

THE RUMBLE SHEET

Welcome

The Rumble Sheet is your go-to source for all things Model A. From the President's message to club announcements, activities calendars, and a classifieds section – it's your insider's guide to the Model A world.

Ford's Feathered Friends and Conservation Legacy

Henry Ford, known for revolutionizing the automobile industry, had another lesser-known passion: birds. This deep love for avian life started early in his life. He often reminisced about his first memory, which involved a bird's nest, and he even marked his first car drive by the arrival of bobolinks, migratory birds.

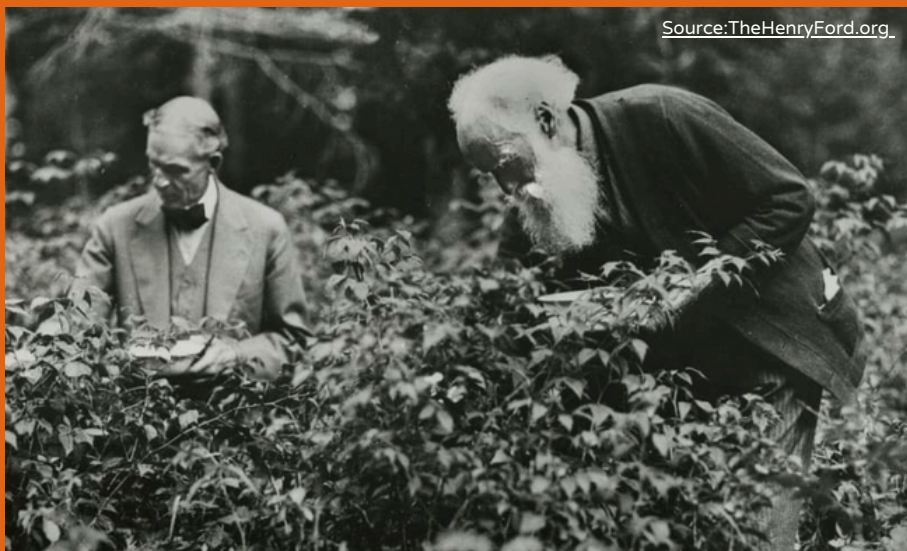
Ford once imported various bird species, like yellow-hammers and chaffinches, to America. However, he later realized that birds should live freely in their natural habitats. His passion for birds also led him to become a fan of John Burroughs, an American ornithologist and naturalist. Despite Burroughs' criticism of cars, Ford admired his work and gifted him a car. Initially hesitant, Burroughs eventually used the car to explore bird habitats more efficiently, leading to a lasting friendship between the two.

Burroughs informed Ford about the struggling Weekes-McLean Bird Bill, aimed at protecting migratory birds. Ford sprang into action, mobilizing his vast dealer network to lobby Congress. This marked Ford's first political activism, resulting in the successful passage of the bill in 1913.

Henry Ford's legacy is not only defined by his industrial achievements but also by his significant contributions to bird conservation. His dedication to creating bird sanctuaries and preserving natural habitats highlighted his belief that "birds are the best companions." Ford's activism for birds remains an inspiring part of his multifaceted life.



July
2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am writing this on the first day of summer. As a kid this meant I would have nearly a 3 month break until school started back in September. As a Ford Model A'er it means winter is well over and we can finally get our cars out of winter storage. Oh wait, we live in Sunny California and except for a few days we can drive our cars year round.

In 1949 my parent's escaped the New Jersey winter by moving to California. Their friends and family said they would be back for good within a year. I guess that did not happen. My Dad's business could operate year round and there was no digging out the trucks in the winter. In 1960 my Dad had really followed the California dream and bought my Mom a Buick Electra 225 Convertible. That's a 3 year story I can go into at another time.

So, I have benefitted from my parents passing on the California lifestyle and the DNA for the love of cars to me. Now it's time for me to go out to the garage and dig out my Model A. As most of you on the West Coast know, that means remove all the stuff in the garage that has collected on or near the Model A since it was last driven. Can you imagine what that would look like if October was the last time you drove your baby.

Happy Motoring all year long.

Larry Margules

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Mailing Address

San Fernando Valley Chapter
MAFCA
P.O. Box 8017
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Monthly Meeting

3rd Thursday of the Month 7:30PM
January - November
Galpin Ford
15505 Roscoe Blvd., North Hills

Who We Are

The San Fernando Valley Model A Club (SFVMAC), a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA), is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to serve as a medium of exchange of ideas, information and parts for enthusiasts of the Model A Ford car, to aid members and other enthusiasts in their efforts to restore and preserve the car in its original likeness. The Rumble Sheet is the newsletter of the SFVMAC, published monthly, January through November. The organization disclaims any liability for the technical information provided herein. The material published are the opinions of the authors and not those of the organization.

We invite all those interested in the Model A Ford to join us. Ownership of a Model A Ford is not required. All members must join MAFCA. Membership includes a subscription to the newsletter. Material in the Rumble Sheet may be used in other publications provided that credit is given for the source.



GENERAL CLUB MEETING

Last night's San Fernando Valley Model A Club meeting was one for the books! We kicked off the evening with the Pledge of Allegiance, a fitting start for a group so dedicated to preserving a piece of Americana. Then, our ever-entertaining club president, Larry, had everyone in stitches with his latest adventure: installing a GPS in his Model A. Picture it: a cutting-edge device in an antique car. Larry assured us he only got lost twice on the way to the meeting!

Next up, Jim Lank took the floor with an earnest plea for volunteers for our upcoming November Car Show and Swap Meet. So, folks, if you're free and can lend a hand, sign up and help make this event a roaring success!

Scott McNatt brought some sizzle to the announcements, teasing exciting upcoming club activities. Mark your calendars for a 4th of July BBQ at the Ratzlaff's residence. Trust me, you won't want to miss it—look out for an email with all the juicy details.

The highlight of the evening? The Bell Family's refreshments. And guess what? It was PORTO's! Andy and his son Bradley played host, ensuring everyone was well-fed and happy. There's nothing like good grub to make a meeting memorable.

Congratulations to Shelbie Ratzlaff, who walked away \$60 richer after winning the raffle. Lemonade on Shelbie next time, right? Don't forget, our next general club meeting is on July 18th. Be there or be square!

Looking forward to seeing you all, sharing more laughs, and maybe even hearing more of Larry's tech-savvy escapades!

Birthdays

Liz Frazee 7/3
Skip Watson 7/4
Terri Padgett 7/6
Jeff Robin 7/9
Warren Kreis 7/13
Harry Hirschensohn 7/15
Jhoe Abejon 7/16
David Van Elgort 7/22
Amy Sriro 7/26
Stacie Ratzlaff 7/28
Lynley Margules 7/30

Anniversaries

Norman & Suzanne Goodwin 7/1
Stewart & Catherine Levin 7/1
Ron & Janet Waters 7/1
Alejandro & Margarita Platon 7/5
Stan & Kathy Monheit 7/8
Warren & Sharon Kreis 7/8
John & Nadine Bury 7/22

Shelbie Ratzlaff, Bradley Bell and Hunter Bloch



Next General Meeting

Mark your calendars! Join us on July 18 at 7:30 PM on the second floor of Galpin Ford, 15505 Roscoe Blvd, North Hills, CA 91343, for the San Fernando Valley Model A Club general meeting. It's the perfect way to catch up on all the latest club news, from upcoming tours and activities to exciting events on the horizon.

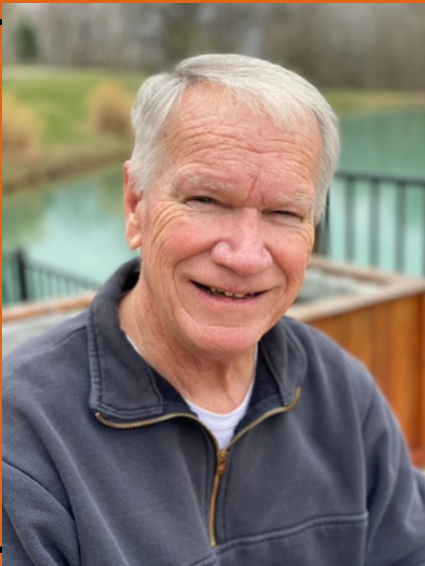
Want to make an evening of it? Arrive early and join fellow club members for dinner at the Horseless Carriage restaurant. Great food and even better company!

Don't miss out—come for the cars, stay for the camaraderie. See you there!

MEMBER STORY

Brian Smith and Sparky: The Great Race Adventure

Brian Smith, our former San Fernando Valley Model A Club president, has always had a knack for adventure. But his latest escapade? It's one for the history books! Brian, along with his trusty 1930 Ford Model A, affectionately named Sparky, and his navigator, Scott Howard, took on The Great Race—a grueling 2,300-mile back road rally from Owensboro, Kentucky to Gardiner, Maine.



This wasn't just any race; it was a 9-day, white-knuckle journey through 19 cities across Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and finally, Maine. With 141 of the world's finest antique automobiles competing, the race was all about precision and time, where every minute was an opportunity to either triumph or get hopelessly lost.

Brian and Scott were determined to make their mark. But the race had its moments of sheer terror and hilarity. The highlight—or perhaps the most intense moment—came on a backcountry road. They approached a hair-raising 80-degree turn at a speed that made it impossible to navigate safely. With split-second decision-making, Brian chose to go straight, launching Sparky over a ditch, a curb, and right across the front lawn of a man on a tractor mowing his grass. The most astonishing part? The man just smiled and waved, as if watching antique cars fly across his lawn was a daily occurrence. Brian and Scott only lost half a second!

After nine days of back-road driving, hairpin turns, and unexpected lawn visits, Brian, Sparky, and Scott finished in 6th place, missing the cash reward by a mere 56 seconds. Not too shabby for rookies! And the cherry on top? A Maine lobster banquet to celebrate the end of their journey.

Brian Smith's dedication to the San Fernando Valley Model A Club remains unwavering. Even though he's now an out-of-state member, his loyalty is rooted in the support he received from club members while restoring Sparky. It's a testament to the camaraderie and mutual aid that defines our club.

So, here's to Brian, Scott, and Sparky—our very own adventurers who turned a thrilling race into an epic tale. We can't wait to see what stories they bring back next!

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

MISSION BASILICA SAN BUENAVENTURA



We gathered bright and early at Michael and Maureen Fichera's place with 26 people and 10 stunning Model As. The Ficheras provided donuts, OJ, and a tour of their amazing car collection. The Conejo Valley Model A Club was joined by members from Simi and SFV Clubs, making it a truly delightful mix of car enthusiasts.

After some friendly chit-chat and delicious refreshments, we hit the road for a scenic drive through Lynn Rd, Norwegian Grade, and Tierra Rejada Rd, eventually leading us to Old Town Ventura. We were greeted with reserved parking at Mission Basilica San Buenaventura and a private docent, and can you believe it? Not a single breakdown, no stragglers, and no one got lost! One of our San Fernando Valley members even managed to join us from Somis via the 101. Impressive, right?



TOURS & ACTIVITIES

MISSION BASILICA SAN BUENAVENTURA



Our docent gave a fascinating 30-minute presentation in the basilica, followed by a leisurely exploration of the museum and gift shop. We wrapped up the tour in the garden, where we captured some lovely group photos. Everyone expressed a keen interest in doing this again soon, and guess what? We're already planning the next outing!



TOURS & ACTIVITIES

MISSION BASILICA SAN BUENAVENTURA



After soaking in the history and beauty of the Mission, we ventured through the bustling farmers market on Main St to Peirano's Italian Restaurant for a delicious meal. We bid our farewells and departed the parking lot around 2:00 PM, with several members making pit stops at fruit stands and the Somis Nut House on the way back.

All in all, it was a fantastic outing, and I can't wait for our next adventure together!



LUNCH WITH THE FELLAS

Join us every Wednesday at 11:00 AM for the San Fernando Valley Model A Club lunch at Lulu's Restaurant. Indulge in delicious food while surrounded by fellow enthusiasts. Engage in lively discussions about all things Model A, creating the perfect midweek escape filled with camaraderie, laughter, and a shared passion for classic automobiles. LuLu's 16900 Roscoe Blvd. Van Nuys



GET INVOLVED

THE RUMBLE SHEET

Membership Application

Welcome to the San Fernando Valley Model A Club, where the spirit of Model A camaraderie comes alive! We're not your typical car club; we're a community of enthusiasts bound by our love for the iconic Model A Ford. Established in 1960 as a proud chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA), we've been cruising together for over six decades, and the adventure continues!



Why join? Because Model A's are meant to be shared! Our club provides a laid-back space for Model A aficionados in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas to unwind, swap stories, and revel in the charm of these timeless classics. Whether you own a Model A or simply admire their beauty, we invite you to join us in celebrating the essence of these legendary automobiles.

As a member, dive into a world of Model A fun with driving tours, lively Wednesday member luncheons at Lulu's Restaurant, engaging general membership meetings, thrilling Swap Meets and Car Shows, and our informative monthly newsletter, The Rumble Sheet.

We're more than a club; we're a Model A family ready to welcome fellow enthusiasts. Ownership of a Model A Ford is not a prerequisite – if you're passionate about these classics, you're already one of us! Ready to enhance your Model A experience? Join the San Fernando Valley Model A Club today! Hit that join button, and let's create lasting Model A memories together. We can't wait to welcome you into our Model A family!



Model A Youth Restoration Awards

Rev up your engines, folks! Welcome to our car restoration program, where we turn rust buckets into roaring classics! We get it - convincing the younger crowd that a '31 Ford Model A is cooler than the latest electric wonder can be a tough sell. But fear not, our [Model A Youth Restoration Awards](#) are here to bridge the generation gap!

Forget the ancient tales of uphill both ways in the snow – today's youth can choose from 50s, 60s, and 70s gems! We're not just restoring cars; we're restoring coolness. Help a young grease monkey bring a Model A back to life, and we'll reward them with gift certificates to car parts heaven. Because nothing says "future classic" like a teenager covered in grease with a wrench in hand!

Model A Museum

Show your support for the Model A Museum with a snazzy blue bumper sticker! For just \$3, proclaim to the world, "My other car is a Model A Ford." Stick it proudly and cruise down memory lane. Order now and revitalize your ride while supporting a classic cause. Visit the [Model A Museum website](#) for more revved-up goodies!





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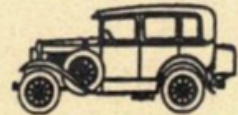


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EVENT FLYERS

13th Annual So-Cal Early Ford V-8 Club Inter-Regional

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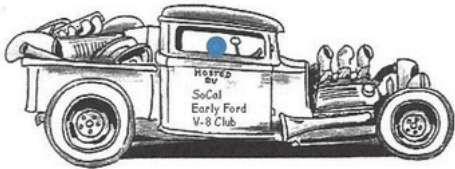
Swap Meet

*Lots of Ford
Flathead Stuff*

Saturday, August 24, 2024

The only place that you're going to find Early Ford stuff is at a swap meet like this - put on by Early Ford V-8 Club Folks
Car & Truck Parts - Accessories - Tools - Literature, Books & much more

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8:00 AM

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