



THE RUNNING BOARD NEWS



www.gta-texas.com

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE A's

JUNE 2026

750 Countrywood Circle, Sour Lake, TX 77659

Facebook: Golden Triangle A's-MAFCA Club

Next Monthly Meeting

JUNE 9, 2026
6:00 PM
Elsa's Greek Grill
2604 Dowlen Rd
Beaumont, Texas



June Events

9th—GTA Meeting
11-14th—Texas Tour, Mineral Wells
21st—Father's Day
25th—Last Thursday with the Prez
Dairy Queen @ 11:00 A.M.
3995 Phelan Blvd, Beaumont, Texas

2026—CELEBRATING 31 YEARS AS A MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA

The Golden Triangle A's have been serving the Southeast Texas Model A community since January 10, 1995. With regular meetings, tours and activities, it is our goal to unite all Model A Ford owners and help in restoring, maintaining and preserving these automobiles. We strongly encourage all our members to join the Model A Ford Club of America.



THE PREZ SEZ.....

It's June and the 2026 Texas Tour is here! It looks like our little club is going to have 16 to 18 members attend, along with 7 or 8 Model As. Those are impressive numbers for a small club like ours. We are going to have a great time visiting historic sites in and around Mineral Wells and tour some nice scenic Model A roads in the area. Six to eight club members plan to dress in Era Fashions and participate in the fashion walks during the main banquet on Saturday night. That will be lots of fun.

On a more serious note, we recently lost long-time member Rodney Block, and he is really going to be missed. Rodney was generally the quietest person in the room and always soft spoken, but ready to talk about Model As and flat-head V8 Fords when the subjects came up. He owned, restored, and kept those early Fords since he was a teenager and was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with anyone who asked. Rodney was an Army veteran who was drafted in 1961 and was Honorably Discharged in 1963 after serving in the medical field. At his funeral, he was recognized and received a full military service along with the 21-gun salute, bugle taps, and the US flag retirement and presentation to his loving wife, Emma. The Color Guard presentation was done by the Southeast Texas veterans group and was by far the best military send off for a veteran I have ever seen. It was wonderful to see a veteran recognized for the unconditional love, commitment, and sacrifices they made for our country. There was not a dry eye in the church during this moving ceremony, and it made me proud to know and call Rodney a friend.

On Wednesday, May 20th, we had an impromptu lunch gathering at the Schooner Seafood Restaurant in Nederland. We had an amazing 18 GTA members there and one guest. It is funny how good food, great location, and a luncheon anniversary special will get people out!

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be less than 10 days before the Mineral Wells Texas Tour. I hope everyone got those last minute maintenance issues worked out on your Model A. It is never fun working on your A on the side of the road or in the parking lot when you could have done those things in your home garage. Now, go wipe down that Model A and get ready to tour. Happy Motoring, Bob



On May 10th, we lost a long time member, Rodney Block. He was such a kind & loving man, and he will be missed!

Officers:

President: Bob Johnson (409)781-3078
V. Pres.: Dennis Weyant (409)651-5165
Secretary: Karen Parsley (409) 651-7878
Treasurer: Paul Smith (409)673-6318

Tour Chair: Bob & Pam Johnson (409)781-3078
Restorer Reporter: Linda Patterson (409) 728-1277
Newsletter/Website/Facebook: Sylvia Butler (409)720-7315

Directors:

Wes Jones (409)722-0697
Wallace Harlow (409)720-7281
James Parsley (409)753-2523
Linda Patterson (409)728-1277

• All leaders must be MAFCA members
• GTA Membership application is on the website @
www.gta-texas.com



June is the "Pearl of Summer," shining with warmth and joy! Cheers to lazy days and sunshine rays!

GOLDEN TRIANGLE MODEL A's MEETING MINUTES
Habaneros, Beaumont, Texas
May 12, 2026

James Parsley led us in prayer.

Bob Johnson called the meeting to order and led us in the pledge to the flag.

Guests: none

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's report was approved as shown in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved as given. **Paul Smith** added funds from our checking account to the CD when he renewed it.

Newsletter Quiz: Several people answered and discussed the questions in the newsletter.

Mystery Part: **T J Parker** brought the part. **Kathy Smith's** ticket was drawn. She asked **Paul Smith** for help. The part was a shift lever spring. The spring holds the gear shift lever in the gear shifter housing.

50/50 Drawing: **Pam Johnson's** ticket was drawn.

Tech Session: None scheduled.

Bob Johnson discussed ordering club shirts from Hill Top Embroidery.

Everyone enjoyed the tour of the St. Anthony Basilica and having lunch at Riverside Grill.

The members who went on the Arkansas trip had a goodtime. The weather was great and there was music every night.

The Texas tour is coming up and you need to make sure you car is in good shape.

Our club will make a contribution to the Model A Youth Restoration Award.

The Schooner restaurant is having their lunch special again. We will plan on meeting at the restaurant on May 20th for lunch at 11:45am.

James Burns won the door prize (courtesy of **Dorothy Burk**). It was a thermometer.

Tours and Events:

May 28 – Lunch with the Prez, 11am, Nice Guy Ricky's

June 11-14 – 63rd Model "A" Ford Texas Tour, Mineral Wells, TX

Next meeting will be on June 9 – Elsa's Greek Grill, Beaumont, TX

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Parsley - Secretary



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Linda Shelton—13th
Joan Higgins—13th
James "Jim" Burns—17th
Bill Schroeder—24th



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bob & Pam Johnson—1st

GOLDEN TRIANGLE A's 2026 CALENDAR

If anyone would like to sign up for a Dine & Drive, please contact Bob & Pam Johnson at 409-781-3078. Saturday Dine and Drives: Dining may be breakfast or lunch. Details and time allowed for the events are set by host. It is best if the host gives members information for the Dine and Drive at a meeting prior to the event so it can be added to the club calendar. Eating at favorite restaurants, antiquing, trade days, festivals, car shows, visiting museums or gardens, and attending other local community events are all ideas for Dine & Drives.

MARCH 10th—GTA Meeting 21st—Dine & Drive Hosted by the Smiths 26th-11:00 Last Thursday w/the Prez @ Pine Tree Lodge, LaBelle 27-29th—Poor Boy Tour	APRIL 5th—Easter 14th—GTA Meeting 23rd—Thursday w/the Prez—Meet @ Gladys City @ 9:00 AM 30—May 3—Mountain View, Arkansas Tour
MAY 12th—GTA Meeting 31-June 7—2026 MAFCA National Convention in Pendleton, OR 28th-11:00 Thursday w/the Prez @ Nice Guy Ricky's, Lumberton	JUNE 9th—GTA Meeting 11-14th—Texas Tour in Mineral Wells, TX 25th-11:00 Last Thursday w/the Prez @ Dairy Queen, Beaumont
JULY 14th—GTA Meeting 30th-11:00 Thursday w/the Prez @ Hamburger Depot, Nederland	AUGUST 11th—GTA Meeting 27th-11:00 Last Thursday w/the Prez @ Novrozsky's, Nederland
SEPTEMBER 8th—GTA Meeting 12th—International Model A Ford Day 18-19th —15th Annual Model A Days, Hickory Corners, MI 24th-11:00 Last Thursday w/the Prez @ Neches River Wheel House, Pt. Neches	OCTOBER 13th—GTA Meeting 29th-11:00 Last Thursday w/the Prez @ Schooners Restaurant, Nederland
NOVEMBER 10th—GTA Meeting 26th—Thanksgiving	DECEMBER TBD—GTA Christmas Party 10-12th—National Awards Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio

The Johnsons and the Weyants attended the Mountain View Arkansas Tour on April 30—May 3. Bob reported that 14 people with 8 Model A's were on the tour. Looks like a great tour. Thanks Bob for sharing the pictures.



18 members and one guest enjoyed lunch at the Schooner Restaurant on May 20. Great food and fellowship!



Martha's son was our guest.





HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR SHOCK ABSORBERS TODAY?

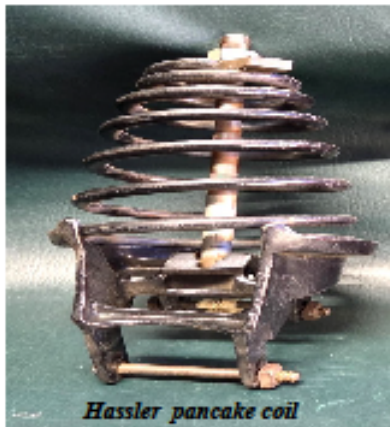
Area 23 in the *Model A Restoration Guidelines and Judging Standards* has a plethora of information about shocks. Here is a little bit of history. Most of us consult this area to learn whether we have the right shocks for our car and whether they all match. We seldom do much more with them.

Have you ever ridden in a Model T? The ride was pleasant on our modern roads, provided you didn't go too fast? Early Model Ts did not have shocks. Henry Ford felt that the leaf springs that were situated between the side rails were sufficient to absorb the bumps on the dirt and gravel roadways. However, as the vehicle moved faster, the leaf springs could respond quickly to the independent movement of the wheels and continue to respond, bouncing from side to side. Several types of shocks were available—Hassler “pancake” coil shocks attached to the axle near the wheel absorbed the pressure and lessened the bounce.

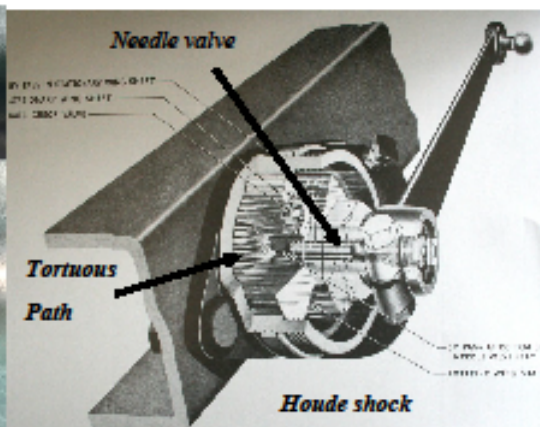
Stromberg Anti-Shox were mounted on the middle of the leaf spring, attached to the axle, restricting the rate of return of the springs to their normal configuration. There were also some shocks that relied on fluids to absorb the shock. These were all available in the early 1920's with expensive vehicles using them first.

Ford had no shock absorbers on the first 200 Model A Fords. All shock absorbers were made under license from Maurice Houdaille to Houde Engineering and subsequently licensed to National Acme, Spicer and Ford. There were 52 varieties with Houde and Spicer providing the majority of the shocks (36). Several cover changes are known with Houde making 15 total and Ford making just 3. These changes included cover design, cover shape (flat and indented), base design, filler plugs, packing nuts and needle valves. Additionally, shock absorber arms had several differences (parting lines differed—front or side). Shock link tubes also had several changes over time. And don't forget that shocks have side designations—left or right.

Just a little explanation about fluid mechanics might be in order. Liquids can be compressible or incompressible. Air is compressible to a point where it occupies a much smaller volume whereas water or oil is incompressible and cannot be forced to occupy as smaller volume. The shocks have a liquid that was originally a mixture of glycerin



Hassler pancake coil



Houde shock



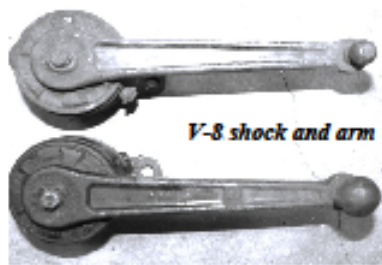
Houde shock HC2—Ford
11/1928 to 12/1928

and alcohol (M-1046). The current liquid that is used is a 30 weight hydraulic fluid with a viscosity of 150-200 cps. The dampening effect of the shock is dependent upon the viscosity and tortuous path within the shock absorber itself. The needle valve provides a means of controlling the response with changes of the weather as well as the weight of the vehicle. Information for servicing your shock absorber is found in Volume 12, No. 2 of the *Ford Service Bulletin* (published in February, 1931).

With the introduction of the Ford V-8, a newer shock was designed. It used the same principle, but was a more compact shape. Houde shocks continued to be remodeled to be used on newer vehicles up into the 1950's.



V-8 shock



V-8 shock and arm



Tom Jeanes, of Pollock Pines, California, is a member of the Hangtown A's. He serves on the JSC and as The Restorer magazine's Technical Editor.

CHAPTER LOAN PROGRAM

Tools

Distributor Puller
Steering Wheel Puller
Wheel Hub Puller
Brake Lining Tool
Ratchet Nut Wrench
Brake Centering Tool
Rear Spring Spreader
Front Spring Spreader
Door Hinge Pin Remover
Gas Gauge Tool
Timing Tool
Frame Spreader

*To borrow Tools contact
Bob Johnson at 409-781-3078

Books & Videos

Model A Paint Guide
Rebuilding Steering
Rebuilding Shocks
Yokohama A's
2008 World Meet
48th Texas Tour #1
48th Texas Tour #2
2011 Gulf Coast Tour
Tech Session, Engine Install

*To borrow books & videos, contact
Dennis Weyant 409-651-5165



Members are encouraged to take advantage of our loan program but do so at your own risk.
If unsure of the proper and safe operation of a tool be sure to get help before using them.
Return all tools and videos, in clean and in proper working order.

Golden Triangle Model A Club Dues

Annual Fees: Make Checks Payable to: *Golden Triangle Model A Ford Club*

***New Member \$20.00 or postmarked after Dec 31 (pro-rated) *Returning Member paid or postmarked on or before Dec. 31-\$20 *Returning Member paid or postmarked after Dec. 31-\$25.00**

GIVE or MAILTO: PAUL SMITH
1162 Tom Easley Road
Kountze, TX 77625

Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) Join on line at MAFCA.COM ~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 payable to Model A Ford Club of America

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____ Telephone _____

Permission to publish my telephone number in future Membership Rosters? Yes: ___ No: ___

Return this Form and Payment to MAFCA 250 South Cypress • La Habra, CA 90631-5515 ~ 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

NEWSLETTER QUIZ

1. What was the mystery part at the May meeting?
2. How many attended lunch at the Schooner on May 20?
3. Did early Model T's have shocks?
4. What companies provided the majority of shocks for the Model A?
5. When is Father's Day?
6. Are you ready for the Texas Tour?



Another Arkansas Tour Picture



Golden Triangle A's On Tour

Golden Triangle A's
750 Countrywood Circle
Sour Lake, TX 77659

