

# “THE RETARDED SPARK”



Visit our website at: <http://users.psln.com/featherriveras/>



With apologies to the original author of this document, this edition of *THE RETARDED SPARK* is being issued purely for our enjoyment and for those who wish to see what our MAFCA Chapter is doing to further the Model 'A' Hobby here in Quincy, Ca.

Questions, comments, suggestions.....  
(no criticism!) on this newsletter; email  
"Smokey"

at:

[smokeypickett@hughes.net](mailto:smokeypickett@hughes.net)

## From the Desk of the President(s)



Hello Fellow Members!



## Our fearless leader is on sabbatical



## CLUB OFFICERS and MEMBERS

President ----- Jack and Bernadette Brumit  
Vice President ---- Bill and Jennifer Seibold  
Treasurer ----- Rich & Holly Schreiber  
Secretary ----- Rich and Holly Schreiber  
Keeper of the Web..Joe and Heather Way

## MEMBERS

Phil & Shirley Bresciani  
Dave Boynton & Bonnie Norton  
Rick & Paula Foster  
Dan & Penny Lambach  
Bruce & Susan Robinson  
Joe & Heather Way  
Andrew & Shannon Wright  
Don Schlueter  
Gary & Lynne Allan  
Don & Lynn McKechnie  
Dee Barbea  
Ron & Sally Grassi  
Dave & Diann Montanari  
Ron & Jean Rude  
Pete & Joyce Dryer  
Butch & Sheila Vargas  
Dwight & Karen Pierson  
Joel & Sue Rapose

# FEATHER RIVER A's NEWSLETTER

# “THE RETARDED SPARK”



GETTING OUT AND HAVING FUN

## November activities Brunch at Mi Casita

Joe and Heather Way invited the club to brunch at Mi Casita on the hilltop on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was well attended, as is generally the rule when there is food involved!



“Who was in the rumble seat Phil?”



Even though it’s November in Quincy, the sun made it nice enough to bring out the cars as long as you wore a coat (or in Ricks case the Fall Tour vest)



Watch Out Dan! Don't ding your door on Dee's fender!

Even Dan made it, even though he still didn't put the top up. (or on.) What a tough guy!



The meal was excellent and the company fantastic

After a delicious meal and stimulating conversation, *someone* mentioned a yard sale down the street. That was unanimously voted The Next Destination.



All hands bailed into the ‘A’s and went on a yard sale pilgrimage but alas, we had been misinformed, there were none to be found.

No problem. A local artisan was creating varmints of all descriptions with a ” Stihl” knife. We all stopped to watch and marvel at his expertise.



Goldilocks  
(In Hiding)  
&  
The Three Bears!!

After a little selective antiquing next door, we finally called it a day.





# “THE RETARDED SPARK”

Two of our club members were lucky enough to attend the SEMA ( Specialty Equipment Market Association) show in Las Vegas October 30–November 2

Joe and Heather Way traveled to Vegas to witness first hand what is billed as the premier automotive specialty products trade event in the world.



*“Aww cmon, Heather, I only want one “*

It is stated that it draws the industry’s brightest minds and hottest products to one place. The show provides attendees with educational seminars, product demonstrations, special events, networking opportunities and more.



Obviously there was a lot of displays of classic and vintage vehicles as well as the exhibits of new innovations in the automotive industry.

This years show drew more than 60,000 buyers with displays featuring nearly 2,000 newly introduced parts, tools and components.



Joese car is right here somewhere!

Joe said he heard that Bill Seibold was looking for a pickup and thought that this one might do the job.



*What a Wood Truck!*

**It sounded like a great time!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## December Annibirtharies

- Sheila Vargas-----3rd
- Holly Schreiber-----11<sup>th</sup>
- Dan Lambach-----14th
- Dave Montanari----14<sup>th</sup>



- Ron and Jean Rude-----
- Dec 3rd
- Dan and Penny Lambach---
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

# ***“THE RETARDED SPARK”***



## COMEDY CORNER

### VINTAGE FORD HUMOR

Why is the Ford like a millionaire baby?  
Because it has a new rattle every day.

Jack Sprat was rather fat  
His wife was awfully lean  
And so, between them both, they filled  
Their little Ford machine.

Biff: "Why is a Ford car like a porosknit union suit?"

Stiff: "Elucidate."

Biff: "It gives a lot of comfort but one does not care to be seen on the street in it."

(Anybody want to "Elucidate" on porosknit suits??)

\*\*\*\*\*

A man goes into a store and asks the clerk for some "Polish Sausage". The clerk looked at him and asked "Are you Polish?" The guy, clearly offended, says, "Well, yes I am. But let me ask you some things:

If I asked you for Italian Sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian? Or, if I asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German? Or, if I asked you for a Kosher Hot Dog, would you ask me if I was Jewish? Or, if I asked you for a Taco, would you ask me if I was Mexican? Would ya, huh? Would ya?"

The clerk says, "Well no."

With self-indignation, the guy says, "Well, all right then, why did you ask me if I'm Polish just because I asked for Polish Sausage?"

The clerk replies, "Because you're at Home Depot."



*A Christmas song, from Arizona;*



**OH! TAN AND BOMBED,  
OH! TAN AND BOMBED...**

### UPCOMING MODEL 'A' TOURS and ACTIVITIES

**December 4<sup>th</sup> Monthly meeting at Patti's Thunder. (including discussion on dues?)**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>, Main Street Sparkle Parade**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Hanamas Party at Schreibers 3:00**



# “THE RETARDED SPARK”

## MODEL ‘A’ GARAGE CORNER

Or, stuff you already knew, and probably forgot!

### Model A Grounding System

Poor electrical grounds within the Model A electrical system can cause high currents to flow, headlights and taillights to burn out prematurely, electrolysis within the radiator, poor ignition firing and hard starting. The ground path from the battery must reach the engine block with no resistance in its path. The engine dust pans were used to provide the ground path from the frame to the engine block but commonly, they have been left off. As a result, a direct ground from the frame to the engine is lost. The rubber pads on the rear motor mounts are an insulator between the frame and the mount and Float-A-Motor mounts are even more insulated. The ground path must then travel down the frame, through the rear leaf springs, up the torque tube and the transmission to the engine. There can be a lot of resistance in the dirt, paint and grease of all these components. Similarly, the ground path to the headlights and taillights can be interrupted with rust or paint buildup at the headlight bar to fender brace or at the headlight socket in the light bar.

### What to check

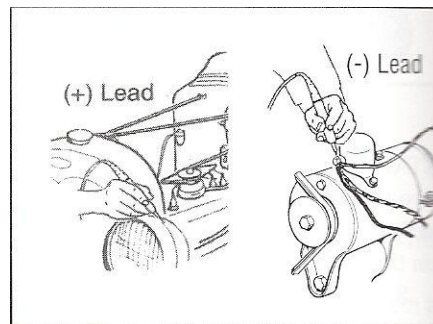
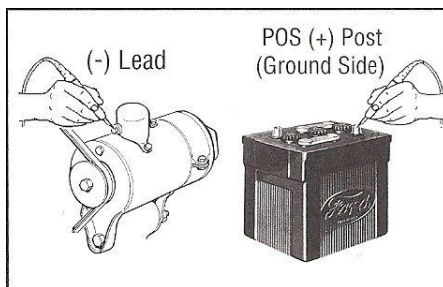
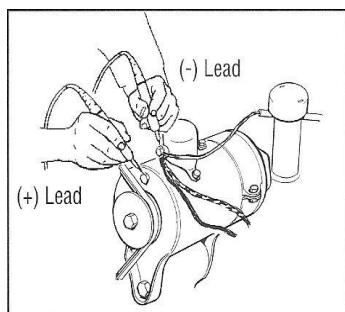
Start the engine and set the hand throttle to a fast idle or until the ammeter reads 10-12 amps charge.

Using a digital voltmeter, connect the positive (+) lead to a good ground point (generator case).

Connect the voltmeter negative (-) lead to the output side of the cutout relay. Record the voltage.

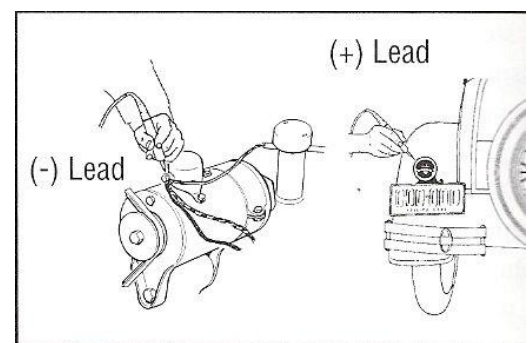
This is the reference voltage and should be approximately 7.2 volts.

Maintain a connection of the voltmeters negative lead on the output side of the cutout relay and move the positive lead to the battery positive terminal post. Record the voltage.



Move the voltmeter positive lead to each headlight bucket. Record the voltage reading for each headlight.

Move the voltmeter positive lead to the taillight housing. Record this voltage reading.



At each of the above test points, a voltage reading of 7.0 vdc or more indicates a good grounding for the test location. Less than that indicates a problem connection.

### Corrective action

A faulty ground can be improved by adding an additional ground cable from the battery ground strap bolt at the frame, to one of the flywheel-to-bell housing bolts. Do not eliminate the battery to frame strap! The headlight sockets on the headlight bar should be cleaned of any rust or paint as should the fender brace bolts on the fender and the frame. Add a short grounding strap from the body and rear fender to the frame. If you have an inline fuse, be sure to check it. A tiny amount of near- invisible corrosion can make your lights and accessories intermittent and stop current to the coil. After improvements, the generator output should be readjusted and the ground test repeated.

*A hearty Thanks and tip-o-Smokey's fedora  
to  
Les Andrews in  
“How to restore your Model A volume  
8”*



# “THE RETARDED SPARK”

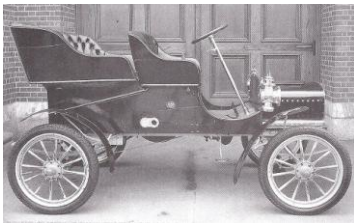
## THIS MONTH’S FORD HISTORY & QUOTE From Henry Ford



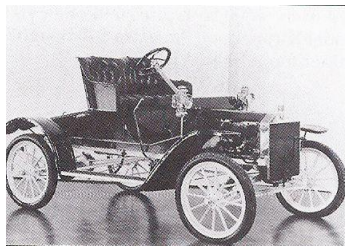
During its early years, the company produced a range of vehicles designated, chronologically, from the Ford Model A (1903)



Model C



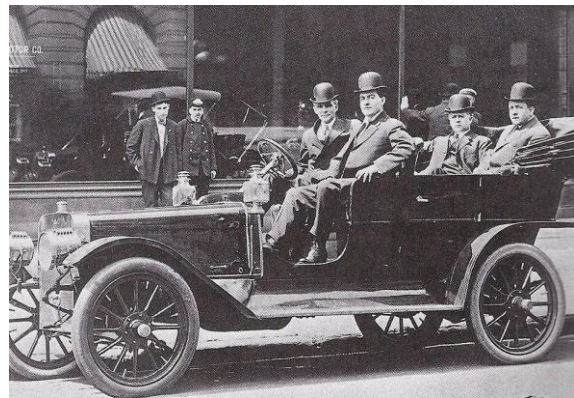
Model R



1906 Boat Tail



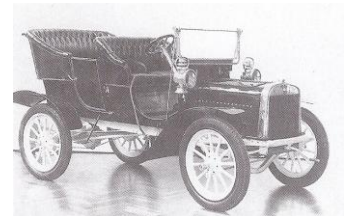
Model S (Ford's last right-hand steering model) of 1907



The K, Ford's first six-cylinder model, was known as "the gentleman's roadster" and "the silent cyclone", and sold for US\$2800; by contrast, around that time the Colt Runabout US\$1500, the high-volume Oldsmobile Runabout US\$650, Western's Gale Model A US\$500, and the Success hit the amazingly low US\$250.

**1904, four cylinder, Model B Touring.**

Henry was now dreaming of building a cheaper car but this model wasn't it, selling for a hefty \$2000.00



### Notable December Ford Dates

Dec 1, 1913 Ford introduces assembly line

Dec 7, 1931 Last Model A produced

Dec 10, 1915 Ford builds it's one millionth car

Dec 12, 1946 Emerson Fittipaldi born in Sao Paulo, Brazil (just wanted to see if you were looking!)

Dec 13, 1939 First Lincoln Continental

Dec 21, 1945 Ford names Henry Ford II president

Dec 18, 1970 Ford names Lee Iacocca president (Sorry Henry)

### Quote from Henry Ford;

“It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning. “

## Henry's Tin Lizzie!

Next Month;

Bet you can't wait!!!