

January 2018 A Frame  
5351 Chestnut Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115-3054

**Officers of New Orleans A's Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America**

President: Angelo Ricca

1st Vice President: Bob Sappington

2nd Vice President: Phil Strevinsky

Secretary: Brad Persons

Treasurer: Hall Townsend

Sergeant-at-Arms: Caroline Schaub

Sunshine Lady: Toni Schaub

Directors: Carl Hunter, Dianne Hunter, Marie Nicolich, John Maiorana

Phone Committee: Carl Hunter, Anthony Nicolich, Bob Sappington

Newsletter: Mickey King

**Monthly Meeting:** January 24th at Randazzo's at 6:30 pm for dinner. The meeting begins around 7:15 pm. Check all **coming events** at **your** web site: [www.nolamodelas.com](http://www.nolamodelas.com)

**Coming Events:**

**January 13:** Breakfast at Audubon Park Golf course restaurant.

**February 17:** Walnut Room for lunch at 11:00. See you there!

**Good Web Sites:**

[www.modelamedic.com](http://www.modelamedic.com) An excellent site for parts and books on the Model A cars and trucks.

Bert's Model A Store: [www.modelastore.com](http://www.modelastore.com)

## Brunch at Audubon

On a cold January Saturday we met at Audubon Park clubhouse for brunch. John Troendle brought his new AA truck, Angelo Ricca was there early in his Fordor, Phil Strevinsky had his beautiful car, Bill Pfaff (Fordor) and Mickey King (Tudor). Others came in warmer cars: Lisa Troendle, Barbara & Hall Townsend, Caroline, Tony & Ray Schaub, Dianne & Carl Hunter, Marie & Anthony Nicolich, and Bob Sappington. I think that everyone had a good meal and conversations. No breakdowns either!



## Harahan Christmas Parade

The Harahan Christmas Parade was held on 16 December, 2017 with eight (?) Model A's representing the club. Ray, Toni and Caroline Schaub (Limo), Angelo Ricca & Geoff Goodbee (Huckster), Phil Strevinsky (Fordor), Bob Sappington (Sport Coupe), John Troendle, Lisa, Madeline, Ralph Burns (Phaeton), Anthony Nicolich (Sport Coupe), and Bill Pfaff (Fordor) handed out the presents during the parade.



## **The Henry Ford and Moss Connection**

When Henry Ford first start manufacturing cars in the early 1900s he simply took the old “buck board” seat approach for seats in his cars and used hardwood planks for seats. He then stuffed the seats with maple leaves for padding. That, too, worked for a short period of time, but leaves would crush and thus people we’re sitting on hard maple boards.

Ford looked across America and learned of Babin Moss and Gin Co. in White Castle, Louisiana. He went to White Castle and with the owners of Babin Moss and Gin Co. learned they had developed a method to sterilize Louisiana Spanish moss. This method was vital in the use because it eliminated the mites that inhabit the moss. The mites imbedded in the moss would bite human skin and Babin Moss & Gin Co. were able to neutralize this by its sterilization method.

A contract was signed between Henry Ford and Babin’s company and from approximately 1907 - 1912 every vehicle built by Ford had moss=stuffed seats for padding. So every person in America who drove a Ford vehicle sat on Louisiana moss.

The moss, harvested mostly in Iberville Parish was processed at Babin’s company in White Castle, then baled like cotton and shipped to Michigan where the vehicles were built.

From an article in “*Old Cars*” by Luke Babin, III, White Castle, LA

## THE BEGINNINGS

Here is an early record of the "charter members" of the club. We see Jim Kepper and Charley Persigo on this list and both still active in the club!

### CHAPTER HISTORY

The New Orleans A's Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America held its first organizational meeting at the Donegan Lumber Co. on October 20, 1966. The second meeting was held on February 22, 1967 at the Orleanian Apartments and the club was officially chartered in February 1967. From the third meeting to the present, our meetings have been held monthly at Morrison's Cleaners on 4114 So. Claiborne Ave. on the last Wednesday of the month.

Fred King was elected as the club's first president -- it is his 1930 Model A Coupe that appears on the cover of this yearbook.

Later in 1967, the club voted to designate the first 25 members who joined the club as charter members. These members were:

J. Lucky	R. Gonzales	C. Persigo
M. Durr	M. Fayard	B. Renes
F. King	T. Wetta	T. Gaffney
W. Kimsey	G. Morrison	B. Kepper
J. Richard	A. Favrot	J. Kepper
W. Christy	J. Farmer	J. Kirkpatrick
J. Bartee	W. Rodriguez	R. Demint
T. Worthington	J. Sullivan	J. Griffin
	H. Kirkland	

Until 1971, there was no official Board of Directors. In 1971, the Board of Directors was incorporated and consisted of 12 members.

Each year the club sponsors two main activities -- the Spring Rodeo (Driving Event) and the Fall Model A Ford Car Show. The club has held six Spring Rodeos and seven judged Car Shows with trophies. Of the seven car shows, five have been held in Audubon Park and two have been held at the Governor House Motor Hotel. In addition, other activities similar to those listed in the following section have also been held over the past years.