



A vintage 1920 Maytag washing machine engine, modified to crank an ice cream maker, was popping away and churning homemade ice cream. The occasion was a celebration of the 50 year anniversary of the Bakersfield Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). Club members lined up their Model A's in the parking lot of Emerald Cove Park and gathered together for a pot luck dinner, flying model airplanes, and talking about the old days.

The club was started in 1958 by Luke McCoy and Gene Gallups. Charter member and club historian, Edwina McCoy-Barnes, is still very active in the club. Reminiscing about the club's beginnings Edwina said "The first meeting was held at O.C. Ransom's Little Neighborhood Store and Pool Hall on Union Avenue. Our first outing was to Edwards, where the base is now. Several families drove their A's out there and they camped on an island in the dry lake bed near Rosamond. Captain Ivan Kincheloe, test pilot of the Bell X2 was a member of the club. He bought his Model A from another test pilot, Pete Evers, who bought the car from test pilot Captain Chuck Yaeger. We also had the "Frazier Park Pot Luck" which was first held in Oct. 1958 but was discontinued in the 1970's. Then in 1991 it was started up again and is now an annual event attended by members from all over Southern and Central California.

The Model A Ford's were only produced from 1928 to 1931 but there are many various body styles. There are Roadsters, Coupes, Fordors, Tudors, Cabriolets, Phaetons, Pickups, Victorias, A-400s, AAs (Commercial Vehicles) and Woody's. In the four year period of the Model A Production

there were 5 million of them made.

Once a month the club tours somewhere with the cars. We've been just about everywhere in California including Death Valley. Every two years the A's travel out of state to a convention. This year it was Dallas, Texas (where the A's got to race on the NASCAR Texas Speedway!) and in two years it will be Vancouver, Canada. Several of our members have even driven their cars up Pike's Peak in Colorado.

During our travels, there's a rubber chicken in a club vest that gets passed around when a car breaks down (or runs out of gas). Henry Bear, our club ambassador (a stuffed gentleman), comes with us sometimes if he's not on a world tour somewhere. We also have a "Drive Your A to Dinner" night every month which gives us a chance to check out various eateries around Bakersfield. Meetings are on the first Monday of every month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Rasmussen Center.

The Bakersfield Chapter is also responsible for the restoration of the Sonora Gas Station that's on display at the Kern County Museum. Our talented members even found and restored the era gas pumps. We were honored to receive a Bakersfield Beautiful Award for our efforts.

As the anniversary party continued, the washing machine engine died. A group of grandchildren jumped in to take turns hand cranking the ice cream. When it was finished, it was delicious and was served with cake decorated with Model A's. It goes to show that this is a family club and the kids are encouraged to participate for they are the next generation of Model A drivers.

Eddie Pruett, our club President, always says "What an adventure". Yes, with the Model A's, it's always an adventure.

Aaaaooogahh! - Sharon Davis

The above article originally appeared in the Northwest Voice magazine in December 2008. The occasion was the 50th birthday of the Bakersfield club, which we celebrated at Emerald Cove Park in June. - Ed.