

# The il Leak

January 2023 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 60 Issue 1

## *The President Speaks:*

**Hi All,**

Ready for a fun year? with our cars in their winter storage as we await the spring.

A big thanks to Doug Farrell for the GOOD job as president.

As we look forward to the future season remember it is your club so let your thoughts be known to the steering committee. Tour's, picnic, and movie night are the crowd pleasers. Martha and I welcome the club to the use of our yard as a venue for the club.

I was thinking back to 1953. The cars and trucks parked in our lot were what my brother and I used for a gym. When dad brought home a new van we thought it might need some repairs. After getting the hood open we rearranged the spark plug wires with no particular order. Next morning the fun started the van made lots of noises but would not start. Dad came in the house, grabs the phone and called the dealership to let them know what he thought of the van. After a service call all was good as new.

So I guess I always had a love for auto repair.

The first was a disaster but I got better at it as the years went by.

Always remember: Life by the yard is hard; But by inch it's a cinch!



By For now,  
*John Kerns*



# Sunshine

Sue Champagne

Get Well cards were sent to:  
Susan Farrell, Peg Michalak,  
Judith Ann Webster and Martha  
Kerns.

Sympathy cards were sent to: Gene Tallone &  
family, and Patricia Callan & family.

*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)

- Jan 3** Regular Club Meeting  
**Feb 7** regular Club Meeting  
**Mar 7** Regular Club Meeting  
**Mar 26** Winter Blah's Flea Market

TL = Tour Leader

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report  
November, 2022

### Income:

Club Auction	301.00
Club Items Sold	120.00
Coffee Can	72.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>320.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 813.00

### Expense:

Coffee Supplies	47.76
<u>Oil Leak Printing</u>	<u>70.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 117.76

**Net Income** \$ 695.24



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### JANUARY 1988 35 YEARS AGO

1988 was our club's 25th anniversary! Lifetime honorary memberships, by popular vote, went to three charter members. Congratulations to Bill McSweeney, Art Crooke, and Fitz Stevens. Our July picnic was written up in the National "Restorer" Magazine!

### JANUARY 1998 25 YEARS AGO

This year, a first place honor went to Wayne Champagne for his participation and dedication to our club. Second and third place proudly went to Art Callan and Dick Stitt, respectively. Also this year congratulations went jointly to Joop and Marlies Plaggenborg, winners of the National "Chapter Service Award".

### JANUARY 2008 15 YEARS AGO

There were snowflakes and a nip in the air at our annual Holiday Party, but it was warm and festive inside the Marlboro Country Club and a good time was had by all. In the January "Oil Leak" was a request for someone to step forward and help coordinate the Club's Annual Flea Market.

**National Organizations:** (If you are not a member of these great organizations please consider joining 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 \$25/yr.

## 2023 Board of Directors

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**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

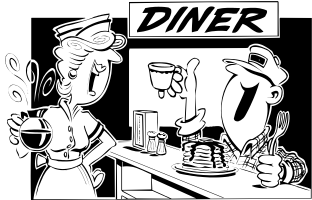
Vacant, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**Tour Director:** Don Ross 617-584-5245 [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 is back and growing. We meet every Wednesday around 8 AM. Why not join us there is always room for you. →



### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Nan reports no new members this month.

If you are out & about and see a Model Pay the driver a visit and invite them to join the club.

*Welcome!*

### New England Meet Survey Update

Returns of the survey in the October newsletter are being received. The replies indicate people are willing to help, which is good. BUT what we really need are members to Chair the committee activities. Chairing a committee is not difficult so please consider volunteering to help.



2023 New England Meet  
Sept 6-10 2023  
Long Island, NY



*"There are no dead ends. There is always a way out. What you learn in one failure you utilize in your next success"*  
*Henry Ford*



# 2022 Holiday Party

The final event of the year for the club is our annual Holiday Party. Thanks to the efforts of Doug Farrell and Harold Samuels the party was a huge success. Over 40 members were able to attend this gala event. There was some initial concern when the restaurant changed ownership, but the new owner assured Doug and Harold there would be no problems...and there weren't. The food on the buffet table was excellent and lots of it, so no one left hungry.

There was plenty of conversation of family events and of course Model A projects. And it was good to see some members we haven't seen for quite awhile.

The members were also very generous in their support for the Toys-for-Tots program as there are many youngsters that would probably have no presents if it weren't for this and other charities that support the underprivileged.

A good time was had by everyone who attended and Happy Holidays to all our members.







## ARTIE-FACTS BY ART CALLAN

### THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR:

As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I just thought, WOW, that's the fastest I've moved in years.

I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

I don't use turn signals because it's nobody's business where I'm going.

*Sadly this will be the last installment of Artie-facts. We all will miss the light hearted inputs Arthur has provided over the years. Rest in Peace Art!*

## More Holiday Party Pictures



## BARBARA TALLONE - ART CALLAN

We are saddened by the loss of two members of our Model A family

### Barbara Tallone: 1944 - 2022



Barbara was a long time member of the club and we were sadden to hear of her recent passing. She will be missed by all who knew her. Barbara grew up in Illinois where she and Gene met, married and eventually moved east to MA. Once they acquired their Model A they joined the club and Barbara and Gene remained very active members until they moved south to Virginia. Barb was very organized and planned a number of well attended club events, which always included something to eat, she loved to cook. She also liked her cars and owned a beautiful 1953 Ford pick-up, like the one her father owned when she was growing up, and took it to many car shows. Our sincere condolences go to Gene and her children Greg and Deborah and the entire family.



### Art Callan: 1930 - 2022

If there was ever a person you would call a "sparkplug" Art would be it. During the many years Art was in our club he served as President and long time newsletter editor. His newsletters were a reflection of Art's classic humor. Arthur also initiated many club activities that we still enjoy today; the winter blahs flea market and the Wednesday breakfast gatherings just to name a few. At the national level Art served as executive director of MAFFI during its critical years of raising the funds to build the beautiful Model A Museum in Michigan. This past September Art was inducted into the MAFFI Hall of Fame for his dedicated service to the Museum and the Model A hobby. Our condolences go to his wife Pat and the entire Callan family.





## M.A.A.C. Update: Inspection Sticker Change by William Ellis

On its surface the new RMV rule that went into effect on Tuesday November 1, 2022, for our annual vehicle safety inspections was to close a much loved 13 month loophole. Motor vehicles passing required inspections will get a new sticker, valid for one year, with the month the last sticker expired seemed to be targeting a practice by some Bay State car owners that were trying to extend an additional free month or two beyond the normal 12-month vehicle safety inspection cycle.

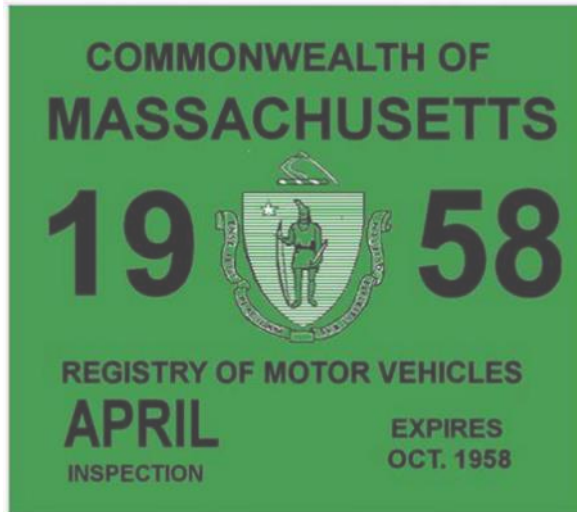
Those owners will no longer get a sticker displaying the month the inspection occurred, but the month the last inspection occurred. So a May expired sticker car will get a May new sticker no matter when inspected past the original monthly deadline.

The problem for antique and collector car owners whose vehicles are undergoing extensive restoration or long-term repairs resulting in their vehicles not being ready for its regularly scheduled annual inspection is more troubling. Having

inspection stickers that expired in a previous calendar year are facing a more perplexing problem with this new rule. Previous year inspected vehicles will receive a January sticker of the current year the vehicle is being inspected, no matter the month the vehicle is inspected. You can imagine the consequences collector vehicle owners will be facing if they now have a January inspection sticker. This change does not impact the requirements for newly purchased vehicles which must be inspected within seven days of the vehicle registration date,

and they will receive a sticker of the month which it was inspected and is valid for one year. Of course, this could also mean you may want to avoid purchasing an antique or collector vehicle during the winter months.

*M.A.A.C. is already hearing complaints as it could require owners to violate the law every year when they take them out of winter storage to get their car inspected in the spring.*



Doug Linden & Dave Libbey received the Editor's Literary Award for the article they co-wrote for The Restorer magazine about the purchase and delivery of Telephone Truck to the MAFFI museum in Michigan. The editor chooses his favorite article for this award.

John Sophis brought his Coupe over to Harold Legge's garage for a service call. Rick Gadbois is shown doing some testing. The problem was traced to a poor electrical connection at the distributor. All is well now.



## The Price of the Model A Ford

The table below shows the new car prices, FOB Detroit, without accessories or "dealer markup":

Body Style	1928	1929	1930	1931
Phaeton	\$395	\$440	\$440	\$435
De Luxe Phaeton	---	---	\$625	\$580
Roadster	385	\$435	\$450	\$430
De Luxe Roadster	---	---	\$520	\$475
Standard Coupe	\$495	\$500	\$495	\$490
De Luxe Coupe	---	---	\$545	\$525
Business Coupe	\$495	\$490	---	---
Special Coupe	\$500	\$510	---	---
Sport Coupe	\$550	\$530	\$525	\$500
Tudor	\$495	\$500	\$495	\$490
De Luxe Tudor	---	---	---	\$525
Fordor	\$570	\$600	\$600	\$590
De Luxe Fordor	---	---	\$640	\$630
Town Sedan	---	\$670	\$640	\$630
Cabriolet	---	\$645	\$625	\$630
Victoria	---	---	\$580	\$580
Conv. Sedan	---	---	---	\$640
Taxi	---	\$800	---	---
Town Car	---	\$1200	\$1200	---
Station Wagon	---	n/a	\$640	\$625
Roadster Pickup	\$395	n/a	n/a	n/a
Closed Cab Pickup	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

The information above was adapted from *Henry's Fabulous Model "A"* by Floyd Clymer.

When the new Ford was first available in 1928 there were only a few models available: a Phaeton, Roadster, Coupe, Tudor, Fordor and the Pick-up. The prices of the Model A reflected the times and up from the T era. In 1928 the economy growing, although there was very mild recession in 1927 caused by Henry Ford.

*(The 1927 recession was also associated with Henry Ford's shut-down of all his factories for six months in order to changeover from the Model T to the new Model A automobile. Though the Model T's market share was declining after 1924, in 1926 Ford's Model T still made up nearly 40 percent of all the new cars produced and sold in the United States.)*

But 1928 was booming and car prices were up. Unfortunately the financial stability of the country and stock market was on shaky ground and in 1929 it all came crumbling down. The impact negatively effected all business segments, including the automobiles industry. With sales dropping companies had to make adjustments. You can see from this chart that Ford lowered the price of some of it's models starting in 1930 and continued into 1931 with more price reductions. Fortunately there were still lots of buyers, if not there might not be the Model A hobby today.

## Ladies Winter Coats



Cold weather is just around the corner and the time when we put on our warm coats. Back in 1929 the ladies had the same idea. The fall -winter catalog for the **Charles William Stores of New York City** has many pages of fashionable coats. The coats shown here are probably more dressy than everyday coats as they feature materials of Suede and Velour and were trimmed with Beaverette or French Coney Fur. But, as you can see the price for such luxury ranged from \$7.96 to \$15.95. Seems like some great bargains. I should point out there was also a listing for a full length Raccoon coat for \$65, which equals to \$1,100 in today's money. At that price the ladies took special care of those coats which is why we still find them today. Stay warm!





The new year is near!  
Time to renew your  
**MEMBERSHIP**

***Dues are Due***

**2023**



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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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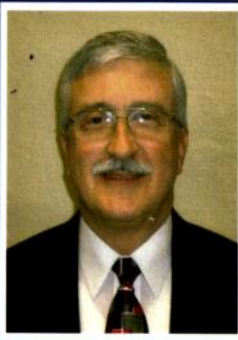
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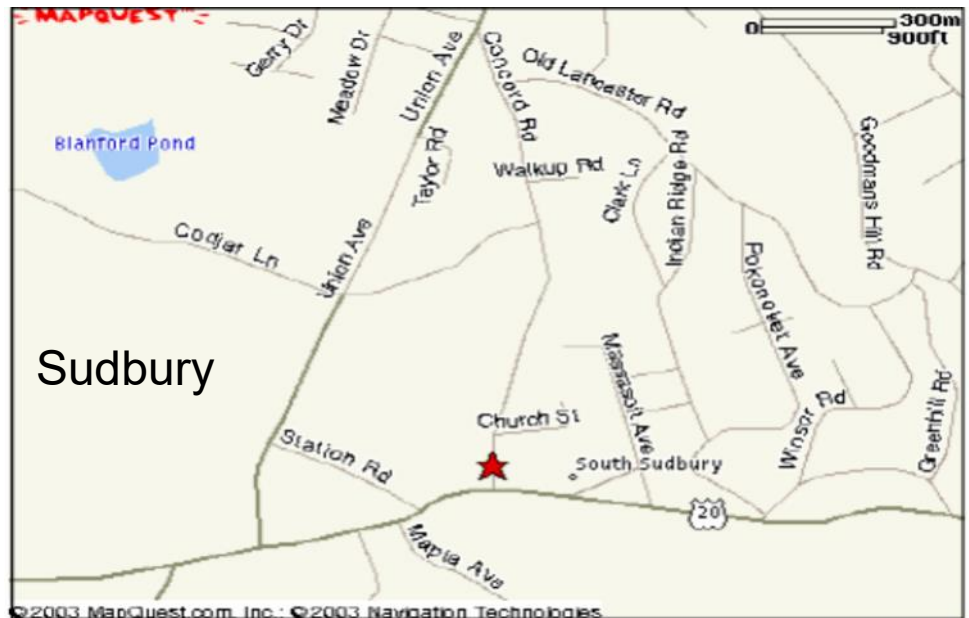
Or by phone: [800-347-1612](tel:800-347-1612)

### January 2023

This marks the 60 anniversary of us being a Chapter of the Model A Ford of America.

At our January meeting we will officially install our officers for 2023. We will also have the opportunity to present our Hard Luck award to a deserving member for unforeseen Model A troubles.

Please plan to join us.



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:

January 2032

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