



# Rumble Seat Review



April 2021

## Beehive A's - The Model A Club of Northern Utah



**1929 Closed Cab Pickup  
Belonging to Past President Karen Stoker**



Beehive A's is a Chapter  
of the Model A Ford  
Club of America

## President's Message

**Dennis Thompson**

Thanks to Randy Ropelato for planning the March Dust Off Tour. Even though it was a rainy morning the attendance was above forty people. What that tells me is that we are willing to go back out in public to attend activities. A few diehard members drove their cars. It was good to see club members out again.

Our April club meeting will be held at Dan Johnson's home. The address will be here in the newsletter under the Next Meeting topic below, so please take note. Also please bring a chair. Dan will also be giving the tech talk on engine bearings.

A big thanks to Ray Wheelwright for giving the tech talk at the March meeting on steering boxes. Ray's knowledge and experience is top notch. We are all fortunate to have him as a resource. He has assisted me and many others in the club when we have mechanical problems.

Also, a big thanks to Heidi Pitkin for volunteering her husband Clay to be President Elect for 2021 and President for 2022. This is not Clay's first rodeo as president so I am confident he will do well.

Moving forward we will be setting up more activities. We do not have many long term calendar events because of the pandemic status. Once the public is able to move about more freely we can plan additional activities. It is difficult making plans with everything being limited. If you have any ideas on club events please feel free to present them. I would like to have some new events.

Dennis

## New Members

There were no new members in March.

## Next Meeting

Our April meeting will be held at Dan Johnson's shop, address below!

Monday, April 12, 2021 7:00 PM

Topic: Measuring Bearings

[Http://beehivea.com](http://beehivea.com)

Location: 2025 N 3900 W  
Plain City, UT

**Please bring chairs!**

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED**

## Business

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## 2021 Dues

**JUST A REMINDER, IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2021 PLEASE CONTACT JIM BROWN. DUES ARE \$20.00 PER YEAR. THANK YOU.**

## Past Events

### APRIL MEETING

Past President Rick Berry called the meeting to order in behalf of President Dennis Thompson who was detained. He again thanked Dean Murray for the continued use of his offices to hold the meetings.

Dennis Thompson arrived and discussed the tour of Western Radiator the week before. About 25 people attended and brought about 6 classic cars. They took a tour of the shop and company representatives showed the process they used to repair and clean out radiators. It was an interesting tour and we thank Western Radiator for the time they spend with us. Please support those that support us! You can reach Western Radiator at (801) 393-8283, they are





located at 3050 Pennsylvania Ave in Ogden.



Upcoming tours and events include:

- Vintage Caterpillar Tour (Spring)
- Classic Car Auction May 1, 2021
- Car Games (no date set)

The April meeting will be held at a different location! Dan Johnson has graciously offered to host us at his workshop located at 2025 North 3900 West, in Plain City, UT. He will provide a technical demonstration on measuring babbitt bearings. Please bring a folding chair.

Jim Brown, the Secretary and Treasurer reported the Club finances are remaining static and the Club is solvent.

The March Newsletter announced the passing of former member Virginia Briscoe. The Club donated \$50.00 and we passed the hat at the March meeting to gather donations for the Alzheimer's Foundation in her memory. \$69 was donated at the meeting bringing the total to \$119.

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Russ Baker passed out the sign-up sheet for the Sixth Annual Classic Car Auction that will be held at Thanksgiving Point on May 1 this year. Members were able to sign up to drive the auction cars at the event and raise funds for the Club. More information will follow as the event gets closer.

President Dennis Thompson opened nominations for the position of President Elect. Clay Pitkin was nominated, accepted the nomination and was elected as President Elect for 2021. He will assume the president's position in 2022.

A technical talk on steering boxes was presented by Ray Wheelwright. He discussed the differences between the original 7-tooth steering, found in '28 and early '29 Model A's and the later '29 thru '31 2-tooth model developed by Gemmer. Ray discussed rebuilding options and shared information on preventing and fixing leaks in the steering box.

Clay Pitkin led a discussion on topics of interest for future tech talks. Interest was expressed in tires, wheel selection (including 16" wheels), brake adjusting and rebuilding, front end alignments, antifreeze and oils, engine diagnosis, overall performance, shocks, welding, paint, modern updates to the cars, 12 vs. 6 volts, panel bonds and tops.

The meeting was well attended with over 30 people and about 8 cars being there. There would have been an additional car there, but President Dennis Thompson's car decided to test his mechanical skills by breaking down on his way to the meeting. Dennis rose to the occasion and the car once again runs like a top (it also has the cleanest engine ever!).

A thank you to Clay and Heidi Pitkin for the treats and the treats for April's meeting will be provided by Randy and Gloria Ropelato.

### DUST OFF TOUR



Special Events Coordinator Randy Ropelato picked a nice spring day for the Dust (Wash) Off Tour and announced it would be held Rain or Shine. Not a lot of shine happened, but it sure did rain.



About 43 members and spouses met at the Ramblin' Roads Café for breakfast and enjoyed the good company, told stories, swapped parts and had a great meal. A few went on to the Hill Air Force Base Museum for a self-guided tour of the bases historic aircraft. About eight members drove Model A's and the rest chickened out. Due to a lack of interest, the Antelope Island tour was cancelled.

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The Model A Ford Foundation is always looking for individuals who love the Model A hobby and are interested in the history of the Era to serve on the MAFFI Board of Trustees. Briefly, the MAFFI board has the



responsibility of overseeing the Model A Ford Museum at the Gilmore and encouraging Model A'ers around the country to support the museum through membership in MAFFI and through additional donations to museum operations or the museum Endowment Fund.

The board meets once a year on the Thursday before Model A Day at the Gilmore which falls on the third Saturday of September. Attendance at the meeting and Model A Day is strongly encouraged. Meetings and business are also conducted through email and conference phone calls so a trustee must have access to a computer for email. We like to have representation on the board from all areas of the country. We would like to also encourage women to serve on the board.

A trustee serves for three years and is eligible to serve a second consecutive term if he or she desires. Trustees must be a member in good standing of MAFFI and we strongly encourage each trustee to support both national clubs, MAFCA and MARC through membership as well. We ask that while serving on the MAFFI Board,



you do not run for or accept positions on another national club's board. If you think you may be interested in serving on the MAFFI Board, please contact our Executive Director, John Marshall ([ExecutiveDirector@maffi.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@maffi.org)), or John Begg ([President@maffi.org](mailto:President@maffi.org)).

## Member/Car Profile

**PAST PRESIDENT, KAREN STOKER**

Karen Stoker is an interesting lady. Need a pattern to make clothes? She's probably got it. How about a 1920's period suit with tie and a hat to match? She's probably got that too. Need something welded, well she can't do that anymore, but she used to weld. She has done a lot of things over the years from costuming period films and videos to working for an



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auction house. One of the most interesting things she's done is restore a 1929 closed cab pickup truck.

She picked the truck up from a field near Lagoon. Those of us a bit older than most probably remember that field with LOTS of Model A's. When I was a kid every trip to Salt Lake City took a detour past the field. Now it's all just disappeared. But Karen got something from it, a very rough condition truck. She keeps an album with pictures showing the day she picked it up and the restoration process. It was in sad shape, with lots of rot down one side, but obviously, it had potential. One of the pictures shows her beaming as the wrecker gets ready to move it to her barn for storage.

That was 1981. The path was long and tough, but with a lot of help from some of our senior member it was done in 1989, and it was stellar.

The restoration got off to a rocky start with the first person who helped her. She recognized the path being taken wasn't where she wanted it to go and moved the truck to other people who helped her, including Beehive A members Randy Christiansen who did a lot of the mechanical. Devere Brough did much of the body work and Ray Wheelwright put it all together.

Karen talks about going to spend time working on restoring the truck. She soon learned what overspray is and her album show her dressed in work clothes



Facebook Beehive Model A's

from head to toe (literally, she wore a big scarf over her hair) to avoid getting covered in overspray as they painted.

The pictures capture the saving of the truck, the body work, primer, frame and engine. Lots of sweat and work went into saving that little truck.

Finally, in 1989 it was done. Karen has ridden it in countless parades and taken it to lots of car shows. Karen is proud of the work she and other members did to get that little truck done. She is very appreciative of those that helped along the way. As she talked about everyone that helped, some of whom have passed, she got a bit misty eyed thinking about all they contributed to make her dream come true.

She joined the Beehive A's in 1981 and was president in 1988. One of the members, who is long gone from the club now, made a comment about having a woman in a leadership position, but that didn't deter Karen. She took the bull by the horns and served well for her years in office.

Over the years she has collected all the old rosters and newsletters. She keeps them in albums and they are pretty fun to look through.

Karen lost her husband in the early 2000s and Rudy Eilander, who Karen previously knew, dated and eventually married. Karen brought to the marriage the Model A pickup and a 1965 yellow mustang convertible with a 289 and a four speed transmission (Hurst shifter!). Rudy brought a 27 Model T. Together they have a 1931 Fordor and a 28 Coupe.

They have a fantastic home and shop to house the cars. Karen has an authentic 1920s gas pump she bought in Nevada and had restored and painted in Shell colors, a very nice license plate collection and lots of period automotive signs.

One section of their shop is a work area where Karen restores license plates. She currently has several in progress.

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Visiting with Karen and Rudy was an experience we will long remember. Karen took my brother for a ride in the truck (he has a '28 truck he bought partially because he had seen her truck at show and admired it) and Rudy took me for my first ride in a Model T. Thanks Rudy! Karen and Rudy's cars are amazing, the Model A stories they tell are enjoyable and visual experience of their antiques, cars and workshop are fantastic.

Karen is an amazing woman. If you every visit ask to see their shop and cars. Oh, by the way, don't forget to ask to see the hats.



## Member News

Member Roy Van Orman co-authored an article for the *Restorer* magazine's March/April 2021 issue on "Repairing Fenders and Patching Rusted-Out Body Parts". The article was a summary of a technical session given at the Salty A's. He co-authored the article with David Kamanski, an auto body man and fellow Salty A's member. Catch the article if you can and see how to replace and repair rusty body parts with patch patches.

## Long Range Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Locations
April 6	Lehi Cruise Night	Lehi
April 7	Jordan Landing Free Cruise	Jordan Landing
April 12 7:00 PM	Meeting Measuring Bearings	Dan Johnson's Shop 2025 N 3900 W Plain City, UT
April 22	Valley Fair Cruise Night	Salt Lake
April 24	Jolly's Spring Fling	Brigham City

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April 27	Garage Grill Cruise Night	Draper
April 28	Burger Stop Cruise Night	Layton
May 1	Classic Car Auction	Thanksgiving Point
May 1	Lake Powell Cruiser Car Show	Page, Arizona
May 5	Jordan Landing Free Cruise	Jordan Landing
May 10 7:00 PM	Meeting	625 S 1200 W Marriott Slaterville City
May 14-15	UVU Car Show and Swap Meet	U.V.U.
May 16	Jelsco Car Show	Harrisville, UT
May 21-23	Good Guys Salt Lake Nationals	Utah Fair Park
May 25	Garage Grill Cruise Night	Draper
May 26	Burger Stop Cruise Night	Layton
May 27	Valley Fair Cruise Night	Salt Lake
June 2	Jordan Landing Free Cruise	Jordan Landing
June 5	Malad Car Show	Malad, ID
June 6	Picnic in the Park	Roy City Municipal Park
June 14	Meeting	5568 S Adams Avenue Washington Terrace, UT
June 12	Sounds of Freedom Car Show	Layton Commons Park
June 22	Garage Grill Cruise Night	Draper
June 23	Burger Stop Cruise Night	Layton
June 24	Valley Fair Cruise Night	Salt Lake
June 26	Heritage Days Car Show	Syracuse
June 26	Back to the 50s	Heber City
July 1	Cache Valley Cruise In	Cache County Fairgrounds
July 4	Flaming Gorge Resort Car Show	Dutch John
July 7	Jordan Landing Cruise Night	West Jordan

July 10	Angels in the Park Car Show	Copperton
July 12	Meeting	5568 S Adams Avenue Washington Terrace, UT
July 16	Advance Auto Parts Car Show	Ogden
July 22	Valley Fair Cruise Night	West Valley City
July 24	Annual Car Show Junkie	Kamas

## Tech Corner

### TOE IN

Four Model A's in the family keeps life interesting. This past summer and on warm days this winter we've had a lot of work to do. The '29 Fordor lost second gear and, surprise, surprise, it didn't have a Model A transmission, but had a type 39 with Lincoln Zephyr gears and a bunch of missing parts. The '28 Closed Cab has about three bolts on it that we didn't turn since it was acquired during the spring season of last year. But the good news is they all seem to be running dependably at the moment. One thing they all had in common was loose steering. In pulling the drag link and tie rod on the '28 pickup we learned that the balls on the spindle arms were very oval and worn. The drag link holes were also out of shape. They all got replaced, as did the tie rod ends and all the interior parts for those and the drag link. After we got everything replaced, and before driving it, we decided to adjust the toe in. Toe in gauges are fairly easy to find but are over a hundred dollars for something that is not used very often. A search of the internet showed that some clever people had figured out how to make one with commonly available items, so we built one.

### Bill of Materials:

- 4 feet of 1" class 200 PVC pipe (class 200 is thinner walled and lets the 3/4" pipe slide inside)
- 4 feet of 3/4" schedule 40 PVC pipe
- 1" cap
- 3/4" cap
- Hole plug Hillman 139479 3/4"



- Spring (11/16" x 1 1/4") EVERBILT
- 2 - 1/4" screws
- 4 - 1/4" bolts to hold the screws to the caps
- 1" coupling
- 2 - 5" pieces of lite chain

Cut the 1" PVC down to about 44", cut the 3/4" PVC down to about 36". Cut a window out of the 1" PVC to allow you to see the 3/4" pipe when it's placed inside the bigger pipe.

Drill both end caps to allow the 1/4" screws to go through.

Sharpen the ends of the screws and insert into

the endcaps, place a nut over each screw to tighten down. Now slide the chain onto the screw and put a nut over it to secure it. The chain needs to rotate when the device is rolled with the vehicle.



Glue the end caps to the respective pipes. Glue the hole plug to the other end of the 3/4" pipe. Place the spring in the larger pipe and then insert the smaller pipe.

Cut the 1" coupling length-wise and use a file or sandpaper to remove the raised partition inside the coupling to allow it to slide across the surface of the 1" pipe. Scribe a line halfway down the length of the coupling (a Sharpie works well) to provide a reference point. Slide the coupling over the larger pipe and over the window, the lengthwise cut should be over the window. Place the device between the front wheels of a car and scribe a line on the inside pipe located in the window. The line of the coupling is the reference line and the one in the window on the smaller pipe is the measurement line.



I drilled a hole through both pipes and inserted a cotter pin to keep it all together when stored.

To test the toe in, the car must be on a flat level surface. Some say it helps to roll the car backward and forward several times, but that's not something we've observed. Leave plenty of room to roll the car forward and place the measuring device with the screws on the insides of the wheels (usually there is a bead or something going around the tire that you can use to put the device in the same location on each tire). Adjust it so the 5" chains just touch the floor. Move your sliding coupling until the



line on it aligns with the line inside the window of the larger pipe. Now roll the car forward until the device is on the backside of the wheels and the chains are just touching the ground. Check the toe in by looking at the lines on the coupling and on the smaller pipe through the window in the larger pipe. You should have 1/8 to 1/16" of toe in on the front tires. Dan Johnson explained it's 1/16" front and 1/16" back for a total of 1/8" of toe in.



If the line inside the window is on the outside of the line on the coupling, you have toe in. If it's on the inside, you have toe out. Loosen the nuts on the tie rod ends, they should be castle nuts with cotter pins in them. Be careful not to bump the measuring device and rotate the tie rod to adjust the toe in. One side is left hand thread and the other is right hand so it should rotate without problems. We like to adjust it so the line in the window is just on the outer edge of the line on the coupling when the device is on the back side of the tire. We also like to tighten the tie rod ends down, roll the car back and test it one more time before locking it all down and replacing the tie rod cotter pins.

Since we replaced the steering and tie rod ends on the '28 we had no idea where it was originally, and it took a lot of adjustment to bring things into a correct location. The truck had nails in place of the cotter pins (but the plus is they were nicely painted black).

We checked the '30 Tudor and found that it was toed in over an inch and 3/8. Way too much. When you drove it at low speed it would have some wobble. Once we got

the toe in adjusted correctly it had disappeared (at least in the limited driving we've had with it).

Toe in won't fix death wobble. The axle and spindles need to be straight, the wheels true, the steering spindle balls and kingpins need to be in good condition and the steering gears and shafts as well as the drag link all need to be in good shape and properly adjusted. Once you have checked and corrected any of these deficiencies toe in should be checked and adjusted. Proper toe in will improve the drivability and steering.

Happy wrenching,

The Youngberg Brothers

## Member Sales Corner

If you would like to place a free ad in the newsletter for Model A related items, please contact Kevin Youngberg at [Beehiveas1@gmail.com](mailto:Beehiveas1@gmail.com)

### Wanted: Steering Column and Steering Gear Box

Doug Jenkins is looking for a steering column with the sector and gears for a 28. He'll take anything from 28 to 30. Contact Doug at 801-725-0207.

### Wanted: 1928 or 1929 Gas Tank

Marvin Thurn is looking for a good usable 1928 or 1929 gas tank. His number is 801-624-0701.

### Luggage Trunk

This trunk is of metal construction with a wood base. It is 15" wide by 17" high and 36" long. \$250.00 or best offer. Located in Mesquite NV. Frank Adams, [fadams@cascadeaccess.com](mailto:fadams@cascadeaccess.com) 702-379-6591.



Big Tex Car Hauler

Flatbed all metal big Tex car hauler trailer for sale like new 70DM-18 with winch \$4200. Contact Marvin Thurn 801-624-0701





### 21 Inch Wheels

Marvin Thurn has six 21 inch wheels (fits 28 or 29) for sale. Asking \$125.00 each. Contact Marvin at 801-624-0701



### 1930 Cabriolet

New motor, transmission, front springs and modern shocks. Upgrades include cast brake drums and a Mitchell overdrive. \$15,000. Contact Dennis at 801-510-5837.

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### 1929 Roadster

1929 Ford Model A Roadster, rumble seat. Brown with black fenders, this is an older restoration and needs the soft top replaced. Nice car! Asking \$15,000.00. Contact Randy Ropelato 801-731-3980.

### 1934 and 1935 V-8 Hubcaps

Two- sets of five stainless steel V-8 hubcaps. One set fits 1934 Ford and one set fits 1935 Fords. \$150.00 for each set of five. Contact Randy Ropelato 801-731-3980.

### 1928 Phaeton

1928 Ford Model A Phaeton, older restoration. Nice car! Asking \$24,000.00. Contact Randy Ropelato 801-731-3980.

### **Sponsors**



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