



April 2017

Spoken Wheels

THE NEXT MEETING

General Meeting

Friday, April 28 - Arcadia Red Cross Building,
376 Huntington Dr. Arcadia

Program - Our speaker this month will be Larry Steward, a retired sports writer for the Los Angeles Times. Larry has a wealth of stories about his interactions with many sports personalities.



On the road to Nelson Camp during a tour at the CCRG Jamboree.

NEWS BITS

Newsletter Format Revised

The format of the Spoken Wheels has been modified to include a "News Bits" section. This section will contain a variety of information, reports and announcements. The intent is to organize the contents to appear in an orderly manner for easy reading and reference.

The newsletter sections now include:

The Next Meeting	New Members
The President's Message	Coming Events
News Bits	Past Events
Calendar of Events	Era Fashions
Birthdays and Anniversaries	Veteran's Story
Officers & Board Members	From the bench
Public Notices	Meeting Minutes
New Member Spotlight	

News bits continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JOHN MCDANNEL

Micro Seminars coming your way

We hope all of you enjoyed a pleasant Easter weekend with your family and friends. I hope some of you even took your Model A's out for a spin.

Mary and I have been collecting our own Easter Eggs to be passed out at our next general meeting. As you can imagine, our hens have been clucking away. We celebrated this Easter with our daughter and grand kids who drove down from Fresno. Next week we are driving to the University of Arizona to visit the ASU campus where our grandson will be attending college as a freshman. You can bet we won't be driving our Model A.

As you can imagine it has been another busy month for our club. On Tues. April 18th, I attend Chris Wickersham's Model A presentation to the residents at the MonteCedro Retirement community where he is now living. Chris has successfully rounded up eleven of our members to display their Model A's to the residents on April 23.

At our April SAA board meeting, we were pleased to learn that Bob Harbicht arranged a speaker for our May 28 general meeting. Larry Stewart, our speaker, is a noted sports writer with lots of personal entertaining stories to share with us on April 28th which is "Arbor Day".

We also learned that former Mayor, Model A'er & Rotarian Bob Harbicht has been busy preparing to plant 1,000 flags at the Arcadia Park to honor veterans. You can purchase a flag in honor of someone of your choice for \$50.00. After the event is held you can take the flag home with you. The funds received from the sale of flags will be donated to local charities in the Arcadia area.

Speaking of planting and "Arbor Day", I will be busy planting some replacement trees along New York Drive's Memorial to 9/11. As you may remember our club supported this memorial dedication to 9/11/01 by driving our Model A's to that memorial event which was held on 9/11/11. We need to re-plant about ten trees. The gophers, drought and wayward drivers have taken their toll.

Continued on page 6

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 23 - MonteCedro Car Show
- 28 - General Meeting

May

- 4 - Mt. Baldy Tour - See Page 4
- 7 - Monrovia Old Home Tour - See Page 4
- 8 - Ladies' Brunch, Annia's Restaurant, El Monte Airport, 11:00 AM
- 10 - Board meeting, Temple City, City Hall
- 12 - MAFCA Board Meeting, La Habra
- 13 - Antique Nationals - Auto Club Dragway, See page 4
- 18 - Men's Breakfast, Annia's Restaurant, El Monte Airport, 9:00 AM
- 26 - General Meeting
- 27 - Hubley Derby Day, San Bernardino, for information
contact Richard Bronstrup 909-227-1853

June

- 2 - Ladies Day at the LA Zoo, see page 4
- 10 - Lavender Festival in Beaumont, see page 4
- 16 - JPL Tour, see page 5
- 25 - Henry Ford Picnic, sponsored by Diamond Tread, Details TBA

July

- 4 - S. Pasadena Independence Day Parade & Lunch, see page 5
- 22 - Swap Meet - Long Beach Model T Club Vet's Stadium
Contact Jeff Hood for Info 562-597-5936
- 29 - Gamble House Tour, see page 5

August

- 12 - SAA's Pancake Breakfast, Wilderness Park, details TBA
- 19 - Mom and Pop's Night Out, Details TBA

OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

OFFICERS

President:	
John McDannel	626-791-3221
Vice President:	
Bob Harbicht	626-484-4214
Secretary:	
Elaine Perry	626-443-0638
Treasurer:	
Sheri Johnson	626-446-3367

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Butkus	626-279-9724
AC Byrd	323-721-1996
Carol Emanuelli	626-286-5267
Jim Frick	626-303-5233
Jim Kroeger	626-449-6917

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities:	
Elaine Perry	626-443-0638
Advertising:	
John Emanuelli	626-286-5267
Fashion: Coordinator:	
Susan Homet	626-798-4964
Ladies' Day:	
Barbara Dawson	818-790-6592
w/ Tracy Butkus	626-279-9724
Low End Boys:	
Mickey Fruchter	626-797-2048
Membership:	
Randy Harper	626-357-6442
Merchandise:	
Open	
Raffle – Ladies':	
Bea Fruchter	626-797-2048

COMMITTEE CHAIRS - Continued

Raffle – Men's:	
Ken Mallory	626-305-2418
Raffle - 50-25-25	
Larry Butkus	626-279-9724
Refreshment Host:	
Carol Emanuelli	626-286-5267
Refreshment Sign-ups:	
Gerry McKinney	714-963-2724
Restorer Articles:	
Keith Smith	661-298-0625
Roster:	
Joe Wilson	818-790-0995
Seminars:	
Bob Travis	626-574-0665
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Spoken Wheels:	
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Mailables - Elaine Perry & Sally Baquet	
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Tour Meister:	
Jim Kroeger	626-710-6592
Webmaster:	
Eric Sandberg	818-330-9311
Youth Outreach:	
Wilbert Smith Ph.D.	626-791-7636
Santa Anita A's Mailing Address: PO Box 660904 Arcadia, CA 91066 Web Site: www.santaanitas.org	

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

- 2 - Martha Utter
- 2 - Joe Escandon
- 2 - Joanne Anthony
- 3 - Chuck Mauch
- 9 - Sue Rogers
- 12 - Pete Henderson
- 13 - John Spielmann
- 13 - Sandra Loe
- 16 - Chuck Boekenooogen
- 16 - Jack Conway
- 16 - Bill Stoner
- 19 - Nancy Stoner
- 20 - Lan Skalicky
- 21 - Gene Reinhardt
- 22 - Chuck Sharpe
- 25 - Joyce Travis
- 29 - Joe Giocomarra

May Anniversaries

- 3 - Randy & Ruth Harper
- 3 - Ken & Betty Mallory
- 3 - Fred & Carole Weideman
- 4 - Richard & Jean Ware
- 11 - Ron & Marlene Martinez
- 15 - Dave & Deborah Galassi
- 20 - Leslie Pam & Ann Peterson
- 28 - Corky & Sharon Gray
- 29 - Richard & Toshiko Favela

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sunshine Lady - Judi Moore

A Thinking of you card was sent to Susie Bennett.
A get well card was sent to Joe Principe.

Cookie Bringers Alert - Gerry McKinney

Mary McDannel, Nancy Stancil, Bea Fruchter, and Joy Wilson

Photo Donors - Elmer Fudd, John Emanuelli, Carolyn

McBride, Janet Beggs, Joe Wilson

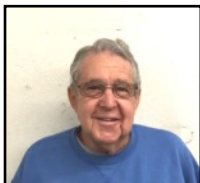
Spoken Wheels is the monthly publication of the Santa Anita A's based in Arcadia, California. The organization is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. It is a chapter of the national organization, MAFCA (Model A Ford Club of America). Meetings are held on the last Friday of most months at the Arcadia Red Cross facility, 376 Huntington Drive, Arcadia California. Mailing address PO Box 660904, Arcadia, CA 91066. Web Site www.santaanitas.org

NEW MEMBERS

Here are the new members who joined in the last six months. Welcome them into our club.



Les & Lyla Eddington
626-961-8209 cell 626-533-7145
2424 Las Lomitas Dr., Hacienda Heights, 91745
LesEddington@aol.com
Joined Feb 30 2017 '28 Tudor, '28 Phaeton



Warren Record
626-318-4475
3928 Peck Road, El Monte, CA 91732
recordperfect@yahoo.com
Joined Jan. 2017 1931 Roadster Pickup



Jim & Patti Dolan
626-446-5973 cell 626-926-6747
261 Walnut., Arcadia, CA 91007.
drifty15@att.net
Joined Oct. 2016 1929 AA Stake bed

MORE NEWS BITS

The Santa Anita A's Make Donations

- \$100 has been donated to support Wilbert Smith's effort to equip a vehicle with hand controls for Justin Deary who had his legs amputated.
- \$25 was donated to the Diamond Tread Model A Club for purchasing raffle prizes for their Henry Ford Picnic event on June 25.
- \$50 was donated to the American Cancer Society in the name of Dena Cortez, who recently died of cancer. She was the daughter of club member Helen Cortez.

MAFCA News

To promote membership in the National organization MAFCA has extended their free membership offer to our members who are not now or previously were members of MAFCA. If you are interested, contact our club Membership Chairman, Randy Harper for details and an application form.

MAFCA has also introduced an "Ambassador Program" which invites each chapter to nominate a member to coordinate with MAFCA on their efforts to seek new members and implement the 2017 free membership program to qualifying members.

MAFCA is offering a Pacific Coast Tour which will start in Paso Robles, follow Highway 1, and ends in San Francisco. The tour dates are Sept 24-29. Contact MAFCA if you are interested.

Pasadena High School Model A club

Four members of the Pasadena High School and their two faculty advisors attended the Orange County Pancake Breakfast on April 2. John Emanuelli introduced the group to a whole lot of Model A cars and drivers at this annual event. One student won a set of tools in the raffle.

Progress is being made in the restoration of their 1928 Model A Phaeton. The engine, transmission and fenders have now been removed.

Some Veteran stories remain untold

The first in our series of stories about Santa Anita A's members experiences while serving in the Armed Services appeared in the June 2015 issue of "Spoken Wheels". It reported on Ken Mallory's tour during WWII. We have now reported on 23 members who shared their stories with us.

There are a few more stories to be told and I invite those who have yet to share their service experience with us to contact Tom Endy. Tom will assist you in preparing a document for publication in the Spoken Wheels.

SCRG (Southern California Regional Group) Meeting

At the SCRG January 15 meeting Wilbert Smith presented a video on the activities of the newly formed Pasadena High School Model A club. The SCRG made a donation of \$250 to support the High School club.

A donation of \$500 was given to MAFFI to support the Model A Ford museum operations.

All existing officers were reelected: Marlin Perry- President, Elaine Perry- Treasurer, Dianne Frazee- Secretary, Carla Hibbard- Editor and Kieth Smith - Webmaster

Ford Story Presented at MonteCedro Retirement Community

On April 18th club member Chris Wickersham presented to the residents at the MonteCedro Retirement Community in Altadena a program on "Henry Ford and the early history of the Ford Motor Company". On Sunday, April 23 Chris arranged



to have 10 members of the Santa Anita A's bring their cars to MonteCedro to show the variety of body styles offered.

Things You Don't Know

The Reason for "clinking" of glasses has been revealed.

In the olden days it was common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, the guest would pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would then drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would touch or "clink" the host's glass with his own.

COMING EVENTS

Mount Baldy Tour

Thursday, May 4

by Bob Moore

Yes, it's that time again for the short trip to Mr. Baldy Lodge for brunch. Our day will start at 8:50 AM at Royal Oaks Retirement Center on Royal Oaks Drive North, Bradbury. Our cars will be the centerpiece of a very brief car show for the residents. Royal Oaks will provide light refreshments. May 4 is also the National Day of Prayer and the Royal Oaks minister will bless all the cars, drivers and passengers before we depart. And no offering plate.

At 10:00 AM, we will depart for Mt. Baldy. It is a 25 mile drive and freeways are not involved. The brunch is scheduled to start between 11:15 AM and 11:30 AM, allowing a leisurely drive up the hill. After brunch, we will drive down the hill to Art and Olive Moore's who are hosting the club to ice cream sundaes.

We are encouraging new members to get their Model A's on the road for this tour. Prizes will be awarded to new members on the tour for the first time. A new member is someone who has not been on a previous Mt. Baldy Tour.

The cost for brunch is \$18.00 per person including tax and tip. This is important. So that we have an accurate headcount, payment for the tour must be made in advance and this month's meeting is the last day to sign up by paying.

Monrovia Old Home Tour

Sunday, May 7

by Joe Wilson

The Monrovia Old Home tour is Sponsored by the Monrovia Historical Preservation Group. We have participated in this event for many years at the invitation of the Horseless Carriage Club which organized a short driving tour through Monrovia with stops at the various homes included in the tour.

We are provided free admission tickets and reserved parking at each of the homes. You must RSVP to Michael & Janene Khanchalian (mfkhanchalian@altrionet.com) to secure your tickets. We will meet at the home of the Khanchalians at 9:00 AM which is located at 320 Melrose Ave. where we will be served coffee, donuts and some good fellowship prior to our driving tour. **Must sign-up by April 30.**

Antique Nationals

Saturday May 13

by Joe Wilson

The 47th annual Antique Nationals hosted by the Four Ever Four Cylinder Club will be held at the Auto Club Dragway in Fontana. Racing is open to any 1959 or earlier car or Truck. Racers should contact Ron Mosher 661-255-1931 for details. General admission is \$20, free for a child under 15 with an adult. Racers admission is \$50. Gate opens at 8:00 AM. The Dragway is located at 9300 Cherry Ave. In Fontana.

Ladies Day

Friday, June 2

by Tracy Butkus

Ladies Day this year will be at the LA ZOO on Friday June 2nd. We will meet at the LA ZOO at 9:15 AM in the parking lot and then head over to a Private Tram for a 2 hour guided tour.

After the tour of the LA ZOO we will then head to the Gene Autry for lunch. Barbara Dawson has set this all up for the ladies of the SAA Model "A" Club and has offered to host the lunch at the Gene Autry as well.



There is no cost to ladies for this tour. This tour is limited to the first 30 ladies that sign up. We will have a signup sheet at the April Meeting.

If you have any questions please feel free to Contact Tracy Butkus at 323-646-7153. We thank Barbara for setting this up for the ladies, we are really looking forward to it.

Lavender Festival Tour

Saturday, June 10

by Olive Moore

Mark your calendar now for June 10. We will be touring to the beautiful lavender fields at the Highland Springs Ranch during their annual Lavender Festival in Cherry Valley.



There's a lot to do while we're there. You can ride the horse-drawn wagon through the lavender fields, watch a lavender oil distillation process demo, listen to live music, shop the many vendor booths, and/or eat at one of the many food tents featuring various refreshing lavender-inspired favorites such as lavender lemonade and lavender ice cream. The organic marketplace showcases specialty items many of them made with lavender as, for example, honey, balsamic vinegar, essential oils, fresh bouquets, soaps, plants and even lavender-stuffed toys. And don't miss visiting the one-thousand year old oak tree!

This will be a non-freeway tour. We will make a stop at Art and Olive Moore's for a short snack (and pottie) break. Admission is \$6 for seniors, \$8 if you're younger than 65. Free parking.

Sign up at the April meeting. Checks to Sheri Johnson. More information in next month's newsletter. Questions – ask Olive Moore 909-982-7790.

COMING EVENTS - MORE

JPL Tour

Friday, June 16

by Joe Wilson

We have arranged for a private tour of the JPL facilities on Friday June 16. After the tour we will have lunch at the Los Gringos Locos Mexican restaurant in La Canada. We are limited to a total of 40 persons.

We will meet at McDonalds in La Canada at 9:00 AM and depart at 9:20 AM for JPL and our scheduled 9:30 AM Tour.

JPL requires that I provide them with a roster listing the names of all participants one month prior to our visit.

There is no charge for the JPL tour. The restaurant will provide us with a special menu which includes a choice of entrees and drinks.

Cost will be \$20 per person payable in advance to secure your reservation. Send your check to Sheri Johnson. **The cut off date for participation will be May 19.**

South Pasadena Independence Day Parade

July 4

by Elaine Perry

Start Time: 8:30 AM for coffee and donuts at Vicky Bartlett's, 1625 Fletcher, South Pasadena. Please bring a short write-up about your car for parade announcer.

Departing for parade: 9:45 AM sharp. We will proceed to the parade staging area where we will have time to decorate our cars. Parade starts at 11:00 AM.

Lunch: Meet after parade at Robert and Diana Kincart's 330 W. La Flores Ave., Arcadia. The club will provide hot dogs, fixing's drinks and dessert.

RSVP: Sign Up at the April or May Meeting or call Marlin. Parade participants must be pre-registered. Deadline for parade is June 10th. Need a head count for lunch by June 24th.

For info: Call Marlin Perry (626) 443-0638.

.We need cars to carry dignitaries, please volunteer.

Gamble House Tour

Saturday, July 29

by Joe Wilson

We have the opportunity to participate in a private tour of the beautiful Gamble House in Pasadena.

We will meet at the Sears parking lot in Pasadena and tour as a group following a special scenic route to the Gamble house for our tour which will start at 11:00 AM. After the tour we will dine at the "Brookside at the Rose Bowl" where we have reservations for lunch. More details will follow.

The cost of the house tour is \$15 per person. The lunch at Brookside includes a variety of entrees from our special menu which range from \$8- \$12.

Our group size is limited and I must provide a count prior to to our visit to the Gamble House. Please confirm your reservation by giving a check for \$15. per person to Sheri Johnson. I will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting.

PAST EVENTS

CCRG Tour

March 23 - 26

by Joe Wilson

The "Jamborees" organized by the CCRG (Central California Regional Group) have become a popular event for those Santa Anita A's who enjoy multi-day driving tours. This year's event was organized by the "Happy Honkers", the Porterville chapter of MAFCA. The official event started with a BBQ diner on Friday evening, a variety of driving tours on Saturday and a Banquet on Saturday night.

Bob Moore, our Tour Meister, scheduled us to leave on Thursday morning which allowed us to arrive on Thursday evening, providing an extra day for local touring.

On Friday we drove to Camp Nelson which is a small village located in the Sequoia National Forest. The 32 mile drive took us from an altitude of 500' to 4898' on a road that consisted only of right and left hand turns through a beautiful area to our destination, lunch at Nelson's Tavern.



Nelson's Tavern - Lunch stop in Sequoia National Forest



Members in "Dress Blues" at banquet

The Jamboree was well attended by various clubs including 26 SAA's members with 13 Model A's. Four Hundred people attended the Friday night BQ and 360 were at the Saturday night Banquet.

A well stocked inventory of raffle prizes provided entertainment for both winners and those who went home empty handed.

Reported mechanical problems included 4 ignition coil wires (3 on one car), one tire blown out and one perceived brake problem.



Art & Olive in Nelson's Tavern



Bob Moore introduces Olie Berrstrom from Sweden and Chris Christensen from Norway at the CCRG Jamboree. They attended the banquet on Saturday while on their tour of the US.

Next year's Jamboree will take place in Cambria. Some of us have already booked our hotel reservations anticipating a large turnout

Orange County Pancake Breakfast

April 2

by Joe Wilson

I didn't make it to the Pancake breakfast this year so have only second hand information to report and only a few photos to share. Couldn't find any information on the Orange County Web Site either, but I am confident that the event did happen.

John Emanuelli reported that he took four of the Pasadena High School Model A Club members along with both of the High School advisors to experience the event.

**President's Message** - Continued from page 1

Many of our members will be attending the Monrovia Home tour on May 7th. Our club members have supported this home tour for over a decade. Ten of our members are also supporting the Altadena Guilds Home Tour on the same day – May 7th. This home tour is also a fund raising event for the Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. Since we are supplying cars for their event, our car owners are being invited as guests to attend this fund raising event and enjoy a free lunch. This is another example of one more good deed that our club provides our community.

Lastly, I would like to recommend an added attraction to our general meetings. It has been brought to my attention that some of our members would like to devote a brief 10 minute seminar dedicated to our Model A's at our general meetings following our speaker. Our Seminar Chairman, Past President Bob Travis, will conduct the first 10 minute Micro Seminar at our June meeting. These brief Micro Seminars will not interfere with our more complete seminars that we have all enjoyed over the years.

So stay awake! John Mc Dannel, Professor of EGGonomics.

Vintage Sewing Patterns

Vintage patterns are becoming increasingly popular with people as a means to achieving an end! That "end" has to do with creating an authentic appearing garment from our Model A era. There is a book with a good selection of patterns from the period that I have available if you are interested. The patterns in the book are in various sizes. In other words, these are patterns reproduced from the older originals. The patterns come in only one size. These patterns were collected by different members through the years and were then reproduced and placed into a book. I have a copy of the book which can be examined, and if desired patterns may be ordered. See me if you are interested. You may call me at: (909) 360-3030.



Now, to get on with it! Here it a short history on the development of sewing patterns. Before the middle of the 19th century, most fashionable clothes were made by dressmakers and tailors who had been trained in pattern making. Home sewing was generally confined to alterations and undergarments made of simple rectangular pieces. When a pattern was needed it was copied from an old garment.

In the early 1850's American women's magazines, such as "Godey's Lady's Book" and "Peterson's Magazine", began to provide diagrams with brief sewing instructions to accompany their fashion plates and dressmaking hints. Some diagrams were in miniature; readers had to trace them, enlarge them to scale, then size up or down "to fit".

The first patterns in a range of sizes were introduced by Ebenezer Butterick in 1863. These were cut from thick brown paper, but he soon switched to tissue paper for ease in folding. Written instructions were minimal as sewers were expected to refer to a dressmaking manual. In 1871 James McCall began to sell pattern supplements in magazines. In 1914 Vogue Pattern Co. began selling patterns in department stores. Simplicity was founded in 1927 and was the most successful new company because it priced patterns much lower than its competitors.

Pattern quality and packaging were improving. Patterns continued to become more user-friendly, more available, and more popular as time went on. In about 1920 pattern manufacturers began to offer an instruction sheet along with the patterns to assist sewers in making the garments. The instruction sheets were called a "Deltor", and were widely advertised.



Santa Anita A's Veteran



Soli Solomon USN 1967-1970, MM 1974-2009

In the summer of 1966 I graduated from Hollywood High School at the age of 17 and was required to register for the draft. Not being a US citizen and holding a UK passport I could have left the US. This I would not do. As old fashion and corny as it sounds today, I considered it an act of cowardice to leave. Since I lived here I felt an obligation to enter the US military. My father had served in the British Merchant Marine, so the navy was the logical choice for me. When I visited the navy recruiter in Van Nuys, I asked him before leaving for boot camp if he had any advice. He said, "Keep your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut and you will do fine". Sage Advice! After basic training, I was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center where I studied various shipboard propulsion systems which would place me in the engine rooms aboard ships. Upon completing the 12-week course I was given orders to report aboard the USS Neches, a fleet oiler. Neches had a glorious history. It had shot down two Kamikaze aircraft and was the first oiler entering Tokyo Bay for the surrender proceedings. During my three years at sea I took full advantage of any training offered and was sent ashore for 10-weeks to attend air conditioning and refrigeration school in San Diego, a welcome break. In August 1970 Neches was decommissioned. I was honorably discharged ending with an engine rating of E-5, coincidentally on my 22nd birthday.

After a short respite I decided to return as an officer in the Merchant Marine, using the 4-year education the G.I. Bill granted me. I selected the California Maritime Academy for my studies. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Ocean (Marine) Engineering, I served aboard numerous American flag vessels such as; Sea-land Services, Matson Navigation Company, American Presidents Line, etc. When shipping jobs slowed down, I sailed with Military SeaLift Command (MSC) serving aboard the 'Aeolus', a cable laying vessel in the North Atlantic. Eventually in 1984 I took the most advanced exam the Coast Guard offered "Chief Engineer of Steam, Motor and gas Turbine Vessels of Unlimited Horsepower", (CG certifies merchant vessels and personnel). The most powerful vessel I worked on was the 'Sea-land Galloway' a twin-screw (propeller) geared steam turbine vessel of 120,000 shaft horsepower capable of over 33 knots; the absolute zenith of the age of steam powered vessels. Today, it is mostly diesel ships known as motor vessels (MV).

My final 'twilight Cruise' was on the Great Lakes on the Interlake Steamship Company's SS Lee Tregurta, a bulk carrier hauling taconite (steel pellets) originating from the Mesabi Iron Mountain Range to the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge Plant. My involvement with the Maritime Industry continued until 2009. I have many fond memories of my years at sea. Looking back, I did the right thing not shirking military service; I was able to utilize the G.I. Bill for my education, I purchased my first home with my VA benefits, and I became a naturalized US citizen. I call it the 'Triple Crown'. It looks like my recruiter knew what he was talking about when he said "you will do fine". In conclusion I want to encourage everyone to "Buy American/Ship American". This was a bumper sticker I had on my car a long time ago. It will keep the US merchant Marine and our economy strong.



Midshipman Soli Solomon, US Merchant Marine

The shocking Truth**All you need to know about the Model A Distributor**

During the past several months working with the Low End Boys, I have discovered that when a club member's Model A needs attention, the problem is often found in the ignition system. The engine is not getting adequate spark to the spark plugs or spark is not occurring at the correct time. Sometimes, the problem can be traced to a fault in the wiring or a bad ignition switch or ammeter, however most often the problem lies with the distributor itself. For those of us who may not be familiar with the Model A distributor, if you open the hood, the distributor is that mysterious thing that sits on the top of the engine with all the wires going to it. Understanding how the Model A distributor works and how to adjust the points and set the timing will go a long way toward being able to perform basic maintenance and keep your Model A in good running order.

When our Model A's were new, distributors were used on most multi-cylinder spark ignition internal combustion engines. The distributor has to perform many functions such as provide a properly timed low voltage electrical signal to the ignition coil and distributing the resultant high voltage current from the coil to the proper spark plug. There must also be some provision where the timing of the signal to the coil can be changed as engine requirements varied such as during starting and changes in load and speed of the engine. Ford designed the Model A distributor to do all of these things.

The Model A distributor is an ingenious little device. It was simple, easy to repair and adjust using simple tools. Ford also incorporated a very simple method to vary the timing when the spark occurs. The Model A distributor functioned well, proved to be very reliable and was essentially unchanged during the entire production of the car. Through the years, the original Model A distributor has been unfairly blamed for functioning poorly and being unreliable. It is true that today, a lot of original distributors are unreliable and do cause problems and some owners feel that it is best to just replace that old worn out original distributor with one of the new "modern" distributors. Modern distributors have problems of their own and are not necessarily the best solution.

The problem we have is that after more than 85 years, most of the original Model A distributors have suffered from poor repair, have been subjected to having poor quality replacement parts used in them, or are just worn out. Also, a lot of owners do not know how to install, maintain and adjust the original Model A distributor.

Today, things are different. Once again, good quality replacement parts are available and we have good information on how to rebuild, install and adjust the Model A distributor.

Before you spend a lot of money on a "modern" distributor, look into getting your original ignition system in good repair with a properly rebuilt original distributor. Once properly rebuilt using good quality parts, the Model A distributor with minimal maintenance will provide many years and miles of reliable service. The original distributor will function very well both for the Model A that is basically original and is mainly used for local touring and parades as well as for those who have a modified engine and use their cars for serious long distance touring.

Only the original Model A distributor, as "Henry" designed it, will allow your Model A to function as originally intended. I find that part of the enjoyment of driving my Model A is to retard the timing while waiting at a stop light and listening to the engine idle very slowly, a-chug-a-chug-a-chug. This is very distinctive Model A and no other car sounds like that. You cannot do that with your "modern" distributor.

Happy motoring in your Model A.

Tech Tip Are you plugged in?

Or better said, "Is the coil wire on your Model A properly plugged into the coil?" On a recent tour to Porterville to the CCRG Jamboree, 2 cars from our club suffered breakdowns, one three times and the other just once, all for the same problem. The high tension coil wire came loose in the coil and started to fall out. In both cases, the coil wire had not been fully seated in the coil and was just sort of being held in place by the rubber boot. With time, the rubber boot became old and could no longer hold the wire in place, the coil wire would start to fall out and the engine would quit running.

There is a very simple fix for this. First of all, Henry never used a rubber boot on either end of the coil wire. The wire itself had a small brass tip that was soldered to the end of the copper conductor in the wire. This brass tip was designed to snap into the coil, securely holding the high tension wire in place. This wire with the brass tips soldered in place is available from most parts suppliers for less than \$2.00 or you can make your own. Just be sure you solder the brass tips or one may come loose and get stuck in the coil. A special coil wire without a solid conductor may be necessary if an electronic ignition is being used. This special wire is available for less than \$4.00. Just be sure the coil wire securely snaps in place and do not depend on a boot to keep it from falling out.



MEETING MINUTES MARCH 31, 2017

- The meeting was called to order by President John McDannel at 7:30. John thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- The flag salute was led by Ken Mallory.
- Membership: Bob Moore introduced guests Linda Salinas new members Jim & Pat Dolan.
- John McDannel thanked Bob Moore for the St Patrick's Day party.
- Altadena Homes Tours: Linda Salinas from the Altadena Guild of Huntington Hospital invited the club to show their cars at the Altadena Homes Tour on May 7, 2017. She passed around flyers about the event. If members are interested they may sign up tonight.
- Tours: Jim Kroger told about the following tours:
 - Mar. 23-26 CCRG - Porterville this was a great tour
 - Apr. 2 - Orange County Pancake Breakfast surface street tour meet at 5:45AM at the Shrimp Board, Peck Rd and Arrow Highway
 - May 4 - Mt Baldy Brunch Meet 8:15AM Royal Oaks in Bradbury Cost is \$18.00per person
 - Battle of the Bands in Arcadia -John introduced Roseline Fox coordinator for the Arcadia Battle of the Bands and her daughter Loren who presented thank you notes and a participation pin to those members that drove their cars in the Band Revue last November.
- Youth Coordinator: Wilbert Smith had Tom Endy, John Emanuelli, Jim Frick and Chuck Davies come to the front of the room and thanked them for working with the PHS Club. He thanked each of the men for their help with seminars, working with the students and moving the trailer back and forth between PHS and PCC.
- Doing Good Deeds: John McDannel reported that Wilbert has also donated a 2012 Toyota Nissan to a US Vet that has lost his legs. The Up and Coming Foundation is trying to raise \$3500 for cost to install hand controls in the car. Art Moore who drives his Model A with hand controls says this works.
- Program: Ken Mallory introduced Jeff Arnette who spoke about "Flying the Hump in WW II". Jeff gave a very interesting program about flying the Forgotten Theater.
- Presentations: John McDannel called Jeff Arnette, Linda Salinas, Roseline Fox and Wilbert up front for some presentations of eggs, club flashlights and a club Wine Glass to speaker Jeff Arnette.
- Rosters: Joe Wilson asked members to pick up their roster if they have not done so.
- Break
- Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed
- Treasurer Report: The Treasurer's report was approved as read.
- Sunshine: Sympathy cards sent to John Emanuelli and Helen Cortez. Get Well cards sent to Marlin Perry and Randy Harper.
- Ladies Raffle: Bea Fruchter asked members to sign up to purchase Ladies raffle prizes, you are allowed \$100 to purchase prizes.
- Thank you: Thank you to Elaine Perry, Tracy Butkus, Carol Emanuelli and Gerry McKinney for Refreshments.
- Cookie Bringers: Gerry McKinney requested members to sign up to bring cookies need for April, May and June.
- 50/25/25 Mary McDannel and Tracy Butkus \$34.00 each
- Drive Your Model A: John Emanuelli
- Name Badge: Tom & Sheri Johnson
- Raffle
- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Perry, Secretary

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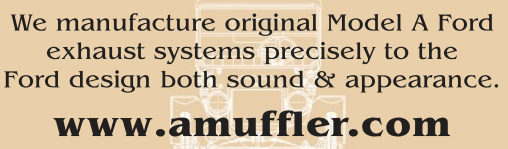


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Jim Kroeger helps Joe Wilson consider the options for fixing his two piece tire which was created on the way to the CCRG Jamboree in Porterville



Warren Record traveled to Porterville with his guard dog.



Model A Ford Club of America

Santa Anita A's is a chartered member of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). It is a California not-for-profit corporation and a national historical society dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Ford vehicles as manufactured from 1928 through 1931. We encourage our SAA members to also participate in the MAFCA organization. Check out their web site. It contains a wide variety of information about the organization, activities, technical references and instructions on how to join the organization. (www.mafca.com)

Important: Check out the up-coming tours very carefully. The cut-off dates for signing up for some tours require that you sign-up and pay at the April meeting or sometime before the May meeting. Don't get left out!



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