



THE RUNNING BOARD NEWS



www.gta-texas.com

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE A's

SEPTEMBER 2025

750 Countrywood Circle, Sour Lake, TX 77659

Facebook: Golden Triangle A's-MAFCA Club

Next Monthly Meeting

September 9, 2025
6:00 PM
Habanero's
6685 Eastex Fwy
Beaumont, Texas



September Events

9th—GTA MEETING
13th—International Model A Ford Day Tour
 See details in Bob's message below
 and on Page 5 of the newsletter

2025—CELEBRATING 30 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.....

Hello GTA members!

It's September and time for the annual International Model A Day on Saturday, September 13th. We have a great Dine and Drive event planned for that day, and let's all plan to be there. We will meet in the parking lot of the Spindletop Museum at Lamar University at 9:30 a.m. for driving and map instructions. There is plenty of parking if you need to trailer your A. Departure will be at 10 a.m. and our first stop will be at the botanical gardens in Tyrrell Park. From there, we will travel to western Jefferson County and then to Cheek on Hwy 124. We will then continue on backroads from Cheek to our lunch destination at Pine Tree Lodge at Taylor's Bayou. After lunch and visiting with the gators on the bayou, we will mosey ourselves back to the Spindletop Museum parking lot around 2 o'clock. For more fun, there will be a chance game of Five Card Stud Poker during the event. Remember that a non

-profit club's success is measured by growth and participation in club events. Let's all be there on September 13th.

Our August event at the Stark Museum in Orange was a lot of fun. The tour was great and very informative about the Stark family and Orange. Paul Smith did a wonderful job planning the event and little did we know that our lunch at Robert's Restaurant would be our last one there. One week later, Robert's closed the restaurant due to declining customers and increasing operating costs. It will be missed after serving Orange County for 45 years.

The September 9th GTA meeting will be at Habanero's Mexican Restaurant in Beaumont. Grab a neighbor and bring them as a guest to the September meeting. We all know that everything in our lives is so fast today and goes by too quickly. Being part of the Model A community gives you the opportunity to slow down and enjoy family and friends more. So, go start your A and make sure it is ready for September 13!

Happy Motoring, Bob



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
- Membership application is on the website @ www.gta-texas.com

September is known as Harvest Month and is considered the beginning of FALL!

GOLDEN TRIANGLE MODEL A's MEETING MINUTES

Ming's Buffet, Vidor, Texas

August 12, 2025

James Parsley led us in prayer.

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

Bob Johnson welcomed our guests: Linda and Gerald Block, Lacy Wolgast and Jacob Miller.

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.

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

Mystery Part: **Paul Smith** brought the part. **Kathy Smith's** ticket was drawn. She asked **Rodney Block** for help and it stumped him. It was a ground strap bolt.

50/50 Drawing: **James Parsley's** ticket was drawn.

Tech Session: None scheduled.

Bob Johnson discussed the Model A Day tour on September 13, 2025. We will meet at Spindletop Museum at 9:30am for a poker run (\$5/hand). We will drive to Terrell Park, Cheek, Pine Tree Lodge for lunch and then back to Spindletop Museum to see who wins.

Dennis Weyant's car is running but has a few more adjustments which need to be made..

The Conroe swap meet is October 24-26. Several members are getting together to rent covered spaces.

Paul Smith is hosting a dine and drive on August 13. We will meet at the Stark House at 9:45am for a 10am tour of the house. It is a one-hour tour and no purses or backpacks are allowed in the house. They provide lockers to lock your things up. After the tour we will go to Robert's for lunch at about 11:45am.

Taste of the Triangle benefitting Some Other Place is August 19 – See **Debbie Weyant** for tickets.

Tours: **Bob Johnson** discussed the following tours:

August 13 - 9:45am – Stark House - Dine and drive, hosted by the Smiths.

September 13 – Model A Day – drive to The Pine Tree Lodge.



Next meeting will be on September 9, 2025 – place TBD.

Respectfully submitted by: **Karen Parsley - Secretary**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Martha Schroeder—11th
Debbie Weyant—14th
Wesley Jones—15th
Kathy Smith—26th
Doris Price—30th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Paul & Kathy Smith—6th

GOLDEN TRIANGLE A's 2025 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.

JULY 4th—Calder Place Parade @ 9:00 A.M. 8th—GTA Meeting	AUGUST 12th—GTA Meeting 13th—Dine & Drive Hosted by the Smiths in Orange, TX Stark House Tour & Lunch @ Roberts
SEPTEMBER 9th—GTA Meeting 13th—International Model A Ford Day Tour See Page 5 for details.	OCTOBER 14th—GTA Meeting 24-26th—Swap Meet in Conroe, TX
NOVEMBER 11th—GTA Meeting	DECEMBER 3-6th —2025 MAFCA National Awards Banquet in Mobile, AL TBD—GTA Christmas Party

AUGUST 13. 2025 Dine & Drive Hosted by the Smiths

11 members toured the Stark House in Orange, Texas. After the tour, 3 more members joined them for lunch at Robert's Restaurant. Two members brought their A's.



Everyone enjoyed the tour! Thanks to Paul for making the plans.
Thanks to Paul & Karen for the pictures!



COILS, CONDENSERS AND PLUGS

The electrical heart of your Model A is comprised of the battery, ignition switch, starter, ammeter, coil, distributor, condenser and spark plugs. I am going to focus on the coil, distributor, condenser and spark plugs.

Once you have turned the ignition key and depressed the starter, your vehicle springs to life. When you depress the gas pedal, the ammeter shows that your generator is charging and your car is running as it should. So what role do the coil and the other components play in the actual operation of your vehicle?

The coil consists of a soft iron core, a primary winding and a secondary winding. The coils were produced by Autolite, American Bosch, Standard Products (picture) and Essex Wire with the one on the left produced after July 1931. When powered, the coil receives a 6 volt charge and produces a current of between 15,000 and 45,000 volts.



The voltage from the coil is routed to the distributor and provides sufficient voltage to induce a spark that will eventually ignite the gaseous vapor in the cylinder head. The cylinder head is forced downward with the ignition of the vapor, thereby rotating the crankshaft. The camshaft rotates and the distributor shaft causes the points open and close transferring the current through the rotor to each spark plug accordingly. When the points are closed, the voltage from the coil is held in the condenser. When the points open the current is discharged from the condenser, across the points and over to the spark plug in a uniform manner.

Spark plugs for the Model A Ford were produced by Champion. Pre-production Model A Fords and Model T Fords used a #3 spark plug while all production vehicles used a #3X spark plug. The porcelain body contained a mineral, andalusite, that had excellent creep resistance and thermal shock resistance. This mineral was mined in the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Check out these videos about the mineral and the mine. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf8sR_NlzzE and <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cNAevKYGJf8>).



Things to observe about the picture on the left: the first plug is an example of the preproduction plug with the two neighboring plugs being a post production plug and an era plug. Note the rounded top "3" on the era plug and the flat top on the post production plug. The thickness of the hex also changed with the thicker hex (1/4") being replaced the thinner hex (3/16") in early 1930.

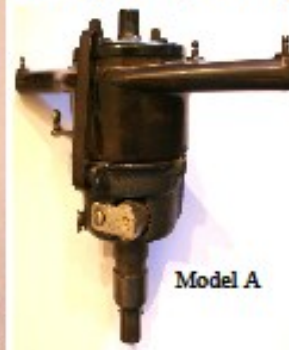
The knurled nuts to the left are selection of those available at the time but only the first one (cross hatch pattern) was correct for Model A Fords. The spark plug wires one and two are correct with the one on the being a reproduction item. The condenser, while correct, is also a reproduction item.



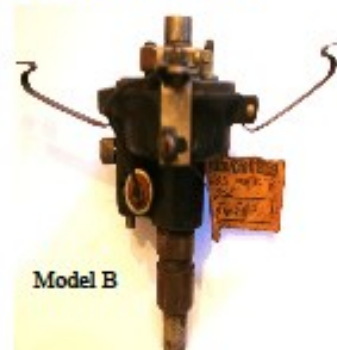
What changed from Model T to Model A to Model B? Model T had a magneto and a condenser and coil in the coil box while the Model A and B had the condenser on the distributor and the coil mounted on the firewall. Model T had a commutator with electrical connections to the coil box then to the spark plugs while Model A and B had a distributor with the spark plugs connected directly to the distributor. The Model T and the Model A had manual spark advance while Model B had automatic spark advance dependent upon the speed of the cam shaft rotation.



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



Model A



Model B

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. Who brought their Model A to the August Tour?
2. How many members ended up at Robert's for lunch?
3. When is International Model A Day?
4. Where will the Model A Day Tour take us?
5. Who has a birthday & anniversary in September?
6. Who produced Model A Ford spark plugs?
7. What comprises the electrical heart of the Model A?
8. What was the mystery part at the August meeting?

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

International Model A Ford Day Tour

Meet at Gladys City Spindletop Museum at 9:30am for a poker run (\$5/hand).

We will drive to Tyrrell Park, Cheek, and then to Pine Tree Lodge for lunch. After lunch, we will drive back to Spindletop Museum to see who wins the poker run.

Sounds like fun! GOOD LUCK!



Golden Triangle A's On Tour

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

