



Vol. 40 No. 8 • August 2022 • MAFCA • Autumn Trails Chapter

Dash Lite

The Autumn Trails Model A Ford Club Newsletter • Winnsboro, Texas

From Club President Tex Willis

What a Summer! I am back from Lifeguarding at Camp Bandina. I saved another life this year. We swim test the kids to make sure they can stay above water if they step off into the deep part. This one kid was a weak swimmer, but could swim enough to pass. She went off of the rope swing and bobbed down and back up. I got her on the fourth bob, and she was fine, just a little scared.

John Icenhower sent in a checklist from another Model A Club to go over. Maybe in the Fall when it gets cooler, we can have a workshop and run through the checklist to see where our Model A's need a little TLC.

Autumn Trails is getting closer! I haven't seen the agenda, but I am sure we will be discussing Autumn Trails! We'll see you at the August meeting!

By the by, someone (who?) submitted the 50th Anniversary pic to the Restorer under "Out and About in our Model A's" section and it is on page 37 of the July/Aug edition!



The Autumn Trails Model A Ford Club in Northeast Texas celebrated 50 years on Saturday, April 23! Afterward, we took a drive around Lake Winnsboro. (Photo by Jordan Palmer Photography)

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Keep your grease fittings lubed, air in your tires, and by all means remember to turn the gas valve back on before you pull out of the gas station!

-Tex Willis





Next Classics Cruise-In: AUGUST 20th!

Mark your calendar to attend the *Classics and Coffee Cruise-Ins* scheduled for the third Saturday monthly from March thru November.

Over 40 cars at our July show! The *Cruise-Ins* is held on the square in Quitman. The event features free coffee, breakfast snacks, donuts, a 50/50 raffle and really great door prizes. The time is from 8 until 10:30 am.

We look forward to your attendance

www.lakecountryclassicscarclub.com

Area availability of Ethanol-Free gas

Duko Oil Co.	950 E Lennon Dr, Emory
Beckat Oil & Fuel	115 W Front St, Mineola
Young Oil (Chevron)	116 N Newsom, Mineola
The Minnow Bucket	3035 Hwy 154, Quitman
Lake Quitman Marina	1450 CR 1416, Quitman
Fisherman's 1 Stop	7933 W FM 515, Quitman
Murphy USA (WalMart)	1760 S Broadway, Sulphur Springs
Winkle Oil Co.	301 W Carnegie St, Winnsboro

Ethanol is corrosive, and older engines weren't designed for it.

Jil McIntosh, driving.ca

Ken's Binder

MODEL A



SAFETY INSPECTION

The following three pages were given to participants of the Model A Club of Long Island during a recent Safety Inspection Clinic. It took an inspection team of three experts four hours to inspect nine Model A's. No repair work was done; just an inspection. Car owners were asked to participate by removing spark plugs, work spark and throttle levers, and reassemble their cars.

This looks like a great opportunity for a workshop this fall when the weather is cooler.

Provided by John Icenhower; Author: Bob Bidonde

Model A Safety Inspection Form**Cooling System**

- **Fan:** Ok____; Visible Cracks____; Loose____; Original____?
- **Fan Belt:** Ok____; Loose & Needs Adjustment____; Needs Replacement____
- **Hoses:** Ok____; Leaking____; Damaged / Hard & Need Replacement____
- **Radiator:** Hot Top & Cooler @ Bottom____; Same Top & Bottom____; Leaks____?
- **Water Pump:** OK____; Leaking ____; Fore-Aft Shaft Play Excessive: _____

Fuel System

- **Leaks:** Ok____; Carburetor____; Fuel Lines____; Gas Shutoff Valve____;
Gas Gauge____; Gas Tank____
- **Full Throttle Linkage Test:** Good____; Bad_____

Engine

- **Compression Test:** 1/____; 2/____; 3/____; 4/____; (Max Variation 5 psig)
- **Spark Plug #:** Gray/White____; Tan____; Black Soot____; Black & Oily____

Exhaust

- **Leak @ Manifold to Block**____; **Leak @ Manifold to Pipe**____; Ok_____

Ignition

- **Ignition Coil Hookup:** Correct____; Reversed_____
- **Timing:** Correct____; Wrong_____

Suspension & Steering

- **King Pin Play:** None____; Excessive____ (Should be no play)
- **Shock Absorbers:** Ok____; Missing____; Leaking____; Links Loose____
- **Steering:** Ok____; Excessive Steering Wheel Play____; Gearbox Loose____;
Drag Link Loose_____
- **Wheel Bearings:** Excessive Play LF____; RF ____; No Play LF____; RF____;
Need Replacement____; Ok____ (Some play for thermal expansion)

Model A Safety Inspection Form Notes & Stuff Required

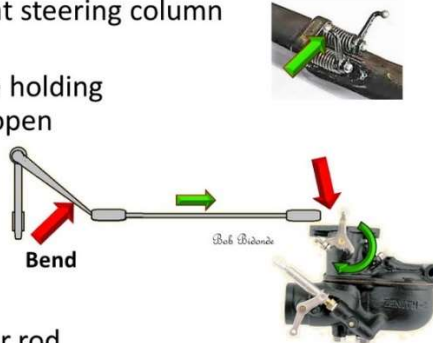
Cooling System

- Original fans, 2 & 4 blade, are unacceptable because of propensity of blades cracking off.
- Radiator should be noticeably cooler to the touch at the bottom of the core.

Fuel System

Carburetor Throttle – Does It Go Wide Open?

- Disconnect throttle rods at steering column & carburetor
- Pull rod full forward while holding carburetor throttle wide open
- If rod end does not reach
 - Bend the Accelerator Assembly Arm until rod meets carburetor throttle
 - Or lengthen / get longer rod



Engine

Engine Compression Test – How To

- Remove spark plugs & shift into neutral
- Engine 50°F to 80°F
- Throttle lever wide open
- Install compression gauge
- Turn engine with starter until gauge pressure reading stops rising
- 5 psig variation between cylinders max
- Compression estimate = 14.7 atmospheric pressure times compression ratio: Example: $14.7 \times 5.5 = 80.8$ psig
- If low pressure, add 2-3 oz of motor oil & retest
 - Pressure increase with oil indicates leakage thru piston rings / valves / head gasket / crack

Preferable
Type of
Gauge



Ignition

Ignition Coil Hookup Tests

- Determines coil hookup beneficial to performance
 - **Wear rubber gloves**
- Pencil test difficult to distinguish flare vs spark
- Sparklite tester is simple to use
 - Illuminates to show right hookup
 - Available from Model "A" parts suppliers

Better Way



Model A Safety Inspection Form Notes & Stuff Required

Suspension & Steering

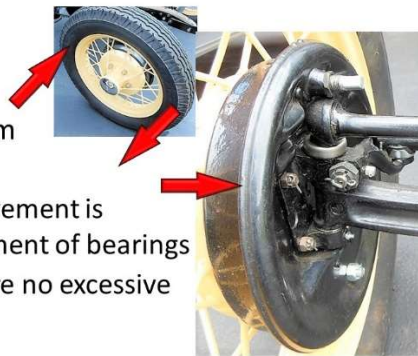
Wheels, Front – Diagnosing Worn King Pins

- Grab tire @ 12 O'clock & alternately push & pull to determine play, if any
- Have partner observe interface of spindle & axle
 - If spindle moves independently of axle, king pins & bushings are worn & need replacement
 - Eventually cause of wheel shimmy



Wheels, Front – Diagnosing Loose Wheel Bearings

- Grab each tire @ 3 O'clock & 9 O'clock
- Alternately push & pull
- Observe interface of drum & backing plate
 - Some independent movement is normal & set by adjustment of bearings
 - Adjust bearings to assure no excessive or inadequate play

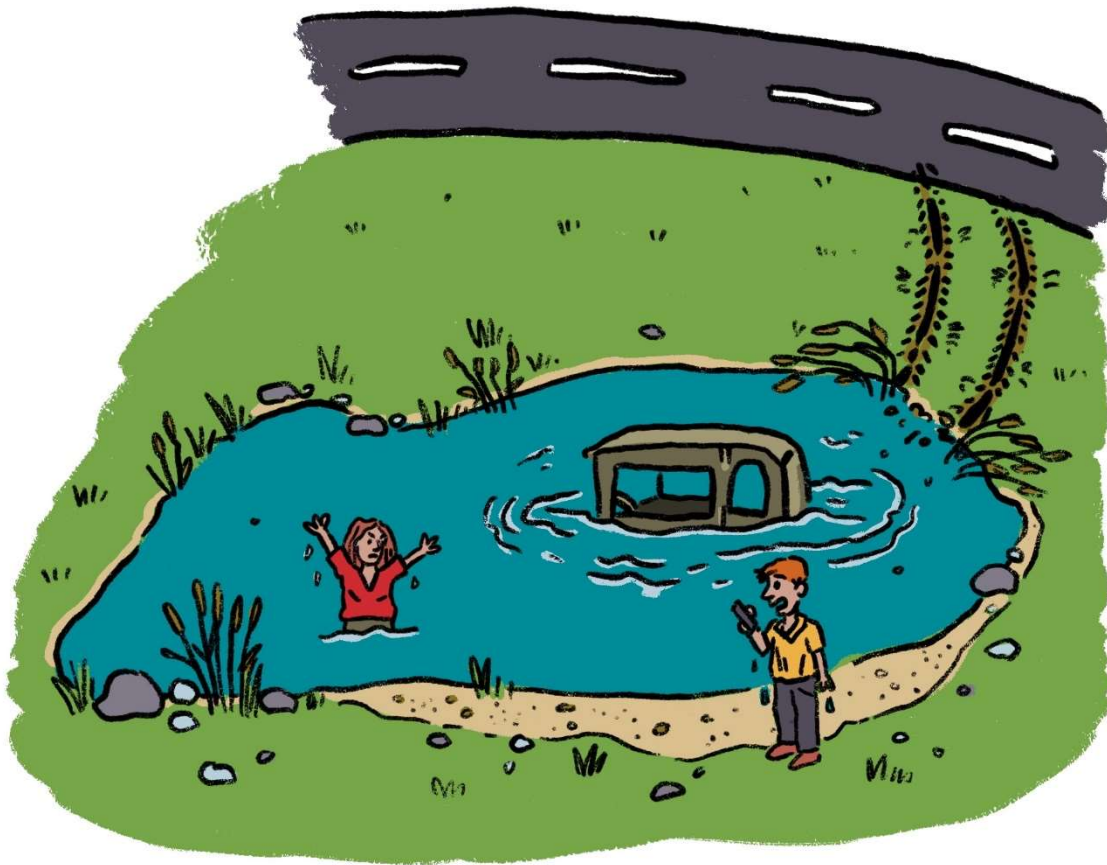


Miscellaneous Stuff Needed

- Hand cleaner
- Paper towels
- Copies of test forms
- Clipboards
- Pens
- Mirrors
- Flashlights
- Gloves, vinyl
- Compression tester
- 10" Adjustable wrench
- Sparklite tester

Modus Operandi

- Reserve area for 6 static inspection stations
- One inspector & car owner at each station
- Inspector provides inspection sheet, clipboard, pen, compression tester, Sparklite tester, mirror, flashlight & gloves
- Car owner provides adjustable wrench, paper towels, hand cleaner, gloves
- Vehicle remains static during inspection
- Car owner assist inspector
- Inspection sheet given to car owner
- No repair/maintenance work allowed on premises
- Car owner responsible for repairs & parts



Huh! That's funny. Google said to turn right...



Looking Back



This picture was found by Tex Willis while going through his dad's old pictures. John and Jana Icenhower had a look, and judging by the banner, surmised that it must be from the early-to mid-'90s. John was also able to identify some of the vehicles:

Carl's pickup, front right.

Curly Hensley's green roadster third row on the far right.

John Willis' blue roadster far right behind turned sideways.

Our Town Sedan right behind that turned sideways.

Nolan Cason's gray '37 panel truck under the swing set second from right in the back.

Do you recognize any others?