

The Victoria Bustle

International Model A Ford

Victoria Association

Founded 1986

Model A Ford Club of America – Model A Restorers Club

April 2024

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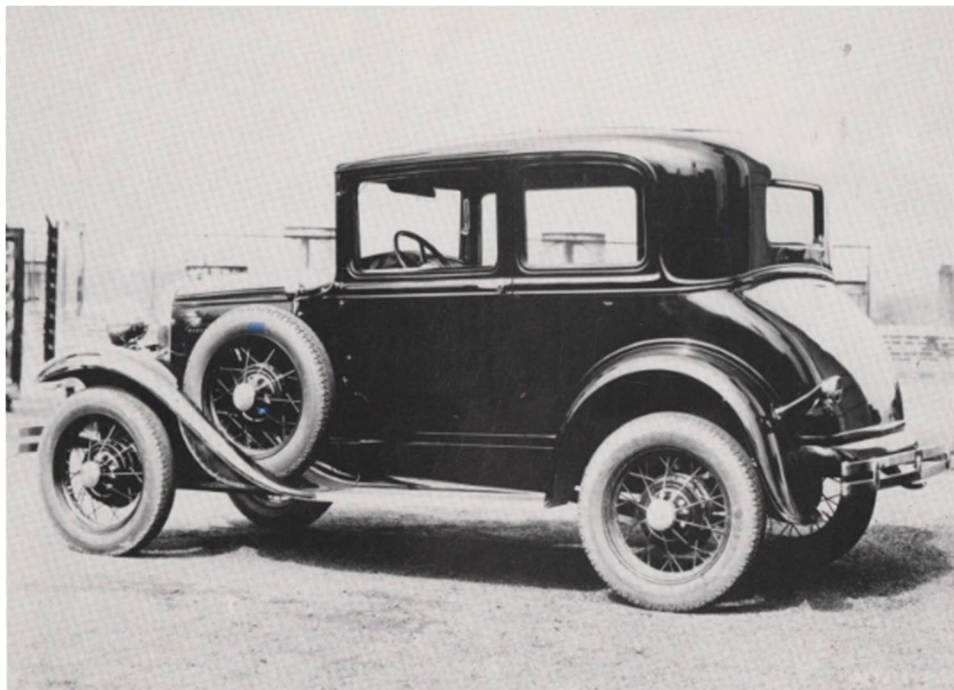
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Founder & Past President:

Charlie Viosca



Victoria Steelback Prototype?

President's Message

This year, the Victoria Association celebrates its 38th anniversary. It was started by Charlie Viosca in 1986 at the first joint MARC / MAFCA meet in Lake Geneva, WI. I was one of the Victoria owners attending that first meeting.

I would like to give a BIG THANK to Vern Schwebke for his 20 years of dedicated service to the Victoria Association. Vern resigned his board position as Secretary on February 12. Vern joined the Board in July of 2004 as the Membership Director. In 2011 He became president of the Association. Vern was president until I took over as President in late 2019. At that time, he became the Secretary of our association.

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Victoria Association since the October Bustle was printed.

Barton Branstetter

Rick Holms

Mike Bocchino

Mathew King

Catherine Colmus

Marshall McClay

Sandy Fowler

Guy McElroy

Sid Gough

Jeffery Newman

Ron Hodgkin

Henry Tatnall

John Hoffman



Victoria Association will be having a meeting on June 28th at 3:00 in Room 4A at the MAFCA National meet in Ruidoso, New Mexico, June 23rd to the 29th 2024. After the meeting, I plan to try and get all Victorias at the meet and all the members / owners together for a picture. In 2022 at the Kerrville MAFCA meet we had an enjoyable meeting with members talking about their Victorias and asking questions. If you are going to Ruidoso, put it on your calendar and join us.

A Message from The Bustle Editor, Dean Larson

The picture on the cover of the Bustle came as a raffle prize with no explanation but is very interesting! If this was a prototype, I'm glad it was never put into production. How many differences can you detect? If anyone has information of the origin of this photo email me at bumpo72@comcast.net and I'll share the information. You may also email me your observations and perhaps a list can be included in the next Bustle.

This edition of the Bustle comes with a list of active members and their contact information. You can always email Ed Greany at crest25@verizon.net.

I hope all of our members will consider receiving their bustle via email in the future. You can request the electronic version by letting us know via an email or through your renewal postcard response next year. As of this writing we have requests for 53 emailed copies.

At a Board of Director's meeting, it was agreed that our club needs to have a board member to be the point person for communications with the Model A Ford Youth Scholarship program. Keeping informed of awards made each year, information about the recipients as well as when applications should be sent is important and information will be included in future Bustle newsletters. I have agreed to take on that role and have already contacted their leadership.

A Reminder from our Membership Chairman, Ed Greany

As always, let us know if you have a change of address or email address. This will help the Editor get you your newsletter to you without delay.

How I found my Model A Ford Victoria

Lady, My Model A Victoria

By Jonathan Shewbridge

When I was a kid, I always enjoyed the look of the headlights and fenders of the Model A, although, at that time I did not know that the car was a Model A. While growing up, I never thought about Model As much, but I would smile if I saw one parked on the road somewhere. I have always been drawn to old cars, and I used to have a 1957 Ford Fairlane 500, and I still have a 1965 Ford Mustang. (My father-in-law is a “dyed in the wool ‘Ford’ guy;” so, that is where I picked up the habit of buying old Fords.)

I was online one day in early 2019 and googled for cars that are easy to restore. The Ford Model A happened to make the list that I found. I was surprised that so many vendors offered replacement parts for the cars. As I continued researching the Model A, I learned that an active Model A club was close to where I worked. I found Jim Palmer’s contact information (he was the vice president of the club), and he invited me to his home to see his two Model As, a Roadster and a Fordor. Both were genuinely nice cars, and we quickly struck up a friendship. He also invited me to join the Model A club, which my wife, Tammy, and I did, although we did not yet own a Model A.

For the next few months, Jim Palmer emailed me from time to time about various Model As that he found for sale. One of the cars turned out to be a 1931 Victoria Leatherback owned by Tyree Harris, a restorer located in a remote area named Bumpass, VA, near Richmond, VA. Tyree had restored the car for a customer a long while back. (After that restoration, that customer had driven the car all the way to Canada on a tour, and the car had even been presented for touring judging.) At some point that customer ended up selling the car to Tyree, and Tyree and his wife enjoyed the car for about 6 years or so. As time went on, Tyree decided to sell the car. It turns out Tyree had advertised his car in The Victoria Bustle, but I did not know anything about The Victoria Bustle back then.

In August of 2019, I called Tyree to ask if the car was still for sale, and he confirmed that the car was still available. So, Tammy and I drove to Bumpass on a Sunday afternoon. When we arrived, Tyree and his wife were super friendly (as are most Model A folks that we have met), and we had a tasty meal together at his house while he told me about his car, which sported a rear mounted spare, a clock built into the rearview mirror, a luggage rack, and a trunk with a cover matching the Leatherback material. After we finished eating, Tyree took Tammy and me for a test drive on the very rural road by his house. The car seemed to run fine, and it appeared to be in excellent condition. Eventually, Tyree offered to let me drive. At that point, I had only driven one other Model A, and I was still not familiar with all the steps involved with starting the car. So, I wanted to shut down the car and start it “from scratch” to make sure that I could start the car properly should I purchase it. Tyree was very patient with me while mentoring me through the starting process. Finally, when I

pressed the starter button, the car would not start, and we were about a half mile from Tyree's house. Tyree hopped back into the driver's seat, but he could not get the car started either. (At this point, I am sure Tyree was frustrated that he could not get the car that he was trying to sell to start. I know I would have been.)

We were parked on a slight downgrade; so, Tyree and I decided to push the car back toward his house, with Tammy steering. (I still tease Tammy about actually getting to "drive" the car before I did.) When the road started uphill, we had finally reached the edge of his yard, and we maneuvered the car into his yard and left it there. We were losing the light of the day, but he felt sure he would be able to find and correct the cause of the starting issue. So, we went into the house to discuss the price. Once we agreed on the price, we arranged to pick up the car two days later.

By the time we saw the car two days later, Tyree had found and repaired the issue. (The clutch pedal had snagged a wire in the wiring harness and caused a short.) Tyree also included a new Model A wiring harness (which his business makes) with the sale of the car. We took the car for a test drive, and it drove well. So, we purchased the car and headed home, a little more than 150 miles away. We will always remember the kind hospitality of Tyree and his wife.

As we started home, it was a warm, sunny day, and I had the windows down and the windshield cracked open to allow as much "cool" air into the Victoria as possible. I drove the Victoria while Tammy followed in our modern car. The first stop was for gas. Since I could not see the gas level in the tank very well, I did my best guess at filling the tank. (At the time, I did not think about checking the gas gauge for tank fullness.) Once we were back on the road, a hard rain started. Still a novice at driving a Model A, I had no idea how wet a driver could get in a Model A. By the time I got the windshield closed, I was soaked. Eventually, the rain dried off, and the rest of the trip home was enjoyable. There were plenty of hills along the way to help me learn my new timing lever skills.

After we got home, Tammy and I decided to name the car Lady. Our Victoria has a majestic look, and she is lots of fun to drive. We are always amazed by the number of new friends that we meet at gas stations and wherever we take the car. I am still amused by what our adult daughter said about the car when she first saw it. She giggled and said, "It looks like a cartoon car that came to life." I guess that is a bit like Pinocchio, who wanted to become a real boy.

My Victoria Story By Guy and Judith McElroy

My name is Guy McElroy, I am currently President of The San Diego Model A Ford Club, my wife is Judith and supports my habit, she's an "Enabler". I am 77 years old and my wife and I have been together 60 years and we dated in my first Model A, a '29 Tudor sedan. Fast forward to today, we have 5 Model As, one of which is a beautiful '31 Victoria.

Victoria, as I call her, belonged to a neighbor's elderly father. We arranged a meeting to see the car and I was beyond impressed, after almost two years we agreed on a sale. The previous owner, Ed Brown, had been in the Model A Club long before we joined. He had found the car back east and trailered it back to San Diego. He and his son did a complete "off the frame" restore on the car. Ed is unable to drive any longer and wanted to pass the car along to someone who would appreciate her and take care of her. She is totally black and has a tan fabric top. There is one red pinstripe around the beltline of the car and the interior is immaculate.

I came to The International Model A Ford Victoria Association by the hand of Vern Schwebke, who heard from the former owner of the sale. Vern took it upon himself to enroll me in your Victoria association and even paid the first years dues. I'm looking forward to being in your Victoria Association and reading your publication.

Sincerely, Guy McElroy
President San Diego Model A Ford Club

Editor's note: If you would like to share your story, send it along with a picture or two and it will appear in a future issue of The Bustle!

Technical Talk with Chuck Christensen

There were several great questions and answers included in the last edition of the Bustle. I hope you found them thought provoking and informative. If there are any follow up question or new issues you would like help with you can reach me at **chuckret95@gmail.com**.

Ads/For Sale and Wanted

Still Searching:

VA member, Bill McElroy (lincolnm9@aol.com) is still seeking information and the location of a Brewster Green and Black Steelback Victoria that was restored in 1971 by a friend of his and may be in the Dayton Ohio area. The restorer's family is looking for the Victoria. See the previous issue of the Bustle for details.

Wanted

An original Victoria rear window blind roller in good usable condition. The roller is 26, 3/8" in length. Ideally with fabric intact or remnants of it still attached. If you can help find this part, you can contact Richard Morse at ironmountain1969@gmail.com

Victoria Parts For Sale

No new items to add.

Victoria For Sale

1931 Ford Victoria Steel back, maroon and black. Features: Restored in 2010; LeBaron Bonney interior; engine rebuilt by Schwalm's with Babbitted Bearings; 6,800 miles; cast iron brake drums; wood grained dash; side bowl carburetor; safety glass. Will deliver within Virginia. Price \$23,000.

Contact: Tom Quigley, 65 Pond Hollow Lane, Nellysford, VA 22958 or email to tjquigley6@comcast.net




Ford Barn Victoria Items for sale

Occasionally items can be found that could be used for our Victoria's. If you haven't joined this community of passionate Ford hobbyists yet, look them up! Seat bracket and rear valance are still being advertised. See last issue of Bustle or visit the Ford Barn. See new examples below.

04-02-2024, 01:41 PM

jw hash
Senior Member





Join Date: May 2010
Location: Auburn Washington
Posts: 2,551

Victoria visors brackets

City: Auburn Wa,
State: WA
Price: Ad

one single **Victoria** visor, plating is nice enough for a driver. \$105
one pair of matching visors, need plating. \$135 for the pair.
shipping is included in the price to the lower 48

Attached Thumbnails



Yesterday, 04:14 PM

Ed Fitts
Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2010
Posts: 6,055

S/W Rear Window Frame

City: Winsted
State: Ct.
Price: in ad

Rear window frame for **Victoria** or slant w/s 4=DR. Very good condition, \$100. plus postage in US. No pics. CALL 860-238-4366 eves.

Victoria Association Services

The Association has a Technical Director, Chuck Christenson, who is willing to answer your questions on the Model A and the Victoria. You will find his email address on the front cover of the Bustle.

We also have paper and digital window patterns for the Victoria. Please let Chuck know if you would like to use them.

Bob Bidonde is now using the registry of Victorias to assign Body numbers to members' Victorias that do not have one. If you need a body number for your Victoria, please contact Bob at modela1931@aol.com.



International Model A Ford
Victoria Association

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First Class Mail

To:

The International Model A Ford Victoria Association is a body style chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) and a region of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC). The association was founded in 1986 at Frisco, Texas by Charlie Viosca. The purpose of the association is to aid the membership in the authentic restoration of the Model A Ford A-190 Victoria body style. To achieve the purpose this quarterly newsletter is published for the association membership. The intent is to furnish accurate and complete information concerning the Model A Ford Victoria body style. Permission to reprint from this publication is expressly given provided acknowledgement and credit is given to the author and to the publication and no changes are made to the original article.



Tammy and Jonathan Shewbridge