

I found an interesting article in the **Palomar Chapter's** newsletter about a Peking to Paris Motor Challenge which included five Model A Fords. It was 8,923 miles long, crossing into at least 15 countries in 37 days. Ninety-eight cars started and the rally ended as planned in Paris with 85 of the cars crossing the finish line – including all five Model A's. Two guys from Iowa were driving one of the Model A's, a 1929 Phaeton. Check out their website and diary at www.pekingparis2010.com as well as the official facts and figures website at www.pekingparis.com. It's very entertaining and interesting.

The **Mohican Model A Ford Club** is actively pursuing a relationship with the Morrisville College Auto Tech program and the college Automotive Club. This is a wonderful idea and something for other chapters to consider. There are colleges all around the country that have automotive programs. It's worth looking into. You never know where the next young Model A enthusiast will come from.

Henry A's reprinted an article from the *Ford News Digest Supplement*, February 15, 1928 titled "Women and the Model A". In part it said, "Woman's influence in American life – in work, food, dress, thinking, reading, entertainment and buying – has engulfed old notions and ideas...". "...the Ford dealer has had to adjust himself and his establishment, his sales methods and his service department...". "The woman owner or driver demands a clean place into which she can come." Ford knew the importance of the woman driver and that still holds true today.

One of the very best chapters around MARC/MAFCA is the **Shade Tree A's**. Their newsletter is one of the very best. They are active in their community and what makes this chapter shine is their Model A Youth Program. All chapters have tours and social events and most are visible in their communities. However, Shade Tree A's realized the importance of encouraging youth for the future of our hobby.

The **Greater Baltimore Model A Ford Club** partners with the CCBC Automotive Technology Program to educate young people to maintain and preserve our great automotive heritage. They recently donated items to the CCBC Automotive Program shop for use in their classroom and shop areas. This is another example of a chapter doing great things for the youth in their community.

While I am on the subject of young Model A'ers, I would like to mention that the **Stampede Chapter** from Canada has an active and knowledgeable Model A member. His name is **Michael Callander** who, at age 13, writes articles for their chapter newsletters. His last submission was titled *Those Model A Ford Trucks*, which I found to be informative and very well written. The Stampede Chapter is lucky to have him as one of their members.

Their newsletter also ran a photo of ice fisherman on Lake St. Clair somewhere in the early 1950's that had appeared in a local newspaper. It showed a Model A with 50 gallon drums on each fender so if the car went through thin ice it could, hopefully, stay afloat. The perch fisherman's sign on the door of the Model A calls it his "Ice Cab".

My local chapter, **Great Lake A's**, now has one of our young members as a board member. Kendall Goffe at age 19 now serves as Secretary and is the youngest member to serve as a director. I remember Kendall as a preschooler attending events with her father, Leon. She has worked on Model A's from an early age and surprised many schoolmates with her knowledge. I

remember Kendall going to her prom in a Model A, her dress matching the color scheme of the vehicle. The next day, before a post-prom event, she came over to join other chapter members work on a chapter member's Model A. Her date watched in amazement.

Rick Morgan, member of the **Colonial Virginia Model A Club**, took his Model A to an elementary school for “show and tell” with students. Students heard stories about the way schools were in the 1930’s, about early transportation and what cars were like in “the olden days.” The kids really enjoyed seeing the differences between the Model A and modern cars of today. This type of program can spark an interest in a Model A when a student grows up. Interest comes from everywhere and anywhere.

Do you have seat belts in your Model A? I hope so. It saddens me to hear of an accident involving a Model A where seat belts could have had a happier ending. On Christmas Day in Fort Smith, Arkansas, a 17 year old died from injuries when he was ejected from the car, suffering fatal injuries. In today’s traffic, please install seat belts in all your cars.

The **Southern Tier Model A Club** ran an article titled *Better Brakes for your Model A*. With safety always on my mind, I shared the article with my husband. He has since ordered the Flathead Ted break floater system. Their function is to reduce pedal pressure required to stop by nearly 70% and create a more ABS feel to braking. **Gary Campbell** of the chapter reports that it certainly makes braking easier and efficient. Check out www.flatheadted.com for information and you can also find an article in the Winter 2007 issue of *Model A Times*, which give five pages of detailed information.

Use a Maintenance Checklist to keep your Model A in safe, reliable running condition. One good version appeared in the July/August 2010 *Restorer* and has been made available for download at www.mafca.com/downloads/Restorer and click on [Maint Ck_list_2010.pdf](#)

Lance Burton, the president of the **Heart of America Model A Ford Club** reported that using wood in cars did not become obsolete in the Model A days. The Morgan Motor Company still builds cars today in England – with wood. Morgan was probably the only car company that still makes cars the way they were made in the early 1900s - by building them on a wooden frame and crafting them mainly by hand. The company had an annual production of just over 500 cars and a waiting list that sometimes extends over several years.

One last reminder - please let the chapter member who picks up your chapter mail know to watch for the yearly Chapter Registration Form. This is an important form. Please complete and return it ASAP to the MAFCA office. If you misplaced your form, you can download it from the MAFCA website or contact the office for another form. There is no fee involved to register. However, MAFCA does require this form to update chapter officers and the chapter mailing address.

I hope to see many of you on the MAFCA National tour on the Natchez Trace Parkway April 9th to 15th, and keep sending or e-mailing your newsletters to me at chapters@mafca.com.

Stephanie Grundman, 2011 Chapter Coordinator