

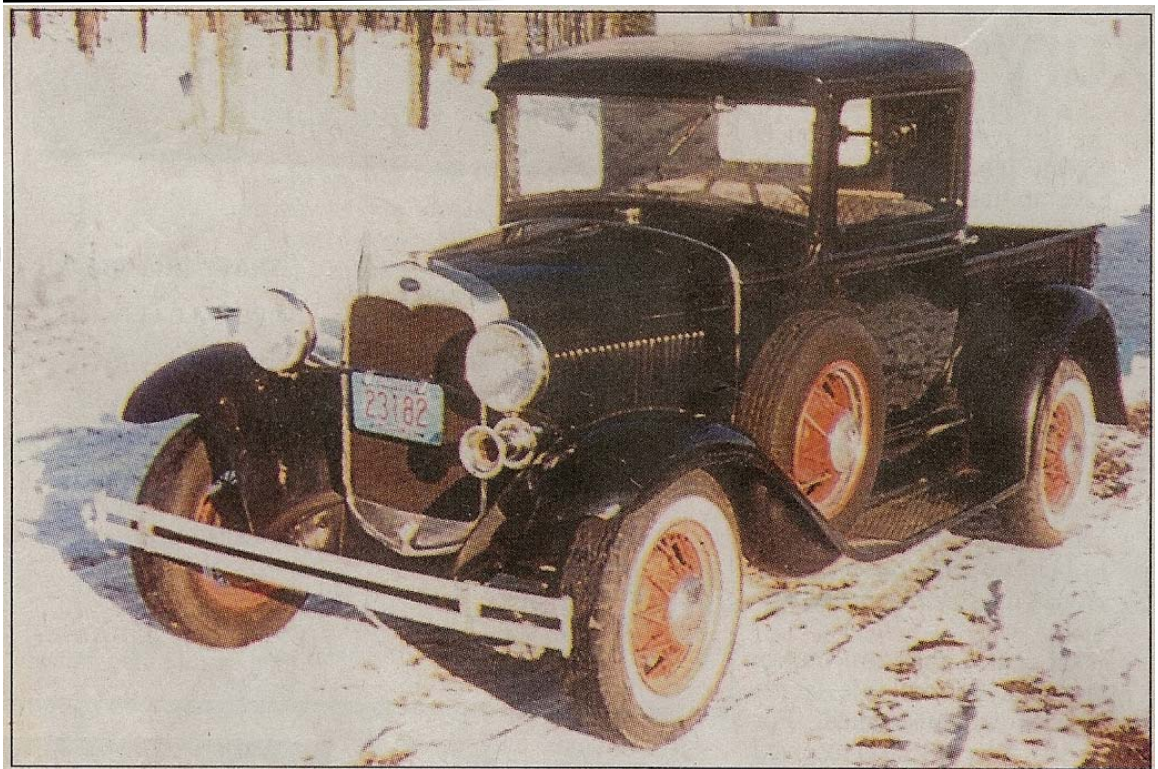


MAPLE "A" NEWS

Newsletter of the Green Mountain Chapter/Region of M.A.F.C.A. and M.A.R.C. Inc.

1968 Our Forty First Year 2009

Volume 37, Issue #5 September/October, 2009



Heap of junk sitting in field is now fully restored 1931 Model "A"

Story page 3



Blowing My Horn

Peter Crosby, Editor

Sorry for the concise Newsletter this month. I am in the middle of moving and will soon be shutting down the computer and Newsletter production for sometime.

Next year the club will be looking for some help with the Newsletter, Website administration and Secretary jobs. As I have been doing all of these jobs for several years now, it is time to spread out the workload and give me a hand. There will be more discussion at the Annual meeting in November.

I will see you at the Boozan's meet in South Burlington and Shapiro's meet in November. I am looking forward to your comments and ideas.

Peter Crosby
Editor, Webmaster, and un-titled Secretary

- What** **September Meet**
- When** **Sunday September 27, 2009**
11:00 AM Rain or Shine
- Where** 71 Oakwood Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403
- Dinner** Ham provided/Hot Coffee & Tea provided. Bring a dish or desert to share
Bring chairs. Please RSVP
- Questions & RSVP** Bruce & Kathy Boozan
802-658-1682
MAGVAN@aol.com
- Activity** Guys: Diagnosing rear end (truck) problem
 Gals: Croquet and/or bring a craft you are doing -- show & tell

The Grapevine

The grapevine is news about our fellow members, Please let us know when your birthdays' and anniversaries are so they can be included. Contact Peter Crosby at 802-878-6376.

ANNIVERSARY

**September 14th Marvin & Ellie Ball
25 years**

**September 29th Bob & Rena Hart
47 years**

October 1st Norman & Peggy Dube

BIRTHDAYS

September 19th Deanna Shapiro

September 27 Kathryn Shortsleeves

Oct 8 Kathy Boozan

Oct 21 Charlie Shapiro

Oct 22 Pam Crosby

Chapter Flea Market

Wanted: 1929 Model "A" Radiator and Shell.
Please call Howard Vanderhoof 274 Marble Island Road, Colchester, VT. Phone 802-862-4319

FOR SALE: FORD PICKUP TRUCK,
1932/1934 CAB AND BODY, 1929 ENGINE RUNS, NEEDS TIRES, NO RUST, BRAND NEW BRAKES, NOT FOR RESTORING.....JUST FOR FUN DRIVING. \$6,900 OR BEST OFFER. BARBARA CARTER, 802-862-802, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT

Two Model "A" Ford motors. One with the head. They are some what stuck. \$75.00 For the pair. Marvin Ball, 607 Old Hollow Road, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473. 802-425-3529

For Sale: 19 inch Wheels, bell housings, Front bumper, flywheels and flywheel housings. Will take offers. Douglas Leithead;1856 Darling Hill Road; Newport, VT 05855 Phone 802-334-2584



2009 Activities

Paul Boozan

If you would like to host a meet this year please let me know so you can be included in our Spring, Summer and Fall activities. My phone number is 802-644-5688.

Sept. 18-20, 2009	43rd Bennington Car Show	Pownell, VT www.bennington.com/attractions/events/carshow.html
Sept. 25—27, 2009	New England Model "A" Meet	Laconia, NH www.NEMeet2009.com
Sept. 27, 2009, 11:00 AM	GMC Meet	Bruce & Kathy Boozan, South Burlington, VT
November 1, 2009	Annual Meeting	Charlie & Deanna Shapiro

Treasurer's Report

Dick Phinney

Ending Balance-checking.....\$1045.33

Ending Balance-savings.....\$1676.06

Charity Fund \$0.00

08/19/09

By VERN PARKER

Many years ago - more than he would like to remember - Bernard Fatla owned a 1929 Model "A" Ford that was trustworthy and never let him down. After World War II the four-door Ford sedan was showing signs of age and was replaced by a newer car.

Fatla couldn't bear to part with the old Model "A", so it was parked out behind the house. That's where it sat for a few years, until Fatla came home one day and saw the Model "A" was not there. Someone driving by had spotted the car, stopped and asked Fatla's wife if it was for sale. She was paid \$45 and the car was gone.

Toward the end of the 1970s Fatla, at his wife's urging, began casually looking for another Model "A" Ford; after all, between 1928 and 1931 about 5 million of them were built.

Fatla's daughter, Barbara, was the one who discovered a Model "A" pickup in nearby Armstrong Creek, Wis., and alerted her father. Fatla went to investigate and found the rusted 1931 relic sitting unprotected in a field with most of the parts missing. Nevertheless, he couldn't resist.

"I bought a pile of junk in November 1979 for \$164," he says. "There was no glass, no hood, no radiator, no head-lights, no horn and many motor parts were missing," he says.

The 1931 pickup was dragged onto a flatbed trailer and Fatla towed it to his home in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He disassembled what remained of the truck and took an inventory to see what he needed for a restoration. Fortunately, even today virtually every part for a Model "A" Ford is readily available.

"I worked on the car little by little," he says, "until I got the frame out and cleaned up."

The frame needed a new front cross-member. Once the foundation for the vehicle was made strong, the rest of it slowly came together on the rolling chassis supported by wire wheels on a 103.5-inch wheelbase.

The 200.5-cubic-inch four cylinder engine was stripped down to a short block and rebuilt to deliver 40 horsepower. Fatla says the original oak floor of the bed and the metal strips between the planks were beyond recovery. The 5-foot-long bed now has a new oak floor, along with new steel strips between the planks.

The truck has no fuel pump, depending instead on gravity to pull gasoline from the tank in the cowl, sending it to the carburetor. The choke is mounted on the passenger side of the cozy cabin.

As restoration work progressed, Fatla purchased some new, as well as rebuilt parts, and sometimes would find a needed part in the most unusual places. After straightening the sides of the bed on his pickup and replacing

the floor, he still needed a tailgate, which was missing when he bought the truck.

The hunt led to a backyard playground where a discarded Model "A" truck bed, filled with sand, was being used by children as a sandbox. He asked their mother if he could buy just the tailgate and she was happy to make the sale. The children didn't seem to mind either. He took the tailgate home, removed all the scars, and installed it at the rear of his truck.

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All four of the windows were missing when he bought the truck. Because all four windows were flat glass, Fatla says a local glass shop easily cut new safety glass.

All of the instruments are mounted in a cluster in the middle of the dashboard. The central gauge is a revolving speedometer. Fatla reports, "I can get 50 miles per hour out of it." Although he admits that the 1931 Ford was built to do 30 or 40 mph.

Fatla retired in 1984 and moved to Goodman, Wisconsin, where the final restoration task was completed the following year. He painted the old Ford himself, naturally selecting the color black.

"I did all the work myself and I am proud of the final results," he says. "It took me several years of spare time to finish the job," the 86 year old Fatla says.

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Thanks to Kathy Boozan for submitting this article and getting permission to reprint it.

Club Officers

President-Douglas Leithead; 1856 Darling Hill Road; Newport, VT 05855 Phone 802-334-2584

Vice President-Paul Boozan 1364 Stebbins Rd.; Jeffersonville, VT 05464; Phone 802-644-5688; pboozan@myfairpoint.net

Treasurer-Dick Phinney; 66 Featherbed Lane; South Hero, VT 05486; Phone 802-372-5230; modelafan@myfairpoint.net

Secretary- Bob Davis; 49 Dakin Road, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456; Phone 802-425-7766; charbob@gmavt.net

Region Director-Rod Dolliver; 430 Dolliver Rd.; Charlotte, VT 05445 Phone 802-425-2745; rcdbjd46@aol.com

Newsletter, Webmaster-Peter Crosby; 61 Pearl Street, Unit 40; Essex Junction, VT 05452 Phone 802-878-6376; peter.crosby@myfairpoint.net

Chapter Flea Market

- ◆ Send description of items for the Flea Market to Peter Crosby via mail or Email to peter.crosby@myfairpoint.net.
- ◆ Items should be described For Sale, trade, wanted, or take it away.
- ◆ For Sale items must be listed with asking price.
- ◆ Flea market is open to all members free of charge for auto and fashion related items only.

The Green Mountain Chapter / Region M.A.F.C.A. & M.A.R.C. Inc. is a tax exempt organization under the 501 (c) (7) of the Internal Revenue Code. Federal Employer Identification Number: 30-0357749



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Green Mountain Region / Chapter
MARC / MAFCA Inc.
Peter Crosby, Editor
61 Pearl Street, Unit 40
Essex Junction, VT 05452