

# BEEHIVE A's Rumble Seat

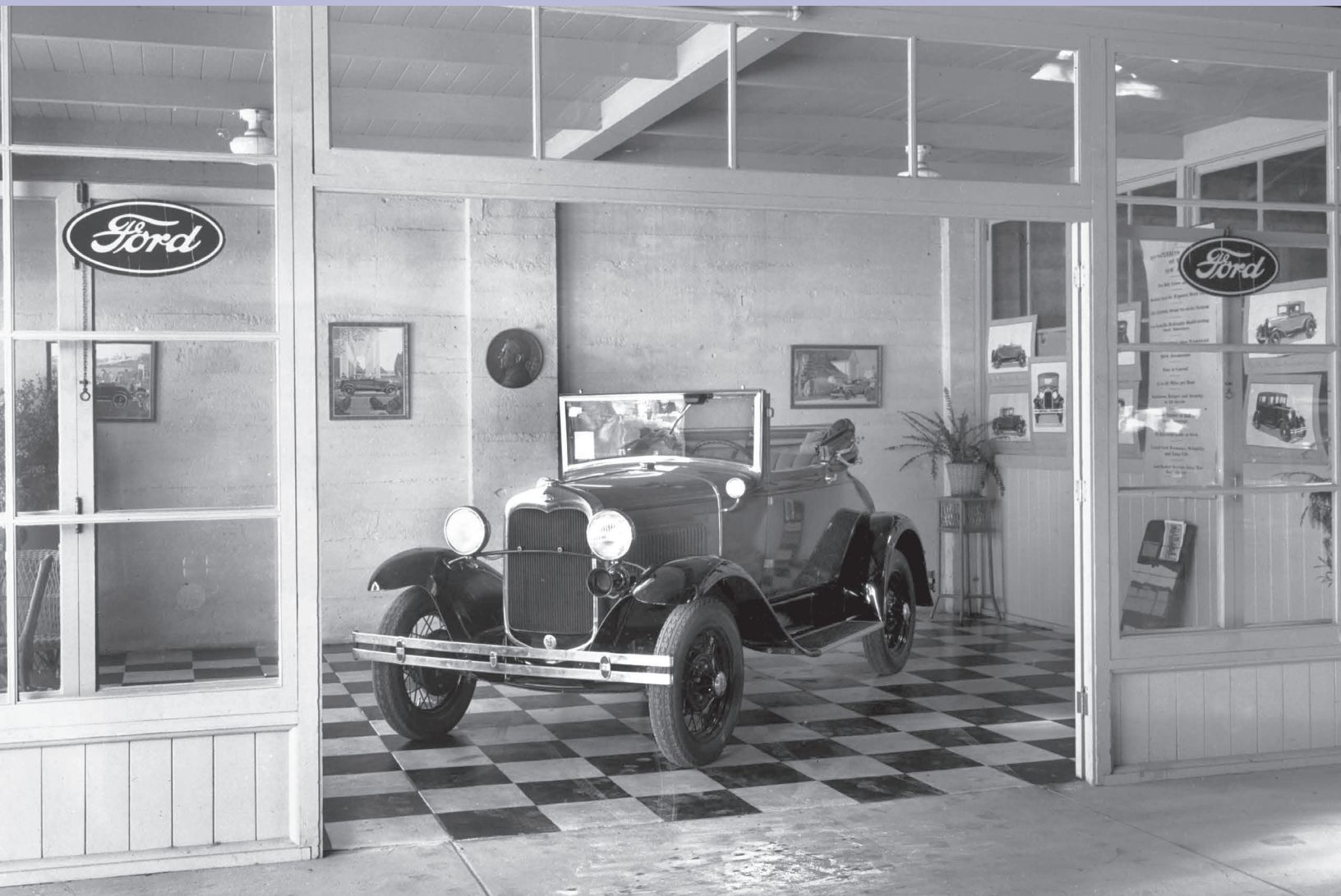


## Review

February 2024



Beehive A's—The Model A Club of Northern Utah



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

## President's Message

A warm greeting to all Beehive Club members and friends. Hoping that you all had a joyous New Year's celebration and did not stay up too late to bring in the new year. It is now February and boy has time flown by already. The first month has already past and we're on to the next and deciding what the coming months will bring us.

Warm wishes to all on the up-coming Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day is a reminder for us to show our loved ones our appreciation of who they are and what they do for us. I realize that some have lost a loved one or family member, and this may be a time to respectfully remember them as well.

When did Valentine's Day start? According to Britannica Encyclopedia, Valentine's Day, (February 14) has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing of women with men. Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 AD by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

While many people celebrate Valentine's Day in all kinds of different ways, it's not an official holiday—and unfortunately for all the romantics out there, it's not an official bank holiday or day off; though you can always take the day off for a special day with your significant other! So, with our coming Valentine's greetings we are acting in an old Roman tradition. Who would have thought?!

With February upon us, we can look forward to getting closer to spring, and start un-winterizing our cars for outings. I winterized my truck and will have to do some maintenance to get it running for spring, as possibly others will have to, too. So now, with a new month, let's think of ways to get together and have our friendships and cars gather for a good time, and let's look forward to warmer weather and spring. See you at our meeting and in our February/March activities!

Also, on February 8th of 2022, the club was recognized as a Charter member of the MAFCA organization, and as of the 8th of this month (February), we will have been a club for 42 years! Congratulations to all those past members who have made the Beehive A's a great club to be with and to all present members who have reached this milestone with the club.

Thank you.  
President Ron Lucero



Above: Hugh Diehl, owner of Diehl Ford, Bellingham, Washington, standing next to the first Model A Ford delivered to his dealership. He picked up the car at the railhead in Seattle and is driving to Bellingham, where he will use it as a demonstrator.

Front cover: A 1930 Model A Ford Cabriolet on the tiny showroom floor of the Ford dealership in Carmel, California.

# Next Meeting:

Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM

## Pleasant Valley Library

5568 South Adams Ave  
Washington Terrace, Utah

### 2024 Officers

**President:**

Ron Lucero....luceronald155@gmail.com

**President Elect:**

TBD

**Vice President:**

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**Treasurer/Secretary:**

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**Historian:**

Bill Wiser....bill.wiser@wiservision.com

**MAFCA Representative:**

Brian Gough

**Past President:**

Mike Nichols....mtnichols@yahoo.com

### Treats for 2024

January	Dave Spinden
February	Chaz Walker
March	Mike Nichols
April	Clay & Heidi Pitkin
May	Dennis Thompson
June	Kevin Youngberg
July	Shawn Youngberg
August	Keb Leete
September	Phil Dunn
October	Bill Wiser
November	Kathy Christiansen



This is a copy of the Club's 40th Anniversary Certificate that we got from the Model A Ford Club of America back in February 2022.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT PINS

Speaking of milestones, **CONGRATULATIONS!** certainly go to these members for reaching the 40-year mark of Club membership:

Randy and Kathy Christiansen  
Karen Stoker  
Ray and Mary Wheelwright

Thank you for your membership, friendship, and participation over all these years.

Note: For those members wishing to receive a membership pin, add your name to the list at the next meeting, or let Ron Lucero know how long you have been with the Club, and an award pin will be presented to you at the next meeting.

# Long Range Calendar

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb 12, 2024 7:00 PM	Member Meeting	Pleasant Valley Library 5568 South Adams Ave Washington Terrace, UT
Feb. 17 3:00 PM	Weber County Jail Tour	Weber County Sheriff's Office 1400 Depot Drive Ogden, UT
March 11 7:00 PM	Member Meeting	Pleasant Valley Library 5568 South Adams Ave Washington Terrace, UT
April 8, 2024 7:00 PM	Member Meeting	Pleasant Valley Library 5568 South Adams Ave Washington Terrace, UT



The man at left is Charles Richter, owner of Richter Motor Company in Wheeler, Oregon. He and his employees are inside of his dealership awaiting their first shipment of Model As. The only things that they have gotten from Ford Motor Company are posters showing the new Ford, which are hanging on the walls. Also note a sample of a Model A windshield lying against the wall at right with shatter marks in it, showing its shatterproof characteristics.

# BIRTHDAYS

Since we didn't decide to list birthdays in the Newsletter until the January meeting, here are belated birthday wishes to those members born in January:

Randy Call  
Randy Christiansen  
Henry Dominguez  
Pamela Hall  
Chet Leete  
Dave Spinden  
Philip Steiger

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Rodney Cox  
Ron Lucero  
Mike Nichols  
Lisi Wisner

## Long-time Club Member Passes Away



We are sad report that long-time Club member Henry Miller passed away on January 31st. Henry lived in Clearfield and had been a member of the Beehive A's since the 90s. He hadn't been around for quite some time due to ill health.

His daughter, Jody Worrell, asked our Club to escort Henry from the funeral home to the cemetery, but due to the weather and the fact that most of us had put our Model As away for the winter, only two members were able to do that. Clay and Heidi Pitkin drove their Model A coupe to honor our late member.

In fact, Clay and Heidi got their Model A from Henry..., sort of!

"I was high school, and I met Henry Miller's son," recalls Clay. "We went over to his house one day, and there sits this Model A."

Clay was intrigued by it, but nothing more happened. Fast forward many years, until the time Clay and Heidi got married. Actually, it was Heidi's father who mentioned to Clay that if he ever came across a Model A Ford to let him know..., he wanted to own one. Then one day, Clay saw Henry Miller, and told him that if he ever decided to sell his Model A to let him know.

Time went on, but then one day Clay saw Henry again, and Henry told him that the coupe was for sale. Shortly after that, Clay's father-in-law bought it. Eventually, however, Clay and Heidi bought the ol' Ford from her father, and that's how the two ended up with Henry Miller's Model A.

At the time of his death, Henry had two Model A Fords: an early model sedan and a late model Cabriolet. Our condolences go out to Jan and the entire Miller family.

## Board Member Bio

Happy belated New Year to all our club members. My name is Keb Leete. Most of you might know me as “Chet’s Chauffeur.” My dad and I have been involved with automobiles in one form or another for as long as I can remember. I spent my teen years working with and learning from my dad in his body shop while growing up. I was working on all types of cars before I could legally drive them, so, my love for the machines grew from an early age.

My wife, Mary Ann, and I have been married forty-three years and have lived in Roy for the past three plus decades. We have four sons and daughters-in-law, along with eight grandchildren, all of whom live in Utah. In our spare time, we enjoy traveling, seeing new and exciting places, and learning about the history of the areas. Other hobbies that occupy my spare time include playing golf, baking, photography, biking, and spending time with our dog Trapper, our eight-year-old golden retriever.

I spent most of my professional career in retail. After four decades serving the public, I ventured into the world of professional driving. I got my CDL and accepted a position with a FedEx Ground contractor, spending most of my time in the intermountain west pulling double trailers to and from the distribution hubs. My wife is a registered nurse, and she has spent her career with intermountain Health Care working in the NICU at McKay-Dee. She is now serving as the care manager for the newborn unit.

My dad has always wanted another Model A. He owned several in his earlier years. Two years ago, we found “Betty,” so named for the Betty Boop artwork on the cowl of my dad’s 1929 coupe. With the help of Dan Johnson and other club members, we have had the opportunity to do a few upgrades since acquiring the old girl. We have more in mind for the coming years. We have very much enjoyed the membership of the club and the opportunity to associate with and serve others. I look forward to the coming year and hope to continue the momentum the club has experienced in the brief time we have been here. Thank you to all members for your support and I wish you all happy miles and great laughs and smiles during the coming year.



# WORK IN PROCESS

Well, like many of you, I chose to tackle a project on the car each winter. This winter was new tires and clean up the wheels. I demounted the wheels, and four of the five turned out pretty good with only a couple of bent spokes. The fifth was trashed, and I had to go digging in the barn for a replacement. (Photo #1) I called around, and decided to have them powder coated instead of painting them myself.

I chose Rocky Mountain Powder Coating, as they do sandblasting in house. (Photo #2)

Mark was great to work with, and I took the old Ditzler paint chart to match the color, Vermilion Red. Mark was good enough to take a couple of photos of the process, and this photo shows them on the way into the oven. (Photo 3)

After baking, they came out great—better than expected. (Photo 4) A couple of suggestions from Mark, make sure you have the very best wheels to start with. Surface rust is fine, but pitting will show in the final product. Make sure all repairs are done before having them coated.

Mark Perry is the owner of Rocky Mountain Power Coating. He started in his home in Plain City, not far from Dan Johnson's house. (Dan also had some wheels done by Mark). He has since moved into a building in the industrial park, just south of Erick's Hose. Mark was very accommodating and did a great job. He said one to two weeks, but he had them done in just over a week.

Now for the question on everyone's mind: how much? Just as the photos show, from beginning to end, the cost was \$100 per wheel. When I figured sandblasting, cost of primer, paint, and time, I figured it was well worth it.

Hope this helps. Now, back to the garage....

Kevin Fielding



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4

# NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

This month, we'd like to introduce you to one of the Club's newer members—Jan Bodily. He joined the Club last spring, so it's about time we get to know him better!

Jan lives in Bountiful..., he has his whole life..., and acquired a 1931 Model A Fordor Sedan a little over a year ago..., a Briggs body sedan. It was a barn find out of Colorado; been in storage since 1985. "It hadn't really been touched," explains Jan. "I've left it pretty much the way I found it. I've gone through all the mechanical stuff. It's not ready for road trips yet, however. I got it in November 2022. I never had a Model A before. My dad had a 1932 Ford pickup, and I've always though I would enjoy owning a Model A. I've been restoring tractors for the past ten years."

His daughter lives in Colorado and knew a lady whose husband had recently died, and he had a few old cars. One of them was a Model A. Jan eventually bought it from her.

"I've restored probably 16 tractors, mostly 8N Fords. The newest one a '62 Ford."

Jan learned about our Model A Club by searching the Internet, and Mike Nichols was instrumental in enticing Jan to join. "Mike's been very helpful," Jan said.

"My front spring was sagging, so I invented a kind of system to re-arch the front spring! I made a jig and did one leaf at a time. You know, I could have paid someone to do it professionally, but I wanted to do it myself." (We need to have Jan show us how he did that!)

"This car only had 48,000 original miles on it! The estate I bought it from, the guy was the second owner! So, I'm the third owner! He only put about 300 miles on it all the years that he owned it!"

"When I started digging into it, I found that the brakes on it were original. So one of the things that was exciting to me was: *I'm the first guy to work on these brakes since it left the factory!* That really intrigued me. The engineering and the mechanical ingenuity of those guys back in the day was amazing."

After doing a stint in Viet Nam, Jan came back to Utah and spent many years as a parts man at Willie Ford in Bountiful. "When ever you go to buy a new car," he says, "talk to the parts guys, because they can tell you what the quality is of the car you're looking at!"

"I've been a Ford man my whole life. I've owned a half-a-dozen 8N Ford tractors. I've got 3 Ford trucks. I've got my original Ford truck that I bought in 1969..., a Ford F-100..., all original."

Jan, you really are a Ford guy, and we're glad to have you in our Club.



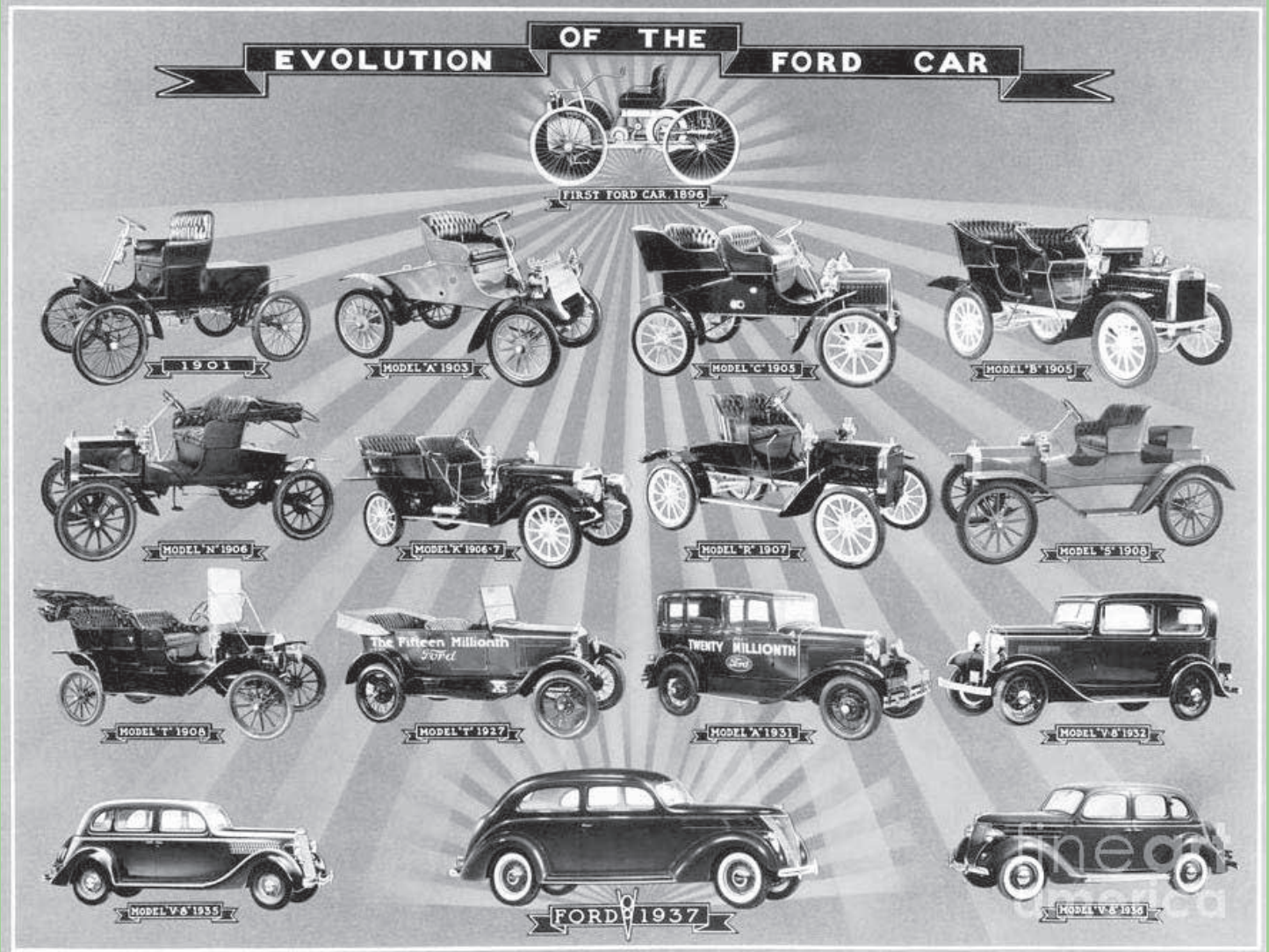
After bringing the "A" home from Colorado.



47,934 miles!  
Seeing is believing!



The interior appears to be original.



Here is an interesting chart showing the various models of Ford cars from the very first one, which Henry Ford called the Quadricycle, to the 1937 Ford. When Ford started making production cars in 1903, he called that first model the Model A, and then as he developed subsequent models, he assigned a different letter of the alphabet to each new model. As this chart indicates, the subsequent models were B, C, K, N, R, S and then the famous Model T. But why did Henry Ford skip some of the letters between A and T? He didn't. While those other "letters" weren't produced, they were certainly started, but for whatever reason, were scrapped before going into production. And, of course, after producing the Model T for nineteen years, Henry Ford came out with an all-new Ford in 1927, which he again called the Model A. And it looked like he was going to continue using the alphabet to name his cars. The early 1932 Fords, for example, were called Model Bs; that is, until Henry brought out the flathead V-8 engine. When that engine was put in the Model B, that car was called the Model 18, which stands for First (1) V-8 (8).

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