



Grapevine



Volume 50 Issue 11

November 2011



TOKAY A's a local chapter of MAFCA



The Grapevine is the official newsletter of the Tokay "A's". Your contributions are greatly appreciated. The deadline for submission is the 25th of the month. Please direct articles to the editor. Some of the material in this newsletter may be borrowed from other publications. Permission is granted for any article appearing in the Grapevine to be used by any other newsletter. Meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month at **Richmaid Restaurant. Come at 6:00 to visit & have dinner.**

Box 861
Lodi, CA 95241

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- Vice President
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GRAPEVINE EDITORS:

- Mike Akahori
- Gary Blomgren
- Lance Selkirk
- John & Joan Nipkau

Starting with this issue of the Grapevine Gary Blomgren occasionally will be writing an article featuring one of our club members. This month Gary's first interview is with John and Joan Nipkau . In the coming months he will be talking with all the club members so be thinking about how you got interested in the Model A's and the Tokay A's. This should be fun and interesting for all of us.

Thank you Gary for doing this.

Tokay A's meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

Meeting called to order by President, Lance Selkirk

Secretary's Report: Approve September minutes as written in the Grapevine. Handed out newsletters and announcements.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account: \$3460.00 Paid out \$22.83 stamps for news letters.

Historian: No report

Tour Coordinator: See the sheet in the newsletter. Sign up with Stan to lead a tour next year.

Oct.21-23: Weekend with the Simpson's in Reno. Everett Adams shop and National Auto Museum. Driving moderns. Meet at Pay Less market 9:00 AM

Oct 29: Hardtimes Party: Hosted by the Bechtholds. Tour in AM with Delta A's to Doug Clayton's car tools and memorabilia collection, at his shop Stockton Airport 10 AM. Ed will call members about details.

Nov.26: McHenry Mansion. Meet at Pay Less Market.. Stan will call.

Dec. 3: Christmas Party.\$16.00 per person. Jo's Bar & Grill. 4.00 PM. Bring a unwrapped gift for a Children.

Dec.3 &4 Festival of Trees at Mickey Grove.

Sunshine: Joan fell, but is OK.

Board of Directors: Nomination committee of 2012 officers are Charlie, Irma and Bill.

NCRG: No report. Website: ncrgmofca.com

Old Business:

New Business: Gary will be doing a story on all club members, on how they first got there Model A.

Good to the Order:

Respectfully submitted: Geri King , sitting for Patti.(don't forget to bring Christmas dinner money and next years dues.)

Secretary's sign off to the Tokay A's,

As you recall I agreed to hand off the office of Secretary to the next person after this year. The time has come to pass the baton to the next volunteer. I have enjoyed serving our organization since I began as Secretary 13 ago. I will provide all the suitcases and documents I have as well as a computer disc which should help the next officer. I will be happy to spend some time with the new Secretary going over the expected responsibilities and duties.

My reasons for stepping down are many. First I want to let others have the opportunity to serve. Second, I am involved in other organizations that are taking more of my time than expected. Third, I do have some chronic health issues and also still work which require attention and time. And lastly, it is my opinion that it is past time to have some new blood in the leadership of the Tokay A's. If we do not get some more members engaged in the leadership and activities and tours and get the A's on the road then I believe we may be finished as a chapter.

Since I already have your attention let me add some other comments. It seems like some A's are not running or not on the road. Do members need help or direction for reputable repair persons? Are members not driving due to health issues? Can they ride with others on tours? What about the spontaneity of local tours? Easy is the name of the game, no big elaborate plans are needed. Just a telephone tree caller and an idea. I think our club's tours vary widely for all to enjoy-in town, near town, in the Delta, in the foothills, overnights and regional, etc. We have them on weekends, weeknights, every month of the year. What is it that keeps members away? The tours during September and October were not well attended at all. It is the same ol' folks. It seems that complacency has taken over. And don't forget the other important thing that keeps us informed: the Grapevine. What about submitting an article of interest or a copy of a fashion or technical article for the newsletter? Tell us about your first Model A, etc. What if no one wanted to work on the newsletter anymore? Please consider your involvement in all areas of our organization to keep it alive.

Again, thank you for allowing me to be your Secretary. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve. I learned as I went and enriched my own abilities. I have enjoyed my 17 years in the Tokay A's and hope to enjoy many more. I plan to continue my support and volunteering with tours and activities and looking forward to our 50th anniversary. As always, Ford, food and fun. See you on the road!

Patti

Meet John & Jonnie Nipkau

Tokay A's Members since 1991

The Nipkaus have been active in the Tokay A's for as long as I can remember. John met Jonnie in Woodbridge in 1946 while he was on his motor cycle and she on a Cushman motor scooter. Four years later they were married.

John's youth required him to drop out of Lodi High school as a Freshman to help support his mother and siblings. What John lacks in formal education he more than makes up in mechanical aptitude, common sense, work ethics, and love of family and God.

John's first car was a used Model A Sports Coupe which he used to drive to a farm job he had in the Delta. His starting pay was for .50 cents per hour. John and Jeannie were married in 1950 and in time they had two children, Judy and Jonnie. Both girls are married. The Nipkaus are blessed with a grandson Doug in Tenn. and a granddaughter, Elessa in Turlock. John fixed up his grandson Doug with a beautiful Model A Coupe.

Over the years a home was built on Lucas road west of Woodbridge, and about 4000 sq ft of shops and storage were added. John's machine shop is the demonstration of a Mechanical genius. Most of the large metal lathes (3) and vertical milling machine were picked up free or at a good used price. The shop is well laid out and very well equipped. His shop also boasts a commercial valve grinder and a single post hydraulic car lift. The car lift is just one example of a smart purchase. Some gas stations were going out of business in Sacramento and he was able to pick up a complete 7000 lb lift, driven off his air compressor for \$300.00 and two yards of cement.



Besides the Tokay A's John and Jonnie are active in the Lockeford Seventh Day Adventist Church.

As self starters John and Jonnie purchased a Tanker Truck and adapted it to spread road oil or Bituthene. He became an active supplier to road contractors like Tichert all over the tri county area. He later sold the business to a friend and partner when he retired for good to Lucas road.

Today John and Jonnie live a comfortable life surrounded by family and friends, a cat and two little dogs. One could not ask for more in life than this..



John takes on a friends Case Back Hoe with a frozen engine. No job to small or to large for this fellow, and he is 83!



Our club is made up of all very interesting people. There are so many stories each of our members can tell. It is our plan is to feature all of our members. This will be every other month and will be spread over the next two years. Be thinking of what you can share when interviewed. Gary Blomgren

The month of October has been a good month for our club with this past weekends road trip to Reno Nevada led by Ed and Diane Simpson. The Tokay A's and the Delta A's made the trip to see two car collections and to meet Everett Adams. Mr. Adams was in charge of the restoration of all the original Harrah's Car collection before it was sold off to other collectors. Today Mr. Adams has a restoration shop that caters to the top collectors and enthusiast around the world. One of his most famous cars was the one that was used in the movie Titanic starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. He built that car from the ground up using drawings and photos of the original car. The original car is still on the Titanic. Below are a few of the cars currently in his shop and the 1912 Renault Town car. The same day we went to the National Automobile Museum where there are over 200 cars from the original Bill Harrah collection. Along with seeing some real fantastic cars we also had a wonderful dinner at John Ascuaga's Nugget and a visit by Mr. Ascuaga himself. It was a wonderful time and enjoyed by the 30 people who attended. Thank you Ed and Diane for setting this wonderful tour up.



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TO:



I have attached a few pictures of the people who joined us on this week-ends trip to Reno. It was really a great turn out, the weather was perfect, the food and accommodations were outstanding and the tours couldn't have been better planned.

Still coming this month is the Hardtimes Party at Bill Bechtholds which is always a well attended event for our club and a tour of Doug Claytons garage. Doug has a nice collection of Model A's and original tools that were used in the manufacturing of the car.

Remember we have the Christmas Party coming on December 3rd. Please bring your money to the next meeting for the dinner which is 16.00 per person the club is paying for half of our dinners again this year. There will be a raffle so bring something fun to raffle off.

