



# Newsletter of the Aiken Model A's

Aiken, SC

A New Chapter in an Old Story

April 2020



*Peach Blossoms  
Hwy 19, Trenton, SC  
Thanks, Craig!*

## **APRIL BUSINESS MEETING** Tuesday, April 7

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall  
Aiken, SC 7 pm

**CANCELLED!!**

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# WHO'S WHO IN AMA?

BOD/STAFF	NAME	EMAIL
President	Greg Jones	distagon2@aol.com
Vice President	Charles Hilton	cahilton@hotmail.com
Secretary	Eric Shogren	ericshogren@gforcecable.com
Treasurer	Brian d'Entremont	brian@dentremont.us
Director at Large	Rachel d'Entremont	rachel@dentremont.us
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National Representative	Debi Paul	debi_alderman16@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Pat Roberts	patroberts1176@gmail.com
Photographer	Greg Jones	distagon2@aol.com

Club Postal Address: P. O. Box 992, Aiken, SC 29802  
 Email: aikenmodelas@gmail.com Website: www.aikenas.org

# WHAT, WHEN, WHERE??

CARS & COFFEE



CLUB BUSINESS MEETINGS



GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!

FIRST SATURDAY



The Aiken Model A'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; a membership application is available at [www.aikenas.org](http://www.aikenas.org). Our annual dues are \$25; our fiscal year runs July 1-June 30.



## Emergency Closure of MAFCA Office

March 20 - Dear MAFCA Members,

California's Governor Newsom has signed an order that forces all nonessential business operations to shutter their doors through April 7, 2020. It may go beyond that date if the COVID-19 virus problems don't begin to subside. His action is designed to reduce person-to-person contact in our normal business operations.

Consequently, **MAFCA's headquarters office in La Habra, California will be closed until further notice.** We will be checking on voice mail messages that you leave when you call our office phone. And, we will be checking on email messages that you send. Please understand that our response time will be extended beyond normal intervals because our staff will be working from home and they will not have immediate access to all the office resources that may be required in responding to your questions.

We have been working closely with our printer and expect we will be able to ship The Restorer's May/June issue on time. It is yet possible that the printer will face similar requirements to close their operations. If that happens, we will let you know through our web site what to expect for delivery.

If your concern is urgent and must be addressed immediately, I will be happy to help you. Otherwise, we thank you for your patience and understanding. Please stay healthy and be safe.

[Bill Truesdell](#)  
 2020 National President

To all:

*I'm aware that I've overlooked many cancellations, etc.  
 As all of us know, nobody knows what the future holds for us—  
 so stay safe, be healthy,  
 and we'll get together as soon as we can!!!*

*In the meantime, please enjoy Anna's 'take' on  
 'Coffee and Cars Social Distancing'  
 Pat*





## OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

Thoughts from President Greg.....

### THIS ONE'S FOR YOU.....ALL OF US!

The Aiken Model A's is an all-volunteer club chartered under the Model A Ford Club of America. As with most any club, officers are unpaid volunteers as are the people who do things to support our club "behind the scenes." The lifeblood of any club consists of those who will step up and volunteer for various officer positions or in other areas, such as creating and issuing newsletters, running the website, coordinating parade scheduling, planning picnics, coordinating tours, developing programs for our meetings, etc.

Folks, we need more volunteers. We all lead busy lives and you might feel that you just don't have spare time to devote to volunteering. Remember, though, that you get out of the club what you put into it. Our club is what YOU make it. I think there is a fear a lot of people have in volunteering. The thing to remember is you won't be taking on a task and have to figure it out from scratch: we will help you be successful! **Others have already blazed a trail and can guide you.**

We need volunteers to step forward and serve as officers, particularly with upcoming end of terms of the current officers. And, we still need someone to take over the newsletter in July of this year from Pat Roberts, who has been doing an outstanding job but wants to "pass the baton." If we don't find a volunteer to take over the newsletter, it may have to cease production.

We need to pass around most of these various duties on a frequent basis so that the same people volunteering don't get "stuck" with the job forever.

A club like the AMA's is dependent on people volunteering to remain viable. Please take some time to think about not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club. (Apologies to JFK) Some of the benefits of volunteering include:

- Keeps the club functioning and alive!
- Help organize outings/events
- Lets you implement your own ideas to make things better
- Promotes the care and preservation of Model A Fords
- Helps others
- Makes a difference

- Allows you to connect with your community
- Feeling involved
- Contribute to a cause that you care about
- Lets you use your skills in a productive way
- Develop new skills
- Meet new people
- Meet good people
- Impress yourself
- Expand your horizons
- Get out of the house
- Make new friends
- Feel better about yourself
- ..AND IT'S FUN!!!



## MARCH 3, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Eric Shogren, Secretary

President, Greg Jones, called the meeting to order.

Under introduction of (potential) new members, Greg reported that Josh and Linda Porte-Erhard have contacted the club and will be relocating to Aiken from New York state with their 1930 Fordor.

For "show & tell" Jim McPherson discussed how the Model A was advertised as the "New Ford!" But it wasn't necessarily as technically advanced as its competition. Ford was looking for an affordable, but fancier car. While many competitors' vehicles had silver plating Ford was looking for an alternative. The term "Butler Finish" arose from finish on silver flatware and dinnerware that had been polished over and over and had warm, rich appearance. Ford was looking for that look without the need for polishing, which would drive up the cost of production as well as require more maintenance. Ford came up with chromed items that had this same Butler Finish also known as Butler Chrome. It was used on many of the Model A's interior features such as the gear shift and the emergency brake handle (only below the grip). Jim passed around a beautiful example of each. As a side note, Jim also pointed out the replacement gear shifts on the market today are actually formed out of two pieces that are bolted together just below the dome at the base of the shift. He has known of instances where the gear shift has broken at that coupling.

After that excellent "show & tell" Greg Jones noted that Aiken Model A's need to have a tech session on metal finishes.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved with a correction to a date published in the newsletter.

(continued, page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Under officer's reports, Treasurer Brian d'Entremont provided the treasurer's report.

There was nothing to report for "In the mailbox."

Under recent events, the tour to Ridge Spring with lunch at Junipers was discussed. While those that were able to make it had a good time, there were several suggested improvements for future similar events. Improvement items that were discussed were better organization of the return trip and notifying our destination town of our plans ahead of time. While the trip up there was set up with defined groups with group leaders, the return was more of a shotgun start with people heading off in various directions at different times. This left some members to wonder where everybody was, were people left behind, etc. It was also noted that a better organized return would also have people indicate where they would turn off if they did not intend to tour with the group all the back to Aiken.

Regarding (notifying our destination town ahead of time, it was brought up that some of the local residents we talked to would have liked a little heads up so more residents could come out and see the cars.

The following upcoming events were discussed:

- March 14<sup>th</sup> – Garage tour of Fred Clark's collection after Cars & Coffee
- March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palmetto A's Picnic, Lexington, SC
- April 11<sup>th</sup> – Aunt Sue's Classic Car Display, Pickens, SC
- April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - Old 96 District Swap Meet in Greenwood
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Shade Tree A's tour to Rivers Bridge State Park
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Johnston, SC Peach Blossom Festival Parade
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Aiken Memorial Day Parade
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – International Model A Day

Under Other Business:

The club had received a request for a car and driver for an upcoming wedding. Contact Greg Jones for more information.

For the technical presentation, Greg Jones gave a presentation on Transmission Bearing Issues. Greg has found that the needle bearings need for the transmission cluster gear have been failing after only a couple of hundred miles of use. Greg explained the flawed design of the current reproduction bearings. He also noted that several Model A experts recommend using old needle bearings salvaged from used transmission. One source of those bearings is Bert's Model A's out of Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned.



## WAY BACK THEN...

Member Lew Fierke shares these 'OLD AUTO ADS'. My, how times have changed.. (see pages 6 and 8, too!)

**Wheels can be thrown out of balance by a buildup of wheel ants. Protect your car's smooth ride with weekly applications of automotive grade insecticide.**

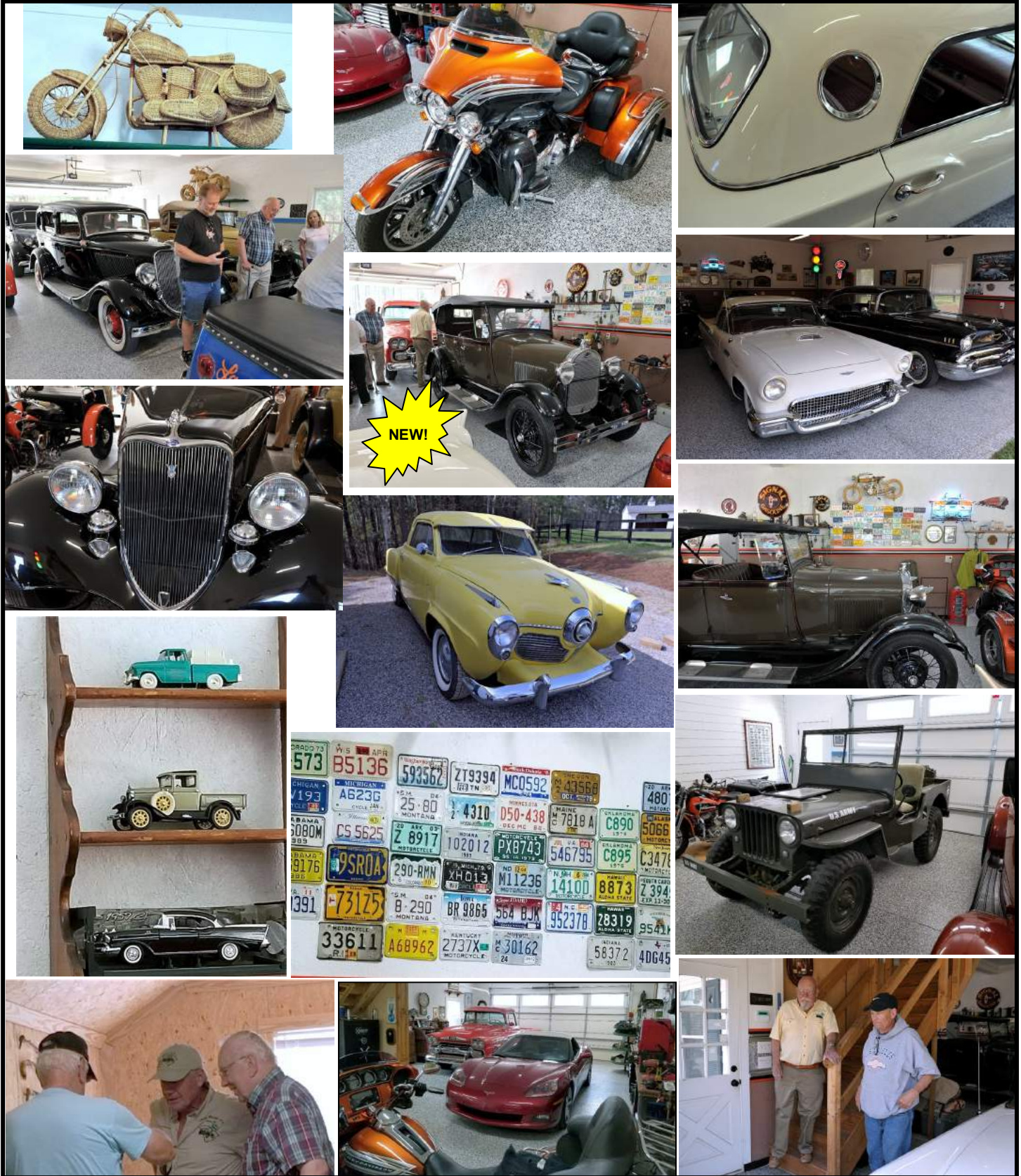
**Disposing of used engine oil can be a problem. Solution: Dig a hole in the ground with a posthole digger and fill it with fine gravel. Then pour in the oil. It will be absorbed into the ground before your next change. Cover the spot with soil.**

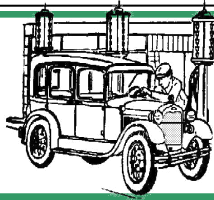
166 POPULAR SCIENCE JANUARY 1963



# March Snapshots

Featuring  
Fred Clark's  
Stillfield Farm!  
(photos by Greg Jones)





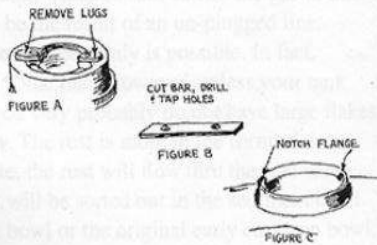
# TECHNICAL THINGS

## TINY TIPS

**R**

### SECURING RADIATOR ORNAMENTS

If a quail or other permanent base, flip-top radiator ornament fits loosely or is chipped, it may come off too easily. This procedure will remedy the situation and make the ornament solid - removable only with an Allen wrench. My quail used to fit so loosely that I removed it whenever I left the Ford unattended. Remove the brass lugs on the bottom of your cap. These are usually held on with Allen head screws. See figure A. Cut a piece of metal bar with the same width as the removed lugs. The bar should be about the same thickness as the lugs. The length of the bar should be as long as possible within the diameter of the radiator neck under the flange. Test the cut bar for fit. It should have about 3/16" play on the ends. Drill and tap the bar to accommodate the Allen head screws. See Figure B. Some of the material may have to be removed from the area of the lugs on the cap base. If so, file very carefully and remove only the necessary material for the bar to fit snugly. Notch the radiator neck flange with a small file (or a broken round file chucked in an electric drill) where the new bar will be when the cap is in place. File and fit until this notch is as deep as practical for your cap. See Figure C. With the new locking bar loosely attached, put the cap on and tighten the Allen head screws. As the screws are tightened, the bar will be pulled up into the notches, holding the base firmly. The bar does cover part of the radiator opening, but it doesn't keep you from checking the coolant level nor does it interfere with the overflow tube.



Submitted by Ron Harper, Corvallis, Oregon

## Jim's Tech Tip by Jim Cannon

### Check Your Oil Filler Pipe and Cap

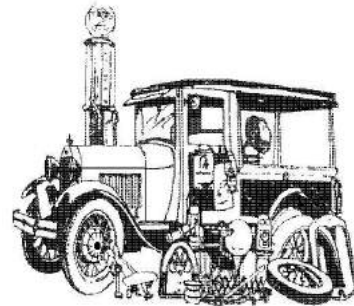


Many Model A owners experience excessive oil leaks when driving their car, often out the rear main seal. One simple thing that can cause this is a restriction in the oil filler pipe. Take the cap off and look down the pipe with a good light. You should only see a series of little metal baffles, half-moon in shape, inside the filler pipe. If you find where someone has covered the pipe with a sock, or stuffed a piece of cloth down in the filler pipe to stop oil from coming out the filler when driving, this will put pressure inside the crankcase and force oil out the rear main seal while you drive. Easy to fix: get that stuff out of there!



While you have it off, also inspect the inside of the oil filler cap. It, too, needs to be clear inside. No pieces of steel wool, pot scrubber, or old sock in the cap! Look for evidence of someone accidentally pushing the oil filler cap on too far. When you do, you bend the little tabs inside the cap and mash it all the way down on the pipe. This blocks the engine's ability to vent the crankcase, builds up pressure, and causes a bad leak out the rear main seal.

I hope this little tip helps you stop that oil leak while driving. Have a Model A Day!  
Jim



## USE CAR'S EXHAUST TO CLEAN CUSHIONS



Using the exhaust gas of the automobile to clean the upholstery is the accomplishment of a recently invented device. An aluminum attachment is fastened to the exhaust pipe and the engine is allowed to idle. As the exhaust gas passes through this device suction is created at the inlet hole. Collected by a nozzle, the dust and dirt are drawn through the hose and expelled into the air at the rear of the car. It is made in three models, for cars of different size.

With the car's engine idling, gas from the exhaust creates a vacuum that cleans the cushions.

Right, another of the "OLD AUTO ADS" shared by Lewis Fierke. Good Idea????

## Our Newsletter Sponsors

Thanks to the following sponsors whose generosity supports this newsletter. Please remember them when you need the services they offer!

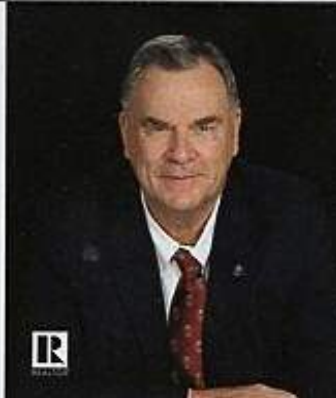


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### MONTHLY AMA HAPPENINGS (OR MAYBE NOT! Note \*\*)

**\*\*First Saturday Breakfast**— April 4...Masonic Lodge, Aiken—Cancelled until further notice.

**\*\*Saturday Morning Cars and Coffee at the Village Café**—Cancelled until further notice, too.

### OUR REGIONAL HAPPENINGS (OR MAYBE NOT! Note \*\*)

**\*\*April 17-18 —15th Annual All Model A Parts Swap Meet, Greenwood, SC** Hosts: Old Ninety Six District Model A Ford Club. Cancelled.

**May 2 —Tour & Picnic, Rivers Bridge State Park, SC** Hosts: Shade Tree A's, Augusta, GA  
**May 2—Johnston Peach Blossom Parade, Johnston, SC**

**May 23—Aiken Memorial Day Parade**

**June 20—Trenton's 50<sup>th</sup> Ridge Peach Festival, Trenton, SC**

**June 20—Palmetto A's Swap Meet, Columbia, SC**

**September 19 — International Model A Day**



### OTHER UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (If Available)

**\*\*June 21-26 — MAFCA National Convention in Texas' Hill Country, Kerrville, TX** Hosts: Alamo A's Event postponed until June, 2022.

**September 19 —10th Annual Model A Day 2019 at Gilmore Car Museum** Hickory Corners, MI Hosts: MAFFI (Model A Ford Foundation) hosts the 10th Annual Model A Day at the Model A Ford Museum at the Gilmore Car Museum. Swap meet, Annual MAFFI membership meeting **Info:** MAFFI website: <http://www.maffi.org>

**December 3-6 — National MAFCA Awards Banquet** Hosts: Fort Worth Chapter, TX; details coming soon

Another Old Car Ad shared by Lewis Fierke

Keep Baby SAFE with a "Lull-A-Baby" Car Hammock

\* Baby constantly visible; rear view vision not impaired.

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THE NEW FORD COUPE

From 'The Farmer's Wife' Magazine, April 1930

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 3—Pam Crosby
- 5—Sue Cassem
- 9—Jim Hedges
- 10—Theresa McMullin
- 17—Brian d'Entremont
- 20—Abbie Ethun
- 27—Peter Srednicki