

The Bus Line

Keeping Up with the Bus!



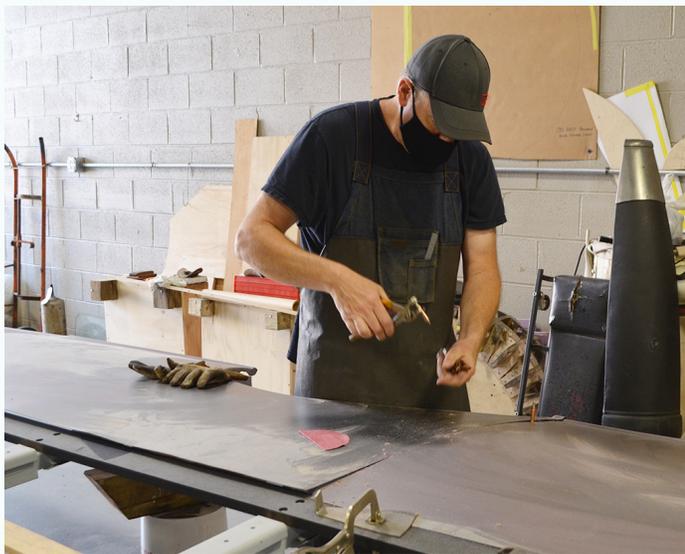
A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF A 1931 MODEL A FORD PASSENGER BUS

A MAFFI Publication

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Spring of 2021 brings us hope that the Covid -19 is almost over and our lives can get back to normal. During this past year a lot of activity on the Bus Project have been moving right along. First of all the bus body sides have been completely restored, repairing all the side sheet metal by Chicago Parts and Sound (CPS). Sam Waltermire of CPS is a master in sheet metal and has done a miraculous job. We will still need his expertise on the 3 doors which are still not done. Sam will also be asked to make some interior window moldings as the were missing whent he bus was purchased.

and Grier Fleischhauer and the whole group was sorry to see the Chassis leave as they have worked so hard on it and did such a great job.



During this time Ron Ehrenhofer and Sam Waltermire were working on the cowl for the bus. The original cowl was very rusted out and required new pieces to be manufactured and welded into place. This took many hours from Sam and Ron and the cowl finally started to come together.



The Bus Chassis has been moved from North Carolina to the Barn of Ken Ehrenhofer after saying Thanks to the Coastal Carolina A's headed up by Don Temple

During this same time period Russ Moss of Moss Designs in Wisconsin has been very busy chopping down trees and having this wood kiln dried so it will soon be a new floor for the bus. Russ is the Son in Law of Jerry and Mary Braasch and are avid Model A Restorers. Soon Russ was busy cutting the new floor and duplicating the original floor which we had moved up to his shop.



Very quietly working in Michigan is the roof group. This group is headed up by Larry Wallace, with Steve Burton and Larry Sikes. They are working so hard that the entire roof wood is completely ready to go including the basswood slats. They have left a cut in each bow uncut so they can make one final cut to fit the body as it comes together. We are going to be assembling the body this spring and summer so the plan is in place....it sounds so easy but there is a lot of work before all this can take place. It is so nice to know when we get the walls up the roof is ready to go. Thanks to the Roof Group!



The new floor has been moved to Ken Ehrenhofer's barn for final assembly with the bus body. The Floor is an exact duplicate of the original and Thanks is not enough to say to the Braasch and Moss families for the great job they have done to help the bus project.



My brother Ron and I visited with our friends in Greenfield Village shops where they work on their bus and the Model T's and they have loaned us two seats out of their bus so we can duplicate them. We brought them to Addison Auto Interiors and we disassembled them so we can duplicate the framework. We then took them to Chicago Tube and Iron for a quote to make 8 double seat frames for our bus. Then back to Addison Interiors for completion. We are also making parts for the Greenfield Bus and repairing a broken part for them also. As in the past we have helped the guys in the shop work on the bus in the spirit of cooperation. A big Thanks goes to Gordy, the manager of the auto shop in the Village.



Recently another trip to Northern Wisconsin to the Custom Plating Shop of Terry Meetz. Terry has agreed to do all of the plating on the bus as a donation to the MAFFI Foundation and the bus project. A huge shoutout to Terry for stepping up as this is a big part of our project. Thanks Terry! And remember the name Custom Plating in Brillion Wisconsin so you can recommend them to all Model A members.



The gas tank for the bus has been dipped in a huge tank of acid and cleaned completely inside and out by Restoration Specialists in Franklin Wisconsin. This process cleans the tank right down to the bare metal. Then the tank is lined with a product called Red Lining which, when cured, gives a lining which is impervious to all gas products. This was achieved by Tim Dundedale of Revcore Radiator of Woodstock, IL and Tim was kind enough to donate his work at a value of \$250. Thanks to Tim Dundedale!



The latest task we have undertaken is to organize all of the interior trim pieces for the bus. I had asked Dan Hedges of Woodgrain Specialists to do the wood graining in the bus over 3 years ago at an AACA Meeting in Philadelphia and he agreed to donate this effort to the bus project. Recently I called just to make sure he understood how many pieces are involved. (I was surprised to find out myself). I had to inform him that there are over 60 trim pieces in the interior and he still said YES to helping us out. I cannot say "Thanks" enough to Dan Hedges from Woodgrain Specialists in Littlestown, PA.



Above you can see many of the interior pieces (but not all of them) from the bus. A few pieces are missing and will have to be manufactured and then wood grained. Look closely at the grain and imagine how beautiful the bus will be on the inside where all of the trim will have this beautiful wood grain lustre. This is not a plain school bus but an adult passenger bus with an elegant interior and watch for the mirrors on the inside next time! The bus project is moving right along and does not show any signs of slowing down thanks to all the Model A Family that are helping out. Special Thanks to Ken Kalck, Wayne Stanek, John Krenger and Ron Ehrenhofer who are the "Barn Crew" and are keeping the Bus project rolling. In memory of Steve James who recently passed and is truly missed. RIP Steve!