

Tools and Supplies for Touring

Recently, several members of the Santa Anita A's toured to the Central California Regional Convention in Merced California. In all, 10 cars from our club drove to the convention. Six Model A's and one '32 took the long way and made it a weeklong tour visiting Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite and the California Poppy Preserve along the way while three Model As took a more direct route. After approximately 9,000 collective Model A miles of touring, there were no mechanical break downs to report. This says a lot for the level of preparation and maintenance that the owners put into their vehicles. Hopefully, we can keep up this record but I am sure sooner or later we will encounter a mechanical problem.

Past articles have discussed the spare parts and supplies that you should take with you when touring but I do not think we really have talked about the tools and other support materials you should also have with you. It is one thing to have the needed spare part but if you do not have the proper tools to complete the repair, it may be a long walk to where you can find some help.

Tools you should consider having with you should include:
Basic set of wrenches, screwdrivers and a socket set.
Small and large adjustable (crescent) wrench.
Medium size ball peen hammer and a large punch.
Jack (mechanical, not hydraulic), jack handle & lug wrench.
A couple of wooden blocks.
Feeler gages, side cutters and a pair of channel lock pliers.
A flashlight and a good pocket knife.

You may also want to include other tools but these will go a long way toward making most repairs.

Other items you may not think about:

A cell phone and a SSA's Member Roster. Very handy for contacting another member of the tour should you become separated from the main group.

A MAFCA Members Roster should you need a part or help with a major repair while on the road. Often you can locate a member nearby who will be glad to assist which is especially important when touring alone.

A catalog of one or two of the major Model A parts suppliers. When a repair part is not available, often it can be forwarded to you overnight or the next day.

Les Andrew's Books, Volumes I and III. I find these very helpful for diagnosing a problem and how to proceed with making an effective repair.

A spare set of keys, secured somewhere so they can be accessed from outside the car. Extra keys can come in handy should you lose your keys while away from home.

An Auto Club Card with extended mileage should all else fails.

I also carry with me some shop towels (rags), hand cleaner and a pair of coveralls in case I have to "get out and get under". A bucket, chamois, Windex and paper towels will be helpful to keep your Model A looking its best when on a tour.

This seems to be a lot of items to carry in your car along with spare parts but most seldom used parts and tools can be stored in the trunk or under the front or back seat cushions. This will free up space inside the car for passengers, luggage and personal items. Having the right parts and tools with you may help turn what could be a major problem into a minor inconvenience.



Tech Tip

When touring, it is a good idea to check the oil and water first thing every morning. Keep the oil level at or near the "full" mark on the dip stick. When cold, the water in the radiator should be just above the top of the tubes to allow for expansion. Start the engine and run at fast idle for a few minutes to warm up the oil and coolant. Especially, if your Model A is equipped with a Mitchell Overdrive, before starting the engine, put the transmission in high gear (direct) and the Mitchell in neutral. This will allow the lube in the transmission and overdrive to also warm up while the engine is coming up to temperature. The transmission and overdrive will shift easier when the lubricant is warm.