

Chapter Coordinator Newsletter

August 2007

Happy 50th Anniversary MAFCA! Congratulations on a successful 50 years and you're on your way to another 50 years. I am proud to be a member of this outstanding organization and to serve on its Board of Directors, especially as Chapter Coordinator. This position gives me the opportunity to be in touch with chapters throughout the world. I have met so many wonderful people. Some are so near and dear to my heart and others have become dear friends.

Has your chapter sent in a request to have your website considered for judging? In order to be eligible for a MAFCA Website Award, you must send in a request...and soon. Time is needed to check out websites for awards to be presented/announced at the December Membership Meeting.

The complete policy that outlines the requirements used for judging is posted on www.mafca.com. Check it out. Then send an e-mail to the MAFCA office at info@mafca.com or to me at sgrundie@sbcglobal.net to have your website considered for judging. With many chapter websites and more developed each month, the only requirement for consideration is a simple e-mail request.

Also, send your newsletter directly to the MAFCA office *via e-mail* (info@mafca.com) and they will forward it on to me or send it directly to me at sgrundie@sbcglobal.net. It's a great way to save on rising production and mailing costs. A number of chapter newsletters have reported their major expense is the printing and mailing of newsletters. Exchanging newsletters with other chapters by e-mail is the only way some chapters can continue this practice. E-mail is a wonderful way to save chapter expenses.

MAFCA has started the use of poly bags with the mailing of your recent copy of the *Restorer* magazine. *So, do your chapter members like it?* Take a poll at your next meeting and let MAFCA know. Your comments are always welcome. Your election ballots for the MAFCA Board of Directors are included in the current issue. Renewal forms are also included.

When you receive your renewal form, make sure you chapter members send it in as soon as possible. The cut-off to have names included in the *2008 MAFCA Roster* is January 1, 2008. MAFCA would like to have the new *Roster* available early enough for those members who will be traveling to the National Convention in June. This joint meet of MAFCA and MARC, being held in Dallas, will draw lots of members traveling many miles. The *2008 MAFCA Roster* is important to pack for the trip.

Is everyone in your chapter a member of MAFCA? If not, please encourage members to join the national organization. There are many reasons for members to have both membership in their local chapter and the national. New brochures have been designed that include a membership form along with national information. Ask the office to send you a supply, give them to non-MAFCA members and encourage them to join. Recently, in the newsletter from the Central Alabama Model A Ford Club, I noticed they had the MAFCA logo and beneath it "*Are you a member? See any club officer for an application or see the website at www.mafca.com.*" Perfect. That's all it takes!

Napa Valley A's recently featured an article from San Leach title, "My Dad's First Car". Many chapters have features where members can write about their Model A's. Why is this article worth mentioning? The reason is the last sentence. It reads, "I remember in 1957 my Dad telling me about some guys starting up a Model A Club in Southern California and suggesting I should look into it. I did...in 1990."

It's only August, but it won't be long and thoughts will turn to Christmas. Last year MAFCA offered great Christmas cards for sale. This year a new design will also be offered. This attractive Model A greeting cards are designed by Patti Reeder Eubank, the daughter of the late Bill Reeder, our 1969 MAFCA President. The 2007 style is my personal favorite. Patti's detail is outstanding. A package of 12 is \$10 plus shipping. This is "A" perfect way to remember family and friends.

Throughout the past 3-1/2 years, I've seen book reviews in chapter newsletters. The most recent is from Al Lugo of River Cities Model A Ford Club. It's titled *Tears on Henry Ford's Face*. The author is a season veteran of the automotive industry, Paul Knecht. He details the advantage of purchasing and driving American automobiles and what is at stake if we don't. Yester-year Americans did exceptionally well in their purchasing power but today Henry Ford's... "eyes are tearing, and I know Americans could be doing much better..." The book is a bargain at \$11.04.

I was amazed to see in the May/June issue of "A World" of a useful Model A invention. Lisa Pelikan enjoyed riding in her grandparents 1930 Model A Tudor but doesn't like having the sun shining in her eyes. A class assignment was to invent something useful. Lisa invented a visor. The details are outstanding. She put lots of thought into the visor. I see a future entrepreneur in the future...who hopefully also still enjoys Model A's. If you are interested, the visors are \$9.95 each plus postage. You can contact Lisa through an e-mail address (Sharon@pelikan.org) for availability and postage costs. I bought two.

Pikes Peak Chapter recently attended a local car show. That's not unusual...except that this car show's proceeds went to benefit "Operation Back to School". That's great! Our young people can't learn without the necessary supplies needed. Back to school charities distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to local students from low income families as well as sneakers and clothing in some cases. I would much rather attend a car show or swap meet that benefits a good cause.

On a similar note, Santa Anita A's recently attended a car show held at the Temple City Continuing High School. It was an educational experience for the young people and after the display the school provided hot dogs for everyone.

For those of you who didn't follow the Vintage Car Rally in June, perhaps you would be interested in knowing how the group from Ponca City, Oklahoma Explorer Post 69, lead by J. D. Hanks with Mel and Judy Mallory, who helped sponsor the boys, turned out in the rally. The four boys had to enter the silver cup division as they were the only high school team there. Rex Gardner, the organizer of the rally, has said that it is on again for next year. The dates have not been set as of yet. J. D. and I have asked him to consider making the dates a week or two later to help other schools which do not get out in time to attend the rally.

There was good news and bad news with the team. The good news is that it was a wonderful learning experience for the boys. The bad news is they didn't finish the rally. They had all the bad luck that had been escaped for many years of participating in rallies.

They did not do well as they blew two engines. There were wrist pin problems in one engine and severe over-heating in another. The boys really had it down to a science on switching engines, the bad one out and another in, up and running in four hours. They really worked well as a team and had fairly good scores when there was no engine problem. The Model A Pickup was put on the truck for home. The boys know everything about a Model A top to bottom. Judy reports that they had a great time working on her but did get discouraged when they just couldn't fix her.

J. D. stated that the rally was really a tough course. Most of the cars that showed up were Great Race cars from last year and some years before. The rally accepted only 1948 and older cars in original condition. The Rally was much friendlier to the participants than the Great Race has been in the past few years. Everyone had the opportunity to talk with one another and not be pushed to get from one place to another. The people in Branson enjoyed the cars a great deal. Our expenses were not out of sight this year and the grant from MAFCFA was a great help.

The Vintage Car Rally, Youth Division had a team of winners in their experience, determination and enthusiasm. The photo below shows the team. From left to right are **Austin Peresko, Michael Nash, Troy Schmitz, and Ibrahaim Moheadas.**



New Hampshire Model A Club recently held a tour Chocorua to see John Moir's car collection. The collection sounded fantastic from the few cars described in the article. John tells how it is his Dad's fault that he has a love of antique cars. In his early

childhood, his father would bring home unique antique cars. John has his father's first car, a 1930 Cadillac V16 Roadster. He gave the car to John in 1946, just before his college years. He also has his mother's last car, a 1951 Bentley. It true! Start your children out at a young age to appreciate cars and you have them hooked for life. Of course, I feel Model A's are the best. The Santa Barbara Chapter visited the shop of Ron Butler who builds Cobras. The tour of his shop described the building and customizing that takes place in building a Cobra. Ron is an artist that doesn't use a canvas but metal.

Also, member Bruce Gilson reported that he became interested in Model A's as a teenager. In the summer of 1961, Bruce worked at a farm saving every penny with hopes of buying his own Model A. In early fall when Bruce came home from school his father (a collector of Model T's and A's) said to Bruce, "There is something in the garage for you. I hope you like it". It was an original, early 1928 Ford AR. Today Bruce has his 1928 Tudor AR and a 1928 Roadster. What a great start to a lifelong hobby.

For me, there is nothing like A Model A. What can be better than its unique sound? A few newsletters reported the death of Dr. Steve Sherrer in June. He was driving his 1929 Model A Ford, missed a curve and crashed into a utility pole. A young life was needless lost because of the lack of seat belts. The accident was at about only 30 MPH but without the use of a seat belt his head hit the metal frame around the windshield causing blunt force trauma. Please, if you have not already done so, consider installing seat belts in your Model A. ***Seatbelts have become a necessity in order to continue to drive and enjoy our Model A's.***

Each month the publication of the Columbia Basin Model A Club is e-mailed to me. My favorite feature is Bev's Blarney. Recently, Bev was chatting about newsletters exchanged with other local chapters and how interesting they are. I certainly can agree with that. In one newsletter Bev reported they had a column titled "Fun way to entertain yourself." One suggestion was to park along the side of the road and point a hair dryer out of the window. I love that idea. Sounds like a great way to spend a Friday night "date night". Bev reported that one of her members said, "Forget it – it won't work from a Model A."

That's it for now. Please feel free to keep in touch by e-mail at sgrundie@sbcglobal.net or telephone me at 262-513-0447 (CST) evenings or weekends. I'll be at the MAFCA booth in Hershey again this year and look forward to visiting with many of you stopping at the booth.

I also hope to see many of you at the December Membership Meeting in Ontario celebrating MAFCA's 50th Anniversary.

Enjoy your Model A!

Stephanie Grundman