

## Technical Notes

### Winterizing Your "A"

By Lynn Sondena

Winter is now here along with the rain, snow and ice. Is your Model A winterized properly? Your first consideration should be the cooling system. Freezing weather can cause major damage to the radiator, cylinder head or block. You have three choices for winterization. (1) Keep the Model A in a heated garage. (2) Drain the cooling system and be aware that a gravity drain will leave some water in the water jacket between cylinders #3 & #4. (3) Use antifreeze of a good grade such as Sierra or Prime, they are environmentally friendly. Some people will tell you that antifreeze mixed with oil will melt or eat away the Babbitt. This is a myth, what happens is the antifreeze will tarnish the high gloss smooth surface of the Babbitt. Over time this creates more friction on the bearing surfaces, which in turn creates more heat.

Item number two is the battery. Check the water level and maintain the water level. Keep the battery charged by either using a trickle charger or by running the engine every two weeks for at least 10 minutes.

The third consideration is the crankcase oil. If you are not going to run your Model A then I would suggest that you replace one quart of oil with full synthetic oil. Synthetic oil will have a greater adhesion to metal parts than regular oil, so it will leave a protective coating on the valves, lifters, springs, rings and bearings. This will help to keep moisture and rust out of the engine.

Your last consideration is the fuel system. With Ethanol gasoline you have two choices. (1) Drain the complete fuel system including the carburetor. The carb should be taken apart, drained and dried. (2) If you are going to drive your Model A or at least run it for 10 minutes every two weeks, then add 4 ounces of one of the following products to a full fuel tank.

(Staybil Gasoline Additive or Marvel Mystery Oil). Note: after adding the 4 ounces of the additive run the engine for 5 minutes to mix the additive with the gasoline, and have the carburetor protected. If you fail to do this the Ethanol will start to separate from the gasoline and that can cause the carburetor float valve to stick. Another item to do in the winter time is to keep your fuel tank full; this helps to eliminate condensation (water in the gas).

I use the above items in my Model A, lawnmower, garden tractor, boat motor, and modern iron. Over the years they have proved to be good useful products. I am not telling you to do this, it is your choice. If you disagree fine!