



August 2023

Spoken Wheels

THE NEXT MEETING

General Meeting

General Meeting - August 25, 7:00 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia.

MEETING PROGRAM

Back in 2008 a group of Santa Anita A's participated in a tour of the Canadian Maritime provinces. This trip was organized by the Model A Touring Club. The Model A Touring Club (MATC) was incorporated in the State of California as a not-for-profit, public education entity in 2000 and has been successfully operating tours for its members since that time. They are an international club with approximately 100 Family Members in a number of states of the USA and provinces of Canada. Our members particularly enjoy touring in foreign countries.

A video of that trip will be presented at our next meeting. Something worth seeing eh!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a good showing of cars by Santa Anita members at the July Carcadia Car Show. I encourage more members to join us on the last Sunday of each month in the parking lot at Naomi and Baldwin from 7:00 am until 9:00 am.

Due to the hot weather, a couple of tours were canceled and I hope will be rescheduled when it cools down. We hope you can join us with your Model A or Modern cars.

Guys, come early on Thursday, August 17th for breakfast at Annia's Kitchen (at the San Gabriel Airport) to kick tires and eat at 9:00 am and afterwards join the crowd to tour the Tournament of Roses House and then an ice cream stop at Twohey's Restaurant. YOU MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT. CONTACT JOE WILSON IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.

Please join us at our monthly membership meeting on Friday, August 25th 2023.

Happy Model Annnnnnnnn

NEWS BITS

International Model A Ford Day

This is an annual event, set this year for September 16th, plus or minus a few days depending on where you are celebrating.

The Santa Anita A's and the San Gabriel Valley MARC Club will be celebrating by participating together on a trip to Mount Wilson.

Details on this tour are featured elsewhere in this issue of the Spoken Wheels.

Be sure to sign up, the last Mt. Wilson Tour was many years ago and the next one will be when you are much older.



Our Model A's are on display in the driveway to the Tournament house during our club's tour there on August 17.

CALENDAR OF TOURS & EVENTS

August

25- General Meeting - 7:00 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd,
400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia

September

11 - Ladies Brunch, Annia's, 11:00 am- San Gabriel Valley Airport
(Call Bea Fruchter to confirm your participation 626-797-2048).

16 - Mt. Wilson Tour- And Model A day-see page x

21 - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 am- Annia's, San Gabriel Valley Airport

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September Birthdays

1 - Gary Hunter
3 - Jay Russell
6 - Richard Ware
7 - Larry Rummens
6 - Bonni Nelson
9 - Suzan Wiley
9 - Les Eddington
13 - John Lacey
14 - Michelle Paige
14 - Suzanne Rummens
15 - Hidi Van Elgort
15 - LaVada Hancock
18 - Sondra Kurt
19 - Hal Anthony
20 - Stuart Levin
20 - Steve Voors

Birthdays continued

21 - Terri Kennedy
21 - Catherine Levin
21 - Pati Dolan
23 - Mark Henzel
29 - Vicky Balmot
30 - Kelly Chen

September Anniversaries

6 - Les & Lyla Eddington
6 - Tom & Sheri Johnson
6 - Howard & Adele White
8 - Art & Olive Moore
8 - Bob & Patsy Harbicht
10 - Phillip & Kelly Phu Chen
13 - Mike & Beverly Kniest
29 - John & Carol Emanuelli

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NEW MEMBERS AGAIN

Gus and Alice Chavarria

by Bob Moore

The Chavarrias have a home in Rosemead, where they live close to their six children. Gus was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and Alice in Los Angeles, a fourth-generation Mexican American. Gus moved to the LA area when he was eight and graduated from Roosevelt High School. Alice graduated from Garfield High School.



Gus retired early from the Southern California Gas Company, where he worked for 28 years. When I talked with Gus, he was in Chihuahua, Mexico where he and Alice spend months at a time, either in their city home or one they have in the mountains.

Gus said he joined the Santa Anita A's about 15 years ago when he purchased a 1928 coupe. He dropped the membership when Covid hit. He hopes to start attending meetings once again along with his son, who has an interest in Model A's. Gus and his son will need some assistance in getting the A running.

Nice to have Gus and Alice back as members.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sunshine report - A get well card was sent to John Emanuelli who fell down the stairs while on vacation.

Cookie bringers - Who knows

Photos -Janet Beggs, Bob Moore, Joe Wilson, Bob Harbicht, Nancy Stancil.

NEWS BITS



COMING TOURS & EVENTS

Mt. Wilson Tour

Saturday, September 16

Here is an opportunity to visit one of the famous, historic sites in our local mountains. Arrangements have been made to have a private tour to the Mount Wilson Observatory on Saturday, September 16.



Our tour will include stops at the various attractions at the facility including entrance into the 100 inch telescope building.

We will meet at the McDonalds at 449 Foothill Blvd. In La Canada at 8:45 am for a 9:00 sharp departure. It is a 20 mile drive to the observatory where we will be met by our docent for our 10:00 am tour.

Following the approximately two hour tour we will return to the Pavilion where we will have lunch at the Cosmic Cafe. You might want to consider bringing your own picnic lunch. The line at the Cosmic Cafe may be long and the time required to prepare your lunch excessive. After lunch we can have a leisurely drive back to our starting point in La Canada.

I will have a signup sheet at the August 25 meeting. You may call or send me an email, indicating the names of those participating and whether you will be driving a Model A or modern car.

The entrance fee is \$13 per person if you are 62 or older and \$15 per person if you are younger than 62. Bring a check made out to Joe Wilson for your entrance fee to the observatory. I will have prepaid for everyone.



OTHER HAPPENINGS

Ladies Brunch

by Bea Fruchter

September 11

Ladies who would like to enjoy breakfast and friendly conversation are invited to attend the monthly "Ladies' Breakfast" at 11:00 am at Annia's Restaurant at the San Gabriel Airport on the second Monday of each month. The date for September will be the 11th.

It's a good chance to get to know each other a little better. If you would like to attend, be sure to **call Bea at 626-797-2048** so she can make reservations. They do separate checks and the food is good and usually those who do attend have a good time.



Here is the happy ladies group enjoying their August 14 brunch at Annia's.

Low End Boys (Report)

Mickey Fruchter

The Low End Boys are enjoying the fact that members have been working on their own cars and the need for extra help is low. There are many videos on YouTube which are extremely helpful in keeping your cars in good running condition. IF YOU NEED HELP Call Mickey at (626) 797-2048.

PAST TOURS & EVENTS

Ladies Day Special Event

July 13

by Vicky Balmot and Carol Emanuelli

Thank you to the 27 ladies who joined us for a Ladies Day filled with fun, food and lively conversation!

We met at the famous Derby in Arcadia at 11:30 am on Thursday, July 13, 2023. It was one of the hottest days of the year and the Derby was kind enough to open early for our very punctual ladies so they didn't have to wait outside in the heat.



We had a delicious sit down lunch. The service was exceptional and the Derby staff made everyone feel welcome and special. We were especially lucky to be able to dine at the Derby as they will be closed for renovations beginning in April 2024.



We were delighted by our special guest speaker, Trudie Strobel, who spoke modestly about her amazing stitchery, doll collection and her fascinating journey from Holocaust survivor to renowned speaker, writer and artist. Carolyn McBride and Sue Rogers were the lucky winners of a copy of Trudie's beautiful book "Stitched & Sewn". Nancy Stancil and Sheri Johnson were also winners of raffle prizes.

Trudie brought 3 of her dolls with custom handmade costumes and 3 framed samples of her wonderfully detailed stitchery.



Thank you to the Model A Club Board for subsidizing our special day.



Thank you to all the ladies that attended. I know you had a great time and look forward to seeing you at our next ladies' event.



PAST TOURS AND EVENTS

Sierra Madre Independence Day Parade

July 4

by Jim Kroeger

There are many ways that we celebrate our Independence Day as a nation on July 4th. Some people take in a baseball game enjoying a beer and a hot dog. Others have friends over for a backyard barbecue or head to the beach for a picnic. However, nothing compares to lining up in formation in your local town waiting for the parade to begin.

For almost 100 years the Ford Model A has been a participant in our Fourth of July celebrations. They are as American as apple pie. I think Henry was on to something when he added that rumble seat to his roadsters. What better way for the kids to experience a parade.

This year's parade took place in that sleepy little town of Sierra Madre. Locals put out their chairs overnight trying to save a spot for the 1.4 mile long parade which takes about one hour to complete. We had eight Model A's enter the parade and most were decorated lavishly in various versions of red, white, and blue.

One participant was able to install his newly ordered wolf whistle just in time to compliment his Aermore train whistle and ahooga horn. They were definitely a crowd favorite especially when his passengers led the locals in chants of USA! USA! USA!

We would like to thank Brad Balmot and Dino Falabrino for leading their perspective groups. Participants included the families of Kroeger, Fruchter, Harper, Travis, Falabrino, Sandberg, Balmot and Canzoneri. We also had a very special guest riding in the parade and that was none other than Ken Mallory, our own WWII hero who fought at the Battle of the Bulge. Like Henry's Model A, he too is as American as apple pie. Thank you to all our vets who served to preserve our freedom.



PAST TOURS & EVENTS

Tournament of Roses House Tour

August 17

Joe Wilson

It was a good, but warm day for our tour to the Tournament house in Pasadena. We had 26 members and friends show up for the tour. We had two excellent tour guides that gave us a detailed history of the Tournament of Roses and the selection process of the Rose Queen and her court.



A real treat was when we were given permission to park our Model A's in the driveway into the Tournament House.



Although it is known as the Wrigley mansion, he did not build it. It was built by a man who owned it for 6 months then sold it to Wrigley.

Other interesting facts we were told is that they have 40 plus full time employees and 800 to 900 volunteers.

Following the tour 12 of us drove to Twoeyes in South Pasadena for their signature desert, hot fudge sundaes.



Common Problems with the Model A Light Switch

The Model A light switch is a unique design not found on cars from other manufacturers. When new, the light switch worked well and caused few problems but like a lot of other components the light switch has suffered from years of wear and tear and poor quality replacement parts. With a little understanding of how this system works and some careful attention to detail, the Model A light switch can be made to function correctly and reliably.

Some of the problems encountered include the lights do not turn on at all, the lever in the center of the steering wheel will move with the steering wheel or the horn does not work. Electrical connections for the horn are part of the light switch assembly. When addressing the Model A light switch, it is important to also include the light switch rod assembly which is used to operate the light switch. Les Andrews has very good information in his repair manuals about the disassembly and repair of the light switch.

There are 2 major components that make up the Model A light switch system, the light switch assembly itself, located at the bottom of the steering gear housing and the light switch handle and rod assembly, which is often referred to as the "horn rod".



Light switch assembly



Switch rotating contact assembly.



*Switch plate with terminals
(Note depressions or detents)*



*Steering gear end plate with tube
(Late 2 tooth steering gear only)*



*Light switch spider,
spring and "u" clip*

Attached to the lower end of the rod with a spring and a "U" clip is a sleeve with 2 prongs (more commonly known as the "spider"). The spider fits into the rotating contact in the switch assembly.

Rotating the switch handle to the first position to the right will operate the head lights on "Low Beam" while the second position to the right (29-31 "Twolite" headlights only) operates the "High Beams". The first position to the left operates the park, or cowl, lights. The tail lights will also illuminate when any of the lights are on. Straight down is the OFF position. The horn button is located in the center of the light switch handle assembly. The following are some common problems that owners have experienced.

Light Switch Assembly Full of Grease

The light switch rod is located in the center of the hollow steering gear shaft and passes out thru the bottom of the steering gear. A felt seal around the rod was originally provided to keep the oil in the steering gear from leaking out and into the light switch assembly. Often, this seal has failed and the switch housing has filled up with steering gear lubricant. To correct this, clean out the switch assembly and replace this felt seal or a better solution would be to install a modern end plate assembly with a long thin tube. The thin tube goes up inside the hollow steering shaft and keeps steering lube away from the light switch rod.

This Modern end plate is only available for the later 2 tooth steering gears, not the early 7 tooth steering gears. Later in the 1930's when this switch design was still being used on the new Fords, this tube was added to the steering gear end plate by the factory.

Lights Turn off When Turning the Steering Wheel

Several problems can allow the light switch handle to move when steering the car. First of all, there are "detents" designed into the connections in the light switch plate itself to keep the switch handle from moving when the steering wheel is rotated.

As you operate the light switch, you should feel a detent when you rotate the handle to the different positions. The brass switch terminals in the switch plate were originally made with a depression or dimples. As the rotating contact assembly moves from position to position, the round contacts will fall in these depressions and act as a detent to keep the rotating contact assembly from moving on its own. If these dimples are worn, the contact assembly may not want to stay in position and may rotate with movement of the steering wheel. Some reproduction

Continued from page 7

wire harness assemblies have terminals that are either completely flat or the depressions are not deep enough to act as a detent. If necessary, a small rotary file or Dermal Tool can be used to make the dimples more pronounced.

Another cause of the light switch not wanting to stay in position is when the light switch rod is bent and is dragging on the inside of the steering shaft. In order for the switch rod to not drag, it must be perfectly straight. With patience and care, a switch rod can be straightened. Originally, there also was a small thin brass bushing that was installed at the upper end of the rod, under the switch lever. This bushing was designed to fit into the upper end of the hollow steering shaft it help keep the switch rod centered in the steering shaft.

To summarize, keep grease and oil from the inside of the switch assembly, be sure the detents in the switch plate assembly are deep enough and are not badly worn, be sure the light switch rod is straight and be sure the little bushing at the top of the rod is in place.



Upper switch rod bushing

CAR STORIES

The Ahooguh Origin

by Tom Endy

The ahooguh horn, also known as a Klaxon horn was developed and patented by Miller Reese Hutchison, an inventor of the early 20th century. Hutch, as he was known, patented the mechanism in 1908. The Lovell McConnell Manufacturing Company of Newark, New Jersey bought the rights to manufacture the device and it later became standard equipment on motor cars. Frankly Hallett Lovell Jr., the company founder, coined the name klaxon from the Ancient Greek verb klazō, meaning shriek. Klaxon horns produce an easily identifiable sound, often described in English as "ahooguh". Like most mechanical horns, the klaxon has largely been replaced by solidstate electronic devises, though the memorable tone has persisted on in classic cars of the era. Klaxon later became a brand name. The Klaxon horn was used on U.S. submarines during WWII. The Klaxon horn's characteristic sound is produced by a spring steel diaphragm with a rivet in the center that is repeatedly struck by the teeth of a rotating cogwheel. The diaphragm is attached to a horn that acts as an acoustic transformer and controls the direction of the sound. In the first Klaxons, the wheel was driven either by hand or by an electric motor. Hutch went to work for Thomas Edison in 1909, and was the chief engineer for Edison from 1912 to 1918. The ahooguh sound is usually heard today when a Model A Ford goes rolling down the road.



Miller Reese Hutchison 1876 - 1927



A Poem About Old Cars

This poem was sent to Bob Moore by a fiend who was experimenting with AI (Artificial Intelligence) He asked the program (ChatGPT) to compose a poem of 30 lines about old cars in iambic pentameter. It composed this poem in about 3 seconds. He thought this was scary stuff.

Broadly speaking, artificially intelligent systems can perform tasks commonly associated with human cognitive functions — such as interpreting speech, playing games and identifying patterns. They typically learn how to do so by processing massive amounts of data, looking for patterns to model in their own decision-making. In many cases, humans will supervise an AI's learning process, reinforcing good decisions and discouraging bad ones. But some AI systems are designed to learn without supervision — for instance, by playing a video game over and over until they eventually figure out the rules and how to win.

O L D C A R S

By ChatGPT

*In days of yore, when engines hummed with grace,
And roads were conquered by old cars embraced,
Their metal frames, a testament to might,
With each revving of engine, roared the fight.*

*In garages worn, they stood with timeless charm,
Collectors' treasures, relics safe from harm,
Their weathered paint, a testament to age,
Yet underneath, still youthful hearts engage.*

*Their wheels, like dancers, spun with rhythmic glee,
As tires gripped the asphalt, wild and free,
On open highways, they would swiftly glide,
Their spirits never wavered, never died.*

*With roaring engines and melodious roars,
They traveled through the past's forgotten doors,
Each bump and scrape a tale of bygone days,
Their faded glory, memories they blaze.*

*Oh, vintage beauties, guardians of the past,
The stones that you hold shall always last,
For in your metal bones, a history lies,
A testament to dreams that touched the skies.*

*So let them whisper secrets of the past,
As memories within their frames hold fast,
Old cars, reminders of a bygone time,
Forever cherished, in our hearts they chime.*

WEBSITE STATISTICS

Santa Anita A's Website Sees Much Activity

By Eric Sandberg

The Santa Anita A's Website is a pretty popular place to visit it seems! Just for the month of August up to August 12th, we have been uniquely visited 148 times! We have users from all over the United States that visit us for reference and assistance on their Model A's and the Model A hobby. Many are from Connecticut, New York and Florida along with those from Texas, Oregon and California! Worldly, we had visitors from Switzerland and Australia!

August 1-12th , 148 visits.

67 (45%) had our website as a favorite and they just clicked where they wanted to go!

37 (25%) came from a Google search looking for something specific!

15 (10.5%) came from the Orange County Model A Club (<http://www.ocmafc.com/>). They have a link back to us (verified on their Tech Articles page)!

14 (9.5%) came from DuckDuckGo in hopes of not being tracked

10 (7%) came from Facebook. Someone's post or helpful comment on a post brought them to our site.

5 (3%) came from other search engines (Bing, Yahoo), and Ford Barn and Ahooga.

Of the 148 visits, again only for 12 days!

74 visited Tom Endy's Technical page

40 went to our home page, and probably saved it as a favorite, then went somewhere else.

24 visited Chris Wickersham's Technical page.

11 looked at our Newsletters page and downloaded (or read in the new screen) the current newsletter and past newsletters.

8 visited our Parts and Suppliers page.

5 looked our About us page.

5 visited our Technical page.

4 visited our Veteran's page

4 opened the calendar page and looked at what we have planned.

3 referenced our Contact Us page

Yes, unfortunately this can lead to scams and phishing, but I hope all are for good reasons, and I'm not seeing a lot of hits from nefarious countries.

For the whole year, we have had thousands of visits, and they fit into the usual pages that were visited in the last 12 days!

You are invited to take a look

There is lots of valuable information packed into our club website. Many technical articles that will assist you in working on your car, copies of all the past newsletters, a copy of the current club roster and much more.

To access the website type in the address which is www.santaanitaas.org

Santa Anita A's

Dedicated to the restoration, preservation
and enjoyment of the Model A Ford

The first page of the Club website lists all of the sections which contain important information. The web site's address is (www.santaanitaas.org).

WELCOME TO THE SANTA ANITA A'S WEB SITE

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SANTA ANITA A'S MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the Santa Anita A's Web Site

Mickey Fruchter, Current Santa Anita A's President

We're a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. We educate the public about Model A's, and our members enjoy a wide range of fun activities. We were formed and became a chartered member of the national "MAFCA" (Model A Ford Club of America) in 1975.

[Learn more about us.](#)



FOR SALE

For Sale

1930 Model A Coupe

Partial restoration started on drive train and Chassis.
Body off. Have 95% of parts.

\$5,000 or best offer.

Call Richard at 909-201-6398

For Sale

1930 Roadster pickup



Comes with side curtains, Excellent condition
\$25,000.00 obo Contact Mike - 424-366-7627

For Sale

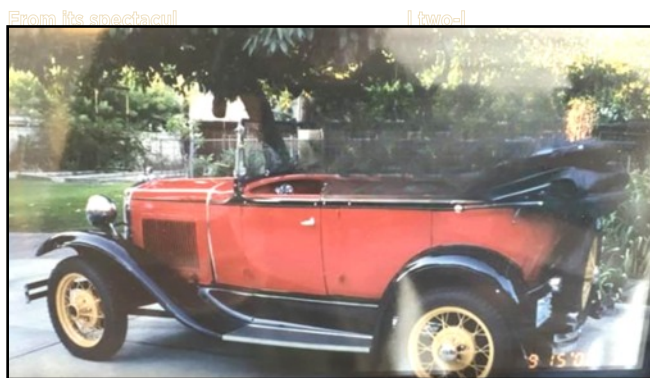
Parade Ready 1930 Model A Phaeton

Yes, this is Jim Frick's candy red car with black fenders, black upholstery and a removable black top.

The car has a new 12 volt battery and an alternator, otherwise is pretty much stock. A reliable first time starter if it has been running within a few days. It is a right hand drive car which gives it even more uniqueness. It is easy to learn how to drive and a good conversation piece.

Asking \$25,000 or best offer.

Call Jim's cell at 626-733-0369.



Wanted

A Flat Head V8, running or close to a running motor.
My sons and I would like to work together on it as a project.

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eric_roadster@hotmail.com
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Contact Tom Endy 714-943-4555

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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 Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, California. Address: PO Box 660904, Arcadia., CA 91066. Website: www.santaanitaas.org



Read the newsletter and sign up for everything

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 website. It contains a wide variety of information about the organization, activities, technical references and instructions on how to join the organization. (www.mafca.com)



PO Box 660904
Arcadia, CA 91066

