



Dear "A"!!

Like as the lever on our steering columns changes our engine timing, so is MACOSA Advancing! We now have a milestone 50 members. If our expansion continues at this rate, we will soon be able to start our own political party and even contest the next General Election. With this in mind, the MACOSA shadow constitution for the country would invoke the following important new National Law:

Motor Ordinance Act, No. 21, Section 3(a):

"Any such side valve cast iron four cylinder engine with an engine capacity that is not less than and does not exceed two hundred cubic inches and propels a vehicle that was built from the year 1927 up to and including the year 1931 provided that such vehicle was built in Canada and partially assembled in Port Elizabeth, shall hitherto be entitled to:

- Complimentary petrol and oil, to be subsidised by petrol and oil purchased by vehicles that are equipped with an onboard "computer".

- Any motorist travelling on any public road, upon identifying a vehicle as per Section 3(a) shall be compelled to move over to the far left hand side of the road and switch on his hazard lights, and bring his vehicle to a stop, and then open his driver's window, and timeously applaud the passing vehicle by loud clapping of hands. Once the said vehicle as per Section 3(a) has passed, the motorist may drive on.
- A full State Refund for any spare parts purchased, and/or servicing performed for such vehicle, provided that copies of invoices (or amounts recreated from memory according to your version, Oscar-like) are submitted to the Receiver.
- Exemption from all Toll Roads including Toll Roads of yore.
- A new Bank Note will be designed to reflect the new currency of the country, which will be called the "Macosa". One Macosa will be equal to ten old South African Rands.



It is thus important for every member to be an A-vangelist and to recruit new members so that our club can continue to grow and become even more powerful. Of course we will have to guard ourselves against hubris (arrogance) and be sure to practice humility as our influence over the motoring community, and indeed the country itself, grows.

New Members

Members who have joined since March 2014:

- **Karen Van Der Merwe** - George - 1911 Model T
- **Bert Scheepers** - Knysna - '28 A Phaeton, '28 Roadster
- **Ampie Ackermann** - Benoni - '28 A Phaeton, '34 Fordor Sedan, '36 Fordor Deluxe
- **Dennis Du Toit** - Potchefstroom - '28 A Roadster, '31 Sport Coupe, '31 A Phaeton
- **Muneer Chaya** - Polokwane - '29 A Roadster
- **Chris Langeveld** - Strand - '28 A Roadster Pickup
- **Jan Nel** - Pretoria - '31 A Roadster
- **Carel Wilken** - Pretoria - '30 A Roadster
- **Hloni Matsela** - Bedfordview - '28 A Roadster, '30 A Roadster Pickup
- **Allan Howard** - Bulawayo (yes, folks, we are now a "Southern African" club!) - '29 A Phaeton
- **Syd Biddulph** - Johannesburg - 1911 Model T

This brings our membership base to 43 members, and in total, 53 Model As, 5 Model Ts, and 3 '33 - '36 Fords

Congratulations, welcome, and thank you. Please send us photos and details of your cars for the website.

Birthdays for April and May:

Many happy returns to the following club members:

Chris Van (6th April)
Paul Koski (9th April)
Delvin Allan (10th April)
Ronnie Suttner (13th April)
Jan Nel (21st April)
Danie Du Plessis (17th May)
Mouton Lotter (27th May)

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it" - Henry Ford



Richard Dismore's Model A Woody

Our Next Event:

Not to be missed!

Exciting news is that our next run is on Sunday 15th June, which will be to the Rand Airport so that our cars can fraternise with the vintage aeroplanes from the SAA History Museum. Details of the museum can be found at <http://www.saamuseum.co.za/>

We will have a couple of serious photographers on hand so that we can all get some really good pictures of our cars together with the aeroplanes. There is a nice little restaurant there, so make sure to bring along wives, girlfriends, family members and even friends if you are lucky enough to have any.

We will be assembling at the Airport from 09h00.

Address: Rand Airport; Rand Airport Road, Germiston, Gauteng.

Can You Identify This Car?



This car has come up on an auction in the United Kingdom, and the potential owner has written to the

club to say that he believes the car came from a museum in South Africa in the late 1980s or early 1990s. He is trying to find out more about the car, so if anyone recognises the car, and can perhaps provide some background or further information, please contact Mike, on club@modelclubofsouthafrica.com

AND NOW FOR A REALLY SPECIAL APPEAL

We have been approached by the wife of a 73-year-old gentleman who owns a Model A which is in pieces. Her husband has leukaemia, and as such, does not have the strength to fix and repair the Model A. Being pensioners, they are spending all their hard-earned savings on the leukaemia treatments, and all she wants is for her husband to be able to drive his beloved Model A again one day. She has asked if there is any way at all that our club can assist her husband to get his car back on the road.

I would like to find out from our club members what their thoughts are on this, and what is the best way that we can help this lady and her husband?

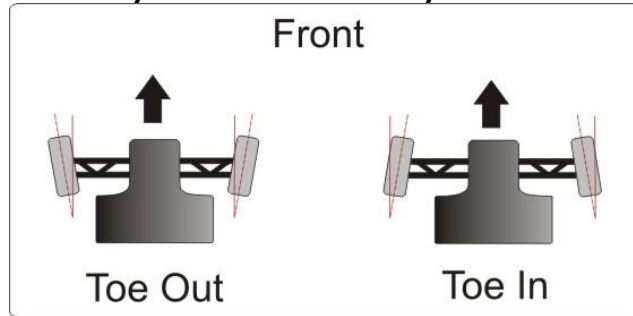
Please send your thoughts to Mike at:

club@modelclubofsouthafrica.com

Upcoming events to watch out for:

7th to 11th May:
Diamond Jubilee Run, VCC, KZN
18th May: **Spotlight on Veteran, Vintage, and Japanese vehicles**, Piston Ring Club, Modderfontein
18th May: **Cars in the Park**, Pietermaritzburg
15th June, **MACOSA Run to SAA Museum**, Rand Airport.
Germiston

Technical Tip: How to Easily set the Toe-in on your Model A Ford



Excessive toe-in or toe-out means that your car's front wheels are fighting against one another, which causes an unpleasant driving experience, unwanted tyre wear, and higher fuel consumption. It can be easily sorted out in one's own garage or driveway provided one has about three metres to play with.

For this exercise, you are going to need the following:

1. Two lengths of string, each around 4 metres long
2. Two mobile items with sufficient weight that the string can be attached to (ideally, poles, or bricks will do)
3. Tape measure
4. Spanner to adjust the tie rod

Method

1. Start by parking the car on a flat surface.

Make sure the front wheels are as straight as possible. If necessary, move the car back and forth slightly to allow the wheels to settle pointing straight ahead (figure 1)



Figure 1: Make sure the front wheels are straight

2. Fasten the hand brake
3. Measure out 3 large paces from the front point of the front wheels (Three nice big strides will do). Make a mark at that point, then position the weighted items at that spot. This distance needs to be as close to 10 feet (or 3 metres) as possible.
4. Now, on the first of the front wheels, take one of the pieces of string, and fasten it on the top half of the wheel. The idea is that the string is going to be pulled outwards to the weighted items in front of the wheel, without being hindered by anything in the way, and fastened. The string will be on the inside of the wheel. (figure 2)

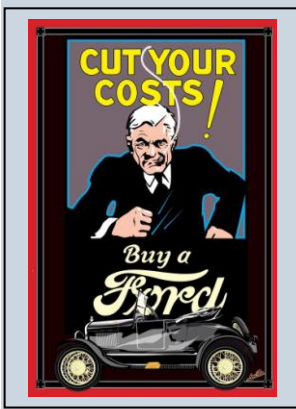


Figure 2: Fasten the string at the top half of the wheel.

5. When the string is pulled taut, fasten it to the weighted item in front of the wheel. While you do that, make certain that the string is only just touching the edge of the front of the wheel. Adjust the weighted item accordingly until the string is correctly set. (figure 3)



Figure 3: String pulled taut from inside of the wheel to the weighted pole in front of that wheel

6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 on the second wheel. You should end up with something like figure 4, making sure that the two strings must be totally parallel:



Figure 4: Two strings pulled taut in front of the front wheels.

7. Now, this is where it does help to have a second pair of hands. You will need to accurately measure the distance between the string close to the front wheels, and then close to the weighted poles. (Figure 5)



Figure 5: Measure the distance between the strings, close to the car, and then at the measured distance near the weighted poles

8. If the two distances are different, you will need to make an adjustment to the tie rod:

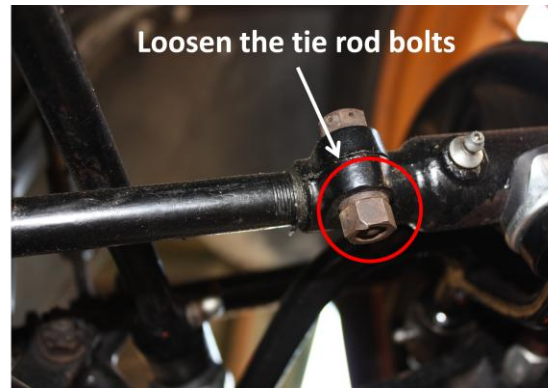
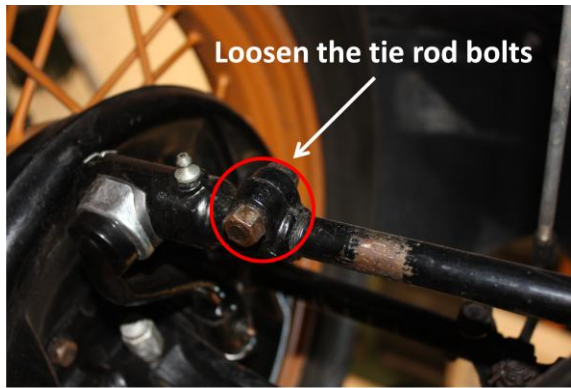


Figure 6: Loosen the bolts on both ends of the tie rod

9. Using a tool that can grip the tie rod tightly, turn it either up or down a turn or two.
10. Now check the strings to ensure they are both just touching the wheels, adjusting the weighted poles as appropriate.
11. Repeat your measurements.
12. Adjust the tie rod up or down until the measurements are both the same.
13. Fasten the tie rod bolts nice and tight.
14. Take the car for a road test, and you should notice an amazing difference!

Please use the MACOSA website (forum) for any questions or useful information you'd like to add.

Hope this helps.
Mike Leisegang
(1928 Tudor Sedan, 1930 Sport Coupe)



28-29 Standard Coupe



28-29 Special Coupe



28-29 Std&Dlx Coupe



28-29 Business Coupe



28-29 Sport Coupe



30-31 Sport Coupe



29 Cabriolet



30-31 Cabriolet



30-31 Victoria



30-31 Convertible Sedan



28-29 Tudor Sedan

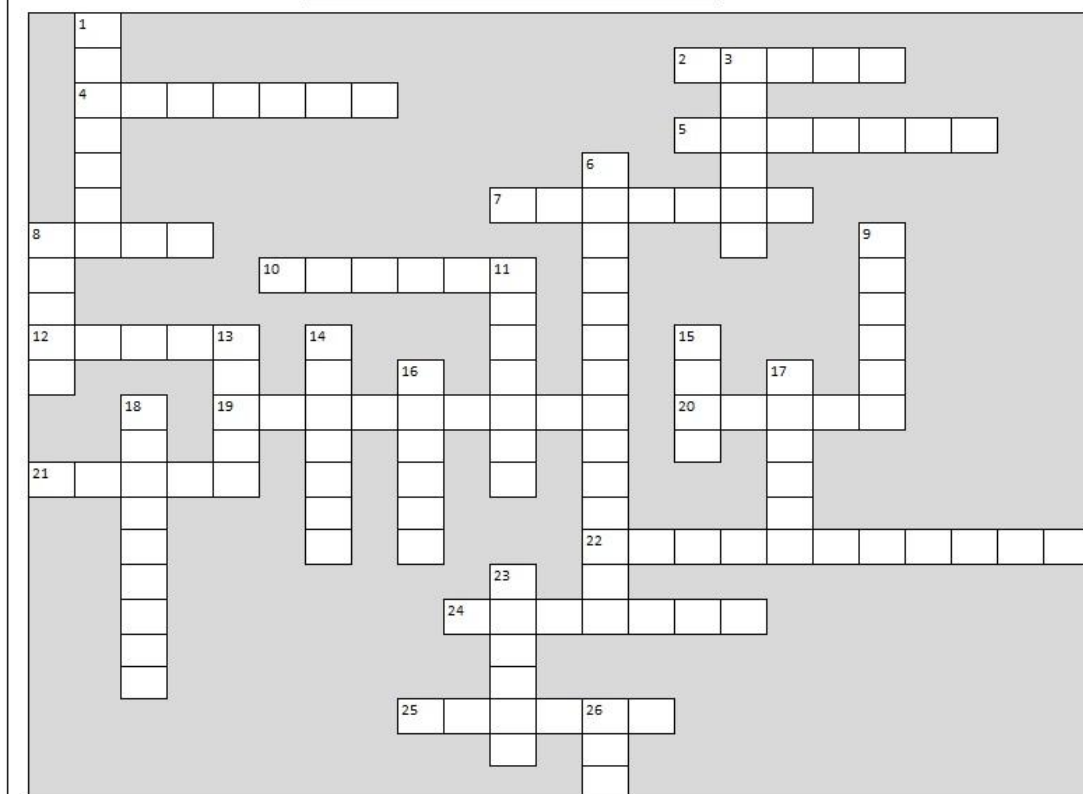
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

We are fully aware of how brainy you people are, but we are going to attempt to challenge you with a crossword per newsletter. Here is the first of these! Send your completed entries to club@modelclubofsouthafrica.com and stand a chance to win a really nice prize! Alternatively, post your entries to:

Model A Club of South Africa, 18 Gordon Avenue, Blairgowrie, Randburg, 2194

(Answers in the next newsletter)

MACOSA CROSSWORD No. 1 - APRIL 2014



Clues Across

- 2 An American chassis (5)
- 4 The sound of an A's hooter (7)
- 5 This is essential to an A's electrical system (7)
- 7 The Model A is a small one of these (7)
- 8 This explorer took Model As to the South Pole (4)
- 10 A Model A bakkie (6)
- 12 This Model A has two doors (5)
- 19 This is a fast Model A (9)
- 20 A Model A station wagon (5)
- 21 Popular on the front of a Model A (5)
- 22 The Model A used this first (6,5)
- 24 Where Canadian Model As were manufactured (7)
- 25 A Model A body manufacturer (6)

Clues Down

- 1 The Model A's fuel pump (7)
- 3 Another name for Dicky (6)
- 6 A feature of an A's gearbox (14)
- 8 A popular colour for Model Ts (5)
- 9 Another Model A body manufacturer (6)
- 11 A four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle (7)
- 13 The chief designer of the Model A (5)
- 14 Where Model As were assembled in Australia (7)
- 15 This is near the front of a Model A (4)
- 16 Henry gave a Model A to him (6)
- 17 The predecessor to the Model A (5,1)
- 18 The Model T used this for transmission (9)
- 23 Popular song in the '30s: "Henry's made a lady out of" (6)
- 26 A Russian Model A (3)

DID YOU KNOW.....

That there was a "Model A Ford Club of South Africa" many years ago....? One of our Honorary Members, Carl Mouton, relates the history of that club below:

"The 'Model A Ford Club of South Africa' was registered with the Republic of South Africa, Bureau of Heraldry, on the 6th January 1972, Registration number 544. I am not sure who actually did the registration but I do know that it was a joint effort of, amongst others, Bob Michell, Don Kennedy, James Pirie and Lionel Jennings. They were the first four to sign the back of the frame or plaque on the 28th October 1977, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the creation of the Model A. In addition to the four, there were 20 other signatories, amongst which my name appears last as I was by far the youngest of the group. "



"There were 30 cars listed against those names. There were eight 1928, two 1929, seventeen 1930 and three 1931. Amongst the signatories was also that of Mr. George Huddlestone who I am told was asked to sign the list as he had been a Ford agent in the past. At the time he was Patron of our Club, The Veteran Car Club of South Africa (VCCSA). It is also interesting that all the members who signed the 'plaque' were members of the VCC and in scrolling through the names there are only 4 of us still alive.

The Model As were very active in those early years in Rallies. Of course there were far less rules, regulations and restrictions placed on Rallies then. Apart from actively participating in local rallies some of our Model A members regularly travelled from here (Durban) to the Eastern Cape, the Cape and the Transvaal to participate in Rallies there. It was also noticeable how many of those members took part in National rallies. Another aspect that was interesting was the large number of Model As that featured as winners in those rallies.

On the Plaque by far the most popular was the Roadster of which there was 6 and the Deluxe Roadster 2. The rest consisted of 3 Deluxe Phaeton, 3 Phaeton, 2 Tudor, 1 Fordor, 2 Sports Coupe, 4 Town Sedan, 2 Coupe, 2 Pickup and one Victoria. I know that a large number of the Model As at the time in our Club were not recorded. One can only speculate on how many more there were."

Carl Mouton.

December 2013

Thanks Carl for enlightening us on a piece of valuable history.

(Editor's note: The club is still registered with the National Archives of South Africa (NASA))



30-31 Tudor Sedan



29 Steelback Fordor (BRIGGS)



30-31 2-Window Fordor



29-31 3-Window Fordor (BRIGGS)



29-31 3-Window Fordor (MURRAY)



30-31 Slant Windshield Fordor



29 Leatherback Fordor



28-29 Standard Phaeton



30-31 Standard Phaeton

Update on Theo van den Berg's Project Car - 1929 Model A Roadster

Ronnie Suttner reports: We are progressing at a reasonable rate. Most of the spares have arrived from Mike's A-Fordable Parts in the USA The motor has been stripped and the block has been sent in to have new valve seats, stainless steel valves and adjustable tappets fitted. The flywheel, crankshaft etc has been sent in for balancing, but unfortunately we have discovered the crankshaft is bent, another challenge.

The brake backing plates have been rebuilt and new brake linings fitted. The next part of the project is to replace the front and rear cross members on the chassis and have it sandblasted and powder coated.

What has been a big shock for me and unfortunately Theo is the cost of restoring a car with the current exchange rate, it's hard to believe what the costs are and we have not even ordered parts like tyres and upholstery.



Rebuilt brake backing plate



Shiny new radiator surround, re-cored radiator



New carburetor



Shiny new parts



Re-chromed dashboard and instrument panel



More shiny new parts

Keep up the good work Ronnie and Theo! It's really encouraging to see another 'A' getting nursed back to full health!

Angela's Picnic – Sunday 6th April 2014

This annual event – the biggest classic car get-together in Johannesburg – sported some magnificent machinery, from Speed Sixes to DB2/4s to Silver Ghosts to ancient Oldsmobiles. But beyond all reasonable doubt the most splendid and spectacular vehicles on display was the suite of four Model A Fords from our club, an (almost) full house from 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931, flanked by MACOSA's two glorious new banners (courtesy Lindy Leisegang). There was even talk at one stage of handing spectators numbered washers so that they could form an orderly queue for the taking of photographs of these priceless motoring artefacts. In the interest of casualness, though, this option was decided against.

Thanks to Danie Du Plessis, who made the trip from Pretoria in his fine '28 Pick-Up, to Theo Stander who came all the way from Cullinan in his '30 Tudor, and Charles White who travelled from Naboomspruit in a far more modern Ford, since his 'A is on wheel stands. We were later on joined by Erhard Langanke in his 1932 Model B Pick-Up, which was also a photographer's delight. Ronnie Kaplan and Mike Leisegang had worked through the night on the Friday to try to get Ronnie's wine-red '30 A roadster ready, but electrical gremlins had infested the unit and so Mr. Murphy and his infuriating laws won the day, the blighter.



30-31 Deluxe Roadster



28-29 Standard Roadster



30-31 standard Roadster



30-31 Deluxe Phaeton



28-29 Open Cab Pickup



30-31 Open Cab Pickup



28-29 Closed Cab Pickup



30-31 Closed Cab Pickup



29 Station Wagon



30-31 Station Wagon



Almost a Royal Flush: '28, '30, '30, '31 'A's, and a '32 B



Bouquet: Fine display of 'A's



Graceful Old Lady: Theo Stander's '30 A Tudor



Eye Candy: Danie Du Plessis's '28 A Roadster Pickup



Roadster (Runabout)



Coupe



Tudor



Fordor



Touring



Centerdoor



TT Truck



Roadster Pickup



"C" Cab Truck



Wikipedia definition of picnic: "A **picnic** is a pleasure excursion at which a meal is eaten outdoors (*al fresco* or *en plein air*), ideally taking place in a beautiful landscape such as a park, beside a lake or with an interesting view and possibly at a public event such as before an open air theatre performance, and usually in summer."



Erhard Langanke's Magnificent '32 B Roadster Pickup



One of Charles White's favourite toys



Danie Du Plessis' '28 A Roadster Pickup



Danie Du Plessis's '28 A Roadster Pickup



Chris Van's '31 A Town Sedan



Danie Du Plessis's '28 A Roadster Pickup



Mike and Lindy Leisegang's '30 A Sport Coupe

(Thanks to Matthew Quarta for his contributions)

Next year let's hope for a good display of Model As at Angela's Picnic. Folks, the club is you!

Ford Day - Sunday 20th April, Piston Ring Club, Modderfontein

Ford Day is an annual event held by the Piston Ring Club, in Modderfontein. This year, the pride of place went to the Ford Mustangs, who are celebrating 50 years of existence in 2014. The Mustangs managed to fill two arenas with their various shapes and models, but the surprise display of five Model As (plus one B and one T) was a sight for sore eyes! A rare visitor was Brian Bruce with his '31 Speedster, welcome Brian! Ronnie Suttner brought his magnificent '28 Roadster for its first outing since a major bumper-to-bumper restoration, and how sweet it looked. It was absolutely no surprise that Ronnie won the Piston Ring Chairman's prize on the day. Robbie Da Silva won a prize for the oldest Coupe on display. A really good outing, and one can start to see the Model A Club taking shape very nicely, with good representation at these major events.



MACOSA banner flying high over the display



Ronnie Suttner's '28 A Roadster's first outing since the rebuild



Brian Bruce's '31 A Speedster



Alec Saunders' Model B Roadster Pickup



Robbie Da Silva's '28 A Sport Coupe



Hloni Matsela's '28 A Roadster



Paul Koski's '19 T Speedster



We are really starting to look like a club!



Ronnie Suttner winning the Piston Ring Chairman's prize on the day



Hloni Matsela's '28 A Roadster



Note the tail of the Speedster
(Brian DID say he would address the issue of the seats...)



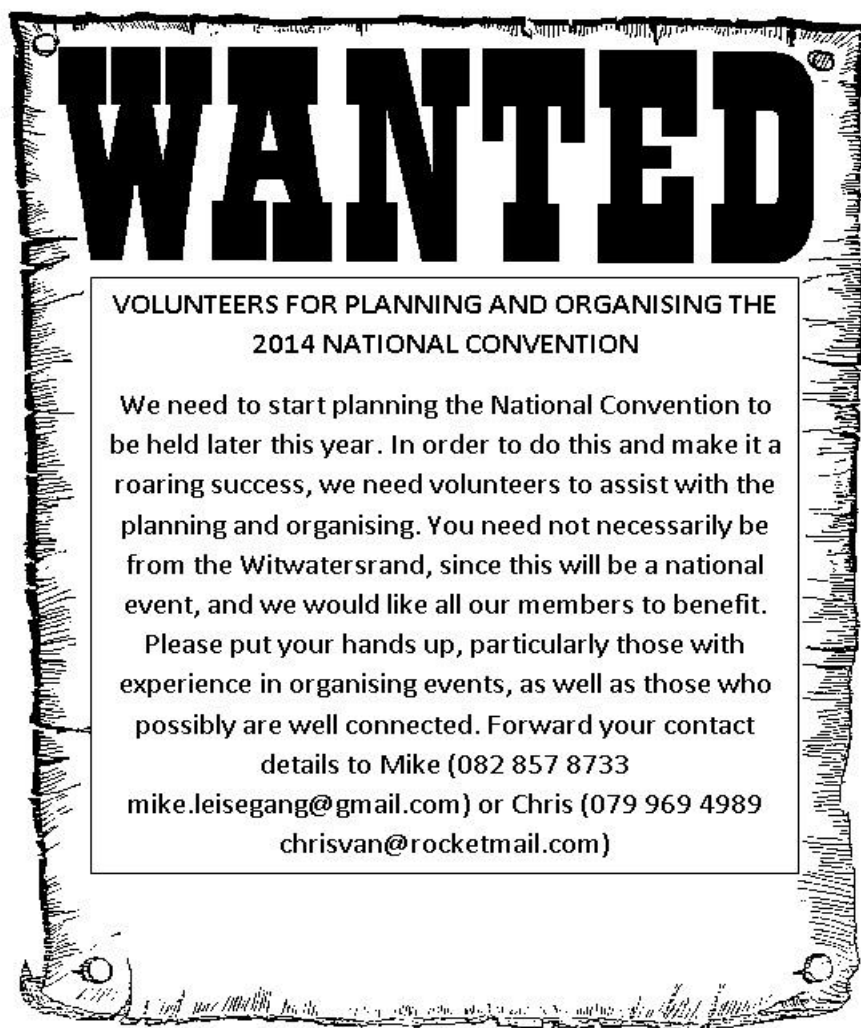
The two '28 Roadsters and a miniature Model T

PHOTO COMPETITION

Speaking of winning nice prizes, we have had no photos submitted for our last competition, advertised in Newsletter Number 2, February 2014. The competition still remains open therefore, and the prize is still up for grabs: Submit your most interesting, most unusual, strange, amazing, best memories, best old-time photographs (yes, dig out those old boxes of photos of your favourite 'A', 'T', or 'B') of your Model 'T', 'A', or 'B'. Submissions to be sent to club@modelclubofsouthafrica.com by June 30th to be considered for the prize of a Mike's A-Fordable gift voucher.

FUN CHALLENGE

We have over 60 cars in the club now. Here is a teaser for you: Guess which year and body style is the most popular in the club? Submit your answers to Mike at: club@modelclubofsouthafrica.com



Folks, we have had one or two volunteers to assist, but perhaps we move this event to 2015 - please let us know your thoughts?

AFRIKAANS ARTIKELS WELKOM!

Indien jy 'n artikel in Afrikaans wil bydra, jy is baie welkom om dit te doen. Stuur jou Afrikaanse artikels aan: club@modelaclubofsouthafrica.com

If you are not yet a member of the Model A Club of South Africa, here is a special invite for you to become a member! Please find the membership form on our web site www.modelaclubofsouthafrica.com, or post to 18 Gordon Avenue, Blairgowrie, Randburg, 2194

See you at **Rand Airport** at 09h00 on 15th June.
(If your A is not operative, come anyway!)

Chris Van & Mike Leisegang
May 2014