

The Fuel Line Connection

January 2026 Est. 1994



Todd and Irene Riley
and their 1931
Model A Slant Window
Tour Sedan

From the President's Pen

Happy New Year all, I pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas, and will have an enjoyable Year to come. Next meeting on the 13th, we will be voting on the changes in our bylaws/constitution about what a member has to do to stay in good standing with the club, and reap all

the benefits afforded therein. The club is all about promoting and preserving the use and legacy of the Ford Model A, and that is our focus and pleasure to accomplish. My next letter will be on safety in using the Model A on the Road.

Bob Tapley

**About the picture: Todd and Irene went on the 2025 CCRG Grand Tour to Solvang and this picture with their Model A was taken as they attended the banquet on their final night. All three look very sharp!



Peggy Riley is our **Sunshine** Representative. She needs to know when members are ill, have surgery, or are in the hospital. Please call her at (559) 259-6106 if you have something to share or request prayer. Everyone is encouraged to call or send a card to anyone who misses a meeting.

Barbara Tapley- has a January 6 back surgery scheduled. **Sandra & Jerry Eitzen & Peggy & Jim Riley**- continuing medical treatment but you can't keep a good Model A man or woman down! **Wyatt Tomlinson** -starts a new semester of college and would appreciate your prayers.

JANUARY Calendar: Baby, it's Been Cold Outside

Jan 01	<i>New Year's Day</i>
Jan 13	<u>Blossom Trail A's Meet@ KRMHC Clubhouse @7:00pm</u>
Jan 19	Barbara Tapley -birthday

FEBRUARY Calendar: Blossoms & Sweethearts

Feb 05	Ron & Brenda Dupras -anniversary
Feb 09	<u>Blossom Trail A's Meet@ KRMHC Clubhouse @7:00pm</u>
Feb 13	Alan Borba -birthday
Feb 14	<i>Valentine's Day</i>
Feb 16	<i>President's Day holiday</i>
Feb 18	Jim Riley -birthday

Not so Famous Quotes from Famous People

There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.

—George Bernard Shaw



Blossom Trail A's Special Meeting

December 09 , 2025

The Meeting for new Officer Installation was called to order at our Christmas Banquet at the Bear Club by President Alan Borba. The Officer Installation was conducted by Jim Riley with his usual insight and hilarity.

Outgoing Club President, Alan Borba, was lauded and applauded. Returning officers Vice President Arnold Chakerian, Secretary Tamyra Tomlinson, Treasurer Linda Roushall and Newsletter Editor Linda Williams, were thanked and told to do better this next year. New President, Robert Tapley was given a gavel, briefcase and American flag to help him conduct meetings. Alan Borba was also presented with an engraved gavel as a thank you for his many years of service.

Those attending were Alan & Phyllis Borba with special guests, keyboardist Gordon Ahtye and his wife Marian, Arnold & Susan Chakerian, Jerry & Sandra Eitzen, Robert Fransen & his daughter Elizabeth, Gordon & Vicki Oakley, Jim & Peggy Riley, Todd & Irene Riley, Linda Roushall, Robert & Barbara Tapley, Craig & Tamyra Tomlinson, Ken & Marilyn Wall and Don & Linda Williams.

Thank you, Linda Roushall & the Borbas, for providing the fundraiser for the dinner & awards and the outstanding appetizers, wine & lovely table decorations.

Alan wished Happy Birthday in December to Todd Riley-18th and Ken Wall-23rd and he shared that the 27th would have been Ron & Linda Roushall's 28th anniversary.

The meeting adjourned as dinner was served.

NEW ADDRESS: Linda Roushall, 1610 Alluvial Ave., #102 , Clovis, CA 93611

Phone and email remain the same.



The performance of White Christmas at the Historic Reedley Opera House on Saturday Dec. 13, had an abundance of Blossom A members in attendance.

Robert & Rachel Fransen & family, Jerry & Sandra Eitzen, Linda Roushall along with two friends and a grandson and Arnold & Susan. The performance and singing was well done and enjoyable. The audience participated in singing White Christmas. There was a 50/50 raffle and Ethel, the lady sitting with Linda Roushall in the picture, was the winner! It was an enjoyable afternoon with entertainment and good friends. –Arnold Chakerian

Jim & Peggy Riley, Todd & Irene Riley and Don & Linda Williams are also Sierra Club members who attended the Sierra Model A Chapter's Christmas Banquet & Officer Installation & Awards Ceremony in Clovis on Dec. 13th. Irene Riley helped with the cute table decorations at the Banquet. She has also done a superb job in organizing and decorating for the last two multi-Model A Club Ladies Luncheons in the summer. Todd has been the Sierra Club President for 3 years. Don sells merchandise. Jim is a director. Irene & Todd Riley shared the First Place Points Award & Jim Riley received Third Place.



Don Williams was one who received a 2025 Thousand mile patch. Todd Riley did, too.



One of the Sierra Club members had to come straight from work. I was able to get his picture as he was getting ready to leave and the line behind me kept getting longer and longer. Everyone wanted a picture with Santa! I think he may be the real thing because he told me I was not on the naughty list this year!

Merry Christmas —Linda Williams





Another busy Model A Club member is Gordon Oakley. He owns a 1929 Model A Tudor and an antique Fire engine. This one isn't his. He went to a parade in another town and the Coalinga volunteers couldn't get their 1924 LaFrance antique fire engine started. He got it running for them and they asked him if he would drive it, too! For years now he has driven his own antique fire truck in the Orange Cove Christmas Parade as Santa Claus and he is still that secret identity at select places. It helps when you already have white hair and a white beard, a caring personality ... and the suit.

He is another Dual Model A Club member. A faithful member, this year he volunteered to be the 2026 secretary for the Porterville Happy Honkers Club when they really needed him. Two thumbs up!

Being a club member who attends meetings and events and looks for ways they can contribute to make the club better is the kind of member every Club is looking for.





Blossom Trail A's 2026 Officers

President:	Robert Tapley	labbrat226@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Arnold Chakerian	havewine@sti.net
Secretary:	Tamyra Tomlinson	tlynnt1950@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Linda Roushall	ldro719@gmail.com
Editor:	Linda Williams	tfcl12@gmail.com
Executive Board:	Barbara Tapley	barbtapley@yahoo.com
	Don Williams	donbch@sbcglobal.net



... to join the Reedley Blossom Trail A's Model A Club

The Model A Ford Club of America is dedicated to the preservation of the Model A Ford and its era. Anyone with an interest in Model A's is welcome to attend our meetings and join the Reedley Chapter. **We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month in the Kings River Mobile Home Park Clubhouse at 1300 W. Olson, Reedley at 7:00 PM.**

All members of the Blossom Trail A's are expected to also be members of MAFCA. **For a MAFCA Membership, the application is available online at www.mafca.com. Just click on Join MAFCA !**

Write to the Reedley Blossom Trail A's at P.O. Box 26, Reedley, CA 93654.

The Fuel Line Connection is the official publication of The Blossom Trail A's. It is published once a month for the enjoyment of the members. Information in this newsletter may be borrowed from other publications. Credit will be given when known

Breakfasts, Tours and Refreshments for Dec 2026

Month	Breakfast	Tour	Meeting Refreshments
January	Eitzen's tour/ breakfast		1/13 Eitzen's
February	Williams tour/ breakfast		2/10 Williams
March	3/21 Selma Swap		3/10 Blossom Trail
April	Wall's		4/14 Borba's
May	5 /1-3 CCRG Jamboree in Bakersfield & J & P Riley		5/12 Fransen's
June	Tapley's		6/9 Tapley's
July			7/14
August			8/11
September	Borba's		9/08 G. Oakley
October	L. Roushall		10/13 L. Roushall
November	Tomlinson's Turkey Run		11/10 Tomlinson's
December	12/08/26 Christmas Dinner & Officer Installation		12/09 Christmas Party

MAFFI Minute

December 2025



Happy Holiday Season, Model A'ers! Hope everyone is staying warm and that your cars are either tucked away for the winter or still enjoying the cooler air. I know I've been enjoying taking my A out in the snow.

Earlier this month, John Marshall, our Executive Director, sent out the Holiday Donation Letter, which is a great opportunity to stay involved by giving back to the museum. Don't forget that we also have a store where you can purchase MAFFI merchandise, located under the "Store" tab at maffi.org.

One of the coolest things about the museum is that it's constantly in motion. Dan Cargo and Jerry Dennany are always tinkering or moving cars around, with the help of the amazing volunteers from the Grape Country A's. If you visit the "Cameras" tab on maffi.org, you can see all the holiday decorations and even catch a glimpse of some of our newest additions.

The trustees also met in November to start shaping some exciting ideas for the museum. While it's a bit early to share details just yet, there are some great things in the works, and we're looking forward to unveiling more as plans come together in the months ahead.

Keep on motoring, and have a Happy New Year!

John Grossheim

Trustee and Secretary, MAFFI

Jim's Tech Tips

"Refueling With a Gas Can"

Sometimes I find it more convenient to go get 5 gallons of gas with a gas can for my Model A than it is to drive down to the gas station with the car to fuel it up.

But a 5-gallon can full of gas weighs over 30 pounds, and lifting it up to the gas cap on the Model A and controlling the can's spout as it enters the gas tank (without spilling gas all over the place!!!) can be a real challenge. Even with a helper to guide the spout into the tank as you go, it can be a mess.

My brother turned me on to this tip (thanks, Kevin!): For about \$20, you can purchase a small battery powered fuel transfer pump that will put the gas into your car in about a minute or two. This little thing is amazing!



You rest the gas can on the splash apron and fender (put a towel under it) and put the pump body into the gas can. Hold the pump outlet inside the gas tank filler opening with one hand and switch on the pump with the other hand. In no time at all the gas can is empty and you switch the pump off. Carefully remove the pump outlet from the tank and point it up to prevent fuel in the hose from dripping on your car. It's that easy, and a one-person operation.

On a car with side-mount spares, you can rest the gas can on the spare tire and hold it there, instead of resting on the splash apron and fender. It works just the same.

As an added bonus, you can quickly pump most of the old fuel OUT of a Model A gas tank with this pump, and into a 5-gallon gas can, if the need arises. I have done that, too.

Until we meet next time, Jim

**From the Charter Oak "Acorn" News-Editor*

FASHION

The Iconic Snap-Brim Fedora Hat

By Anne Neely-Beck

Advertised in 1928 as being “Blocked in one of the most approved styles”, his description reflects the legacy of a hat with a history spanning more than a century. During the Model A Era the fedora was the favorite of men ranging from the fashionable young collegiate to the conservative head of the family. It was the most adopted of available hat styles both for social daytime and business occasions. Its popularity can be attributed to a rugged workable design combined with a perfection of curvature and dimension.

During the Model A Era social expectations dictated that the well-dressed gentleman’s wardrobe included hats and caps appropriate to their circumstance. The wearing of a head covering upon leaving home was the accepted practice, only to be removed indoors as appropriate or being engaged in conversation with women. Further, it was a strong economic statement about the wearer and a status symbol.

The fedora is a soft felt hat with a wide brim and features a prominent crown. Its styling descends from the traditional brimmed hat worn as part of the customary

costume of Tyrol, a mountainous region of the Austrian Alps. The hat’s name was derived from French dramatist Victorien Sardou’s successful 1882 tragic romance stage play “Fedora” which starred the extremely popular actress Sarah Bernhardt as the heroine Lady Fedora. To the delight of her numerous French, German, and English fans, she was reported to have worn a stylish soft felt hat replete with a crease in the crown which the fans quickly emulated in their

own wardrobes. The fedora then made its way across the Atlantic and was being advertised in New York by 1884 as a newly offered hat style.



It is fair to state that the early fedora could have easily become a footnote in history, but subsequent events interceded. Italian hatmaker Giuseppe Borsalino, his legacy still a world-wide force in the hat world, turned his attention to the then new hat. His creative genius transformed it by undertaking innovative improvements resulting in the 'modern fedora' styling available in the Model A Era. Borsalino's styling improvements met with ever increasing popularity including the attention of England's Prince Edward VIII, a fashion icon in his own right. A 1924 visit to the United States influenced the fashion world when he wore a fedora with dressy suits. Americans embraced the fashionable boldness of a royal socialite. Sears, Roebuck and Company also noticed; mass production of the fedora was quickly undertaken. This resulted in the eroding popularity of homburg and derby hats.

The fedora was the most popular men's hat of the Model A Era. Its style remained constant during those years, as did all other aspects of men's hats. This was in sharp contrast to the constantly changing contemporary designs encountered by women. Reinforcing the popularity of the fedora was its fashionable choice in contrast to the previously stiffer hats, enhanced versatility and the emerging influence of theatre palaces that portrayed Hollywood's leading men wearing a fedora. This suggested that the purchase of a good quality hat would ensure years of service with no fear of becoming dated.



While original fedoras can be sourced (online, antique stores or swap meets), there are often challenges as to condition and fit. Fortunately, there are many quality fedora hats for sale through haberdashers or online. The challenge is to select a hat that closely adheres to what was available during the Model A Era.

The 'modern fedora' of the Model A Era encompasses several key stylistic components and materials. The Fedora is fashioned from a soft felt material: fabric made from animal fur such as rabbit, or wool, processed to form a smooth or napped finish. The felt is typically dyed black, brown, or gray with blue, green and tan



sometimes at offer. A prominent crown of over five inches features a crease (also termed a *bash* or *dent*) in the form of a lengthwise trough but also commonly available is the teardrop (also known as the 'C') style. In addition, the crown has a "pinch" at the front sides, claimed to have been originated by Borsalino in order to facilitate a gentleman undertaking to doff his chapeau. A one and 3/4-inch-wide grosgrain ribbon featuring a bow completes the crown.

The brim of a fedora is also a defining feature. There are three distinct edge finishings associated with the fedora style: raw or unfinished, finished with a sewn overwelt or underwelt or bound with grosgrain ribbon. These finishings allow the brim to be worn in a variety of angles resulting in the 'snap-brim' designation. Width of hat brims range from two and 3/8 to two and 2 5/8 inches. Rounding out the construction of the hat is the lining. Quality products feature satin or silk material, often with a top plastic protector, combined with a leather sweatband. An unlined fedora with fabric sweatband is a summer alternative.

The fedora hat continues to be an enduring fashion favorite. This popularity still makes it possible for a gentleman to acquire an authentically styled Model A Era hat as a fundamental component of his everyday period wardrobe.



**Article from the MAFCA website . Click on Committees and then ERA Fashions. -Editor

A Little Fun !!!



They say every piece of chocolate you eat shortens your life by two minutes.
I've done the math. Seems I died in 1537.



Chocolate is vital for our survival!! Dinosaurs didn't have chocolate, and look what happened to them...



What's this lady doing, adjusting the visor?



Things I learned from my mother...

1. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION. "Just wait until we get home."
2. My mother taught me about RECEIVING. "You are going to get it when you get home!"
3. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE. "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
4. My mother taught me ESP. "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
5. My mother taught me HUMOR. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

Exercising can add YEARS to your life. For example, I jogged 4 miles today and now I feel like I'm 73.

England doesn't have a blood bank. But it does have a liverpool.

**Thanks to Charter Oak Acorn News & Script A News. —Editor