

The il Leak

December 2025 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 62 Issue 12

The President Speaks:

A year ago Robyn and I had fun shopping for a center piece for the holiday party. Everything we came across had either been used before or just didn't appeal. Then we found the gnomes. What they had to do with Model A's we're still not sure but they were cute, festive and fun. The year that followed has been productive, fun and hopefully enjoyable for all.

It is hard to believe that time has gone by so quickly, and this is the last president's message of my term. Thanks to our great membership for all the help and support you have provided throughout the year. Our new slate of officers elected at the November meeting led by President Elect Peter McLaughlin stands ready to lead our club through the coming year. I look forward to "passing the torch" at the formal installation at the January meeting wishing them all the best for another interesting and busy year. The cars are all another year older and so are we, but at least we still can't be accused of being the car's original owner.



The annual November club auction was a great success. Items contributed by members for auction drew a lot of interest and the bidding was lively and fun. The money raised will help subsidize club activities including the annual Holiday Party coming up on December 14. The Holiday Party is one of the highlights of the year and is a great opportunity to share good wishes, good food, and good times with fellow club members. Don't forget to send your reservation in early and to bring an unwrapped gift to be donated to Toys for Tots.

The November tour calendar included a trip to Wrights Chicken Farm and lunch at The Old Mill Restaurant. If your car is still on the road the Maynard Holiday Parade is coming up on December 7 (also Pearl Harbor Day and the final day to change your Medicare health insurance).

My winter plan for my Model A involves wrapping it up and keeping it out of the snow and ice and doing some light maintenance tasks to prepare for spring touring. I still have some leftover tasks from last year, and some new ones to add to the list. For some reason, the leftover task list seems to grow longer each year. I just can't figure out how that happens. Just a part of the "round-to-it" syndrome!

Wishing all of you a joyous, prosperous and healthy year ahead and thank you all for your continued support which keeps our club so active all year round.



*Happy Motoring
Harold*



Sunshine

Sue Champagne

No cards were sent out last month. That's great news. Have a healthy Holiday Season.

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)

- Dec 3 No Regular Club Meeting, Dec 14 Holiday Party takes its place.**
Dec 7 Noon Maynard Holiday Parade (see page 3)
Dec 14 12:30 PM Club Holiday Party (see page 3)
Jan 7 Regular Club Meeting

TL = Tour Leader

MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

DECEMBER 1990 35 YEARS AGO

Twelve Model As were worked on at the third "Fall Garage Clinic" at Route 62 Automotive in Berlin, MA. Everyone was thankful to Scott Studivan for hosting this event and also to Bucky Silverstone for supervising front end alignments for almost 12 A's. Many other tasks were completed, i.e.- oil changes, tune-ups, etc....but most of all - several Model A experts were close by to answer questions.

DECEMBER 2000 25 YEARS AGO

Jo Johnson announced that three of our members would have their Model As featured in the Hemmings 2002 calendar. Those members were Dick Stitt, Wayne Champagne, and Lenny Michalak. The Holiday Party was scheduled to be held at the Marlboro Country Club. Charlie Scott, the President of MAFCA, and his wife, would be in attendance.

DECEMBER 2010 15 YEARS

The newly elected officers for 2011 were: President Dick Stitt, Vice President Harold Samuels, Secretary David Wilens, and Treasurer Barbara McElhiney. The coast-to-coast trip to Vancouver by Doug and Nan Linden in their 31 Sedan, and Dick and Barbara O'Brien in their 29 Woody had a daily blog that the Club enjoyed, plus it was visited by 25 countries! (blog: <https://boston-to-alaska.blogspot.com/>). Doug Linden was elected to the MAFCA Board of Directors for a two year term. The installation ceremony took place on December 11, 2010.

Minuteman Model A Ford Club Treasurer's Report October, 2025

Income:

Coffee Can	12.00
Member Dues	165.00
Misc Sales (NE Meet stuff)	350.00
Raffle (club)	35.00
<u>Wayside Inn Dinner</u>	<u>1774.00</u>
Total Income	\$2336.00

Expense:

Mass Tax Filing Fee	18.50
Oil Leak Printing	80.00
PO Box Fee	248.00
<u>Wayside Inn Dinner</u>	<u>1876.31</u>
Total Expenses	\$2222.81

Net Income \$ 113.19



National Organizations: If you aren't a member of these three groups, we encourage you to join them



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 \$35/yr.

2025 Board of Directors

President - Harold Samuels hsamuels10@gmail.com

Vice President - Peter McLaughlin petermclaughlin1485@gmail.com

Secretary - John Erb john.erb@verizon.net

Treasurer - Barbara McElhiney mcelhiney@rcn.com

Membership - Nan Linden 508-485-7575 met59a31@aol.com

Editor - Doug Linden douglingen@aol.com

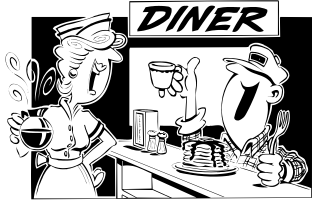
Steering Committee

Brad Johnson, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Wayne Champagne, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

Tour Director: Don Ross 617-584-5245 dross02466@gmail.com

Sunshine: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

Weekly Breakfast Group ➔



The breakfast group at the Big Apple, 890 Boston Post Road East (RT 20) in Marlborough, MA. We meet every Wednesday

around 7:15 AM. Why not join us there is always room for you. ➔



Additional Event/Tour Info

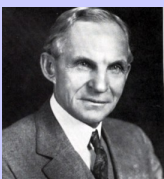
Dec 7 Maynard Christmas Parade. Parade lineup is 12:30 at 20 Sudbury St. Parade starts at 2:00PM

NO CLUB MEETING in December, the Holiday Party will take the place of the regular meeting. If you haven't signed up, call Peter McLaughlin (781-727-5850) asap and please bring a Toys-for-Tots gift. ➔

MINUTEMAN ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

Includes:
Hors D'oeuvres, Salad, Buffet Meal & Desert

**PRICE: \$30.00* PER PERSON MEMBER/GUEST
NON-MEMBER (\$50.00 PER PERSON)**



"If you think of standardization as the best that you know today, but which is to be improved tomorrow, you get somewhere."

Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club November 5, 2025

Sudbury Grange Hall, Sudbury, MA

The meeting was called to order by **President Harold Samuels** at 7:25 PM to thirty-six attendees excited to be there for the annual club auction. After the pledge of allegiance, the secretary's report and the treasurer's reports were accepted as printed in the Oil Leak.

Vice president - Peter McLaughlin reminded us of the upcoming holiday party.

The president then called on **Darren Chapman** to speak on the possible outreach to youth – an event at Minuteman Vocational school which could be held in the spring with displays of our cars or hands on time. He will continue to reach out to the school. President Harold then spoke of a chicken farm event with “cars and crooners”.

Nan Linden - Membership announced that we have a new member: Bart Snow of Marblehead who has a 1930 station wagon.

Doug Linden - National Rep reporting on national events, has posted flyers for the MAFCA convention in Oregon and the awards banquet December 3 in Alabama. Next year the awards banquet will be in Cincinnati host by the active Ohio Valley chapter. He pointed to a plaque we received from MAFFI for spearheading the fundraising effort to add to the Model A Museum. Our donation and matching challenge turned into almost a quarter of a million dollars.

Don Ross - Tour Director reported on October tours: the apple picking tour, the Acton Historical society tour, the Wayside Inn dinner with 33 attendees, and the Woburn Parade with five Model A's. In November there were 17 cars traveling to the chicken farm on the second. He mentioned that so far, we have no candidates for the “Hard

Luck “Trophy. November 10th is the dinner at the Old Mill in Westminster and December 7th is the Maynard Christmas parade, lining up at 12:30.

President Harold noted that the funeral for long time member Dick Stitt was attended by seven Model A's who drove the family from the Church to the cemetery. Many members attended the visiting hours as well.

Dick Krug announced that he has the schematics for a Borg-Warner overdrive.

The **Nominating committee** announced the slate of officers for next year:

- President, Peter McLaughlin,
- Vice Pres, Wayne Champagne
- Secretary, John Erb
- Treasurer, Barbara McElhiney

There were no other nominations, so the slate was elected with almost a unanimous vote with one “no” vote by one of

the candidates. (Joking we hope).

Larry Connely showed us a unique cell phone holder he made for a Model A.

Tom Zappala announced that there were N.E. meet items for sale on the front table.

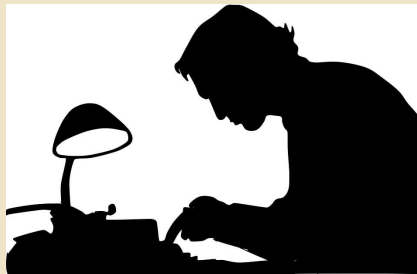
The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Refreshments and the club auction followed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Erb

Secretary



Woburn Halloween Parade

Five Model As participated in the Woburn Halloween Parade on Sunday, 10/26/25. The crowds were very large and enthusiastic, and we had many requests for our famous horns. Many young (and older) parade-goers were in costume, making for some very interesting viewing for all of us in cars. Participating with their families were Matt Cilley, Bill Byrne, Doug Farrell, Arnie Whitcomb, and Barbara McElhiney.



Model A For Sale



1930 TUDOR FOR SALE

J&M Engine rebuilt with sleeves, high compression head, balanced crank. Mitchell overdrive. Logo Lites turn signals. Interior replaced with LaBaron Bonney materials, Cast Iron brake drums, all brake parts replaced, Stipe Shocks, A&L Stop Switch. Brassworks radiator. Many extras: floor jack, 40 gallon air compressor, spare 6V alternator, spare carburetor, CB radio and antenna, four wheel dollies, Unity fog lights. Leather trunk. 1930 YOM Mass plate. Asking \$18K

Andy Adam 781-707-6336



88 MPH Time Machine Tour September 27, 2025

The weather was perfect for driving our Model A's to the 88 MPH Time Machine in Hubbardston, MA. Twenty-five people, eight Model A's, a vintage Buick Skylark, a Miata, and a few moderns participated in this adventure. The ride through Sterling, Princeton, and Hubbardston certainly had a lot of ups and downs with all the hills. The ride was scenic, and we even went on a dirt road by a beautiful lake, though Lenny was not happy with the dirt road part. Everyone made it to the museum without a hitch. The owners, Bill and Patrick Shea, greeted us with a warm welcome, snacks, and drinks. We were all impressed with the grounds, multiple barns, and the vast collection of movie props and vehicles from the movies *Back to the Future*, *Ferris Bueller*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Bullitt*. The tour lasted about two hours. All the proceeds went to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. After the tour, we were off to the Wachusett Brewery for lunch, where the generous portions allowed for many people to take home leftovers.

Thank you to everyone for participating and supporting a novice tour leader!!

Sue Hart



Here is link to more picture of the tour:

<https://wchampagnephotography.smugmug.com/88-MPH-Back-to-the-Future-Tour/n-vHtdbq>



Apple Picking Tour 10/4

It was a perfect fall day for the Minuteman tour from the Sudbury Grange to Carlson's orchard in Harvard. Seven cars enjoyed the thirteen mile back roads tour, including apple picking and social connections. Participating in the tour might be the next generation Model Aer's - Brad and Kathy Johnson's two grandchildren and Dick Krug's grandson (Eleanor, Levi and Owen). Others on the tour were the Champagne's, Don Ross, Doug Farrell, Mike Bizzozero and Mark Butler with friend.

A lunch at Sorrento's brick oven pizza followed. To be sure - no one went home hungry.

Frostbite Tour

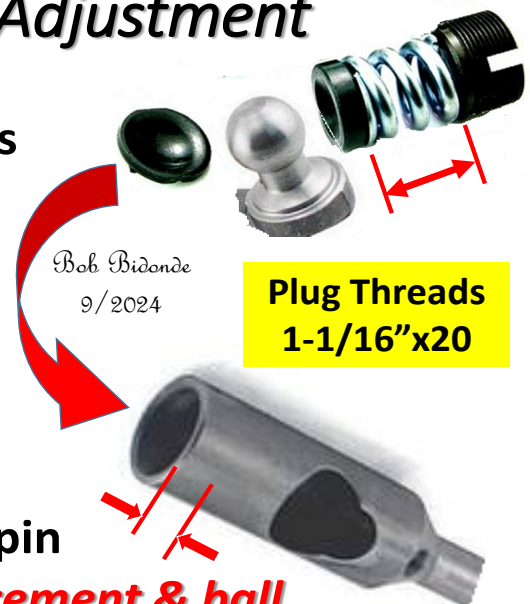
16 Minutepeople made it to the Old Mill Restaurant on a cool ,but not rainy, Sunday. The fire was roaring in the fireplace at the Restaurant, so we all warmed up and enjoyed a fine meal with lots of manifold talk. It was the last tour on the 2025 touring schedule . See you on the road in 2026.

Karen & Craig - Tour Leaders



Ball Joints - *End Plug* Adjustment

- Measure free length of the spring
- Assemble the parts into tie rod ends & or steering drag link ends
- Screw the plug in slowly until it just starts to compress the spring
 - This is zero spring compression
- Screw plug in further until its insertion depth is 25% of spring dimension & loosen to align cotter pin
- *Plug adjustments, joint parts replacement & ball replacements necessitate front wheel toe-in adjustment*



Bob Bidonde
9/2024

Plug Threads
1-1/16"x20

WAYSIDE INN DINNER

The annual Fall dinner at the Wayside Inn was another successful evening of Model A friends gathering for fine food and drink. The conversations were varied and plentiful. Thirty seven people signed up to attend for the



dinner which was served in the Ford Room. This room was actually the Bedroom when Henry and Clara Ford would visit the INN.

In case you didn't know, Henry Ford bought the Inn in the in 1923 and was in the ford possession until the late 1940's. When the inn sustained a massive fire in 1955 it was rebuilt with a grant from the Ford Foundation.

So what better place for the club to celebrate important events than the Wayside Inn. Thanks to Peter McLaughlin for making all the arrangements.

Welcome New Member

Nan reports one new member this month:

Bart & Tuula Snow
242 W Shore Drive
Marblehead, MA 01945
1930 Station Wagon
781-631-0069
bartsnow@hotmail.com

"Artie - Fact"

By "A" **nonymous**



The local council could not afford a speed camera, so they put up a sign saying: Slow down Old People's Home. – It had no effect. At the next meeting, they decided to play on their paternal instincts and put up a sign: Danger – Children at Play. The result was no noticeable reduction in traffic speed. Then the chairman had a brain-wave and suggested they try this sign: **Nudist Colony**. – As a result of the Nudist Colony sign, vehicles now crawl through the village.

CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What makes the clutch work?
2. How many windshield wipers does a production Model A have?
3. What is a quick start called?
4. What makes the oil and fuel get to their destinations?
5. Name the wheel arch covers for the rear wheels?
6. What is a battery terminal called?
7. What is a tire change necessity?
8. Name a timing setting value?
9. Name the author of the Chitty-Chitty Bang-Bang story.
10. What is found in the cylinder of an engine?





Time to renew your **MEMBERSHIP**

Dues are Due
2026



In order for us to keep our records up to date, **PLEASE** complete the form below and return with your check for **\$25**. If there are no changes, you won't have to complete the entire form, just check the appropriate box. *Thank you.*

Membership Renewal: _____ or New: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

email _____ Telephone ____ - ____ - _____

No Changes _____

I would like to receive my ***Oil Leak*** by email. Yes _____ No _____

(If you do not specify, it will be sent electronically if we have an email address on file.)

Are You a member of MAFFI _____ MAFCA _____ MARC _____

Model A Info:

Year _____ Body Style _____ Year Acquired _____

Year _____ Body Style _____ Year Acquired _____

Please make check payable to: Minuteman Model A Ford Club and mail to

Minuteman Model A Club
P.O. Box 545
Sudbury, MA 01776

ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. The clutch pedal
2. Only one (driver's side)
3. A jackrabbit start
4. Oil and fuel PUMPS
5. Skirts
6. Post
7. Spare tire
8. Advance or retard
9. Fleming
10. A piston



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Mason Capital was founded by Model A member Al Mason (1931 Fodor)

2/21/24 IPO Market Open: \$10.00

10/31/25 Market Close: \$ 11.23

Dividends Paid: \$ 0.28

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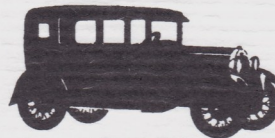
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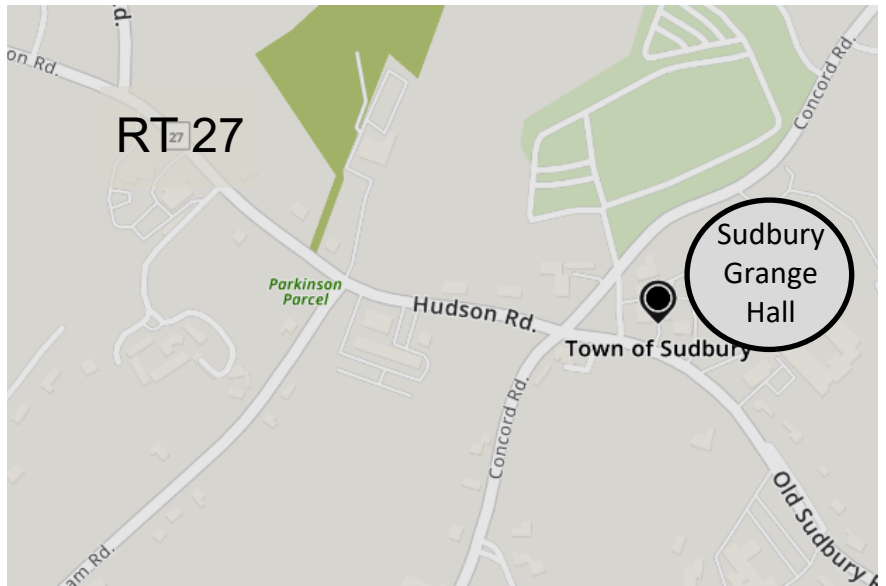
December News

A final reminder that the Dec 14 Holiday Party is the held in lieu of our regular December meeting.

The entire club membership thanks our 2026 Officers:

- Pres: Peter McLaughlin
- VP: Wayne Champagne
- Sect: John Erb
- Treas: Barbara McElhiney

Thank you for volunteering to keep the club motoring along for another year.



Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



Visit www.oilleak.org or scan here



Please
Mail to:

December 2025



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