

The "A"nnouncer



February, 2024

Newsletter of the Running
Board "A's"

www.RunningBoardAs.com

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The Running Board “A’s” club is a Model “A” Ford touring club. We are a region of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC). MARC recommends that all region members become members of MARC. See <http://model-a-ford.org/> for more information.

From the President

I am not a fan of this time of year. The days are still short, but they are at least getting longer. The weather is cold and at least this year sometimes snowy.

None of this is conducive to taking out your Model A for a spin, no less having a Model A club event planned. It also makes it hard to come up with content for the newsletter.

Some of you have found a cure for this. I know of at least two Model A couples that are spending some time in Florida this winter. The weather is warmer, but they don't have their Model A's with them. Oh well, I guess you can't have everything!

The good news is that once we make it through February things start to pick up. Our planning meeting is on March 16 and April has several events planned. More details are in the Calendar of Events.

In the meantime, how about helping out your old decrepit newsletter editor and sharing some of the things you have been doing to your Model A in the off season, or on any Model A related topic. I am always willing to accept articles!

Finally it would be great if we had a few more events for February and March. It's never too late to schedule an event.

Hope to see you all soon,

Dave

How to Straighten A Model A Wheel

By Tom Fritz

On up your “A” day, a few members mentioned that they had one or more bent wheels on their Model A. Now, that shouldn’t really surprise anyone as these wheels are now almost 100 years old. If I make it to that age, I’ll probably be a little bent myself (I know many of you probably think I already am).

Before we describe how to straighten the wheel, we must first make note of the two types of spokes of a Model A wheel. There are 30 spokes in a Model A wheel that occur in groups of three. Each group consists of a long spoke that goes from the center of the rim to the outside of the hub and a pair of short spokes that form an X-pattern that goes from the center of the rim to the center of the hub flange.



There are at least 2 ways that the wheels may be bent. They may be twisted and appear to wobble when observed from either the front or back, or they may be out-of-round. The twisted case is by far the more common bend on these wheels and is probably the result of having hit the side against curbs or other objects. Since it is more likely to hit a curb with the outside of the wheel, it is typically bent in from this side and this is fortunate as the method of straightening the wheel will only work for bends in that direction. These bends stretch the long spoke and fixing this type of bend results from shrinking the spoke back to its original length. This is the type of

bend that is the subject of this article. I have never personally seen a wheel bent from the inside to the outside; however, I think these bends would bend or in extreme cases break the spoke, but not stretch them. It may be that minor bends of this nature are fixed simply by straightening the spoke; I honestly can't say as I always straighten spokes before attempting to straighten a wheel. So, if you got to this point, you either have bent wheels or a bad case of insomnia. The rest of the article may help either problem, so read on...

Before trying to straighten a wheel, first straighten any bent spokes. While there are a variety of tools to accomplish this, I have never seen the need to buy any of them as the spokes are easy to straighten. I generally straighten them by simply tapping and prying them back in place. I use an old heavy monkey wrench with an anvil head to do this as it has a fairly small head and enough mass to provide an impact. Spokes that are bent out, left, or right can obviously be tapped back into place. For those that are bent inwards, I'll generally clamp the wrench onto the spoke and place a block against the hub flange so I can pry it back into place. Other times, I use a pry bar. If I ever get bored enough, I may make a slide hammer as it seems simple enough; but since I have around 20 wheels that are already done (and before you ask, I'm not looking to sell any of them), I'd have to be really bored.

The next step is to find where the wheel is bent. This is done by spinning the wheel; I generally do this on the front axel of my coupe since the fenders aren't mounted (neither is the body for that matter) and having nothing blocking the view helps, but it can also be done on a completed car, just turn the wheel fully in one direction. Now you can get fancy and use a dial gauge to find the bend while spinning the

wheel, but it isn't necessary. I generally lay a piece of 1x2 on a bucket. pick a random spot on the wheel and place the 1x2 against it. Spin the wheel next to the 1x2 and watch for gaps. Mark any significant gaps on the rim.

Now that we know where the bent portions are, we can finally start having fun by starting to fix the bend. Now, why is this the fun part? Because we get to play with fire and playing with fire is always fun! Remember that I said that the way to fix these bends is to shrink the long spoke. When you were in school,



didn't they say that things expand when heated? Yes, that is true, but what they didn't tell you is that when they are then cooled back to the original temperature that some things contract more than they expanded when heated and this is the case with steel.

To fix the bend all that we need to do is to heat the long spokes in the areas of the rim that are bent and let them cool. How hot do you

want the spoke? A dull red is good and that can easily be done with just propane. The advantage of propane is that it lets you heat the spoke slowly so you can watch the color. I try to heat the length of the spoke to get the maximum benefit. Once you get a dull red, you can either let it cool on its own or quench it with a wet rag. Some people claim that quenching makes the spoke brittle, I'm not too worried about that and have done it both ways. As the spoke cools, it shrinks and pulls the rim with it. Depending on the bend, it may take multiple heatings

and you may need to heat multiple spokes to get the bend out; just have patience, it will straighten. Now a word of warning, don't get carried away with the heat; if you heat the spoke too much, it will sag and then you get to start back at straightening the spoke again before you can proceed.

I've used this method to fix a bunch of rims including those that are on my sedan. I did that around 15 years ago and have not had the bends return. In the case of the wheels that are on the car, one wheel was so bent that people would tell me that my wheel was falling off. That wheel was bent around 1/2 (maybe 3/4) inch as I recall and I brought it back to within 1/8 inch of being straight.

From what I've read, heating the short spokes can be used to fix a high spot on a wheel that is out of round. I've never tried it, so can't say if it works. It probably does, but I just have problems in seeing how you get that kind of bend in the first place. If you try this, just remember that you need to heat both short spokes in the pair.

One last thing to mention, watch out for cracks in the hub of the wheel. These cracks generally occur in the hub flange and are much more prevalent on 21-inch wheels. While these cracks may be fixed by welding, I recommend replacing the wheel. They're not that hard to find and now that you know how to straighten them, you don't need to buy as many as I did to find straight ones.

Tom



This is your last reminder. Please pay your dues by the end of the month!

Dues are only \$15 and are payable to:

Running Board A's

Mail the check to:

Doug Pyatt

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, Pa. 18015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Upper Black Eddy Fire Department Breakfast Sunday February 11, 2024

We will meet at the fire house, 1716 Firehouse Ln, Upper Black Eddy Pa, on Sunday February 11, 2024 at 9:00 AM. Breakfast Options include: Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Cream Chipped Beef, Sausage, Bacon, Potatoes and Toast. The cost is \$9.00 per person.

This is a Model A optional event. The point of the event is to enjoy the company and fellowship of other club members and to support one of the local fire departments. Driving our Model A's will be a bonus if the weather cooperates. Contact Dennis Peters at 267-374-4856 or at dpeters15@verizon.net if you plan to attend so enough seats can be saved for everyone to sit together.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Planning Meeting
Saturday, March 16, 2024
Christ Lutheran Church
353 E. Dark Hollow Rd
Pipersville, PA
11:30 AM**

Our annual planning will be held at the above place and time. Please bring your ideas for events and activities for the Model A touring season.

The Allison's will provide sandwiches, coffee, tea and water and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Please contact us to let us know what side or salad you will bring to share. Contact us at 267-733-3708 or at daliso@mail.ptd.net by March 14 so we know how much food to order.

Hope to see you there!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lunch at
Franconia Square
Café and Market,
513 Allentown Rd,
Souderton, PA 18964
Saturday April 13, 2024

This is a joint event with the Active A's. For those who want to travel together, we can meet at the Weiss Supermarket parking lot at the intersection of Rt 113 and Rt 313 in Dublin at 11:15 AM. We plan to be at the restaurant by 12:00 noon. You can check out their menu [here](#). Please let Dave know if you plan to attend by April 1, 2024 so we can make reservations at the restaurant. Contact me at 267-733-3708 or at dalliso@mail.ptd.net.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Model A Ford Safety Day. I'm sure
we will have a great time!



Raise Your "A" Day

10 AM-Saturday, April 20, 2024

(or as some may prefer, "Up Your "A" Day")

Bob & Bernadette are pleased to once again host "Raise Your A Day". This is a fun day for you and your Model A to spend some quality time among friends looking for those annoying rattles, cracked frames, real or imagined suspension issues or maybe a quick lube and a top off of fluids. **Sorry, no oil changes** due to time constraints. As always, Bob's lift will be available for you to check things out.

Please feel free to bring any small parts you may need for your "quick" repair. Donations of grease and transmission oil, etc., will be most welcome to help defray costs of this event.

Sandwiches will be provided by Bob and Bernadette. Please let us know what side salad, dessert, or soft drink you will bring to share.

Please let us know (973) 568-3525 or boutw@aol.com by **April 15** if you plan to attend so we can get a headcount for lunch.

Bob & Bernadette Outwater

32 Mason Farm Rd.,

Ringoes, NJ 08551; 973 568-3525; boutw@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 28
2024

Sunday • 9 am to 3 pm
Trexlerstown, PA

Lehigh Valley Model "A" Club Presents
the STEVE RYAN
Model A/AA Show & Swap



Stock & Original Model A Ford & Era Equipment

Swap Meet • Concessions • Rain or Shine
Tech Session • Free Admission & Registration
Pin Stripping by Jim Brand • Paved Parking for Show Cars
Vintage Fords from 1903 - 1942 also welcomed.

Co-Host: LVMAC and the Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company

7723 Hamilton Blvd • Breinigsville, PA 18031 • Short Drive from Rt 78 and Rt 222

Swap meet spots are a \$10 Donation • Model A / AA & early Ford parts only • NO household items • NO dolls/toys • NO modern tools

An associated car club is not required for show. Interest in Model 'A' Fords recommended.

RSVP your swap space or your club space for the day: 484.548.0632 or lvmodelclub@gmail.com

Lehigh Valley
Model 'A' Club



January Breakfast

January 14, 2024

Upper Black Eddy Fire House

Upper Black Eddy PA

On January 14th, Dennis and Donna Peters, Kathy and Roger Bagely, Linda and Doru Propecs and I met at the monthly breakfast held at the Upper Black Eddy Fire House. Fred and Cindy Chapman also intended to attend, but ignition problems in their Model A forced them to return home. The Bagely's and I were successful in driving our Model A's to the event. It was a cold morning, but at that time, there was no snow on the ground, so with the windows rolled up and my manifold heater in place, it was actually a pleasant drive. We were able to be seated together, and enjoyed a feast of eggs, pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, creamed chipped beef and fried potatoes. You could order any combination or all of the above for only \$9. That also included orange juice and a bottomless cup of coffee.

We had a lot of great discussions and a lot of laughs. The group decided to meet again next month, February 11 for breakfast. Hopefully we will get even more club members to attend.



Model A Upholstery

Where Do You Go For Answers?

When I had the top redone on my Roadster, I didn't think that finding material for it would be a problem. After all, there are a lot of Model A Roadsters out there and top material should be an easy thing to



find. Not so! My upholstery guy looked for a long time before he found a roll of material to make the top out of. I had to buy the whole roll, even though I didn't need nearly all of it. Luckily, I got it for a fire sale

price because there were some stains in the material that the upholsterer had to work around.

So what happens if you want to reupholster your car back to original condition? Where do you go to figure out what the original material was?

According to the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc (MAFFI) website, a lady named Bertha Haueter decided to try and answer that question. Bertha worked for years to collect samples of all the upholstery materials used in Model A production.

During her time collecting samples, she made sure that she collected 3 samples of each material. In the end she made up 3 large binders containing an example of each piece of fabric that she collected. One binder went to each of the two national clubs, the Model A Restorers Club (MARC), the Model A Ford

Club of America (MAFCA) and to MAFFI.

As Berth collected these samples, she was eager to share what she learned. According to Howard and Gretchen Minners on the MAFFI website “ *Bertha wrote numerous articles on various items relating to the upholstery project, and even developed a set of display boards for showing samples at Model A gatherings. She has won both the MARC George DeAngelis Literary Award (1988) and the MAFCA Bill Reeder Literary Award. Her subjects have included such topics as Door Check Straps and Installation of Seat Belts.*”

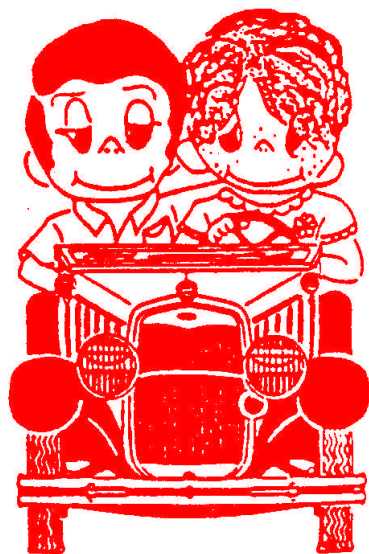
MAFFI has now taken this project one step further. According to the Minners, “*The MAFFI Upholstery Project aims to collect and describe the "software" that originally went into a Model A including upholstery, top materials, trim welt, wind lace, window curtains, carpets and leathers. We have organized and categorized all these items according to their basic color scheme, eg. brown, blue, gray, green, and tan. We have now managed to collect and identify 200 samples, representing approx. 85% of original Model A upholstery plus similar information about reproduction materials. Individual data labels along with a comprehensive master list have been prepared for each item, both original and reproduction. These labels delineate where a given fabric was used, eg. seats, seat sides, doors, quarters, roof side rails, windshield header, etc. We are preparing substantial, identical books for both national Model A clubs as well as one for the MAFFI archives. For every known item, we have sought 3 good examples (original as well as reproduction)*”.

So if you are looking to figure out what original fabric and materials were in your car, MAFFI may be a good place to start, thanks to Bertha Haueter.

Dave

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

love is...



...trusting her to drive
your Model "A" Ford.



**Membership Application
For the Running Board "A's"**

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

Dues are \$15.00 annually. Please make checks payable to:

Running Board "A's"

Mail to:

Running Board "A's"

C/O Doug Pyatt

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, PA. 18015

If renewing, please underline any information that has changed

Running Board "A's"

1419 E. University Ave.

Bethlehem, PA. 18015

First Class Mail