

The Bus Line

Keeping Up with the Bus!



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

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The Bus is still Rolling but at times the progress slows down and at other times it speeds up. This is due to a lot of variables that go on in our project and our lives. It seems at our ages, the Barn Crew, are spending more time at a Doctor's office than we are in the Barn working LOL! Actually, illness has taken a toll on our progress but we are still able to move forward and get some work done. This newsletter gets on the back burner more often than it should but we are doing the best we can at this time. I apologize for not getting more newsletters out to everyone but the project is huge and I am trying to get the work done first.



Left to right - Wayne Stanek, Ken Kalck, Tim Stegenga, Ron Ehrenhofer, Larry Brandell



The cowl is in place and work is being completed to get the vehicle to run. Steering column, Steering Wheel, Instrument panel, floorboards pop out switch, wiring, gas and spark controls, and the choke rod and lots of little details so we can start the engine.

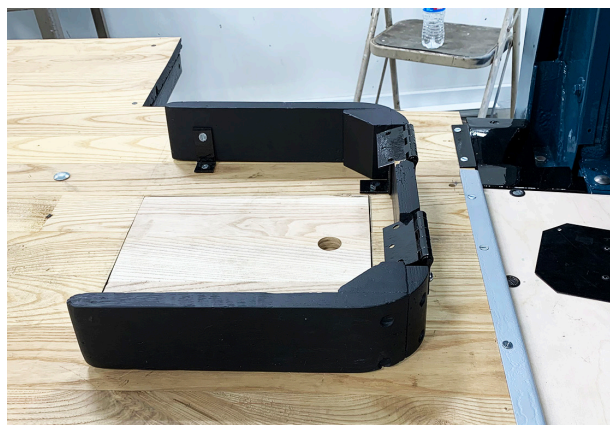
The drivers seat was in position and we added gas and water and repaired a few leaks and the gas valve so it would pass gas and upon hitting the starter it popped off and ran real strong. What a joyous moment. It has not run since leaving the shop of Grier Flieschhauer and Don Temple in North Carolina almost 2 years ago! Hoorah it Runs Great!

When doing a restoration, lots of individual projects are always in motion. That means we have several items that are being worked on at the same time as we move forward.

For instance, the windshield frame has been welded back together and has been prepped and sanded for a first coat of paint coming soon! This way we will have paint under the glass. This will provide better assurance that it will be many years before it begins to fail again. After the glass is installed the frame will be painted again due to scratches during the assembly process.



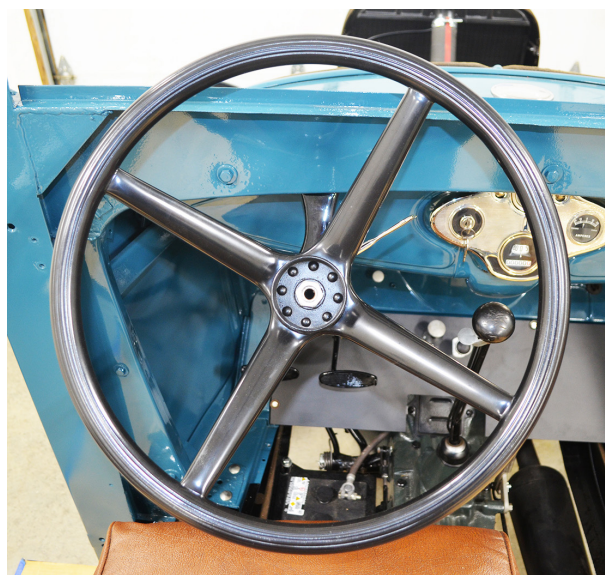
The Windshield frame had be welded and fitted to the body and now it will go to paint!



The seat frame support has been rebuilt and coated with an epoxy. The access hole is to be able to service the second battery under the drivers seat.



A special adjustable seat frame has been added to the bus because we are not sure how tall each driver will be. This will give them the ability to move the drivers seat to a comfortable location.



The steering wheel on the bus is very unique in design. It has a very deep dish to it so it can provide clearance to the windshield. It was restored by Larry Rucker, one of the members of the Coastal Carolina A's and is absolutely beautiful. It is this kind of support and help we have recieved from many members of our Model A Family.

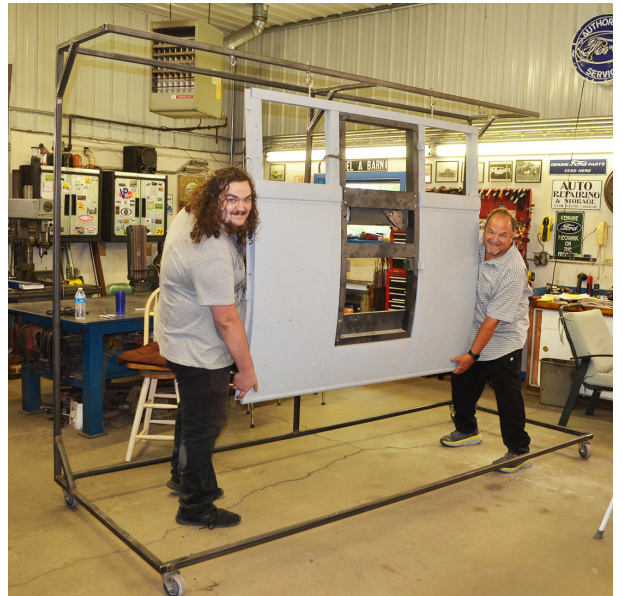


The floorboards have been cut to fit the bus body and modified for the AA clearances (brake pedal). We will be painting and installing the edge anti-squeek material. Gas linkage and control rods have been restored and bent so the pedal is going through the hole correctly and the gas and spark throttle rods work correctly. (this was a lot of work).



Tim Stegenga checking out the driver's seat as he is ready to go!

The next photo shows Gene Levin and his son Josh assembling the rear body panel to a newly built rack so it will allow work to be done on the 3 body panels. This work will include body work, sanding and painting. The panel will then be placed on a gantry to be hoisted up onto the body floor.



Josh and Gene lift the rear panel onto the new rack



The new rack is mounted on casters so it can easily be moved around and worked on. It can be rolled into the spray booth and the three panels can be painted when ready.



The bus body will be worked on while it is on the work frame.

there are many small items we are working on towards the completion. For instance the front bumper is going to a metal shop so it can be bent into the proper alignment for assembly. The door hinges are rebuilt and ready for paint. The Headlights are finished and waiting to be mounted. The front fenders and hood are going to Gerald Hochstetlar's shop for finishing. Even Illinois truck license plates are being worked on as I write this article.

The Bus Project is still rolling as we go along in this most difficult Project.

The goal is to be giving Bus Rides at the 2024 Model A Day at the Museum...we will see you there!

