



# "The River Cities Running Board"




**RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB**

<http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com>

VOL 16 ISSUE 2 ESTABLISHED IN 2000 February 2016

**MAFCA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, 2002-2009, 2011 and 2013**

**OLD CARS WEEKLY GOLDEN QUILL AWARD 2004, 2010**



**Champion Plugs  
for  
New Fords**  
Champion Spark  
Plug Co.  
Toledo, Ohio

All new Fords are factory-equipped with Champion 3X spark plugs, which have been developed expressly for this car. These new plugs are standard 7/8-in. size and are of different design from the Champion X, which was standard equipment on the Model T. to handle the new car's greater performance capacity.

modelAbasics.com  
Paul Modlin

Visit our Web site at [www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com](http://www.rivercitiesrunningboard.com)

# RIVER CITIES MODEL "A" FORD CLUB

This newsletter is the official publication of the River Cities Model A Ford Club, a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. It is mailed monthly to all members in good standing. Dues are \$25.00 per year per family. Membership in the **MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA** is a requirement for membership in the River Cities Model A Ford Club.

## CLUB OFFICERS:

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| President               | Joe Spooner  |
| Vice President          | Bob Smith    |
| Secretary & Benevolence | Connie Penny |
| Treasurer               | Joe Carter   |

## OTHER POSITIONS:

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Editor                  | Bill Shirley   |
| Assistant Tour Director | Jim Langley    |
| Publicity Director      | Sharon Webb    |
| Program Director        | John Robertson |
| Club Liaison            | Jim Langley    |
| Membership Director     | Al Lugo        |
| Awards Director         | Dick Noxon     |
| Historian Director      | Mickey Timbes  |
| Scholarship Director    | Bill Shirley   |
| Car Show Director       | Bobby Penny    |

**The River Cities Model "A" Ford Club permanent address is:  
P.O. Box 342, Columbus, GA 31902**

**All mail should be sent to the River Cities Model A Ford Club address above. Matters concerning the newsletter should be sent to the editor to insure timely publication.**

## FOUNDING MEMBERS:

|               |                 |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| *Jim Timbes   | Bob Smith       | Bobby Penny     |
| Mickey Timbes | Al Lugo         | *Robert Jackson |
| *Dan Palmer   | Lawrence Farrar | *Bettie Jackson |
| Dan Diener    | Bill Buck       | (*Deceased)     |

## PAST PRESIDENTS:

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jim Timbes NOV 2000- DEC 2001 | Bob Smith DEC 2001- 2003   |
| Mickey Timbes DEC 2003-2004   | Jim Langley DEC 2004 -2006 |
| Joe Spooner DEC 2006-2008     | Jim Langley DEC 2008- 2009 |
| Jim Timbes DEC 2009-2010      | Al Lugo DEC 2010-2012      |
| Paul Singer Dec 2012-2014     | Joe Spooner DEC 2014-2015  |
| Jim Langley Dec2015           |                            |

## Presidents Rattles for February 2016

# **EZN - ON** By Jim Langley

**WOW!!!** It is Already February in our New Year....

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** Many folks have stepped up to become new team members and lend their support for 1916. Remember, a leader is only as good as the team members backing him/her. **LOOKING FORWARD** too many tours, programs and other activities during the coming year, and here is a small **HINT**: A ladies driving tour in the early spring, short tours to nearby "Must SEE" places, fashion seminars, and new and interesting monthly programs...

**YOU** did not make The Spence field Swap Meet?? **YOU** missed a chance to buy a NOS Genuine Ford Vacuum Windshield Wiper Motor in the **ORIGINAL FORD RED AND BLACK BOX WITH A-** part#. Darn it, it was sold on Thurscay before I heard about it. Oh Well, there was still a lot of good to very good "A" parts there, **BUT** you had to be there, and **LOOK....**

Got an idea for some club activity or program? The options are wide open at this point, Do you have an interesting story about you and your Model A or finding that long lost item? Pass it on and what better place than the monthly planning meeting on the second Friday at the Macon Road Burger King. **YOU ARE INVITED....**

Will you be at the Jorday High School Show? First show of the season to display your beauty.

See you on The Back Roads.....

*Jim*

# JOIN US!

BY AL Lugo

NEXT MEETING: February 18, 2016-  
6:00PM (EASTERN) Our  
next meeting will be at Woodmen of  
the World Lodge, on Highway 80, in  
Phenix City.

## COMING EVENTS

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| February 5   | MATTS                    |
| February 5-7 | Moultrie Swap Meet       |
| February 12  | Planning Meeting         |
| February 18  | Club Meeting             |
| February 20  | Sweet Heart Tour         |
| March 4      | MATTS                    |
| March 5      | Glenwood School Car Show |
| March 11     | Planning Meeting         |
| March 17     | Club Meeting             |
| March 19     | Spring Fling Tour        |

### *CRUISE EVENINGS*

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday- | Cooks Hot Dog on Miller & Airport Thruway      |
| Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  | Jim Bob's                                      |
| Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  | Jason Deli, by SEARS in Columbus Park Crossing |
| Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday | Harley Davidson on Williams Road               |
| Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday  | BoJangle's on Schomberg Road                   |
| Every 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday  | Country's on Broadway Downtown Columbus        |
| Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday | Opelika Home Depot                             |
| Every 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday | Steak and Shake (Bradley Park Drive)           |
| Every Sunday AM                | IHOP Airport Thruway                           |

### NATIONAL:

June 19-24      MAFCA National Convention, Loveland, Colorado  
December 5-8   MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Reno, Nevada

**River Cities Model A Ford Club  
Meeting Minutes from January 21st, 2016  
Club Meeting**

The January meeting of the river Cities Model A Club was held January 21, 2016 at the Woodman of the World facility.

President Jim Langley called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bob and Connie Penny, Glenn Williams & Cindy, Kevin Adams, Paul and Mary Nellie Singer, Joe Carter, Mickey Timbes, Dick Noxon, Bob Smith, Skipper Barfield, Sharon Webb, Bill Buck, John Robertson, Wayne Kennedy, Al Lugo, Joe and June Spooner, Bobby Shackelford, Mark and Pat Gamble, Bill Shirley.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Grace was given by Al Lugo. Members proceeded to the buffet line.

Sunshine Report: Bobby Penny, Bobby Shackelford, and Neal LeClair have been under the weather, but much better. Cordarral Brundidge, Robert and Margie' son (our cater), was involved in a serious accident, but home now and on the mend. Keep these persons in our prays for continued recovery.

President Jim Langley gave a history of RCMAFC from inception in November of 2000 to the present. Jim Timbes gathered a few men and women and started a local chapter of the National Model A Ford Club of America. The founder members are always listed in our newsletter. Jim had founding members present to stand. We showed our appreciation with an applause. We remember those that are not with us, but who made their mark in our club.

**Old Business:**

Dick Noxon presented Bill Shirley with a service award for 2015 for RCMAFC newsletter and handling the Scholarships.

Club has been re-registered with MAFCA for 2016.

Minutes from the December, 2015, meeting were approved as reported in the newsletter.

Treasurer report by Joe Carter was given and approved.

**New Business:**

Woodman of the World will continue to be our meeting place throughout , 2016, thanks to Clayton Parrish.

The annual financial audit will be given at the February meeting. The audit team will be Al Lugo and Bobby Penny with Joe Carter assisting.

The Club Budget will be researched by Jim Langley and Joe Carter at the planning meeting on February 12 and presented at the regular general meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February.

President Jim Langley gave team members an opportunity for a brief report. These are listed in the newsletter. Members are:

Al Lugo-Membership chairman

Richard Noxon-Awards chairman

Bobby Penny-Library& Apparel chairman

Bill Shirley-Newsletter & Scholarship chairman

Mickie Timbes- Historian

Paul Singer-Activity & tour chairman

John Robertson-Program chairman

Joe Spooner-Liaison with other clubs

Sharon Webb-Publicity chairman

Mark Gamble-VP

Pat Gamble-secretary

The program was a show & tell where Al Lugo, Bobby Penny, Paul Singer, Dick Noxon brought unusual items to guess what they were and use. President Jim Langley challenged everyone to guess an item that is Model A related that is about 18 inches long, black, and weighs about 10 lbs. Jim will take guesses at the next meeting, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned.  
Respectively submitted by Pat Gamble, secretary.

The February Program will be in two parts - Model A video presentation by Al Lugo, then Show & Tell by all members. Members should bring at least one item of curiosity (not necessarily Model A).

Sweet Heart Tour, February 20, 2016. Note this is the Saturday following the monthly meeting and full details will be presented at that time...

## **Attention Parents and Grand Parents**

MAFFI is starting a free membership program for one young person (under 21) from each local Model A Club. Membership includes the quarterly MAFFI newsletter sent by email, an iron-on museum patch for jacket or cap and one year FREE admission to the Model A Ford Museum and the Gilmore Car Museum in Michigan.

Check [www.maffi.org](http://www.maffi.org) and click on "Become a Member" for more information and the application or contact your club's MAFFI liaison (in our case it is Jim Langley). This offer is good through 2016 for a year from the date the application is received and is limited to one free membership per club.

## **EAOCC has set May 21 for their 42 nd annual car show**



## **MODEL A TINKER TIME SHOP**

Photos and information by Al Lugo

Another great MATTS was conducted at Bobby Penny's shop on January 1, 2016. YES, you read it correctly, on the first day of the year. Eleven hard core Model Aer's showed up and received great information, and above all great fellowship.



**Dick Noxon talks about the head gasket on his Model "A".**



**Joe Spooner shows the brake drums of his pickup.**

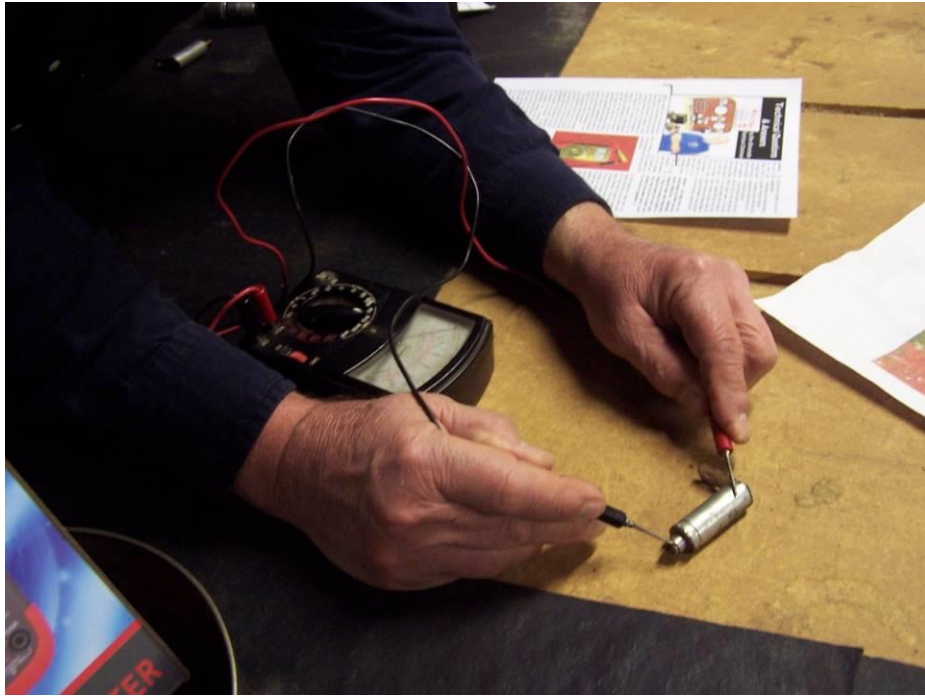




**Bobby introduces a “capacitor meter” to check Model “A”  
Condensers.**



**This is what the capacitor meter to check condensers looks  
Like.**



**You can also check it with a regular meter if you know how  
To do it.**



**What is inside the condenser?**



**Jim Langley, our new Club President, passing on his Model “A” expertise. If you were not able to attend this MATTS, you will get another chance on February 5, 2016. Do not miss this great opportunity, JOIN US!**

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

**By AL LUGO**

**The Ford Motor Company has one of the richest histories of any Automobile Company. This was possible because of the preservation of documents, photos, and short films. It is my purpose in the coming months to bring you significant facts of Ford history presented in short “bullets”. Please join me in honoring our rich Ford Motor Company History.**

.....

**Ford Model A Convertible Sedan A400**



- The A400 was introduced on May 22, 1931. It was introduced during the Great Depression.
- \* It was a new sporty deluxe design. It was so named because during that era there was a social register called “The Four Hundred”. This stood as a symbol of wealth and power.
- Standard equipment included cowl lamps, left well fender, top boot, chrome windshield frame, chrome windshield wiper, leather upholstery, arm rest in the rear, two ash trays, adjustable drivers seat, and full bumpers in the front and rear.
- The interior was made of genuine deep tan crush grain leather on all the seats and matching artificial leather on the inside panels. The floor was covered by a brown front and rear carpet.
- The garnish moldings, the dash and finish strips were painted in imitation walnut grain.
- The interior door handles and lock mechanism were similar to the other slant windshield models. They were of the pull type.
- The interior hardware was bright nickel plate. This was the only Deluxe model with bright interior hardware.
- After July of 1931 the Convertible Sedan seats were interchangeable with the Victoria.

- **Antisqueak material was used between wood and metal to prevent rattles.**
- **It had a slanting windshield which gave it a very attractive appearance.**
- \* **Door and quarter windows could be lowered or raised since they had regulators.**
- **A rigid top rail that extended from the front pillar over doors and quarter windows eliminated rattles and noises found in other convertible models.**
- **The top had a rubberized material that made it very durable.**
- **The A400 had a very wide door on each side that gave it easy entrance.**
- **The rear floor had a depression that gave rear passengers extra room.**
- **The convertible sedan came in five standard colors. It was also available in all of the deluxe body colors. That gave it availability in 17 different colors. This was more colors than any other Model A except the commercial line of Model A's.**
- **From May to December 1931, 4864 units were produced in the U.S. 85 units were produced in Canada and 123 units were produced overseas. In 1932 Edgewater produced 1 unit, 19 units were built in Buenos Aires and 1 unit in Canada. Thus the total production of Convertible Sedans was 5093 units.**



The Club was invited to participate in the December Mayors Parade at the West Central Georgia Regional Hospital here in Columbus. It was a pretty big turn out as we had five cars show up and we were the hit of the Parade. It turned out to be a very nice day and must say that Staff and Patients alike were happy to see us.

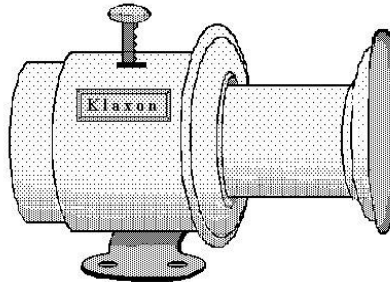


## HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES



**FEBRUARY 10 – Mark & Pat Gamble**  
**FEBRUARY 14- Bobby & Connie Penny**  
**FEBRUARY 16- Russell & Mary Ann Lester**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>FEBRUARY 9- Ann Wright</b>      | <b>FEBRUARY 11 – Mark Gamble</b>          |
| <b>FEBRUARY 12- Thomas Foster</b>  | <b>FEBRUARY 14- Friederilke Robertson</b> |
| <b>FEBRUARY 16- Howard Ruddick</b> | <b>FEBRUARY 19- Becky Coxwell</b>         |
| <b>FEBRUARY 23- Louie Willett</b>  | <b>FEBRUARY 26- Paul Singer</b>           |

HCCA Atlanta Region  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Social Security Run**  
May 12-15, 2016



**Cartersville, Georgia**  
Invitational—Cars 1942 and under  
*For registration and information contact:*

**Kenny Wright (404) 372-3396; [knwright@bellsouth.net](mailto:knwright@bellsouth.net)**  
**Melissa Eastin (678) 449-6119; [teastin@bellsouth.net](mailto:teastin@bellsouth.net)**



**CHATTAHOOCHEE HARLEY-DAVIDSON**  
**PRESENTS**  
**HOT RODS AND HARLEYS CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW**  
**FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC!!!!!!**

**MARCH 19th 10-3pm**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE H-D**

3230 Williams Road • 706-324-4294 • [www.chattahoocheehd.com](http://www.chattahoocheehd.com)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>\$15</b> PER VEHICLE PRIOR TO MARCH 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Proceeds benefit</b><br><b>MDA</b><br>Fighting Muscle Disease |
| <b>\$20</b> PER VEHICLE AFTER MARCH 5 <sup>th</sup>    |  |

## **Rodeside Troubleshooting the Model A**

**By Model A Basics**

**Engine Fails to Start** Although engine turns over freely.

**Culprits include:**

1. Ignition switch is off
2. No gasoline is in the tank
3. Gasoline line valve is off (needs to point down for on)
4. If engine is cold, mixture may not be rich enough. If the engine is warm-Mixture is too rich, over choking
5. Breaker points too close together. The correct adjustment is .018 to .022 The spark plug gap is incorrect. The correct gap is .035.
6. Water in filter bowl or carburetor

**Starter Fails to Turn the Engine Over**

**Culprits include:**

1. Battery run down
2. Loose or dirty Battery Connections.

### **Missing at Low Speeds:**

#### **Culprits include:**

1. Gas Mixture too rich or too lean.
2. The spark plug gap is incorrect. The correct gap is .035.
3. Breaker points improperly adjusted, badly burnt or pitted.
4. Fouled spark plug-Spark plugs should occasionally be cleaned and the gaps checked.
5. Water in gasoline

### **Missing at High Speeds:**

1. Insufficient gasoline, flowing to carburetor due to gasoline line or filter screen being partly clogged.
2. Gas Mixture too rich or too lean.
3. Water in gasoline.

**Backfiring Under Load** (throttle wide open at relatively low rpm's) often indicates a problem in electrical/ignition/timing.

#### **Culprits include:**

1. Insufficient point gap (should be set at .018 to .020).
2. Timing.
3. Bad condenser.
4. Bad distributor body.
5. Frayed wire between upper plate and lower plate on the distributor.
6. Intermittent connection of the ignition switch.

**Backfiring With No-Load** (example: shifting between gears and coasting downhill). Often indicates too little fuel in combustion chamber for proper ignition. (During the exhaust stroke, raw gas is expelled into the muffler where it ignites)

#### **Culprits include:**

1. GAV adjusted to lean.
2. Intake vacuum leak.
3. Low carburetor float.

Backfiring Around 45 mph indicates insufficient fuel to supply to the carburetor.

### **Engine Stops Suddenly:**

1. Gasoline tank empty.
2. Dirt in fuel line or carburetor.
3. Gas mixture too lean.

### **Engine Overheats:**

1. Lack of water
2. Lack of oil
3. Fan belt loose or slipping
4. Excessive carbon deposit on piston heads and combustion chamber
5. Incorrect spark timing.
6. Gas mixture too rich.
7. Water circulation retarded, by sediment/grease in radiator.

### **Quick Fuel Check:**

Crank engine fully choke for seven or eight revolutions. If gas leaks from the back of the carburetor your line of fuel is not blocked.

### **If Fuel Line is Blocked**

1. Use a stick to check the fuel level in the gas tank.
2. Repeat the above Quick Check for Fuel with the gas cap off.
3. Remove fuel line at carburetor. Test for fuel flow using the gas shut off valve for means of controlling flow. If blocked blow into fuel line to temporally clear blockage.
4. If gas flows from the fuel line reattach it to the carburetor making sure the line does not extend more than 1/8 of an inch from the ferrule into the carburetor, repeat the above Quick Check for Fuel.
5. Detach the choke lever and remove the center bolt of the carburetor and separate the two halves. Check for fuel flow.
6. Remove valve and check for fuel flow. If no flow check screen for blockage
7. Clean and blow through float valve

### **Quick Check: Ignition (Primary)**

With ignition on, turn the engine over and observe the ammeter. If the needle jiggles the primary side of the electrical system is working. This includes: ignition switch, pop-out cable, points, condenser, primary side of coil, and the hidden wire in the distributor connecting the upper plate to the lower plate.

*(Paraphrased from Tom Endy's article "Model A Ford Ignition Diagnostics")*

**Note:** For early Model A's up until November 1929 the ammeter was not wired into the primary ignition circuit. To convert:

Disconnect the battery. Open the terminal box on the firewall. Locate the black wire leading from the coil to the terminal on the passenger side, move this wire to the terminal on the driver side. The Ammeter Needle will now jiggle to help with diagnostics.

*(Paraphrased from Tom Endy's article "Model A Ford Ignition Diagnostics")*

### **Quick Check: Ignition (Secondary)**

To check the secondary side of the electrical system, remove one brass spark plug connector from the distributor and position it approximately a ¼ of an inch above its terminal on the distributor. Using the key turn the engine over and observe the gap to see if a bright yellowish-blue spark, with a loud snapping sound is being created

No spark/poor spark; Culprits include:

1. Failed condenser
2. Lower plate wire broke or shorted
3. Point gap closing up
4. Pop-out cable to tight and grounding out in distributor

## **FOR SALE**

**1929 Tudor Sedan - Project car - Completely disassembled**

**Frame has been sandblasted, primed, painted**

**Hood, tank, cowl, primed , painted**

**Floor board and wood rail replaced**

**Speedometer rebuilt, New motometer**

**Tires and tube new a few years ago**

**Generator rebuilt**

**Engine cranks and runs good but not in a while**

**All four steel fenders in good shape**

**Body, fenders, and doors sand blasted but were not primed**

**Will need battery, upholstery kit, roof kit**

**All parts are available**

Asking \$4,000 Call 1-256-825-5664 or cell - 1-334-329-0472  
Located near Opelika, AL

## **David Black is Selling his Model A**

Since I can not drive my Model A I will sell it. A 30 Tudor (Touring Car). B inserted-Pressurized engine. High comp. head, Oil & Tem. gauges. 12 volt, Ford (83 Ford F100 trans) 4 speed overdrive.

16" wheels with WW walls radials. Tires were \$1000 new and have 95 % tread. Pressurized radiator with over flow tank.

Ford 2 tone green with yellow wheels. Model A Looks (inside & Outside) and drives GREAT.... Not a show car but a proven Touring car. On a 0-10 scale.... It's an 8.

\$22,000 Firm.

David\_black@model-a-man.com

## **PARTS WANTED**

**WANTED; 1930-31 Model A Cowl with tank and Hood & related parts.**

**Mark Gamble 706-333-7586 (cell)**