

# The Bus Line

Keeping Up with the Bus!



## A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF A 1931 MODEL A FORD PASSENGER BUS

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It has been a while since the last issue of the Bus Line went to print. A lot has been going on and has prevented an update to get done. It was my intention to send out more issues of this newsletter and I will try to get this accomplished more often in the future.

The Jay Leno Raffle has a big winner! In Nov 2019 Chris Prondzinski and his son Tyler were the big winners and they are from Spring Grove, Illinois. The drawing was held in the Model A Ford Museum building at the Gilmore Museum. With about 30 people in attendance a phone call was made to Chris and he was informed he had won the big prize! They made the decision to take the \$2500. Prize rather than the trip to visit the Jay Leno collection. The raffle effort has brought in almost \$20,000 to help restore the bus project. This amount combined with a \$21,000 previously raised we now have approximately \$41,000 in the Bus project Account. A special thanks goes out to the Model A Restorers Club for hosting this event in the State of Michigan. The MARC Board of Directors agreed to help us with the activity and the MARC office staff put in many hours to achieve this goal. A special thanks goes out to Sheila and Mindy for all the hard work they did for the Bus project. Rusty Gould the president of MARC was in attendance to pull the winning ticket! Thanks Rusty!



The Coastal Carolina A's are placing the finishing touches on the 157" AA chassis for the Bus project. Don Temple, Grier Fleischhauer and their team are doing a great job and will be installing the engine and transmission in early April so the chassis will be completed about one year from the day they received it from Ken Ehrenhofer and Ken Kalck who delivered it to them in May of 2019. This chassis has been completely rebuilt and ready for years of service at the Gilmore Museum. I cannot thank this group enough for all of their hard work and dedication. Without this group of Model A Enthusiasts this project would not be moving forward.



Disassembly of the body started several months ago and is moving along quite nicely. It is a challenge to work on a project of this size and difficulty. In order to give you an idea of this I must say when working on a Model A we usually use a small ladder and stands to reach the top area and small equipment to achieve the goal. In the case of the bus due to its size, we are using several 8 foot ladders and scaffolding to be able to reach the top and much heavier tools to be able to take the bus apart. We even needed a lift truck to be able to remove the side panels of the bus body. When you need a scaffold and a lift truck you know your project is larger than any other car you have ever worked on.





The bus body is now completely apart and is in the process of being stripped sandblasted and moved to a sheet metal shop for the sheet metal repairs to begin. This sheet metal repair is going to cost money as we are going to a restoration shop in Elk Grove Village Illinois. We will do all we can to keep this cost down but this will start to be a large expense for our program.



Many other things have happened in the last few months. Larry Wallace and Steve Burton picked up the wood from the roof and have taken it home for duplication. They had to rent a trailer just for this purpose as some the pieces are very long and due to being old a rotten are very fragile. They need to handle with care so they have good parts to duplicate. They are getting ready now to start working as soon as the Virus situation starts to end.



In the near future the floor will be worked on.

We have restored a Model A Aogah Horn and donated it to the Bus in Greenfield Village. We have asked Greenfield Village if we could borrow a bus seat so we duplicate these seats for our bus and they have said "yes" we could do this in early December 2020. Ron Ehrenhofer has restored and donated a Popout switch. We are currently gathering all of the plating to go to Terry Meeks but this may not happen until after the Virus situation gets better. Bob Martino has been working on the hood and the left front fender and they are ready for paint... Thanks Bob! We are looking forward to the news and photos of the engine and transmission installed in the chassis. This is a wonderful goal that is soon to be reached by The Coastal Carolina A's Wow! The Bus project keeps rolling....

