



Feature Vehicle:

1930 Model A Ford Station Wagon

owned by
Louis Ironside



Brian's Report Card for 2012

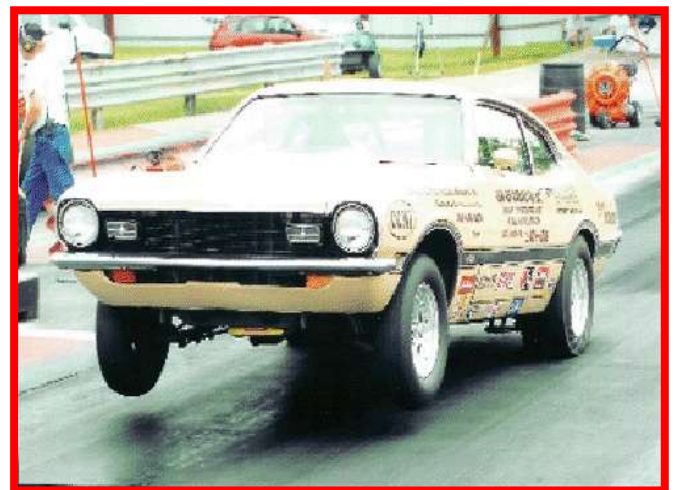
submitted by
Brian Kuta



Lou's Model A Ford Station Wagon

Anyone who has read my "Roving Reporter" column over the past few years has probably noticed that I often mentioned finding some Model A Ford parts. Well; this is what they were going on, my restoration project of a 1930 Ford. The 1930 Ford station wagon model 150-B had a production run of 1940 vehicles. The 1929 style of wagon had been carried over until May of 1930 to use up old stock; then the new body style was brought out. That alone makes this a fairly low production vehicle, along with the delicate nature of wood bodied cars contributes to the low survival rate. But, since this was the year and style of the first woodie wagon I ever got to ride in, I have always wanted one. Over the past 40+ years I have owned several woodie wagons, but the 1930 Ford was always in the back of my mind...but usually unobtainable. In 2009 at Hershey a vendor had an absolutely terrible pile of parts which had once been a 1930 wagon used as a surf fishing vehicle on an Atlantic Ocean beach in Delaware. It had quit running some thirty years earlier and sat

Last year I reported the issues I had with my AFR cylinder head valve springs, a tip breaking off of a pushrod, and the CompCam composite distributor gear breaking and shutting me down. This year I had no problems with anything to do with the hotrod, but there were some family health issues that got me away from what I love to do. Again, I have to extend my many thanks to Kar-Go Carburetor Inc., Accurate Transmission, Driveline and General Repairs Inc., Maddox RV Inc., and Cougar Construction Midwest Inc. Because of their professional services, once again there were no issues with my racing efforts or the traveling to and from the race tracks. This year I raced at Mid Michigan Motorplex, Norwalk Raceway Park, The Ugly Dragway, Northern Michigan Dragway, Dragway 42, Milan Dragway and Bristol Dragway. Oh yeah, I said Bristol Dragway, right next to the Bristol Speedway in Tennessee. The Bristol trip was a mere 600 miles one way though the mountains going there, and a little more coming home to avoid the mountains that put our motorhomes and



Brian Kuta's Hot Rod

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The Ford & Mercury Restorers Club is a hobby organization whose purpose is to foster and promote the acquisition, preservation and use of all Ford vehicles, 25 years of age and older.

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Rotunda Times



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

On behalf of the board I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. While on the subject of the new year we had to reschedule our next meeting until January 9th because the January meeting would have fallen on the day after New Years. I am sure that makes more sense to most of you.

We want to thank Bob and Diane Assenmacher for handling the holiday nights Christmas walk in Greenfield Village. I went with my son Kurt and my daughter in-law Lisa and my two little grandchildren Zachary, 5 and Victoria, 4. We all had a nice time and any members we encountered seemed to have a nice time as well.

Mark Koehler is handling the dinner dance again this year. The date has been set for January 26th, 2013 at the St. Mary's Cultural hall in Livonia. Invitations will be coming out soon. We plan to have the Jamie Coe band back this year and Wally Gibson from Station 885 in Plymouth will be joining the group.

Well finally and thankfully the election process is behind us. In my presidents message last month I editorialized about how the election process has gotten ugly the last 2-3 years and the people that were not elected turn to smear campaigns. Those very same members then start up a new club and become troublesome for the rest of us. I call on these members to get over it and make an honest effort to join the ranks with the rest of us that care for the club. We must move forward in a positive manner and put the club and its members first ahead of any

personal agendas. Let's all join together for the good of the club. I thank all of you for your trust and support for the re-elected officers of the club.

Til next time
Bob Guetschow, President



In Memoriam *Tom Gehringer* 1943-2012

It is my solemn duty to announce the passing of fellow club member Tom Gehringer on December 3, 2012. Tom was 69 years old and had been a member of the club for 5 years from 2008-2012. Tom is survived by wife Linda, four children and five grandchildren. The club will be sending a \$ 50.00 donation in lieu of flowers to the U of M comprehensive cancer center.

In Memoriam *Joe Abela* 1937-2012



We also note the passing of former club member and president Joe Abela on December 1, 2012. Joe was a club member for 11 years from 1992-2002, Joe was also a two time president in 1997 and also from 2000-2002. Joe is survived by wife Patricia, four children and eleven grandchildren. Joe was 75 years old.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 1st

January 9th Club meeting

Please note that this is a week later than our regular meeting



February 6th Club meeting

The FMRCOA Membership Advantage!!!!

Your Board officers and editor take extra effort to bring you FREE classifieds and schedule of events found within your monthly newsletter. Take advantage of these benefits your membership provides. Post your schedule where you can refer to it easily. Submit your ads at a meeting or mail to Beth Marschner, our ad editor. For more information on becoming a member go to FMRCOA.org or write to :

FMRCOA Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 2938
Dearborn, MI 48123

Dues are \$25 before and \$30 after December 31st.
Please mail your dues in or pay at a meeting!

The Rotunda Times would like to feature your old car or truck in an upcoming issue. We are interested in how you came about finding your vehicle of choice, and what you have done to enhance its beauty, and/or mechanical condition. Simply mail or email us your article accompanied with a photo to:

Beth Marschner
emarschner@twmi.rr.com
ROTUNDA TIMES
17445 Norborne
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248.231.4892

Our monthly club meetings are held at **St Mary's Cultural Center at 18100 Merriman Rd** in Livonia between 6 and 7 Mile Roads. This is the beautiful facility where we have had the last several dinner dances. Moreover, it has an extremely large parking lot enabling club cars to be easily parked together (and the food is great).

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month and begin at 6:30pm with a snack. And do bring a friend!



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December 2012 FMRCOA MEETING MINUTES December 5, 2012



114 members were at the December meeting



Bob started the meeting promptly at 7:30pm. Before starting with the pledge, Bob introduced the Marines that were on hand to help with the annual toys for tots toy drive. Staff Sergeant Cox

presented the club with a certificate of appreciation and thanked us for the toy donations. Kathy Walker from the salvation army was also on hand to help with the toys.

The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Although there were no guests in the audience, new member David Brochette was there to



accept his new membership badge.

Bob announced the passing of 2 FMRCOA members. Tom Gehringer and past member Joe Abela. See

the memoriam to these 2 men elsewhere in the newsletter.

Minutes were read by Beth Marschner. No objections as read but Art Cervi did question the reopening of the 1 year director position after the elections were closed at the November meeting.

Bob explained the circumstances and a decision was made with the approval of election committee chairman Wally Wigand. Some further discussion was made but the topic was closed.

Dale read the treasurers report. There were no questions or objections to the report as read.

Terry reports we have 338 members and she is still working on the renewals.

Jim Crawford has broken his hip and is due for surgery in December.

Moving on to new business. Hank wanted to know who else was on the election committee. Bob assured him that that information would be announced later in the evening along with the election results.

Dinner dance is set for January 26th at the St. Mary's Cultural Center. Details to follow.

Stan Miller suggested to change the January meeting to the following Wednesday due to the New Year's holiday. The board agreed to discuss it and notify the members via email and/or newsletter.

Members shared some car talk. Bill, Mark and Al shared their show and tell items.

There were many generous donations to the 50/50 raffle. The club matched the earnings from the raffle and presented Toys for Tots a check for \$500. Way to go!!

Next came the election results....



Continued on Page 7

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1930 Model A Station Wagon *Continued from page 1*



in a salt water marsh. Needless to say it was pretty bad...but there again I enjoy a challenge, so it followed me home on the trailer. The salt water had not been kind to the running gear so another chassis was purchased from Dean Styles, a rebuilt motor from Iowa, a transmission from another place, and finally a reproduction wood body kit from New York. Small parts for woodie wagons are not the easiest to find, so a good year in parts hunting in Hershey might bring only four or five original parts. There are a few reproduction parts on the wagon, as some items just don't seem to exist. Finally, the LeBarron Bonney interior was installed on the front seat, and in October of this year I finally got to drive my wagon after three years of work. Right now I am waiting for the LeBarron Bonney order to do the middle jump seats, and making all the final adjustments to have it ready for the grand opening of the new Model A Ford museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan at the Rd Barns next spring. But you ask, what am I to do now that the wagon is done? That, is quite simple....start on my next wood bodied Model A project which I bought at Hershey this year....I had to buy it....my other Model A's were lonely.



FMRCOA Receives OCW Golden Quill Certificate

Recently we received our 2011 Golden Quill Award certificate from Old Cars Weekly (OCW). Last April, when Steve Rohde (Editor in 2011) was informed that we were a winner again, several club members asked what that meant and the criteria for the award. We will try to answer these questions below based on criteria provided by OCW*. Firstly, the annual Golden Quill Award has brought recognition to numerous publications in the old car hobby, and continues to be a source of pride for winners. Clubs are honored by the selection and members are pleased they belong to a "winning" club. To be eligible for a Golden Quill Award officials with Old

Cars Weekly News & Marketplace need to receive copies of the publication from the club. Each month we send OCW copies of the Rotunda Times. OCW criteria for the Golden Quill Award include that a publication:

- Meets the needs of club members
- Is consistently high quality in design and content
- Offers a balance in content (news, features, technical, etc.)
- Presents fresh and creative material that advances the hobby
- Is a good-will ambassador for the club
- Is visually attractive and interesting
- Uses good, interesting pictures of cars, events, and people


We are very proud to have received a Golden Quill Awards for five years in a row!

*This is based upon an article by Gerald Perschbacher on March 19, 2008, Readers are encouraged to view that article in its entirety at http://www.oldcarsweekly.com/news/hobby-news/golden_quill



FEATURED ADVERTISER

This month we are featuring Ferndale Auto Radiator Repair. Ferndale Radiator is a family owned business and Mel Koykka is the owner operator. The business was started by Mel's grandfather in Highland Park and moved to Ferndale in 1945. Mel's motto is "we repaired your grandfathers Radiator". In short, bring your 90 year old radiator to Mel and he will fix it. Don't forget your modern plastic radiators. Mel will fix them too. Check out his ad and give him a call.



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Welcome New Members

Lee Bear

North Hollywood, CA 91605
 (818) 378-2680
 lee9@aol.com



- 1967 Ford Thunderbird Coupe
- 1974 Mercury Marquis Wagon
- 1986 Ford Bronco 2dr.

Bruce Covert (Sharon)

Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
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- 1954 Ford Crestliner

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Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 5

Bob introduced Wally Wigand as the election chairman. Wally introduced his committee members:

Pat Beattie Jim Wandrie
 Larry Dicks Linda Dicks

The election results are as follows:

2 Year Director – Mark Koehler
 1 Year Director – Rob Martoia
 1 Year Director – Terry Worful
 Treasurer – Stan Miller
 Secretary – Beth Marschner
 Vice President – Tim Pusilo
 President – Bob Guetschow



A member did request the election count results which Wally reports as:

Rob Martoia, 164 votes	Cole Grandy, 110 votes
Terry Worful, 122 votes	Bill Coombe, 86 votes
Tim Pusilo, 147 votes	Hank Dawson, 98 votes
Bob Guetschow, 137 votes	Dale LeVasseur, 121 votes

The meeting was adjourned.



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Postcards from the Past

by
Lou Ironside

In keeping with the recent news articles on the long abandoned Packard Motor Car plant, I bring you this postcard of that plant in the days when they were pumping out luxury cars. This "birds-eye" view of the



Packard Motor Car plant

plant was taken fairly early, as the postcard was mailed in July 1926. You would have guessed that it would have been mailed in Detroit, but, it was mailed in Mount Gilead, OH, to a Miss Allen in Cleveland, OH. The only message was: Hello; Its hot down here too. Bobbie. It would have been a lot hotter for Bobbie if she was inside that Packard plant in July!!

The Roving Reporter:

Well, it is that time of the year when swap meets in the frozen north are virtually non-existent. If you are traveling to Florida or the "left-coast" there are a few to be found...but neither of those areas are in my travel plans. So, we can make our lists of needed parts and wait until the start of the new year to start hitting the meets again. In January there are three meets to attend: Gibraltar (which is really more of a trade show) on the 12th and 13th. Jackson on Sunday the 20th, and if you are looking for Model A parts, Saginaw on the 27th. There is also a MoPaR swap in the Detroit area that same day. On February 2nd and 3rd is the Kalamazoo swap meet, and since this is the 50th year of their swap meet...they are trying to make it the biggest and the best ever. The new facility is great, so I think we can look forward to a good show. In March on the 17th is the 43rd annual swap meet put on by the East Side A's at Milne Ford in Macomb, MI. Always a sell-out on tables, with lots of Ford parts from "T" to Mustang. And of course in July is our own FMRC swap meet !! It is

never too early to start thinking about getting a space to sell some of those un-wanted parts, and signing up to help with the many jobs that need covering. Hope everyone had a nice safe holiday season, and let's get ready to enjoy 2013 with our old car hobby.



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Brian's Report Card for 2012, *Continued from page 1*

trailers to quite the test for engine, transmission and brakes. Not that it was a big race, but there were 434 entries for that three day weekend race, a race like this ole boy has never been to until this experience. Yes, I intend to do it again in 2013, and I hope my good friends Paul and Debbie trailer their motor home so we can have the security of being with each other in case there is some issue.

For the people that are not familiar with my hotrod, it is a 1972 Ford Maverick that still has all of the glass and steel, except for the 20 pound weight savings on my fiberglass cowl hood installed to give me more hood clearance for the taller intake manifold and spacer under the carburetor. I raced in 32 races, but some eight were rained out. I made money in 13 of the 24 completed races with: Win = 1, R/U = 3, Semi = 0, 1/4's = 3, 1/8th's = 4, 1/16's = 1. Hey, I can't forget winning a Dialing For Dollars at Mid Michigan Motorplex, running a 10:380 on a 10:38 dial-in on an 87* day. The engine in my car is a 302 based Ford that comes out to exactly 348.3 cubic inches. An 850 Holley (by Kar-Go Carburetor) on top of an Edelbrock Victor Jr. Intake, AFR 225 cylinder heads, Isky valve springs, Research Engineering .700 / .700 lift, 268 / 276 duration @ .050, LSA 106 in at 104-3/4* cam. Diamond pistons, Scat rods, ARP rod bolts, stock Melling oil pump, Crane Gold Series roller rockers, rocker stud girdle, C-4 transmission (by Accurate Transmission), steel drive shaft, Moser 31 spline axles, Ford nine inch in a Ford Motorsport nodular case, Caltrac bars and Caltrac monoleaf rear suspension, and a bunch more little stuff that I just don't remember right now.

I got a little more out of the car to best my 10:19 ET in 2011 with a 10:17 ET this year, but the best speed remains the same at 131 MPH. I also picked up in the 1/8th mile from 6:43 to a 6:40 ET this year at 105 MPH, along with a new best 60 ft. of 1.356. As I am getting older I don't know that I have any aspirations to make my hotrod go faster, but do intend to make some minor changes in the interest of more consistency. I hope you all understand how much of a team effort racing really is. If it were not for the people that sponsor and help me in my efforts my racing could end, or for sure slow down considerably. I completely trust my sponsors, and know you can too. They are all good people, do great work, are priced right, timely with their

services, and I know you will have good experiences in your dealings with any of them. Again, if anyone reading my article would want, I would be more than willing to meet and introduce you to any owner of the businesses listed here in my article. Lastly, I have to give special mention to my son Mike, just because he does so much for me that is getting very difficult for me to do alone anymore.

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Maddox RV Inc.
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734-287-6067 (owner Kim)

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DECEMBER SHOW AND TELL

Shown here is an unusual set of "political" plates from the year 1932. Although there is no actual proof, it is generally assumed that the "letter" plates were awarded to people who made political contributions.



The "A" plates were friends of the governor, "B" plates the Lieutenant Governor, "C" plates Secretary of State, "D" Attorney General, "E" the State Senate, and "F" the state House. A few "A" plates have surfaced for 1931, and in 1933 plates started getting letter to

designate some counties. So, it seems that the political plates were basically made in only two years. Since in Michigan we can register our cars with year of manufacture plates, the odd-ball low number plates are in demand by the owners of all automobiles especially in 1932.

Submitted by, Lou Ironside



Bill Coombe brought in some more licence plates from Russia, Germany and Lichtenstein



Al Daniels showed us 2 of his Road Knights jackets and dragster photo.



First, I want to thank everyone that has submitted material for the newsletter this last year. I honestly could not have done it without you.

*I want to say a **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Brian Kuta and Lou Ironside who faithfully sent me material and articles this entire year. Their articles were fun and interesting and helped fill the pages of our newsletter. (And made my job a lot easier).*

Thank you to Debra LeVasseur who has provided photos both for me to use in the newsletter but to share with our membership as well.

And lastly, I want to wish all the members and their families a very safe and happy New Year.


Editor, Beth Marschner



Mark Sapienz shared his Ford vacation guide book and a Ford Redistribution center anniversary book too.



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DECEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

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- National parts depot \$75 gift certificate. \$60. 1950 Mercury engine clutch and trans. \$1,000 from my car. Gary Sharkas. 734-525-3652.
- 1941 Ford Opera coupe. Pat Beattie. 586-202-8486.
- Flathead Ford 33-53 starters and generators. Used \$20 each. Harry McAuliffe. 313-534-5974.
- 1947 Ford business coupe. Flathead with tri-power & 3 spd. Black with flames. Solid Texas car. \$25,000. Possible winter storage. Karl Chase. 248-879-0854.
- 1957 Ford back bumper. Mint condition in spring. \$350. 1970 Thunderbird 4dr. Black w/red interior. Factory sun roof; Rare. \$9,000. 1967 Lincoln "2 door" white w/black interior. Western car. No rust, need repaint. \$9,000. Paul Coleman. 734-397-1685.
- 1976 Olds Cutlas supreme bucket console. 90% restored. \$7,500 o.b.o. Patrick O'Hara. 313-999-8725.
- 1941 Ford radiator. Not stock by Wacker. \$500. Larry Wolohon. 734-454-4816.
- 1994 Mustang 302 motor. 5,000 miles. Trans also. \$1,300. Jeff Gniewek. 313-563-6569.
- 1969 Plymouth Fury station wagon. Barn find. Great body 318. Has not been run in a few years. \$2,500 or trade. Jeff Martoia. 734-812-9255.



WANTED

- Used oil (waste oil). Bring to the meetings. John Miller. 586-756-4279 or 313-891-2640.
- 1970 Torino wire harness for power windows. Scott Dodge. 810-845-6106.
- Rodders journal No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. Cole Grandy. 810-735-1671.

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