

Fox Tales

Fox Valley Region

Model A Restorers Club

October 2007



Spray It Again, Dwayne!

Dick Molson, Steve Stevenson, and Harry Klimek recently audited a seminar on paint, materials, and equipment that was presented by the Illinois Region, MARC. Ken Ehrenhoffer, Training and Sales Manager for Excel (French manufacturer of Kremlin spraying equipment), made the presentation. Ken has over 45 years experience with paint spraying equipment and, coincidentally, is also Membership Director for the National Club.

After the lecture, the much less-experienced Model A'ers were invited to get their hands dirty. Each person was instructed in the use of a paint gun. They first sprayed water-based paint and,

after a break for hot dogs, they painted red enamel. Ken gave each person tips and help so they began to "get the feel" of applying paint. He also let participants know that the key to success is lots of practice.

A serendipitous benefit of the Saturday session was a chance to tour Ehrenhoffer's garage and the Illinois Region's club house. Harry, who took these pictures (on his telephone!) and submitted this report, said the garage is "everything Dick told us about it ... and then some!"



Chief Black Hawk is dejected over Fox Valley's decision to look for fall color along the Illinois River this year. It's understandable. The Rock River giant has been on lookout for our little Fords and his favorite brave, Butch, for many moons! Maybe next year, big guy!

South by Southwest

The fall '07 Color Tour entails three important changes from last year. First, we won't be heading to the Rock River. Instead, we are going to visit Starved Rock State Park. Second, the trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 27 (so Ken can sing in the choir on Sunday). And third, we will leave from the parking lot in front of the Big Rock grade school at 9 AM. If you want Swedish pancakes for breakfast, plan on arriving by 8 AM. The Big Rock Cafe is busy on Saturday!

Frank Nemechek has mapped a route through Sandwich, Wedron, and Utica, then across the Illinois River to the park. The trip, one way, will cover about 55 miles and is on county roads virtually all the way.

Another potential changeup involves lunch. We won't be seeing Chief Blackhawk. He's too set in his ways to make the trip. Instead, we hope to meet up with some of the Starved Rock Chapter MARC members at the State Park Lodge. Russ Harley has informed them that we will be dropping in for lunch.

Unchanged from past Color Tours will be our hope for lots of fall foliage, great conditions, safe miles, fellowship, and a tail wind both ways.

10-2 on 1632!

Our President made an executive decision to change the Club's preferred radio channel. The new setup is 16 for the frequency and 32 for the PL. Bob chose those settings because they sound best and the channel has more power available. Less expensive radios DO NOT have channels higher than 14 and DO NOT have PL available. Ours do.

Our "walkie talkies" are actually FMRS radios. The *Family Mobile Radio System* uses frequencies in the 450 Mhz range, with all the channels closely spaced. The System works thanks to modern digital technology.

Tech Talk from Harry Klimek

The first set of numbers – usually the big ones – show FMRS frequency. Kinda like the channels on the old CB radios. Because there are only 16 Frequencies available, these radios use PL codes – the little numbers. They focus the signal so we will only hear from people who also have their radios set to PL code 32. If you're in the middle of nowhere, PL isn't that important. But if you were at a swap meet without PL, you'd go out of your mind with all the unwanted radio traffic. PL is like a filter to block out unwanted reception.

Harry Klimek

