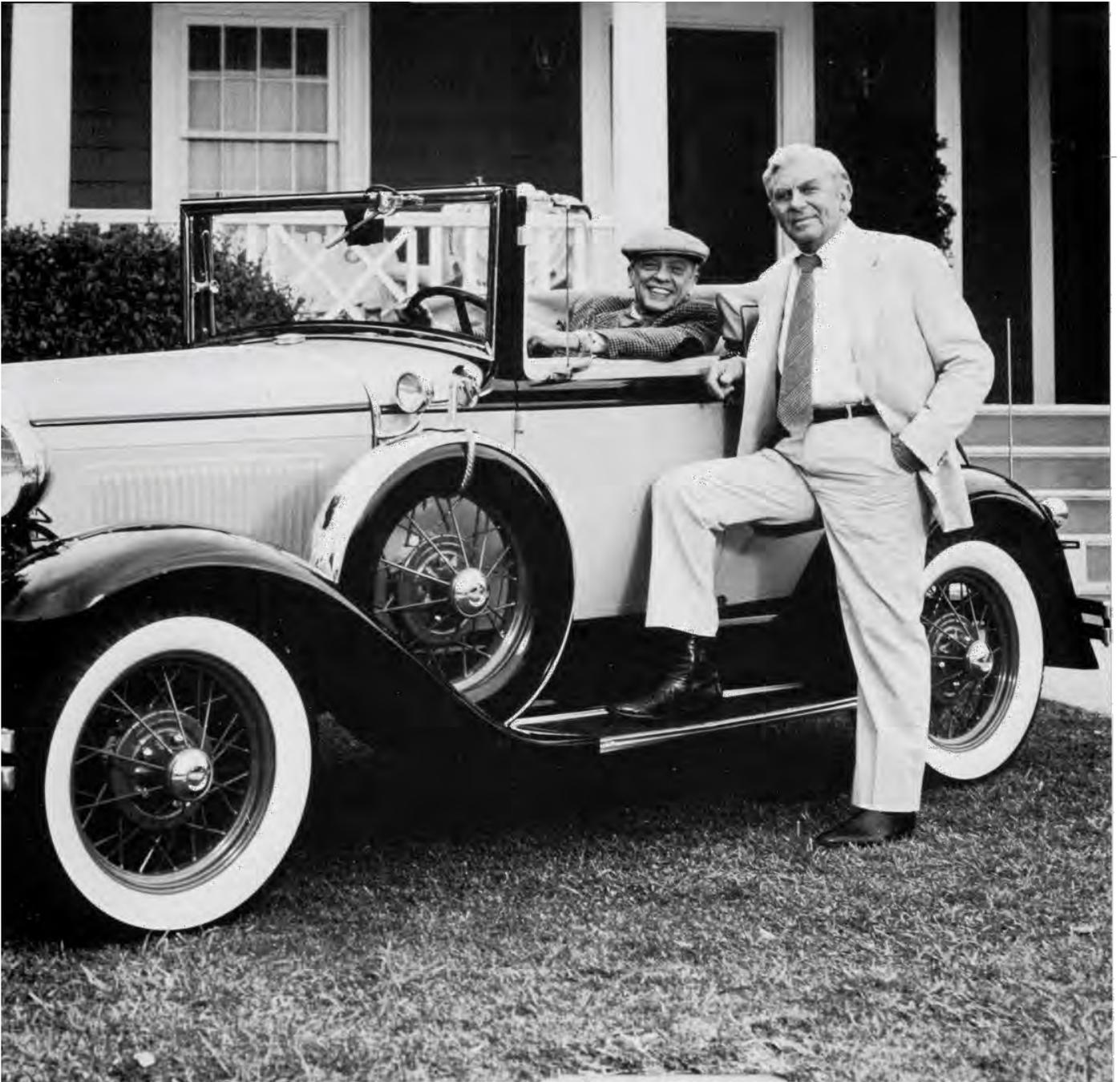
Andy has had the '30 Cabriolet pictured here since 1970, a '31 A-400 Convertible Sedan, and a '28 Phaeton. His non-Model A's include a '34 Pickup, a '38 Buick Convertible Special Coupe, and a '46 Ford Woodie.

This is the Cabriolet's second restoration and Andy readily admits it is his favorite and he wouldn't take *anything* for it.

When asked about the antenna on the rear of the Cabriolet, he indicated that a friend had helped him search through many swap meets to locate an original radio dial and then built a totally self-contained transistor radio for the car and mounted it under the gastank. They had first tried mounting the antenna under the runningboard but found the reception unacceptable. With the antenna mounted on the rear of the car, the radio works "like a charm."

Andy admits entering show business because he had been a school teacher and "I didn't like it and wasn't very good at it." He started as a standup comic by addressing local civic clubs and had written a story





about "a country fella's first experience at a football game."

"Someone in the audience came up and said he had a small record label and wanted me to record the story. It was 'What It Was Was Football' and Capitol Records bought it and it sold a million copies. They put my name on the label as 'Deacon Andy Griffith' and that stuck with me for years.

"I appeared in 'No Time For Sergeants' on TV in the U.S. Steel Hour,

then did it on Broadway; then made the movie. Later came the movie 'Onionhead,' a Broadway play called 'Destry,' and finally television. I did a pilot of the Andy Griffith (Mayberry) Show and got a call from Don Knotts who saw it and wanted to be in it with me. That show ran for eight years, followed by Mayberry R.F.D., and now I'm doing Matlock."

Andy's career has had two major interruptions: he broke his back about 10 years ago and more recently

overcame a bout with Guillain-Barre' Syndrome, a form of crippling paralysis similar to polio.

While he admits the Matlock series should keep him busy for probably two more years, he has no plans to retire.

"I'm going to keep on working as long as I'm able," he says. "And I plan to keep tinkering with Model A's."

Editor's note: I hope this issue gets to North Carolina on time.

News from MAFCA



To get to the MAFCA home page, [click here.](#)

To read the latest from Happy Begg, the 2017 MAFCA President, [click here.](#)

To read the latest MAFCA Board Meeting highlights, [click here.](#)

Renew Your Membership Today!

~Membership Benefits~

- Technical Support (free via mail or email)
- The *Restorer* magazine (6 issues per year)
- MAFCA Chartered Chapters in your local area
- National Meets
- National Banquets - National Tours
- MAFCA also produces publications for sale including:
Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards
Paint and Finish Guide
Hardware Standards
A series of publications on How to Restore Your Model A
Era Fashion Guidelines
A number of other publications related to the Model A Ford and its era

[CLICK HERE to RENEW NOW](#)

TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Technical articles are published in almost every issue of *The Restorer* to help Model A owners maintain and restore our vehicles.



These articles are written by MAFCA members and others and are in plain language so that readers can follow the information easily.

Click on the image at left to preview an excerpt from a technical article published in the current issue of *The Restorer*.

Help Support the Future of the Hobby
Call 626-375-1367 to Order Your Tickets

WIN! WIN! WIN!
1928 Model A Ford Phaeton
(Fully Restored)

Pasadena High School Model A Ford Club

\$100 per ticket
Only 750 tickets sold.

Tax Deductible...The Up & Coming Foundation
1968 Lake Ave, Ste. 101 Alladena Ca. 91001
626-375-1367

First 250 get a bonus entry.
Winner need not be present

001

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____

001

You can help support Model A Ford youth through the purchase of a raffle ticket. Win a 1928 Model A Ford Phaeton.

To place your ticket order contact the Pasadena High School Model A Club at 626-375-1367.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

2017 MAFCA Election

Each year MAFCA hold its election for directors. In even numbered years we elect five directors and odd numbered years four. This year we had four members throw their hats into the ring.

Because the number of candidates equaled the number of vacancies, the Board of Directors voted to declare those persons nominated elected to serve beginning at the installation banquet in December.



100K in a Model A
Join the MAFCA Challenge

A challenge to our members

Let's drive 100K miles in one day

*Free to all MAFCA members
Between January 1 and October 31
You choose the day
You choose the route
You drive your Model A's*



Send reported mileage to: 100K@mafca.com

For reporting form or more information visit us at:
<http://www.mafca.com/100kChallenge.html>

Recent reports are it's nip and tuck if we will meet this challenge. Be sure to get you and your chapters mileage reported.

Model A Ford Club of America
2018 Membership Renewal

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



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

U.S. Membership \$50.00 International Membership (U.S. Currency) \$70.00

Canada/Mexico Membership (U.S. Currency) \$60.00 International Membership Digital Edition only \$50.00

A valid email address is required for the Electronic Link - Please print carefully below

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

Are you a member of a MAFCA chapter? Yes No Name of primary chapter: _____

MAFCA does not issue refunds
Please return this form with payment to: MAFCA

ERIC & DOROTHY SHOGREN
1929 COTTONWOOD DR
AIKEN SC 29803-5784

T13 P1
2468

Change of Address

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Phone: _____

MEMBERSHIP # ← Your # appears here

The actual card is yellow, and will come in an envelope with other materials from MAFCA.

MAFCA members will be receiving, or may already have received, the 2018 renewal notice. It is not due until December 31, 2017, but it helps MAFCA tremendously if you'll renew as soon as you can. Mail the

yellow card and payment, or renew online at www.mafca.com

When renewing online, you will need your MAFCA membership number, found on the lower left corner of your renewal card, or on the mailing label of *The Restorer* magazine.

The Aiken Model A's do **not** collect your MAFCA dues, only your AMA's club dues. Mail your MAFCA renewal dues directly to MAFCA or renew on-line.



News from the Model A Restorers Club



To get to the MARC home page, [click here](#).

The National Meet will be in June of 2018 in Branson, Missouri. Branson is rich in natural scenic resources as well as shows, fine restaurants and three nice nearby lakes. We have tentatively reserved a huge hotel with near 700 rooms available and some 400+ more close by with some nice economy hotels within a mile of the host hotel. Traffic is ideal for our hobby and there are loads of amenities offering us all the things that are important for a good summer meet.



News from MAFFI

To get to the MAFFI home page
[click here.](#)



MAFFI Newsletter Minute

We are in the last minute preparations for Model A Day, Sept. 16, 2017 and hope that many of you have made your plans to attend. In addition to the new displays in the museum, a 1931 Standrive Milk Truck, a right hand drive Phaeton produced in England, and a Russian built GAZ engine inside the museum we will have a couple of interesting and rare vehicles outside the museum (weather permitting). This year's technical seminars will be on Front End Assembly and Repair, Installing a Cell Phone Power Outlet in 6 volt Model A, Roadside Trouble shooting, Model A Accessories and for the ladies, a fashion seminar "Vintage in Style; From Pouch to Purse". (There is a small charge of \$5/person for each seminar.) Last but not least is the all-day swap meet and the membership meeting and Hall of Fame ceremony!! Don't forget to bring your MAFFI membership card for free admission to the museum.

Thank you for your continued support of the Model A Ford Museum.

Loukie Smith

MAFFI president

7th Annual Model A Day

Swap Meet

Fashion, Seminars, Food and Fun!

September 16th 2017 9-5pm

The Gilmore Car Museum
6865 W. Hickory Road
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Technical Seminars, Fashion, Hall of Fame Induction

GENUINE FORD PARTS AUTHORIZED FORD DEALER FORD AUTHORIZED SERVICE

Hotel Info: Four Points Sheraton, 3600 E. Gork St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49001 269.385.3922

For more Info 810-798-8803 Lou Ironside
 For Swap Reservations and information
 Ken Elrenhofer 630-697-3906 or Mark Maron 847-302-7900

CLICK FLYER FOR WEB PAGE

Causes and Fixes For Death Wobble in the Model A Ford

By Howard Eckstein, Orem, Utah

Have you ever driven over a pothole or train tracks and immediately after experienced the shaking of the front wheels? Your steering column transmits the convulsions up to your hands and you know that something is very wrong.

Front end shimmy is sometimes called "Death Wobble." This is a serious safety issue and one that must be addressed by the owner of a car beset with the malady. What are the causes of this dangerous front end shimmy and how do we get rid of it?

The leading cause of death wobble is looseness in the tie rod ends. Wear in the other components of the steering system and incorrect front alignment can contribute to the severity of the symptoms.

Tie Rod and Drag Link Ends

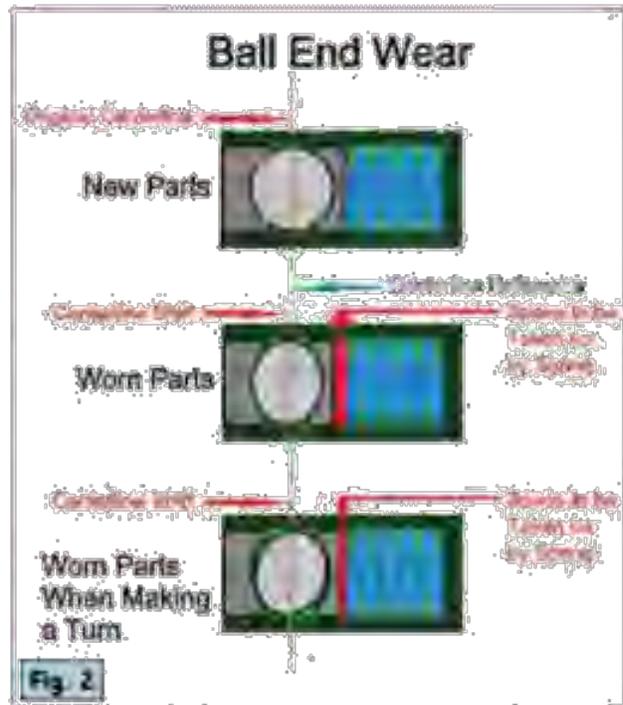
There are four steering balls used in the Model A. Two on the driver's side steering arm, one on the passenger's side steering arm, and one on the Pitman Arm. Over time these become eye-shaped. See Fig 1.



Each steering ball is part of an assembly consisting of two cups and a spring. As the ball and cup assembly wears, the ball becomes eye-shaped; the spring relaxes to fill the space and subsequently loses some of its force.

Deformation of the tie rod balls results in shifting their centerlines in the cups changing the toe-in adjustment. See Fig 2.

With weak springs in the tie rod ends, when you encounter a pothole or train track, the wheel is forced out of its line and the steering ball is jammed against the spring. When the spring compresses, it rebounds and transfers some of the force to the ball on the opposite end of the tie rod causing that spring to compress too, throwing the opposite wheel out of line and setting up an oscillation making the wheels shimmy. This wobbling will continue until the energy put into the system is removed by slowing down the car.



The easiest ball to fix is on the pitman arm. Just order a new arm. For the steering arms, you can order rebuilt units from a catalog. If you're handy, you just remove them from the spindles, grind off the old worn balls, drill a 1/8 inch hole and install replacement ball studs and weld them in place. Then install new cups and springs in the tie rod and drag link end sockets. By tightening the outer cups to 25 foot pounds, the springs will be sufficiently compressed to overcome the forces they are exposed to when the wheel is wrenched out of line by road conditions.

Let's take a look at other parts of the steering system where looseness can exacerbate the wobble.

King Pin Bushings

Over time king pin bushings wear out causing the spindles to sag and diminish proper camber, thus allowing the front wheels to wander. Check for king pin bushing wear by grabbing the top of the wheel and moving it in and out. Have someone watch the brake backing plate's movement in reference to the axle. If movement is seen, the cure is to replace the king pins and bushings. A reamer is necessary to do the job right.

Wishbone Socket

If the socket at the bottom of the bell housing is worn or the assembly springs there are weak, the wishbone ball is not held securely and caster can be compromised. In this case, it is an easy fix to replace the socket parts. Even if the wishbone ball is a little eye-shaped, new socket parts will hold it steady when properly installed.

Wheel Bearing Adjustment

Improper wheel bearing preload allows the drum to wander off center in relation to the spindle, further compromising camber.

Wheel Balance

Out of balance tires set up a harmonic with the other parts of the steering system which become evident at specific road speeds. You'll feel vibration come and go in cycles as you go down the road. Most shops can balance your wheels using stick-on weights. Another method of wheel balance is to install the tiny beads you can put down the valve stem into the tube. The little beads then find their proper place inside the tire when rolling and smooth out the ride.

The Steering Box

As the parts of the steering box wear out, considerable play is noticed at the steering wheel. When properly adjusted, steering wheel play should be no more than about an inch.



The main cause of wear of the steering box bearings and gears is a history of poor lubrication. In the 80+ years of its life, you can safely bet the oil had run out through sloppy sector bushings more than once with periods where the car was driven with the box dry. See Fig 3.

Not only do the bushings wear, but the sector shaft also wears, doubling the space where the oil can escape as shown in Fig 4.

The teeth of the sector take on a wear pattern as they rub against the worm gear as shown in Fig 5.

The area of wear on the sector is smaller than that on the worm. Wear is spread over a larger area of the worm as it moves past the teeth of the sector. Consequently the sector always has the most amount of wear. In making a repair where the sector is to be replaced, it may not be necessary to replace the worm; which would save a lot of expense and trouble. The same principles apply to the seven-tooth steering box.



Fig. 4

Scoring in bushing areas on Sector Shaft



Fig. 5

Wear Pattern on Sector teeth

New parts to repair the steering box are available through the various parts catalogs. Instructions for rebuilding and adjusting the boxes can be found in several publications such as

Victor W. Page's

Model A Ford -Construction -Operation -Repair for the Restorer,
Post-Era Books rev.1973, pp 417-446.

In Conclusion

The oscillation of the little springs in the tie rod ends is the main cause of wheel shimmy. They must be tight to prevent any play. The other items mentioned can make the condition worse and it is important to have them up to snuff.

If you think your wobbling front end is not that bad and within the limits of your control, have someone drive your car while you ride alongside in another and watch your Model A's front wheels. You will be horrified by what you see. With the replacement parts available on the market today, you can enjoy a solid stable ride. When you get rid of the wobble, you'll be led to exclaim: "Wow, these cars must have been really nice when they were new!"

This article was reprinted with permission from *The Restorer* magazine, July/August 2015

Labor Day and the AMA's Season Kick-Off

Labor Day may have started as a celebration of “the workingman” but in the AMA’s we know it’s the kick-off to our busiest time of the year. Swap meets, car displays, picnics, tech sessions, and parades will fill our calendar until the new year.

“Labor Day...is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.”

“The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the (day)...to celebrate a workingmen’s holiday” (<https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>).

...but enough with the history lesson and back to the AMA’s.

Now is the time to get your Model A in tip-top running condition for the upcoming driving season, so consider the following maintenance and safety objectives.



<http://www.maffi.org/factoryphotos/010-29.jpg>

**We all love to ride in our Model A Fords...
And, who doesn't love a parade?**



<http://www.shorpy.com/node/11190>

**But, before you
hit the road,
make sure your
car is well
maintained!**



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Check your tires for tread wear and air pressure.



Start every trip with clean windows.

Don't hesitate to really get into your work!





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Always practice safety. Don't take risks with your well-being.



Use appropriate safety gear such as masks and respirators when using spray paints.

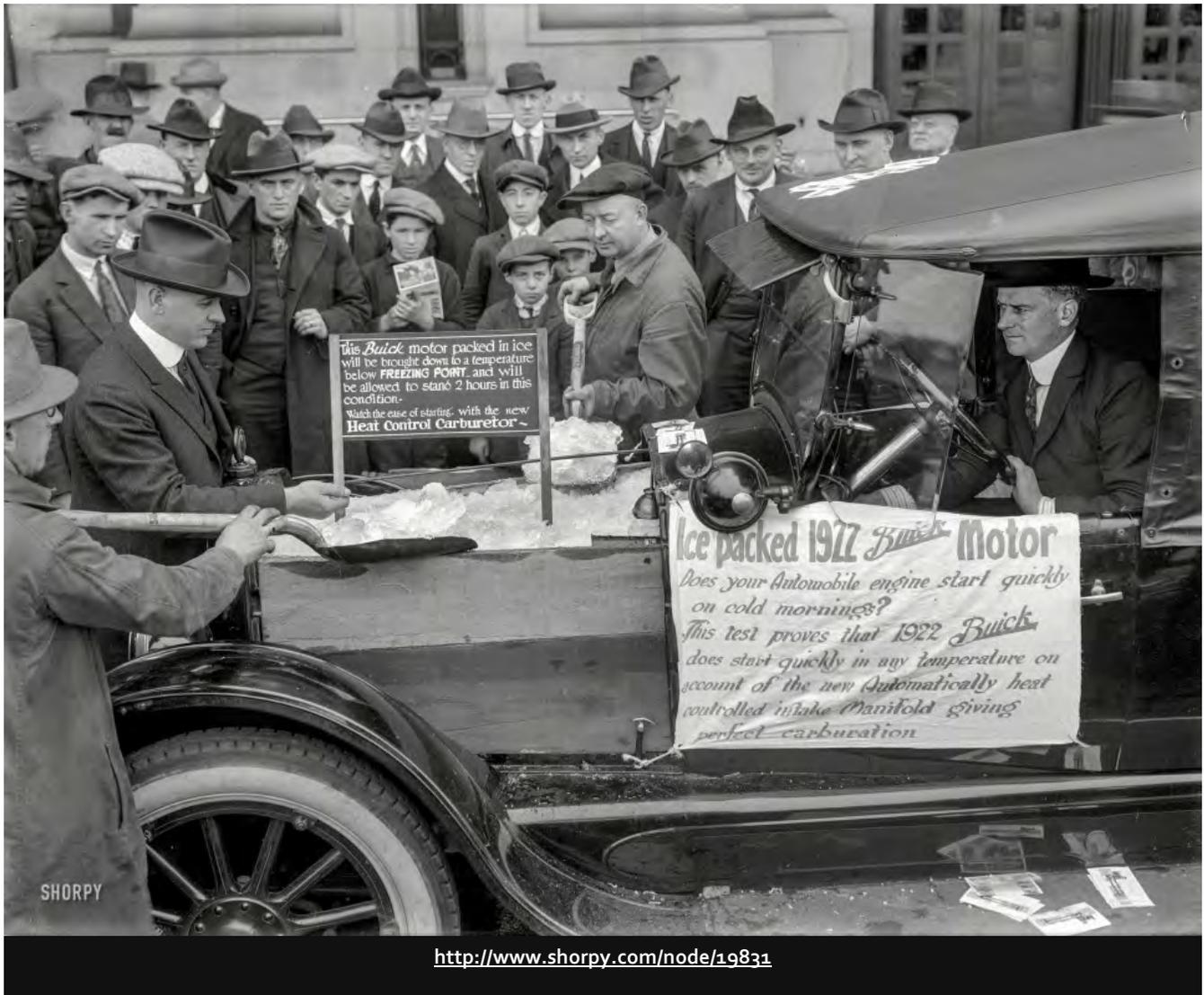
Take the time to find and put on your gloves.



<https://vintagraph.com/collections/health-safety-posters/products/protect-your-hands-safety-poster>



<http://www.shorpy.com/node/7154>



Check all of your car's fluids; top off your radiator, oil, and of course start every tour with a full gas tank. Don't be the driver who holds up the entire group at the first gas station you pass!



Check your brakes and front end alignment regularly. Lubricate components at specified intervals.

A Saturday Tech Session is the perfect place to find help.

<http://www.shorpy.com/node/19057>



Many AMA's members are ready and willing at a moment's notice....

<http://www.shorpy.com/node/2737>



<http://www.shorpy.com/node/13559>

...to help a friend in need.



Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Avoid mishap by keeping up with the maintenance on all of your cars.

The end.



Photo of 1929 Phaeton on page xx from <http://www.maffi.org/factoryphotos/index1.htm>
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(Continued on page 24)

on the photos above to be taken to the corresponding web-page.

Editors note: Browse shorpy.com at your own risk. I cannot be responsible for the hours you are likely to lose as you become immersed in this site. Shorpy.com can be searched and enjoyed many ways. I have found that clicking on a picture will enlarge it and details can be thoroughly examined. Details of the clothing, architecture, automobiles and so much more can be studied. Click again to reduce the size and then scroll down from the photo, and in most instances, you will find submissions and comments from shorpy.com members and tipsters, who discuss and identify features of the photograph. Some of the comments are opinions, and some are misinformation, but many comments open the door to further research on fascinating topics.



News from MAFCA's Era Fashions Committee July 2017

Zippers in Beach Wear

In 2005, the Era Fashion Committee (EFC) members did some extensive research on the use of zippers during the Model A era. What was being called the new "slide fastener" during this time was a larger toothed, heavier



metal construction than what we think of as zippers today. The EFC was able to confirm that these new "slide fasteners" were used in heavier duty items such as handbags, coin purses, tobacco bags, boots, sportswear, overalls, flight suits, sleeping bags, and even some children's leggings. They also suspected that those garments that were heavier duty such as jackets or military gear may have utilized the new fastener. However, they were not able to confirm the use of these fasteners for general use in clothing items such as men's trousers.

Past EFC member and Chairperson Janet Gundlach recently found a copy of a Vogue Dressmaking magazine dated May-June 1931. Each page inside has detailed descriptions of how to make an outfit. What caught her eye was that on one of the pages is a description of Beach Pajamas that suggest using the "Talon Slide Fastener" as an alternative to the usual snaps in the side placket.

We are always excited when new direct documentation is found regarding Model A era fashions! If you come across something like this, please forward it to us at fashions@mafca.com. Past EFC member and Chairperson Janet Gundlach recently found a copy of a Vogue Dressmaking magazine dated May-June 1931. Each page inside has detailed descriptions of how to make an outfit. What caught her eye was that on one of the pages is a description of Beach Pajamas that suggest using the "Talon Slide Fastener" as an alternative to the usual snaps in the side placket.

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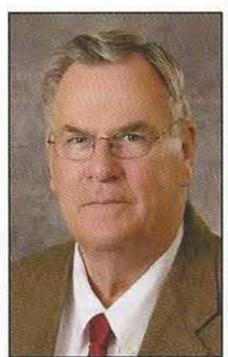
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EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2	FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST MASONIC LODGE
SEPTEMBER 4	HAPPY LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 5	MONTHLY CLUB MEETING CUMBERLAND VILLAGE
SEPTEMBER 6	CAR SHOW AT ALBRECHT CENTER "YAPPY HOUR" 6-8 PM SEE PAGE 5
SEPTEMBER 8-9	PALMETTO A'S SWAP MEET AT SMITH AND JONES SEE PAGE 5
SEPTEMBER 16	INTERNATIONAL MODEL A DAY WITH THE SHADE TREE A'S (REGISTRATION REQUIRED) SEE PAGE 6
SEPTEMBER 30	CLUB PICNIC AT ODELL WEEKS 11 AM - 3 PM SEE PAGE 3
OCTOBER 3	MONTHLY CLUB MEETING CUMBERLAND VILLAGE
OCTOBER 4-7	HERSHEY SWAP MEET HERSHEY, PA
OCTOBER 7	FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST MASONIC LODGE
OCTOBER ?	SATURDAY TECH SEMINAR GUBEN'S GARAGE TBD
NOVEMBER 4	FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST MASONIC LODGE
NOVEMBER 7	MONTHLY CLUB MEETING CUMBERLAND VILLAGE



ABOUT THE AIKEN MODEL A'S

The Aiken Model A's (AMA's) is a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). We are a not-for-profit corporation, dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile. Owning a Model A Ford is not required for membership. An application for membership in the Aiken Model A's is available at www.aikenAs.org. AMA's annual dues are \$50, with no dues for *new* members for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

For information about the Aiken Model A's, visit our web page, noted above, or contact Membership Coordinator, Pat Roberts at (803) 649-0054, or e-mail aikenmodelAs@gmail.com.

To further the Model A Ford hobby, AMA's members are encouraged to consider memberships in the hobby's national organizations, MAFCA, (Model A Ford Club of America), MARC (Model A Restorer's Club) and MAFFI (Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.) For information on these organizations go to www.mafca.com and www.model-a-ford.org and www.maffi.org.

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**AIKEN MODEL A'S
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Meetings

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Monthly, First Tues., 7 P.M.
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Cars and Coffee

Join the AMA's 10 - 11 a.m. on Saturdays at
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for fun and fellowship, car-talk and comradery.
GUESTS WELCOME!