



August 2015

Celebrating our 40th Year - 1975 to 2015
Santa Anita A's
Arcadia, CA

Spoken Wheels

FICTION AND FACT

General Meeting

Friday, Aug 28 - 7:30 PM

Arcadia Red Cross, 376 Huntington Dr., Arcadia

Program

Our speaker for the August meeting will again be Wilbert Smith Ph.D. At our last meeting Wilbert presented some excellent information on managing our personal finances. Wilbert will expand on this topic at our August meeting. Don't miss this one.

Ponder This

In this issue you will find many things to ponder, including:

- Bob Travis publishes the last of his four part history of the Santa Anita A's, "The First Forty Years".
- Tom Endy's series on SAA veterans features Joe Giocamarra.
- Jim Kroeger announces The "Ruby Anniversary Gala" that he and Janet Beggs are organizing. Do you know why it's called the "Ruby" Anniversary Gala?



These ladies are discussing the impressive inventory of Model A parts they viewed during our visit to the "Early Ford Store" on our way to the SAA's 40th anniversary picnic.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - BOB TRAVIS

It's hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of the calendar year 2015. This means that our new club calendar requires us to begin the process of electing a new board of officers and directors. By the time you read this the current board will have approved a nominating committee to fill these positions. The membership of the committee will be announced at this month's meeting. I urge you to consider running for an office, on the board, or to volunteer to serve as one of the many committee chairs. It takes a lot of hands to make this great club work. You can make your desires known to any current board or a member of the nominating committee.

This issue of the Spoken Wheels contains the fourth and final article on the history of the club and concludes my effort to share the highlights of the past. There is a definite pattern to the club's activities that show great consistency which in turn provides comfort in the permanency of the organization. There is, without question, outstanding dedication and true love demonstrated by its members. Reaching our 50th anniversary will be a piece of cake. I hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane.

In closing, I extend my personal thanks to Mickey Fruchter and the anniversary committee for the great picnic. I counted 47 members in attendance.

Also, I wish to say that I received several favorable comments and compliments concerning Wilbet Smith's program presentation at the last meeting. Great job Wilbert.

Until next time, thanks for the ride and drive an A every day.

The Santa Anita A's - The first forty years

Part Four- 10 years ago - 2005

by Bob Travis

This will be the last article commemorating the club's 40th anniversary.

January 2005 began with the following officers and directors: President - Mickey Fruchter, Vice President - Bob Harbicht, Secretary - Sheri Johnson, Treasurer - Carol Emanuelli. Board of directors: Joe Blaylock, John Emanuelli,

Continued on page 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 23 - San Fernando Valley Model A club swap meet
- 28 - General Meeting

September

- 13 - Car show - Santa Anita Retirement Center, 5600 Gracewood, Temple City, 2:00 PM - 4 PM, Contact Joe Farino 626-445-4589
- 14 - Ladies Brunch, Annia's, Restaurant, El Monte Airport, 11:00 AM
- 17 - Men's Breakfast, Annia's, El Monte Airport, 9:00 AM
- 18 - International Model A Day, see page 4
- 25 - Pot Luck Dinner Meeting, see page 4
- 26 - Battleship U.S.S. Iowa Tour
- 27 - Paradise Valley Club Swap Meet, San Bernardino

October

- 3 - Homestead Museum, Ticket to The 20's Tour, see page 4
- 17 - Temple City Fall Festival and Car Show, details TBA
- 24 - Vista Steam Engine Museum Overnight Tour, details TBA

November

- 7 - Graber Olive House Tour
- 20 - General meeting - Note date change, one week early
- 21 - Spectacular Ruby Anniversary Gala

December

- 6 - Arabian Horse show tour at Cal Poly
- 12 - Christmas Party, Details TBA
- 27 - Holiday Motor Excursion Tour

OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

OFFICERS

President:	
Bob Travis	626-574-0665
Vice President:	
John McDannel	626-791-3221
Secretary:	
Elaine Perry	626-443-0638
Treasurer:	
Sheri Johnson	626-446-3367

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Carol Emanuelli	626-286-5267
Mickey Fruchter,	626-797-2048
Immediate Past President	
Jerry Lampassi	909-899-6015
Don McBride	626-792-8652
Rick Phillips	626-447-0611

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Accessories:	
AC Byrd	323-721-1996
Activities:	
Elaine Perry	626-443-0638
Advertising:	
Dick Canzoneri	626-358-8182
Club Liaison:	
Don McBride	626-792-8652
Fashion Coordinator:	
Bonnie Nelson	626-614-0528
Ladies' Day:	
Carol Emanuelli &	626-286-5267
Bonnie Nelson	626-614-0528
Low End Boys:	
Marlin Perry	626-443-0638
With Brad Balmot, Ted Bruns,	
John Emanuelli, Louie Formia,	
Mickey Fruchter, Dick Homet, Gene	
Reinhardt, Randy Gross, Larry	
Rummens and Chris Wickersham.	
Membership:	
Randy Harper	626-357-6442

Participation Record Keeper:

Jim Frick	626-303-5233
Phone Committee: Board of Directors	
Raffle – Ladies':	
Bea Fruchter	626-797-2048
Raffle – Men's:	
Jack Dawson	818-790-6592
Raffle - 50-25-25:	
Josie Byrd	323-721-1996
Refreshment Host:	
Nancy Stancil &	626-448-0457
Nancy Sharpe	626-359-1751
Refreshment Sign-ups:	
Carolyn McBride	626-792-8652
Restorer Articles:	
Keith Smith	661-298-0625
Roster:	
Joe Wilson	818-790-0995
Seminars:	
Marlin Perry	626-443-0638
Southern CA MAFCA Regional Representative:	
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Bob Travis	626-574-0665
Tours Director:	
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Santa Anita A's Mailing Address:	
PO Box 660904 Arcadia, CA 91006	
Web Site: www.santaanitaas.org	

Managing Your Personal Finances program presented at the July meeting

At our July meeting, Club member Wilbert Smith Ph.D, presented an excellent program on managing our personal finances. He shared ideas on how to prepare for retirement, handle our investments, purchase the appropriate insurance and avoid unwanted surprises.



Our members response to Wilbert's presentation was very positive. We have asked him to continue his discussion at our next meeting on August 28. Wilbert will spend additional time on the subject of insurance and has suggested, that for reference during the discussion, you bring the "declaration" page of your insurance policies which summarizes your coverage.

Think About It

When I retire I plan on living off of my savings.
Not sure what I'll do the second week.

SUNSHINE LADY - JOYCE TRAVIS

A Sympathy card was sent to Joe Farino upon the death of his brother.

COOKIE BRINGERS ALERT - CAROLYN MCBRIDE

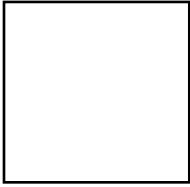
This month's cookie bringers are Josi Byrd, Ruth Ann LeVay and Bonnie Nelson.

PHOTO DONORS

This month's photo donors are: Joe Wilson

NEW MEMBERS

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



Josh & Regina Rogers
626-403-3324, cell 626-862-4400
525 Grand Ave. S. Pasadena , 91030
srogers413@aol.com
Joined July, 2015



Kevin Brown
El Monte
29 Sedan
Joined April 24, 2015



Dave Galassi & Deborah Symons
626-390-3492 Cell
2174 Crary St., Pasadena, CA, 91104
restyourcase@live.com
Joined June, 2015



Susan Homet
626-798-4964, cell 909-360-3030
1930 Minoru Dr., Altadena ,CA, 91001
susan.homet@gmail.com
Joined April, 2015

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

4 - Mary Garduno
6 - Bonnie Nelson
7 - Larry Rummens
9 - Suzan Wiley
10 - Ryan Sandberg
13 - John Lacey &
Helen Cortez
14 - Suzanne Rummens
15 - La Vada Hancock
18 - Sondra Kurtz
19 - Hal Anthony
20 - Stewart Levin
20 - Steve Voors
21 - Catherene Levin &
Terry Lawrence
23 - Mark Henzel

September Anniversaries

4 - Hal & Joanne Anthony
6 - Tom & Sheri Johnson
8 - Bob & Patsy Harbicht,
Art & Olive Moore
10 - Joe & Karen Blaylock
13 - Mike & Beverly Kniest
28 - Charles & Diana Lohr
29 - John & carol Emanuelli

Missing from the August Birthday list

8 - Trevor Sandberg

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BY BOB HARBICHT

Chuck Mauch & Maurine St. Gaudens

Both Chuck & Maurine were born in Southern California and have spent their entire lives here, currently living in Pasadena.



Chuck, who has been in the swimming pool maintenance and service business for 45 years, had a customer who wanted to sell his father's 1929 Model A Roadster Pickup. Chuck had owned a Model A "when I was a kid" and thought it would be fun to look this one over. So Chuck went to see it and found it in a garage, parked next to a 1928 Rolls Royce. The Rolls was in showroom shape and the Model A was in pieces.

The customer needed to sell the Model A and made Chuck such a good deal that he couldn't resist. However, Chuck sold his '67 Mustang to buy it. As he said, the truck was in pieces when he acquired it . . . and it's in even more pieces now! But he's working with Bob Travis to get the truck back on the road, which means it should be done in 10 or 12 years (just kidding, Bob). Actually, I told Chuck he had gone to the right place.

Maurine has an interesting occupation; she is an art conservator. She repairs and restores oil paintings from the 1400s to the 1950s. She has her own business and learned her craft from studying and working with others.

When not trying to piece together their Model A, they are Arts & Crafts furniture collectors. Their Craftsman home is furnished with Arts & Crafts furniture. The home has been featured in magazines and has been on the Pasadena Heritage tour six or seven times. Maybe a Santa Anita A's trip to the home for a tour would be of interest.

Chuck & Maurine joined our club in February of this year. When we see them at a meeting, let's make them feel welcome.

A's to Celebrate with Ruby Anniversary Gala

Save the date of November 21st for a very special gala to be held in the ballroom of the Shakespeare Club overlooking Pasadena's Colorado Street Bridge. This is an event you will not want to miss. More details to follow in next month's Spoken Wheels.



COMING EVENTS

Model A Ford Day

Friday, September 19

by Joe Principe

The San Gabriel MARC club has invited the Santa Anita A's and the Diamond Tread Model A club to participate with them in celebrating Model A Ford Day. The event will be held on Friday, September 19 at Legg Lake in Whittier Narrows park.

The MARC club will bring hot dogs, hamburgers and all the trimmings. The Santa Anita A's are asked to bring a desert and the Diamond Tread club will bring the drinks.

Everyone is asked to bring some meal accessories to share - like cookies, pretzels, jelly beans, fudge or anything else that strikes your fancy. And, of course, chairs.

We will all meet at the park at 11:00 AM. To get to the park take Rosemead South, cross over 60 freeway, drive about 1/4 mile then turn left on Durfee road, go past Snyder's Freight lines, then take the second driveway into the park.

We need a head count by September 1. Please sign up at our August meeting or contact Joe Principe (626-458-2093).

Meeting and Dining at the Cross

Friday, September 25, 2015

by Mickey Fruchter

It is the 40th Anniversary "Pot Luck" Dinner at the September 25th Club Meeting. The dinner will start at 6:00 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. Hot dogs, chili, drinks and chips will be provided by the club.

Those attending are asked to bring either a hot dish or a salad.

- If your last name begins with the letters A through J bring a hot dish for 10.
- If your last name begins with the letters K through Z bring a salad.

We will have a special 40th Anniversary Cake for dessert at the break. "Cookie Bringers", please bring your cookies as well. Sign up at the August Meeting if you want to attend. We also need members to help set up and serve. There will be two sign-up sheets at the meeting, one for dinner and one for helpers. Remember: this is your club, so sign up to help.

Ticket to the 20's- Homestead Museum Tour

Saturday, October 3

Nancy Stancil

This is one of our yearly traditional tours which takes us back in time to the "good old days". Our cars will be featured as part of the festivities set in the theme of the "20's". Bring chairs, drinks, food and anything your heart desires. Usually they have food trucks there.

We will meet at Marlin and Elaine Perry's at 1:30 PM on Saturday, October 3. Departing at 1:45 PM, we will make a short drive on surface streets to the museum in the City of Industry. If you chose to go there directly, the address is 15415 E. Don Julia, City of Industry. Once in the park go North on Tarrot to the parking area. If you wish, dress for the 20's.

Battleship U.S.S. Iowa Tour

Saturday, Sep. 26

by Jim Kroeger

On Saturday, September 26, the Santa Anita A's will experience naval history as we tour the battleship U.S.S. Iowa in San Pedro.

This is a freeway only tour for both modern cars as well as Model A's. For those who will be driving their A's, parking will be free and we will be able to park near the ship for special photo opportunities.



We will meet in the parking lot at Clearman's Northwoods Inn on the corner of Huntington Drive and Rosemead Blvd. at 9:00 AM. For those who are driving modern cars and do not wish to follow the Model A's, please plan to arrive in the parking lot of the Iowa at 10:00 AM. The address is 250 S. Harbor Blvd, San Pedro. After the tour is done we will take a short walk over to the Acapulco restaurant for lunch.

The cost of the tour for Adults (12-61) is \$13.50 and Seniors (62+) \$11.50. You can either order your tickets online or purchase them at the next general meeting (August 28).

To purchase tickets on line do the following:

1. Go to the web site (tickets.labattleship.com). There you will see "Discount Program eStore Discount Program" login box.
2. In the "Store name box" type in **Santa Anita A's** as the store name.
3. An order form will appear. Type in the quantity you wish to order in the appropriate box.

To purchase tickets at the meeting:

1. Prepare a check for the amount necessary to pay the the number of tickets you want and give it to Elaine Perry at the meeting.

For questions call Jim Kroeger at 626-710-6592. Hope to see you on tour.

PAST EVENTS

SAA General Meeting Minutes July 31, 2015

40th Anniversary Picnic tour

Saturday, August 1

by Joe Wilson

First you go to Walmart in Duarte where you meet up with a bunch of other Model A's, kick a few tires then start driving East until you get to San Dimas. The cars you are following seem to know where they are going but they suddenly pull into a parking lot which has a number of "Early Fords" parked



Snacking while you shop.

behind an old building full of new and used "Early Ford" parts. By-golly we must be at the "Early Ford" store. The owners, Bill and Mike McGrath must have know we were coming. They had free coffee and donuts and didn't mind that

we took some. We bought a few parts and then off to the San Dimas Canyon Park where we found even more Model A's.

Why were we there? Certainly not just to throw bean bags at fellow club members and watch hamburgers cook. What it was, was a continuation of the Santa Anita A's 40th Anniversary (Birthday?) Celebration. Fifty club members participated in one way or another. We did have one car break a starter Bendix spring requiring an occasional push start. But hey, it's a Model A tour. A good time was had by all.



Not all shoppers are created equal. Some like parts, some like clothes.



Two of the burger cookers take a break.



This is what we do best - eat.



John Emanuelli supervises the bean bag fight

- The meeting was called to order by President Bob Travis at 7:32.
- The flag salute was led by Bob Travis
- Membership: Randy Harper introduced guests Mark & Karen Gollhardt and Ken Blankshain. He also said we had a new member, Joss Rogers, however he did not attend the meeting tonight.
- Tours: Jim Kroeger gave an update on the following tours.

Aug. 1st Anniversary Picnic

Aug. 22nd Pancake Breakfast

Sept, 18th International Model Ford Day hosted by MARC. Sign up tonight

- Spoken Wheels - Joe Wilson said there was a problem with the newsletter. The regular club meeting in Sept. is on Friday not Wednesday as stated in the Newsletter. Also there was a correction on cookie bringers for this month.

- General Announcements:

4th of July Parade - Brad Balmot showed the Sierra Madre paper with pictures of the Sierra Madre parade, several of our members were in this parade on the 4th of July.

- Ladies' Day: Carol Emanuelli spoke about Ladies Hat Day on Aug. 19th, still time to sign up.

- Anniversary Picnic: Mickey talked about the Anniversary Picnic tomorrow and thanked those that volunteered to help.

- 40th Anniversary Certificate: Bob displayed the 40th anniversary certificate sent to the club from MAFCA.

- Bob also talked about the FICHER classic car motor oil, he said this is a good oil and has ZINC in the oil and it is made locally. He is going to buy some in bulk and said there is a sign up sheet on the counter if you are interested in getting this oil.

- Program: Bob introduced club member Wilbert Smith who presented a very informative program on "How to protect your retirement savings" and the importance of having a family trust. He also spoke on long-term care insurance and liability insurance protection

BREAK

- Recall to Order

- Minutes: The minutes of the June General meeting were approved as corrected.

- Treasurers Report: The treasurer's report was approved as read.

- Sunshine: No report

- Thank you to cookie bringers Ruth Ann Levay, Kathy Concidine, Sally Baquet and Vicky Bartlett

- Thank you to Nancy Stancil and Tracy Butkus for refreshment set-up and John Spielmann for making the coffee.

- Thank you to Patti Lutz for ladies' raffle prizes and Marlin Perry for purchasing men's raffle.

- Bea talked on the Ladies' brunch Aug. 10th.

- Art Moore said he has some T shirts from the Antique Nationals for sale they cost \$10.00 ea. See him after the meeting.

- 50/25/25 winners: Gerry McKinney & Kevin Brown \$23.00 ea.

- Name badge winners: Hal Anthony

- Drove Model A to the meeting winner: Bea and Mickey Fruchter

- Men and Ladies' Raffle

- Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Perry, Secretary



Santa Anita A's Veteran



Joe Giocomarra US Merchant Marines 1939-1945

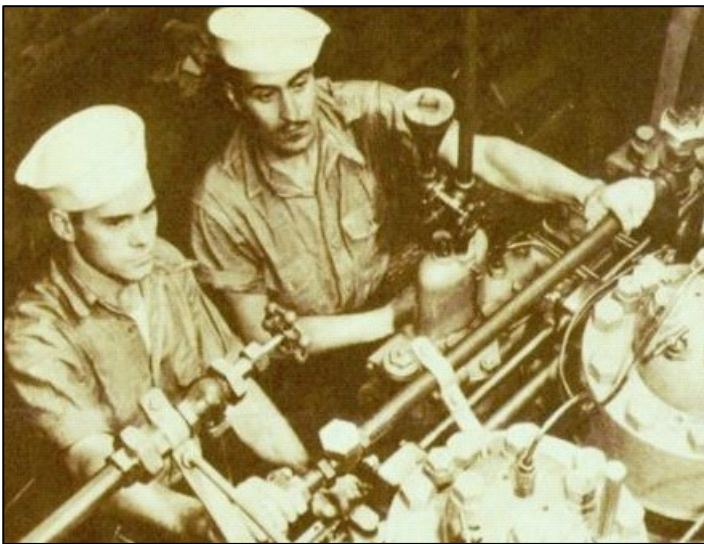
My place of birth was Fort Dodge, Iowa. However the date is somewhat in dispute. My mother, who died when I was nine years old, claimed I was born on May 29, 1918, but my birth certificate says May 28. I was raised by an older sister. After high school I joined the Conservation Corps. The CC Camps were run much like the army and afforded food, lodging, and employment during the depression years. I spent six months in the camp.

After the CC Camp I traveled around the country by train like a hobo finding jobs where ever I could. After arriving in San Francisco I went to work for O'Neil Lumber Company. While delivering lumber to the docks in 1939 I signed on as a Utility Man on a ship that hauled lumber from the Philippines. On one return trip in 1941 we picked up survivors from a ship that had sunk.

In 1941 I was drafted into the army and volunteered for the paratroopers, then moved to the merchant Marines. I crewed on six different ships during the war. Two were torpedoed and one hit a mine. One ship, the Alcoa, a Victory ship was torpedoed when it left Guantanamo, but was able to return to port. Another ship, the Malabar was torpedoed and sank after it left Johannesburg, South Africa. I had just left the watch at the wheel when the ship was hit. I made it to the bow with another seaman just before she sank. We spent the night together in the water before we found a lifeboat with three other seamen. Dolphins surrounded the boat that night. Later one seaman was attacked by a shark and lost an arm and died. We spent 33 days in the life boat living on fish and collecting rain water in six barrels on board. We were eventually spotted by a PBV, but it was three days before it returned to pick us up. Of the 65 crewmen aboard the Malabar only four of us survived. We were flown to Johannesburg, then by ship to Rio de Janeiro then to a hospital in New Orleans.

After being discharged from the hospital I went to Biloxi, Mississippi to pick up a new troop ship, the Sea Porpoise, a class C4 Victory ship. It made many trips to England carrying troops. The ship participated in the Normandy landing on June 6, 1944, where it hit a mine and sank in shallow water. Because of the invasion we were stranded on board for three weeks before they could take us off. We were taken to South Hampton, England where we waited for a ship to take us back to New York. I was released from the Merchant Marines on June 6, 1945. My pay was docked for the time I was not serving aboard ship and was adrift at sea in a life boat for over a month.

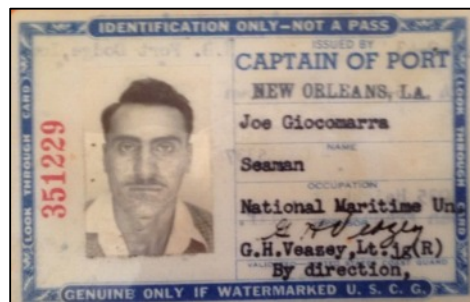
I had married my childhood sweetheart in 1939, but in 1943 I had received a "Dear John" letter that ended the marriage. After the war I moved to Glendale, California and worked for General Controls for 25 years. Later I went to work at JPL as a machinist in Research and Development, retiring from JPL when I was 70. I had moved to La Canada where I was able to walk to work at JPL and I still live there. I have a Model T and a 1931 Sport Coupe which I assembled from parts. I also have a modern pick up for back up transportation.



Joe Giocomarra at right

Editor's Note: Joe received an award from the French Government on May 21, 2001 for his service during the Normandy Invasion. The US Merchant Marines were treated poorly by the US Government and were not given veteran status during WWII.

It was not until January 30, 1988 that veteran status was granted.



IMPORTANT OTHER STUFF

Differential Failure

by Tom Endy

Over the years of rebuilding Model A differentials I have seen numerous failures where teeth have been knocked off both the ring and the pinion gears. However never have I seen a failure where every single tooth on the pinion gear was cleaned off.

The subject Model A is a 1929 Sport Coupe that had been parked in a garage since before 1965. The family member who recently inherited the car got it running and drove it around the neighborhood for a short while. That is until the differential failed.

The owner called me and told me the car had belonged to his grandfather who passed away in 1965. His father inherited the car, but let it sit until he recently passed away. The grandson became the new owner. The grandson told me he got the car running and drove it around the neighborhood a few times, but then the rear end had failed. I asked him how he determined the rear end had failed. He said he took it apart and found there were no teeth left on the pinion gear. Certainly an understatement.

Surprisingly, there were no teeth knocked off the ring gear, though they were badly battered. The owner did admit that when he disassembled the rear axle assembly there was no oil found in the banjo.

A unique ring & pinion failure

(Both parts were bead blasted for the photo)



Model A Ford Club of America

Santa Anita A's is a chartered member of the Model A Ford Club of America, Inc. (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)



The first 40 Years - continued from page 1

Mike Kniest, Marlin Perry and Bob Travis. January 28 was the date set for the annual auction with Bob Travis as auctioneer (I can't believe I have been doing the auction for over ten years). The Spoken Wheels had taken on a new look (again) with Janice Murasko as editor. Plans were in the making to form the nominating committee to be announced in February. In Marlin's Musings column Marlin talks about being 65 years old and getting a senior discount at McDonalds. That makes Marlin 75 years old now. Vonnie Wood shares her thoughts about selling her Model A.

Guess what the headlines for the March issue of the Spoken Wheels - "30th Anniversary Rapidly Approaching". Isn't that amazing? Mickey Fruchter announced in his Presidents Message that our membership had grown to an all-time high of 114 families (members). Someone was advertising a 1930 Briggs Town Sedan for \$14,750 - such a steal! The club introduced a new feature in the newsletter called "Meet a Member" profile.

April's newsletter contained news that the nominating committee had completed its work and produced a slate for the upcoming election at the April 28th meeting. The celebration of the club's thirtieth anniversary was to be a party held at the Brookside clubhouse on May 21st. Ladies' day was reported as a high success - touring the new Disney Performing Arts Center followed by lunch at the Tam O'Shanter restaurant. Plans and registration for the 2005 Southern California Regional Meet were announced complete with a schedule of events. The "Meet a Member" profile for the month were Doc Klecknen and Nancy Stancil.

The month of May was the transition of the end of the fiscal year for the club, therefore no meeting was held. A newsletter was published and the "Meet the Member" profile were Jack and Barbara Dawson and Walt Drown (deceased). Marlin Perry and Gordon Johnson were working hard on the 4th of July Parade. It may have been the first the club participated in. There were two good information articles about liability insurance coverage provided by MAFCA. Diamond Tread Chapter invited the club to a tour of the Hathaway Ranch and Museum.

June saw the installation of the new board of officers and Directors: President - Micky Fruchter, Vice President- John Chandler, Secretary - Sheri Johnson, Treasurer - Carol Emanuelli. The board of directors were: Sally Baquet, Joe Blaylock, Ken Mallory, Marlin Perry and Gene Reinhadt. It was the month of the 2005 MAFCA Convention Meet in Colorado Springs with several of the club members in attendance.

It's July and the time for the big 4th of July parade in South Pasadena. Vicky got things started off right with pre-parade refreshments and a host parade gathering

The first 40 Years - continued on page 9

Two meetings ago I shared some information about bad reproduction lug nuts and demonstrated what to look for. I recently ran across this article on the same subject on the Ford Garage web site written by Vince Falter in November 2002.

Dangerous Lug Nuts

Here is one style of reproduction Model A Ford lug nut to watch out for. The minor diameter of this nut was made too large for the 1/2-20 stud size.

What this means is that the nut will still screw on the stud okay, but the amount of surface engagement between the nut thread and the wheel stud is greatly reduced and weakened.

Actually the remaining thread form in the nut is probably stronger than the thread crests on the stud, so as you torque the nut you will deform the threads on the stud and ruin them first. The ridiculous nut should survive just fine!

Moral of the story: A poor quality lug nut ruins the studs of an expensive brake drum and hub assembly, and makes a dangerous wheel attachment.



Here is another common lug nut problem. Original Ford studs are swaged into the drum and have an unthreaded shoulder at the base. The original design lug nut on the left has a corresponding relief in the threads to clear the stud shoulder.

The repro nut on the right has the threads running all the way to the base of the nut and no relief for the stud shoulder.



Many nuts are missing the thread relief and the nut threads will bottom-out on the stud shoulder before they tighten the wheel. Then people think they should add those fabulous (**not!**) conical wheel nut washers to take up the slack.

The only thing the conical washers really do is add more mis-fitting interfaces into the joint, and waste valuable thread engagement length of the stud. They make a bad situation much worse. I do not care to ride in any car with conical washers on the wheels.

Moral of the story: Use correct wheel nuts having the proper shoulder relief at the bottom, and throw away the dangerous conical washers.

The month of August found the Low End Boys busy. First we had a work out at Louie and Joanne Formia's home. We dropped an engine in their Sedan with some difficulty, however we got the job done. We had John Emanuelli, Mickey Fruchter, Chris Wickersham, Mel Foye, Louie and myself on the job. It took us about an hour to get it installed. Mickey and I went to Pat and Martha Utter's home to pick up a Jay Steele engine that Mickey purchased from Pat, the engine is all rebuilt.

Our next project is to go to John Spielmann's home and pick up his 1930 Closed Cab pickup. John boiled out the radiator and filled it up. However, he forgot to close the petcock. Yes, he fried the engine. Chuck Sharpe is going to work on rebuilding the engine. Mickey and I will be towing the car to Chuck's shop.

These projects have kept the Low End Boys busy this month. Happy Model A'en.

Marlin and the Low End Boys

A Solution to a Problem? by Jim Frick

Have you ever pulled up to a gas pump only to find your gas cap on the other side of your car and the hose not being able to reach all the way? If you haven't, you can stop reading.

For those of you who have experienced this while being in an unfamiliar car or forgetting on which side the gas cap is located, there is a fool proof and easy solution that nobody seems to know about.

If you look at the dashboard of any modern car and then look at the gas gauge, look for the international symbol for the gas pump. Next to it, will be a triangle on its side pointing to one side of the car or the other. This is the manufacturer's way of reminding you which side of the car the gas cap is on. For those of you who have never noticed this, it's fun pointing this out to your friends.

Editors note: Jim Frick submitted this article several months ago. I was fascinated that this feature had not been publicized so I checked it out on my "modern" 2011 Audi A3. Unfortunately it didn't work. Jim surmised they had put my gas gage in upside down.

Jim still insists this is really true. So to placate Jim, please check your gas gage and call Jim (626-303-5233) to report your findings. I will ask Jim to document the responses and report his findings to the club. PS. Our current definition of a Modern car is one that is newer than a Model A.

The first 40 Years - continued from page 7

(picnic lunch) was held at the Travis home. President Mickey announced in his President's message the election of Marlin Perry as a trustee to the Model A Ford Foundation. The big tour of the month was "Four Days in the Mountains", Big Bear Lake that is complete with pontoon boats and the world's greatest BBQ cooked by Leslie Pam. Marlin offered up a number of newsy items in his column to include that the Joe Blaylock's car restoration was nearly done. J.C. Taylor insurance agency furnished written confirmation to those members insured with that they were covered during participation in Gymkhana events.

The August edition of Spoken Wheels noted that the club had been busy attending Wings and Wheels, a concert and car show in Duarte and a seminar on lubricating the Model A Ford. Jack Dawson authored a short article on converting from 6 to 12 volts. Marlin's Musings focused on various members he knew when he was young. Elsie Johnson provided an interesting article featuring Jay Leno and his car collection. The "meet the member" article featured Jim Constantian and Janice Murasko.

The September issue of Spoken Wheels highlighted the coming fall and reported that the Southern California Regional meet in Ontario was a great success. Member Malcolm Wehles' car won a Trophy. Gene Reinhardt authored an excellent article entitled "how old are your tires". Marlin provided highlights of the Regional meet in his article and Bob Moore gave his review of the three day tour to Big Bear. A 1928 4 door sedan that had been owned and stored since 1934 was advertised for sale by Cliff Bunn for \$60,000! Members were encouraged to sign up for the Frazier Park tour coming in October. Randy and Ruth Harper were introduced as new members.

October, as appropriate, was dedicated to Halloween and a special flyer announcing a dinner meeting and program, encouraging attendees to come in costume. The seminar for the month was rebuilding distributors by Mel Gross at his shop. Marlin reported in his column that after two days of hard work 5 cars now had seat belts installed and three others had passed inspection.

The November issue of the newsletter highlighted the great Halloween potluck dinner meeting party, especially the fantastic costumes. Marlin authored a special article on the Pasadena parade that raised \$750 for the club treasury. He also reported on a tour to Taft and the Giant Sequoias organized by Bob Moore and Mike Kniest with Paulett Bruns' sister providing a fantastic meal. There were some great pictures from the Halloween party. It is too bad they can't be included here.

It appears December was a quiet month as there was no issue of the Spoken Wheels. However, a special flyer was included in the November issue announcing the annual Holiday party.



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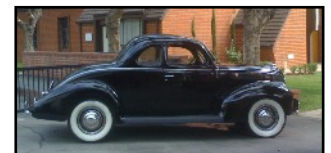


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