



December 2016



# Spoken Wheels

## THE NEXT MEETING

### No Meeting in December -

But "I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night".



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JOHN MCDANNEL

### "HAPPY NEW YEAR – HONK, HONK"

Whew, we have had a great year!

**Wilbert Smith**, our youth outreach committee Chairman, ran the MAFCA maze and landed a big prize for the youth at Pasadena High School. As you know, he has helped generate the first youth Model A Ford Club Charter in America. Way to go **Wilbert Smith and John Emanuelli** for your supportive efforts serving this important committee. Reaching out to our greater community is most admirable.

Speaking of praise, we should all stand up and applaud **Joe Wilson**, our editor of the Spoken Wheels. His creative efforts and long hours have brought recognition to our club by receiving an award from MAFCA admiring our 2016 Spoken Wheels Newsletter

We ended 2016 with a good crowd at our annual Christmas Party. Everyone seemed to enjoy each other's company. The food was good, "the Harpist Strummed Us Along" with pleasant holiday music, and Santa Claus (**Sir Don Mc Bride**) cheered us up with his effervescent presence. Ho, Ho, Ho.

Many of our members were on "Pines and Needles" waiting to visit the **Concidine Christmas lights and decoration tour**. You might say the Concidine's really "go out on a limb" to make you feel welcome". Thanks for your many Christmas trees and Christmas cheers.

Before we know it, we will be having the installation of our new President, Donald Trump. We hope he has a few Trump cards up his sleeve. We all wish him and our country great success in the coming months and years ahead. May peace and a robust economy prevail!

Speaking of installations, we have our installation of officers coming up in January. Anyone up for a recount? Ha, ha. We are in hopes of this year's officers playing their own Trump cards to make 2017 a memorable year.

May each of you enjoy a year without any flats and we hope you will enjoy a nice tail wind always at your back.  
Cheers

## Another Dues Reminder

Most law abiding SAA's members have paid their 2017 dues or at least have their "checks in the mail". To those of you who forgot, I advise there is still a chance for redemption.

Simply get in your car, drive to Sheri Johnson's home and hand her \$30 in cash or a personal check. If you don't have a car, you could mail the money to her at 844 Diamond St., Monrovia, CA 91016. Tempus Fugit!



Members choosing to participate in the tour to Rubel's Castle found much more than just buildings made of rocks and bottles. This place is a real museum with easy access. A shouldn't miss.

## 2017 Club Roster to be published by Joe Wilson

Preparation of the 2017 membership roster will begin January 1. Although efforts have been made to keep the club's database current, we ask your help in verifying that your information is up to date. Effective January 1, 2017 we will post an updated version of the on-line roster included on our web site. I ask that you look at that on-line roster and notify me by email if there are corrections to be made.

The new roster will be printed using the information we have in our data base as of January 31. Members who are current on their dues as of January 31 will be retained in the club's data base, kept on the email list and will be included in the new 2017 Roster. Tempus Fugit!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

31 - Holiday Motor Excursion - see page 4

### January

1 - Your 2017 club dues are past due

9 - Ladies' Brunch, Annia's Restaurant, El Monte Airport, 11:00 AM

11 - Board Meeting, City Hall, Temple City, 7:00 PM

14 - Nixon Library Tour - see page 4

19 - Men's Breakfast, Annia's Restaurant, El Monte Airport, 9:00 AM

27 - General Meeting, Installation of New Officers

28 - 29 Turlock Swap meet, Staniislaus Fairgrounds, Turlock

### February

4 - Paramount Ranch Tour - see page 4

18 - Orange R.R. Overnight tour - details TBA

24 - General Meeting, Annual Club Auction

## Chuck Sharpe Makes Emergency Repairs

During his recent stay at the hospital for knee surgery, Chuck Sharpe was observed making repairs to his bed after hearing strange noises during the night.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### January Birthdays

2 - Leslie Pam  
 3 - John Fant  
 11 - Olive Moore  
 11 - Dino Falabrino  
 12 - Steve Kurtz  
 13 - Jamie Frick  
 15 - Sally Baquet  
 16 - Jan Roderick  
 17 - Brad Balmot  
 18 - Bob Travis  
 18 - JoAnn Formia  
 20 - Jim Kroeger  
 29 - Tom Johnson  
 30 - Chris Wickersham

### January Anniversaries

22 - Jerry & Patty Lampassi  
 22 - Larry & Joyce McCullah  
 31 - John & Marianne Spielmann

## OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

### OFFICERS

#### President:

John McDannel 626-791-3221

#### Vice President:

Ken Mallory 626-305-2418

#### Secretary:

Elaine Perry 626-443-0638

#### Treasurer:

Sheri Johnson 626-446-3367

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Bob Travis 626-574-0665

Immediate Past President

AC Byrd 323-721-1996

Steve Concidine 626-335-2755

Carol Emanuelli 626-286-5267

Jim Kroeger 626-710-6592

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Activities:

Elaine Perry 626-443-0638

#### Advertising:

Bob Moore 626-358-2027

#### Fashion Coordinator:

Susan Homet 626-798-4964

#### Ladies' Day:

Carol Emanuelli & 626-286-5267

Vicky Balmot 626-303-3111

#### Low End Boys:

Mickey Fruchter 626-797-2048

W/John Emanuelli, Marlin Perry, Larry Rummens, Randy Gross, Louie Formia, Dick Homet, Chris Wickersham, Brad Balmot, Jim Frick

#### Membership:

Randy Harper 626-357-6442

#### Merchandise

Mickey Fruchter 626-797-2048

#### Participation Record Keeper:

Jim Frick 626-303-5233

### Phone Committee:

Joyce Travis & 626-574-0665

Bea Fruchter 626-797-2048

### Raffle – Ladies':

Patty Lutz 626-915-7037

### Raffle – Men's:

Tom Johnson 626-446-3367

### Raffle - 50-25-25:

Bea Fruchter 626-797-2048

### Refreshment Host:

Nancy Stancil 626-448-0457

Gerry McKinney 714-963-2724

### Refreshment Sign-ups:

Diana Kincart 626-446-7876

### Restorer Articles:

Keith Smith 661-298-0625

### Roster:

Joe Wilson 818-790-0995

### Seminars:

Bob Travis 626-574-0665

### Southern CA MAFCA Reg. Rep. (SCRG):

Marlin Perry 626-443-0638

### Spoken Wheels:

Editor-Joe Wilson 818-790-0995

Proofers - Olive Moore & Elaine Perry,

Mailers - Elaine Perry & Sally Baquet

### Sunshine Lady:

Judi Moore 626-358-2027

### Technical Director:

Bob Travis 626-574-0665

### Tour Meister

Jim Kroeger 626-710-6592

### Tour Leaders - Individual Tours

Jim Frick, Joe Wilson, Bob Moore

### Webmaster:

Eric Sandberg 818-330-9311

### Youth Outreach:

Wilbert Smith 626-791-7636

### Santa Anita A's Mailing Address:

PO Box 660904 Arcadia, CA 91006

## SUNSHINE LADY -

**JUDI MOORE**

Sent a sympathy card was sent to Tom Johnson on the passing of his sister.

## COOKIE BRINGERS ALERT

No meeting - ergo no cookies.

## PHOTO DONORS

Jammie Frick, John McDannel, Joe Wilson

## THINK ABOUT IT

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and he will sit in a boat all day and drink beer.

## A Thank You From Sheri Johnson -

Thank you so much to the members who so graciously sent their kind expressions of sympathy in the passing of Tom's sister. It was very much appreciated.

## NEW MEMBERS

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



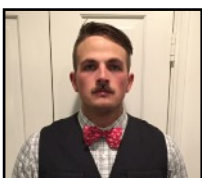
**Dino & Gina Falabrino**  
626-445-6951 cell 626-664-6065  
341 Coyle Ave. Arcadia, CA 91006.  
[DJFCars@hotmail.com](mailto:DJFCars@hotmail.com)  
Joined Sep. 2016 1929 Tudor (shared)



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



**John & Colleen MacDonnell**  
626-355-7436 cell 626-945-4730  
11847 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006.  
[jmacdonnell@verizon.net](mailto:jmacdonnell@verizon.net)  
Joined Sep. 2016 1929 Tudor (shared)



**Cameron MacDonnell**  
626-626-0300  
11847 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia, CA 91006.  
[cammac811@yahoo.com](mailto:cammac811@yahoo.com)  
Joined Sep. 2016 1929 Tudor (shared)

**Avrid & Nancy Olson**  
626-673-1337  
421 E. Live Oak St. #304. San Gabriel, CA 91776  
[arvidolson@aol.com](mailto:arvidolson@aol.com)  
Joined August , 2016 1930 Tudor



**Michael Valentine**  
323-369-9988  
4515 Walnut Grove Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770  
No email  
Joined August 2016 1929 Roadster



**Larry & Joyce McCullah**  
714-879-4026 cell 562-673-1667  
201 N. Alberta Pl. , Fullerton, CA 92833  
[cigarlarry@gmail.com](mailto:cigarlarry@gmail.com)  
Joined August, 2016 - 28 Sedan Del., 28 Rdst.



**David Florez**  
626-593-7307 Cell 626-624-8911  
933 Blue Ash Rd., West Covina 91790  
[davidmikeflorez@gmail.com](mailto:davidmikeflorez@gmail.com)  
Joined July 2016



**Michael Florez**  
626-593-7307  
933 Blue Ash Rd., West Covina 91790  
[migodaan200@yahoo.com](mailto:migodaan200@yahoo.com)  
Joined July 2016



**Bill & Nancy Stoner**  
818-790-8059 cell 818-421-2100  
1694 Fairmont, La Canada, CA 91011  
[wstoner@stonerlawoffice.com](mailto:wstoner@stonerlawoffice.com)  
Joined June 2016 1930 Town Sedan

## Results of the November 18<sup>th</sup> SAA's Election

The Members have spoken and the die has been cast. Leaders of the Santa Anita A's for 2017 have been selected and will become "official" at the January 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Rather than holding an "Installation Banquet", this year the new Officers and Board Members will be recognized at the January 27<sup>th</sup> General meeting.

Below are the names of your newly elected officers and board members. Also listed below are the names of the Members that have been selected to chair the various committees that "make the wheels turn" in our club.

In addition to those elected to serve and those selected to head up the committees, there are additional members who should be recognized for their "silent" help in making things happen.

Members are encouraged to share their ideas and concerns with the "club management". Board meetings are open to all members who wish to attend.

### OFFICERS

President: John McDannel  
Vice President: Bob Harbicht  
Secretary: Elaine Perry  
Treasurer: Sheri Johnson

### Raffle – Men's:

Ken Mallory  
Raffle - 50-25-25:  
Larry Butkus

### Refreshment Host:

Carol Emanuelli  
Refreshment Sign-ups:

Gerry McKinney  
Restorer Articles:

Keith Smith

### Roster:

Joe Wilson

### Seminars:

Bob Travis

### SCRG Representative:

Marlin Perry

### Spoken Wheels:

Editor-Joe Wilson

### Sunshine Lady:

Judi Moore

### Technical Director:

Chris Wickersham

### Tour Meister:

Jim Kroeger

### Webmaster:

Eric Sandberg

### Youth Outreach:

Wilbert Smith

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Tracy Butkus  
AC Byrd  
Carol Emanuelli  
Jim Frick  
Jim Kroeger

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities:  
Elaine Perry  
Advertising:  
John Emanuelli  
Fashion Coordinator:  
Susan Homet  
Ladies' Day:  
Barbara Dawson w/ Tracy Butkas  
Low End Boys:  
Mickey Fruchter  
Membership:  
Randy Harper  
Merchandise:  
Open  
Raffle – Ladies':  
Bea Fruchter

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. Web Site [www.santaanitaas.org](http://www.santaanitaas.org)



## COMING EVENTS

### Holiday Motor Excursion

Saturday, December 31

by Joe Wilson

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Motor Excursion sponsored by the Horseless Carriage Club features a car show followed by a driving tour for 1932 and older cars. Hundreds of cars of all ages will be on display.

This year the event will be held at a new location, the Santa Anita Race Track. Enter at gate 6 off of Colorado Place on the North parking lot. Gates will open at 7:00 AM. Cost is \$10 per car.

This has become a popular event for SAA's Club members and Jay Leno who shows up driving one of his classic cars. So, clean up your A, dress for the weather and join us at the Santa Anita Race Track where you will see a wide variety of very interesting cars.



### Nixon Presidential Library Tour

Saturday, January 14

by Jim Kroeger

With the inauguration of a new President just around the corner, it is only fitting that our first tour of the year be a visit to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda on Saturday, January 14th.

The newly-redesigned library features 70 new exhibits, 300 artifacts and more than 600 photographs. A private docent-guided tour of the library begins at 10 am followed by lunch at Polly's Pies located in the former Yorba Linda Pacific train station.



We will meet at the Perry's at 8:15AM for a surface-street only tour. Their address is 5528 Lenore Ave. in Arcadia. Admission for the tour is \$14.00 payable in advance with a deadline of **January 9th**. Please make out your check to the SAA's and mail to Sheri Johnson.

For those of you meeting our tour group at the library, the address is 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda. There is no sign up sheet so please call Jim Kroeger at 626-710-6592 to confirm your participation.

Whatever your political affiliation, it should be an informative day filled with intrigue and history as we find out more about our 37th President. A Ford Thunderbird Club will also be touring the library that day so it will make for some fantastic automobile photos. Parking for club cars has been reserved. Hope to see you on tour.

### Paramount Ranch & Picnic Tour

Saturday, February 4

by Jim Kroeger

Most of us remember the television shows Gunsmoke and The Rifleman but do you know where some of those episodes were filmed? They were shot on what were called "movie ranches". So join us as we travel to one and explore Paramount Ranch in the Agoura Hills on Saturday, February 4th.

In 1927 Paramount Studios purchased 2700 acres of land and built numerous large-scale sets on the ranch. Actors such as John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Henry Fonda and Barbara Stanwyck made movies here. The land was eventually sold in 1980 to the National Park Service.



Park Rangers will lead us on a private tour of the ranch beginning at 11 AM followed by a boxed-lunch picnic provided by The Corner Bakery.

We will meet at the Kroeger home located at 2669 E. Villa Street in Pasadena at 8:30 AM. Admission to the park is free but there is a \$12.00 charge for boxed lunches.

Sign up at the January 27th general meeting and designate your type of sandwich. Choices include: turkey, roast beef, chicken salad or ham and swiss. Please make checks payable to the SAA's and leave with or mail to Sheri Johnson.

Our club has never visited Paramount Ranch so we are encouraging current and new members to join us for what will be a great day of Hollywood History and Model A driving. For more info call your tour leader Bob Travis at 626-574-0665. Hope to see you on tour.

### 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](http://www.mafca.com))



## Rubel's Castle

Sunday, November 20

by Jim Kroeger

What do you do when your mother's extravagant parties, located in an old citrus packing house, gets loud and out of hand? You begin building a small get-away house in an old one million gallon concrete reservoir using cement and disgarded champagne bottles.



Such was the case in 1960 when Michael Rubel began building what was to become Rubel Castle in Glendora. Six Model A's and twenty-five people made the trip to "Rubelia" and toured the grounds of this unbelievable structure.

In 1959 Michael Rubel purchased a 2 ½ acre citrus orchard and tried to make ends meet by farming frogs and vegetables. He was unsuccessful so he wound up following a boyhood dream and compulsion of building a castle. With his wide circle of friends, Rubel built the structure without architectural plans utilizing salvaged river rock, cement, steel, aluminum, telephone poles and wine bottles.



Rubel drove a school bus for work and after dropping the kids off he would drive down to the river bed in Azusa Canyon and load up the bus with the river rock.

The castle grew to be thousands of square feet with towers five stories high. One of these towers is seventy-five feet tall and is crowned with a clock and brass bells. It is powered by a restored 1890 Seth Thomas clock works. The "clock tower" began construction in 1964 and was completed in 1986.

Most of the materials used to build the castle, including all of the cement, were donated. On the castle grounds one can find a 1940's-era Santa Fe Caboose in pristine condition, a 16-ton irrigation pump used to run a bird bath, a tree house, blacksmith and machine shops and a windmill donated from a ranch in Lompoc. There is also a mock cemetery with rejected marble tombstones. The castle was completed in 1986.

Before Rubel passed on in 2007, he presented the castle to the Glendora Historical society in 2005 to ensure its future. It was added to the National Register of Historical Places



in 2013.

After the castle tour, our group headed over to Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse for lunch. The restaurant has a no-ties-allowed policy that is said to be strictly enforced. Club members Frick and Kroeger, known as the "Jim's" decided to test that policy but alas, they weren't kidding. Their ties were cut off at the table.





**Christmas Party**

Saturday December 10

by Joe Wilson

I don't know how he does it, with all the demands on his time in December, Santa was able to attend our annual Christmas party although he did arrive late and missed dinner. Unfortunately Don McBride went to the men's room and missed an opportunity to have his picture taken with Santa.

A total of fifty members were on hand to welcome Santa, receive their annual candy cane and enjoy the Christmas music provided by Jennifer Duke on her portable harp.



Those arriving early to the Arcadia Presbyterian Church were treated to appetizers prior to a very nice meal.

Many thanks to Elaine Perry and her crew who organized the event.

See more photos on page 12.



**Model A Year 1931**

The year 1931 was the end of an era. The years from 1928 through 1931 were the years that our precious Model-A automobiles were birthed, lived, then sadly passed away. Oh but they were glorious years! The year of their birth, 1928, was a year full of fun and gaiety, the tail end of the 1920's. The time was high, the living easy and the new Ford Model-A car fit right in! It seemed the A's appeared out of nowhere and they just filled up the streets! Near everybody wanted one, and many fortunate folks were able to afford to buy one. So they became all the rage! In women's clothing fashions the year of 1928 sported skirts on the short side, barely covering the knee. By the year of 1931 however, our female fashionistas were sporting skirts half way down their calves. More fabric as mentioned in the article about fashions in 1930 was covering more skin. Hairstyles were also lengthening, shoulder length was the norm.

As the year was now 1931, the country was heading into its second full year of The Great Depression. This was a very different time than The Roaring Twenties! As fashion seems to follow economics as well as sometimes function, clothing moved in a more conservative direction. This year of 1931, however, was less restrictive regarding women's personal expression. Maybe due to the fact that fashion was taking a back seat to other more serious things women could experiment more freely with fashion choices.



Women began to express themselves subtly through more personal preferences in the ways in which they dressed. This year of 1931 is known in fashion as one of change and departure from some of the previous fashion rules. More fashion choices were becoming available through fashion magazines, catalogues, and patterns to make. So ladies were encouraged and empowered to try out some "personal style choices". From the tilt of their hats, to the height of their heels they could express their own special little differences that made them special.

Some specifics of the year included a basic straight silhouette, the fuller flared skirt was no longer in vogue. Skirts were straight or discretely pleated. Raglan sleeves, button up the front, and V-necks were "in".

One popular style was a one-piece dress with the appearance of a blouse and skirt. A bag and gloves were a definite fashion accessory for all outfits. From short gloves, worn for spectator sports, to medium white kid for afternoon, gloves were very important fashion accessories. Suede gloves were also fashionable. Scarves became very popular including fur and silk scarves. Shoes this season were short heels in calf worn with sport stockings of silk and wool mesh. The evening formal wear for going to the opera was a pump of suede or kid with leather trim. Dying was very important this year, and shoes could be dyed to match or contrast with the costume. In an evening ensemble Rushing and Shirring were two important details, along with skirt hemlines and were also used to outline collars and cuffs on daytime dresses.

This completes the series of articles addressing fashion through the Model-A years from 1928 through 1931.



# Santa Anita A's Veteran



## Chuck Sharpe US Army 1950-1952

In December of 1950 I was drafted into the army. Basic training was at Fort Ord. There they discovered I was "left eyed." I was classified as "non-combatant." The army does not have left eyed rifles. I was certainly no Audie Murphy! By this I mean while I admire those on "the front lines" and thoroughly enjoy reading the exploits of other Model A members' stories of their service, mine is more a story of those who served in a back line support capacity (way back line).

After basic I spent a year at Camp Roberts, just South of Paso Robles. There I drove the post bus mostly delivering ambulatory patients to the post hospital (mostly pregnant women). While doing my bus duties you would think I was the Camp Chaplain. I must appear very trustworthy because some of these women would tell me stuff so personal it would burn the hair in your nose. Nancy says I must just be a good listener.

I was then transferred to Base North Richland in Richland, Washington. Although no one would admit it, they must have misfiled my papers. After 10 days of sleeping in till noon and no one seeming to know I was not assigned to anywhere, an officer spotted me one day and asked me where I was assigned and why I wasn't doing anything. When I told him I wasn't assigned they looked into this and found my M.O.S. (Military Occupational Specialty) papers. My "M.O.S." said I was a welder and I was expected 10 days ago (as though their losing my paperwork was my fault). I was then told to immediately report to the dental lab. Why, to weld gold bridges. This was not related in any way to welding I had done in the past, but I learned quickly.

Because there was not a lot of "welding" they taught me to take dental impressions. Having a lot of spare time in this duty, I started fixing and driving a jalopy, a 1934 Ford Vicky in great shape, until I got a hold of it. I'd like to say how great a driver I was and how many races I won, but I would be lying. I was not very good at it but it was a lot of fun. Working on a jalopy and racing put a lot of grease and oil under my fingernails. This must have helped in taking dental impressions because the molds didn't stick to my fingers anymore.

After all this, my last exploit is how I was discharged two hours early from the Army. In the winter of 1952, it was cold and snowy. My GI shoes that had been issued to me were all worn out. I only had nine days left before discharge so if I had to buy a new pair of shoes my choice was a nice pair of black wingtips. I was spotted by an officer who gave me a hard time but when I told him of my impending discharge date, he went away grumbling. As luck would have it, on the day of discharge, it was this same officer who was giving the reenlistment pep talk and how great it would be to re-up now that they needed men. We could have our pick of assignment and get the \$600 reenlistment bonus. However, as soon as he saw me (still wearing my wingtips) he just said "you can go now" even though it was two hours early.

A couple of days before my discharge, as a bonus, a guy I knew was going to abandon a 1932 Ford sedan because it wasn't running and was missing the front grill and radiator. He said I could have it, so I towed it home because I wanted the "B" engine. Yes, it had a four cylinder engine.



Chuck Sharpe 1950



Chuck Sharpe and his jalopy



*You have heard my many comments about the problems created by Ethanol gasoline. I want to share with you this article written by Jay Leno which first appeared in Auto Week Magazine. He agrees with me that Ethanol is bad for our cars.*

## Talking About Cars

by Jay Leno

As someone who collects old cars, and keeps them up religiously, I am now replacing fuel-pressure regulators every 12 to 18 months. New cars are equipped with fuel lines that are resistant to ethanol damage, but with older cars, the worst can happen - you're going down the road, and suddenly your car is on fire.

There's more. I find that gasoline, which used to last about a year and a half or two years, is pretty much done after a month or so these days. If I run a car from the teens or '20s and fill it up with modern fuel, then it sits for more than two months, I often can't get it to start.

Ethanol will absorb water from ambient air. In a modern vehicle, with a scaled fuel system, ethanol fuel has a harder time picking up water from the air. But in a vintage car, the water content of fuel can rise, causing corrosion and inhibiting combustion. It gets worse. Ethanol is a solvent that can loosen the sludge, varnish and dirt that accumulate in a fuel tank. That mixture can clog fuel lines and block carburetor jets.

Blame the Renewable Fuel Standard. This government-mandated rule requires certain amounts of ethanol and other bio-fuels be blended with gasoline and diesel fuel. But when Congress first passed KFS as part of the Energy Policy Act in 2005, our demand for energy was increasing. Today, it's the opposite. Total demand for fuel has decreased thanks to more-efficient vehicles, more hybrids and increased environmental awareness. The EPA is set to release the 2015 standard in June. Meanwhile, some legislators are pushing to reform or eliminate the Renewable Fuel Standard entirely.

I just don't see the need for ethanol. I understand the theory—these giant agri-business companies can process corn, add the resulting blend to gasoline and we'll be using and importing less gasoline. But they say this diversion of the corn supply is negatively affecting food prices and the ethanol-spiked gas we're forced to buy is really awful.

The big growers of corn have sold us a bill of goods. Some people are making a lot of money because of ethanol. But as they divert production from food to fuel, food prices inevitably will rise.

Last week, I went to start up one of my Duesenbergs. When I pulled out of the spot where it had been parked for about a month, I saw a huge pool of gas. I looked at it while it was running and saw gas just pouring out. "OK, I've got to buy another fuel regulator." I pulled it out and opened it up. The fiber diaphragm was eaten right through. Should

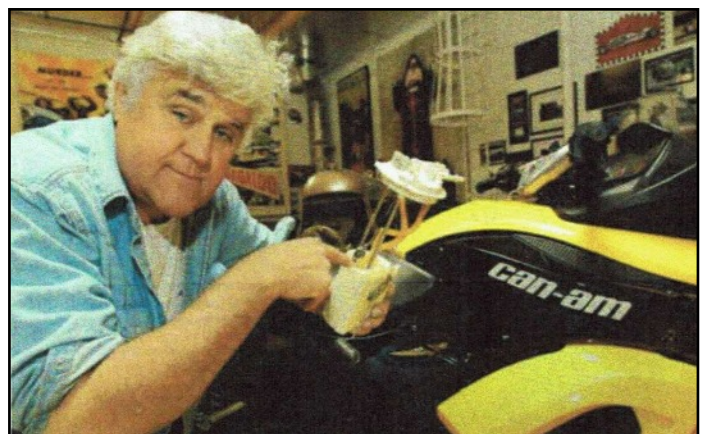
manufacturers make diaphragms for old cars out of modern materials like Viton or Teflon-Yes, they should, but not all of them do. Consequently, your chances of a fire remain. Here's another problem: When you have vehicles with fuel cells in their gas tanks, ethanol tends to eat the coating out of the fuel cell. If you have an old motorcycle and redo the fuel tank, the first thing you do is seal the tank with some sealant. It's generally a cream or a gray color, and it looks like you painted the inside of the tank on a lot of my bikes now, I'll open the gas tank and I'll go in with a long set of tweezers. I'm pulling out sheets of this coating. Really, it comes out in 6-inch strips.

The ethanol is just eating it up and clogging the fuel pump because it'll move around as a sheet of material and block the opening. With cars like my McLaren F1, if I buy a 55-gallon drum of VP racing gas, the fuel cell will last twice as long.

It's time for us as automobile enthusiasts to dig in our heels and start writing to our congressmen and senators about the Renewable Fuel Standard, or we'll be forced to use even more ethanol. Most people assume, "Oh, that'll never happen. They'll never do that." Remember prohibition? In 1920, all the saloons were closed. It took until 1933 before legal liquor came back. Most people don't really look at what goes into their car. Obviously, the days of high-octane gas like Sunoco 260 are long gone. Those of us with older vehicles are the ones who end up paying the price. The car manufacturers don't care. They don't mind if your vintage car burns up or breaks down. They want to sell you a new one. It's hard for enthusiasts. We really have nowhere to go.

So write those letters. But I also suggest you drain and clean your old car's fuel tank, use a quality fuel-tank sealer that's impervious to ethanol, replace fuel filters, keep all the screens clear and use a fuel stabilizer (added to a full fuel tank), if your car is to be stored for the winter season.

Oh, and keep a fire extinguisher handy.





## SAA General Meeting Minutes November 18, 2016

- The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ken Mallory at 7:31.
- The flag salute was led by Bob Harbicht.
- Membership: Randy Harper announced that we currently have 240 family members.
- Tours: Jim Kroger told about the following tours:  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> - Rubel Castle Tour meet at Walmart at 8:45am  
Tours planned for next year include JPL, Gamble House & Lucas Tire
- Sunshine: Judi sent cards to Dick Homet, Mary Garduno, and Chuck Sharpe, Bev Kniest and Helen Johnson. Maryann Sepulveda will have hip surgery on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Program: Wilbert Smith introduced guests from PHS: Vice Principal - Ray Cross, Advisor - Neil Asser, Assistant advisor - Todd Dirks, After School Learning Program - Arman Ter-Grigoryan, Student President of PHS Model A Club - Joel Rodriguez, Fix Auto Vatche Derderian.

Wilbert showed a very informative video on the progress of the PHS Model A Club and the project car. Wilbert explained that he is currently in negotiations with the owner of a trailer to house and move the project car between PHS and PCC. The cost of the trailer is \$15,000. Donations may be made to the "Up and Coming Educational Foundation" (this is a tax deductible foundation) to help purchase the trailer.

• Election: The ballots were passed out and the members running for the Board of Directors were introduced and each gave a short talk about their reasons for running for the board.  
Election results are as follows:  
Officers: President- John McDannel, Vice President- Bob Harbicht, Secretary- Elaine Perry, Treasurer- Sheri Johnson  
Board Members: Tracy Butkus, AC Byrd, Carol Emanuelli, Jim Frick and Jim Kroeger

- Break
- Recall to order
- Minutes: The minutes were approved as printed
- Treasure's Report: The Treasure's report was approved as read.
- General Announcements: Bea told about a 1965 Corvette for sale \$64,000.
- Mickey asked if anyone had picked up his missing clear clipboard
- Spoken Wheels: Joe announced that he and Tom Endy are looking at the next section of Vet articles and if your name is called please see Tom Endy tonight before you leave.
- Thank you to cookie bringers Diana Kincart, Kathy Concidine, Carol Emanuelli and Bonnie Nelson
- Raffle
- Drive Model A - John Emanuelli
- Model A Badge - Randy Harper
- 50/25/25 - Tom Johnson and Nancy Sharpe \$23.00 each
- Men's and Ladies Raffle
- Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Perry, Secretary

**For Sale: For SAA Club Members Only**  
Fischer Classic Car Motor Oil, 20-W50. 5.2 quart Jug at \$27.50 , or 3 jugs at \$75. I can bring to club meetings if you place an order.  
Bob Travis 626-574-0665

**For Sale - Borg Warner 5 Speed**  
Rebuilt transmission with deluxe adapter kit for Model A 4-banger. Cost \$2300. Asking \$1850. I have never opened the boxes since delivery. Cheaper than a Mitchell transmission & overdrive!! Steve Newton 310-837-3026.


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Members attending the Christmas party received candy canes from Santa. Members who did not attend will find lumps of coal in their stockings on December 25.



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