

Technical Notes

Gasoline/Water/Oil

By Lynn Sondenaa

Touring season is finally upon us! Model A engines are designed for leaded gasoline. If you are lucky enough to have a nice rebuild engine with stainless steel valves with hardened valve seats, then the ethanol added to our new gasoline is no problem. If you are like me and running the original style valves, then they still need the lead in the gasoline to lubricate the valves. When I fill my gas tank I add **SYP Lead Substitute** at 1 ounce per 10 gallons and 1 ounce of **2 cycle engine oil mix** per 10 gallons. These two items will keep your valves lubricated and also help in preventing the gasoline from going stale. It will also aid in preventing water build-up in the gasoline. I have 2,500 miles on my 29 roadster pickup and have done this since day one.

I also have some thoughts on the cooling system. I have a friend that rebuilds engines and he showed me a bearing that came in contact with antifreeze. The contact was most likely from a blown head gasket allowing the coolant to mix with the oil. The antifreeze will eat away the babbit, therefore I have elected not to run antifreeze in my Model A. The problem with this is that antifreeze helps lower the boiling point. There is an additive called, **Water Wetter** made by Red Line or **H-per Lube Super Coolant** sold at Wal-Mart. Both of these products will lower the boiling point of water from 212 degrees to 200 degrees. They improve the ability of the coolant for heat transfer. They will also reduce the cylinder head temperature; it reduces rust, corrosion, and electrolysis if running an aluminum head. I also add a bottle of **Radiator Anti-rust** made by Bar's Leaks. This product also claims it helps to lubricate the water pump. The Environmental Protection Agency made the oil companies remove the (ZDDP) **zinc/phosphorus** additive from motor oils. The zinc/phosphorus additive is especially good for low pressure engines like the Model A's. The zinc will coat and lubricate the bearing surfaces and wear point in the engine while providing anti-wear protection. The following is the product that I use in my Model A engine. It is made by Lucas Oil Products Inc. It is called **Engine break-in Oil Additive TB-Zinc-Plus**. This product is easy to find. I know there are other companies that make small 4 ounce bottle of ZDDP, but their cost is sky high.