



*October 2013*

*THE RETARDED SPARK* is being issued purely for our enjoyment and for those who wish to see what our MAFCA Chapter is doing to further the Model 'A' Hobby here in Quincy, Ca.

Questions, comments, suggestions... email  
"Smokey"

at: [smokeypickett@hughes.net](mailto:smokeypickett@hughes.net)

**Thanks Joe!**

Visit our website at: [www.featherriveras.com](http://www.featherriveras.com)

**From the Desk of the President(s)**



Hello Fellow Members!



Your Pres

**CLUB OFFICERS and MEMBERS**

President ----- Jack and Bernadette Brumit  
 Vice President ---- Bill and Jennifer Seibold  
 Treasurer ----- Rich & Holly Schreiber  
 Secretary ----- Rich and Holly Schreiber  
 Keeper of the Web..Joe and Heather Way  
 Sunshine person--- Shirley Bresciani

**MEMBERS**

Phil & Shirley Bresciani  
 Dave Boynton & Bonnie Norton  
 Rick & Paula Foster  
 Dan & Penny Lambach  
 Bruce & Susan Robinson  
 Joe & Heather Way  
 Andrew & Shannon Wright  
 Don Schlueter  
 Gary & Lynne Allan  
 Dee Barbea  
 Ron & Sally Grassi  
 Dave & Diann Montanari  
 Ron & Jean Rude  
 Pete & Joyce Dryer  
 Butch & Sheila Vargas  
 Dwight & Karen Pierson  
 Joel & Sue Rapose  
 Al and Erika Hansen  
 Mike & Leslie Ganahl



**GETTING OUT AND HAVING FUN**

**September activities**

**Bresciani's Tour September 8<sup>th</sup>**

The September event, was the long awaited and much touted

**Retirees Dinner Tour!**

The club grouped up at 4:00P.M. on Sunday

Nice sunny afternoon and we had a great turnout.

Seven cars, NO WAIT... Here comes Rich and Holly! Make that Eight cars for the drive up to Olsen's Cabin.



Some of the bigger hams in the group dressed the part in honor of the special occasion.



**Destination – Olsen's Cabin**

We met Don Schlueter at the Cabin to make an UN-even Nine cars total.



**Here's the whole motley crew!**



**Our Host, Ole Olsen**

The Olsens greeted us, seated us and feeded us. Warm hospitality and wonderful food.

We were here, of course. To honor those recently retired members of the club so we had to make them line up for a photo-op with their respective spouses.



**Ways, Lambachs, Brescianis and Fosters**

After thoroughly embarrassing them all, we were seated and began to wine and dine.

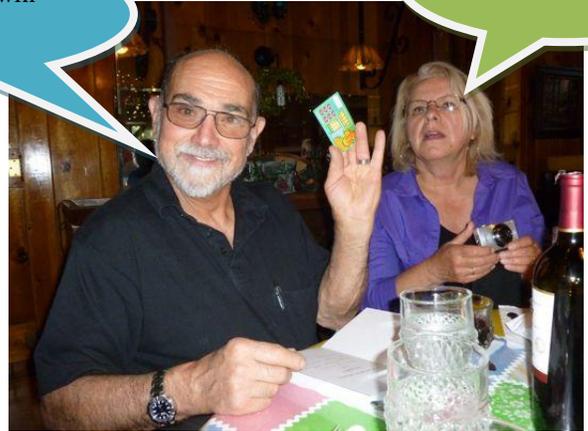
**Candid shots of the diners**

**Joe Won the Lottery!**



**Jack's Table**

I win Park Place! I win the Boardwalk!



Joe, That says "GO TO JAIL!"

**Joe's Table**



Peanut Noir!



Sheila forgot her Rain-X and had to use her manual wipers. Is that champagne?

After an excellent meal, good wine and wonderful hospitality, our Model A family had to find our way back home. (Some had a little more trouble getting a ride than others)



**Shirley's Table**

Hey, Mister, can I get a lift? I have wine!

I'll give you a lift!



White Trashfindel!



**Dan and Penny's Table**

One last tribute to our retiring members  
Remember these faces!!!

Chef Boyardeaux



They're retired now and don't have anything to do!



They should be available to water your lawn, feed your dog, take your kids to the ballgame!

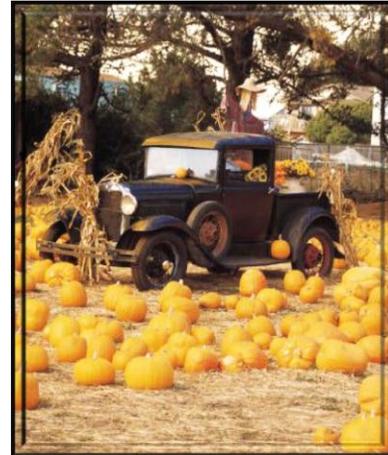
I was sure that they would be happy to help you with your day to day chores just to keep from being bored!!



Funny thing though, They wouldn't give me any of their phone numbers.....

**Have a Happy Retirement!**

The Grave Occasion will be featured next Month.  
**Watch For It!**



October is Pumpkin Season

It doesn't matter if the glass is half empty or half full. There is clearly room for more wine.



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Now offering Model "A" Fabric shirts! We carry shirts for both men and women in a variety of sizes. Our shirts are wonderful additions to your Model "A" collection and make wonderful gifts for the holidays.

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For large or custom orders please contact Karen Willey at (603) 544-2727 or send us a quick email with your details. [Contact Us](#)

[http://www.modelafabric.com/?page\\_id=164](http://www.modelafabric.com/?page_id=164)

**FOR SALE**  
**1930 Model A Ford Town**  
**Sedan**  
**\$20000 (Concord / Pleasant**  
**Hill / Martinez)**



**This car has been restored and modified. It's beautiful!!!! Hydraulic brakes...Mustang II 2300 cc engine with automatic tranny....15 inch Radial tires....Electric wipers....Turn signals.....Back up light....Bumper driving lights for dark country roads.....It has a cassette tape player and AM/FM radio.**



**I also have two portable speakers that hang on the headlight bar that plug into the cassette to play external music such as in parades. It is 12 volt with electronic ignition and much, too much more to mention here. It is truly a highway classic car that still looks like an A. I can cruise all day doing 65 and 70 and I've had it on tours as far as Nevada.**



**Serious Callers Only Please**  
**Charlie @ 925-933-9214**  
**Charlie is an old time Model A'er With the**  
**Diablo's and this is a real sweet car.**



## COMEDY CORNER

### VINTAGE FORD HUMOR

A lawn-mower once fell in love  
With a beautiful maiden ash-can.  
She returned his affection, the dove:  
They married, lived happily, an(d)

In time of His wisdom, the Lord  
(The course of true love ran smooth)  
Gave them a little baby Ford,  
Which takes all their time to soothe.

\*\*\*\*\*

The rumor had widely spread that if a person would present at the Ford factory four dimes with the mint marks that would spell the word F-O-R-D, they would receive a Ford car free. One man had the good luck to find the four dimes which spelled the word "Ford" and he started for the factory for his car.

He inquired for Mr. Ford and handed him the four dimes. When Mr. Ford saw that he had found the four that spelled F-O-R-D, he told the man to go in and take his pick. The man went into the factory and was gone for a considerable length of time. After a while he returned and said to Mr. Ford, "I couldn't find anything that suited me so I came back after the forty cents."

\*\*\*\*\*

Three friends from the local congregation were asked "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say? "

Artie said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Eugene commented: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Don said: "I'd like them to say, "Look, he's moving!"



\*\*\*\*\*

### **October Annibirtharies**



Shirley Bresciani ----- 7th  
Andrew Wright ----- 9th  
Jean Rude ----- 15th



Gary and Lynne Allan -----October 23rd

### UPCOMING MODEL 'A' TOURS and ACTIVITIES

**October 1st Monthly meeting at Patti's Thunder.**

The day the Model T Ford went on sale, 1908!

**Brumits have the event for October.**

**They are in the process of putting in the final touches. Basically, it will be an overnighter to Susanville with a visit to the Pumpkin Patch on the return trip.**

**MORE TO FOLLOW VIA FLYER!**

## MODEL 'A' GARAGE CORNER

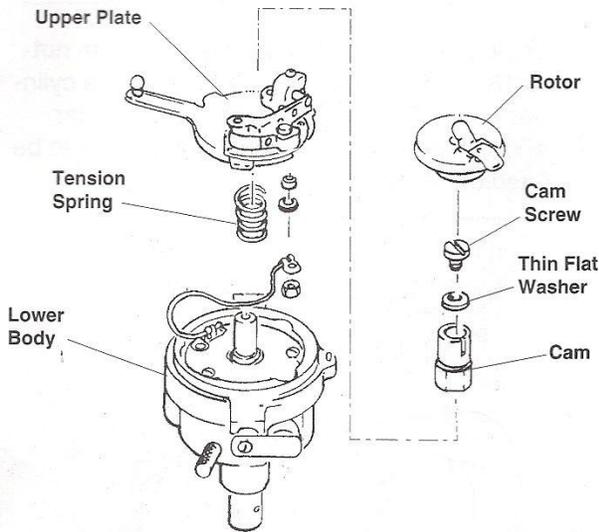
Or, stuff you already knew, and probably forgot

### Restoring the Model 'A' Distributor

#### Introduction

Most distributor problems can be traced to a worn shaft or bushings, shorted lower plate, bad condenser, defective points or worn cam lobes. The original distributor had a two piece shaft. This was to reduce tension on the distributor and minimize wear on the bushings. If you have a one piece shaft, it is recommended that you replace it with a two piece during your rebuild.

This article assumes that you already know how to remove the distributor from the engine. Keep in mind that the original ignition cable is a 9/16" armored cable. The distributor must first be removed from the engine and then unscrewed from the ignition cable. Aftermarket cables use a 3/16" cable and the connector can be unscrewed before the distributor is removed from the engine.



Once the distributor is out, clamp the shaft in a vise and remove the cam screw and cam. Don't lose the thin washer under the cam screw. Rotate the upper plate to remove it from the body casting and remove the tension spring and the pigtail nut to release it from the casting. The condenser must be removed (one screw on each side of the body) before the lower plate can be removed.

With the lower plate out, the distributor shaft can be checked for any side play. If the shaft shows any side play, the bushings and probably the shaft itself should be replaced.

To replace the bushings and shaft, grind off one peened end of the shaft sleeve pin and drive out the pin with a small punch. Gently pry the sleeve off of the shaft and pull the shaft out through the top of the body. Retain the thin washer between the collar and the body. Measure the shaft diameter and if less than .498", replace the shaft. Removal of the bushings should be done with care as the cast housing can be cracked with too much pounding.

The bushings should always be driven from inside to outside, not forced all the way through the housing as the crud buildup between the bushings makes removal very hard and will increase the probability of a broken housing.



A handy tool can be made of an old distributor shaft that is split up about 2 1/2 inches and flared out on the end.



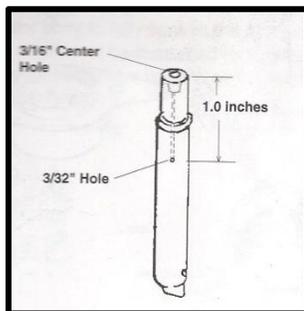
When pulled through the bushing, it expands to form a driver that pushes on both sides of the bushing.

Another easy way to remove bushings is with a 9/16" 18 tap threaded into the bushing and driven out gently from the other side

Be sure to clean out all the old oil and dirt that is built up in the passage behind the oil filler tube. The easiest way is to remove the filler,.



Once the new bushings have been pressed in they need to be reamed to assure perfect alignment and proper clearance. The reamer should be a .500" (1/2) as a new shaft is .4985". This is Snyder part # A12132R or Bratton part# 17210.



Before re-installing the shaft, it should be drilled for upper bushing oiling. Drill a 3/16" hole down the center of the shaft, 1" deep and a 3/32" hole through the side. A pre-drilled shaft and cam screw can be purchased and is ready to install, Bratton part# 17370

Place the .015" washer on the shaft, under the collar and insert the shaft and just start the retaining pin. Check for end play at this time. Anything over about .003", remove the pin and add a fiber washer, Bratton part# 17400, above the sleeve and pin.

Inspect the lower plate rivets for a tight fit and check for continuity between the lower contact bracket and the plate. If there is continuity, the rivets are probably shorted to the plate and it should be replaced.



Check the pigtail for broken or frayed strands or worn insulation. If any of these problems exist, replace the pigtail with a multistrand, tinned copper 14 AWG. An excellent replacement wire, with a silicone jacket for flexibility, is available from General Silicones Co. #GSC-W14RD.



Attach the lower plate assembly inside the lower body with two 8-32 X 1/4" round head screws.



Either of two upper plates can be used. The original uses a separate point block that screws to the plate. It is sometimes difficult to maintain alignment between the points and the block.

However, it worked just fine for old Henry!

The modified upper plate provides mounting of modern points (1970 ford V8) and condenser mounted on top of the plate. The point block and points are one piece which provides a more precise alignment. The cam contact block is nylon which requires very little readjustment and the condenser mounted on top of the plate eliminates a lot of heat related problems.



When attaching the ignition cable, be careful not to screw it in too far as it will sometimes short out against the bottom bracket on the lower plate. Screw it in only far enough to made good contact with the lower plate bracket.

*Thanks and a tip-o-Smokey's  
fedora  
To*

*Les Andrews Mechanic's Handbook  
Model A Times, Fall 2012*



### Mathematics made simple

$9 \times 1 =$	09
$9 \times 2 =$	18
$9 \times 3 =$	27
$9 \times 4 =$	36
$9 \times 5 =$	45
$9 \times 6 =$	54
$9 \times 7 =$	63
$9 \times 8 =$	72
$9 \times 9 =$	81
$9 \times 10 =$	90

**What the teachers never taught us**

To remember your 9's times tables

(Use  $9 \times 7$ )

Take the number that you are multiplying by nine,  $7$   
Subtract one.  $7 - 1 = 6$

Use that number and the number that added to it equals 9,  
 $6 + 3 = 9$

Your answer is  $63!$        $9 \times 7 = 63$

# Simple Right?

hmmmm...  
and yet another  
day has passed  
and I did not  
use Algebra  
once...very  
interesting.



### Automotive Trivia 1911

Vehicle production climbs to 199,319 cars and 10,681 trucks.

Several self-starting mechanisms emerge, including the Amplex compressed air starter

The Model "T" now sports a new body and gets a price cut to \$680 which doubles sales for 1911

The Detroit area is home to the first painted highway center line.

Buick sets a new speed record, traveling more than 20 miles in just over 13 minutes!!

### October Trivia

Oct 1, 1908 Model T goes on sale

Oct 15, 1924 Lee Iacocca is born

Oct 29, 1973 First Arab oil embargo begins.  
*Whew, I'm glad that's over!!*

Oct 25, 1931 George Washington bridge opens to traffic

### Trivia Quiz, questions and answers

Q: True or False?

The 1953 Corvette came in white, red and black.



A: False.

The 1953 'Vettes' were available in one color, Polo White.

Next Month

Q: What was the first car fitted with an alternator, rather than a direct current dynamo?

A What???