

DIABLO A's MODEL OF THE MONTH JUNE 2021

CARMELLA SMITH'S 1930 De Luxe Coupe

I grew up in the back seat of a 1931 Tudor De Luxe Phaeton, which Mom gave Dad for Christmas in 1958, and he meticulously restored with no modifications whatsoever. We went to all the meets, had vintage outfits for the whole family, and created wonderful memories.



Decades later, I met the fabulous community that is the Diablo A's. When it came time to have my mid-life crisis, like lots of people, I too bought a car that does not make any sense practically or financially, but it sure is fun! Not the usual sleek red convertible, but a Model A.

I was not quite ready to choose one yet, but Bob Grady highly recommended Cal Rose's 1930 De Luxe Coupe for me, at that time in the care of Elaine Matheson. I would be a fool not to listen to Bob's eminently knowledgeable opinion, so I bought it. He was so right; it is a great car for me. Not too perfect, but also not too worn; not too pure, but also not too modified. Although Dad's a purist, he did not disown me for modifications for safety, like seatbelts and turn signals, and an overdrive to keep up with the group.



The club is full of helpful experts willing to share tips and teach a neophyte about the care and feeding of a Model A. Doug Freeman and Herb Neumann in particular have spent significant time and effort on my education, in addition to much help from Bob Grady.

When I hear someone mention he might get a Model A, and then join the club, my response is, "No, no, no; that's backwards! Join the club, learn from the experts, and then buy the Model A, preferably taking one of the many generous and knowledgeable club members with you."

I am so grateful to all for the warm welcome into the club, the investment into my car's well-being, and the tremendous joy it has been to get promoted from a little kid in the back seat to driving my own.

