

The Oil Leak

February 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 2

The Steering Column:

With the holidays in the rear-view mirror and the winter cold settling in, it can be challenging to keep tinkering and sitting in the cars we love but do not dare drive until spring washes the salt away. I am finding that when time permits and I can warm up the garage, focusing on one or two things on the Model A to work on is the best kind of therapy to stave off the winter doldrums. If you are working on your Model A and need a hand, do not be afraid to ask for help from the club membership, many are willing to help.

If your early riser and are looking to get out of the house, think about attending the Wednesday breakfast at the Big Apple. A hearty breakfast and great camaraderie. The dad jokes are optional.

I have been working part-time on my 1930 Fordor lately and wanted to share a couple photos of my progress. New Houdaille shocks installed, rebuilt the leaking gas gauge, reconditioned the muffler (and yes, I know it should not be glossy).



I want to challenge the membership with a small homework assignment (if you're willing). Bring a picture of your Model A and a small write-up of your history with the car. What specific model it is, where you purchased it from, what has been the biggest challenges with owning it, and what have you done to make it better (or worse). These cars all have a story and many of them I am sure are fascinating as they are living history of the last 95 plus years. I would love for this to be our February educational entertainment.

I hope that you are all staying healthy and getting ready for the upcoming club events. The Tour Committee Meeting February 4th at 6:00pm, and the Winter Blahs swap meet on March 22nd, at the Maynard Elks Club. Contact Ben Chirco if you can help us out. As they say, "Many hands make light work." It is a fun day and a good moneymaker for the club.

I hope to see you at breakfast,

Peter



Sunshine

Sue Champagne



A Get Well Card was sent to Martha Kerns.

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)

Feb 4 Regular Club Meeting (*tour planning meeting will take place before the regular meeting. Come and help plan this year's tours*)

Mar 1 MARCOM Swap Meet Holmes Bus Norton, MA (see page 5)

Mar 7 Model Engine Show, Waltham, MA @ Charles River Museum (10-4)

MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

FEBRUARY 1991 35 YEARS AGO

Our fundraising conscious treasurer and secretary made a pitch to sell new jackets and tote bags with our new club logo. Both items would make nice gifts as well as being practical. After much club discussion, it was voted to start our touring events from the Grange Hall in the spring. At this time we had 17 Club videos for members to use at no charge. You could borrow one at one meeting and return it at the next. You would sign out with Vice President Dick Sneeden.

FEBRUARY 2001 25 YEARS AGO

At 53, Jack Stokinger was definitely one of the youngest, if not *the* youngest, member of MAFCA to be awarded a "Thirty Five Year" Service pin! "35 at 53"! Also, to recognize his enthusiasm, his commitment to the hobby, and for helping fellow Model A-ers, Jack was the deserving recipient in 2021 of the much coveted MAFCA Chapter Service Award.

"New Location!" The Annual Winter Blahs Indoor Auto Parts Swap meet on March 25th would be at The Village Green at Fort Devens in Ayer, MA.

FEBRUARY 2011 15 YEARS

Gene Tallone was given the well-deserved President's Award for all of his efforts and participation with the Club. Doug Linden was presented the MAFCA Newsletter of Excellence Award for his efforts on the Oil Leak! On February 1, 2011, the Lindens and the O'Briens would give a condensed version of their cross-country trip to Vancouver and back (7,400 miles!) with a cruise to Alaska in between.

Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report
December, 2025

Income:

Holiday Party	\$1430.00
Member Dues	475.00
Total Income	\$1905.00

Expense:

Holiday Party General	\$2334.30
Oil Leak Printing	80.00
Total Expenses	\$2414.30
Net Income	\$ -509.30



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.

2026 Board of Directors

President - Peter McLaughlin petermclaughlin1485@gmail.com

Vice President - Wayne Champagne wchampagne@verizon.net

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 douglinen@aol.com

Steering Committee

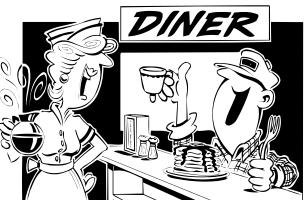
Harold Samuels, vacant, Tom Zappala, Wayne Champagne, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

Sunshine: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

Newsletter Distribution: 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.



Weekly Breakfast Group



Winter Blahs Flea Market

Sunday March 22, 2026

7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Maynard Elks Lodge

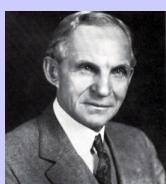
34 Powder Mill Road (RT 62)

Maynard, MA 01754

Vendor Spaces: \$20.00

General Admission: \$5.00

Ben Chirco 508-733-3845



“The chief function of the body is to carry the brain around”
Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club January 7, 2025

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

The meeting was gaveled to order at 7:30 by outgoing president Harold Samuels to 35 attendees at the Grange. President Harold proceeded to relinquish several things to the new president Peter McLaughlin including the gavel. A couple of plaques were presented to the new president. Peter accepted the plaques and the microphone and presented Harold with a past president plaque which was created by member Dennis Porter.

The president then led in the pledge of allegiance followed by the acceptance of the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports.

Incoming vice president Wayne Champagne thanked the membership for their voting him in. He then referred to the club newsletters and the MAFFI newsletter on the head table. He has secured the holiday party date for the coming year – December 13 at the Point Grille in Sudbury.

The president called on Nan Linden for membership news. She reported one new member Lee Oliver of Lynn and reminded us that dues (\$25) were due.

Donn Ross was called upon to report on tours. He reported that some recurrent dates, like the Wellesley parades and the New England Meet were already scheduled but that other tours needed to be planned. He announced that there would be a tour committee meeting next month at 6:00 pm prior to the meeting.

The president mentioned that there was no old business but in new business the future meetings were scheduled at the Grange except the May meeting would be on the 13th because of a conflict with the Grange use.

The Winter Blahs flea market has a new leader in Ben Chirco. He announced that letters are going out and a lease agreement with the Elks is in the works. A list of needed tasks is being passed around for members to sign up – food, layout, cleanup etc. He also mentioned that raffle items need to be donated for the flea market.

In National News, Doug Linden reported two national events: the MARC Tour of the finger lakes

in NY (May 11– 14) and MAFCA National Convention May 31 – June 6. Nan and Doug attended the awards banquet in Mobile, AL. He has been acting as Chapter coordinator and has been reelected as president of MAFCA. (round of applause).

He went on to promote MAFFI and pointed out they will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Model A is in 2028 with a big event.

Doug later discussed program ideas for future meetings. One idea is to bring in a growler to test armatures of generators and starters. There are a few videos to use on the Model A. More discussion is needed.

He also pointed out that our club is a member of MARC, MAFCA, MAFFI and MAAC. He introduced William Ellis, president of MAAC (Massachusetts Association of Automobile Clubs) who was in attendance and a discussion followed about the legislation past and present that concerns the hobby. (note: William Ellis is also a Minuteman member)

It was announced that a 50/50 raffle would be conducted at the break. Also, member Larry Connolly needs help with his 1930 sport coupe.

The "Hard Luck" trophy was bought out and presented to Ben Chirco. Wayne Champagne recounted the breakdown as he was driving the car at the tour clinic when Ben apparently "Lost his Head" (the cylinder head broke in half.)

Because of the inaugural meeting a cake was provided at the break.

A guest in attendance, Ed Underwood was introduced and welcomed.

Refreshments for the next meeting would be brought by Len and Peg Michalak, Margaret Klingmeyer and Dawn Levesque.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Erb

PROUD MEMBER

Massachusetts Association of Auto Clubs



Promoting the Interests of the Hobby !!!



MAAC Report

At the January meeting a report was given on the recent Mass DOT hearing where MAAC president and Minute-man club member William Ellis testified on the merits of the Inspections for antique vehicles and the restoration of YOM plates. The list shows a few of the bills that the DOT is considering at this legislative session. If the Inspection or YOM Plate bills moves MAAC will report to all clubs

MAAC MEETING HELD ON October 30th, at 6:30PM

Unitarian Church, 2 West Main Street, Norton, MA.
located at the intersection of Route 123 and Route 140.

Fall Discussion of bills scheduled for November 4 Joint Transportation Committee Public Hearing.

H3685	An Act designating historic routes	Howitt, Steven S. (HOU)
H3686	An Act relative to license plate year of manufacture registration	Howitt, Steven S. (HOU)
H3687	An Act relative to vehicle inspection exemptions for vintage automobiles 45 years or older	Howitt, Steven S. (HOU)
H3766	An Act relative to the odometer reading of a vehicle that is 25 years or older	Ramos, Orlando (HOU)
H3767	An Act relative to removing the driving restrictions on a car with antique tags	Ramos, Orlando (HOU)
S2349	An Act prohibiting video recording or broadcasting while driving	Comerford, Joanne (SEN)
S2388	An Act relative to historic route designations	Feeney, Paul R. (SEN)
S2423	An Act relative to the use of video screens while operating a motor vehicle	Montigny, Mark C. (SEN)
Discussion of proposed bill H5220 to curb "recent street takeovers"		
H5220	An Act relative to protecting the public from street takeovers	Christopher M. Markey

MARCOM FLEA MARKET SUNDAY- MARCH 1st, 2026

*The ANNUAL MODEL A RESTORERS CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS
WINTER FLEA MARKET*

WILL BE HELD AT HOLMES TRANSPORTATION COMPANY, 22 MYRTLE STREET, NORFOLK, MA. FROM 7:30 AM TO 11:00 AM

THE FLEA MARKET SPACES WILL STILL BE PRICED AT \$20.00 EACH FOR AN APPROXIMATE 10' X 10' SPACE.

GENERAL ADMISSION IS NOW \$5.00 PER PERSON



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DEAN ZWICKER,
#508-285-3211 OR zwhizzerman@aol.com.

Changing of the Guard

The January meeting saw 2025 President Harold Samuels pass the official club gavel to 2026 President Peter McLaughlin. Peter thanked Harold and immediately presented him with a commemorative plaque for his service as President. At this time the 2026 officers also were seated at the head table, with Vice President - Wayne Champagne, Treasurer - Barbara McElhiney and Secretary - John Erb. Thank you for your service to the club.

2026 club Officers



Harold turns over the Presidential Gavel to Peter incoming President



Peter presents Harold with the outgoing Present Award



Wayne Champagne



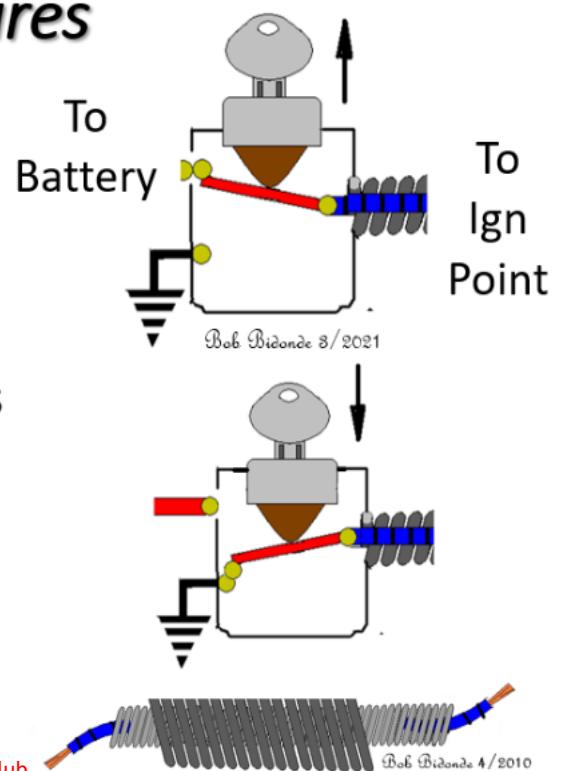
John Erb



Barbara McElhiney

Popout Ignition Switch Features

- Combo ignition switch & anti-theft device
- Pops-out to “ON” which connects battery to moveable ignition point & condenser
 - Key can be removed while car runs
- Push-in to “OFF” which grounds moveable ignition point & condenser so engine will not run
- Oppositely wound metal conduits prevents cutting wire to bypass ground in switch



Credit Bob Bidondi Long Island Club

HOW DO YOU SURVIVE COLD WEATHER IN A MODEL A

The Model A Ford did not come with a heater, in fact most cars at that time didn't have heaters. The first manufacturer to offer a heater was Chrysler in 1929, but it was expensive. Ford did offer a primitive manifold heater in 1930 available from the dealers. It was a design that used sheet metal that wrapped around the exhaust manifold. Other manufacturers also developed accessory heaters using the exhaust manifold as the source of heat. Some of these are pictured and are readily found as swap meets. The most common type was the Auto-lite which offered two types, one using a manifold with the "waffle" top that replaced the standard Ford exhaust mani-



Ford Model A heater



Auto-light heater



Otwell Heater



Frisco Heater

fold. And the other was a cast iron cover that clamped on the standard Ford manifold. The Otwell company also provided a manifold heater that provided good heat. The other example is a Frisco Heater that uses a sheet metal cover, similarly like the Ford offered heater. Some heaters of the era also use floor vents to get heat into the cabin, such as the unit that was in the Fodor sedan that Dick O'Brien once owned.

There are many more aftermarket options available for Model A owners, these are just a few. As for manufacturers offering them as optional equipment that didn't come until the 40's and didn't become standard equipment until the early 60's.

To the left is an example of an Auto-lite heater that has also been modified by installing a squirrel cage blower to increase the airflow into the cabin via the firewall connection.

The owner of this Fordor lives in Ohio and drives his Model A as much as he can in the winter so having a good heater was a necessity.

These pictures came from the George Washington Club website technical session on Heaters

Blower motor



Ford Model A Manifold Heater YouTube/JWilliams81



Don Ross—Tour Director presents Ben Chirco with Hard Luck Trophy for 2025

HARD LUCK TROPHY

The coveted Hard Luck Trophy was fondly awarded to Ben Chirco for his unfortunate, but timely breakdown at the 2025 Spring Tune-up Clinic. On the test drive of his 1931 Pickup the engine head split in half. He was rescued and actually left the clinic with a replacement head thanks to Harold Legge. Ben must have had premonition in that he trailered the PU to Harolds house which made getting back home easy.

Ben says he will proudly display this award for the year.



Ben with replacement head

Welcome New Member

Nan reports one new member this month:

Dan & Jamie Peck
6 Field Drive
Plainville, MA 02762
1930 Tudor



“Artie - Fact”

By “A” nonymous



The young man pulled up and grinned when the police officer told him sternly that he had been doing over eighty.

“Isn’t that great!” he exclaimed.
“And I’m only just learning to drive!”



CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What type of engine did Ford Motor Company introduce in 1932?
2. What is the function of the pitman arm on the Model A?
3. Who was the president of Ford Motor Company in 1930?
4. What did the "SS" stand for on the Chevelle Malibu?
5. What is a "wheelbarrow" in CB language?
6. What year were car batteries finally mounted under the hood?
7. What was the Cushman Co. famous for other than road vehicles?
8. Who convinced Henry Ford to convert to the hydraulic braking system in 1939?
9. How many headlights did the 1958 Cadillac have?
10. What was the common color of the Checker Taxicabs?





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. V-8 Engine
2. 2. To connect the steering box and the drag link to the tie rod for steering.
3. Edsel Ford
4. Super Sport
5. Dump truck
6. 1937
7. .Golf Carts
8. Edsel Ford
9. 4 headlamps 1
10. Yellow

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

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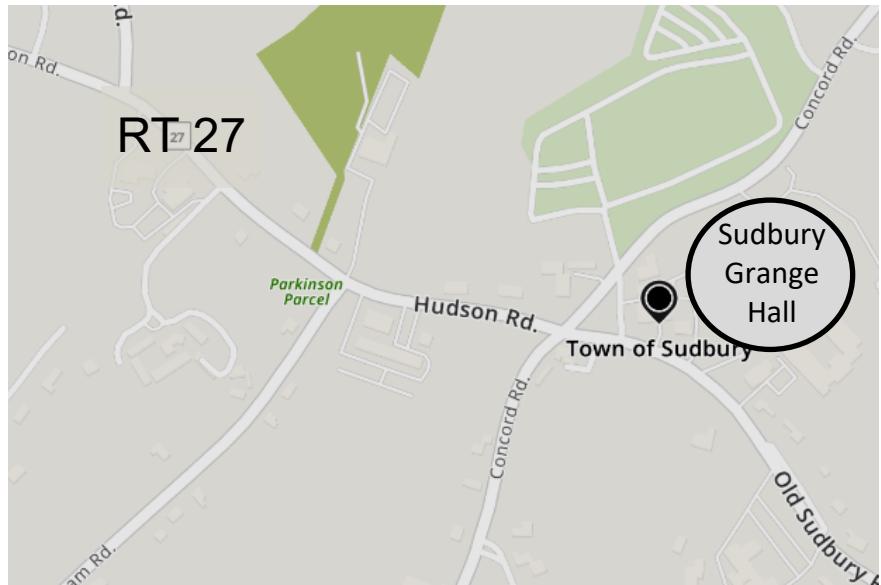
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February News

In Peter's president message he asked for members to bring in some pictures and stories on their Model A: where it came from and what you have done to it since you have owned.

This will make a nice Tech session for the February meeting.

Don't forget to sign up to help at the Winter Blah's flea market. Be sure to see Ben. Also think about taking a space to sell some of your extra parts.



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.



or scan here

Visit www.oilleak.org

CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

MODEL "A" FORD
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February 2026

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