

# The il Leak

February 2024 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 61 Issue 2

## *The President Speaks:*

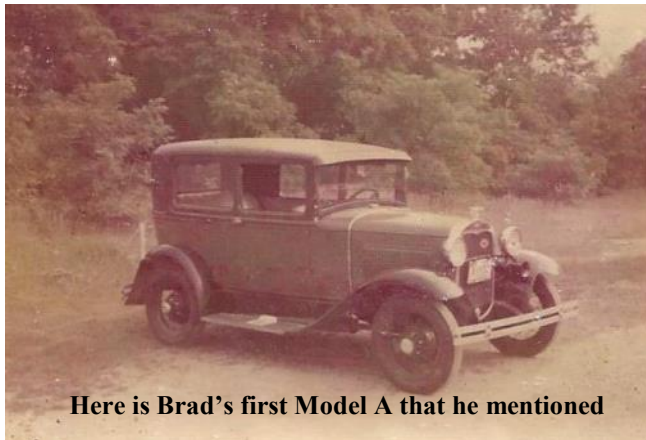
Remember when we used to carry pictures in our wallets. (No insult meant if you still do.) I have this crinkly, old picture of my first Model A from back in the early '70s. I carried it around for 40 years, even though it was eventually behind a picture of my wife, and then my children. About 10 years ago, I pulled out the picture to show a group of men, and they started laughing at me. "He's got a real picture in his wallet!" Now we all carry phones with hundreds of pictures, maybe thousands. Can you imagine telling someone in the '70s they would carry pictures around on their phone?

February is Valentine's month, and the decorations have been up in the stores since before Christmas! Don't forget some chocolate or flowers for that special someone!

With the storm we got on January 7<sup>th</sup>, I assume almost all of our



John Kerns passes the club gavel to  
Brad Johnson 2024 President



Here is Brad's first Model A that he mentioned

cars are tucked away from all the salt and snow. But before you know it, you can chase those blahs away with our annual Winter Blahs Flea Market, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Maynard Elks Club. Maybe you'll find that one part you've been looking for. Contact Craig Martin about helping out with the many jobs needed to pull this off. This is always a fun time and a good moneymaker for the club.

*Prez Brad*

*Happy  
Valentine's Day!*



## Sunshine

Sue Champagne

Although no cards were sent last month keep Susan Farrell in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from recent surgery.

*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 6** Regular Club Meeting
- Mar 3** MARCOM Flea Market (see page 5)
- Mar 5** Regular Club Meeting
- Mar 24** Minuteman Winter Blahs Flea Market (see page 5)

TL = Tour Leader

## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### FEBRUARY 1989 35 YEARS AGO

Jim True presented a financial report for our National Meet in Sturbridge in 1988. The club then had access to \$15,160.89 resulting from that Meet and had an opportunity to build a club library of books and videos, etc. We could reach out to the community by way of a tool scholarship, a permanent club library and a donation to the Girl Scout Camp Virginia, by motion, seconded, and passed in the amount of \$2,850.00.

### FEBRUARY 1999 25 YEARS AGO

It was decided that our Annual Minuteman Swap Meet would be held on March 21st at Acton Ford and that 155 letters would be sent out to interested vendors, clubs, etc. A big thank you was extended to Shelly Boucher for getting our club online. The website address was posted in the January Oil Leak for all interested surfers. MAFCA had agreed to donate up to three \$4,000.00 grants to schools who have teenagers willing to restore a Model A. House Bill 4785, the Massachusetts bill which permitted you to insure your collector car at collector rates, had passed and been signed by the Governor.

### FEBRUARY 2009 15 YEARS AGO

A vote to approve the newly revised by-laws were ready. There was a plan to have a discussion on these new changes before the vote. John Jacobson passed the gavel at the January meeting to Jack Stokinger as the new year's incoming Club President. The past 2008 Touring Season saw a new recognition given to folks who break down while on a tour. A rubber chicken is ceremoniously awarded. The laughter it generated was exactly the spirit in which it was given...All in Fun!!

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

### Treasurer's Report December, 2023

#### Income:

Advertising	\$ 25.00
Club Items Sold (hats)	80.00
Holiday Party	900.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>160.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 1165.00

#### Expense:

Flea Market	34.30
Holiday Party General	2275.92
<u>Oil Leak Printing</u>	<u>80.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 2390.22

**Net Income** \$ -1225.22



### 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 \$35/yr.**



## 2023 Board of Directors

**President** - Brad Johnson [bradj54@comcast.net](mailto:bradj54@comcast.net)

**Vice President** - Harold Samuels [hsamuels10@gmail.com](mailto:hsamuels10@gmail.com)

**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

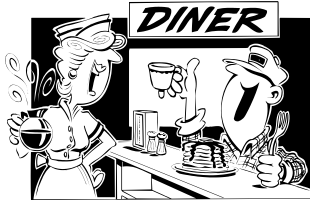
John Kerns, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**Tour Director:** Don Ross 617-584-5245 [dross02466@gmail.com](mailto:dross02466@gmail.com)

**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. We meet every Wednesday

around 7:30 AM. Why not join us there is always room for you.



### Hard luck Trophy



This year the hard luck trophy was awarded by the tour committee to Suzanne & Robert Hart. At the meeting Robert explained the problem and what it took to correct it. It was quite involved and required shimming the engine's flywheel housing. WOW. As always when you get into this kind of repair you always find other things and Robert brought a box of other items needed to be replaced as a show and tell. Thanks to Suzanne & Robert for being good sports about accepting this light hearted award.



*"A cheaply made product is too expensive to be priced cheaply."*  
*Henry Ford*

## Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club January 2, 2024

Memorial Congregational Church, Sudbury, MA

Outgoing President John Kerns kicked off tonight's meeting at 7:34 PM by leading the membership in the pledge of allegiance, with 34 members in attendance tonight. John, then with one strike of the gavel handed the proceedings over to incoming President Brad Johnson. Minuteman Club officers for 2024:

President – Brad Johnson  
Vice President – Harold Samuels  
Treasurer – Barbara McElhiney  
Secretary – Rick Gadbois

### Officers Reports:

Brad requested a motion to accept the Secretary's report as was printed in the Oil Leak. - MSP.

Brad requested a motion to accept the Treasurers' Report as printed in the Oil Leak – MSP.

VP Report: Harold "I am awaiting input".

### Membership:

Nan Linden is collecting dues for 2024.

Nan has an offer you can't refuse, if you have never been a member of MAFCA. Nan has one year free membership forms.

No new members to report this month, however we have a recycled member in attendance. Kit Tucker is here tonight, he has been a member in the past and is from Ridge NH. He has a 1929 Roadster. Welcome Back Kit!

### National News:

Doug Linden - MARC and MAFCA are great organizations, if you are not already a member you should consider becoming one, they both have great bi-monthly magazines.

The MARC National Convention this year will be held in Ashville, NC.

The MAFCA National Convention this year will be in New Mexico, Doug will be attending.

### Touring:

Don Ross – Final tour report for the 2023 season: 28 tours, 4 or 5 were rained out.

Good trip to the Willard Clock Museum, Apple Picking without the rain, a trip to Stowe, VT. We had great meals and lots of Ice Cream, thanks to all the tour leaders that made it happen! We had a pretty successful year, our cars ran well, we ran out of gas on a couple of occasions. We had electrical problems which were minor.

**Robert and Sue Hart** had an issue that required a little deeper dive. After a couple of clutch issues Robert dove deep, measuring the alignment of the flywheel housing, resurfacing flywheel, new pressure plate and while the engine is out, we may as well check the bearings, replace timing gear and water pump. All of this work deserves something special, and with that we present you with the:

**"Hard Luck Trophy Award"**

*Editor's note: Suzanne & Robert graciously accepted the trophy. See page 3*



### Old Business:

Raffles are back! Dick Krug will be selling tickets during the break, we have a 50/50 and a Model A calendar today.

Also, Brad wants to mention that you can receive the Oil Leak electronically through

E-mail, it is in color, and will save the club \$\$ for printing and postage!

### New Business:

Refreshment volunteers for next month's meeting are the Michalak's and Peter McLaughlin.

The Annual Winter Blahs Swap Meet will be held on Sunday March 24th at the Maynard Elks Club. Craig Martin has the planning well underway and will be looking for volunteers to assist.

Tom Zappala – The New England meet this year is in Connecticut, just south of Hartford, if you have never been to one this would be a good choice to attend to see how the meet is run, because, next year (2025) it will be the Minuteman's turn to hold the meet. Tom and Barbara McElhiney will be chairing the meet, a host hotel has been selected and they will need many individuals to assist. Tom is currently looking for folks to captain the "Program", "Raffle Room" and "Repair Tent".

Dates for the meet are Friday 9/12 to Sunday 9/14 of 2025.

The Grand Tour will end at Fruitland Museum.

### Programs:

Marty Grady will do a presentation on all of the US flag configurations.

### Running Board Commentary:

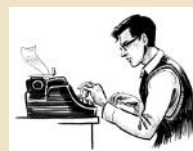
### Happy New Year to all !!!!!

Meeting was officially adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rick Gadbois*

Secretary



## “Artie - Fact”

by “A”nonymous

### **A blonde driving a car became lost in a snowstorm.**

She didn't panic however, because she remembered what her dad had once told her. "If you ever get stuck in a snowstorm, just wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it." Sure enough, pretty soon a snow plow came by, and she started to follow it.

She followed the plow for about forty-five minutes. Finally the driver of the truck got out and asked her what she was doing. And she explained that her dad had told her if she ever got stuck in a snow storm, to follow a plow.

The driver nodded and said, "Well, I'm done with the Wal-Mart parking lot, do you want to follow me over to Best Buy now?"



**Sunday March 24, 2023**

**7:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Maynard Elks Lodge  
34 Powder Mill Road (RT 62)  
Maynard, MA 01754

Vendor Spaces: \$20.00

General Admission: \$3.00

Craig Martin (978-562-2390)

## MARCOM FLEA MARKET

**SUNDAY- MARCH 3rd**

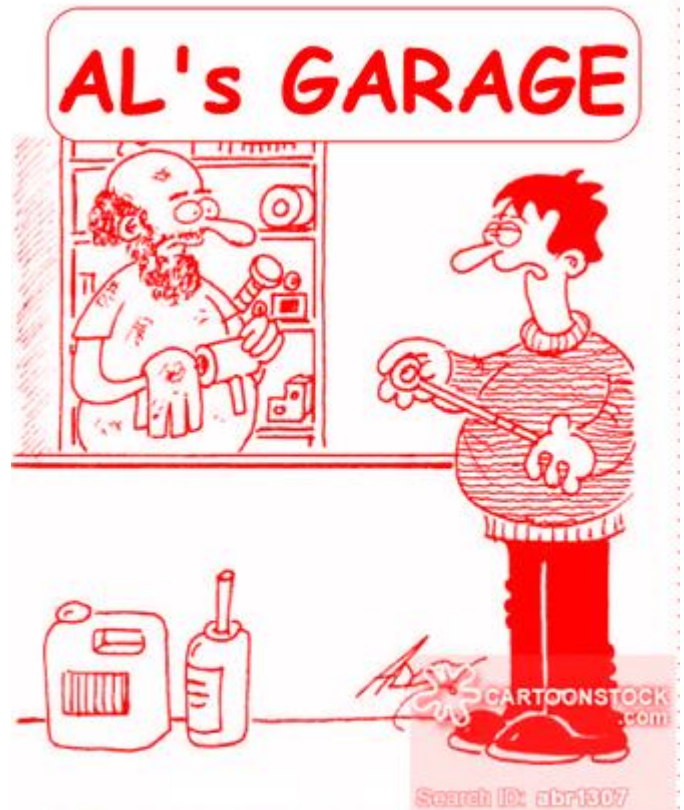
***WINTER FLEA MARKET***

**AT HOLMES TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

**22 MYRTLE STREET, NORFOLK, MA.**

**FROM 7:30 AM TO 11:00 AM Admission**

**\$3.00**



**"I'm looking for a longer dipstick for my Model A. This one doesn't reach the oil anymore."**

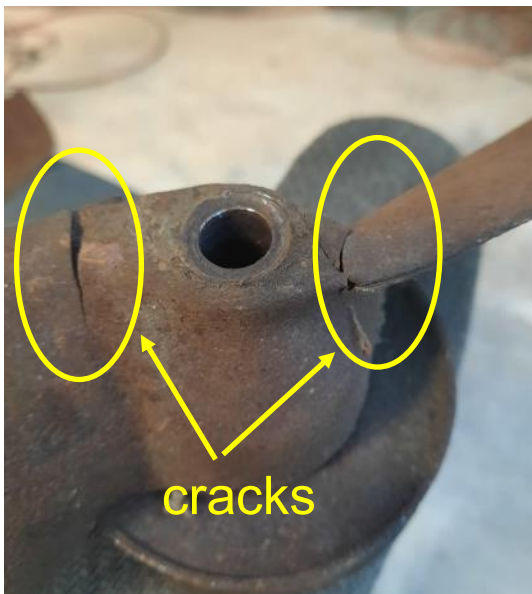
*FYI although the appearance of the various Model A dip sticks are different, they actually measure the oil in the pan exactly same.*



## “FAN” TASTIC

OK, when was the last time you thought of the fan on the Model A? Probably not recently for sure. The fan however can be the source of some serious problems for both the Model A and YOU. The Model A fan is shaped like a propellor and draws a large amount of air through the radiator at idle and low speeds. It's construction was made out of two pieces of pressed steel that are then welded together to form the fan. The problem is that over the years these fans are susceptible to fatigue cracks which will eventually cause the fan to fly apart. And likely at the most inopportune time. Fortunately not many of us are still using original fans as these can cause damage to your radiator, hood and even personal injury if you happen to have your head under the hood. We are fortunate that an exact copy of the fan is now available. It's made out of cast aluminum

and is what you should be using on your Model A. There are 4-blade fans that are also used and they are subject to the same fatigue and also should not be used. I can say that my original fan did let go while on a tour and seriously damaged my radiator and put a small dent on the side of the hood. Others have not been so lucky as the broken blade went right the hood. In another instance were on tour and a member could hear an unusual sound. At the next rest stop we took a look and were amazed to see the fan had partially broken and was rubbing on the radiator. We continued the tour by breaking off both blades of the fan. Needless to say this disaster was avoided just in time. If you still have an original 2-blade or 4-blade fan please replace it while the Model A's are resting in the garage for the winter.



As you can see from the above pictures cracks in the fan can be obvious and some not so. Harold Samuels can attest to how close to disaster he was do to a bad fan/ The new aluminum fans are the way to go.

They are Fantastic !



Time to renew your  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
*Dues are Due*



## Have you paid your 2024 dues?

In order for us to keep our records up to date, **PLEASE** complete the form below and return with your check for **\$20**. 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 \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

If No Changes above check here: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## The History of our Flag



Marty Grady (with assistance of his wife Bonnie) was our guest speaker at the January meeting. Marty is a US Veteran, past commander of the Natick American Legion post 107 and an avid Flag history buff.

Marty's focus tonight covered the history of our flags from the time we were British Colonies thru the Civil War. And a few others that were particularly unique. Our early flags were based off the British flag with it's Union Jack. During the Revolutionary war there were a number of flags used before the more traditional stars and stripes took over the design. Marty did a great job explaining the flags and the story behind them.

Thanks to Marty (and Bonnie) for a great program.



## CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

- What was the 50s/60s Pontiac wagon called?
- What city was the boattail Car built in Indiana?
- What makes the beetle-type engine unique?
- What is the Engine-transmission combo called?
- What is the manual window control called?
- What was the Ford-designed V/8 engine called?
- What was the sporty Hertz car called?
- What are steering wheel-mounted shifters called?
- Name the vital part of the cooling system that needs to blow called.
- What auto company built the Rambler?





## **A Hidden Gem**

Chris Rogers of the Milford area Model A Club recently took his carburetor apart for cleaning and was surprised by what he found. During the disassembly something unusual caught his eye, the float valve looked different. Yes, the ball in the float valve was made of glass. This float valve look very similar to the Grose Jet valve that was right here in Stoneham, MA, but instead of a steel ball this was glass. We held the valve up to a light and sure enough you could see the light right through it. It was indeed glass and not an optical illusion.. Chris had no idea how long that valve was in the carb, but it worked. A search on the internet did not produce any information on this type of valve. So we will have keep searching.

In all the years of working on Model A's many of have never seen a float valve with a glass ball, have you?

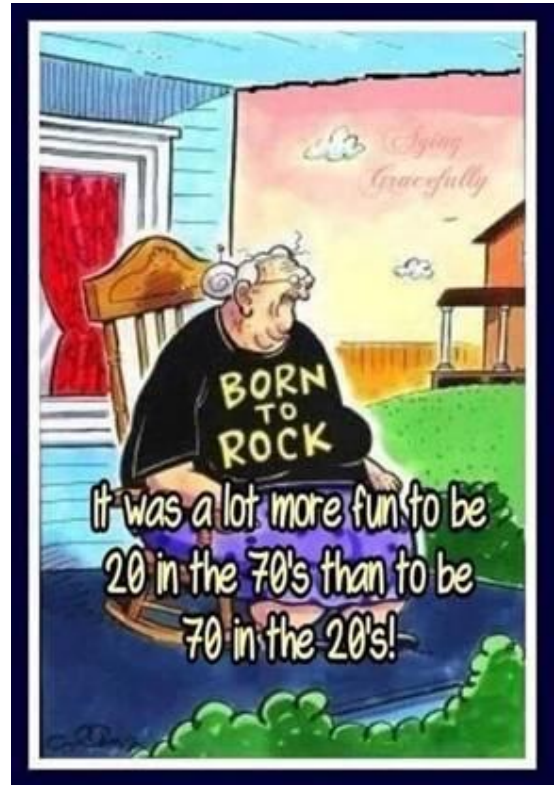


## **The Raffle is Back**

After a long hiatus since Covid, we were happy to have the club's 50/50 raffle back in operation at the monthly meeting. Dick Krug was kind to take over the duties starting with the January meeting. Dick is shown here presenting the fist-in-a-long-time winner, Dennis Porter, with his portion of the winnings. Buy some tickets at the next meeting, it supports the club.

## ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

11. Safari
2. Auburn
3. Air cooled
4. Powertrain
5. Crank
6. Flathead
7. Mustang
8. Paddles
9. Fan
10. Nash



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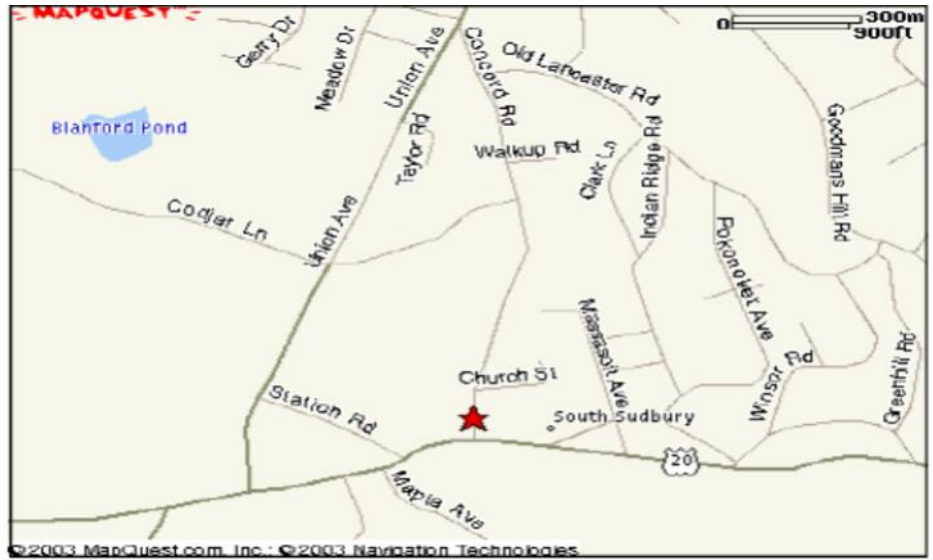
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### Last Minute Items

We are about mid way through winter and we may still have some maintenance items to do on the Model A. The first of the season Flea Markets will be here soon and we can look for a few last minute items for those project. There will be plenty of tours to enjoy season so now is the time to finish those projects.



Our Monthly meetings are held 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:

February 2024

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