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Pausing to ‘MARC’ our club’s 30th anniversary

In late 1985 and early 1986, six Model A enthusiasts gathered for a series of Saturday morning breakfast meetings to discuss forming a new club, which would become the Central Kentucky Region of the Model A Restorers Club — CKMARC.



Bob Hamilton

One of those six, **Bob Hamilton**, was the club’s first president. He also served as its inaugural newsletter editor. A manager for the telephone company with a soothing baritone voice, Bob was an easygoing, affable guy who was as much at home under the hood of a Model A (or Model T) as

behind the wheel. But he was particularly in his element at the Hershey swap meet. He died in 1993.

CKMARC’s first vice president was **Bob Marshall**, whose quiet, reserved manner contrasted sharply with his large, imposing physical presence. Bob, who worked

Continued on page 2

It’s lunch and a movie in historic downtown Lancaster on Mar. 19

It’s time for an encore — a return, that is, to the historic Lancaster Grand Theater.

On Saturday, March 19, we’ll depart at 9 a.m. from Chick Fil-A on Harrodsburg Road in Lexington. Or, if you prefer, you can meet the group at the theater in downtown Lancaster at 11 a.m.

We’ll be treated to a screening of the comedy “It’s a Mad, Mad World.” Afterward, we can choose from several lunch options in the area.

Bruce and Linda Bailey and **Darrell and Joan Webb** are handling the arrangements.

Opened in 1925, the opulent 750-seat theater attracted audiences from throughout the region to see the latest movies — including serials, comedies and westerns — as well as stage shows and vaudeville acts.

Today, The Grand has been restored and preserved as a living part of Kentucky history. Its architectural grandeur has been enhanced with technological advancements to create a world-class performing arts center.

The restoration and operation of the facility is funded in part by donations. CKMARC’s board of directors voted to contribute \$200 as a token of appreciation for the theater’s hospitality to our members.

Is this your LAST issue?

Check your mailing label on the back page of this newsletter. It will look something like this.

HENRY & CLARA FORD****
2831 DEARBORN WAY
TOURING KY 12345

If you see a series of asterisks next to your name, **this is your last issue of *Checkmark*** unless you send your \$20 dues — immediately — to **Mike Tearney**, Treasurer, at 4890 McCowan’s Ferry Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

And don’t forget, your national MARC dues must also be kept current. **You must be a member of the national MARC to remain in good standing with our local club.** Send your \$45 dues directly to MARC national headquarters in Michigan.

CKMARC's 30th anniversary

Continued from page 1

in facilities maintenance for the school system, was prolific in assembling Model A Fords from parts he'd collected. A mentor to a younger generation of Model A enthusiasts, he died in 1991.

Our first MARC director (the local club's liaison with the national organization) was **Bobby Jones**, who at the time was the proprietor of the Marathon service station on Waller Avenue in Lexington. An energetic entrepreneur and talented mechanic, Bobby ultimately left the Model A hobby to pursue his many other interests.

The other three CKMARC founders are still active in the club today.

At the time, **Bill Bates** was a manager at IBM in Lexington. After hours, he was honing the considerable skills in automotive paint and body work that would eventually produce many award-winning restorations on other people's cars as well as his own. Bill was the club's first treasurer.

As the club was forming, **John Yates** and **Jeff Rhoads** were working feverishly to complete the restorations of



Bob Marshall



Do you know anybody in this picture? It was taken on a CKMARC activity in 1988. 1. Carl Goodwin. 2. Judi Bates. 3. Bob Marshall. 4. Doris Hamilton. 5. Bobby Jones. 6. Ramona Goodwin. 7. Luke Collins. 8. Donnie Hanks.

their Model A's. John, an engineer with the telephone company and part-time Model A parts dealer, was elected to the club's first board of directors; Jeff, an electric utility public relations worker, was CKMARC's first secretary.

Putting the word out

Using a mailing list assembled by **John Yates** from his parts clientele, a letter went out to a number of potential members in central Kentucky. It read as follows.

March 12, 1986

Dear Fellow Model A Enthusiast:

Does your Model A sit at home when your car club goes on tour because you don't like to have to keep up with all the later model cars? Do you enjoy seeing the scenic back roads while listening to that famous flat-head four-banger as it chuckles along? Do you enjoy getting together and swapping parts and stories with other Model A people?

If so, don't miss the organizational meeting of the Central Kentucky Model A Restorers Club, 2 to 5 p.m., on Sunday, March 23, at the Blue Grass Rural Electric building on U.S. 27, about 5 1/2 miles south of Fayette Mall.

Come on out and get acquainted — and bring your Model A, if possible. If you'd like more information, or if you can't be there but would still like to be notified of upcoming meetings, contact one of us listed below.

Hope to see you there.

Ahoogah,

Bob Hamilton
Bill Bates

Bob Marshall
Bobby Jones

Jeff Rhoads
John Yates

First general membership meeting — Mar. 23, 1986

At the meeting that Sunday afternoon, the following people joined the club — becoming the first members after

Continued on page 4

Central Ky. Region, MARC

www.ckmarc.com

President

Delmer Dalton
3245 Wellington Lane
Lexington, Ky. 40503
(859) 223-5078

Secretary

Judy Akers
2720 Cedar Rd.
Stamping Ground, Ky. 40379
(502) 535-6665

National Director

John Yates
1137 Rogers Rd.
Lancaster, Ky. 40444
(859) 548-4016

Vice President

Jack Kubik
3889 Foley's Trail
Lexington, Ky. 40514
(859) 224-8050

Treasurer

Mike Tearney
4890 McCowan's Ferry Rd.
Versailles, Ky. 40383
(859) 873-7590

Past President

Bruce Bailey
3945 Goshen Rd.
Stanford, Ky. 40494
(606) 669-0428

Board Members

Jerry Baker (2016-17)
1535 Cypress St.
Paris, Ky. 40361
(859) 227-0695

Kristin Brake (2015-16)
682 Winding Star Rd.
Irvine, Ky. 40336
(606) 723-4652

Arthur Hollis (2016-17)
1507 Conns Lane
Lancaster, Ky. 40444
(859) 792-4143

John Baker (2015-16)
218 Brandon Dr.
Monticello, Ky. 42633
(606) 348-5126

Todd Brown (2015-16)
2305 Shaftsbury Rd.
Ovid, Mich. 48866
(517) 819-0130

Darrell Webb (2016-17)
160 Woodridge Dr.
Lancaster, Ky. 40444
(859) 312-2549

Checkmark Newsletter Editor

Jeff Rhoads, 3813 Dicksonia Dr., Lexington, Ky. 40517 • (859) 273-9593

Email Checkmark: Checkmark@ckmarc.com

CKMARC Pioneer Tour — April 20, 1986

The following item appeared in the first issue of the club's newsletter — which, incidentally, wasn't yet named.

The sky was gloomy, with occasional showers between periods of light drizzle. But the weather failed to dampen the spirits of the CKMARC members who turned out for the club's inaugural tour, to Fort Boonesborough State Park, on Sunday, April 20.

The plans had called for the tour to go on, rain or shine, and **Bob Marshall** and **Jim Barnes**, in Bob's 1930 coupe, and **Lloyd Creech**, in modern iron, arrived early at the rendezvous point in front of the K-Mart on the Richmond Road in Lexington. They were soon joined by **Bob and Doris Hamilton**, and **Jeff and Mary Rhoads**, in the Hamiltons' '31 tudor — a car that has been known to brave all types of adverse weather. More modern vehicles arrived: **Ken Hamilton** and **Winnie Breeding**, and **Bill and Judi Bates**.

After a few minutes of story swapping, the group looked up to see what looked like a scene out of "The Waltons." A 1929 AA truck, looking for all the world like it just rolled in from farm duty, pulled into the parking lot. It was **Alan Underhill** and **Liz Martin**, from Richmond. The other A drivers were drawn to the truck in a flash, asking questions and listening with fascination to Alan's tales of the time he drove the truck from California to Kentucky.

The group was completed with the arrival of **Betty Winchester** and **Lewis Edwards** in Betty's 1931 tudor. Their arrival had been delayed because they had run out of gas on the way. That seems to be the one flaw that Henry never could work out of the Model A; they just don't want to run without gas.

When the group assembled for the trip to Boonesborough, it was the Hamiltons' tudor leading the way, followed by Bob Marshall's coupe, Betty Winchester's tudor and Alan Underhill's AA truck. The modern vehicles brought up the rear. Leader Bob Hamilton tried to maintain an even 30 miles per hour, for the benefit of the big truck.

The group left behind the frantic pace of Lexington traffic, chugging through the sleepy little community of Athens, and on through picturesque farmland and rugged riverbank grades. Bob Marshall's coupe is a real go-getter on the hills, and the Hamiltons' tudor — which is no slouch, either — had a time keeping ahead of it.

At every straight stretch, the leaders looked back to see if the AA truck was still there. It always was.

The group stopped for lunch — and pictures — at the Boonesborough Wharf Restaurant, on the Kentucky River. There, the group was joined by Hisle and Sylvia Lutes.



Above: At the lunch stop, from left: Alan Underhill, Liz Martin, Bill Bates, Lloyd Creech, Betty Winchester, Lewis Edwards, Judi Bates, Jim Barnes, Bob Marshall, Winnie Breeding, Ken Hamilton, Mary Rhoads, Doris Hamilton and Bob Hamilton. Below: The line-up of Model A Fords at the lunch stop, from left: Alan Underhill's '29 AA truck, Betty Winchester's '31 tudor, Bob Marshall's '30 coupe, and Bob and Doris Hamilton's '31 tudor.



Lunch required about two belt notches. The Sunday buffet featured a fully loaded salad bar, fried catfish, spaghetti, corn, broccoli/cheese casserole, mashed potatoes and cobbler.

From there, it was on to Fort Boonesborough. From the parking area, a steep walking trail leads to the reconstructed fort. At the fort, the group viewed an audio-visual presentation on the history of the settlement of the area, the construction of the fort, and the life of Daniel Boone. In the various cabins of the fort, pioneer crafts were featured, including the making of candles, soap and quilts, basket weaving, and iron forging.

After touring the fort, everyone ambled back down the trail to a shelter near the parking lot, to raid the soft drink machine, "sit a spell" and rest. Someone mentioned that one of Bob Marshall's pet peeves is people who insist on kicking the tires on his Model A, so back in the parking lot, a long line formed at Bob's car — and everyone took a turn at kicking the tires. Meanwhile, Bob sat in the drivers' seat, laughing.

Once back in their cars, the club members headed back toward Lexington. The line of cars gradually shortened along the way, as various people went their separate ways to their homes.

Upon reflection, it becomes clear that pioneers aren't just historical figures, such as the ones who settled at Fort Boonesborough. For this group of 17 Model A enthusiasts have paved the way for what is hoped to be a long future of successful CKMARC tours. — **Jeff Rhoads**

'MARC' your calendar

- ✓ **Mar. 19** — Tour the Lancaster area and visit the Lancaster Grand Theater (**Bruce and Linda Bailey**). Details on page 1.
- ✓ **Apr. 30 – May 1** — Overnight tour to Buckhorn State Park (**David and Vickie Caudill**). Details at right.
- ✓ **May 14** — Mystery Tour (**Jeff and Mary Rhoads**).
- ✓ **June 3 (Friday)** — Hot Air Balloon Festival in Danville. While not an official CKMARC activity, this event may be of interest to members. For more information, contact **Bruce and Linda Bailey**.
- ✓ **June 11** — Picnic at Logan Hubble Park in Lancaster (**Bruce and Linda Bailey**).
- ✓ **July 16** — Keeneland Concours d' Elegance (**John and Becky Yates**).
- ✓ **July 30** — Tour the Georgetown area (**Mike and Judy Akers**).
- ✓ **Aug. 20** — Tour Jessamine County with visits to the Thomson-Hood Veterans Center and the High Bridge Festival (**Darrell and Joan Webb**).
- ✓ **Sept. 9 – 11** — It's CKMARC's turn to host nearby regional Model A Clubs for Drive Your Model A Day. Activities will be centered in the Paris area. **Jerry and Martha Baker** and **Bruce and Linda Bailey** are the organizers.
- ✓ **Oct. 15 – 16** — Overnight tour to Big Bone Lick State Park (**Delmer and Linda Dalton**).
- ✓ **Nov. 12** — Lunch at Biancke's Restaurant in Cynthiana (**Mary and Jeff Rhoads**).
- ✓ **Dec. 10** — Holiday potluck lunch, silent auction and election of officers at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington (**John and Karen Blair** and **Jeff and Mary Rhoads**).
- ✓ **Jan. 21, 2017** — Winter potluck gathering at the Rabbit Run Recreation Center in Lexington (**Delmer and Linda Dalton**).

Anniversary

Continued from page 2

the six original founders.

- **James Barnes** • **Donnie Hanks** • **Jack Stivers**
- **Carlos Carroll** • **Lee Hanks** • **Raymond Tudor**
- **Lloyd Creech** • **Noah Logan**

Others joined in the weeks and months after, including **Gary Boling, Gene Buchanan, Paul Downey, Carl Goodwin, Ken Hamilton, Thomas Hickey, Eugene Jefferson, Marvin Johnson, Dudley Kelly, Thomas Looney, Hisle Lutes, Jim Moores, Jack Riddle, Alan Underhill** and **Betty Winchester**.

Reserve Buckhorn room by Mar. 24

Vickie and David Caudill have made arrangements for CKMARC's overnight stay at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park, April 30 – May 1. Call (800) 325-0058 or (606) 398-7510 to reserve your room *no later than Thursday, Mar. 24*.

The room rate is \$69.95 plus tax. Ask for "Model A Restorers Club." The lodge is pet friendly (a \$25 fee is charged).

On Saturday morning, April 30, **Delmer and Linda Dalton** will lead a group from Lexington, departing at 8 a.m. from McDonald's on Winchester Road (near the Interstate). Meanwhile, **Bruce and Linda Bailey** will lead another group from **Lonnie Pruitt's** Quick Stop in Crab Orchard, also departing at 8. All roads then lead to Clay City, where the combined group will depart from the Dairy Queen at 9 a.m. and head for Buckhorn Lake.