



GRA-NEVA GRAM

Established 1960

ISSUE 4

GraNeva A's Model A Ford Club of America

July/August 2023

The Good Old Days - Before Hydraulic Lifts



It's definitely not a Model A.
Send note to Editor and be the first to identify this car.

**NEWS FLASH — GRA-NEVA A's WIN BEST CAR CLUB AWARD
AT 2023 GRASS VALLEY 4TH OF JULY PARADE**



This is the newsletter of the Gra-Neva A's, the Grass Valley/Nevada City Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). Feel free to use information here, with credit.

Club members may place a business card size advertisement in this newsletter for a small fee; contact the Treasurer.

OFFICERS 2022

President	Aaron Johnson	530-477-5856
Vice-President	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Treasurer	Jan Elliott	310-809-2438
Editor	Sharon Pierce	530-470-8930
Secretary	Sandy Yanko	530-432-2579
Membership	Gary Spencer	530-477-5570
Tour Directors	Vern Harms	530-272-4683
	Ryck Johnson	530-268-8813

SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS - 2022

ACCC	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
Asst. Editor	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579
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Historian	Bill Mitchell	530-273-1620
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Sunshine	Jennifer Johnson	530-477-5856
Sheriff	Steve Straw	530-432-9132
Technical	Steve Turnsk	530-274-7079
Webmaster	Bill Yanko	530-432-2579

GRA-NEVA GRAM

Club meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. We welcome all guests.

Check our Newsletter for location.

If you are interested in membership in MAFCA, write to MAFCA, 250 S. Cypress, La Habra, CA 90631 or go to <https://www.mafca.com/membership.html>.

*Not affiliated with Ford Motor Company

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to:
byanko@mac.com

**Check our Website at: granevaas.com
for past newsletters**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

FOR JULY/AUGUST 2023

Dear Club,

Well time has caught up with me and I need to admit that our trusty Woody did not complete the parade route for the 4th of July. It suffered significant vapor lock. The good news is that I went back to retrieve the car several hours later and it started right up and drove home fine.

Now on to the incredible news... We had 18 cars join us for the parade, that's unheard of and is a great testament of this club's willingness to still get out there. We saw some new faces, some new cars, and all in all had a great event. The parade was followed by a BBQ in which the club partook in the eating of such fine cuisine as hot dogs, and hot dogs with infused cheese. Thanks to everyone that came and brought dishes and desserts to share. It was warm but we found shade and survived.

So keep getting out there, driving your cars, seeing old and new friends, and having fun.

Godspeed,
AJ



Photo by Vicki Schofield on Unsplash

HAPPY 4th of July

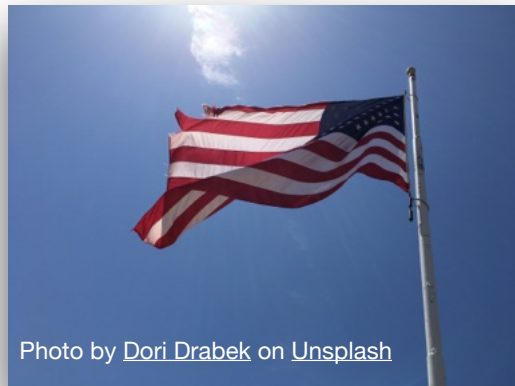


Photo by Dori Drabek on Unsplash





CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Bold & underlined print dates show official club events.
Italic print dates show events of general interest

July 27: Monthly meeting at Sierra Star Winery. Meeting at 7PM. Picnic dinner at 6 PM if you wish. Wine available to purchase.

7/15: GV Downtown Car Show, \$40 entry fee

7/18: Trouble with your car? Workshop Tune-up, etc. Meet @ Harms farm 9am. RSVP Vern or Ryck

7/24: Colfax tour and brunch @ Dine and Dash - Spencer's*. Meet at Target at 9 am. MUST sign up for reservations.

8/13/ Tour and Campbell's pot luck - Campbell's*

August 24: Monthly meeting at Sierra Star Winery. Meeting at 7PM. Picnic dinner at 6 PM if you wish. Wine available to purchase.

8/29: Workshop, Lube and oil change @ Harms. Bring your own oil. 9am. RSVP Vern or Ryck

See schedule p. 5 for rest of year

* *Cars and Coffee - every Saturday at Target (Kmart) GV from 8-10 AM*

* *Also at Mel's in Auburn on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm. And you get your **dinner discounted**. Outdoor and indoor seating. It's fun!!*

Technical Assistance

**Stuck on a Maintenance Problem
Need a second Opinion**

Call Steve Turnsk

530-274-7079; saturnsk@yahoo.com



editor's notes

Hope everyone enjoyed our cool spring. Summer has definitely arrived now. We were fortunate and had a lovely day for the open house at Sierra Starr winery. Thanks to Phil Starr for again hosting a mini-Model A car show at the Open House.

I've included a couple articles from Tom Endy in this newsletter. Tom is the technical advisor at the Santa Anita A's in Arcadia, CA, my old home town. He has written much about Model A maintenance over the years. One article that I selected is the usual kind of maintenance tip, in this case dealing with brake light switch wiring. The other is more of an editorial. It's an opinion piece about the value, or possibly danger, associated with putting a thermostat in a Model A. I recently added a thermostat to my car, but now I'm wondering if that was a good idea. I hope this article will generate some discussion among our more experienced members. I'm going to be looking forward to hear what others think.

See you at Sierra Star winery for our next meeting on July 27th.

Enjoy,
Bill





Member's Page

HAVES & WANTS

No Requests Submitted

Mystery Member Below - Who is it?



Sunshine

Club members were happy to see Vern Harms at the June meeting and hear first hand reports on his steady recovery from a serious illness.

Happy Birthday



July

- 7/6 Bill Yanko
- 7/18 Sandy Yanko
- 7/25 Phil Starr
- 7/30 Bill Mitchell

August

- 8/8 Jack Corliss
- 8/11 Roman Kvapil
- 8/23 Aaron Johnson
- 8/31 Debra Bamber

Anniversary Celebrations



July

- 7/6 Aaron & Jennifer Johnson
- 7/7 Jack & Cathy Corliss

August

- 8/6 Kelly & Virginia Stevenson
- 8/21 Bill & Avon Steen
- 8/22 Jim & Debbie Luckinbill



GraNeva A's Tours/Car Shows

2023 Scheduled Tours/Events:

7/4/2023: Fourth of July Parade & tour to AJ's* house for BBQ. Bring dessert.

7/15/2023: GV Downtown Car Show, \$40 (optional)

7/18/2023: Trouble with your car? Workshop Tune-up, etc. Meet @ Harms farm 9am. RSVP Vern or Ryck

7/24/2023: Colfax tour and brunch @ Dine and Dash - Spencer's*. Meet at Target at 9 am. MUST sign up for reservations.

8/13/2023: Tour and Campbell's pot luck - Campbell's*

8/29/2023: Workshop, Lube and oil change @ Harms. Bring your own oil. 9am. RSVP Vern or Ryck

9/16-17/2023: Chico Beat the Heat Overnight Tour – AJ*

10/19-20/2023: Plymouth (Shenandoah Valley) Wineries & Sutter Creek Blacksmith, Overnight Tour – Ryck*

11/?/2023: Open due to weather concerns

12/?/2023: Christmas Dinner, no details yet. – Kay* to check with Campbell's* and locations

*=individual(s) responsible for setting up the event

Updates will occur as needed to the schedule and sent out to everyone.

Souvenirs Anyone?

by Calvin Campbell



Mini Model A Roundup

The Sonora Model A Club organized a Mini Model A Roundup and NCRG meeting at the Sonora Fairgrounds for three days from May 26 through May 28. Virginia and I were not able to attend the events of the Roundup, but we passed through Sonora on the evening of May 26 on our way to a family reunion with our own Model A on the trailer.

We decided to stay the night but found that parking was an issue in this small town. We headed for the fairgrounds to watch the cars come in and would consider the parking problem later.



Calvin with new friend, Paul Shinn

We were shortly introduced to Paul Shinn, the program director. We explained that we were unable to attend the events of the Roundup but were just interested in saying hello to the folks while we were on our way. Paul was gracious and accepted us to attend a meal with the group on Friday night and hang out with the folks. He also granted us permission to park the truck and trailer at the fairgrounds and use the Model A for travel to our hotel. What a great guy he is!

We unloaded the Model A and parked it in the fairgrounds with the other Model As and settled in for some active conversation and stories. We had the only trailer that was empty. Then, we heard that another couple broke down on the road coming to the event. Paul asked us if we could rescue them, using our trailer--talk about being available at just the right time.

We rescued the broken Model A with a blown motor. Upon meeting the owners, they introduced themselves as Mr. and Mrs. Richard Campbell, from Campbell. With a smile, we introduced ourselves as Calvin and Virginia Campbell. Ironically, Richard was to be one of the speakers at the event on "How to Tune a Model A". Circumstances can surely cause unexpected smiles and that set the stage for a fun evening.

Virginia knows that I have always liked Model A trucks. So, while walking through the parking area, she noticed a very cute Model A truck, and brought it to my attention. We then noticed a small "for sale" sign in the

back window. We found the owner/builder of the truck and spent the next hour visiting with Harold Winters and his wife Judy.

By the next morning, Virginia and I decided to add this cute Model A truck to our classic collection. In short, we have become friends with Harold and Judy Winters, learned about Harold's many other projects, and learned some of the stories of the restoration of this cute Model A truck.

Virginia tells me that we need to be careful going to car shows — we may come home with a souvenir.



Virginia's
New Truck



The Campbell Clan



RON'S TECH TIP PAGE

This months tip comes from Tom Endy from the Santa Anita A's'. I was having problem with my stop light switch sticking and came across this article. Doesn't have anything to do with sticking, but I found it interesting. Hope you do too.

Brake Light Switch!

The Model A Ford has somewhat of a peculiar wiring system design. Power for the headlights, taillights, cowl lights, and brake lights is obtained from the connection at the cutout switch on the generator and routed to a buss connection inside the light bail at the bottom of the steering column.

The light switch on the steering column directs power to the headlights, taillights, and cowl lights, but not to the brake lights. A wire runs direct from the power buss inside the light bail to the external brake light switch.

There is really no purpose for the brake light circuit to be involved with the light bail. Should there be a short circuit in the light bail, the power lead to it can be disconnected temporarily from the cutout switch connection to accommodate operating the car without lights during daylight. Unfortunately it also disconnects the brake light switch, which makes it unsafe to drive the car.

It would have been prudent if Ford had run a wire direct from the starter switch (or the fuse) to the brake light switch. With this arrangement the power lead to the light bail could be removed from the cutout switch on the generator without affecting the brake light circuit.

It is easy enough to modify the brake light circuit to isolate it from the light bail. Locate the wire on the brake light switch that comes from the light bail. Disconnect it at the brake light switch and fold it back and wrap insulating tape around it. Connect a new wire where the wire at the brake light switch was removed and run it direct to battery power. The most logical place to make the connection is at the starter switch. If a fuse modification is installed connect it there.

This wiring modification now eliminates the light bail from the stop light circuit. Should a short circuit occur in the light bail, it can be disconnected from power at the cutout switch connection and the

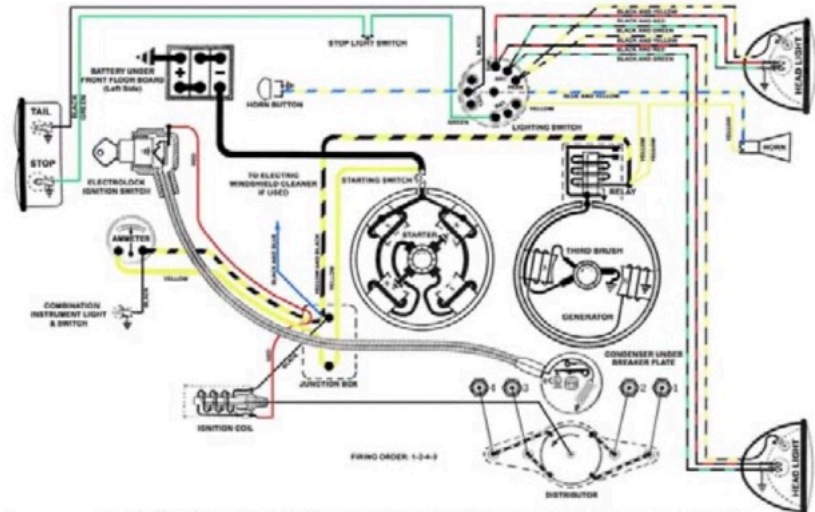


Fig. 18A. Wiring diagram showing the internal circuits of the model A Ford cars not equipped with cowl lamps, with two bulbs in each headlamp. When starting to trace one of the several electrical circuits, begin with the positive (+) terminal of the battery or generator. The battery is the source of supply when the engine is not running, or generator is running very slowly. When the generator speed is increased to the point where its voltage becomes greater than the battery voltage, the color points close and then the generator is the source of electrical current supply and also charges the battery. See Dyke's Automobile Encyclopedia, pages 332, 448 and 427 explaining the principle of operation of the current cut-out (relay), how to trace circuits, etc.

Model A Ford wiring diagram. Note second wire down from the top runs from the power buss inside the light bail to the brake light switch, then on to the brake light on the left.

car can be driven during daylight hours with the brake lights functional.

Foreign made reproduction brake light switches are notorious for being of very poor quality and for shorting out. A good quality 1930-1931 brake light switch can be obtained from A&L Parts Specialties located at Canton Center, CT. The switch, which is a copy of the original, is a quality item manufactured by A&L. The switch includes brass bushings at each end of the operating shaft. ☺

A&L Parts Specialties
P.O. Box 201
Canton Center, CT 06019-0301
860-693-0112
anlel@aol.com

Switch part number A-13480B



A Thermostat Theory

by Tom Endy

The Model A Ford did not deliver with a thermostat installed in the water cooling system. A few years later thermostats became the norm in new cars. Today it is becoming common practice for Model A owners to install a thermostat in the water outlet hose of their Model A Ford. However, there may have been some engine block design changes made to accommodate the thermostat that does not exist in a Model A engine block.

Rick Hall, a Victoria Association member in Southern California, has come up with a theory about the use of a thermostat in a Model A Ford that may have some merit. Recently four of us in the same area, including Rick and myself, have had a recently rebuilt engine fail with dramatic consequences. The number four piston virtually melted, with the ones in front of it showing signs of overheating.

After much investigation and speculation we have come to the conclusion that the cause was due to the poor quality pistons that have recently been imported from Taiwan by two of the better perceived suppliers. However, there could be an additional factor involved.

In all four cases the failure modes were the same. The engines had a sufficient number of miles on them since rebuild; the cars were cruising along at 55-60 mph in 26% overdrive for about an hour or more with the ambient temperature at about 60 degrees. Each of the cars was equipped with a very efficient 4-tube radiator and with a 160 degree thermostat installed. Each had a temperature gauge that indicated that the water temperature was below 160 degree, which means the thermostat was closed blocking off the flow of water.

Rick's theory is that under these circumstances with the thermostat closed water is not circulating through the block normally. With the thermostat closed only a small amount of water is getting past the thermostat through the two small holes drilled into the mounting flange of the thermostat. The water pump is not causing water to flow through the block normally as when no thermostat is installed.

This may be causing the back end of the engine block to overheat due to the lack of proper water circulation. The temperature gauge may be showing a value of less than 160 degrees at the water outlet hose, but the water temperature around the number four piston where the water is stagnant may be sufficiently higher allowing the number four piston to overheat and fail.

It may be that engine block designers of later cars provided by-pass ports in the block to allow a continuous flow of water to all parts of the block when the thermostat was closed. The Model A engine block may not have this advantage.

This may not be a problem on a warm day or with a standard radiator that is partially blocked as the temperature will quickly rise above 160 degrees and the thermostat will open allowing the water pump to freely circulate water to all areas of the block as Henry designed.

It may be just a theory, but it may have some merit. After experiencing a costly engine failure I decided to remove the thermostat from my Victoria. I can't see where it can do any harm, after all Henry produced over five million Model A's that roamed the planet for decades without a thermostat.



An automotive thermostat modified for use with a Model A. Note the skirt welded to the base to prevent it from tumbling in the water outlet hose. Two small holes are drilled into the base for a small amount of water flow when the thermostat is closed.

Model A ERA Questions

From the NCRG Round-up - Contributed by Virginia Campbell

1. Who among these is not an era actress?

A. Dinah Shore B. Joan Crawford C. Clara Bow D. Mary Pickford

2. Which of these is an era cartoon character?

A. Popeye B. Felix the Cat C. Betty Boop D. All

3. Which of these is not an era dance?

A. The Black Bottom B. The Peabody C. The Cross-step Waltz D. None

4. Which of these is an era event?

A. The end of Prohibition B. Black Tuesday C. Model T is discontinued D. All

5. Which of these is an era magazine?

A. Modern Priscilla B. Fortune C. Saturday Evening Post D. All

6. Which of these is not an era novel?

A. Lady Chatterley's Lover B. Joy of Cooking C. The Call of Cthulu D. All

7. Which of these is an era cereal?

A. Chex B. Rice Krispies C. Kix D. Ranger Joe Popped Wheat Honnies

8. Which of these is an era dessert?

A. Jell-O B. Keebler Cookies C. Oreo Cookies D. All

9. Which of these is an era candy flavor?

A. M&Ms B. gummy bears C. white chocolate(D)None

10. Which of these is an era movie serial?

A. Exploits of Elaine B. Tarzan the Mighty C. Flash Gordon D. Last of the Mohicans



Club Activities

**SATURDAY
JUNE 3
2023**

AVIATION APPRECIATION DAY

**8AM - 3PM
NEVADA
COUNTY
AIRPORT**

FLY-IN AND OPEN HOUSE

13083 John Bauer Ave, Grass Valley, CA

Pancake Breakfast
Aircraft fly-bys and displays
Airplane rides
Large-scale r/c aircraft demos

Roamin' Angels

Classic car displays
Lunch and refreshments
USFS / Calfire Base open house
and More!

Bring the whole family!
Admission is FREE!

Join the excitement!
goldenempireflyingassociation.org

KGQQ
AWOS: 121.32
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Above: Nevada County Airport
Below: Virginia Campbell's new truck
meets the club



Jim Luckinbill
finds some
shade



Left: Gary
Spencer
enjoys the
scene and
some shade



AJ's woody
promoting
the club

Below: Model A's on display at airport show



The Campbell's and Johnson's.
Another hard day at a car show.



Club Activities - cont'd.

Oroville Dam Tour

The Oroville-Thermalito Complex is a storage and pumping operation on the Feather River. The facilities include three power plants (Hyatt Powerplant, Thermalito Diversion Dam Powerplant, and Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant, two of which can either pump water or generate power), the State Water Project's largest reservoir (Lake Oroville), a forebay and afterbay, a fish hatchery, and a visitors center. As water leaves this region, it flows down Feather River and Sacramento River channels to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.



The club did a tour to Oroville Dam with a lunch stop and then later, an ice cream stop on the way home. You can tell from the pictures it was a beautiful day. Participating members were AJ & Jen Johnson, and son Adler, Vern & Kay Harms, Gary & Janet Spencer, Ryck Johnson and Calvin & Virginia Campbell



Club Activities - cont'd.

SIERRA STARR VINEYARD OPEN HOUSE



Model A's in the vineyard at Sierra Starr Winery. Phill Starr again invited club members to display their A's at the Open House.

Left: Bill & Sandy Yanko with their Roadster, & Virginia Campbell.

Right: Linda Johnson & Kay Harms comparing wine tasting notes? Or maybe not.



Vern Harms, Sandy Yanko & Virginia Campbell check out Virginia's new truck.



Bill Yanko, Doug Giles, Vern Harms & Ryck Johnson inspect Doug's hotrod A.



Doug Giles, Vern Harms & Ryck Johnson look over Phil Starr's Speedster



Ryck Johnson's Phaeton & Phil Starr's Speedster at entrance to wine cave

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Gra-Neva Model A Club
Sierra Starr Winery
June 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-President Bill Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:06. President Aaron Johnson was absent.

REPORTS:

VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill stated there was no report from the Vice-President. Bill encouraged members to go on tours. There are always members who can help if/when cars get into trouble.

SECRETARY: Sandy said she had no minutes from the May meeting as she had been absent.

TREASURER: Jan Elliott reported the only income was \$30 from the raffle in May. The checking account balance is \$2,328.94. Cash Funds Balances are Attendance Award - \$100, Petty Cash - \$92.80.

EDITOR: Bill asks for members to please give him information for articles in the newsletter. News about Model A maintenance or trips.

SUNSHINE: Sharon Pierce shared that former member Jerry Norville is in hospital after a stroke.

TECHNICAL: Steve Turnsk. Bill Mitchell asked about possibly buying a Cushman motor scooter with 4 horsepower engine. Bill Yanko asked if you need a motorcycle license?

TOUR CHAIRMAN: Ryck Johnson distributed a list of upcoming tours so members could plan ahead. The list will be published in the Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Steve Straw announced he recently helped with the Jerry Dorville Estate Sale of car parts and sold some of those parts at the Auburn Swap Meet. Sharon Pierce would like Club members to help her clean out her garage which still contains lots of car parts. She will be moving to Texas soon.

ATTENDANCE AWARD: Tonight it is worth \$60. Sally Walker's name was drawn but she was absent. Next month the award is worth \$70.

50-50 RAFFLE: Linda Johnson won \$45.

ADJOURNMENT – Bill Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Yanko, Secretary

ATTENDEES: Sandy & Bill Yanko, Roy Lebeck, Kristi & Steve Turnsk, Calvin & Virginia Campbell, Janet Elliott, Sharon Pierce, Gary & Janet Spencer, Vern & Kay Harms, Ryck & Linda Johnson, Steve Halverson, Don & Donna Lichti, Steve & Vicki Straw, Jim Luckinbill, Bill Mitchell, Phil Starr.



The 22nd Annual

New Venue

Cruisin' the Pines

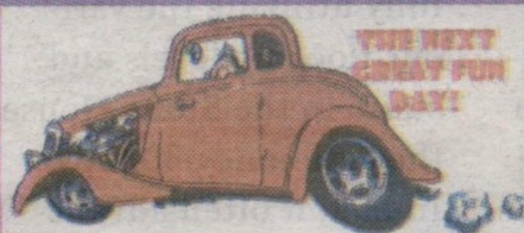
New Venue

Car Show & Fun

Help support our Community

\$5 Admission, Kids 12 & Under with adult FREE,
Military with ID FREE

Enter your Classic Now



ROAMIN ANGELS Cruisin' the Pines 2023

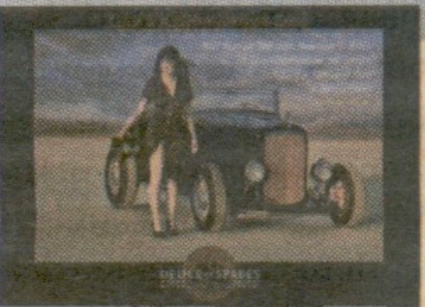
September 9th
9am - 4pm

CAR SHOW

Nevada City Tech Center
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Hosted by
Classic Cars West-Nevada City

www.roaminangels.com
to sign up!



ADVERTISER'S PAGE

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ADVERTISER'S PAGE

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www.gaslightauto.com
Urbana, Ohio 43078



Gaslight Auto Parts

The advertisement features a photograph of the Gaslight Auto Parts storefront in Urbana, Ohio. The building is dark blue with a sign that reads "Gaslight Auto Parts" and "Urbana, Ohio 43078". Several vintage cars from the 1909-48 era are parked in front of the building. A person is standing near one of the cars. The text "Serving You since 1962" is written in a curved path on the left side of the image. The phone number "800.242.6491" and website "www.gaslightauto.com" are prominently displayed in the upper right. The name "Gaslight Auto Parts" is written in a stylized font at the bottom of the image.

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Egge Machine Company
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1-800-866-3443 **www.EGGE.com**

The advertisement for Egge Machine Company features a large, stylized logo for "EGGE PISTONS" in the top left. To the right, the company name "Egge Machine Company" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Made in the USA", "Since 1915", and "Santa Fe Springs, CA." in a smaller font. Below this, a detailed image of a piston is shown. To the left of the piston, the text "E1104-Model A Piston" is written in bold, with two lines of italicized text below it: "- Uses modern small black Chevy rings! -" and "- Paired right in the block!-". Below that, "Main Bearings Rebabitt Service" is written in bold, followed by another line of italicized text: "- Paired right in the block!-". Underneath, "Complete Engine Kit Available" is written in bold. At the bottom of the advertisement, the phone number "1-800-866-3443" and the website "www.EGGE.com" are displayed in bold.