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# THE RUMBLE SHEET

JANUARY 2015 – VOLUME 49 – ISSUE 1

## CHUCK'S THOUGHTS

As the New Year approaches, many people will be making resolutions on the many areas of their life that they want to change hopefully for the better. The year 2015 will usher in some changes for the Tulsa Model A Ford Club as well. As the newly elected president, I hope to make changes in the upcoming year that will emphasize the real purpose of this club that being the love of the Model A Ford and the joy that each of us share as we motor down the back roads of Oklahoma.

Many of you have noticed that I am a little different from presidents in the past. I do not plan to run this club as a business. I do not believe that was ever the intent of our founding members. After spending all day in the courtroom, I do not want to conduct a formal business meeting. Instead, I want to meet with a group of good friends that share a passion for these "old ladies". I do not like or understand the Robert's Rules of Order and although they may be beneficial in the corporate world. I do not feel they are necessary in our setting. I hope that this approach does not disappoint or ruffle the feathers of any of our members but this is the approach that I have taken and that I feel is the most effective approach for me.

At the meeting on January 20. I will describe to you, the membership, the changes that have already occurred that effect the Board of Directors. I will further discuss with you, the membership, our monthly meetings, spring tour; fall tour and other events in which our club participates. Any thoughts or suggestions as to places to go and things to see during this next year would be appreciated.

Chuck



# NUTS AND BOLTS (OR MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS)

By Ken Brust



Happy New Year to all. All initial indications reflect that we are in for an extremely fun and interesting year with Chuck as our new Prez! Be sure to thank all past and current Board members for their dedicated service.

We recently connected a dear friend, who's uncle in Nebraska had a Model A Ford in a barn that he was ready to sell, with another very close friend in Iowa who was wanting to find a Model A to restore. Viola! Our Iowa farmer now has a 1929 Fordor that hasn't been moved from the barn for more than 20 years, and he is very excited about getting it running again! Another case of Model A fever, I reckon!

We had a nice turnout for the Christmas parades in Owasso and Catoosa. Ed Reiser arrived for the Owasso parade but started feeling ill so returned home before we got started. Hope you are feeling better, Ed. That left an even dozen cars for our first parade with Jerry and Shayla in their roadster with the top down and stuffed with family members all wearing

Santa hats! Great looking crew! We had to give Jerry a little push to get him started, so they didn't make it to lunch with us or the next parade. We ate at Toby Keith's cafe at the Hard Rock and then got ready for the Catoosa parade. The weather was balmy, but not too bad, so good time was had by all.

The Model A community ended the year on a very sad note with the fatal accident in Texas of Jean and Allen Cunningham in their Model A coupe. They were dear friends of the Mellages in the Houston Model A Ford Club. Our sincere sympathy goes to all. This tragic event is a reminder to all of us of how fragile life is and how quickly things can change. Our hobby of old cars continues to place us in harm's way whenever we are out on the highway. Please drive safely, stay alert, look both ways and keep your car maintained in a safe, operating manner. Looking forward to lots of great times together in 2015.

**HAPPY TRAILS TO ALL**



## 2015 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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## 84-YEAR OLD STILL DRIVING MODEL A

*story is from a 2007 article in the New York Times*

Clarence Cleveland Curtiss Shelton said he was 15 in 1938 when he bought a 1929 Ford Model A for \$10 from a Derby man. It has 200,000 miles on it and still runs. It was during the Depression. "He was out of work, and he was hungry," Mr. Curtiss said. "I drove it for a year with no license, and the day I turned 16, I got my license with this car."

Mr. Curtiss has made one major upgrade, installing a Hudson Terraplane engine in 1940, because, he said, "I raced kids home from high school with it, but there were a couple of cars I couldn't beat." That allowed it to go more than 80 miles an hour, compared with 55 m.p.h for a standard Model A. "Then I could beat them all," he said.

Part of the car's allure is that it has never been restored. There is a hole in one of the floorboards, cotton is coming out of the seats and some of the paint is wearing off. Mr. Curtiss has kits to restore it, but he can't bring himself to use them. "People just love seeing it the way it is," he said.

Mr. Curtiss also has a strong emotional attachment to the car. He met his wife, Dorothy, shortly after he bought it, when he was 17 and she was 14; they had been married 56 years when she died in 1998. The initials they carved on the steering wheel as teenagers can still be seen. "She was the first and only girl I ever kissed in the car," he said. "It's priceless because of that, as far as I'm concerned."

"People say, 'You're probably glad that car can't talk,'" he added.

Mr. Curtiss and Dorothy drove to the New York World's Fair in Queens in 1940, and he drove to six Army camps from Massachusetts to Georgia when he served during World War II.

The Ford Motor Company made slightly more than five million Model A's from 1928 through 1931. Chuck E. Christensen, 68, technical director of the Model A Ford Club of America, a collectors' club based in La Habra, Calif., said there were an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 of those cars left. He said longtime owners like Mr. Curtiss were rare. "In most cases, the cars have been passed around many times over the years," he said.

Bob Casey, curator of the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., said the Model A had a better transmission and braking system and a sleeker design than its predecessor, the Model T. "The style of the Model A was very much similar to the Lincolns of the era," he said. "The styling was overseen by Henry Ford's son, Edsel, and he had a much better eye for the appearance of cars than his father did."

Mr. Curtiss, who in the 1970s sold the Shelton car dealership that still bears his name, Curtiss-Ryan Honda, takes his Model A to 12 to 14 car shows a year. Signs on the doors proclaim it as his first car, and the handwritten story behind it is taped to a side window. It has won 14 trophies.

*continued on page 5*

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# Calendar of Events

DATE.....	EVENT AND LOCATION.....	TIME
January 6 .....	Board Meeting, Hardesty.....	7:00 p
January 10 .....	Breakfast, Mimi's, 8215 East 71st.....	9:00 a
January 20 .....	Monthly Meeting, East Central Junior High School .....	7:00 p
	Program, Gus Oliver car tag collection and book	
February 3 .....	Board Meeting, Hardesty.....	7:00 p
February 7 .....	Breakfast, Union Street Cafe, Union Street & 51st Street.....	9:00 a
February 17 .....	Monthly Meeting, East Central High School .....	7:00 p
March 3 .....	Board meeting, Hardesty .....	7:00 p
March 7 .....	Breakfast, TBA.....	TBA
March 17 .....	Monthly Meeting, East Central High School .....	7:00 p

*continued from page 4*

“It’s always the worst-looking car at every car show, but it always wins trophies because of the story behind it,” he said.

Mr. Curtiss said the car was not worth much because of its condition, and he planned to leave it to his family. “I’d love to keep on with the tradition of driving the car,” said his great-grandson, Mike Zenisky, 16, of Shelton. “It’s kind of a symbol of the love my great-grandfather and great-grandmother had for each other.”

The Model A is one of about 25 cars that Mr. Curtiss owns, including a 1907 Sears Auto Buggy, a 1937 Rolls-Royce, a 1949 Cadillac and a 1975 Sebring-Vanguard electric car that he still drives around town. But it’s the Model A, which carries memories of that first kiss and won all those high school races, that tugs at his heart.

“I had the first hot rod in Connecticut, as far as I know,” he said.



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MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS  
& ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

- 01 J.D. Sampley
- 01 Bobby & Mary  
WILLIAMSON
- 02 Ollie Harris
- 02 Bill Jenkins
- 02 Thomas H. Payne
- 05 Tonya Biesemeyer
- 06 Teresa DeCamp
- 10 Mitch & Teresa  
DECAMP
- 13 Doris LeMaster
- 14 Carol Parker
- 19 Virginia Helton
- 20 Teresa Wilkinson
- 29 Sharon Lairmore
- 29 Charles & Samantha  
RAMSEY
- 30 Bud Biesemeyer



JANUARY

- Nancy Forcum
- Charlotte Clevenger

FEBRUARY, MARCH,

APRIL Volunteers needed



**SUNSHINE REPORT**

Please keep those Model-A club members and their family members who may be having health challenges in your thoughts and prayers.

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*Sale items will be listed for three months for club members*

**FYI RELATED**

**February 6-7, 2015**, Sunflower Swap Meet, Wichita

**June 8-12, 2015**, Midwest Regional, St. Joseph, Missouri

**June 19-24, 2016**, National MAFCA Convention, Loveland, Co

## FALL TOUR

by Chuck Ramsey

It is the responsibility of our club to plan the fall tour in 2015. I am requesting your assistance in the following manner. If you will submit suggestions to me as to a possible location for the tour and possible things see in that area, I would appreciate it.

This location can be an area that the club has visited in the past and you want to re-visit or it can be a location which the club has never been. No limitations. Please submit suggestions to Chuck Ramsey [caramsey@cox.net](mailto:caramsey@cox.net) or [cramsey2gofree@cox.net](mailto:cramsey2gofree@cox.net). Your assistance is appreciated.



## DAY TRIPS

by Chuck Ramsey

In 2015, I plan to get the club out of the school house and back on the roadways of Oklahoma where we belong. I am planning several day trips which will generally be on a Saturday.

I would appreciate any suggestions you might have as to places to visit during the upcoming year. Again submit these suggestions to Chuck Ramsey [caramsey@cox.net](mailto:caramsey@cox.net) or [cramsey2gofree@cox.net](mailto:cramsey2gofree@cox.net)

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS REPORT

By Kent Washburn

It was again my pleasure to work with and collect for The Blue Star Mothers of Tulsa. This year I am extremely proud of the response from our club. We by far exceeded last year as we emphasized monetary donations as well as personal items to send along to service members.

This year we collected \$815.00 from club members and when added to the donation given in the name of the club from Lone Star Steakhouse, it totals \$965.00. Well done Tulsa Model A Ford Club!



## CLUB JACKETS, HATS AND MORE

If you're interested in purchasing a new jacket, hat or shirt with the club logo on them, here's the cost of each:

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Chestnut Hill (CH100) Ladies	Pine or Grass
S-XL - \$30; XXL - \$32, 3X - \$34, 4X - \$36	

### JACKETS w/Logo

Harriton (MM775) Nylon	
Mens and Ladies	See catalog for colors
S-XL - \$27, XXL - \$29, 3X - \$32, 4X - \$34	

### DENIM SHIRTS w/Logo - Light Denim

Harriton (M550) Mens	
Harriton (M550W) Ladies	
S-XL - \$25, XXL - \$27, 3X - \$31, 4X - \$33	

### SWEATSHIRTS w/Logo

Gildan (G180) Mens	
Gildan (G180 FL) Ladies	See Catalog
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# Owasso Christmas Parade







in between parades



TULSA



## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LONE STAR STEAKHOUSE



# ABOUT THE TULSA MODEL A FORD CLUB CHAPTER #8231 OF THE MODEL A CLUB OF AMERICA (MAFCA)

This is the official publication of the Tulsa Chapter of Model A Ford Club of America. This monthly newsletter is mailed to members, prospective members, advertisers and editors of similar publications. It's purpose is to keep you informed of what has taken place, scheduled activities and to promote fellowship among club members.

Members are encouraged to submit articles containing technical or any club related information. Articles must reach the editor by the 5th of the month to insure publication in that month's newsletter. Articles received after that will appear in a following newsletter.

Membership dues for the Tulsa Model A Ford Club are \$20 per family annually payable at the end of the year. Contact the New Member chairperson for new memberships and the Treasurer for renewals. The Tulsa Model A Ford Club recommends membership in the national MAFCA organization.

Members may advertise at no cost, non-business ads in the newsletter For Sale, Wanted or Trade section. Businesses may advertise with cost by the ad size, (business card size or 1/4 page) in the advertising section. The number of ads are restricted to space available in the Rumble Sheet. Contact the Advertising chairperson for details.

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## MEETING SCHEDULE

- Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of each month at East Central Junior High, 12121 East 21, Tulsa
- Breakfast - 9:00 a.m., 1st Saturday of each month, location to be announced
- Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month, Charles Hardesty Library, 8316 East 93rd Street, Tulsa

## TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, LETTER, OR FOR SALE OR TRADE, EMAIL:

Harold Helton - [hahelton@cox.net](mailto:hahelton@cox.net)

## THE RUMBLE SHEET

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