

# Fox Tales

## Fox Valley Region Model A Restorers Club

JULY 2009

### 2009 MARC National Meet - Merrillville, IN.

By  
Harry Klimek

This year was the first time I attended the whole national meet. There were many activities and thankfully many that the kids were interested in. There were Model "A"s in all shapes and sizes. Anything from fine point cars, to a '30 cabriolet purposely converted to a monster truck. There was defiantly something for EVERYONE. The swap meet was a good size although stifled by the heat. I didn't get much of a chance to shop all at once, but on the several chances I did have, I found some bargains. Two of them were Hubley model cars. The kids each picked one out for the races to be held later in the week. I also was able to get some carburetor parts and a bag of wind wing parts so I can fix the one I broke on my car.

There were plenty of activities every day at the national meet. On the first night, Henry's A's put on a variety show that featured local talent as well as the talents of fellow MARC members. Free popcorn and other snacks provided by the local merchants made the event fun and filling. There were also self guided tours, among them the Albanese candy factory and another to the Fair Oaks Farm.

MARC is obviously making sure to share the excitement of Model "A" fun with the next generation of Model "A" owners. One really popular activity for the kids was to take a pile of Model "A" components and, working as a team, build a running Model "A" chassis. The kids later got to take a ride on the chassis with a surprise to follow the next day. All the kids, big and small got a chance to help build the Model "A". In all 12 kids built the running chassis in 2 1/2 hours after which, each had the chance to ride in the finished product!

Next was the youth Model "A" driving school. We showed up to see the other kids drive and were suppressed to find out that almost any kid would get the opportunity to drive a Model "A". There were 4 cars in the rotation, 1 of which was the chassis they built the day earlier. Rosie got a chance to drive the chassis she had helped build.

Harry and Rosie both got a lesson on how to start a Model "A". Rosie got it started and with a little help from dad on the clutch, she drove that car around the parking lot with a HUGE smile on her face. Next, it was Harry's turn; he hopped onto the chassis, started it up, had it



running and then it died! No way could we get it to start again. The Indiana heat got to it. Then Ken Ehrenhoffer stepped in with his REALLY nice Fordor, (way to raise the bar for me Ken!) and said Harry could drive his car. He got another run down on the controls, and then started her up. With a bit

of clutch hopping he was on his way. He even got to shift to second gear a couple of times. During the test drive Ken told Harry that this was the car Tom Hanks drove in the movie the *Road to Perdition*. What a thrill, the pictures show the pride and excitement the kids had on their first Model "A" drive.

Next up was the Hubley Races in the evening. We checked in, passed the weigh in and were lined up for the big race. The Hubley races were a BIG DEAL for the MARC National, popular with the kids and even more popular with the adults. Harry and Rosie each entered their cars in their respective classes. At the end of some grueling racing the results were in. Harry took first place in the 10-14 year old group. Rosie took second place in the 6-9 year old group! The winners were awarded some very nice engraved trophies. I am sure that the kids are going to want to get their cars prepped for the races at French Lick next year.

On our final day we were part of the volunteer group from the Fox Valley Region. Bruce, Phred, Charley, Kathy, Harry, Harry IV and



Rosie were all part of traffic control for the end of the fine point and touring class mandatory tour. The kids were the ribbon distributors for the red ribbon touring class cars. The Henrys 'A's' were grate-

ful for the help and I later was told by Art (the guy who was running the Fairgrounds activities) that there were only 9 other folks running things and that he was VERY grateful for the help he got from our Region members.

Despite the heat that made Model "A's" and Model "A" owners a bit cranky, a good time was had by all. I highly recommend attending a National Meet if you never have. You'll see many Model "A's" all together (and many you may never get a chance to see otherwise), meet a lot of new friends from all over the country, get a chance to shop at the swap meet, and spend an entire week in all that is Model "A".



# The Next Generation

Have you ever wondered where Model A's come from? Typical stories are much the same, and usually go like this: "When I was a kid, my first car was a Model 'A' Ford." The story predictably ends with, "I wish I had never sold it." Model "A's" were plentiful and as we bought our first ones, selling prices were in the range of \$25 to \$50; a hundred dollars was a lot. It wasn't a hobby, it was transportation. It was that transportation, however, that was to be the foundation of a lifetime hobby. That's where Model A's came from but where will they come from in the future?

Last month the National meet was held in Merrillville, Indiana. Fox Valley members Harry and Kathleen Klimek packed up their 1929 Model "A" roadster, popped the kids, Harry IV and Rosie in the rumble seat and set out on a journey to Merrillville. For Harry and Rosie, the visit would be more than just looking at cars, they would have an opportunity to participate (*see story, page 1*). This is the future of the hobby.

Although the way in into the Model "A" hobby has changed over the years, the hobby itself remains safe. Safe, in part, because of the many national organizations committed to the preservation of the Model "A". Just as important, the future lies with the exposure a younger generation gets. This is where tomorrow's Model "A's" will come from.

**Who's The Dude?** The picture of this little guy goes all the way back to 1949. Driving what now might be considered a new "Green" car he's a kid way ahead of his time. Who is he?



## Last Month

No cheating now! Write down your answer and then read on. Sitting on the running board of that '37 DeSoto was Fox Valley's very own John Calinawa.

## Soapbox Sputters

A message from the President



## Driving in the Drizzle

Newark's Fourth of July parade was a soggy celebration this year. The Fox Valley Model A's gamely strutted through the puddles, but it was the Newarkians who were the spectacle. Umbrellas, slickers, and tarps were only marginally effective in keeping some dry. Most were sodden even before the short parade started. Still, the annual drive-to-dinner was well attended ... and the chicken and chops were scrumptious!



## 19th Annual Vintage Transport Extravaganza

Mark Sunday, August 2nd, on your calendar for a trip to Union, IL. to attend the 19th Annual Vintage Transport Extravaganza at the Illinois Railroad Museum. We will meet at the Cali's at 8:30 for a 9:00 departure. John will bring the BBQ so bring a salad or desert to pass.

## 2008

## DRIVING AWARD

Jan and Bruce Winslow are Fox Valley's most recent recipients of the MARC 10,000 mile driving award.



To put that into some sort of perspective, it is much like driving from San Francisco to New York and back almost twice. That's a long way in a '29 pickup roadster with no windows. Congratulations, you earned it.

## How to get there?

From Route 64 & Randall continue west on 64. Turn left on Townhall Road to entrance.



## FOX VALLEY REGIONAL OFFICERS

Bruce Winslow	President
Frank Nemecek	Vice President
Charlie Lenz	Treasurer
Pat Smith	Secretary
Bob McMahon	Director
Keith Rogers - Newsletter Fabricator	



The July meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, July 17th, at

## Campton Forest Preserve

Route 64 & Townhall Road

The club will bring the chicken; you bring a dish to pass

Harry Klimek - Web Master