

I can't believe that 2011 is half over already. Before long there could be that "four letter word" (snow) blanketing my part of the world. I don't hate snow and I do enjoy the different seasons. Autumn is so beautiful; winter is fresh, crisp and beautiful. It's just that summer seems too short. Six months of summer and two months of spring, autumn and fall would be much better.

Speaking of 2011, I found a piece of trivia in an Orange County newsletter recently. This year has a number of unusual dates. They are 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, and 11/11/11 and that's not all. This is really interesting...take the last two digits of the year in which you were born – now add the age you will be this year. The results will be 111. It doesn't appear to work if you were born 2000 or later.

The 2012 National Convention Publicity Chairman has been sending out informative e-mails to chapters regarding the convention. A number of e-mails have been returned. Perhaps it is time for chapters to check their MAFCA website information and update it is necessary. Chapters might want to check their spam folders as a large numbers of the e-mails are getting returned as spam. When you see a subject heading that reads "2012 Convention Superior A's Chapter please allow those e-mails and share them with your chapter members.

The MAFCA Board of Directors had their July board meeting in Marquette, Michigan and they were impressed with the beauty of the area, the facilities and the excitement of the community. Check out the MAFCA website, or <http://superiorclub.com/> or even <http://hunts-upguide.com/> for convention information as well as all the things you can see and do in this beautiful part of the country.

I read with interest the President's column of the June issue from the **Beaver Chapter** of Oregon. Beaver Chapter has been around 50 years and President Ron Whitworth thinks it is time to consider having a long-range plan in place in order to have a roadmap to consult as the Beaver Chapter drives into the next 50 years. He states, the first 50 years they relied on the short-term plan and it appears it worked well. The short-term plan, he believes, has merely been "A see-what-happens approach" that has worked in a much simpler and less complex world. As a MAFCA director, I feel he has made a great point. In fact, I want to talk to him about running for the MAFCA board of directors next year. Ron questions what an antique car club will face in the next 50 years in terms of gasoline as a source of power, the environment, politics and government regulations and will membership continue to increase. Ron closed his column by saying they should look into the future also as a Chapter of MAFCA and for the continued health of the old car hobby. Thanks Ron for your remarks. This is an important topic for MAFCA, chapters and all hobbyists to think about as well as act on.

**Piney Wood Model A's** of Texas hosted the Texas Tour in June. The June issue of their newsletter had information regarding all the events planned for the weekend. Member **Ray Hinnart of Brazos Valley A's** was really excited about assisting with the event by providing car games. He stated they were doing their best to provide the most exciting car games ever. The participants were given the list of the six games with a description of each game. As I was reading the first game I thought to myself...this sounds like fun. I had to share some of the games with you. Below are a few of my favorites.

3.) Parallel Universe. This is a new game but has the potential to become one of the most fun games of all time. We will need to have the two highest point cars in the Car Judging Event parked along a curb 15 feet apart. The contestants will be blindfolded and guided into the parallel parking space by owners of the high point cars. This will be a timed event and there will be extra points for distance away from the curb and negative points for touching (scratching, denting, etc.) one of the judged cars. Ties will be broken by having the wives (if you don't have a wife, one will be assigned to you) guide the two top contestants into the space.

5.) Rolling Thunder. This is yet another new event. We will find a good hill. The participants will park their car at the top and a 2x4 with a rope will be placed under the right front tire. The participant will then put the transmission in neutral and release the parking brake and stand behind the rear bumper. To make this a little more challenging, the participant will stand behind the bumper based on the formula (100 minus age times feet). One of our club members will then pull the 2x4 from the tire, causing the Model A to begin rolling down the hill. The contestant will be required to run down the hill, catch the Model A, climb in, and apply the brake. The shortest distance will win. We are still working on some kind of barrier at the bottom in case the Model A is not caught and the brake applied.

6.) Defibrillator Derby. This game has its roots from heart problems detected in one of our members during car games a few years ago. This is also a timed event. The Defibrillator will be packed in the bottom of a trunk. The contestant will have to open and unpack the trunk, put the Defibrillator together and use the paddles to start the Model A. We thought about using a real subject but no one in our club would volunteer. However, the high point car owners in the Parallel Universe game might be available as subjects for the game.



A recent article in the newsletter from the **Model a Club of Arizona** talked about a trip a few of their members took to New Zealand. They mentioned taking their Model A's to the top of the Steepest Street in the world. Baldwin Street in Dunedin, NZ had a 35% grade and provided a white knuckle ride but it was reported that the Model A's and drivers mastered it perfectly. If you do an internet search for Baldwin Street, you will see amazing pictures and information.

**Sis-Q A's** sent in an article from a local newspaper about their recent Shasta Valley Tour. It is great to see interest from media about our great cars and the people who love them and drive them. The article mentioned how the tour ambled down dirt roads with clouds of dust billowing behind, winding through fields, ranches and pastures filled with livestock. The old Fords looked right at home. It was a great article and it sounds like a perfect place for driving a Model A.



**Moon on A's** provided an article by member John VanDalen about a 1928 Model A Three-Door Business Coupe complete with a number of photos. It originally came from their Telephone Collectors International newsletter. There was the old Ma Bell logo on the door of the A. I have never seen this style and I found the photos and article to be quite interesting. In fact, it is very doubtful that anyone has ever seen a vehicle like this as only about six of them were made for the Bell Telephone Company of

New York.

Not every Model A owner babies their A's. I recently chartered a chapter, **Hawkes Bay Model A Club** in New Zealand. It is interesting to see some of the events that are held in different areas of the world. This photo is from a tour in April – Nevis Crossing. The second half of their journey found large rocks that were challenging. The creeks were getting much deeper (up to the top of the car tires) and the condition of the road muddier and rougher.



The article mentions a local chap that stayed with them in case they got stuck who enjoyed the spectacle of three old fellows and their even older cars struggle with the obstacles along the way. The chap did pull all three out of water or mud during the trip. They crossed between 25 and 30 creeks along the way. The biggest challenge was the weather, and they will pick good weather next time along with a sound car, strong wife and a four wheel drive tail end Charlie.

That's it for this month. Remember to check out the MAFCA website or your Restorer Magazine for details on the MAFCA National Awards Banquet which will be held November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup> in Santa Rosa, California. I hope many of you will be able to attend. It sounds like a beautiful area with lots to enjoy.

Stephanie Grundman, 2011 Chapter Coordinator