

Sparton News

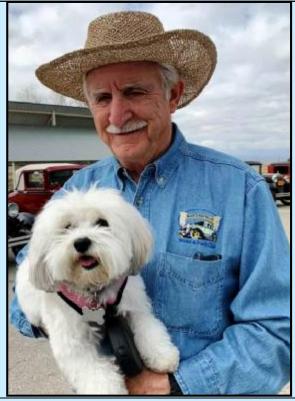
The Model A Ford Club of America - Bakersfield Chapter

The Model A Ford Club of America, Bakersfield Chapter, the first chapter, is dedicated to the preservation of the Model A Ford and its era. All are welcome. Information in the newsletter may be borrowed from other publications. Credit will be given when known.

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Rasmussen Center, 115 E. Roberts Lane.

s Inside This Issue

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Information & Presidents Message	3
Business Directory	4
Meeting Minutes	5
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	6
Tule Elk Tour Pictures	7
Meet "Poker"	8-10
Tear-out Calendar	11



President Ron and Maddie at the Tule Elk Preserve March 7, 2020

President's Message – Newsletter April 2020

Boy, so much has happened, or should I say so much has not happed, or more like so much of what was going to be happening will not be happening, since our last general meeting on March 6^{th.} The Drive an A to Dinner / CCRG planning meeting at the Skillet Diner turned into a conference call from Dan to the

Upcoming Events:

- * = Club Sanctioned Event
- *April 6, 2020 General Meeting at the Rasmussen Center - 7:00 PM. -CANCELLED
- *April 16-18, 2020 CCRG Jamboree. CANCELLED
- April 20, 2020 Wrap-up conference call to review progress on the last Jamboree conference call held on March 19, 2020 Agenda and call-in number will be forthcoming.
- *May 4, 2020 General Meeting at the Rasmussen Center - 7:00 PM.
- June 22-26, 2020 MAFCA National Convention - CANCELLED
- December 3-6, 2020 -MAFCA National Awards Banquet - Ft. Worth, Texas



Joplin, Mo.

P.O. Box 1616, Bakersfield, CA. 93302

www.bakersfield-mafca.com

April 2020 Page 2

Sunshine

Sudy Pruett, is our Sunshine Representative, she needs to know when members are ill, have surgery, or are in the hospital. Also let her know about new Model A'rs (babies), marriages, and other important events.



First of all, please call me (661) 747-4504 if you need anything. I have young children who have volunteered to shop for any of you. Stay in and stay safe. I have news of Carol Morovich who suffers from A condition in her eye that causes her to see double. She has recently had surgery and needs our prayers for a speedy and complete recovery. Sharon Davis recently had cataract surgery and Anna Brancato is also seeing better these days. The Brancatos continue to struggle with their fight against cancer. Trying times for everyone and especially seniors. Take care

Please Read!

"Our Raffle is a voluntary and entertaining way of having the members pay for the Rasmussen Room rental, as well as to fund other cash award activities in the club such as member present, driving your Model A to the meeting, etc."

April Birthdays

- 9 Danny Ritter
- 10 Rick Davis
 - Ali Dyess
- 12 Susan Quarnberg
- 13 Chuck Parker
 - Helen Rose
- 17 Shelby Foulk
- 23 Gail Malouf Harger
- 29 Shirley Osborn

April Anniversaries

- 11 Stan & Mary Nicks
- 20 Lou & Terry Marraccino
- 22 Ken & Susan Quarnberg

	<u>2020 Board of Directors</u>					
	President	Ron Black	(661) 331-9844	RonBlack30A@yahoo.com		
	1st Vice President	Mark Sheffield	(661) 619-8522	marsheff@aol.com		
	2nd Vice President	Debbie Launer	(661) 747-4911	dlauner@aol.comj		
	Secretary	Joanne Johnson	(503) 298-9395	moosecreek @msn.com		
	Treasurer	Sharon Davis	(661) 393-3317	modelagal@aol.com		
	News Editor	Dan Foulk	(661) 393-2795	bmaclub@hotmail.com		
	Member At Large	Eddie Moran	(661) 703-0904	eddiemoran415@gmail.com		
	Webmaster	Dennis Patrick	(661) 565-6464	DWP2699@gmail.com		
	Past President	Mike Martin	(661) 912-6287	martinmikepaul@gmail.com		
		Committee C	<u>Chairmanships</u>	-		
	CCRG	Dan Foulk	(661) 393-2795	bmaclub@hotmail.com		
	CCRG	Eddie Pruett	661) 619-7330	phillippruett@sbcglobal.com		
	Historian	Kirk Ritter	(661) 393-4422	kirkritter80@gmail.com		
	Property	Rick Davis	(661) 393-3317	modelarick@aol.com		
	Nominating	Rick Davis	(661) 393-3317	modelarick@aol.com		
	Raffle	Curt Nicks	(661) 399-2017	cnicks1@bak.rr.com		
	Roster	Sharon Davis	(661) 393-3317	modelagal@aol.com		
	Sunshine	Sudy Pruett	(661) 392-1668	eddiepruett@yahoo.com		
	Telephone	Annie Duckworth	(661) 399-2375			
	Vests & Jackets	Linda Jackson	(661) 393-2353	snickers@atginternet.com		
Ì	P hotographer	Gail Malouf Harger	(661) 809-7184	gailmalouf@gmail.com		
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Presidents Message (Continued from Page 1)

CCRG committee. The result was a cancellation of our CCRG Jamboree in April. The Super Cruise was postponed, our Board of Directors meeting was conducted via email and all club activities cancelled through April, the National Convention of MAFCA was cancelled and a whole host of other planned activities has been cancelled. As a matter of fact, more things have been cancelled than are happening.

Julie and I are practicing "social distancing" and the longer we are cooped up at home together the greater the distance!! We are going to try a subscription to the "Zoom" app on our computer and other devices to communicate with friends and family during these times of isolation. If this pandemic goes on very long we may be conducting our Board meetings on electronic format and possibly conduct our general meeting on the computer like a webinar. I hope it does not come to that; I already miss our times together.

Most of us in the club are in what is considered the "high risk" group. So we have to be aware and more careful as we cope with our current condition. This is causing me to think about and pray more to the "ONE" who is really in control and to take solace in His love and mercy towards us all.

Until next time, take care of yourself and may God Bless you in these uncertain times.

INFORMATION



David Bockman-West Coast Dealer

Black Walls..... \$99.00 White Walls \$175.00 \$6.00 Per Tire Shipping



5.00-19" & 4.50-21" TIRE



FEATURES:

- · 3" / 2\" WHITEWALL
- PRODUCED IN EUROPE
- OLD DIAMOND DESIGN
- TUBELESS CONSTRUCTION (USES TUBES)

Contact David Bockman: Ph (559) 901-4154 Email: carnutl23@gmail.com

Join The Model A Ford Club of America

New Membership

Spouse's Name_ Address City_ Telephone Permission to publish my telephone number in future Membership Rosters? Yes:

Return this form and payment to:

250 South Cypress Street • La Habra, CA 90631-5515

~ Membership Benefits ~

The Restorer magazine • Technical Support • Local Chapters • National Meets • Era Fashion Guidelines • "How To Restore" Series • Judging Standards and Restoration Guidelines

> Dues per year are U.S. Membership - \$50 Canada/Mexico Membership - \$60 International Membership - \$70 Make checks or money orders payable to **MAFCA**

U.S. Funds Only

Optional Initiation Package For New Members Only

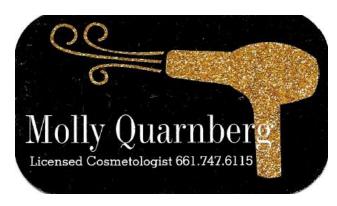
- 1 Back issue of The Restorer
 - 1 MAFCA Lapel Pin
 - 1 MAFCA Decal
 - 1 Name Badge Only \$10 extra

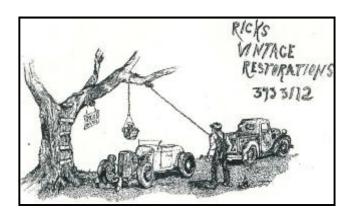


Business Directory

















Model A Ford Club of America-Bakersfield Monday, March 2nd, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Black at 7:09 PM. The flag salute was given. President Ron asked if there were any new members/guests. Birthdays for the month are Larry Rose, Curtis Culbertson, Terry Marraccino, Frank Wisehart, Hailey Wade, Judith Blackledge, Chiko Maricich, Al Baumgarten, Dennis Patrick. The Anniversaries for the month are Frank and Elia Wisehart, Al and Judy Baumgarten, Mike and Candy Martin, Ralph and Carrie Navarro.

Committee Reports

<u>Secretary</u>- A change to the minutes were made with the spelling of Mary Nicks. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Jim Berry and seconded by Linda Jackson. Motion was approved.

<u>Treasurer</u>- Sharon Davis gave the treasurer's report. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Erie Johnson, seconded by Paula Poole. Report was approved.

<u>Member-at Large</u>-Nancy Moran named the following winners: Drive an A- Kirk Ritter, Vest- Terry Marraccino, Attendance- absent

<u>Sunshine Report</u>- Sudy Pruett. We have quite a few members recovering from surgeries, and the Martin's finalized their house in Arizona. Please notify Sudy.

2nd Vice President-Debbie Launer gave the upcoming events and activities for the month of March. March 7th, Tule Elk Reserve driving tour and picnic. March 14th Super Cruise-KC Fairgrounds-50/50 Raffle. March 19th Drive an A to Skillet Diner, Hageman Road at 6:00PM, \$30.00 each. March 21st Selma Swap Meet. March 29th Orange County Pancake Breakfast and March 27th, Friday Fish Dinner- Drive your Model A to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 6:00PM.

Program

Linda Jackson, reported on the Whiskey Flat Days in Kernville. Everyone had a great time. What a great parade and day!

Old Business

The CCRG Planning meeting will be after dinner at the Skillet Diner on March 19th.

Kirk Ritter will keep track of who would like to use their car for special events, so sign up on a list. Kirk needs to check with the Kern County Museum about the display of cars. Reminder the Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 8th at Stockdale Country Club.

New Business

The club needs a new raffle chairman after the CCRG. Nominations for that position given to Rick Davis, and nominating committee. How many going to the National Convention? Staying at the KOA Kerrville? Presidents Tour would be a 3-day tour in Mid-August to Port Hueneme Naval Base.

Announcement was made about a 1937 Ford Model A used by Dave McCoy, Mammoth Mountain, first rope tow.

Refreshments with a St. Patrick's Day theme and they were great. **Raffle** had very interesting items led by Curt Nicks.

Respectfully Submitted, JoAnne Johnson, Recording Secretary

Page 6

NOTE: Normally minutes of the Board of Directors meetings are not published. However this time the board meeting was conducted via email, and therefore the results were not available to the club at large!

Board of Directors Meeting

Model A Ford Club of America. Bakersfield Chapter March 27th 2020

Minutes of email Meeting

Fellow Board Members,

I have received the electronic responses from all the board members. The results were unanimous for all four items listed on the agenda.

<u>Item 1.</u> Approval by the board to conduct this March board meeting and any other club business via email during the months of March and April, and possibly beyond. Please indicate your approval by answering yes. <u>All board members voted YES</u>

<u>Item 2.</u> Our Bakersfield Club CCRG committee had a conference call meeting on Thursday March 19th at 7:00pm, hosted by Chairman Dan Foulk.

Their primary purpose was to decide on recommendations to the Board of Directors on actions relating to the 2020 CCRG Jamboree. There were several recommendations proposed and discussed with the following being the recommendations of the committee.

- 1. Recommendations to Cancel or Postpone the 2020 CCRG Jamboree. **Their recommendation** is to Cancel the CCRG and not make any attempt to postpone it to later this year.
- 2. They recommended to contact all the our club members and all other persons who have already donated raffle prizes be contacted and asked how they wish their donation to be handled. Example, return prize to provider, donate prize to regular club raffle, donate to Christmas Dinner Raffle, etc.
- 3. Promotional gifts and donations, those companies or individuals who gave donations or gifts will be contacted and get instructions from them as to the disposition of those gifts and donations.
- 4. There was also some discussion as to Postponing the CCRG Jamboree to next year or two years from now. This decision was determined to be a decision to be made after consulting with the CCRG Committee. Whether to modify the current CCRG rotation by Bakersfield taking an earlier year in the future than the historical rotation would require a member of our club to volunteer to become the Bakersfield Chairman for an accelerated time schedule and the Board of Directors vote to take on an accelerated time schedule. "Dan refused to volunteer!!!"

Please indicate your approval of the four recommendations by the Bakersfield CCRG Committee 2020 CCRG Jamboree by saying yes to item 2. . All board members voted YES

<u>Item 3.</u> Approval by the board to cancel the April general meeting scheduled for April 6th. Please indicate your approval by saying yes to item 3. . <u>All board members voted YES</u>

<u>Item 4.</u> Approval by the board to cancel any other official club activities for the month of April. Please indicate your approval by saying yes to item 4. . <u>All board members voted YES</u>

Please feel free to include in your email any other items you feel we should to consider and any recommendations you may have. **None of the board members raised any other items to be considered at this time.**

Now that all board members have responded and the vote being completed and unanimous for all items on the agenda and no further business to be conducted the electronic board meeting is now adjourned until the next electronic board scheduled for April 27th.

The Secretary of the Board, JoAnne Johnson is hereby directed to enter these minutes as the official minutes for the March board meeting

Feel free to call, text, or email me with any information wish to discuss.

In the meantime, be safe

Ron Black President - Bakersfield Chapter MAFCA

Club Tour to Tule Elk Preserve - A Perfect Day Trip!



Dawn led us in



Waiting for Lunch

Now to Relax!



A Great place to Show off our Cars.

Doodl ebug Articl e (Thanks to Dave Bockman and Charter Oaks A's)

Doodlebug tractor is the colloquial name for a home-made tractor made in the United States during World War II when production tractors were in short supply. The Doodlebug of the 1940s was usually based on a 1920s or 1930s era Ford automobile which was then modified either by the complete removal or alteration of some of the vehicle body. The preservation of examples of the Doodlebug tractor has gotten popular in New England and upstate New York where there are several clubs [1] [2] holding monthly meet-ups in the summer months to put their contraptions to the test by pulling large stone boats in a tractor pull.

History

Doodlebugs had many names. Friday Tractors, Jitterbugs, Field Crawlers, and many others as well as the most common, The DoodleBug which was a nick name for the aftermarket tractor kit made by David Bradley "The old DB". Initially the idea of the homemade tractor came from several catalog and implement companies in the mid 1920's to the mid 1930's such as New Deal[3], Peru Plow Co., Thrifty Farmer [4], Sears, Montgomery Ward, Pull Ford, and Johnson Mfg Co.

The conversion kits were expensive, some as much as \$300 and farmers, hit hard by the Great Depression were a resourceful lot. Magazines such as Popular Mechanics & Mechanics Illustrated provided instructions for building a "Handy Henry" from that "old Ford sitting in your back yard, using simple tools anyone would have." The cost to build a "Handy Henry" made from an old **Model T** car or truck was about \$20 according to the 1936 edition of the Handy Man's Home Manual, and this provided a serviceable vehicle with rubber tires, a big truck rear end and two transmissions to make up for the gear reduction that the kits came with.

These Doodlebugs were used to plow, hay, haul logs, and pull out stumps. To do all this, the doodlebug needed good ground clearance for use in any conditions, going under trees, and climbing most any terrain. For protection they had a hood, cowl radiator, a small seat, some had a small truck bed, and most had a hitching point to tow with.[5]

(Unknown author and found on the internet by Dave Bockman)

I found the above write-up in a Sparton News published in April 2012 as I was looking for some reference material about the 2012 Jamboree for this issue. Ironic, that it was 8 years ago to the exact month that I published it. Since we didn't have our 2020 Jamboree due to the Coronavirus scare, I wouldn't have needed the reference material anyway. But it did give some base to the fact that I worked the past 8 years on a Doodlebug for this Jamboree.

I intended to introduce "Poker" to everyone at the Jamboree, but since it didn't happen, this will have to be the introduction.

Meet "Poker"

By Dan Foulk

was born in Hillsdale, Michigan, which is in Hillsdale County one of the southernmost tiers of counties in Michigan, about 10-15 miles north of the Ohio border. It is a rural area, mostly small farms and woodlots, and the terrain is rolling hills. My parents lived in the same house all of their married lives, a 120 year old two story home that my Dad bought in 1939, and paid \$1500 for. The house occupied a 10 acre plot within the

city limits of the village of Jonesville. My Dad was born in Indiana, but moved to Jonesville when he was seven years old. All of his life my Dad had an unusual nickname, that being "Poker", and he was known far and wide by that name. The 10 acres was split between 3 acres of pastureland, and 7 acres of swampy woodlot. My Dad was a line crew foreman for the local power utility. Looking back on my youth, it was an idyllic place to grow up!

My Dad had a good job, he wasn't cheap, but he was always careful about not wasting his money. We ate well, and there was usually a late model Ford or Chevrolet in the garage. At some point, he decided to have the hardwood harvested off from the 7 acre woodlot, I would have been 5-6 years old. Due to the nature of the land, this all had to be done in the winter when the soil was fro-



zen. After the wood was harvested, my Dad was very disappointed, he had no experience with loggers, so little did he know, that the only part of the tree that they cared about was the trunk from the ground up to where the leaf canopy started. The tops of the trees were just cut off, and left on the ground to rot. This whole scenario made my Dad sick, our house used wood and coal for heat. There was 3-4 years worth of firewood left lying on the ground. What to do? Dad bought a Doodlebug, so he would have some way of getting those treetops to higher ground, so they could be cut up for firewood. My life lit up! I can remember the day we went to look at the Doodlebug. The owner was a man named Archie Clark, he was a typical backyard mechanic of the day. He had several Doodlebugs, we picked one to buy. Hence started my love affair with all things automotive. I loved that Doodlebug, I can remember sitting on it, waiting for my Dad to get home from work, so we could "snake" some logs out of the woods, it was a formative time of my life. Alas, it was not to last. My Dad, as talented as he was, was a terrible mechanic, keeping that old Doodlebug running was more than he bargained for. After a couple of years, he swapped for an un-styled John Deere "L", this got me interested in tractors, which is another story, but I never forgot about that Doodlebug, and have always wanted one.

ast forward to 2010. I had been in the Bakersfield Model A Club for over 10 years, and had mentioned to some club members that I had an interest in Doodlebugs, Californians barely knew what I was talking about! I was the newsletter editor, and one day, one of the club members called me, and wanted to place an ad in the newsletter. I asked him what he had? He told me he had two AA frames. One of them was complete with engine, transmission, rear end, and wheels. He said everything was good, but the frame had been hacked up badly, and was un-restorable. However, the 2nd frame which was naked, was in excellent condition, all that needed to be done, was to move the good parts from the bad frame to the good frame, and one would have an excellent base for an AA truck. I asked him what he was asking for everything, he said \$200. I told him no need to put an ad in the newsletter, I wanted everything! I of course was thinking Doodlebug all the time. What I wanted most, was the engine, transmission, and rear end. There were six wheels, all in good condition, and all 1931's, they are now enhancing a 1931 School Bus restoration in New Braufels, Texas. I had no interest in the frames, so I gave them to my friend Andy Brancato who helped me get all this stuff home. I took the engine, rear-end, and wheels, the transmission was full of water, and was shot! Time was flying, it was 2011, and I had been elected to the MAFCA Board of Directors. Being on the MAFCA board, is a wonderful place to meet new people, not only that, but every year, the board changes a little, so you keep meeting new people. In chatting with one of my newfound friends, Dave Vestal, I told him of my inter-



est in someday building a Doodlebug. He told me he had a Model A car frame, that somebody had hacked the back 18 or so inches off from, he told me I could have it! I took it, we met in Turlock, and loaded the frame into my trailer, progress, but not before Dave had dropped the frame on one of his toes, and smashed it badly. The next step in the birthing of my Doodlebug, I was talking with Rick Davis, who runs a Model A repair/restoration shop in Bakersfield, who told me, "I have something that will make your Doodlebug truly a one of a kind creation". It was the front end of a Model A, on which the front axle had been

shortened by six inches. Shortened to be used as an orchard spray rig, so it would fit between the trees! How lucky can you get!. A lot of this stuff would be worthless for restoring, but perfect for a special creation.

ell, I had collected a lot of parts that would eventually become components of my Doodlebug. The tedious part was about to begin. The engine had 30 years or so of caked on crud built up on it, the orchard sprayer front end must have had at least 10 coats of paint. The construction of my Doodlebug lagged, not fun doing all that cleaning and scrapping! Also, parts were still needed. Remember, the transmission was full of water? I did have a serviceable standard 3 speed Model A transmission, a remnant from a transmission upgrade to my Roadster Pickup. Rick Davis, the same guy who had the narrow front end saved the day again. He had a "3 to 1 step-down" gearbox that was made for a Model A transmission, most likely used to run a carousel, or Ferris wheel with. It had been laying around in his shop unused for 20 years.

Hooking the "step-down" box to my three speed driving a AA rear-end, would be perfect for a Doodlebug. Another friend, Eddie Pruitt, who runs a machine shop in Bakersfield built a short driveshaft (about 8 inches) with one U-joint in it, to connect the 3 speed transmission to the AA rear-end, it worked perfectly. Top speed

in high gear might hit 20 MPH! Many parts were still needed, I picked up a Model T Cowl(\$50) in Turlock, and a nice '29 steering wheel in Selma (\$5). In early 2018, my friend Andy Brancato said we should try to start the engine. Work on the Doodlebug had all but stopped, I had pretty much lost interest. The engine was still filthy, and other than occasionally cranking it over, not much had been done. We did know that it had compression, and no internal parts seemed to be broken. Well, I hauled the engine to Andy's house where we proceeded with getting it started. First, we pulled the pan, and checked the bottom end to make sure it was all intact. Then, we



started that old engine, which possibly hadn't been started for 20 or 30 years, and guess what, it ran amazingly well. What we also found out, was that it was a very desirable "Diamond" engine, the 1937 equivalent of a modern day "Crate Engine" built 6 years after the last Model A. Later compression checks show that at least from a compression standpoint, the engine is in excellent condition. Well, guess what, starting that engine re-inspired me. I got the engine cleaned up, the paint off the frame, and progress has been steady since. At one point, I did about throw-in-the-towel though. The engineering required to make that Model T cowl fit that Model A frame was more than I could handle, my welding skills are nil. My friend Rick with the Model A restoration shop and his assistant Dennis Patrick have helped from that point on. What we eventually did was trade the Model T cowl to another friend of mine, Mike Martin who just happened to have a Model A cowl. The engineering has been much smoother since then. Other components that make up this Doodlebug are: Model T fenders turned backwards mounted on the rear wheels, "Guide" sealed beam headlights, an antique squeeze bulb horn given to me by one of my Granddaughters Nichole, and her husband Clark. The steps are buggy steps. The picture in the speedometer location of the dash panel is my dad (Poker) and me taken in 1990. Note the two emergency brake handles, they are for turning, each handle brakes one rear wheel. The seat is from a '70's Chevrolet Pickup, and is the 2/3 portion of a 1/3-2/3 front seat. The Model "T" fenders, the Guide headlights, buggy steps, emergency brake handles, dash panel, and the seat, and much more were all

provided by Rick, all from what he calls "Junk" from his shop. The custom "Poker" license plate was given by Rick's daughter, Dawn, as a memorial to my Dad. The trailer hitch is off from a Toyota pickup (It fit without modification!), and is from my grandson Blake.

Building and working on "Poker" has been a blast, I never knew I had such good friends, without them, this would just be another unfinished bunch of parts that my wife would someday have to figure out how to get rid of. Thank you all!



For some reason, the Calendar Software that I have used since May 2011, has quit working, I don't know why. Most likely added to or subtracted from a list somewhere. What I would like to know, is how many people really care whether we have a calendar? The latest version of Calendar Creator is not very expensive, less than \$35.00, so not a huge hit if you really want to keep it. Please email me with your choice, do we need it, or not?

Thanks, Dan





P.O. Box 1616 Bakersfield, CA 93302

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· ───	Model A Ford Club of America, Bakersfield Chapter	