

Fox Tales

Fox Valley Region Model A Restorers Club

November 2010

Fall Tour - Oregon

The National Weather Service is one of the six scientific agencies that make up the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States government. Sounds impressive but what do they do? On a good day they will let you know if it will rain or snow or be windy. Compare that to the Fox Valley Region of MARC which can do the exact same thing just by planning a Model "A" tour. For example, the tour to Starved Rock - thunder storms; the fall tour to Oregon - rain and wind. I could go on but you get the point. Given the opportunity, it seems Fox Valley could forecast the weather and replace 1/6 of NOAA at a fraction of the cost to the US taxpayers. Let's take a look at just how the weather reacts to our every move. As Model "A's" assembled at John & Annie Cali's for the Fall Tour to Oregon, IL, so did the clouds. As the clouds built, we enjoyed a cup of coffee before setting out on our annual Oregon tour. Just as tour guide John Cali said "start em up" the rain also started. As the five Model "A's" pulled onto Burlington Road and went through the gears, the rain increased in intensity. Now moving down the road at 40 mph the wind came. At 45 mph, it was rain, wind and dark skies. Our first scheduled stop



was at Esmond where we would visit the local antique shop housed in a 1950's era school building of the same name. While shopping, it was decided to turn back because of the bad weather and have lunch at Roses in Hampshire. With the remainder of the tour now canceled, the wind soon subsided and the rain stopped. After lunch, the drive home was pleasant and as I pulled into the garage some six hours and 106 miles later the sun was shining. Yes the weather seems to react to our every move and yes we are available should NOAA be interested but more importantly and apart from the weather, we had a great time on this year's fall tour to Oregon.

Happy Birthday Fox Valley

Thirty Years of Ford Fun

It all started November 11, 1980 when eight people got together for the first meeting of the Fox Valley Region of MARC. Thirty years and a whole lot of miles later, thirty members got together at Niko's in Wasco to celebrate Fox Valley's anniversary. As always, the food was great, the conversation terrific and the friendship extra special. In the "worthy of mention category" Bob & Carol McMahon drove the only Model "A" to the event. Charlie Lenz was the only member present that was also at the first meeting 30 years ago. Michael and Amanda Sargis, Jr. made and presented to each member a silk screened 30th Anniversary Shirt. The cake was a gift of Bob and Joan Bieszart and Bob decorated the cake. The youngest in attendance was 6 years old and our most senior member was 87. Perhaps the highlight of the evening, at least from the youngest member's perspective, was the "do-it-yourself" s'mores cooked over an open fire. All in all, Fox Valley still has what it takes thirty years later.



SCHOOL DAYS Bob Bieszart, Charlie Lenz, Oscar Lundegard, Bob McMahon and Mike Sargis, Sr. got together at Kaneland High School where they had the privilege of introducing the Model "A" Ford to automotive students. To place perspective on the ages of the student audience, most were born between 1992 and 1996



rendering the model "A" Ford totally foreign to them. It was a given that the Model "A" was used for transportation, similar to that of today's cars but that was where the similarity ended. When confronted with a mechanical brake assembly or shown a mechanical gas gage or after market heater, they were truly amazed at the simplicity and perhaps that the assembly worked at all. Suggesting that one would cook his own meals while on the road using a manifold oven as displayed on Bob McMahon's car was truly astonishing. Where were the drive-in's in the 30's? At the conclusion of each session, it

was apparent the students left having a better understanding of early automotive history and just how it impacted the design and engineering of today's cars. As each session ended, students were offered a ride in either Bob Bieszart's or Bob McMahon's car for a real taste of automotive reality.



Our Candidate NOTICE: Your 2011 Officer Candidate sample ballot has been included with this newsletter. If you receive your newsletter by email, your ballot has been included as a separate attachment (Officer Ballot). If for any reason you did not receive your ballot, contact Keith Rogers and one will be sent to you.

A TRUCK COMES TO LIFE Dan Harley has had his sights set on getting his AA truck going since joining Fox Valley. He brought it to a point where he needed a little help so Oscar Lundegard, Charlie Lenz, Bob McMahon and Bob Bieszart got together to give him a hand. With electrical connections cleaned and a new battery in place, the first effort produced no spark at the plugs. Bob McMahon suggested replacing the distributor with a known working one and the trucks engine soon came to life. There's still work to be done but Dan's hope is to drive to the Turkey Roast this November.

- COMING UP**
- NOV 19 NOEL DE LESSIO SEMINAR "THE "A"-LECTRICAL SYSTEM
 - NOV 27 ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS PARADE. ST. CHARLES
 - DEC 11 BREAKFAST. 8:30 AT OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
27W229 GENEVA ROAD. WINFIELD
 - DEC 4 LADIES LUNCHEON. NOON AT TOWNHOUSE BOOKS
105 N. 2ND. AVE. ST. CHARLES
 - DEC 17 LADIES COOKIE EXCHANGE AFTER MEETING



Bonnet Jewelry
STYLING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED A NEW SPLIT GRILLE AND THE SUPER 88 BOASTED A ROCKET V8 AT 240 HORSE-POWER. YOU WERE CORRECT IF YOU GUESSED A 1956 OLDSMOBILE.

ENTHUSIASTS GENERALLY REGARDED THIS YEAR AS THE BEST YEAR OF PRODUCTION. NOTABLE ITEMS INCLUDED ADJUSTABLE BRAKES, ADJUSTABLE SUSPENSION, CABIN HEATER AND RADIO AS STANDARD ITEMS. CAN YOU NAME THIS CAR?



TURKEY ROAST ISSUE NEXT MONTH - SEE WEB PREVIEW ON "PAGE THREE"



Bonnet Bling
By Phred Hollister
Most of us are familiar with the greyhound mascot found on the early Fords and Lincolns, but very few are aware that before the greyhound there was another dog mascot. The stately dachshund mascot was only found on '28 Model "A" Fords produced in late June and early July. Attached is a photo of the only known survivor of this limited edition mascot.

Fox Valley Regional Officers

BRUCE WINSLOW	PRESIDENT
FRANK NEMECEK	VICE PRESIDENT
CHARLIE LENZ	TREASURER
PHRED HOLLISTER	SECRETARY
BOB MCMAHON	DIRECTOR

The November meeting will be held at 6:30 PM.
November 19, 2010 at
Batavia Boat Club
800 N. River St., Batavia, IL 60510
Harry & Kathleen Klimek will bring the snacks.

Keith Rogers - Newsletter Fabricator Harry Klimek - Web Master Judy Rogers & Joan Bieszart - Activities