



January, 2011

SPOKEN WHEELS

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all. We have a lot about to happen in our club. The auction will be on the 28th of January, March 5th will be Mom 'n' Pop's Night Out (sign up early to get a seat on the bus), March 19th will be Ladies' Day (sign-up sheets will be available), and a bunch of other activities. Please bring GOOD STUFF to be auctioned. Bob Travis will be doing the auctioning. If you do as Joe Wilson suggests, you won't be left out of anything that's happening. My thanks to the committees that work for our enjoyment. We do make mistakes and errors in some things, but it seems like it all works out for the better. Say hello to our new members, or if you see someone that you don't recognize or know, introduce yourself; you'll feel better and they will too.



See ya, John Fant

GENERAL MEETING - Friday, January 28 - 7:30 PM - Arcadia Red Cross - 376 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia

BOARD MEETING - Wednesday, February 12 - 7 PM - Temple City Hall, Temple City
 Guests are invited to come, listen, contribute and eat cookies.

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SAA'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

28 - General Meeting -
Annual Auction night, See page 3

February

7 - Ladies' Brunch - 11:00 AM @Annia's, RSVP Bea
12 - Board Meeting - 7:00 PM, Temple City Hall
26 - Nethercutt Car Museum Tour- See Page 4

March

5 - Mom and Pop's Night Out - See Page 4
12 - Men's Technical Tour/ Seminar - See Page 4
19 - Ladies Day Lunch Outing - See Page 5

May

15 - Installation Banquet at Monrovia, Details TBA

July

15- Pancake Breakfast, Wilderness Park, Details TBA

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February Birthdays

2 - Bruce Stratton
5 - Keith Smith, Karen Blaylock
14 - Gerry Green
16 - Nancy Sharpe
21 - Lori Bonner, Beverly Kniest
24 - John Wilson
25 - Sandi Hamburg
29 - Mike Sriro

February Anniversaries

10 - Pat & Martha Utter
14 - Brad & Vicky Balmot
Tony & Kathy Catroppa
24 - Jim & Carole Parrish
Carl Freeman & Sue Rogers
25 - Mark & Lisa Henzel

OTHER MODEL A CLUB EVENTS

January

29, 31 - Turlock Swap Meet - Modesto A's

February

25, 26 - San Diego Swap Meet

March

27 - Pancake Breakfast - Orange County A's

April

7 to 10 - Laughlin Weekend - Pomona Valley A's
9 to 16 - MAFCA Natchez Trace Tour

THE SUNSHINE LADY - MARTHA UTTER

No cards have been sent this month - Everyone appears to be either well or not commenting.

Editors Note: Although a number of our member's cars are ailing, some with minor wounds — some seriously injured and in the hospital, our general policy has been not to publicize their individual problems by sending a card. However, we do want to make an exception by sending our best wishes to Pandora and ask that Dr. Sharpe provide her with a quick recovery from a thrust failure. See page 6 for details.

NEW MEMBERS

Here are the new members who joined in the last six months.
Be on the look out for them and welcome them to our club.



Wickersham, Chris
Pasadena, Joined August, 2010
31 Tudor, 31 Roadster

FICTION & FACT

Annual Auction - At the General meeting



Friday January 28

Sold !

If you missed the auction last year, you will have an opportunity to catch up on those bargains that are sure to be offered at the annual January club event. Here are the rules:

1. Bring your stuff that everyone will surely want.
2. Don't bring junk; this is a high class event.
3. If it doesn't sell, you get to take it home.
4. Buy more than you bring.
5. Remember, this is a fund-raiser; but you'll get your money's worth.

Ponder This

by Joe Wilson

We have published stories submitted by our members in previous issues of the "Spoken Wheels" and are now including them under a section identified as "Special Report".

This issue includes a story submitted by Mickey Fruchter "Confessions of a Pedal Pusher", with technical implications. Ladies, take note.

We also have a "Special Report" which is a nostalgic story written by Jim Richardson about Touring in a Model A. This story, submitted by Pete Henderson appeared in the February issue of Hemmings Classic Car. It now appears here with special permission from the Publisher, Hemmings Motor News.

We encourage members to submit stories or ideas for consideration. It makes my job easier.

Think About It

Once you are in heaven, do you get stuck for eternity wearing the same clothes you were buried in ?

Birthdays

by Joe Wilson

As a result of the email survey conducted earlier this month, we have discovered that some of the members who previously had no birthdays, do in fact have one; Congratulations! At this point we still have eight men and six women who don't have birthdays.

I want to thank all of you who responded to the survey and my condolences to those who still have no birthday or can't remember when it is.

My apologies to those not on my email list and with whom I still need to verify the information on record.

I invite the people listed below to call me to report the missing data:

Blecksmith, Farino, Garduno, Gawley, Homet, Hurst, Ingram, Gordon Johnson, Lacey, Parish, Jan Peterson, Sepulveda, Sharpe, Staebler, Stratton, John Wilson

Attention

Please re-read the sentence above & reply if you didn't receive or read my email

Members Not Dogged by Question

Club Members showed little interest in solving the question from last month's Spoken Wheels as to why two respected dogs, one named Goofy stood erect and the second, Pluto, walked on all fours.

Last month only two people responded to the Question. Fred and Carole Weideman reported they couldn't determine the answer and gave up. Bob Travis stated that he didn't give a care.

For those of you who need to resolve this dilemma, I suggest you do an online search for "Pluto and Goofy" or copy this web address into your computer -
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100961293
The answer is there.

COMING EVENTS

Nethercutt Automobile Collection Tour

Saturday, February 26

We are fortunate to have been able to make a large group reservation for the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar, CA.



Among the treasures spanning the collection's original facility is one of the world's most outstanding collections of beautifully restored antique, classic automobiles. An amazing collection of automobile mascots, antique furniture, clocks and watches, and one of the world's finest collections of Mechanical Musical instruments are displayed in the music room.

This is a joint tour with the San Gabriel MARC. We are allotted a total of 35 spaces. If you do not sign up at the meeting, you must contact Bob Moore to determine if there is space available.



This is on a first to sign up basis. If you do sign up and cannot go, please inform Bob Moore.

Here is the schedule:

- 8:10 AM - Arrive at Sears Pasadena Parking Lot on Foothill side
- 8:20 AM - Depart – Non- Freeway drive
- 9:45 AM - Arrive at Nethercutt - Pre-Tour Sign-in
- 10:00 AM - Tour begins
- 12:00 N - Tour the New Auto Museum and 1912 Palace Pullman railroad car
- 12:30 PM - Depart for Sylmar and Lunch at Sizzler
After Lunch Head for home

Mom & Pop's Night Out

Saturday March 5

Mom and Pop's Night Out will be March 5th. We're trying to secure a bus for the trip. The regular cost will be \$59.00 per person. The club will pay \$19.00 per member; your cost is \$30.00 per person. Sign up at the meeting. Seating on the bus is limited, so first come first served.

The performance will be "Phantom", not to be confused with "Phantom of the Opera".



The Musicals "Phantom" and "Phantom of the Opera" are both based on the a 1910 novel titled "Phantom of the Opera", but differ in their presentation. "Phantom" is a musical combining dialog with singing, but "Phantom of the Opera" has no dialog.

The musical production "Phantom" was conceived prior to Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera", which first staged in 1991 in London. The production of "Phantom" was put on hold until 1991 when it was first performed in Houston, Texas. It has since been produced over 1000 times around the world and referred to as "the greatest hit never to be produced on Broadway". Some say the music is better than that in "Phantom of the Opera".

Men's Technical Seminar and Tour

Saturday, March 12

On Saturday, March 12, our fellow club member Art Moore, along with Jim Brierley will present a program on "Improving the Performance of the Model A Engine". This same presentation was given at the recent National Meet in Canada. The Seminar will be at 10:30 AM at Art's home in Upland. This program is organized as a men's seminar and tour because the subject will most likely not be of interest to the women in our club.

We will meet at the north side of the Monrovia Walmart parking lot at 9:30 AM for a tour to Art's home. Bring your hand held radio set to 7.02. Following the seminar, we will find a spot for lunch. Sign up at the next meeting. This is a BT & BM organized event.

COMING EVENTS - CONTINUED

Ladies' Day

Saturday, March 19

Calling all Ladies! Join us for lunch at the Four Seasons Tea Room, 75 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre from 11: a.m. - 1:30 p.m., with entertainment by musician Jay Munns.

The Tea consists of five tea sandwiches, tea, scone with cream and jam; and dessert (truffle slice, lemon bar and short bread cookie).

The cost is \$15.00 for Members & \$33.10 for non-Members.

Ladies' Day is a great opportunity for members to visit and get better acquainted. Era clothes are encouraged! Grab your Boas and Grandma's old hat!

Sign-ups at the January meeting. Questions, call Sue Chandler at 626-447-1097.

PAST EVENTS

Vintage Antique Car Club of America Show

December 26, 2010

It was a cold day in Pasadena, but the annual "After Christmas" car show sponsored by the Vintage Antique Car Club of America was held as usual. This is always an interesting show with a wide variety of real cars. If your car was 1932 or older you were permitted to participate in a local driving tour prior to lunch. As usual, Jay Leno was on hand with one of his fine cars.



Santa Anita A's members attending were Brad Balmot, Jim Constantian, Don Dawkins, John Emanuelli, Mark Henzel, Ellis & Anne Hurst, Robert Kinkart, Art Moore, Joe Principe, Gene Reinhart, Nancy Stancil, Bob Trepaner, Steve Voors, Fred Weideman.

Cable Air Show Tour

Sunday, January 9, 2011 by Nancy Stancil & Bob Moore

On Sunday, January 9, ten Model A's headed out at 9:00 a.m. from Walmart parking lot on the annual tour to the Air and Car Show at Cable Airport in Upland. Two more A's joined us along the way and two more at the airport. The weather was not exactly cooperating, very cold, but thankfully, no rain. Chuck Sharpe saw us off, but was unable to attend the tour.



After arriving, many members went to the airport cafe for breakfast and to get warmed up. The food was good and the building was warm.

Mike and Susan Williams drove their Model A all the way from the Victorville area. It sounded like quite a ride with low fog coming through the pass.



Cable Air Show —Continued

Art Moore met us at the airport driving an “almost A”, the only modern car from the club, his 1932 Ford, 3 window, with a few modifications. The color is almost rust and has been on his car since the forties. It was great to see him out with the Santa Anita "A"s.

There was plenty to do - shopping, eating, the car show, and of course the air show which did not disappoint.

The parade for the car show was right on schedule at 12:30 p.m. To get out of the cold, most of us headed home right after the show.



Sorry some of you missed our first tour of 2011. Hope to see you at our next one.

Those in attendance with their Model A's were:

Hal Anthony, Jim Constantian, Don Dawkins, Joe Farino, Leroy Gilbert, Randy Harper, Dick Homet, Gordon & Helen Johnson, Art Moore, Bob Moore, Joe Principe, Frank & Mary Ann Sepulveda, Nancy Stancil, Fred Weidman, Mike & Susan Williams, and Pat & Martha Utter.



SPECIAL REPORT

Confessions of a Pedal Pusher

by Mickey Fruchter

Many Santa Anita A's members are aware that "PANDORA" (Mickey and Bea's 1931 beloved four-door 'Slant Windshield' sedan) has a sick engine. She had over 53,000 miles on her and was not really in bad shape for her miles, except for the small fact that I was not aware that by putting my foot on the clutch pedal would ruin her. It seems that on a Model A, pushing in the clutch while waiting for a red light to turn green it is strongly NOT advised.

It is highly recommended that the gear-shift lever be shifted into neutral and then be placed into first gear when the signal changes to green. Depressing the clutch for long periods of time places pressure on the crankshaft which then puts pressure on the "thrust-bearing". Over time, the "thrust-bearing" will wear out and that is not good. Pieces of the "thrust-bearing" ended up in the engine and shortened the life of Pandora. All of this was news to me as I cannot recall ever having been told of this problem before.

Thank goodness, one of our members, Chuck Sharpe, has the skill and knowledge to fix her like new. Chuck has rebuilt a number of engines for Santa Anita A's members and they all have given me good recommendations regarding his work. My advice to all you other Model A'ers is to follow Chuck's advice and shift into neutral when you are stopped for a while and not just keep the clutch pedal depressed. You may save lots of money down the road.

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On Any Sunday By Jim Richardson

It was a beautiful spring day in 1947. My Uncle Benny's 1931 Model A Ford roadster was pattering along at about 25 miles per hour with the top down. I was in the rumble seat, and I remember reaching out and letting the drooping fronds of the old pepper trees that lined the road caress my hand. The air was perfumed with them, and smelled fresh and clean. We had to stop and put a little water in the old Ford's radiator, and I caught the mingled odors of steam and hot oil, too.

You see, we were ambling through Griffith Park in Los Angeles, which is a ridge of hills on the edge of the city, at the top of which is an observatory.

Uncle Benny stopped briefly so we could watch the swells play tennis, and then we drove on to where gentlemen were playing polo on magnificent horses. The thumping and thundering, turning and rearing were exciting to behold. After that, we went over to the big, creaky merry-go-round and I took a ride on a gaily-painted wooden horse. We wound up our Sunday sojourn in an area called Fern Dell, where the family had a picnic by a small waterfall.

**THE PROBLEM WITH MODERN CARS IS THAT
THEY'RE NOT MEANT FOR TOURING,
NOR IS THERE MUCH PLEASURE
TO BE HAD IN DOING SO IN THEM**

This and other Sunday drives are my most treasured memories from my childhood, and I still take such excursions with family and friends regularly. But the car must be old and slow. In fact, the older and slower, the better. An open car is ideal for such Sunday spins, but not a necessity. The object is to explore and enjoy, not to get someplace. The problem with modern cars is that they are not meant for touring, nor is there much pleasure to be had in doing so in them.

A Model A Ford roadster is not roomy, but it is not claustrophobic, either. An A is also fast enough to drive on a freeway if necessary, though just barely. But the car is at its best dawdling along at 25 miles per hour. And it is still inexpensive to own and operate.

Of course, if I could take my grand kids on a Sunday drive in a Stutz, Packard, or better yet, a 1903 curved-dash Oldsmobile, so much the better. The Olds would be worth it just for the experience, and the Stutz and the Packard would be comfortable and impressive to drive. It wouldn't matter where we went. Even a drab industrial area would do.

In fact, some of my favorite Sunday drives are around the Los Angeles Harbor. It is generally deserted on Sundays, and though gray and dirty, there are some very impressive container and cruise ships to see. And I know a great little place there that serves the world's best fish tacos.

Modern cars, for all their virtues, are just very good appliances. They are built to go fast, they are cramped, and they are not designed for leisurely touring. The high belt lines and low roof lines mean that nobody in the car can see much, except the driver. Also, you must keep the windows up and the climate control system on, so you never smell the damp morning sage or the delicious bouquet emanating from a doughnut shop nearby. You are separate from your route. There, but not there.

One of my favorite car museums in Southern California is the Automobile Driving Museum in El Segundo. On any Sunday, you can take a ride in a Model A roadster like Uncle Benny had, or you might find yourself in a half-million-dollar open Packard. Recently, I shoehorned myself into the rumble seat of their Model A just for old time's sake and loved it. I also enjoyed the smooth, silent power of a 1934 Chrysler Airflow. It was not beautiful, but what an automobile!

If you decide a Sunday drive is in order, take the oldest car you can find, and bring along the youngest people you know. Don't be in a hurry, and don't have a destination. Oh, you can have an ultimate destination such as an ice cream parlor, but take the most scenic and unusual route possible. The point is the experience and the adventure, not your destination. After all, where is there really to get? If I could go anywhere I wanted, I'd go back to that Model A Ford roadster, tooling through Griffith Park, with Uncle Benny at the wheel.

But since that is no longer possible, I'll try for a close approximation in the oldest, slowest car I can find. And I'll tour interesting places. Maybe some sushi in Little Tokyo is in order. Or perhaps we can dawdle around Old Towne Orange, California, and dine at an outdoor Cuban cafe I know. Who's got a Model A we can use?

This article, suggested by Pete Henderson, appeared in the February 2011 Issue of Hemmings Classic Car magazine. This reprint is courtesy of Hemmings Classic Car, a publication of Hemmings Motor News.

MARLIN'S MUSINGS

By Marlin Perry



SEMINAR NEWS

This month found the Low End Boys working on Jim Constantian's brake switch on his pickup. Don Dawkins let us use his hoist to put Jim's truck in the sky to do the work. Guess what; no dirty clothes from crawling under Jim's truck. It was a fairly quick job. Donuts were good and the company was great. Thanks Don for letting us use your hoist.

Here is a helpful hint. I've always heard if you can't get a rusty nut or bolt loose heat it up. Well I had a part I did not want to break with a rusty nut refusing to come loose, I sprayed it over night with solution and the next morning tried to loosen it - no go. Well after 35 years I decided to try heat. I took out my butane torch heated the nut and guess what the nut loosened up. No broken rare Model A part. It took me a lot of years to try this and it worked.

Low End Boys - Ted, Gene, Mel, Louie, John E., Mickey, Dick H., and Marlin

PS: Work is on going with Mickey's sick Model A. Oh yes, Bea's car also.

MAFFI CAR WORKDAY

Jan. 13th found some of our club members going to Downey to Bob Trousil's to work on the 29 Sedan that Southern California Region Clubs are restoring. The chassis is almost complete and Bob's son installed a new top on the car. We have many body parts at the painters. The Palomar Club also had helpers come to the workday. It was a fun day for all who came. The Regional treasury took us all to lunch; and we thank them. For me personally I enjoy working on this car and knowing that I am helping leave something in a museum for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Marlin, MAFFI Trustee

WHAT IS A MATC

by Joe Wilson

MATC, the Model A Touring Club, is an organization whose members are interested in participating in regional and international tours, using their Model A Ford as transportation. Tours have included Scandinavia, Europe, Canada and this past year, Oklahoma.



MATC Members are typically members of local Model A clubs and include Model A owners from the USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, Netherlands and Switzerland. Fourteen of our Santa Anita A's are MATC members, including Bob Travis - President, Keith Smith - 2nd VP and Nancy Stancil - Membership.

MATC publishes a newsletter called "The Mile Post" whose Editor is SAA's member, Keith Smith. The recent issue included a report on Judi and Bob Moore's recent trip to participate in Grensetreff (Border Meet), a gathering of Model A Clubs in Scandinavia.

A MATC four week New Zealand tour is scheduled for April 2011 and a six day hub tour is scheduled in Nevada for September 2011.

If you want to participate in some serious touring, tune up your car, join the club and come along.

FROM THE SHOP BENCH

by Bob Travis



Don't Feed Your A OATS

This month's article was written by Keith Smith, Editor of the "The Mile Post", a publication of the Model A Touring Club of America. It appeared in the 2011, winter issue.

Beware—Antifreeze!

Most of us here in Southern California don't use antifreeze, since plain water with a good rust inhibitor is preferable to getting antifreeze on the paint. However, antifreeze can be a subject of interest to some of our members from a colder clime. **Ken Kenewell** sent me an interesting article in the *Auburn Cord Duesenberg Newsletter* on the subject. I'll summarize it here for those who might have an interest.

As motoring technology changes, so do the products associated therewith. We have seen the demise of leaded gasoline, but the addition of ethanol, oil with detergents, but without zinc, and now comes "advanced" and "long-life" antifreeze. Our older technology was geared to older products and as our cars age and new products appear on the market, we must ever be aware that these newer products may not be good for our machines — unintended consequences!

These new antifreeze products use an Organic Acid Technology (OAT) corrosion-inhibitor pack, while the old antifreeze used Inorganic Additive Technology (IAT). These earlier technologies were normally good for two years or 30,000 miles. The newer products (OAT) are supposed to reduce maintenance costs and environmental impacts since they are designed to last longer. However, they have been found to be harmful to machines built with older technology, i.e. Model A Fords!

OAT-inhibited coolants are known to cause leaks in older machines. They attack silicone compounds, the most commonly used base compounds for gasket sealants. It also attacks lead based products (solder, babbitt), some yellow metals (cam bearings, radiators) and conventional gaskets and packing materials.

Bottom Line: Don't use any antifreeze with "OAT" in the specification or description. You can't tell by color or by basic ingredients, as ethylene glycol products can contain OATs! Just don't feed your Model A OATS! There is no warning label telling you not to use it in older cars — SO BEWARE!

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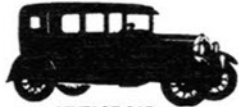
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**NEXT MEETING – Friday, January 28 - 7:30 PM
ARCADIA RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS**

Don't Forget !

It's **Annual Auction Night** at the January 28th monthly meeting. Bring your "Stuff", but only the good stuff-- no junk. If it doesn't sell, you must take it home, at least for another year. Yes, it is still true--- One person's treasure is another person's junk--- or is it the other way around?

Important Things to Do:

2. Remember - The January meeting is Auction night
3. Try to remember what No. 1 was. You can do it.

**WEAR YOUR SAA's NAME BADGE
TO MEETINGS AND EVENTS**



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