

# The Ford Script



Vol. XLV

March 2024

No. 3



John Dougherty's Victoria at the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade



Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords  
61 Years 1963-2024

# The Ford Script



Official publication of:  
George Washington Chapter, Inc.  
of the Model A Ford Club of America  
and the George Washington Region  
of the Model A Restorers Club  
Post Office Box 971  
McLean, VA 22101

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 and the Model A Ford Museum (MAFFI). The chapter Web page on the Internet may be accessed by:

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

Web Master: Greg Shepherd

#### Board of Directors

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Club Librarian	Jay Melton	703-966-7719
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Sunshine Chairman	Jim Gray	410-353-0381
Technical Advisor	Tom Terko	240-463-6455

Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor at: [billhsims@gmail.com](mailto:billhsims@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



February was a confusing month. The first day of the month was a Thursday, which meant that the board meeting was on the 4th Thursday, which just happened to be the day after the third Wednesday when we had the monthly meeting. Once I got all that straightened out in my head it was the end of the month. Oh, well.

We provided a Zoom option for the general meeting, which turned out pretty well. We had five members join us via Zoom, which is great. We may lose a couple of members who might have attended the meeting in person, but it's great to have that option available to those who cannot attend for one reason or another.

Based on my experience with other club meetings that have a Zoom option, it's best to have a remote camera, microphone and speakers. I ran out and bought the camera and microphone the day of the meeting. I excavated an ancient pair of speakers from the basement and while the audio isn't the best, I think they will suit our purposes.

We are looking at a couple of tours this year, both in Virginia and probably both will be overnights. One to revisit the Northern Neck and another in and around Orange, Virginia. Let's hope we can make those happen.

I attended the AACA Annual Meeting in Chantilly and it was a worthwhile event to attend. We had good representation from the Club there. I saw Bill Bass, Doug Tomb, Rusty Rensch and John Dougherty there. I hope I haven't missed anyone. I attended the judging training and was amused and a little embarrassed by one of their slides, which I explain in a separate article.

The weather has been good. I took my roadster out for a spin this week. My wife always wants to drive, so she drove back from our few-mile jaunt. It's always good to take the car out, even if you must bundle up to take a drive in an open car.

Milford

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

In looking up Dave Wheeler's obituary on page 6, I was shocked to see that he was once considered a good-enough pitcher to have warranted a tryout with the Detroit Tigers. I'd faced him a couple of times in my 48+ baseball league and he could still bring it.

As advertised, the list of Model A Resources appears in this issue on pages 16-17. The response was pretty good. If members come up with any more resources, you can always just send them to Greg Shepherd to add to this list, which he will eventually publish on our website.

Just as I was getting ready to finish putting together the Script, I got the news that Jon Phillips had had a heart attack last week and passed away. I remember that after I gave up doing the newsletter after 2003, he came up to me at practically every meeting for the next two years complaining about something or other he didn't like what the new editor was doing with the Script and arguing for my return. He was quite happy when I took up the torch again in February 2006 (as was then-president Paul Gauthier).

Bill Sims  
March 2024

## **FROM THE ZOOM BOARD ROOM**

Board Meeting  
February 22,2024

President Milford Sprecher called the GWC board meeting (Via Zoom) to order at 7:00 PM. Board members in attendance: Milford Sprecher, Don White, John Dougherty, Doug Tomb, Jeff VanGorder, Bill Sims, Valerie Faircloth, and Dave Greenwood.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to purchase the microphone and camera for use at GWC meetings. The funds are available within the current budget. Doug has the electronic invoice and Milford will give him the receipt.

Treasurer's report: Doug provided a summary at the members meeting so did not need to update.

Membership: Jeff will send out a list of members that have not paid 2024 dues and will assign Board members to call them and report back. The Board unanimously passed a motion by John, seconded by Valerie, that widows of long-time members are exempt from dues.

Activities: Small Parts Day--John has the action to coordinate a location for the event in April. Doug has an action to develop a plan for a tour to Orange, VA, and vicinity. Milford has an action to plan a tour to the Northern Neck of Virginia and coordinate with Tom Quigley and Doug. Val is working on the details for the July 20,2024, picnic at the Sully Plantation Park, catering by Mission Barbeque.

Youth: James has an action to schedule the scholarship applications, John will discuss with James

Sully #49, & 50: John and the committee have decided some changes are necessary: We will only allow preregistered vehicles into the show, all cars must be parked by 9:30 AM and remain so until 3:00 PM. This is to address safety concerns about in-bound show cars backing up on to Route 29, cars overheating and to eliminate bi-directional traffic.

Membership: Jeff is getting a quote for printing the updated membership directory

Script: Articles are due by March 4, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Dave Greenwood  
Secretary



## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER 25 YEARS AGO (1999)

President Clem Clement began his Ford Script column, now titled FROM THE PRESIDENT'S COMPUTER, telling how he and Sandy had enjoyed hosting their annual Train Day, which was further enhanced by great weather and a grand turnout. The oven ran continuously from noon to 4:00 and four ladies worked full time receiving the dishes and placing them on the dining table. It was said that a plate of deviled eggs went from the kitchen and was emptied before reaching the dining room! One tyke, George Merkel's grandson, wore a special train shirt and would watch the trains as long as he could and then race downstairs to check on the chocolate fondue, have some, and then head back upstairs to watch the trains again, holding his hands up so all could see they were clean. Another 4-year-old lad came to Sandy and told her he was not going home, he was going to live there.



Next, getting down to serious business, the matter of the need for a dues increase came up. He said every option was being looked at to reduce expenses and make efficient use of our funds to support the events and activities members desire. Bill Worsham reported that the American Legion intended to increase the hall rent, effective October 1st. The anticipated dues increase would be moderate, and any cost-saving suggestions were to be welcomed.

Dan Lyon reported the findings of the Long Range Focus Group survey. It showed that members were satisfied with the Club's current activities and the amount of technical assistance available for repairing and restoring their cars. There was expressed a desire to increase youth involvement.

Editor Bill Sims remarked that 1999 was the 20th year "The Ford Script" title had been on the Club's newsletter, and he had been soliciting information from past editors that would give us a history of it. Richard Dove submitted the first response saying that John and Ginny Dingle put out our newsletter, referred to as The Bulletin. Dave Meyersburg volunteered to take over with the understanding he would make some changes. After a short while, Richard said he took over as editor for three years. He stabilized the format, worked in some drawings and used photographs on a regular basis. He took advantage of "free blue ink day," printing the Script in dark blue ink on cream stock. Both the printer and the mailer were near his office, which helped him eliminate delays and have the Script arrive on Monday or Tuesday before the meeting. He said he got countless compliments from members about the timing of the mailing date, and in conclusion that the new format's great eye appeal combined well with the high standard of content quality that was set by the Dingles, so it is no wonder that the Ford Script has been a constant MARC/MAFCA newsletter award winner. Maybe we should change to "The Award Winning Ford Script" for our masthead. *[Excerpted from Richard Dove]*

Note; I've taken a look at the earliest newsletter I received when I joined the GWC in the '70s and find that the October 2, 1973, issue had no masthead. It was unsigned and in the form of a full size one page letter to members announcing our first meeting at a new location, Jerry's Ford, along with other announcements. By January 1974 the newsletter had an elaborate masthead, but was simply titled "NEWSLETTER," which was then edited by Bill Condon Sr. That title carried over until September 1980 when "The Ford Script" title first appeared. It was no longer full sheet size but rather was folded in half as it is today. It was a stand-alone issue in blue stock, with the O'Rourke and Birch '31 Deluxe Delivery on the cover that was to become our Club's vehicle, well, for a while...

Dave Henderson.

## **SUNSHINE REPORT ON JIM CROSS**

I wanted to provide an update on long-time Club member, Jim Cross, who is currently hospitalized. Your concern for his well-being has been heartwarming, and we believe he would greatly appreciate your cards and well wishes during this challenging time.

Edna, Jim's wife, has suggested that the best way to convey your messages is by mailing them directly to their home address. Due to Jim's current health condition, he is unable to receive texts, emails, visitors, or phone calls. Edna will personally receive your notes at the following address:

39246 Lime Kiln Road  
Leesburg, VA 20175-6614

She has kindly offered to read your messages to Jim, providing him with the comfort and support of your kind words. Your thoughtful gestures will undoubtedly make a positive impact during his recovery.

Thank you all for keeping Jim and Edna in your thoughts and prayers. Your support means a lot to them during this difficult time.

---

**Dave Wheeler**

**June 30, 1939 – February 26, 2024**



As a child, David's first love was baseball. He pitched the first Little League game played in Farmington, Connecticut, and continued to play baseball through high school and as an adult into his seventies. His abilities as a baseball player and pitcher earned him recognition and an offer to play Major League baseball for the Detroit Tigers, which he turned down, opting to attend college instead. Upon graduation from Manhattan College, he attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Navy in November 1961. He served in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps for 24 years achieving the rank of Commander. He served as a Seabee in the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One, completing tours in Cuba, Spain, and Vietnam where he earned a Bronze Star with a Combat "V" for Valor.

David and Linda were married at Clark Air Base, Philippines, in October 1965 and remained married for 58 years until his death. Along the way, David and Linda raised seven children and additionally opened their home and hearts to a combined 75 foster children.

Dave was a member of the GWC for at least 12 years and was the proud owner of a 1931 40-B Standard Roadster.

In recent years, David developed aphasia and ultimately lost the ability to communicate. Despite his declining health, his Catholic faith and love for his family, his Model A and baseball remained strong.

## Jon Phillips

Feb. 1, 1940 – February 29, 2024

### JON PHILLIPS – PAST GWC PRESIDENT AND MODEL A FORD RESTORER

Past GWC President John “Jon” Ellis Phillips, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. He had turned 84 on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jon was a member of the GWC for nearly a quarter of a century, from at least 1995 to 2018, when he left to focus on the rapid growth of his physical and digital businesses of the Model A Garage.



Jon was president of our Club in 2002 and 2003 when I was Membership Chairman. He was computer literate when most of us weren't. He pushed the club to accept the use of email when most of us didn't have email addresses, and pushed to get the Script on line. Fortunately for us as a Club, he had the computer skills to help us modernize.

When I was Assistant Editor, I'd deliver the cut and paste version of The Ford Script to a printer Jon had found in Annapolis. They would assemble the finished newsletter, and Jon would collect and mail them.

Jon was an accomplished Model A restorer and mechanic. I worked with him for 19 months from 2001 – 2003 on restoring my 1931 Deluxe Coupe, “Ruby.” My goal was to drive Ruby to the 2003 MARC National Meet in Dearborn. He organized a group of us to go, and planned our 7-car convoy's route for our 2-day drive up and back.

Jon's knowledge of the Model A and his attention to detail was evident when Ruby won a Touring Class MARC of Excellence with the highest score of that national meet, losing only 3 points for an aluminum fan.

Jon was the first person I know to embrace powder coating; mine was the first Model A I knew of to have a powder coated frame and wheels. Twenty-one years later, my frame and wheels still look great.

I helped Jon build his garage in Luray, pulling electrical cable and building walls. For a while I even considered formally going into business with him. But Luray was too far away for that to work.

Ruby was the prototype for several of Jon's innovations for modern traffic Model A driving – LED tail lights and signal lights, a fuse block system with 4 separate circuits, and a hidden transformer to power a GPS. He also installed my Mitchel overdrive and synchromesh



## JON PHILLIPS (Cont.)

transmission.

Over the years, Jon and Susan hosted several ice cream socials at his incredible Model A Ford garage – it was a great addition to our several trips to Skyline Drive.

I pray for the best for Susan and Jon's extended family. The entire Model A community has lost a talented and valuable Model A resource.

[https://www.dnronline.com/obituaries/veteran/john-e-phillips/article\\_b78e100c-38c6-5c25-80cb-d615390142c0.html](https://www.dnronline.com/obituaries/veteran/john-e-phillips/article_b78e100c-38c6-5c25-80cb-d615390142c0.html)

Jim Gray  
Sunshine Chairman



## **FEBRUARY 21 MEMBERS MEETING**

Yes, you missed the great presentations on “The Fords before the Model T.”

President: Milford Sprecher convened the business meeting at 7:45 with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 22 members and guests present and 5 online with Video. Members online expressed appreciation for being able to participate and attend remotely. We invested in a new microphone and camera set up and it seems to work well, so we plan to use it for future meetings.

Treasurer: Doug Tomb presented an abbreviated treasurer’s report telling the Club that as of January 31, 2024, we have a balance of \$26,254 plus \$10,000 in CDs. The GWC has also commissioned a financial audit for 2023, and we have the results (see p. 12). There was a question about how to include a GWC contribution into an estate plan. This should be handled by your estate attorney but yes, we can receive such funds. Any questions of clarification should be directed to the GWC President or Treasurer.

Activities: Valerie Faircloth said the Christmas party at the VFW is reserved for December 7, 2024, and she will be submitting the deposit. Two tours are being considered for 2024, one to Orange, VA. Doug is coordinating preliminary scheduling, and the Northern Neck. Stan Johnson offered to discuss with Tom Quigley and Doug is researching the archives for the routing previously used. The Summer Picnic is planned to be at Sully, with Missions Barbeque catering, Valaire is coordinating the date with the Sully staff. Small parts day is planned in April, and we are coordinating on a location.

Sully: John Dougherty reported that things are progressing. He has ordered the Pin the Honorees are Greg and Laura Shepherd. Vendor and show flyers are available. John gave the projected weather forecast for the 2024 show.

Membership: Jeff VanGorder is now collecting the final few dues (15 unpaid) for the 2024 year. We had one new member join—Peter Jakab, who owns a 1929 Roadster.

Programs: Don White reported that the March program is on safety check for the Spring season start up, James Kolody will present. **(We are looking for a volunteer to lead the snack for the meetings).**

Youth: James Kolody has April 4, 2024, scheduled for the youth hand-built gravity car race at the Gunston Middle School at 1:30- 4:15. Members are requested to bring their cars and enjoy the fun.

Script: Bill Sims said Script articles for February are due by March 4, 2024. The new resource directory will be in the March Script, so get your recommendations into Bill. Bill has many vendors identified that can help keep our Model As safely on the road.

General: John Dougherty and Doug and Beverly Tomb participated in the Alexandria Presidents Day parade. John shared his story about his Bendix breaking just as the parade was to start but gravity got his car going.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:12



## MEMBERS MEETING (Cont.)

Program: Doug Tomb facilitated the Program on “Ford before the Model T.”

Most of the slides and descriptions of the Early Fords are from the book: “Pate’s Early Ford Automobile Encyclopedia, The Ford Cars (1903-1909)”, by Carlton O Pate III. The Book is full of text, as well as many photographs, and contains a CD of literature, advertisements, and photographs of the various early Ford models. These were included in the presentation.

Highlights were:

- Henry Ford started his first company, The Detroit Automobile Company, in 1899. It failed in 1900.
- Ford started his second company, the Henry Ford Company, he soon left, and it was renamed Cadillac.
- The first 1902 Ford Model A, from his third company, the Ford Motor Company, was a 2-cylinder automobile.
- Ford soon also offered a four-cylinder, and then a six-cylinder model. He settled on four cylinders for the Ford Model T.
- Ford found that winning at racing was the best way to get financing from investors, gain notoriety, and make sales.
- Each Ford model had technological innovations that were eventually incorporated into a winning formula—the Model T Ford. Innovations included cast-in-block cylinders.
- The first Model T Fords in 1908 were bright red in color. Ford switched over to all-black in 1914, with the advent of the moving assembly line.
- The first automobile with electric starters, as standard equipment, was the Cadillac in 1912. All Ford vehicles were crank start until 1919, when Ford offered a starter as an option.
- In 1909, Ford switched to all left-hand drive to differentiate his cars from the competition, and as part of the Selden legal proceeding.
- To learn more, just get a copy of Carl Pate’s book. Contact Doug for details.

The presentation generated comments and discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.  
Dave Greenwood

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## **CALLING ALL SULLY VOLUNTEERS FOR #49 ON 14 &16 JUNE 2024**

Less than four months to **Sully #49! WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We had about 80 volunteers last year, thank you! The goal is to have 100 volunteers sign up! I will also be reaching out to other clubs in the area. Extended family and friends are welcome to volunteer! Two free admission passes will be available to each volunteer to share. The post-Sully picnic on 20 July will be subsidized by the Club. As you know, Sully is our only GWC fund raiser each year. Proceeds supplement Club activities that all members may enjoy like the Christmas party, picnics, and snacks at monthly meetings – yes folks, like that super ice cream cake! Sully proceeds are used to fund the Youth Scholarship Program and they make our donations to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Resident Fund and the Model A Ford Museum, Inc., possible.

Volunteers are needed for set up and lay out of the Show Car and Flea Market fields on Friday, 14 June. On the big day, 16 June, volunteers are needed for Registration, Show Car Parking, Car Corral, Information Tent, Judging, Flea Market Parking, Trailer Parking, Sno-Cone Stand, and, of course, “wherever help is needed”! Look for an email from GWC Membership Chairman Jeff VanGorder on volunteer job descriptions before our March meeting. BTW, anybody like to be the official photographer?

So, please give some thought to what you are able and willing to do. I will begin signing you all up at our March Membership Meeting but you can also call or email. We will work with whatever time you have to offer, hopefully for at least two hours on 16 June. Keep in mind that more hands make light the work and fewer hands means more work for those that do. So let’s spread it around and show the car world another first class car show!

Reminder: there is a break room under the Mansion for volunteers ONLY. There are snacks, cold drinks, and coffee available. And, not that we will need it, some cool air too! The GWC

supplements the break room with a donation, so don’t hesitate to partake.

*Weather Forecast for 16 June 2022: “81 degrees, partly cloudy, light breeze from the NW!” 0!*  
Thank you all in advance and I look forward to hearing from you!



John Dougherty  
GWC Annual Meet Chairman  
H: 703-971-8033  
[doughert@cox.net](mailto:doughert@cox.net)

**See page 28 for form for Sully Volunteer Positions**



February 23, 2024

To: Milford Sprecher, President, Model A Ford Club of America, George Washington Chapter (GWC)

RE: Audit of GWC Financial Records for the Period January 1 thru December 31, 2023.

1. This audit was conducted in accordance with the Club's bylaws to verify that financial records are correct and monies have been accounted for/spent in a manner consistent with our mission and good financial management/business practices. Worthy of note was the condition of the financial records that were all cross-referenced and maintained in a very logical order which made this review much easier.

2. The Club is classified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)7 non-profit organization (social and recreational clubs). Albeit a non-profit organization, it is not a charity so dues and contributions to the Club are not tax deductible on individual income tax returns. The Club financial records are maintained on a cash basis (checkbook) so there is no need or requirement for double entry accounting normally associated with a larger more complex organization. Since annual Club receipts are expected to be less than \$50K, the submission of formal tax return is not required. However, the Club is required annually to submit a 990-N (e-Postcard) report to the IRS to verify that the organization is still active and that receipts are expected to be under \$50K. This IRS filing was completed by the Treasurer on January 26, 2023 for calendar year 2022.

3. The Club's total monies, as shown in bank statements for the period ending December 31, 2023, are as follows:

Check Book	\$24,907.74
Wells Fargo CD	10,365.19
	\$35,272.93

4. I reviewed every expenditure and deposit for 2023 and all appeared consistent with Club business. All expenses had supporting receipts and all deposits had confirming bank receipts. Below are ten expenditures picked at random for illustration:

- #Check 1920 for \$73.07 to Greg Shephard for Sully Show snow cone supplies
- #Check 1905 for \$150.00 to Fairfax Park Authority for Sully Show refreshments
- #Check 1898 for \$600.00 to American Legion Post 270 for monthly meeting room
- #Check 1889 for \$157.40 to Zoom for Zoom monthly meeting expense.
- #Check 1885 for \$104.04 to John Dougherty for Sully Show Committee lunch
- #Check 1944 for \$127.30 to Gene Rainville for the GWC Christmas Party
- #Check 1931 for \$249.10 to Douglas Tomb for the GWC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gifts
- #Check 1929 for \$18.77 to Hank Zajic for Club meeting refreshments
- #Check 1923 for \$175.00 to Milford Sprecher for GWC trifold brochure
- #Check 1921 for \$281.99 to John Dougherty for Sully Show expenses.

5. The above review completes my audit and I found no problems or issues with the records as presented. I want to thank Doug for his assistance during this review and for maintaining his records in a manner that made it easy to trace transactions to the supporting documentation.



Gilbert Beckner

## **THE MAFFI MINUTE**

The Trustees are already planning Model A Days 2024! So far it looks like a candidate for the First Start Event (barn find, which hasn't been run in a few decades) has been located. And, the report from the Gilmore Auto Museum is that one of the Event Centers will be finished in time for Model A Days, which will be nice for our Model A visitors.

Other news is that Model A's donated to the museum to be sold for the Model A Museum Expansion are getting checked over and repaired so they are roadworthy to sell. Our hardworking team of volunteers devotes Thursday evening to getting the Model A's in "sale ready" shape.

1. One Model A Tudor (1929) is on the sales floor already.
2. Another 1928 Tudor has had Trustees and friends repairing brakes, gas gauge, and a gas tank, to name a few, so it should be ready shortly
3. A 1929 Fordor Blindback is also in the queue for roadworthiness work.
4. And there are two 1928 Phaetons that we anticipate will be available to sell in the coming months.

Please contact Jerry Dennany, [jerrydennany@gmail.com](mailto:jerrydennany@gmail.com) or John Begg, [jwbegg@gmail.com](mailto:jwbegg@gmail.com) for information about these cars or if you have a vehicle you would like to donate to be sold for our expansion fundraising program.

Many of you have been following our Save the Bus project (school bus) and although the bus has taken longer than we anticipated, things are coming along nicely now. The sides are up and all 4 fenders have been installed as well as the bumpers. There's lots of sandblasting, and just plain sanding and priming going on now. Things are getting exciting at Save the Bus Headquarters!

As always, we appreciate your support as we move forward with fundraising. It's all of you that make the Model A Ford Foundation Inc. Museum so awesome.

Cindy Ellenbecker,  
Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.  
Trustee/Secretary





**WANTED:**

**MARC Mileage Program Coordinator**

After long service, Jim Cartmill has stepped down as the GWC MARC Mileage Program Coordinator. The responsibilities are promoting the program and collecting mileage numbers from program participants at the end of the year and forwarding that information off to MARC. It's a nice way to help the Club with a limited commitment of time. For more information, click on this link: <https://model-a-ford.org/top-page-1/programs-awards/marc-driving-awards/>

**Refreshment Coordinator**

Refreshments at the Club meetings don't just happen, but are the result of members' arranging for refreshments. Requirements are to bring drinks and snacks to the Club meetings. We have a supply of drinks and some snacks. Sometimes an ice cream cake is provided or another cake or pie as seems appropriate. The Club has two smaller coolers that can be used. The coordinator is responsible for getting some ice, replenishing the drinks and snacks. The Club has a lot of plates and utensils already, but keeping those in good supply is also part of the job. The Club reimburses for any items that are purchased.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please let Milford Sprecher or another member of the board know of your interest. Give back to the Club!

Milford

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2024 Model A Ford Club of America  
National Convention  
June 23-29, 2024 in Ruidoso, NM

Dear MAFCA Chapters -

As you may know, the 2024 MAFCA National Convention is being held in Ruidoso, NM, hosted by the Southwest Model A's group. MAFCA National Conventions are the largest gatherings of Model A enthusiasts from all over the country. Being centrally and conveniently located between large populations of Model A owners from California, Arizona, Colorado and Texas, not to mention the many attendees that regularly travel even farther to participate in these events, we're expecting a tremendous turnout!

One of the most anticipated and visited areas of any National Convention is the Raffle Room, where participants can purchase tickets to win a wide variety of prizes donated by generous supporters. A successful Raffle Room is an essential part of making National Conventions financially possible.

Can we count on your club for a donation for our raffle? Donors are credited by name and larger items receive special promotion. Supporting the National Convention would be a wonderful way to show your support of the Model A community nationwide.

Any car-related item, gift certificate to a Model A vendor or even a cash donation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your generous support and please feel free to contact us with any questions or for help coordinating your gift.

If you donate an item to the Raffle Room please take a picture of the item and send it to Marlies Plaggenborg at [marlies57@aol.com](mailto:marlies57@aol.com).

Please mail or ship donations to:

Ray Gabaldon Convention Chair  
66 Don Ramon Rd.  
Belen, NM 87002

Thank you,

Vicky Lujan Gibbs, Convention and Raffle co-chair  
505-235-1713 [vjlee@comcast.net](mailto:vjlee@comcast.net)

Marlies Plaggenborg, Raffle co-chair  
508-361-3817 [marlies57@aol.com](mailto:marlies57@aol.com)

## LIST OF MODEL A RESOURCES

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Recommender</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Batteries (6-volt)	Auto Zone Batteries Plus	Milford Sprecher Bill Sims	
Gas tanks	Smitty's Radiator and Gas Tank Service 3601 East Street Landover, MD 20785 301 772 7386	Jerry Olexson	They know their work and did an excellent job on restoring my 1931gas tank. Plus, they have done work on antique wheels and antique car sheet metal.
Glass	Glass & Mirror Services, Inc. 5740 Industry Lane Frederick, MD 21704 301-662-0025 or 301-682-5464	Dave Greenwood	I recently got replacement glass for my 1928 Leather back from these folks.
Machining work (heads, manifolds, king pins, etc.)	Midland Machine 5212 Midland Rd Midland, VA 22728 540-228-0813	Jeff VanGorder	I have been very happy with them.
Painting	Showcase Auto Body 40 Cool Springs Road Suite 103 Fredericksburg, VA 22405 540-899-7600 Facebook at Showcaseabody	Dave Greenwood	The company painted our 1928 Leather Back fordor and did a great job. They did the main body only along with the final body work and door adjustments.
	Paul Nicely 14741 Kilhaven Ct. Manassas, Va 20112	Benny Leonard	
Paint products, auto	Finish Master 5255 A Port Royal Rd Springfield, VA 22151 (703) 289-1006	Stan Johnson	
Radiators	Griffin Radiator 750 Estes Drive Piedmont, SC 29673 800-722-3723 <griffinrad.com>	James Kolody	Builds from scratch

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<u>Resource</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Recommender</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Radiators	Smitty's Radiator Shop 3601 East St Hyattsville, MD 20785 (301) 772-7586	Stan Johnson	
Restoration, general	Classic Motors & Machine Leesburg, VA <a href="http://classicmotormachine.com/Home/">http://classicmotormachine.com/Home/</a>	Donna Stubin	We were very happy with his work. Edna & Jim Cross also know the owner. Got our 1928 Model A Roadster up and running.
Powder coating	Extreme Powder Coating 8384-B Terminal Rd Lorton, VA 22079 (703) 339-8233	Stan Johnson	
Upholstery	Pop's Upholstery (Pop's Tops) 610 N. Magnolia St Summerville, SC 29483 843 - 875- 5726	Joe Sims	
Welding, lathe, prototype development	Action Machining 7240 Telegraph Square Suite 68 Lorton, VA 22079	Stan Johnson	

### **SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE**

As I mentioned in the President's Message, I had an interesting experience at the Judging seminar at the AACA Meeting in Chantilly. The presenter provided some examples of things you should NOT have on your judged car. One of the slides showed what was an acceptable trunk and what was not. The example of what NOT to have was my town sedan from Hershey a few years ago. For the trip, I put a plastic tub on the luggage rack. My car had been entered as a judged car, which I had not expected, so my car was judged with that tub on the luggage rack. Having never had a car judged at an AACA event, I didn't realize that that was a no no. I guess I should have known that, but my car wasn't in a position to be judged, so it never crossed my mind. Regardless, I am now a part of the judging seminar presentation, so I am there as bad example. A learning experience for me and for those in the class.

Milford

## TWO PARADES AND A VICTORIA!

We had a great time participating in the Presidents Day Parade on 19 February and the Saint Patrick's Day Parade on 2 March in Old Town Alexandria. General Washington himself stopped by to chat before 'his' parade began. A striking fellow, albeit my #1 son-in-law, commented that he was not convinced as the General appeared to be too short! The weather was great on 19 February and although the drive into town on 2 March was a bit soggy, the rain stopped in time for me to wipe down the Victoria before the parade began and then not a drop the rest of the day. Well except for one Guinness after the parade!

The Victoria and I joined in with the Color Corps from the Knights of Columbus Potomac Assembly #2204, of which I am a member. We had great representation at the Presidents Day Parade with marching members, two cars and five motorcycles from "Knights on Bikes". The other car was a 1957 Chevy (two-time Grand National winner) owned by friend and Brother Knight Jim Batchelder. Yes, we demonstrated that Ford and Chevy can get along just fine. The rain took its toll on our group for the Saint Patrick's Parade but we still mustered eight marchers and a real nice unrestored '62 Ford Galaxy filled in for Jim's Chevy. Knights on Bikes were nowhere to be seen or heard! Guess there is just too much chrome to polish!

Great and enthusiastic crowds at both parades and as we all know so well, "AHOOGHA" is always a hit. I sent a couple pictures with this very short report and I hope that Bill has room for a couple. Jus' Shar'n!

John Dougherty





## MODEL A ARCHEOLOGY

### Part 6. Annie's A: "The Doors" (car that is, not Jim Morrison's band)

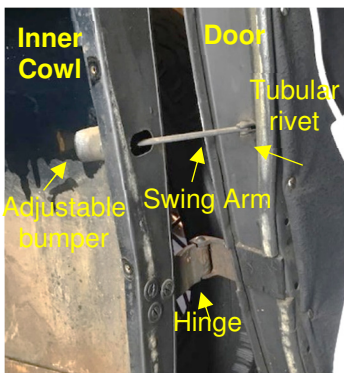
Hello! Last month I gave you a rundown of last year's adventures in Model A Archeology and the twelve big questions about Annie's A that I am trying to answer. Up till now, I have only looked for clues on the surface that did not require disassembly. This was intentional. I have resisted the temptation to jump into disassembly until I was properly situated to package, label and store parts coming off the car. Now, I will be digging in. The starting point is the two doors.

I have wanted to disassemble the car doors for a long time. As you can see in the photo, they are currently covered in black fabric. I believe this is my mom's handiwork, installed during the early '60s refurbishment the car got when my parents first took over ownership. The question is "Did she remove previous fabric or simply cover over what was there?" If the latter, those doors might have some secrets to reveal. Also of note: the panels are partially held on by machine screws that are definitely not original; All the exposed metal surfaces are painted flat black; The window cranks and door handles are matched sets but mismatched on each side. Somewhere in the past, the doors were messed with. I want to find any answers they hold and questions they raise.



*Driver (l) and Passenger (r) side doors. The covering is replacement and the hardware is mismatched. What lurks beneath?*

Annie's A is at a remote location until that happy day when I have a three- or four-car garage to work in. I thought it would be a good idea to remove one door at a time and bring it home with me. Then I could work slowly with the door flat on a table and see what I find. I also thought that removal would be easily accomplished by removing the hinge pins, just like taking off a closet door in a house. Too bad I did not read up on Model A door removal before starting. It's not that straightforward.



*Swing Arm Assembly.*

I started with the passenger-side door. The first, and immediate, obstacle was removing the door check strap. On the Tudor this is a steel arm, not a molded rubber strap as it is on many other models. The outer joint of the arm (the one easy to access) uses a tubular rivet and cannot be removed without destroying the rivet. I did not want to do that. The other end of the swing arm is behind the cowl trim cardboard. After loosening the dash rail and a few screws the trim panel was wiggled free. I immediately realized the cardboard trim on Annie's A is original. Although it had been painted flat black, it is in remarkably good condition. With some clean-up and minor repair, this original component will get reinstalled later. As for the swing arm itself, a little manipulating of the end cap freed it right up. I learned that these steel swing arms are adjustable. Annie's A had it set at the widest possible opening, allowing the door to hit the side-mount spare tire. This helps confirm the right side mount was

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**MODEL A ARCHEOLOGY (Cont.)**



*Original excellent cardboard cowl trim*

added after assembly otherwise the door check would have been properly set to avoid the spare tire.

With the swing arm check detached, I ran into obstacle number two: the hinge pins. I thought that with a pin punch I could easily remove them. Those of you who have removed a door should be smirking by now. Ninety-three years of weather, rust and gunk are holding those rascals tightly in place. After several liberal dosing of penetrating oil with no progress, I resorted to looking at some YouTube videos and quickly realized how badly I underestimated the task. Frequently, hinges need to be heated red hot to

remove the pins and there is a special tool to help “jack” the pin out. That’s when I changed my entire plan. Instead of removing the door, why not just remove the trim panels?



*Behind the trim: Mud dauber carcasses, dirt and grime but great condition.*



The 1928-30 style door handle became one last obstacle until I realized the entire handle spun off. After that I removed the handful of non-original machine screws that were holding the door panel inner edge. Removing the door sill garnish plate revealed a happy little clue. Although the exposed surface was painted flat black, the underside retained the expected maroon paint that the Judging Standards call out. The paint is in remarkably good condition and since it has not been sun faded with time, gives an excellent example of the correct shade of maroon. This clue should be helpful in dating Annie’s A but I hit another bump. The

Judging Standards has a chart that indicates these trim pieces were gray through April 1930; maroon was introduced in March 1930. The MARC published “Tudor Book” shows different dates with gray being used through July 1931; maroon introduced in June 1931.



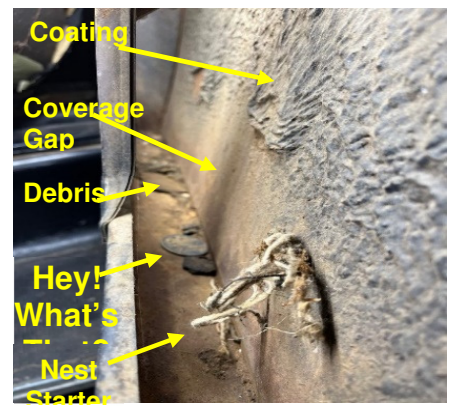
*Underside of door sill garnish showing original maroon color.*

Resolving this conflict goes onto the list of questions. I removed all the garnish mouldings front and back. All revealed the same maroon paint. Now all that was left was to carefully pull out the clips that hold the cardboard panel onto the door. And just like that! The first panel was removed.

When the panel came off, two things immediately jumped out (not mice, thankfully!). The inside of the door was covered in some sort of material that looks like undercoating. I have never seen an original door inside before and have never read anything about a coating applied inside the Model A doors. I do not know what to make of this. Original? The coating seems to have sagged over time, maybe because it was applied with the door upright? Maybe extended time in the sun softened it? I noticed the coating was not applied all the way to the bottom of the door. This looks intentional but seems to defeat the purpose if rustproofing was the objective. More questions to research.



*Original clip*



*Found in the passenger door sill*

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## MODEL A ARCHEOLOGY (Cont.)



*Driver door with trim panel removed. Sagging inner coating*

The second thing that jumped out was an impressive collection of “stuff” in the bottom of the door sills, especially considering the fact that an upper rubber seal contacts the window and, at least in theory, keeps stuff out of the door.

The passenger door sill (pictured above) held the biggest surprise. There was a disc partially covered by debris that looked like a part that had fallen off the door. Maybe part of the door handle or window crank trim had fallen into the door at some point? Nope. It was a silver half-dollar! Annie’s A continues to be full of surprises! More on the coin later.



Bringing the two trim panels home allowed me to disassemble them as planned. They were fascinating! The following series of pictures shows what I found at every layer of the driver’s side door (see next page):.

1. This view shows the outer layer that my mom installed. This is the door as it has existed since the early 60’s.
2. The back side revealed the method Ford used to sew in door pockets. This is just as described in the MARC Tudor Sedan Book. The stitching used is well preserved. Also, this view proves that the black covering was installed by my parents. My dad was a huge fan of duct tape known as “EB Green.” It was his favorite way of attaching things until he discovered two-part epoxy. Sure enough, on the back of the panel, fastening the black cloth to the backing board, I found lots of EB Green.
3. Next is very professional looking. It is heavy vinyl fabric with an interesting brown-stripped pattern. The fabric is seamed 2/3 down the door panel. It is very tightly sewn and the fabric pattern is well matched across the seam. The pocket was deleted. It is not Model A original, and there is no marking to give a hint about source or time period. This is the look though, when Annie drove the car. Darker brown schmears across the fabric proved to be the remains of adhesive used when the black fabric was installed.
4. The lowest layer reveals original Ford brown fabric. This layer color properly coordinates with the seat material and offers some proof that the seats are original to the car. My guess is the batting shown in the area of the pocket was installed when the previous layer was installed to smooth out the fabric in that spot.
5. Setting the batting aside reveals the sad fact that the installer of the second layer also decided to cut the original pockets out. This presumably was done to smooth out that area of the panel when it was re-upholstered but is an unfortunate loss.

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**MODEL A ARCHEOLOGY (Cont.)**



1. Outer layer installed by mom



2. Backside of panel as it came off. EB Green in abundance.



3. Second Layer. Insert shows the pattern. Dark marks are adhesive.



4. Bottom Layer. Original fabric. Batting inserted where pocket used to be.



5. Batting moved aside, showing original pocket cut out.



5a. Detail of stitching and "plain brown" cloth.

When coincidences collide: I will never know how that half dollar ended in the passenger door. Here is the crazy thing—the coin is dated 1947!! *That is the year the story of Annie's A begins for our family!* Although the coin is badly discolored, its condition is practically brand new. Once silver coins were circulated, details wore out pretty quickly. The detail on this coin is sharp! There are other weird coincidences: 1931 (Annie's A) was the last year of Model A production and 1947 was the last year of the Walking Liberty half dollar production. During production, something over 4 million of each were made...



The coin will get romanticized into the story that is Annie's A. Maybe Rudy or Annie intentionally

put the coin in the door to commemorate their marriage? They were not wealthy people. Seems like a "lucky penny" would have served that purpose. Maybe the striped door covers got

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## MODEL A ARCHEOLOGY (Cont.)

installed around that time and whoever did the work included the coin as a memento? Or maybe that is when the car was painted all-black and the painter put the coin in the door? Still seems like a “lucky penny” would do the trick. Was it a random accidental occurrence and the coin simply fell out of Rudy or Annie’s hand one day and fell through the window gap? Pretty big coincidence that the random coin happened to be from 1947. Did my dad plant that coin in the door as a sort of “easter egg” commemorating Annie, who had recently died when he did the 1960’s refurbishment? If so, how did he find a nearly mint condition 1947 coin in 1963? And why would he pick 1947 as the year to commemorate her? We are never going to know the real story. Pick the version you like best or send me your own alternative story.

I have previously mentioned Annie was a gregarious individual who appreciated a good joke. Once again, I get the feeling I am in the middle of a prank seventy-seven years in the making and Annie is up there now, looking down and laughing and laughing!

Hank Zajic

Next Time: Model A Archeology Part 7. Annie’s A: “Am I Blue?”

## SMALL PARTS DAY

April 21 will be this year’s Small Parts Day. At this event, individuals will have the opportunity to perform annual maintenance on their Model As, sand-blasting small Model A parts, and other work that can be completed that day. NO overnight work. The event will be on Sunday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning. This is a bring-your-own-lunch and folding-chair event. It will be held at Benny’s place (Thank you Benny!) at the garage near the back side of his property. So please enter using the driveway to the left of his property. The address is 5441 Ladue Lane, Fairfax, VA. If anyone wants to sandblast, we need to know that ahead of time. Blasters need to bring their own media and safety equipment (gloves/eye protection). Blasting is very dusty! If members have some media from previous years, please bring that, too. It takes about one bag to blast one wheel. A more detailed “blast” will be coming out soon via email. RSVP so we don’t buy out the donut shop! See you there!

Valerie Faircloth  
703-609-6713

[valerie.faircloth@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.faircloth@gmail.com).

**Rusty Rentsch**  
CERTIFIED AGENT

703-209-4359  
Rusty.Rentsch@autoappraisal.com  
Northern Virginia to Frederick Maryland



**Auto Appraisal Group Inc.**  
Toll Free 800-848-2886 Fax 888-575-9319 [www.autoappraisal.com](http://www.autoappraisal.com)



**FROM OUR YOUTH CHAIRMAN**

Your Model A is needed!

Where: Gunston Middle School, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington, Va

When: April 4th Thursday 1:30 - 4:15PM

What: The 9th Annual Adam Nesbit Downhill Derby and car show.

Students have been building custom Go-karts and will be racing them. Come support the kids and show off your car! All Model A's and Hotrods are welcome. We ask that you arrive at or before 1:30 PM. This will keep us out of the way of the school buses. The event is over at 4:15.

See the attached photo of just one of the many Go-karts our kids are in the process of making!!

Please let me know if you can make it!!

Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Contact: James Kolody if you have questions @ [grubsworms1@gmail.com](mailto:grubsworms1@gmail.com)



An advertisement for Gaslight Auto Parts. At the top left is a gaslight logo. The text reads "Gaslight Auto Parts" in a stylized font, with "since 1962" underneath. Below this is a large, bold "1909-48 FORD Parts" and "Model A, T, &amp; V-8 Parts". A rolled-up document labeled "FREE catalog" is shown on the left. On the right, the phone number "800. 242.6491" and website "www.gaslightauto.com" are listed, along with the address "1445 S. US Hwy 68, Urbana, OH 43078".



## **COMING EVENTS**

### **March**

March 9 (Saturday) - Mason Dixon Gas, Oil, and Advertising Swap Meet at the Frederick, MD, Fairgrounds. You can follow this link for more info: <https://www.masondixongas.com/>

**March 20 (Wednesday) - Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall – 7:30 p.m.**

March 22 & 23 (Friday & Saturday) – Sugarloaf Mountain Region AACA Parts and Swap Meet – Agriculture Center – Westminster, Md. – 8 am to 4 pm on Friday and 8 am to 2 pm on Saturday. Vendors are selling everything automotive such as antique auto parts, car care products; signs, toy and model cars, tools, hardware such as nuts, bolts, electrical parts, tires and rims, services such as restorations and auto detailing. For information – contact: Jack Gallagher at 301-674-5431

**March 28 (Thursday) – Board Meeting – Zoom - 7:00 pm.**

March 30 (Saturday) Blue Ridge Hunt Races and Antique//Exotic Car Cruise In, Woodley Farm, Berryville, VA. Free admission for those arriving in an antique car. Bring a picnic! There will be food, vendors, and activities for the kids. Gates open at 10:00 and the races begin at 1:00. For more information, go to the website <blueridgehunt.org> or call Michael Morris at 703-577-5702

### **April**

April 4 thru 7 (Friday thru Sunday) – Marc Membership Meet – Joliet, IL

April 10 (Wednesday) - GWC & CDC Breakfast at the Fair Oaks Silver Dinner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fair Lakes, VA

April 13 (Saturday) – Cherry Blossom Parade – Washington DC.

April 17-21 (Wednesday to Sunday) - Carlisle Spring Small Parts Day, Carlisle, PA

**April 17 - Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall – 7:30 p.m.**

**April 21 (Sunday) – Small Parts Day at Benny’s to include Smith Compressor sandblasting opportunities. Individuals that have sand left over from last year please bring to this event. (See p. 23 for more information.)**

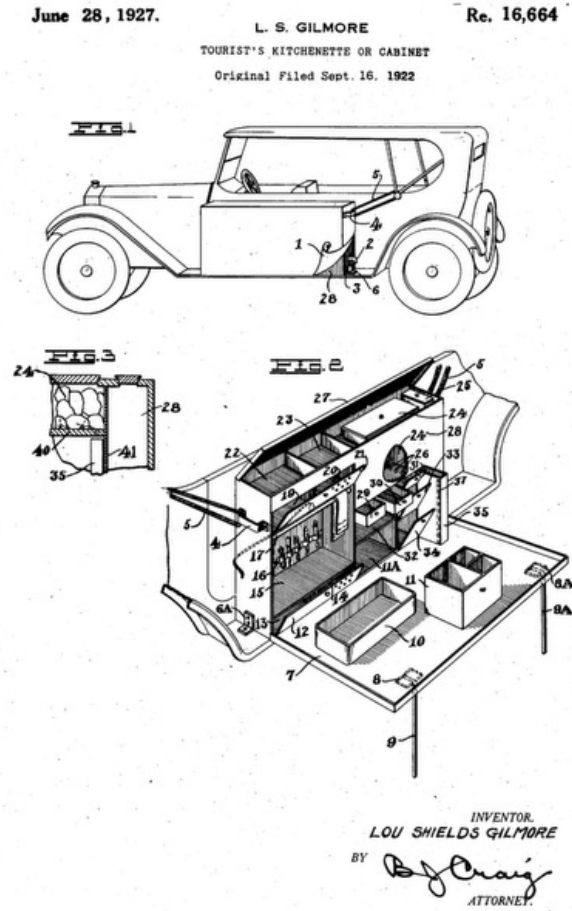
April 26 thru May 5 (Friday thru Sunday) - Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival – Winchester, Va.

**April 25 (Thursday) – Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.**



I got a call from someone who has bought a farm in Western Loudon County and there is a running board "kitchenette" for a Model A Ford on the property. It will be sold at auction in April if there are no takers beforehand. There are pictures of the item plus an advertisement and a photo of one mounted on a Model A. If anyone is interested, please let me know and I can put you in contact with the owner. The are taking offers for the item.

Milford



I found this photo online to illustrate how it would look attached to the vehicle and opened as a table.



## 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Sully Antique Car Show 16 June 2024

### Sully Volunteer Positions AVAILABLE!

The GWC primary fundraiser is our annual Sully Antique Car Show on Fathers' Day at the Historic Sully Site. Club members are asked to volunteer two hours to make this show a success. From the list below, please decide where you can help and let John Dougherty or the subcommittee chairman know where you would like to help.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Set-Up** – On Friday 14 June before the show assist marking off the Show Car and Flea Market fields. We start at 8AM and finish by noon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Registration** - This job will give you the opportunity to see the show cars as they arrive for the show. Each driver will have to get their registration packets from you to drive onto the show field. You will also assist drivers with 'day of show' registrations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Show Car Parking** - We need help to get the show cars parked where they need to be by Class. You'll see the cars as they enter the judging field, and you'll get to tell them where to go!
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Trailer Parking** - The trailers bring in the real gems to the show. Get them parked and see them first!
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Flea Market** - Help is needed on the day of show to ensure vendors set-up in their designated spots. Great way to find out where the good stuff is parked!
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Car Corral** - Get registration cards for sellers who pre-registered. Assist sellers to complete registration cards for 'day of show' arrivals. Escort them to their parking spots.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Judging** - In this job, you'll see the best cars up close and personal. Training will be provided prior to the show. New judges are teamed up with a veteran judge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Snow Cone Booth** - This is the COOL job on a hot Sully day. Work under shade surrounded by lots of ice, syrup and water!
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Information Booth** - This is our outreach to the public and focal point about the details of the show. You'll get to meet and talk with a lot of good folks. You sell current and past year's collectible Sully pins at the show. These pins are unique because they honor a club member.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Help Where Needed** - If you're not sure where you want to help, we will work with committee chairs to put you to work where you are most needed. You will be contacted with your assignment prior to the show.

You will have opportunity to sign up at our monthly GWC Member meetings or contact any Committee Member or Club Officer to sign up. Each volunteer may receive two free public entrance passes to share or, one free show car registration for your personal antique!

***Ready?/Questions? Call our Annual Meet Chairman, John Dougherty at 703-971-8033 or send your questions and volunteer preferences to him at [doughert@cox.net](mailto:doughert@cox.net).***



## PARTING SHOT



I was out and about and saw this AA truck parked at a civil contractor's yard. If I remember, I'll drive over during working hours and try to get a closer look.

Bruce Metcalf

**George Washington Chapter 2024 Approved Budget - AS OF 2/29/2024**  
**OPERATING BUDGET #2**

<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Resonsibiity</u>	2023 Actual	2024 February	2024 ACTUAL
Membership	VanGorder	\$ 2,895.00	\$ 160.00	\$1,794.00
Misc Income (Donations)	Tomb	\$ 65.00	\$ -	\$ -
Programs & Technical Seminars	White	\$ 56.00	\$ -	\$ -
Club Tours & Activities	Faircloth	\$ 1,460.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 100.00
Script Advertising	Bass	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Hands on Seminars, Repair	Leonard	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sully Income	Dougherty	\$ 13,826.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 18,752.50</b>	<b>\$850.00</b>	<b>\$2,524.00</b>
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>				
Membership	VanGorder	\$ 868.07	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Club Programs	White	\$ 1,650.34	\$ 785.48	\$ 785.48
Club Tours & Activities	Faircloth	\$ 5,701.44	\$ -	\$ -
Script Printing & Mailing	VanGorder	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tool Shed / Tools	Leonard	\$ 308.63	\$ -	\$ 252.28
Sully Car Show Expenses	Dougherty	\$ 4,445.04	\$ 859.37	\$ 859.37
Web Hosting Expense	Shepherd	\$ 163.22	\$ 119.88	\$ 119.88
Insurance	Tomb	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Presidents Fund	Sprecher	\$ 943.63	\$ -	\$ -
Secretary Supplies	Greenwood	\$ 157.40	\$ -	\$ -
Treasurer Supplies	Tomb	\$ 552.46	\$ 352.00	\$ 427.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 14,790.23</b>	<b>\$ 2,126.73</b>	<b>\$2,454.01</b>
<b>UNDER/(OVER) Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 3,962.27</b>		<b>\$ 69.99</b>

