

# The Victoria Bustle

## *International Model A Ford*

## *Victoria Association*

*Founded 1986*

*Model A Ford Club of America – Model A Restorers Club*

**October 2024**

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Why do most movie images of Leatherbacks show them with a black top?

What movie is this from? Any guesses? (see the answer on page 6)

Have you seen a Victoria in other movies?

VA Presidents message.

I would like to thank all of our Victoria Association members for being members. We are a small group of dedicated Victoria owners and board of directors that manage the Victoria Association. The Victoria Association has been going strong for 36 years. I hope that many of our members were able to drive their Victorias this year on tours or to car shows. I just drove my Victoria to 2 car shows.



The Victoria Association is still in need of a Secretary. Technically we are in violation of our Bylaws because we do not have a secretary. The Association membership really needs someone to step up and volunteer to become the Secretary. The board of directors meet once a quarter on Zoom. The secretary has to take the minutes of the meeting and file the yearly tax papers. Please step up and volunteer to become our Secretary!! Do not wait for someone else! Seriously consider helping to oversee this fantastic organization.

In my last President's letter, I was looking forward to attending the MAFCA National meet in Ruidoso, NM and having a Victoria Association gathering. Now, as most of you know, the meet had to be cancelled because of 2 large forest fires on either side of Ruidoso. I am very glad that they did not start during the meet. I am looking forward to having a Victoria Association meeting at the next MAFCA National meet in 2 years.

The Victoria Association board is looking for a member to lead a Victoria Association meeting at the next MARC meet, June 16th to the 20th next year in Gettysburg. Please let me know if you would be interested in a hosting a meeting. It is really easy, and you get to meet other Victoria owners. I will help in getting a meeting room.

Our Bustle editor, Dean, would love for you to submit a short story / article with pictures on your Victoria or some event that you attended with your Victoria.

Thanks

Bill

### **Bustle Editor, Dean Larson**

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.

This year's New England Model A Meet was hosted by the Connecticut Model A Club and it was terrific! The Youth Scholarship team of President Heather Smith and Treasurer, Jo Johnson were present answering questions and describing the wonderful scholarship program. Heather Smith mentioned to me that they would like to see a member of our Victoria Club on their board. Think about it and if you have an interest in possibly participating in this important organization, I will make the needed contacts.

I have taken on the responsibility of keeping in contact with the Model A Ford Youth Scholarship program. I received this from Anne Neely-Beck. Seven scholarships were awarded this spring thanks to many generous contributions. (This was not included in all the last mailed copies of the Bustle)

Many thanks to all the clubs who have supported the scholarship fund. We the Model A Youth Scholarship Fund could not have done it without you. This year (2024) we gave away seven scholarships. Isaac Sheu-California, Nicholas Collins-Florida, Linnea Hahne-Michigan, Kaeden James Wagenaar-Illinois, Emma Jane Yuhas-New York, Talia Warner-California, and Juliane Becker-Massachusetts.

All of this was possible because you cared and made the scholarship program a priority. Now the cycle begins again. Any month of 2025 has been designated as "Scholarship Month." The Scholarship Fund is asking for your continued support and is asking each club to have "Dollars for Scholars" in any month of 2025. That means at your monthly meeting everyone in the club gives a dollar to the MAYSF, then your treasurer writes a check for the amount and sends it to the MAYSF.

Let's raise the bar one more notch by making 2025 "Dollars for Scholars" the best year yet by raising dollars to educate our scholars.

Please mail checks to: Jo Johnson

375 High Head Road

Harpowell, ME 04079

Dollars for Scholars



### **Membership Chairman Ed Greany's Message.**

New Victoria Association members

Bill Jackson & Jay Jackson purchased a late 1931 Steel back. It has sat outside for years and is in poor condition. They plan on restoring it.

Doug McVay – has a restored Copra Drab and Chicle Drab Leather back.

Terry Masserant – owns a Maroon and black Leather back with indented fire wall. Murray Body Co made very few Leather backs with the indented firewall.

Brett Mac Donald - has a Leather back needing a complete restoration

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

Both the Model A Restorers Club and the Model A Ford Club of America asked the Victoria Association to encourage their members to have membership in either or both of the national clubs. The national clubs needs the membership and they have benefits that the members can use. So, if you are not a member of one of the national clubs, please join. Also, I encourage Victoria Association members to join their local Model A Clubs.

## **How I found my Model A Ford Victoria**

Our first story was submitted by John and Elaine Hoffman.

My Name is John Hoffman. My wife Elaine and I have been members of MARC for eleven years. We also belong to the Calumet Region, that meets in Chicago. We are volunteers at the Model "A" Museum at the Gilmore in Michigan. We own a 1930 Deluxe Roadster, 1931 Special Delivery and now the 1931 Victoria. We will be selling the roadster because there is only room for two Model A's in our garage.

The Victoria is painted Ford Maroon and black. It has Vermilion pinstriping and wheels. The interior is a green mohair and dual side mount spares. My friend and neighbor D. J. Stonerock of Thornton, Illinois owned it for about six years. He belonged to the MARC Highland Region in Indiana. He became very ill last year. I had told him years before (after helping him time the distributor) that if he ever wanted to sell it, I would be interested. He remembered and I bought the car. Sadly, DJ passed away a couple months ago.

DJ bought the car from another Highland Region member, Dave Wright. Dave told me he bought it from a man 30 years ago who had to sell it because of divorce. He lived in West Chicago, IL. It was all black then with Apple Green wheels. It came with hydraulic brakes and a 1980's F-150 speed transmission, fourth gear being overdrive. The paint was rough so a neighbor of his undertook to repaint it. Dave always liked Ford Maroon, and chose that color. After sanding off the old paint they found that Maroon was the original paint color.

Dave also had the engine rebuilt by Antique Engine Rebuilding and he thinks it has a Snyder's high compression head. He and his wife went on many tours with the Vicky. One all the way to Nova Scotia and then another to the Blue Ridge Mountains. He said it will go 70 mph on a flat road. I'll bet his wife wasn't in the car when he did 70!

So far, I have had to replace the cylinder head gasket. Coolant was spewing out of the old gasket at the front of the engine when I test drove it. And the hydraulic brakes are giving me fits, so I'm gathering parts to replace them with original mechanical brakes and use new cast iron drums. The Vicky will be out on the road soon again burning gas and wearing out rubber with many miles of smiles ahead.

This next Victoria story was sent along by Mike and Janet Leighton.

First, let me thank you for letting me join your Association. I am a long time Model A fan, owner and MAFCA member. I currently have a 1928AR Roadster (my first restoration in 2006), a 1929 Fordor (my second restoration), a 1930 Tudor (my current restoration project), and now my 1931 Victoria. I have also owned and refurbished others cars, engines and miscellaneous assemblies to keep the "A"s on the road.

I first bought the Victoria in 2018 from a man who bought a house to flip. The car came with the house. It was in decent shape but it needed a lot of work. I spent about a year bringing it back to life and making it safe to drive on the road. This is what I like to do. One of my best friends really liked the car so I sold it to him in 2020. After his passing, I bought it back. I hope to keep this car in my collection and drive for many years to come.





I have done some safety upgrades but have not yet determined the best way to install seat belts. Any advice?

(Editor's note: If any member has installed seat belts and would like to submit their story, send it to Chuck Christensen and myself, Dean Larson)

## **Technical Talk with Chuck Christensen**

Update on the Victoria Supplement to the Restoration Guidelines.

The MARC and MAFCA Judging Standards committees have hired a person to take the next Guidelines updates and put them into a digital printable form. The Victoria Supplement will be available when the update is offered for Sale. It may be even produced in color!

The Supplement has been a 4 plus year project, with input from many people, to try and understand the manufacturing of the Victoria body by the Murray Body Co. It covers all of the detail changes that happened during the production time period. It covers the 2 body styles, 3 different upholstery trims, 3 different carpet patterns, 2 styles of front seats and a lot of other details. Bill Cilker with the assistance of many others, used 8 unrestored, original Victorias as data points to help pin point interior changes. Their body numbers are used to show approximately when a change happened. This is the first Supplement dedicated to the Victoria and it will help people restoring a Victoria to install the interior correctly.

Did you know that there are 3 spare tire support braces used in the Victoria. There was an early triangular one that was used for the first few months, then there was a much better one used on the Leather backs. The Steel backs used one similar to the second Leather back version but it attached to the upper wood frame differently.

If you have any technical questions you would like help with, you can reach me at **chuckret95@gmail.com**.

## **Ads/For Sale and Wanted**

Henry Tatnall has a Model A Victoria Leatherback that he would like to sell. For details and a price, contact Henry at 203-913-1019. If Henry does not answer the phone, he asks that you leave him a message.





This car was at the NE Model A Meet. It has all the right parts and interior. The top is fabric. Newly rebuilt engine

### **Parts for sale**

Passenger door window regulator in superb condition \$70.

Drivers' door window much used, some repair. Free.

Original post latch. Excellent condition. \$ 20.

All plus Shipping. Contact Howard Kriebel at: sauenohr1 @ gmail.com

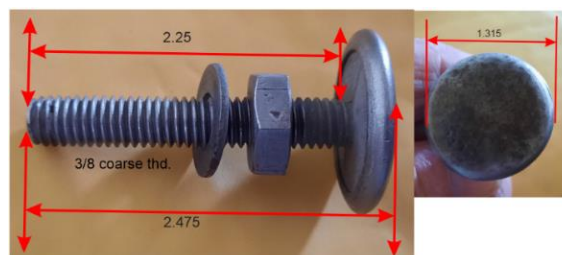
### **Wanted**

Henry Tatnall is looking for a 30/31 passenger side door and 2 B pillars. If you can help Henry out, call him at 203-913-1019. If Henry does not answer the phone, he asks that you leave him a message.

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](mailto:ironmountain1969@gmail.com)

### **Front seat, rear support studs**

In the last issue of the Bustle, I included a wanted article about the rear support studs. The need came from a person posting their request on the Vintage Ford Forum (6/18). Here is a picture of a stud with measurements.



Victoria front seats, rear support adjustable stud

I have been searching for the same studs for 40 years! I have collected several reproductions, modified early Cabriolet top parts and worn-out studs. I am trying to adapt a properly sized engine freeze plug to



**1931 Ford Model A Victoria**  
**11,235 miles**  
**Daily Driver**  
**Car cover, stone guard**  
**Victoria Book Late 31 engine**  
**\$20,000**  
**Call Dean, 508 885 9537**

replace the cap on the bottom of the stud but not sure of the best way to fold over the plug to the stud.  
How would the bottom of the cap become worn right through?

These were found at the Hershey meet 2023!



If you have one or more that you are willing to sell, let me know and I will put it in the next Bustle.

Thanks, Dean



Front row, left to right: two original studs with freeze plugs, an original stud, cabriolet cap, reproduction stud available on line and a machined stud.

Back row, left to right: original stud with no cap, attempted rework of a Cabriolet top parts.

## 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.

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](mailto: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.