

Shade Tree A's

Newsletter

Augusta, Georgia

April 2006 Volume 33 Number 4





The Shade Tree A's is a non-profit organization with chapter affiliation with MAFCA and MARC

The organization is dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile and supports membership in the national organizations dedicated to the same purpose



Your Shade Tree A's membership includes annual dues for the Model A Ford Club of America and a subscription to **The Restorer** Magazine from MAFCA, 250 South Cypress St., La Habra, CA 90631

Members are also urged to join the Model "A" Restorers Club. Dues are \$35.00 per year and include a subscription to the **Model "A" News**. MARC, 6721 Merriman Road, Garden City, MI 48135

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APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting will be held at **Fire Mountain Restaurant** in North Augusta on Monday April 10th.

The Masters guest will be gone, so you can load up your favorite gal in the old Model A and come celebrate. Plan on arriving in time to eat around 7:30. Don't forget this change in location!

REFRESHMENTS

Highlighted name coordinates what the group brings

April
Dinner Meeting
Fire Mountain Grill—North Augusta
May
McMullins, Nelsons, Bryants



OFF THE RUNNING BOARD

Notes from the President

Spring is here! This club can look forward to a very active spring and summer. Is your car ready? We had an excellent turn out for the Augusta St. Patrick's Day Parade. That suggests that we are ready, let's all enjoy the planned activities.

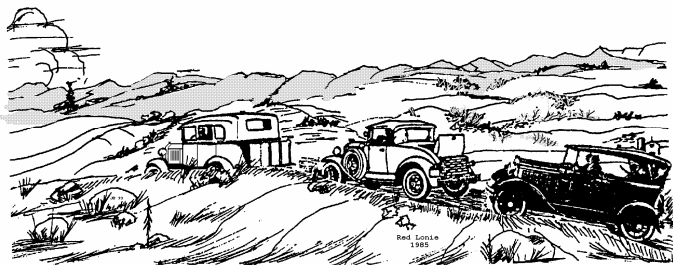
I want to extend a very special thank you to Club member Bill Maypole. Bill coordinated the special program at the March meeting. He arranged for an old friend of his, Mike Roach, to bring his beautiful Stanley Steamer and share it with us. That proved to be a most interesting program. I have received numerous very positive comments from many of you. We may be a Model A Club, but topics such as this are most appropriate. If you have creative ideas for a program please let Vice President Craig McMullin know.

I also want to recognize something that we too easily take for granted – our meeting place – “Richard's Shop” – our clubhouse. Our newer members may not be aware, but Richard has done a great deal of work in improving the meeting place; the cabinetry, the heating and air conditioning, the lighting, and the new Club Library space. Thank you Richard, your dedication is appreciated.

I also want to recognize your Board of Director's for authorizing the recent purchase of the tables. They certainly make the 'eating' portion of the meeting more enjoyable.

One last thought – it's your club! Become an active part of it, get involved!

Jack Horner, President



MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Shade Tree A's began at Richard Dunevent's garage on March 13 with a very interesting program given by Mike Roach, Chairman of the Stanley Steamer Museum, on his 1913 Stanley Steamer. Mike gave us the history and a brief discussion on engine operation, then fired it up and drove it on Richard's driveway!

The program was followed by a delicious meal of hot dogs, baked beans, chips and dessert provided by the Dinkins, Dunevents and Meloans.

President Jack Horner called the business meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. Visitors were recognized; the treasurer's report read and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Old Business: Jim McPherson reported on the very successful dinner theater event (27 were in attendance). Thanks were given to Richard Dunevent for the new library cabinets. Jim Brown gave a very interesting program on rabbit bearings at the Tech Seminar on March 11, followed by a great lunch provided by the Gazettes.

New Business: The policy of sending MAFCA dues in the month they are received was discussed and approved. Eric Shogren reported that the “Mall Show” is still in the approval process by the new owners of Augusta Mall. He needs cars. Jim McPherson gave a run-down of upcoming events—see the schedule in this newsletter. Ed Meloan reminded everyone that the April dinner meeting will be Monday, April 10 at the Fire Mountain Grill in North Augusta. Susan Meloan reported on the Shady A Ladies' Child Advocacy Project. They need children's clothing. Craig McMullen would like ideas for meeting programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Tom Roberts*



CLUB ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

PROGRESSIVE BREAKFAST

We will meet for a Progressive Breakfast on **Saturday, April 1st**, at Al's Restaurant in North Augusta

Do not eat at Al's or Hardee's! they are only convenient meeting places for the homes we will be visiting. There will be plenty to eat along the way. The Progressive Breakfast is one of our most fun tours. You never know who or what you may see, and you are never very far away from home.

We will leave Al's at 8:30 and tour to the Hardee's in Clearwater on the Augusta-Aiken Highway where we will meet the South Carolina STA members. From there we will start the progressive breakfast with a short tour to our first stop (now who lives close to there?). We will progress our way thru breakfast meal, eating our way from home to home. This is a drive your Model A event. The best way to avoid a surprise visit for a portion of the breakfast meal is to participate. You know how easy it is to find out who is going to participate, and who is not!

SWAP MEET

The Old 96 District Model A Club is having a swap meet on **April 21 and 22** in Greenwood, SC. The swap met will be held on Highway 221, between Highways 25 and 225, one half mile south of Greenwood. Admission is \$1.00. Car Corral and Vendor Spaces are available.

NORTH AUGUSTA CENTENNIAL PARADE

The Shade Tree A's have been invited to participate in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the City of North Augusta on **Saturday April 22nd**. We will line-up on West Martintown Road for the Centennial Parade which begins at 3 o'clock. Following the parade we will tour to Fire Mountain for dinner. It has been a long time since we were in a parade in North Augusta, and the city of North Augusta has been very nice to us in the past, so let's have a big turnout to show our appreciation.

MITCHELL GEORGIA PARADE

The Shade Tree A's have been invited to participate in the Mitchell Springfest **April 21-23**, with the parade on **Saturday**. Line-up time is 9 o'clock with the parade at 11 o'clock. If you are going to attend this parade, please call Jim McPherson (706-592-4835).

A HILL CLIMB AND MUSIC TOO!

The East Tennessee Region, MARC, and FAST SE are hosting a Hill Climb in conjunction with the Fiddlers and Fiddleheads Festival, at the Farmhouse Gallery and Gardens in Unicoi, Tennessee. Try your luck on "Bluegrass Hill" on **Friday April 28th** with practice runs up the hill in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. The awards banquet will be held Friday night at the Farmhouse. On Saturday there will be a Car Show (NO registration fee) in conjunction with the Fiddlers and Fiddleheads Festival. Continuous bluegrass, country and gospel entertainment will be provided by twenty bands, as well as impromptu gatherings on the grounds and around the cars. The Farmhouse Gallery is the home of wildlife artist Johnny Lynch. A variety of hotels are available in the general area. You may want to stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Erwin (423-743-4100).

MAY

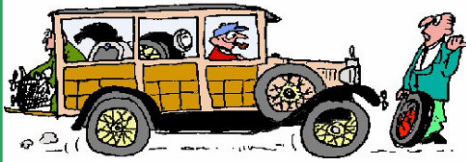
TECH SESSION VII

The Shade Tree A's will hold their 7th Tech Session on **Saturday May 6th**. Meet for breakfast at Ryan's on Bobby Jones at 8 o'clock, then tour to Richard's around 9 for the Tech Session. We'll be adjusting, repairing and rebuilding Model A Ford components necessary to keep our A's on the road.

If you would like any assistance, please call Craig McMullin (803-637-3790) or Jim McPherson (706-592-4835) so we can make sure to have the most qualified personnel and equipment available to help you. For those of you who are able to prove the roadworthiness of your Model A, a scrumptious free lunch awaits you.

SOCIAL SECURITY RUN

The Atlanta Region of the Horseless Carriage Club of America is hosting the 11th Social Security Run **May 19-21**. This tour is one of the best organized and most enjoyed tours you will go on. It is limited



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

to 100 cars, manufactured in 1935 or earlier, with 65 or more being Model A Fords. This year the tour will be based in Gainesville, Georgia, with the big tour Saturday to Amicalola Falls, the tallest falls east of the Mississippi. We will depart Friday morning, warm our cars up for the big Saturday tour with the Medicare Tour Friday afternoon, and return home Sunday. If you do not have a registration form, call Jim McPherson (706-592-4835) to get one. Early registration is strongly advised

JUNE

OLD 96 GATHERING HOT DOG DAY!

The Old 96 District Model A Club has invited us to join them and other area Model A Clubs for a day of hot dogs and fellowship on **Saturday June 10th**. We will meet for breakfast at Fire Mountain in North Augusta at 8 o'clock, then tour to the Ninety-Six Park for the activities. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share with the group, some drinks and chairs, they will provide the hot dogs they have become so famous for.

MARC NATIONAL MEET

The MARC National Meet will be held **June 25-30**, 2006 in Grand Rapids, MI, about 150 miles NW of Dearborn MI.

We are proposing leaving earlier, to allow two days to visit the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the Ford Rouge Factory where our beloved Model A was made, Fairlane (Henry Ford's home) and other attractions in Dearborn before proceeding to the MARC meet. For those of you who have not been to Dearborn, you will see the actual first car Henry Ford built, the original 999 racer and much more. The museum is not limited to transportation; it also includes silver, china crystal, jewelry etc. Greenfield Village contains the actual buildings and contents of the Wright brother's Cycle Shop and home, Henry Ford's Bagley Avenue Workshop, Edison's Menlo Park lab, and the Richart Wagon Shop, are among the many historical buildings, and much more as you ride the streets in a Model A bus or Model T's.

We plan to leave Augusta **Wednesday June 21** and drive to Paducah, KY. Wednesday afternoon.

We will stay at the Baymont Inn, local # 270-443-4343, national toll free # 866-999-1111, or online www.belmontinn.com. Rate:\$53.99 Thursday morning we will visit the National Quilt Museum and area quilt shops. And then drive to Dearborn. We'll stay in the Extended Stay America, local # 313-336-0021, national toll free # 800-398-7829, or www.extstay.com. Rate \$89.99

We'll tour the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village Friday and Saturday. We will tour the Ford Rouge Factory, where the Model A was built, Friday afternoon at 2 PM. You need to purchase tickets in advance to guarantee this date and time, at www.thehenryford.org Go to Rouge Tour. I got tickets for Friday June 23 at 2PM. One tour was already sold out on that date. You may choose another time or date if you like. If you go on Saturday, the production line will be shut down.

If you do not wish to go to Paducah, you can meet us in Dearborn. You can drive it in a day (830 miles).

From Dearborn the group will split up, some returning home, some attending the MARC National Meet in Grand Rapids, and others visiting friends and relatives.

Let me know if you plan on joining us so that I can keep you updated on the plans. If you are interested in participating in this tour, contact Jim McPherson (706-592-4835 or james.mcpherson@amedd.army.mil).

JULY

MAFCA NATIONAL MEET

The MAFCA National Meet will be held in Mansfield, MA **July 16-22**, 2006.

It has been a long time since MAFCA has held a national meet in a location which is within a reasonable distance for many of us to attend. Mansfield, located near Boston and Plymouth, offers many historic sites to visit. If you would like to be part of a group of STA'ers traveling to and from this meet, please contact Jim McPherson (706-592-4835 or james.mcpherson@amedd.army.mil).

RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES



FORT GORDON DINNER THEATER

Twenty-seven Shade Tree A's members braved a cool and rainy night to attend the Dinner Theater at Fort Gordon on Saturday February 25th. The comedy, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and a delicious dinner buffet awaited us. We were eager to fill our plates with mesquite baked chicken, bourbon marinated flank steak, baked Alaskan cod, squash casserole, roasted red potatoes, rice Pilaf, sautéed vegetable medley, and tables full of gourmet desserts.



Doris Brown had arranged prime seating for us and the play, a musical comedy, was excellent. The setting for the play was two years before the Christian Era, on a Spring day in Rome in front of the houses of Erronius, Senex and Lycus. The performance was filled with musical numbers, giving a bright and fast passed performance.



A TECH SESSION FIESTA!

Yes, it was a festive occasion, enjoyed by all, with the possible exception of James Beck. The sixth Tech Session was devoted to the evaluation and adjustment of the clearance on Babbitt main and rod bearings, with an engine provided by James being the guinea pig. (Also see Front Cover)



We had 26 members and 6 Model A Fords in attendance as Jim Brown provided the hands on seminar. Removing the rear main bearing cap revealed a number of cracks and missing pieces of Babbitt. There was no need to remove the crankshaft to evaluate the Babbitt in the remaining half of the bearing. Jim demonstrated the art of bluing the bearing to reveal the high and low spots and how to scrape the high spots. Next he demonstrated adjusting the correct tolerance for the bearing using Plasti-Gauge.



All the while, Tony and Carole Gazette were busy transforming Richard's garage into a Mexican Cantina. They promised us a gourmet meal, and we were not disappointed. Sombreros, red neckerchiefs, cantina signs and menus decorated the garage, and a Mexican buffet overflowed from the serving tables. It was truly a Tech Session we will long remember!

MORE RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES



A STANLEY STEAMER VISITS THE MARCH MEETING

Here are a few pictures of the interesting program on the Stanley Steam Cars. Our thanks to Mike Roach who brought his beautiful prize-winning 1913 Stanley Touring Car to the meeting.



Photos by Ken Nelson



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Little green people, green dogs, and green fountains, and 16 green Model A Fords were decorated for the St Patrick's Day Parade. The weather was nice, but windy, causing one large balloon entry to have second thoughts, but the rest of the parade entrants filled the Civic Center parking lot. It was a long parade with wall to wall spectators lining Broad Street, and the time it took us to complete the parade was even longer, but we all finished without incident.



Betty Wade with Major Butch Wilhelm of the Richmond County Sheriff's Department-

03/17/2006



AND EVEN MORE RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES ...

PALMETTO A'S — PICNIC-IN-THE-PARK



The Palmetto A's hosted their 11th annual Picnic-in-the Park on Saturday March 18th at the Saluda Shoals Park in Lexington. We started our day with breakfast at Fire Mountain in North Augusta and then toured to Aiken to meet the Foster's and Shogren's. Then it was on to Lexington, traveling among the blooming peach trees. The Melchior's and Dan Perla met us at the park. There were 39 Model A's and eighty people in attendance.



After lunch car games were enjoyed by participants and spectators alike, then it was time for the drive back home.

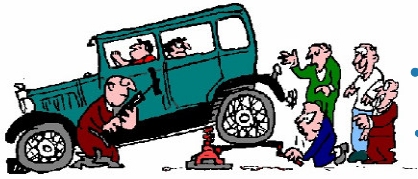


We spread our picnic lunches on the tables and everyone filled their plates.



Mark Temple and the Palmetto club always do a great job with the annual **Picnic In The Park** event! Thanks Guys! The Shade Tree A's appreciate your hospitality and the great fellowship!





NOTES FROM THE MODEL A GARAGE

By Jim McPherson



Possibly the most important question any of us have is how our Model A is running. We are eternally questioning each and every sound produced by the motor, and the cause and effect of the sound. We are comparing the characteristics of the motor in our Model A with those of fellow Club members. Many concern the longevity of the engine.

In "Model A Magic", Hemmings Classic Car (March 2006) visits J&M Machine in Southborough, Massachusetts to examine the machining of a Model A engine. About 80% of their work is Model A engines. I found it interesting that they find 98% of the engine blocks to be cracked, but they are able to repair both small and large cracks. Rather than using weld, glue or putty for repairs, they stitch the cracks closed by hand using special steel alloy pins developed for the process. Stitching involves drilling a hole, tapping it, threading a pin into the hole, then drilling another hole that overlaps the

first by 50% and continuing the process until the crack is entirely filled. A typical one inch crack takes about 30 minutes to stitch up. They also repair the commonly cracked bell housings using this same technique.

The main engine concern many of us have is the main bearings. It appears insert bearings may be the way to go. However J&M doesn't offer insert bearings. They say, "I don't feel a need to if the Babbitt is done right and maintained. They'll last 100,000 miles." The bearing life has been one of the reasons given for switching to inserts, but 100,000 miles for a Babbitt bearing engine, and may cause some to reconsider. They control the Babbitt temperature to within 10 degrees of the temperature they want. Babbitt kept too cool develops too much porosity, while Babbitt kept too hot burns off specific materials and doesn't wear as well.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President Jack Horner called the STA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. He read a letter from Don Turley covering MAFCA membership dues and benefits of MAFCA vs MARK. Following discussion Jim McPherson made a motion, seconded by Ed Meloan to make it policy that the MAFCA dues be sent in the month they are received. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim McPherson discussed upcoming events and schedules and stated that someone was needed to head up the October 14th steak cookout. Susan Meloan passed out a list of 2005 Club expenses. A discussion of the annual budget and cost-cutting opportunities followed.

Eric Shogren reported on a recent meeting with Augusta Mall representatives which brought out some approval problems with the new

ownership of the Mall. There was discussion of charity donations and possible sponsorship of the Mall Show.

Craig McMullen reported that the Anniversary Pins had arrived—they were wrong and had to be returned, but should be in soon. Ed Meloan, with the assistance of Don Turley, has done a compilation of officers and membership dates and gave this to Craig to use for the Anniversary Pins.

Jack Horner reported that the process for incorporation is moving along well.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Monday, May 1. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, *Tom Roberts*

ON THE SHADY SIDE

By Anne Neely-Beck

I can't believe it is April already. I have missed not being able to come to the meetings so far this year. Hopefully that will change by the summer and I will be able to enjoy the comradery of the Shade Tree A's.

I attended the MAFCA Era Fashion Committee meeting in Seattle the first weekend in March. It was a very productive meeting and I am so proud to represent the Shade Tree A's and the southeastern United States. I always stress that MAFCA members do live on the east coast and do want to be acknowledged.

We all will have a chance to attend a MAFCA National Meet that will be held on the east coast this summer in Massachusetts. I am encouraging all STA members to attend and while you are there, how about modeling some of the "off the rack" fun fashions at a seminar being given by Donna May Bewley, chairperson of the MAFCA Era Fashion Committee. Our club has certainly been a leader in buying and modeling fun fash-

ions. The Fashion Show at the Mall last year was a great example, also the two teas we had when we hosted our Divisional Meet and the Membership Meet. If you would like to model at the National Meet please let me know, so I can pass your name onto Donna May.

I have MAFCA fashion pins for sale. They are \$5.00 each and Carole Gazette has them if you would like to purchase one. Thanks to all that have purchased them and thanks to Carole for helping me sell them.

Please continue to support the Child Enrichment program as this seems to be a very worthwhile program.

We still need volunteers for November and December's *Vintage Visions* and *On The Shady Side*. It is easy to write an article and I have a collection of vintage magazines that you may borrow to help get you motivated. Like I always told my kids, "think of it as a learning experience."

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

The April Meeting — Child Enrichment

For the April meeting we will bring summer play clothes – simple shorts and shirts – for 'Mother Hubbard's Closet' at the Child Enrichment Shelter. They can be any size from infant to teens – boys or girls. They need to be new, but not elaborate. You do not need to be an active Shady A Lady to participate. Support from **all** club members is encouraged.

THE MODERN SEWING MACHINE

By Susan Meloan

Today we get excited about our electronic sewing computers. It is interesting to look at what was available to our counterparts during the Model A era. Singer was the most popular American machine. By the 1920's electric machines were replacing the treadle machine. A Singer ad in the Spring, 1929 Pictorial Review describes how the Singer has changed with the years. "Singer has created the modern sewing machine – as different from its ances-



tors as modern frock is different from the gowns your mother wore. Beautiful in design, it asks no extra room in the modern home or apartment. In its idle hours it is a piece of furniture. it opens and invites you to a delightful new adventures in sewing."

The ladies of the era who have been using the treadle machines must have been as excited about these machines as we are about our modern digital sewing machines

VINTAGE VISIONS

By Christine Gordon



Unforgettable Fashions

From bell-bottoms to bobby socks, poodle skirts to peggers, fashions come and go, but are never forgotten.

Lets go back to the roaring 20's...

Flapper dresses, hat bands, hats were in style. The bead work in those days was amazing. This little fashions story is about 2 sisters named Elizabeth and Elvira, who made gorgeous beaded gowns and purses by hand in the late 20's and early 30's.

The history goes back when Dominic and Anna came to the United States from Salerno Italy, they settled in the Harlem area of New York City. There two daughters Elizabeth and Elvira grew up, they were very talented and worked for a fashion company in New York City that made hand-beaded dresses.

Designer and ready to wear items were adorned with beads in New York work rooms where the immigrants worked accurately and cheaply to produce rich designs for people above their positions.

Beaded flapper dresses such as those that Elizabeth and Elvira worked on sell today for \$200 to \$400 while the beaded purses fetch \$125 to \$250.

But, back when they were made, *all* those items sold for less than \$ 20.00!



Two sisters made gowns and purses gorgeous—by hand—in the '20s and '30s.



SHADE TREE A'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Legend: A **RED** entry denotes a change or new addition to the calendar.
A **GREEN** entry denotes a Dinner Meeting at a different location.

APRIL

- 1 Progressive Breakfast
- 10 **STA DINNER Meeting**
(Fire Mountain Grill, North Augusta)
- 9-14 Natchez Trace Tour
- 21-22 Swap Meet, Greenwood
- 22 N. Augusta Parade**
- 22 Mitchell, GA Parade**
- 27-30 Fiddlers Hill Climb

MAY

- 6 Tech Session VII**
- 8 STA Meeting**
- 12-14 Ford Festival – Richmond Hill
- 19-21 Social Security Run

JUNE

- 3 Grandfather's Day @ Mike's**
- 10 Old 96 Hot Dog Day**
- 12 STA Meeting**
- 17 Trenton Peach Parade**
- 22-30 Dearborn & MARC Meet, Grand Rapids, MI

JULY

- 4 Gilbert, SC Parade**
- 10 STA Meeting**
- 13 Laurel & Hardy Convention
- 16-22 MAFCA Meet – Mansfield, MA

AUGUST

- 14 STA DINNER Meeting**
- 27 Sno-Cap with GaSCar**

SEPTEMBER

- 7-10 Chattanooga, TN Tour
- 11 STA Meeting**
- 25-28 Smoky Mountain Meet

OCTOBER

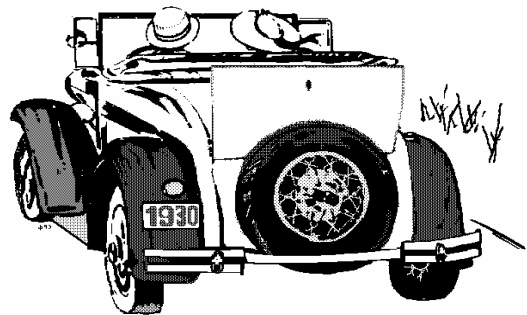
- 9 STA Meeting**
- 14 Steak Cookout**
- 21-22 Washington, GA Tour & Play**
- 28 Sno-Cap with GaSCar**

NOVEMBER

- 13 STA Meeting**

DECEMBER

- 9 STA Christmas Party**



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bill Maypole, Tom Kohli, Carl Tankersly, Carole Gazette,
Theresa McMullin, Dawn Komp, Ann Dinkins, Jeanette Garrison

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Greenlee Flanagin is completing his therapy in Atlanta and is expected
To be home around March 21st.

Betty Wade is home and continuing her recovery. Members were
Delighted to see Betty at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade!

Our best wishes to these members and any others who are ill.