

CHARLES "CHUCK" SHAW

August 25, 1933 – May 27, 2010



When we lost Charles "Chuck" Shaw, we all lost a friend and club member who loved our club and its members. We lost a fighter who had battled prostate cancer for over 15 years, as evidenced by almost weekly trips to Johns Hopkins for experimental treatments. We also lost a great individual supporter and encourager, who always offered advice and words of encouragement to those of us that were unsure or needed help. And being the engineer that he was, he always loved a good mechanical challenge like helping replace a radiator at the hotel in Orange, fixing a throttle control with a cotter pin, taking pictures of a manifold being fixed with duct tape, spray painting (in the middle of the night) green all of the chrome parts on the pickup engine so it could be judged in Touring Class and as I recently found on the Fordor, fixing the idle control with a small bungy cord.

I cannot honestly remember when I met Chuck and Clarice for the first time; Clem thinks we met at the National Meet in Williamsburg. I do remember my first trip to Cowtown and watching Chuck eat the jelly packets at the Wagon Wheel Diner – he later told me you didn't need toast or biscuits to eat jelly. It seems that Chuck just started to take a bigger role in the club. One of things that I most appreciated was the encouragement that he gave me after the Northern Neck Tour, where a few things went wrong. He offered encouragement to me that led me to do other tours and he really pushed the club to host the 2009 MARC National Tour.

Chuck was a very private person who was very proud that he worked 50 years as a professional engineer with many patents and was credited by the Postmaster General as being instrumental in saving the zip code system during its first year. When the anthrax letters showed up in the Brentwood, MD, post office, Chuck was one of the first to put on a white suit and go inside and then worked as a consultant to develop mail sorting machines that could

detect anthrax-like substances. Chuck was also a yachtsman and an avid flyer who loved his 1940 J3 Piper, which he flew until late last year.

He was active in our club, serving as webmaster for many years, where his beautiful pictures and his ability to tell a story with words and pictures made each activity or tour seem to come alive again. He also served on the MARC

Touring Class Committee with his 29 CCPU and 31 Phaeton winning Touring Class Awards of Excellence. Chuck, along with Clarice, attended most of the MARC National events over the last ten years and was the Photographer for the 2009 MARC National Tour. Chuck had three beautiful cars; the 1931 Standard Phaeton (his favorite), the 1929 Closed Cab Pickup and the 31 SW Standard Fordor.

Chuck was a good friend to all of us and he will be missed at all levels of the Model A hobby, by his friends in the George Washington Chapter, Fordbarn.com, Ahooga.com, and the Model A Restorers Club. Please keep his wife, Clarice, and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Woody