

## John Meyer 50 Year MAFCA Member



At the January board meeting Alex Janke had the opportunity to present a 50 Year Longevity pin to member **John Meyer** of Calimesa, CA. John was able to join us for the day and provided some insight into what Model A'ing was like in the “early years” by sharing some of the pictures he brought. John also had an interesting chronology of the Model A's he's owned over the years. He had his membership cards for every year and all his longevity pins on display for the board. I hope you enjoy reading the accounts of his Model A activity.

- 1944 My first car was a 1927 Touring Model T. I owned it with two of my friends. We transferred the title as often as the DMV would allow. With each transfer we received a new gas ration book that gave us gas coupons for the oldest friend's car.
- 1945 I sold my interest in the T & bought a 1930 Coupe
- 1946 Sold the coupe & bought a late 1931 Victoria (it had original leather seats)
- Late 1946 I swapped bodies with a friend. I got a Roadster body (dumb deal). I had to chop the gearshift lever (it hit the gas tank) and had to move the radiator forward and lower it between the frame horns so I could see! I also added a Bendix auto pulse fuel pump because there was only ½ inch from the bottom of the gas tank and the top of the carburetor.
- 1949 Sold the Roadster and bought a 1929 Coupe. I was hit by a young woman (with no license) and the coupe was totaled.
- 1949 Bought a 1929 Roadster Pickup. It had sheet metal over the roof bows.
- 1950 Left the pickup with my brother-in-law and joined the Navy. Volunteered for submariners for 4 years plus; Honorary Discharge, Got married, have two wonderful children – a girl and boy.
- 1946-1950 met and became friends with Tiny Snell (in Burbank) and with Ben's Model A Salvage Yard (Pacoima and Calabasas)
- 1957 Bought a 1930 Cabriolet
- 1961 Joined MAFCA and the San Fernando Valley Chapter. Became active and Activities Chairman. Organized swap meets, “Rally Round the Valleys” and other tours and meets. Got to know Red Grow (Betsy) and most of the original members – the Paytons, George Pope and his wife, Ken Kaichuck, Harry Hocker and others.
- 1963 Bought “Mariah”, a late 1931 Town Sedan. Shortly after buying “Mariah” (she goes like the wind – they call the wind “Mariah”), I sold the Cabriolet back to man I bought it from.
- 1975 Moved to San Diego – Dropped out of the SFV Chapter and did not join another chapter, but I did maintain my membership in MAFCA.
- 2003 Moved to Calimesa and rejoined the SFV Chapter.
- 2008 Helped to found a “Base” (same as Chapter) for the United States Submarine Veterans and after driving “Mariah” in several parades celebrating veterans with my shipmates they have adopted her!

Footnote: With the exception of the time I was aboard submarines and 2 years after I was discharged, I have had a Model A plus other Fords. I have had my current Model A “Mariah” longer than I have had my current wife and she and I have been together 35 years. None of my Model A's have been restored, but have been stock and all ran well. Most all of the repairs I have performed myself.