



GOING PLACES



Web Site

www.modelacolumbus.com

March 2011

Membership meetings are held on the 2nd Sat. of the month unless a change is announced. The meetings are held Sept. through May, at the Golden Corral, 1250 N. National Road at the corner of US 31 and 10th Street in Columbus. The meal will be at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting following at 7:00 p.m.

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President's Corner

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. For those of you who are new to this newsletter, I welcome you!

This year the 1931 Model A's turned eighty years old. By January 1931,

more than 4.2 million Model A Fords were built.

A new year is upon us, and by the count of Model A's in our club it will be a great year. In preparation of happy tours it is necessary that we consider the possibility of break downs. Yes, we have had many road side seminars. On a Tour, time is important. As a car owner, either new or old, we must consider the need for parts and tools when the time arises.

On one of our road side seminars, Mr. Jack Sullivan Sr. had recommended that we make a list of "What to Bring on a Tour". We are in the process of putting a list together for what to bring on a tour. After we put the list together we will publish it in our newsletter and on our web site.

I put my time in at Arvin Industries Inc. for 20 years (1/5th of a century). Arvin produced many Model "A" parts. The muffler (A-5230 part number) is just one of the items that we produced. I have a copy of the original blue print that Noblitt and Sparks used. Arvin was Noblitt and Sparks before they were named Arvin. The blue print was difficult to read so I had an Arvin draftsman re-draw it. It was re-drawn in 1/2 scale. I will be bringing a copy of muffler print to one of our meetings for review. I will be adding some more articles in our future newsletters and our web site. Guess who built the Tire Pump for the Model "A"?

Hope to see you all at our next club meeting on March 12. Don't forget to bring your home work with you.

Happy motoring!

Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, at 7 pm at Kathryn and Jack Sullivan's house, 2742 E. Broadway, Salem, IN.

Membership Meeting

Minutes

Call to order.

Welcome new members, Mr. and Mrs. Wood.

Secretary reading of minutes of last meeting, no additions or corrections.

Treasurer's report was given by Phil Sutton:

Beginning balance:	\$2497.58
Income:	130.92
Expenses:	85.20
Balance:	\$2543.30

Officer's reports. Committee chairpersons appointed approved by the board.

Special dates --- Important business previously designated for consideration at this meeting. (A) February 20, 2011 Board Meeting at Bloomington, meet at the Long Horn at 11:30 and go to Phil's after dinner to put trips together (B) March 24-27, 2011 MARC Membership Meet at St Augustine, FL. (C) March 26th & 27 - Kyana Region Swap Meet at the Kentucky Fair & Expo Center. (C) May 1, 2011 Our Model A Ford Swap Meet Sunday, (E) June 27-July 1st, 2011 MARC National meet at San Diego CA (E) March 12, 2011: Home work for the March meeting. 1. Bring a List of Items to Pack for Touring. 2. Tools that you would loan to add to the Web page called Tool Sharing.

MARC Publications Committee report: The Model a Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards Project Status. The Editor has

completed the first draft of revision 3 and it is now being reviewed by the Publications Committee. Final copy is expected to be completed by mid-February and will be reviewed and approved by both the MARC and MAFCA JSC. Revision 3 will be available for sale from the MARC office by April 30, 2011. For those members that currently have a copy of the Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards, the new Revision 3 Supplement 1 (2010), may be ordered starting today for \$13.50 USD plus \$9.50 shipping from the MARC Office. Pre-orders will be shipped April 30th.

Announcements: This year the 1931 Model A's turned eighty years old. By January 1931 more than 4.2 million Model A Fords were built.

50/50 drawing \$22.50 was won by Jack Sullivan.

Adjournment motion was made by Whitey Herbert, seconded by Rex Bridges.

Entertainment: Show and tell Mr. Ed Dathe, Whitey Herbert and Ron Lawson

Wayne Arnholt, Secretary

Webmaster

There have been some updates to the Web Site. Please take a look. One new area is called "Tool Sharing." As you know, there are many specialized tools for working on the Model A. And somewhere in our club, we are likely to have the tool. We just don't know about it! This webpage will list the specialty tool, the owner and contact information. If you have a need for a specialized tool, you can contact the owner.

In upcoming membership meetings, we'll be asking you to let us know what specialty tools you own and whether you would let us show it on the Tool Sharing website.

Ford Tri-Motor Visit

The Ford Tri-Motor airplane is going to be in Columbus again this year to give rides from Thursday June 16, through Sunday June 10. This airplane was manufactured by the Ford Motor Company starting in 1929 and was used by all major U.S. airlines until the mid/late 1930's. Rides are being offered at \$60 per passenger each day from 9 am to 5 pm. There are 10 passengers in cabin and one in the co-pilot's seat (\$100). For more information you can call Larry Morlock.

Kyana Region Swap Meet

March 26th & 27 - Kyana Region Antique Automobile Club is having their Swap Meet at the Kentucky Fair & Expo Center from 8am to 6pm on Saturday, and 8am to 4pm on Sunday.

Ignition Problems

--Ron Lawson

Ignition problems probably are probably the largest share of on the road problems with your Model A In a well maintained Model A with all parts of the ignition system in correct tolerance there should be no on the road failures.

Let us assume the car has stopped or is running poorly and you have checked for fuel and it is OK.

The next obvious thing to check is for spark. Remove one of the brass strips from a sparkplug and position it about 1/4 inch from the top of the plug. Turn on the key and crank the engine over. There should be a bright, fat, bluish-yellow spark that regularly jumps the gap. This spark should create an audible crackle or snapping sound. This would indicate that your spark is good but the engine could be out of time possibly due to a loose cam screw.

Remove the cap from the distributor, crank the engine over and watch to see if the rotor is turning. It is

possible that the timing gear has lost teeth and is not turning the cam shaft which in turn operates the cam.

Check the point gap at the high point of each of the four lobes of the cam. They should be about .020 + or - .002. Put your finger on the cam and check for side play in the distributor shaft. About .001 to .003 is normal play. Less play will mean a smoother running engine. Also check for side play in the upper plate. If the center hole in the plate is enlarged it will also allow for wobble in the point gap. All these things could add up to a poor or no running engine.

To time the engine, move the spark arm to retard (or up) position and remove the distributor body. Remove the timing pin, reverse it, and put back in the hole. Slowly crank the engine by hand until the pin drops in the hole. Sometimes this is difficult as it will want to go past the hole. If it goes past the hole, put the car in high gear & let off the emergency brake. While holding the pin in the hole, move the car back & forth a little. The pin should drop into the timing hole. Be sure and take the car out of gear and reset the emergency brake. Be sure to replace the timing pin in the hole as it was originally because oil will spray out of the hole if you don't.

At this position of the cam the next tiny bit of rotation should just start to open the points. The cam turns in a counter clockwise direction and there may be some backlash. Be sure to account for this. The notch in the cam should be near the number one cylinder post of the distributor body and the rotor should be about the 4 o'clock position when looking down from the top.

Set the end of the coil wire where the spark can jump about a quarter inch to some metal part of the engine head. Turn on the ignition and pull the spark lever down slowly. The

spark should crack or snap at about the third notch down from the top lever position. Loosen and adjust the cam until it makes at this spot. The car should be in proper time. Make sure the cam is tight. Replace everything.

The engine should start easily and run smoothly if each one of the items is working as it was designed.

It's amazing how much time we put into setting breaker point gap to tune our Model A's to perfection, yet almost always ignore the gap between the rotor tip and the contact points in the distributor body.

Many times the alignment of the rotor tip and contact points is skewed and also too far apart. This results in taking more voltage for firing the spark plugs.

First, check the alignment of tip to contact point with the distributor off. Remove the spark plug wires from the distributor body so that they will not put any tension on the body, thus cocking it. The flat angled rotor tip should be horizontally straight across, not higher or lower. If the center of the rotor tip is below the contact point in the distributor body, do not try to bend the tip, as this will either cause it to break or will cause rotor tip to not be parallel to the contact point.

The solution is to cut some shims placing them inside of the rotor body between it and the cam screw until rotor tip alignment with the contact points in the distributor is correct. Remember to cut a notch in your shims to match the inside of the rotor body. After years of polishing rotor tips and contact points, many Model A's have as much as a 0.060 gap. Try a new rotor and/or distributor body and bring the gap down to 0.035 + or - 0.005. This is where the Model A runs best at top speed. You can also build up the contact points with

solder and then carefully file them back to the correct gap. If you originally had any missing or sputtering, this may solve your problem.

In Memorium

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Larry Morlock whose mother recently passed away.

2011 Tour Schedule

Apr 8	Membership Meeting
Apr 16	Cobweb Tour (Sullivan, Sr.)
Apr 30	Pancake Breakfast/Fairgrounds Yard Sale (Sutton, Riss)
May 1	Columbus Swap Meet (Morlock, Herbert)
May 8	Happy Mother's Day
May 14	Membership Meeting / Fish Fry (Brown,)
May 18-21	Tri-State Gas Engine & Tractor Ass'n Swap Meet (on your own)
May 20-21	Hoosier Auto Show and Swap Meet (on your own)
May 21	Paris, Illinois Car Museum (Morlock, Miller)
May 25-26	St. Meinrad & N. Kentucky (Engs, Sutton)
May 29-31	Memorial Day Weekend
Jun 4	Young Eagles
Jun 5	Lawrenceburg Flea Market (Bridges)
Jun 11	Owen County Antique Machinery Fair (Whiteman)
Jun 11-12	Clay City Pottery Festival (on your own)
Jun 16-19	Ford Tri-Motor Visit to Columbus (Morlock, on your own)
Jun 19	Happy Father's Day
Jun 25	Brown County Studio and Garden Tour (Riss, Schmelz)
Jun 27-Jul 1	MARC National Meet San Diego
Jul 7-9	Iola Old Car and Swap Meet, Wis (on your own)
Jul 9	Young Eagles
Jul 16	Picnic at Brown County Park (Alexander, Riss)
Jul 24	Ice Cream Social @ Lincoln Park (Lawson)
Aug 6	Young Eagles
Aug 7	Lawrenceburg Fleas (on your own)
Aug 14	Antique Fire Truck – Uniontown (Rider)
Aug 18-21	Greensburg Power of the Past (on your own)
Aug 24-27	Tri-state Gas Engine and Tractor Show at Portland (on your own)
Aug 27	Fish Fry (Sullivan, Jr.)
Sep 3-5	Labor Day Tour to Utica, IN (Sullivan, Sr., Sutton, Evanczyk)
Sep 8	White River Valley Antique Show at Elnora (Whiteman)
Sep 10	Young Eagles
Sep 10	Membership Meeting
Sep 10	International Model A Ford Day participation (FYI)
Sep 10-11	Scottish Festival, Columbus (FYI)
Sep 8-12	America's Longest Running Antique Car Show. Old Car Festival at Greenfield Village. (Bruce, Lawson)
Sep 17	Hot Rods and Rock 'n Roll Columbus (on your own)
Sep 18	Mystery Tour (Bridges)
Sep 15-17	Hoosier Auto Show and Swap Meet (on your own)
Sep 23-25	Hope Heritage days (FYI)
Sep 29-Oct 1	Seymour Oktoberfest (on your own)
Sep 30-Oct 2	Newport Hill Climb (on your own)
Oct 5-8	Hershey FYI
Oct 8	Ethnic Expo (Lawless, Sparks)
Oct 8	Membership Meeting
Oct 13-21	Branson Tour (Sutton, Lawson)
Oct 16	Wine & Fall Tour (Riss)
Nov 12	Membership Meeting

2011 Tour Schedule

Nov 12	Shop Tour (Lawson)
Dec 3	Holiday Party (Lawless, Riss)
Dec 10	Shop Tour (Rider)

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