

# The il Leak

April 2022 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 59 Issue 4

## *The President Speaks:*

April is here, winter is almost gone, and time is upon us to get out in our Model A's again. It made me feel good to change the oil, grease it up, turn the key and drive out the garage the other day. Sometimes it's the simple things in life that can put a smile and good feeling in your life.

This month's meeting is on April 5th. We have a great presentation for our program, it is a slideshow and discussion on the Zenith Carburetor. This is a very good teaching of all the ins and outs of keeping your engine running smooth.



We have two activities to start the year with our cars. The first is the Post Office Brunch in Grafton and the second is The annual Tour Clinic at Harold Legges in Natick. **There are a limited number of time slots available, so pick your time and sign up at the Meeting April 5th or call Don Ross.**

DON'T FORGET YOUR 2022 DUE'S !!! (see page 6)

Hope to see you APRIL 5th. The March Meeting was very well attended with over 40 members to my count. It's a great group of HAPPY MODEL A owners.



**KEEP SMILING EVERY DAY**  
*Doug Farrell*



## Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A get well card was set to John Pierce who is recovering after surgery.

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Ellie Thompson who recently passed away. (see page 3)

*If you know of a member who needs a little cheering up contact me.*

*sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)*

## Coming Events

(Tours Start at Wayland Town Center RT 20)

**Mar 27** Minuteman Club Winter Blah's Flea Market  
Maynard Elks (see page 6)

**Apr 5** 7:30 PM Regular Club meeting

**Apr 24** 11AM Post Office Pub Brunch TL Don Ross

**Apr 24** V8 Flea Market Fitchburg Airport

**Apr 30** Tour Clinic, Legge's in Natick (by appointment)

**May 3** 7:30 PM Regular Club Meeting

TL = Tour Leader

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report  
February, 2022

### Income:

Club Items sold (hats)	\$18.00
Coffee Can	23.00
Memorial Donations (JJ)	447.00
Flea Market Vendor Fees	60.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>260.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 808.00

### Expense:

Coffee Supplies	\$ 10.00
Flea Mkt Expense	23.38
<u>Oil Leak Printing</u>	<u>70.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 103.38
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 704.62</b>



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### APRIL 1987 35 YEARS AGO

Our club's Auto Parts Auction was promoted for May 15th! "Please bring auto parts and Bid!, Bid! Bid!" The Wayside Inn (purchased by Henry Ford in 1923) invited us to display our Model A Fords on their grounds during summer or fall. An announcement in "The Oil Leak" mentions a ban on leaded gasoline beginning in late 1988.

### APRIL 1997 25 YEARS AGO

An article was published in the "Model A News" titled "Assembly Square, Somerville, MA" was written by Art Callan. Spring Tune Up this year was held at Rich Gebbo's garage. "Check your tour card for date and appointment!" Dick Batstone spoke on the "Dead Horse Hill Climb" happening on June 28th in Worcester.

### APRIL 2007 15 YEARS AGO

Dick Stitt was "fined" \$1.50 for having his 31 Cabriolet in the 2007 Lebaron Bonney calendar. The Spring Tune Up returned and was held at Jack and Jo's in Sudbury on April 21st. Volunteers requested for our 51st Annual New England Meet in Sturbridge, MA. September 14th - 16th, 2007.

----- ARTI-FACT -----

See page 3

### National Organizations:



**Model A Ford Club of America (mafca.com)**  
Membership dues \$50/year



**Model A Restorers Club (model-a-ford.org)**  
Membership Dues \$50/year



**Model A Ford Foundation (maffi.org)**  
and the Model A Ford Museum \$25/yr.

## **2022 Board of Directors**

**President** - Doug Farrell [dfarrell1416@gmail.com](mailto:dfarrell1416@gmail.com)

**Vice President** - Wayne Champagne (pro tem)

**Secretary** - Rick Gadbois [r.gadbois@comcast.net](mailto:r.gadbois@comcast.net)

**Treasurer** - Barbara McElhiney [mcelhiney@rcn.com](mailto:mcelhiney@rcn.com)

**Membership** - Nan Linden 508-485-7575 [met59a31@aol.com](mailto:met59a31@aol.com)

**Editor** - Doug Linden [douglingen@aol.com](mailto:douglingen@aol.com)

### **Steering Committee**

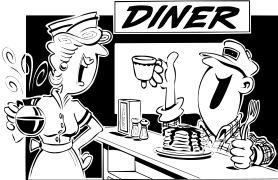
Vacant, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**Tour Director:** Don Ross 617-584-5245

**Sunshine:** Sue Champagne [sdchampagne1931@gmail.com](mailto:sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Distribution:** Sue Champagne [sdchampagne1931@gmail.com](mailto:sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)

### ***Weekly Breakfast Group***



The breakfast group at the Big Apple, 890 Boston Post Road East (RT 20) in Marlborough, MA is back and growing. We

have our vaccinations and the Big Apple staff follows Covid cleaning protocol. Why not join us there is always room for you.



### **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**



Ken Harvey  
433 Maple Street  
Franklin, MA 02038  
1929 Fordor

### **ARTIE FACT by Art Callan**

- MASK not what your country can do for you, MASK what you can do for your country.
- COVID CHECK: at 5 PM open a bottle of wine, smell it, then pour it in a glass. If you can smell it, you are good. Then finish the bottle.
- Never laugh at your spouse's choices -You are one of them!



Ellie Thompson 1933-2022

The club was saddened to hear of the recent passing of Ellie Thompson. Ellie and her husband Russ were very active members of the club and enjoyed touring in their 1931 Coupe. Following the passing of Russ, the Model A went to their daughter Jeanne (Meister) and it is now in the care of Ellie's grandson Johnathan Meister. In past years Jeanne & Johnathan have driven it to our tune up clinic. Our condolences go out to Jeanne and her entire family.





# Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club March 1, 2022

Location: Memorial Congregational Church Sudbury.

The meeting opened with President Doug Farrell leading the assembled club members (35 in attendance) in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The business meeting kicked off at 7:37 pm.

## Officers Reports:

Doug requested a motion to accept the Treasurers' Report as printed in the

Oil Leak – MSP.

Doug requested a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as printed in the

Oil Leak – MSP.

## Membership:

Nan reports that we have 2 new members to the club:

William Ellis of Wellesley, he has a 1929 Roadster that was formerly owned by Ocean Spray of Carver.

Anthony Castagna of Sterling, Ma. Anthony has a 1930 Model A Fordor.

Nan also introduced a member who is attending his first meeting Tim Darsney, of Nashua NH who has a 1930 Model A Coupe

**Welcome All !!!**

## Touring:

Don Ross reported that our current list of tours are posted on the Web Site, it is fluid and will be changing. There are a few tours listed that are still looking for leaders, please consider leading a tour.

Don then called upon Dick Krug to explain how easy it is to lead a tour. Well.....Dick then had to admit he had been a member of the club for 27 years and ..... last year he lead his first tour! His recommendation is to pick a route off the beaten path and do a dry run to insure it will be a pleasurable Model A ride.

Doug F. got a request from the Lincoln Garden Club looking for cars to attend a fundraising event at the Historic Pierce House from 6 to 9 PM on 6/17. There will food, cocktails, music and dancing, it will be free to anyone bringing a car. They will park the cars out on the front lawn of the Pierce House. They are looking for 4 to 6 cars.

## National News:

Digital version of the Restorer is out, hard copy should follow soon.

Doug L. reports that both National clubs are trying to stimulate youth interest in the Model A. We currently have The Youth Restoration Award and Youth Scholarships in place, however they are asking local chapters to think of ways to engage the younger generation. They would like to target the month of April (*editors note: correction May is the target month*) for local chapters to try to engage younger kids and spark an interest in the Model A. Put on your thinking caps and bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Doug thanked Don R. and Dick O. for providing tonight's Refreshments.

Volunteers for next month's meeting are Dawn L. and Gary H.

## New Business:

The Annual Winter Blahs Swap Meet will be held on Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Maynard Elks. This is the clubs 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet. Craig reports good response from vendors, 32 of the 40 available spaces are taken. We are looking for volunteers to assist vendors in the loading and unloading process, vendors start showing up at 6:30AM. We are also looking for donations for the Raffle Table, if you have any good Model A items you are not using and would like to donate to the raffle please contact Craig.

## Programs:

Doug Linden will show a short video of the Model A Museum at Gilmore.

## Running Board Commentary:

Doug L. 'officially' presented the **Hard Luck Trophy** to: **Bob Mangan**

Looks like years of carefree driving have finally caught up with Bob as he reports parts of his car are spread all over:

The **Shell** of his car is home in the garage,

**Parts** of it are in North Attleboro, the **Engine** is at Gulbankian's, the **Transmission** is on its way to Mitchell in California, and the **Radiator** is somewhere in Worcester.

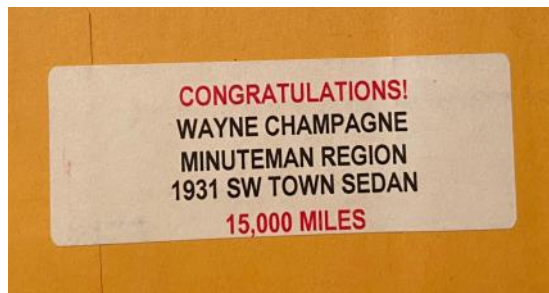
Enjoy the trophy and display it with pride!

The Meeting officially closed at 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted

*Rick Gadbois - Secretary*

## MARC MILEAGE AWARD



The MARC Mileage Awards have been issued and we are happy to report that Wayne Champagne was able to reach a new plateau last year: 15,000 Miles. Congratulations Wayne. Hopefully, with a full season of touring more of us will get awards next year. If you are a MARC member and do not participate in this program, see Wayne to sign up, it's easy.



**Your  
Name  
Town**

### Name Badges Available

The club has received a new supply of name badge holders. If you need a name badge please send an email to Nan at: [met59a31@aol.com](mailto:met59a31@aol.com). The badges will be available at the April meeting.



### April Showers

Mean it's time to break out the umbrella. I wonder if you knew umbrella goes back to ancient China and was originally used to keep the sun off the ladies. The rain umbrella appeared in the 17th century and was made out of silk which offered limited protection from the rain. The design we are familiar with was fashioned by Jonas Hanaway in 1750 in London. Although ridiculed, Jonas carried the umbrella everywhere, and by the late 1700's it was a common accessory for both men and women. In fact the umbrella was referred to as a Hanaway for years. Modern materials and styles made the umbrella a necessity for active outdoor people of the Model A era.



## 2022 MEMBERSHIP Application Form



PLEASE complete the form and return with your check for \$20.

Membership: Renew - No Changes \_\_\_\_\_, Renew - Changes \_\_\_\_\_, New \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Significant Other Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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How would you like to receive your Newsletter: Electronically or US Mail (circle one)

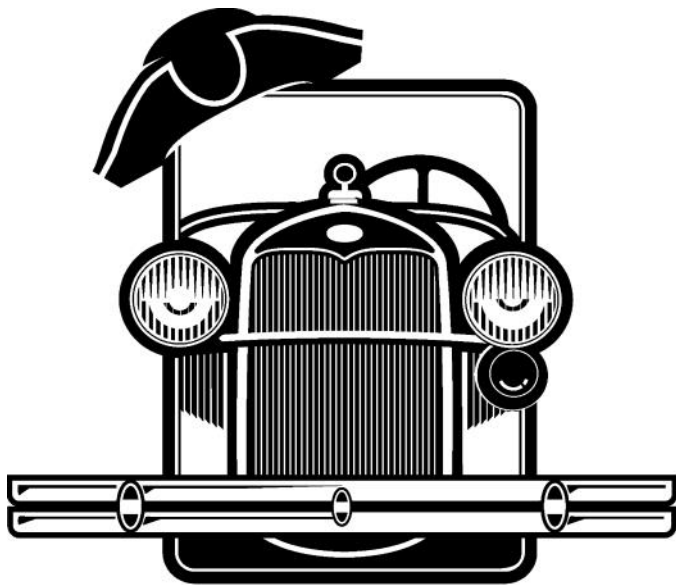
26<sup>th</sup> Annual

# WINTER BLAH'S

Swap N' Sell

Sponsored by the Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club Sudbury, MA

Make Plans to Attend



**MINUTEMAN  
MODEL "A" FORD**

Club of Massachusetts

**Sunday, March 27, 2022  
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

Location: The Maynard Elks Lodge  
34 Powdermill Road (RT. 62)  
Maynard, MA 01754

Vendor Spaces: \$20.00  
General Admission: \$3.00

Please send payment or inquiries to:

Craig Martin  
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cmartinstow@comcast.net  
Telephone: 508/561-3977

### Jim's technical tip

by Jim Cannon,



## **"The Right Tool for the Job" - Part 1**

I've been working with a new Model A mechanic lately, which reminded me of some basics on choosing the right tool for the job. Today we talk about choosing wrenches and sockets for use on nuts and bolts. The thing that determines your choice is how well you need to grip the hex, to allow you to apply the torque (twist) you need... and your access to the nut or bolt head.

**Rusted and seized nuts and bolts need the torque from the wrenches at the top. And some good penetrating oil! Until next time,**

## Have a Model A Day! Jim

**Best Grip  
(highest torque)**



### 6-point socket and box end



**12-point socket and box end wrench**



## Flare-nut wrenches

### Open-end wrench



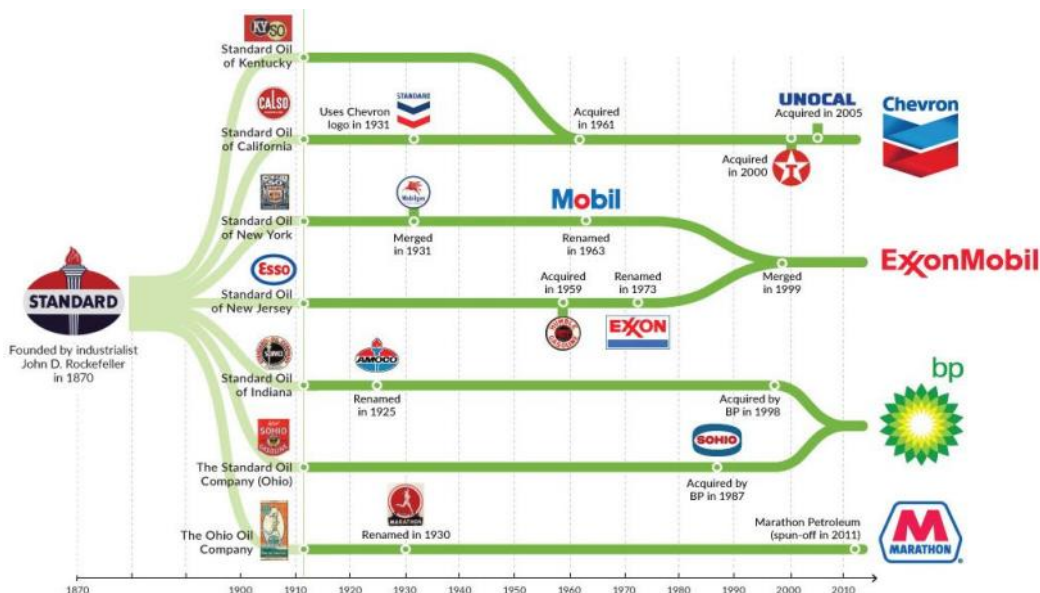
**Crescent wrench**



### Slip-joint pliers



**Poor Grip**  
(can chew up the nut  
or bolt - don't use  
them)



## GAS ANCESTRY

Given the price of gas we are now seeing, I thought you might be interested in seeing how John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company has evolved since the government broke it up in 1911. It is also interesting how petrolinia of these companies has become such a large part of the old car hobby.



# No Pizza-Party Model A Quiz

**1. If the distributor rotor does not turn when cranking the engine, the most probable cause is a:**

- a. Broken camshaft
- b. Sheared oil pump shaft
- c. Broken timing gear
- d. Broken fan belt

**2. "End-play" of the camshaft is prevented by a:**

- a. Snap-ring retainer
- b. Coil spring pressed against timing gear
- c. Set of retainer bearings
- d. Gear on the oil pump drive shaft

**3. What prevents battery current from flowing back through the generator when the engine is not in motion:**

- a. Battery ground cable
- b. Cut-out
- c. Condenser
- d. Ignition switch

**4. A leaking "intake manifold seal" will be evident by:**

- a. Hard starting
- b. Engine not idling
- c. Slow acceleration
- d. All of the above

**5. An overheating engine while driving is usually first noticeable by the:**

- a. Sound of the engine
- b. Jerking of the car
- c. Engine back-firing
- d. Loss of speed

**6. In the event both headlights and tail light bulbs all burn out, it is most probably the:**

- a. Bulbs were all bad
- b. Cut-out would not open
- c. Horn button shorted the light switch
- d. Battery cables are loose

**7. If the horn motor works properly and adjustment screw has no effect, the:**

- a. Knob on the diaphragm is worn off

b. Lock nut on the rotor wheel is loose

c. Bug screen is clogged

d. Electrical wires are reversed

**8. If the gas gauge stays in only one position, it is usually caused by the:**

- a. Gauge rod lodged against the filler neck screen
- b. Float not rotating on the gauge rod
- c. Gauge indicator pressing against the glass
- d. Pivot point binding

**9. Pliers and baling wire will be the most help in:**

- a. Changing and repairing a flat
- b. Adjusting emergency brakes
- c. Timing engine
- d. Choking carburetor when cranking

**10. The easiest way to detect a hole burned through a piston is to:**

- a. Press a screw driver firmly against the engine block
- b. Check for blow-by through the crankcase breather
- c. Retard spark and see if engine stops
- d. See if engine backfires at high RPM

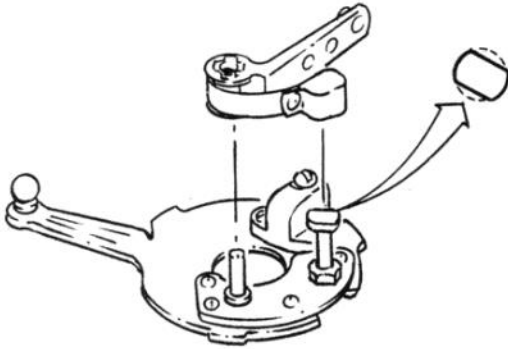
## ANSWERS

(quiz from The Restorer Jan/Feb 1967)

- 10. B—Check for blow-by through the crankcase breather
- 9. D—Choking carburetor when cranking
- 8. A—Gauge rod lodged against the fill neck screen
- 7. B—Lock nut on the rotor wheel is loose
- 6. D—Battery cables are loose
- 5. A—Sound of the engine
- 4. D—All of the above
- 3. B—Cut-out
- 2. B—Coil spring pressed against timing gear
- 1. C—Broken timing gear



# Tiny Tips



ILLUSTRATED BY HOWARD BARNES

Unless you really like to run the risk of shorting out the pigtail under the upper distributor plate everytime you change points (because you have to take off the distributor cam to get to the bottom side of the upper plate to loosen the pivot post nut for the moveable point), here is a small modification which allows the timing cam and upper distributor plate to stay in place while you change points. Remove the pivot post from an old set of points and grind the head into an oval shape just small enough to slip through the wrap-around spring. The remaining head should be adequate to keep the spring in place. Install this post (permanently) in the upper plate of the distributor. When installing a new set of points, remove the (new) pivot post from the moveable spring arm and just slide the spring down over the (permanent) post. It is essential that the correct gap be set at 0.022" for new points.

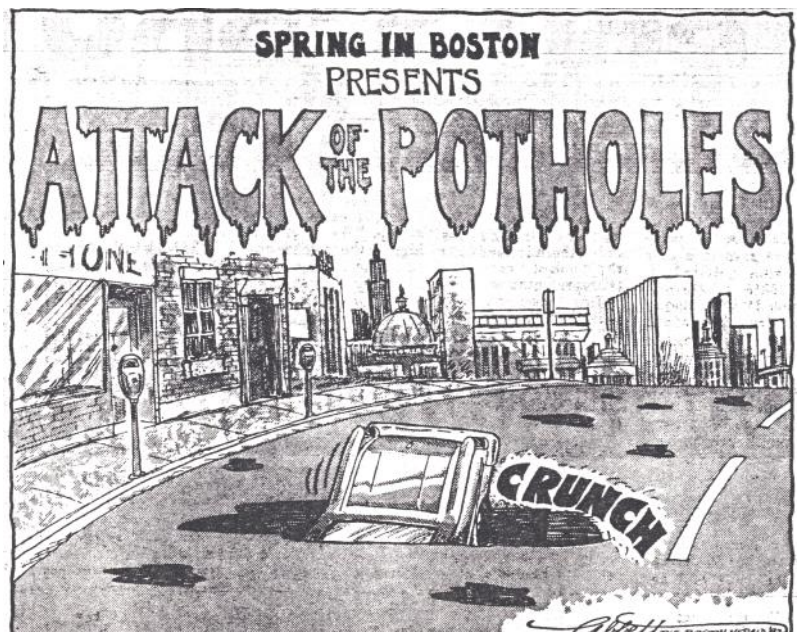
**Ed Giovannella, Minuteman Chapter, Medway, MA**

I thought you would find this “**Tiny Tip**” that our own member Ed Giovannella submitted to *The Restorer* magazine a number of years ago. Ed showed me how he modified the point post to allow the Model A points to be easily removed without the disassembly of the upper distributor plate or disturbing the timing of the engine. I have performed this modification on all my original distributors and spare points in my parts box. It takes only a few minutes to modify the points and I can attest that it sure makes changing the points an easy job.

## Hard Luck Trophy Update



Bob attended the February meeting and as you can see he was so “happy” to accept the Hard Luck Award. Bob will hopefully be back on the road soon.



If you've been out driving around this notice should be no surprise to you. I was driving on RT 9 the other day and I came across a convoy of trucks with flashing yellow lights and a big illuminated sign on a trailer stating “Pot Hole Repair.”

## Class "A" Ads



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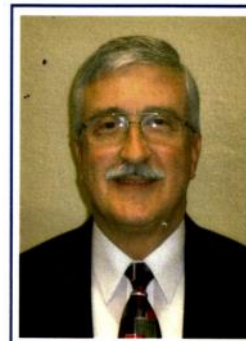
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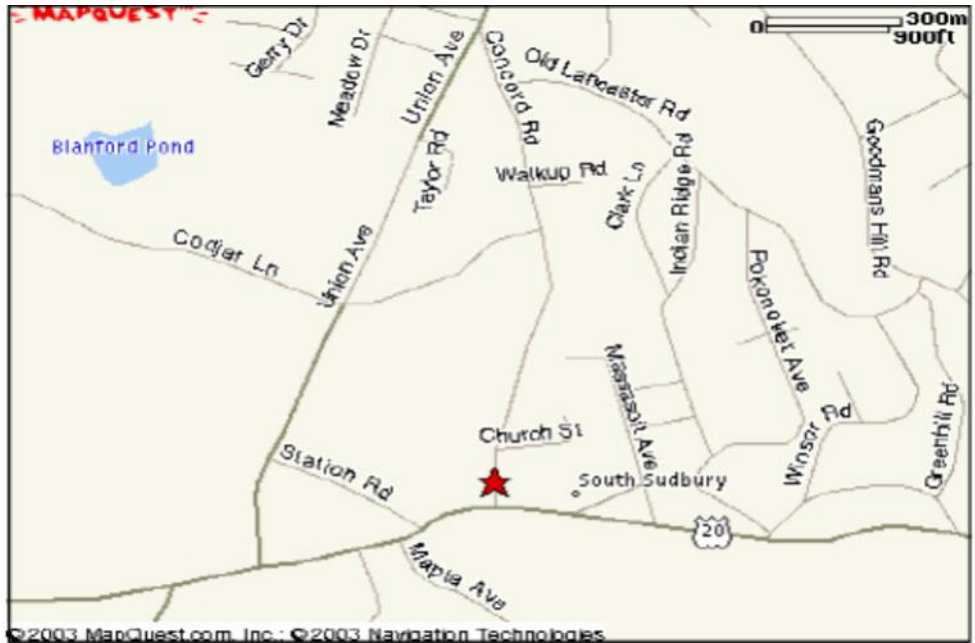
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## Latest News

The kick off of our 2022 club events will get started on March 27 with our annual Winter Blah's Flea Market. Please plan on helping with vendor setup at 6:30AM Sunday morning. Another successful event will be the annual Tour Clinic at the Legge's on April 30th. Please sign up for an appointment at the April meeting. And don't forget the Post Office Pub brunch tour on April 24th.



Monthly Meetings have resumed at the Memorial Congregational Church, 26 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. Hope to see everyone there.

Be sure to visit [www.oilleak.org](http://www.oilleak.org)



Please  
Mail to:

April 2022

Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club  
PO Box 545, Sudbury, MA 01776