

The Crankin A's Model A Restorers Club, Inc.

OUR STORY

It was in November of 1982, shortly after the annual Ormond Beach Birthplace of Speed car event, when several Model A owners decided to form a new chapter of the Model A Restorers Club. The requirements for forming a new chapter stated that we must have six members, so the search was on for six local model 'A' enthusiasts. Dr. Charles "Bud" Pike, Jr. and his wife Andrea were the first to step forward followed by Dennis and Anne Dunn. Over dinner at a local restaurant named "The Hole", we scribbled ideas and names on numerous cocktail napkins for the proposed club. After many suggestions, and napkins, it was decided to name our chapter the "Crankin A's. Once this was decided we gathered with Josephine A. Christnagel, Charles O. Mackinnon, Michel D. Knapp, J.T. Pendercost, Charles O. "Bud" Pike, Jr., Kory O. Pike, and Dennis Dunn and submitted our application to the national club for a charter. The charter was granted on March 17, 1983 and the Crankin A's was born!

Our first few years were composed of meeting at local car events and lots of picnics. We attracted several interested people but were still struggling to gain members. Every November we participated in events in conjunction with the Ormond Beach Birthplace of Speed show and held gymkhanas at several venues including the Ormond Beach airport and Veteran's Memorial Stadium, in Daytona Beach. Our first President was Bud Pike who served for several years followed by Dennis Dunn. In the July/ August 1985 edition of THE RESTORER magazine, we had an article published which described our winter activities of assembling a 1928 coupe which was going to be a gift to Bud and Andrea's daughter Kelly. The article further stated that "one of our members has owned a '28 Tudor for 10 years. While this may not be so long for many of us, this member, Kory Pike, is only 15 years old!" Reading on in the article is mentioned: "Our region is once again planning on an educational trip to Pennsylvania in early October and we'll possibly attend a car show or two."

1986 again was a news breaking year for the Crankin A's when we installed the youngest President of any chapter when Kory Pike, at the age of 16 became our chapter president. 1987 saw us enjoying the annual Ormond Beach show with our fellow members from the Citrus A's Region. Hap Christensen won Best of Show with his '29 Roadster and Ron Huelbig won a second-place trophy with his '28 Pickup. The poker run was enjoyed by all.

In the following years several members had left the Daytona Beach area, and it was 1992 when Herb Ackerman held a meeting at Sinbad's Restaurant in Port Orange, Florida to investigate the possibility of generating new interest in the chapter. The meeting took place on January 25, 1992, and shortly thereafter the Crankin A's were back on the road.

On January 25, 1992 the following officers were elected to their perspective positions:

President.....Herb Ackerman
Vice Pres.Frank Covart
Secretary..... Carol Wanser
Treasurer.....Eileen Dodd

Board Members.....Jerry Grash, Lee Dodd, and Dave Neubaurer

In 2009 we were very fortunate to have a regular meeting place offered to us by our members, Fred and Nancy Clark. His company, Orlando Helicopter Airways, Inc., had a spare room in the back of its' hangar at the DeLand Airport, which was unused at the time. A lady from Port Orange had a disassembled Model A special pickup with a stock of spares that she would give us in exchange for partial assembly of the pickup. The Club approved the deal, and we assembled the truck in the spare room and upon completion it was sold to her ex-husband. After meeting on Tuesdays for the pickup project we continued to work on our own cars and enjoying the fellowship of drinking coffee, eating donuts, and telling numerous stories and listening to Warren Schmidt's jokes. And so, 'Tinker Tuesday' was born. We knew, as a car club, that our project didn't conform to the Airport requirements because it faced on an active taxi way and due to FAA requirements should be aviation orientated. The City of DeLand didn't give us a problem. However, after many years it became obvious that the FAA would sooner or later catch up with us and we would have to move.

That day came when Fred and Nancy sold the hangar. The new owner allowed us to occupy a portion of the hangar for 1 year. We shopped around for various locations and arrived at the Pioneer Center at Barberville as our best choice. We had been hosting an antique car show on their campus since 1996, so it seemed like the perfect fit. They offered free space, water and power and a long-term lease. Our mission was to support their various activities and to show the advance of travel from the horse and wagon era through the Ford Model T to the Model A. To accomplish our mission, we elected to build a building of about 2400 sq feet, with a working garage for us and a museum and vintage garage type porch for the Settlement and the Public to enjoy. After receiving the proper permits and raising the necessary funds from private donations of club members we were on the way. Our largest contributor was Mr. Ron Herman of All Quality Products of DeLand. Ron contributed all the material to construct the building and as a thank you the Club named the building "Herman's Garage, Home of the Crankin A's".

On 4/1/2023 we had our Grand Opening and Herman's Garage was presented to the public for the 1st time. Tinker Tuesday remains our regular work/social day, where you can find many different projects occurring. We are building a project car, hold various parts rebuilding classes and discussions, etc. The museum is open to the public, where we can be found sharing our Model A love with our visitors. There are also donuts, coffee and many stories being told! Our Club continues to grow each year and now are proud to be established with a club building at the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, Florida. Come visit us there! www.pioneersettlement.org www.crankinasfl.com.