

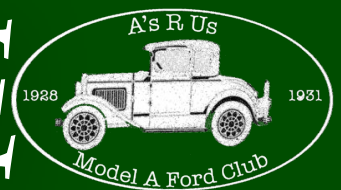


VOLUME 18

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2013

BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>



Welcome to 2013. As most of us have figured out already the world is still chugging along well after the Mayans calendar ended. I am in the planning stages now of the "Exposure Trip" and I feel that this will be one great trip. We always have fun on the trips so if you have the chance to travel with us you are in for a very different week than our normal trips. The purpose of the trip is not only to have pride to claim your car is road-worthy but this is a slow-down in your normal life and see roads and towns you would never see otherwise. So come along for the adventure.

*The Carp
Editor in Chief*

Phil Serviss, Editor

Header Picture:

Toronto, Canada
December 24, 1929

Presidents Comments

We are starting another year and from what I've hear we have some good times ahead; trips, parties, working on the cars and continuing friendships. Irv has joined the Board and we look forward to the new ideas he will bring. We want to again thank Ken for his work on the Board last year. Sometimes it is a thankless job – but we sincerely thank Ken for his leadership.



I also know that some of our members are continuing to face health issues; some recovering and others with challenges yet unknown. What has always encouraged and made me proud to be a member of the club is how caring are members are for each other.

Now for some good news – Connie and I are grandparents for the 5th time. On December 30, at 11:00pm Titus Michael Borchert was born. And while his brother, Noah, likes fast cars, corvettes and yes now a Ferrari, I think I see that Model A twinkle in Titus's eye. Maybe the flash cards with all of the Model A body stiles will help him in his early childhood development.

Last year we have talked about new and different events, trips and activities our club should try and we also talked about asking other clubs to join us. I hope we do ask invite other clubs to join us. Sharing stories and making new friends expands our club vision. I can't wait for this years spring trip. For two reasons:

1. We will share in the opening celebration of the new Model A museum
2. We have an increased focus on making sure that the girls, who tolerate our weird fixation on Model A's or actually any car, will have separate activities what will interest them more – thanks Penny.

So we set off with great expectation and optimism for the New Year ----- bang - clunk – buzz -----OK Jon sounds like we need help already!!!

1920's - 1930's Era Fashions

WOMEN'S MODEL A FORD ERA WRIST WATCHES

By
Donna May Bewley



I collect wrist watches made between the years 1928 to 1931 and enjoy wearing them with my era fashions and when riding in my Model A. This information will assist you in identifying wrist watches made during the Model A era.

Women were first to wear wrist watches. Napoleon's sister is shown in an 1850's portrait wearing a wrist watch. Convenience and styling made wrist watches a popular accessory for daytime, evening and sportswear. They did not become popular with men until after World War I. The most important American watch companies during the Model A era were Elgin, Bulova, Waltham, Gruen, Illinois and Hamilton. Many Swiss watches were imported for sale.

Popular era wrist watch case shapes.



Octagon



Tonneau



Oval



Rectangle



Baguette

Wrist watch cases were solid gold, gold filled, gold plated or gold reinforced with metal. White gold was more popular than yellow gold. A few cases were chromium or platoid finished. Platinum was the most expensive metal used.

Rubies, sapphires, genuine or synthetic, were commonly used as bearings in wrist watch movements. The number of jewels and the metals used in the case, movement and band determined, for the most part, the value of the wrist watch. Higher grade watches had 17 or more jewels. Diamonds, emeralds,

and sapphires and other precious and semi-precious stones were used on watch case bezels as decorative accents.

Common wrist watch bands were black or gray silk grosgrain ribbon, woven metal mesh, metal expansion bracelets, silk or metal chord bracelets and leather strap bands.



Grosgrain

Metal Mesh

Expansion

Cord

Strap

Millions of wrist watches were made during the four years of the Model a Ford era. In fact, by 1928 wrist watches were outselling pocket watches. Finding era watches is not difficult. A good first step is to begin with your family and friends. Mothers, grandmothers, aunts and cousins may have laid away family heirloom watches in jewelry boxes and dresser drawers just waiting for you to rescue them. They may also be found at flea markets and antique stores. The largest selection of era watches is to be found on eBay. Search for ladies/women's pre-1940 wrist watches in the Jewelry and Watches category. Refine your search by searching for a brand name such as Bulova. eBay has helpful tutorials on how to search for what you want.

Dating wrist watches is both easy and difficult, depending on the make of watch you are dating. Waltham, Elgin and Hamilton kept serial number lists that you can find by using Google. By knowing what serial number is stamped on the watch movement, you can identify the year your watch was made. Gruen, Illinois and Bulova are more difficult to date. Gruen's serial numbers were destroyed by fire in the late 1940's. Illinois was bought by Hamilton in 1928. Look for Illinois serial numbers for 1928-1931 in conjunction with Hamilton serial numbers. Bulova began to identify year of manufacture in the late 1940's. Serial number lists for Swiss made wrist watch movements are not available. CAUTION: Unless you are handy with tools do not try to open the watch case to read the serial number on the movement. Take your watch to a jeweler and ask them to open the case. They usually do so without charge.

It is possible to get an idea of the age of your wrist watch by using 1928 to 1931 catalogs. Sears and Montgomery Wards and many other catalogs contain sections that feature wrist watches that can be used to identify and date your watch. The most commonly used book to identify watches of all types and makes is the "Complete Price Guide to Watches" by Cooksey, Shugart, Engle and Gilbert. This book is usually available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com

Some of the author's wrist watches purchased on eBay.



1928
Swiss



1931
Hamilton



1931
Elgin



1930
Waltham



1929
Bulova

WOMEN'S MODEL A FORD ERA WRIST WATCHES

By Donna May Bewley
June 2005

Sources:

- 1929 MW Savage Co. Catalogue-Spring and Summer
- 1930 Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalogue-Spring and Summer
- 1931 Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalogue-Spring and Summer
- 1931 Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalogue-Fall and Winter
- "Complete Price Guide to Watches" by Cooksey, Shogart, Engle and Gilbert

“Michi gami” Circle Tour

1,100 Mile Odyssey

September 7 – 14, 2013



The Lake Michigan Circle Tour route is the culmination of innovation and hard work by visionary Jack Morgan of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Just 14 months after Morgan introduced his Circle Tour concept in 1987, agreement to designate and fund it was reached between the governors of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. In 1998, the route was mapped and signs were posted along all 1100 miles of Lake Michigan's shoreline.



I am in the planning stages of the tour now and plan to split up the tour with a new lead car every day of the trip so everyone gets to enjoy the lead as well as following. The route will be finalized in the next few months as well as the stops for the night. As lead car you will have your route for the day well in advance of the trip and have the pleasure of finding attractions you may want to stop at along the way.

Phil



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



DIXIE HIGHWAY

FROM THE LAKES
TO THE GULF

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, cigar smoking was widely popular for men and even some women throughout the country. Early on producers sold their product in bundles tied together by decorative ribbon. As the industry grew, cigars were packaged in boxes with artistic labels. There were thousands of producers and labels representing a multitude of themes. The Dixie Highway was even sold as a brand of cigars by the Peyton-Palmer Company, a grocery wholesaler located in Danville, Illinois.

November Minutes

11/17/2012

Meeting location: Chuck Fritz's new pole barn

Our meeting began with a hayride compliments of Eric and Taylor Fritz. The wagon was built today just for us!!! As we rode along, laughter and songs filled the air. After the hayride, we returned to the barn, where we dined on a potluck feast. Onto business.

Called to order by Vice President Ken Chamis. Minutes were approved as read.

Jim Wright presented the treasurers report and was approved unanimously.

FAMILY NEWS: Marlene reported Ray Nelson has been diagnosed with liver cancer. Ray is now on hospice, and Ruth expressed gratitude for a recent call to her and Ray by our club.

Dale noted her son Corey is due to deploy to Afghanistan early December.

CLUB BUSINESS:

Our annual auction raised \$295.00. A very big Thank you to Wally and Kay for their hospitality.

The members thanked Wally for arranging the outing to Balmoral. Wally has a video of our cars going around the track.

The budget committee will meet in early January and present at the January meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

All is set for Wednesday December 12th, 2012. Location is Beggars Pizza in New Lenox. Dinner will be at 6:00. We will have our annual grab bag, with a \$20 limit. Members will pay \$10, club to pick up the balance, and also pay for kids.

HOLIDAY PARADES:

The Crete Parade is set for December 1st at 6:30. Line up is at 5:40. After the parade, pizza at Aurelio's.

Homewood Parade is December 7th. We will once again escort Santa to the park.

2013 Board Elections:

The nominating committee has accepted the following nominations:

PRESIDENT: Tim Borchert

VICE PRESIDENT: Irv Darnell, and Ken Chamis

TREASURER: Jim Wright

SECRETARY: Sandy Kaleta, Char Darnell

The floor was opened for nominations, and then closed with the above candidates.

NEW BUSINESS:

January meeting to be held at Phil and Nancy Serviss' home in Crete.

Tech Talk will be postponed until after the holidays.

Saturday breakfast will be December 8th at 8:30 am, Peachtree Restaurant.

50/50 went to our host Chuck Fritz \$27.00

Badge fines \$4

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2012

MEETING LOCATION: Beggars Pizza New Lenox, Il

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BORCHERT AT : 6:25PM

Minutes from the November meeting were waived.

TREASURERS REPORT: Tim presented a treasurers report from Jim. A'SRUS acct. \$7,483.91 and Driving the Dixie acct. \$7,208.23 to date.

New BUSINESS: Tim briefly discussed the need to present a 2013 budget and that the membership should consider which charities they want to donate to for the up coming year.

Officers for 2013 are as follows:

President: Tim Borchert

Treasurer: Jim Wright

Vice Pres: Irv Darnell

Secretary: Sandy Kaleta

Next months mtg: January 16, 2013 at Phil and Nancy Serviss

Adjourn: By Tim at 6:40. Dinner was served and afterward we thoroughly enjoyed the Grab Bag exchange. Joey did a great job and so did our Santa helper. Thanks guys.....
SHAME ON WALLY!!!!!!!!!!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA
SECRETARY



Gilmore Museum Grande Opening

May 17th and 18th 2013

Comfort Inn

622 Allegan Street

Plainwell, MI

269.685.9891

93.49 King or 2 Queens 99.10

Up and coming 2013 Events:

Meeting Wednesday January 16th: Phil and Nancy's home. Beecher, IL 7:00pm

Gilmore MI, spring Trip: May 17th, 18th and 19th

Exposure Trip / Lake Michigan Circle Tour:
September 7th thru the 13th

Meeting Places:

Sign-up for meetings will be passed around soon. Please think about a date you can host.

A's R Us 2013 officers and Staff

- President – Tim Borchert
- Vice President – Irv Darnell / Treasure – Jim Wright / Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Joe Krygowski
- Web Page – Joe Krygowski
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski
- Historian – Ken Chamis
- Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe
- Motor Medic - Jon Isota



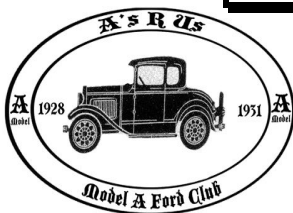
Please send **Backfire** articles or items of interest to:

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

Things yet to come.

BACKFIRE

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