

# The Ford Script

Vol. XXXI I

November 2011

No. 11



**A Perfect Virginia Scene, A Southern Bell and Henry's Lady.**



Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords

# The Ford Script

Official publication of:  
George Washington Chapter, Inc.  
of the Model A Ford Club of America  
and the Mount Vernon Region  
of the Model A Restorers Club  
3903 Old Lee Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Chapter meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia. Social meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7:45. Members and guests are invited and encouraged to drive their antique cars to the meetings.

Chapter members are encouraged to belong to both MAFCA and MARC national clubs. The chapter Web page on the Internet may be accessed by:

[www.gwcmodela.org](http://www.gwcmodela.org)

Web Master: Tom Frazier

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Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor and the Assistant Editor to arrive by the Sunday prior to the first Wednesday of the month to: [billhsims@gmail.com](mailto:billhsims@gmail.com) and [douglas.tomb@verizon.net](mailto:douglas.tomb@verizon.net)

Next Script deadline: Sunday, December 4th

## **FROM THE QUAIL'S PERSPECTIVE**



Autumn is usually a perfect time to take our cars out for a drive and admire the colorful leaves. Not today, with snow falling as I write this article and the temperature hovering around 32 degrees. Hopefully, we will be able to have a few more good driving days to enjoy before winter arrives. Gil has enjoyed several days of good fall weather while driving our roadster and sedan while I was at work.

Another autumn ritual is the search for club members to fill vacant Board positions. The nominating committee will present the slate of Officers for the new 2012 Board at the November general meeting; however, members may nominate individuals from the membership to be considered for any Board position. If you decide to nominate a candidate, be sure they know about it and agree with the nomination ahead of time. Elections will take place when the nominations are closed.

The following resignations were received by the Nominating Committee: Paul Gauthier has resigned as Youth Development Chairman effective December 31. As was announced at the October general meeting, Woody Williams has resigned as Membership Chairman, effective October 19, and Greg Shepherd has agreed to be the acting Membership Chairman for the remainder of the year. Clem Clements has resigned as Sunshine Chairman effective December 31. Since the Sunshine Chairman is not a Board position, the Board decided to ask the Membership Chairman, who maintains the official Club membership email list, to take responsibility for sending sunshine emails. Greg Shepherd, acting Membership Chairman, agreed to distribute the sunshine emails.

On Sunday, November 6, you will all have a special opportunity to peruse lots of Model A parts, be a part of an auction and maybe take home that part you have been looking for. Mark your calendars to make sure you are present at 1:00 p.m. when the Club auctions Peyton Randolph's Model A parts collection, which his family donated to the Club.

Another opportunity to gather with Club friends will be December 3rd, our annual Christmas Party. The winners of the 2011 youth scholarships will be presented their checks at the party. Don't forget to sign up for an evening of fun, good food, dancing and an opportunity to win wonderful door prizes.

This month's tidbit: Have you heard that the first windshield wiper was invented by Mary Anderson in 1902 after riding a New York City streetcar? Before that, people smeared a mixture of onions and carrots on windshields to repel water.

Wishing you safe driving and fun times in your Model A,

Charlene Beckner, President

## **FROM THE SMOKE-FREE ROOM**

George Washington Chapter, MAFCA  
Mount Vernon Region, MARC  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
September 25, 2011



President Charlene Beckner called the meeting to order at the home of Bob & Billie Warhurst in Fairfax, Virginia at 1:35 PM. Other board members present at the meeting were: Gil Beckner, Tom Frazier, Benny Leonard, Woody Williams, Edna Cross, Paul Gauthier, Howard Minners & Chuck Kunstbeck.

Club President Charlene Beckner said that the deadline for articles in *The Script* is October 2, 2011.

Charlene also said that the topic for the October general meeting will be "Selling of the Model A", presented by Howard Minners.

The August 24, 2011 meeting minutes, previously published in *The Script* were approved.

Youth Development Chair Paul Gauthier reported that he has 14 scholarship applications for review. Scholarship Committee Members are: Paul Gauthier, Tom Quigley, Suzan O'Neale and Jim Gray.

National Liaison Howard Minners spoke about two back to back National Meets next year, the MARC National Convention in Oshkosh, Wisconsin (June 11-15, 2012) and the MAFCA National Convention in Marquette, Michigan (June 18-22, 2012).

Activities Chair Edna Cross reported on the Warhurst Picnic turnout. She also told the board about the upcoming Fall Festival Small Car Show in Fairfax City on October 8, 2011.

Treasurer Gil Beckner presented the financial report dated September 17, 2011. As requested at the last Board meeting, Gil ordered a MAFFI brick. The Board unanimously approved a motion to renew a Certificate of Deposit, up for renewal on October 12, 2011, at the best possible rate.

Membership Chair Woody Williams provided an update on the number of yellow name tags remaining.

The date for the auction of Peyton Randolph's model A parts may be changed. Date and inventory will be published in the next *Script*.

Chuck Kunstbeck, Secretary

## **FROM THE SMOKE-FREE ROOM II**

George Washington Chapter, MAFCA  
Mount Vernon Region, MARC  
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
October 26, 2011



President Charlene Beckner called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. at Gil and Charlene Beckner's home in Manassas, VA. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Other Board members present at the meeting were Paul Gauthier, Benny Leonard, Doug Tomb, Jack Melnick, Greg Shepherd (acting Membership Chair) and Tom Frazier.

## **FROM THE SMOKE-FREE ROOM II - Cont**

President Charlene Beckner presented reports for absent Board/committee members as follows:

1. Edna Cross, Activities Chair – read proposed menu for Christmas party, reported that a band had been secured for the party, Edna is purchasing door prizes, requested Board set Club member admission cost to the party. The Board voted to set admission tickets at \$5.00 for Club members and \$10.00 for guests.
2. Woody Williams, Tour Chair – reported that Janet Merkel had been able to set up room reservation ability with the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel for the 2012 MARC National Tour.
3. Bill Worsham, Woody Williams and Jerry Olexson, Nominating Committee – read proposed Officers and Board Chairs for 2012.

President Charlene informed the Board that Clem Clements, Sunshine Chairman, has indicated he will resign his position effective December 31. The Sunshine Chairman is not a Board position and is not addressed by the Club's bylaws. As a result, the Board decided to ask the Membership Chairman, who maintains the official Club membership email list, to take responsibility for sending sunshine emails. Greg Shepherd, acting Membership Chairman, agreed to distribute the sunshine emails.

Vice President Jack Melnick reviewed the November program and December brown bag exchange. Members discussed possible future programs.

Treasurer Gil Beckner presented the financial statement as of October 26, 2011. He reviewed the treasury's current status and upcoming expenses.

Newsletter Assistant Editor Doug Tomb reminded everyone that the deadline for the November *Script* will be Sunday, October 30.

Tool Chairman Benny Leonard has set Saturday, November 12 as Wheel Straightening Day at his home beginning at 9:30 a.m. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled.

Benny expressed his continuing interest in assisting youth interested in learning more about the hobby. Benny will check into t-shirt availability and expense and a Model A ad coloring book for distribution to spur youth interest.

Youth Development Chair Paul Gauthier reported the four winners of this year's scholarships. Paul will be contacting the winners and sending letters to the nonwinners. The scholarships will be presented at the Christmas Party.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m. The November Board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall prior to the general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Beckner, President

## **FROM THE ASSISTANT EDITOR**

### **THE EDITOR RETURNED, ALIVE AND WELL!!! . . . AND . . . UM . . . HE LEFT AGAIN!**

Well, I guess distant shores are still calling, even after all those days away. But, No Worries (as they say in Australia). Bill and Alice are just taking a short break, to adjust to being back from vacation. They decided to get out of town for a bit, so they went to . . . . NEW ZEALAND.

They promise to be back in time for the December Meeting and the Brown Bag Gift Exchange. Get those gifts ready. Word has it that Bill was heard saying, "Why, I'd even go as far as New Zealand to get a really good Brown Bag Gift . . .", or something like that. Come see for yourself.

Until next time,  
The Assistant Editor.

## **GWC 25 YEARS AGO**

### **THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER 25 YEARS AGO**

As fall crept in, most outside old car activities had come to an end. Not all our activities though, GWC'ers always carry on, only the emphasis changes with the season. To FOOD! Family Night, held at our then meeting place, the Fairfax Legion Hall on Oak Street, had been a great success. Everyone pitched in, bringing salads, entrees, desserts, and the entertainment was provided by Mark, a juggler!

Not that we were done eating. The Christmas Dinner and Dance was arranged to be at the same place again, 23 Skiddo's, on December 6th. That's the same date it will be held this year, except it was a quarter century earlier. How time flies.

Preparations for the sale of the club's '31 Deluxe Delivery were well underway. A flyer was sent around, with information about the car; "Mechanical restoration 1982, including complete engine rebuild, interior re-done in 1983, body in good original condition, car in good overall condition, (condition 3), car in good driving condition, just returned from the World Meet." A form at the bottom was provided for bidders to submit. Terms were; minimum bid \$6,000, no verbal bids, car to be sold as is, bids to be opened on November 19, 1986 at the club's meeting place. Election of officers for the '87 term would also occur, with nominees having been selected by a committee consisting of Bob Wild, Dave Henderson, and Wayne Parker, plus any nominees that might come from the floor. A committee had also been appointed to select a recipient for the Carl Patrick Award, to be presented at the December meeting.

A column in The Script called "G.W.Chatter" contained this quip, made by Don Temple, after it was said that Peyton Randolph had acquired a N.O.S. rear spring for his '30 sedan; "After looking at Peyton's car, I'd swear it was all N.O.S."

More BS, (Burma Shave that is.)

Don't pass cars, on curve or hill, If cops don't get you, morticians will. BURMA SHAVE  
Dave Henderson

## **Club Awards Four \$1,000 Scholarships**

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the clubs most recent scholarship competition (2011). Each of the individuals will receive a check for \$1,000 to go towards their college tuition. There were a total of 14 outstanding students applying this year, all with great records. The selection committee had a difficult time narrowing the selection down to just four students.

After a long and difficult process the winners selected for this year are: Ashley Williams, Marck Jaeger, Brian Fanney and Emily Sawyer. Ashley, the daughter of Woody and Linda Williams is attending Virginia Tech. Marck, the son of Bill and Debbie Jaeger and grandson of Andy and Ellen Jaeger is attending Towson University. Brian, the son of Hunter and Rosa Fanney is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Emily, daughter of Geoffrey and Carol Sawyer and granddaughter of Dave and Jean Henderson is attending George Mason University.

The GWC scholarship program would not be the success that it is without the hard work and dedication of the selection committee, comprised of Suzan O'Neale, Jim Gray and Tom Quigley. Please watch the Script and our GWC web page for information on next year's (2012) scholarship program.

Respectfully Yours, Paul E. Gauthier, Scholarship Chairman

### **Newsletter Award**

Congratulations to The George Washington Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America.

I have tallied up the winners for the 2011 MAFCA Newsletter Awards. Chapter newsletters are the heart of chapters, require lots of work and are very well produced. There are many outstanding newsletters and yours is one of them.

I am proud to announce that you will receive the **Certificate of Merit Award** for 2011.

I am sending out letters and/or e-mails to award winners to let them know the results in the hopes that the editor would be able to attend the December MAFCA National Banquet to receive the award in person.

This year the meeting is to be held in Santa Rosa, California hosted by the Sonoma A's November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you or a chapter representative would be able to attend, it would be an honor to present the award at the Saturday evening banquet.

Please let me know if you are able to attend. If a representative from your chapter will be attending, please let me know the name of the person who will be accepting the award for you. If no one is able to attend, please let me know and I will mail your award.

*Stephanie Grundman, 2011 MAFCA Chapter Coordinator, MAFFI Editor*

## Treasurer's Report

Year-to-date: Money-in \$18,776.18. Money-out \$9,359.19.

Expenses are currently well below receipts because we still have some major expenses to incur before year-end. This includes the \$4,000 set aside for scholarships, and expenses for the Christmas Party. Notwithstanding, expenses are projected to be below receipts which would otherwise result in a profit. Given our not-for-profit status and adequate money reserves, the Board decided to reduce Christmas Party tickets from \$15 charged last year, to \$5. This change means the club will finance the additional expense and that will bring greater balance to the budget.

The Board has fulfilled their financial objective to both reduce dues and activity fees without compromise to our mission objectives or activities. We should end this year with a balanced budget that will serve as a template for our 2012 budget.

Gil Beckner

Treasurer

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Jim showing off his Model A sound system (not recommended on bumpy roads)

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## **2012 MARC National Tour Update**

I thought I would write a quick update on the 2012 MARC National Tour. In the September-October issue of the **Model A News**, there was a one page ad about the tour. Suzan O'Neale and I are now on the distribution list for the Scenic City A's newsletter and they are working hard to make this a great tour. MARC requires all participants to be a MARC member so if you are not a member, joining now might be something that you want to do.

Janet Merkel called the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Hotel (1-800-872-2529 or [www.choochoo.com](http://www.choochoo.com)) and found out they are now accepting reservations. Since we have not fully planned our trip, I made my reservation arriving Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, checking out on September 20<sup>th</sup>. If we don't arrive until September 16<sup>th</sup> we can always cancel the night of September 15<sup>th</sup>. The standard room rate is \$93 per night plus 17.5% tax and the train car rooms run \$179 per night plus tax. When you make your reservation ask for the Model A Restorers Club block of rooms. I would suggest that if you are thinking about attending this tour that you go ahead and make a reservation; you can always cancel if you decide not to attend.

We will hold our first organizational meeting in early March. I am now mailing information to 22 club members. If you want to receive information and be invited to the organizational meetings, please let me know and I will add you to my list. Give Suzan O'Neale (540-894-0658) or me (703-858-1192) a call if you have questions.

Woody

## **COMING EVENTS**

**November 16, 2011 - Club Meeting** - Jack Melnick - We will be showing a film entitled "Roadsters, Rumbleseats & Country Drives". "A nostalgic look back at America's love affair with the automobile, featuring highways & byways – Route 66, Lincoln Highway & the National Road."

**December 3, 2011 - The George Washington Chapter Annual Christmas Party**, 6:30 to 10:30 PM Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22031. See details and menu below.

**December 21, 2011 - Club Meeting** - Brown Bag Gift Exchange. This is the annual Club gift exchange. See the rules for this fun event in the December Script. A Must Event for every club member!!! Get those good quality, but modestly priced, gifts ready!

**January 18, 2012 - Club Meeting** - Indoor Swap Meet Night. Bring all of your treasures, and good quality left over parts, to the Club's Indoor Swap Meet. This is your chance to clean out the garage of unwanted items, and swap or buy the items you need to get your car ready for Spring touring. Get those good quality, but modestly priced, parts ready! What better way to "prove" to the wife that you are cleaning out the "junk" and "turning over a new leaf" in the New Year!!!

Let Edna Cross know about any upcoming events and she will send information to those who are interested.

**November 12, 2011 - Wheel Straightening Day** - Benny Leonard's - Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Benny's house. 9:30 AM until ??? Bring you best bent wheel, and hope it straightens out, with a little persuasion. Take the tire off. Rain date will have to be scheduled. Call Benny 703-278-2994 or ben5@cox.net.



**Engine Clinic Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at Benny Leonard's**



**Front End Clinic Nov 5th at Jay Melton's**

It's amazing what can happen when club members get together and help each other out.

**Cover Photo:**

Ashton, in Civil War era regalia, at the "Aldie Days" street fair on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> by John Leydon.

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# **The George Washington Chapter Annual Christmas Party**

**Saturday, December 3, 2011**

**6:30 to 10:30 PM**

**Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge**

**8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA 22031**

## **Buffet Dinner Menu**

**Stuffed Pork Chops**

**Breast of Chicken Parmesan**

**Roast Turkey Breast w / Stuffing & Gravy**

Dinner served with salad, green beans, potatoes, rolls, coffee, tea and dessert

There will be a cash bar, with beer, wine and mixed drinks for your enjoyment!

**Music and Dancing to a Great DJ w/ Moves**

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**Please sign up as soon as possible by sending your check**

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**c/o Edna R. Cross**

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**\$5.00 per person (Club Members), \$10.00 per guest**

**Please let Edna know your choice of entrée with your check**

**or at the November 16th Meeting!**

## Centreville Day, 2011



**Paul Gauthier; Clem Clement; Benny Leonard; Jim Gray and Tony Hawker showed their cars at Centreville Day, 2011**

Bill Worsham got a call from Jim Daniels (a member of the Centreville Day Planning Committee and member of the Sully Plantation Staff) asking for a display of 1920s and 30s cars at this year's Centreville Day on October 22. Jim promised us a central location and a good time; both promises were met.

The key feature of The Historic Centreville Park in Centreville is its preserved structures, including The Old Stone Church, The Havener House, The Cavalry Museum (which features Mosby's Raiders), Mount Giliad, St. John's Church and the recently restored "Sears House."



**The Spindle Sears House; built 1934**

This house, ordered by Roger Spindle from Sears, Roebuck & Company in 1933, was delivered as a complete kit to Clifton Station and trucked to its present location, where Roger and a building crew he hired completed the structure in 1934 ([http://www.novahistory.org/Spindle\\_Sears/Spindle\\_Sears.htm](http://www.novahistory.org/Spindle_Sears/Spindle_Sears.htm))

Perhaps it was appropriate that Wayne and Jane Chadderton (and their son Brian) joined us in their 1934 Ford Fordor on the Spindle's east lawn for a fun, yet low-key, day. Although this was the first time the GWC had been invited to participate, Centreville Day has been an annual event for over a decade. Jim Daniels told us that our cars were a "HUGE" hit, and that our participation helped make this year's event one of the most successful yet. The money raised by this event goes to helping preserve the several historic buildings and the history they represent.

The event allowed for a nice casual 9 a.m. show, free coffee, and nearby "facilities." Clem soon noticed the excellence of our location and followed his nose to the food court area where he bee-lined to the "minniesmuffins.good" muffin & cupcake booth. Clem was good enough to take one of Minnie's cupcakes to Sharon Leonard, who was mighty skeptical until she watched me eat one and not faint dead away. According to Clem, it turns out the old saw that "Ya' seen one muffin, ya' seen 'em all" ... Is not true.

Clem observed that just after we arrived, a parade commenced with 3 vehicles from the Fairfax county Fire dept. followed by a huge group of Wildcats from Centreville. Then there was a gaggle of scary ghosts, goblins, witches and riff-raff. All seemed to be funning big time. I guess I lost focus but later there was more Fire equipment. We were not supposed to parade and we didn't; our central location gave us the best view of all the "gobblinesque" happenings.



**To the Fair**

Mount Giliad was nearby, and Clem and I scouted the exterior of the dwelling and its outbuildings, the oldest parts of which were built in 1792. A garage (built in 1935 to look like a carriage house) is in a sad state of repair on the property, but the house itself is occupied by Dr. Tim McCord, a George Mason history professor, whose knowledge and love of history make the house feel truly alive.

<http://www.centrevilleva.org/index.cfm?action=a26&id=35,7930,48100001>

While touring the house, Kathie & I met a life-long Centreville resident, Mrs. Mildred DeBell, who shared her 1935 copy of the last high school yearbook from Clifton High School, the first public high school in Fairfax County. The school, once located on the bluff overlooking Clifton (where the present Clifton Elementary School now stands) was torn down in 1946. The yearbook was her husband's... his class started high school in 1931.

All-in-all, this was a very nice affair. Perhaps more publicity would be in order, although the place did seem crowded, so maybe it was just us who knew nothing about the event. Clem reports that he used to think "the jungle started behind the former Payne's Restaurant." It turns out there is another world back there behind the bushes and the trees.

Jim Gray & Clem Clement

For more information of this event, see these web sites:

<http://centreville.patch.com/events/centreville-day-2011>

### **CARS WANTED FOR MOVIE**

We are doing a project for the Dept of Vet Affairs that calls for some older cars. It is a take off on Mr. Smith goes to Washington...so circa 1935-1939 models.

Do you know where we might find 3-4 vehicles like that which we could hire for a shoot? One would be a taxi if that exists...shooting in November, hopefully week of 14-18 on a good weather day in DC and/or Baltimore.

Ward LeHardy, Rocket Media Group, 703-645-8889 X4 or 703-598-8766.

### **Nominees for the 2012 Club Board**

#### Officers

President	Charlene Beckner
Vice President	John Melnick
Activities Chairman	Edna Cross
Editor	Bill Sims
Assistant Editor	Doug Tomb
Secretary	Chuck Kunstbeck
Membership Chairman	Greg Shepherd
Treasurer	Gil Beckner
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Frazier
Annual Meet Chairman	Bill Worsham

#### Directors

National Liaison	Howard Minners
Tool Chairman	Benny Leonard
Technical Help	Tom Terko
Youth Development	Suzan O'Neale

## IN MEMORIAM

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is with an overwhelmingly heavy heart that I tell you that my wife, Gretchen P. Minners, died at about 2 AM on Monday morning, October 24th. October 25th was to be our 53rd wedding anniversary. Gretchen had been a patient for 4+ days in the nearby Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (formerly the Bethesda Naval Hospital). She had metastatic liver cancer (to be confirmed), quite possibly secondary to breast cancer many years ago.

At this point, no further arrangements have been made, although following cremation, Gretchen will be buried in the Minners family plot in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, NY (a bit north of New York City).

*Howard Minners*

Gretchen Minners was deeply involved in the Model A hobby. She spearheaded the organization of a major collection of Ford Factory Photos of the Model A and in recent years she became the prime developer of huge binders containing an extensive set of samples of original upholstery and trim. In her role as an upholstery expert, she served as a national judge of upholstery in cars entered into the highest levels of competition. At the time of her death she was working on a book of upholstery samples to be published for use by the Model A community.

Gretchen shared her interest in Model A's with her husband Howard. Gretchen and Howard celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 25, 2008. She was a graduate of Yale University School of Nursing and they were married a year after Howard finished Medical School at Yale. The Minners have two sons, Brad and Todd who are both Lieutenant Colonels serving in the United States Army. Gretchen will be greatly missed by her family and the entire Model A community.

The Editor