

MAFCA now has Revision 3 of the Model A Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards available. Chapters have until May 30th to place an order of 5 or more copies, sent to the same address, to save the shipping cost within the USA. Don't wait until it is too late to take advantage of this offer.

The Spare Tire, newsletter of the **Palmetto A's** of South Carolina has initiated a new procedure for reporting health information in their Sunshine Report. As editor of my own chapter newsletter, I decided to have our chapter board members consider this procedure for the chapter. The procedure states: *Due to privacy issues with health information, we will no longer publish health details in the newsletter.* My local chapter has also now decided to begin using this procedure. We are all aware of the Privacy Laws used by all health care facilities and it seems like a good idea. The law states: *Invasion of privacy is the intrusion into the personal life of another, without just cause, which can give the person whose privacy has been invaded a right to bring a lawsuit for damages against the person or entity that intruded.*

Enduring A's recently ran an article in their newsletter titled "Is Your Garage a Temple of Doom?" It listed many common sense tips for safeguarding your garage and the collectible vehicles inside written by Hagerty Classic Insurance. We all work hard to acquire, restore and maintain our vehicles and this is an area commonly overlooked in the place they are stored and worked on. Hagerty says your garage can be your best friend or worst enemy, and many of the nightmares collectors encounter can be traced back to where and how the cars are stored. Check out www.hagerty.com and search "ARTICLES" for more information.

I recently read about a vehicle owned by a member of a **Heart of Florida** member's grandfather. No, it's not a Model A but it really sounded like an amazing vehicle. It was a 1927 Model T made into a service wagon. It housed a mammoth clock 9 feet long and 4 feet high with clock dials on either side measuring 37 inches in diameter having two layers of glass in each dial. It was regulated by "Big Ben" clock movements and kept very accurate time. It was used to pick up, deliver and perform in-house clock service to residents of the city having one of the best-equipped repair shops. The name of the vehicle was Tick-Tock owned by Perry Tucker, a local jeweler of Terre Haute.

In October of 1924, Popular Mechanics ran an article titled "Auto Repairing is taught to Girls of Eastern High School". The article stated that this Automobile Repairing class in a Washington D. C. high school was said to have proved a popular study among students. The girls were taught the fundamental principles of the gas engine, its operation and repair and how to assemble a motor. This institution is believed to be the first one of its kind to add the course exclusively for girls.

It is always fun to read about the interesting places our Model A's are displayed. The **George Washington Chapter** recently displayed Model A's at a performance of a play, which was a recreation of a 1930's radio studio. Held at George Mason University, the Model A's were used as eye candy for the people going into the play.

The George Washington was another MAFCA chapter fortunate to be able to participate in the filming of the upcoming film "J Edgar", which will be released in 2012. Filming took place at the downtown Washington Department of Justice. I was interested in how the cars were "dressed", which means removing miscellaneous non-period items and adding fake DC plates, aged by a makeup guy with black hair spray and water. One interesting note was that one member, in a conversation with director Clint Eastwood, it was learned that at age 16, Clint had a 1936 Ford Phaeton, junkier, chopped and lowered.

Tom Jeanes, president of **El Camino A's**, writes a very thoughtful article each month for their chapter newsletter. In fact, it is titled, "Tom's thoughts". I look forward to reading it each month. Tom truly writes from his heart. He always ends his article saying, "Grab your keys – your Model A awaits. Life is a journey, not a destination. Drive safely and remember to enjoy the view."

MAFCA's **Bakersfield Chapter** runs great articles of how and why their members have Model A's. Everyone has a story of how they got started in this hobby. A recent article outlined how this member got interested in Model A's, but what was really cool was how it re-directed his future. His boss at the time, acquired a 1931 Slant Windshield Sedan and had Rick of the Bakersfield Chapter restore it on company time. How cool is that? By the time Rick finished the car, everyone was asking him to fix their cars, so he started his own business in 1986. When the Model A bug bit Rick, it really did change his life both personally and professionally.

The administration and staff of the Bay Area High School was pleased to have the **Greater Houston Model A Club** visit both the junior and senior U. S. History classes. Members made a presentation of the milestones in the development of automobiles and the Ford Model A. Then students enjoyed a field trip to the parking lot to visit with the owners and check out the various styles of Model A's present, including their Ahooga horns. Youth outreach programs like this spark an interest in our hobby...especially for this age group of new drivers.

As I have been reading chapter newsletters lately, I have noticed that there seems to more and more chapters that are running Ladies Drive Your A programs. I am pleased that women are learning to drive and enjoy Model A'ing as drivers and not just passengers. It is fun and not that difficult to enjoy A's on a different level.

Keep in mind that the 2011 MAFCA National Awards Banquet will be hosted by the **Sonoma A's** from Santa Rosa, CA. This is my favorite event of the year, as host chapters always seem to have fun and interesting places to visit. We will be visiting historic Sonoma and also a bus tour to Armstrong Redwoods and the rugged Sonoma Coast. We will also be visiting the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens. Luther Burbank and Henry Ford were friends during the Model T era. As Luther Burbank said, "I firmly believe, from what I have seen, that this is the chosen spot of all this earth as far as Nature is concerned." I can hardly wait to see this area for myself.

The comments heard about the MAFCA National Tour along the Natchez Trace has been that it lived up to all expectations and that the organizers did a wonderful job. From the weather to the scenery to the road itself, the tour was great.

Stephanie Grundman, 2011 Chapter Coordinator