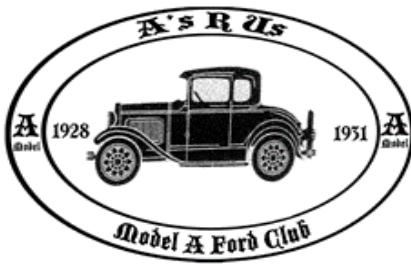




BACKFIRE

Volume #23 Issue #1

January 2018



It's the start of another new year and I hope all of your celebrations were joyful and safe. I know I had a real fun time at our last Christmas party.



Now that's a good looking group of people singing .



Ron with a few inspirational words.



Look like the young folks enjoyed themselves also. (I hope that's only soda in those drinks)

Al and Randy debating over who's going to pay for the next round.





It's nice to see family and friends together at the holidays. (The A's are a family).

Congrats to the new Club President, Jon Lisota. (Got used to that gavel real fast).



The nights entertainment: the "Knights of Harmony".

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



I would like to thank Al and Sandy Kaleta for putting together a truly memorable party. The location and the food were outstanding . The entertainment was a unique and very pleasant surprise. I would also like to thank the Knights of Harmony for bringing their wonderful singing voices and wry humor. It's going to be tough to top this one next Christmas (I can't wait).



Steve Coe was nice enough to send me a bunch of pictures of A's R US events taken last year. I wanted to use the Exposure Tour pictures first, this month, because to me those long trips in the model A's represent quite an undertaking.



When we first joined A's R US a little over a year ago Ken Chamis was the club president. We had inherited our model A . We knew it needed some work and weren't sure what direction to take. We really didn't know what to do with the car.

After contacting Ken via the club website he came for a visit to check out our car. We did come up with a plan to get the car in better driving condition but he also told us stories of the club events and club trips. When my father in-law owned the car he only drove it around the neighborhood. When Ken told me about some of the long distance adventures I was impressed, so we joined the club.

We'll start with the Exposure Tour pictures and maybe I'll be inspired to make the next trip.









Thanks Steve for all the great pictures. Seeing them makes me want to jump in the model A right now and go for a drive. Except for the fact that as I am writing this it's fifteen degrees outside and snowing.



Well, we are now completely official model A owners, we have period correct license plates. And speaking of license plates, did you know.....(caution history lesson coming)



The Very First License Plate

Although New York was the first state to require automobiles to have license plates in 1901, these plates were made by individual owners (with the owner's initials) rather than being issued by state agencies as they are in modern times. The very first license plates were typically handcrafted on leather or metal (iron) and were meant to denote ownership via the initials.

It wasn't until two years later, in 1903, that the first state-issued license plates were distributed in Massachusetts. The very first plate, featuring the number "1," was issued to Frederick Tudor. (One of his relatives still holds an active registration on the plate.)



What Did the First License Plates Look Like?

These early Massachusetts license plates were made of iron and covered in a porcelain enamel. The background was colored a cobalt blue and the number was in white. Along the top of the plate, also in white, were the words: "MASS.

AUTOMOBILE REGISTER." The size of the plate was not constant; it grew wider as the plate number reached into the tens, hundreds, and thousands.



Massachusetts was the first to issue license plates, but other states soon followed. As automobiles began to crowd the roads, it was necessary for all states to find ways to start regulating cars, drivers, and traffic.

By 1918, all states in the United States had begun issuing their own vehicle registration plates.

Who Issues License Plates Now?

In the U.S., vehicle registration plates are issued solely by the states' Departments of Motor Vehicles. The only time a federal government agency issues these plates are for their federal vehicle fleet or for cars owned by foreign diplomats. Notably, some Native American tribes also issue their own registrations to members, but many states now offer a special registration for Native Americans.

When Did It Become a Requirement to Annually Update License Plate Registrations?

Although the first license plates were meant to be semi-permanent, by the 1920s, states had begun mandating renewal for personal vehicle registration. At this time, individual states began experimenting with different methods for creating the plates. The front would typically contain registration numbers in large, centered digits while smaller lettering on one side dictated the abbreviated state name and a two- or four-digit year the registration was valid during. By 1920, citizens were required to obtain new plates from the state each year. Oftentimes these would vary in color year to year to make it easier for police to identify expired registrations.



A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2017

MEETING LOCATION: CAVALINIS IN THE TINLEY PARK TRAIN STATION

HOSTS: AL AND SANDY KALETA

MEMBER NEWS: Wally and Kay's guests, Bob and Robin Rodriguez were introduced as prospective members. They stated they are looking to purchase a Model A Ford.

NEW BUSINESS: 2018 BOARD:

PRESIDENT: Jon Lisota

VICE PRESIDENT: Henry Jasica

SECRETARY: Sandy Kaleta

TREASURER: Jim Wright

All prospective board members accepted their nomination and were unanimously voted into office by the membership

NEXT MONTHS MEETING: JANUARY 17, 2018.
Hosts: Phil and Nancy Servis. 220 Poplar Lane, Beecher. Phil stated this is an important meeting as we will review CPR. HE ALSO REQUESTED WE BRING NEW HEALTH FORMS FOR THE FILE. BERT EMAILED NEW FORMS TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN MID NOVEMBER.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Tim thanked Al and Sandy for a great CHRISTMAS DINNER EVENT. The food was delicious, atmosphere enjoyable and entertainment by the Will-Cook Barbershop Harmony group was terrific. Tim also thanked Gerry and Ray Schmude for the terrific table center pieces which were absolutely perfect. And thanked Norm and his staff for a wonderful event.

WE STILL NEED HOSTS FOR THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH MEETINGS.



A's R US 2018 Officers and staff

PRESIDENT

JON LISOTA

VICE PRESIDENT

HENRY JASICA

TREASURER

JIM WRIGHT

SECRETARY

SANDY KALETA

NEWSLETTER

ALBERT PARADISO

MEMBER RELATIONS

KEN CHAMIS

WEB PAGE

ALLEN BETSCHART

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY

RON BONNEAU

NATIONAL REP. & HISTORIAN

KEN CHAMIS

SGT. AT ARMS

STEVE COE



Thanks for a great 2017 and looking forward to an even better 2018!

