

# The il Leak

January 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 1

## *The Steering Column:*

### *Happy New Year!*

While I am a relatively new face to the Minuteman Club, I have been known to pay surprise visits to Dick and Barbara O'Brien's home on Weston Road during my days of patrolling the streets of Wellesley as far back as 1999. I remember Dick commenting on what his neighbors must think with a Wellesley Police Car showing up at his home. We would laugh, and get back to the important conversation, the beautiful Model A's that were either hiding in the barn or being worked on out in the driveway.

Eventually, I purchased my First 1930 Standard Coupe, which needed everything. While working on disassembling the coupe, I convinced myself that I needed another Model A to drive to keep me motivated on the restoration. That led to the 1930 pickup truck, purchased from Peter Kaptain. I learned later this truck was one of the many that he and Clyde Kelton had "cobbled together" into a runner.

The clock kept ticking and I sold the pickup truck. This sale helped Lisa and I purchase our first home together. The work on the coupe trailed off as working on our home and starting a family became the priority. The coupe, still disassembled was sold to my brother-in-law, and it now is resting and waiting its turn in his Tennessee garage.

In the fall of 2022, I had an itch that needed to be scratched, with the encouragement from Lisa, I found a 1931 Model A Coupe for sale in Connecticut. A deal was struck and we trailered the coupe home to Westborough. After a week of tinkering and cleaning, the coupe came back to life. Lisa named the car Shirley and the rest they say is history.

I re-connected with the club and saw many familiar faces from the Patriots Day picnics at the O'Brien's. How after three years of being back in the club, I am writing to you as president, I am still in disbelief.

As the holidays approach, and most of our cars are nestled away for a long winters nap, I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of you for being patient and kind with me while I "figure it out." I also want to wish you all Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of fellow Minuteman and friend, Rich Batstone. Rich and Linda were regulars at the club meetings and events. The sudden onset of his illness and passing has all of us saddened and speechless. Rich will be missed. I am hopeful that we can support Linda during this difficult time.

*Peter*



## Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to Linda & Rich Batstone.

See page 6 for additional information

*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 7** Regular Club Meeting

**Jan 17-18** Stow, Collings Foundation, Battle of the Bulge Remembered 10AM-4PM

**Jan 17-18** Springfield, Auto Flea Market at Big E, Better Living Center building

**Feb 4** Regular Club Meeting

## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### JANUARY 1991 35 YEARS AGO

A budget proposal for 1991 was presented to the club. This was a first and was approved by the membership on February 5th, and gave the officers the direction necessary to run the club for the upcoming year. The members were also investigating other methods of raising funds for club operations and equipment. The Member of the Year Award for 1990 was presented to first place winner Edward Giovannella.

### JANUARY 2001 25 YEARS AGO

It was a very busy year for the Minutemen, culminating with a wonderful Holiday Party attended by 85 members. We broke with tradition this year - instead of bringing gifts to exchange with each other, we brought presents to be donated to Toys for Tots. As usual, the generosity of this club was overwhelming. Membership was looking forward to an exciting year ahead! For the first time, we would be hosting the New England Meet and while we had some hefty shoes to fill, there was confidence we would put on a show like no other!

### JANUARY 2011 15 YEARS

Our 2011 Technical Program for members would kick off on Saturday, January 29th with Wayne Champagne taking us through the unique characteristics of each Zenith Carburetor used in the Model A. In addition, he demonstrated their functionality as well as how to rebuild one.

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

### Treasurer's Report November, 2025

#### Income:

Club Auction	\$1003.00
Coffee Can	15.00
Member Dues	575.00
Holiday Party	120.00
Misc (center piece sale)	20.00
<u>Wayside Inn Dinner</u>	<u>194.00</u>
Total Income	\$1927.00

#### Expense:

Oil Leak Printing	<u>80.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 80.00

**Net Income** \$ 1847.00



**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

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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

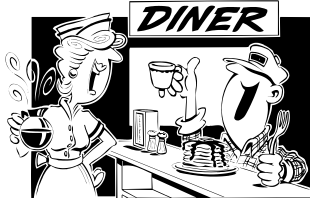
Harold Samuels, vacant, Tom Zappala, Wayne Champagne, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

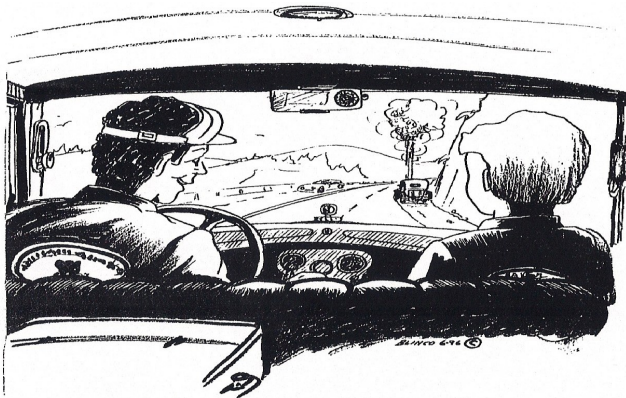
**Sunshine:** Sue Champagne [sdchampagne1931@gmail.com](mailto:sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)

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

 ➡

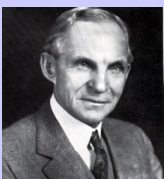
MODEL A: NEVER OVERHEAT. HE'S JUST SIGNALING TO HIS GROUP..

### **Hard Luck Trophy?**

You will have to come to meeting to find out who the winner will be for 2025. This is a light hearted presentation to help the recipient laugh at his misfortune.



Join us.



*"Before everything else, getting ready is the secret of success."*  
Henry Ford



## Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club December 14, 2025

Sudbury Point Grill, Sudbury, MA

No Meeting = No Minutes

### *Minuteman Annual Holiday Party*

Thanks to efforts of Peter McLaughlin our annual Holiday party was another great event, featuring great conversation, fine cocktails and amazing food. Even mother nature wanted to get into the act, by presenting us with a little snow in the morning. Fortunately that white stuff was over before the party got started. As usual our members were very generous to our Toys-for-Tots collection: our table was overflowing with gifts. It was nice to share holiday plans and catch up on Model A projects before the staff starting serving the awesome food.

That was finished off with an amazing cake made just for the club.

The Minuteman Board hopes everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends.





### Jim's Tech Tip on Brake and Wheel Bearing Work

Whenever I pull a brake drum to inspect the brakes, replace worn parts, or to clean and repack the grease in the wheel bearings, I like to keep all of the parts clean and organized at each wheel. I also want to keep the floor of my shop clean.

I have found that the cardboard "flat" from a case of soft drinks, drinking water, etc., provides the perfect place to capture the wheel and brake parts as they come off the car. If the flat has a plastic wrapper over the outside of it, leave that in place to trap any liquids that might spill in the tray. I also line the bottom of each flat with newspaper.



I write on the newspaper with a big marker "RF", "LF", etc. to help keep track of which parts came off of which wheel. I dispose of the messy newspaper after the wheel work is complete, but I can reuse the flat box itself a few times.

Until next time,  
*Have a Model A Day!*

Jim

# Minuteman Club Sadly Loses two members.

The club was saddened to have two long time members pass away: Dick Stitt and Rich Batstone.

**Dick Stitt** joined the Minuteman club in 1978. He and Mazie were a familiar sight on club tours in their 1931 Town Sedan. After retiring Dick continued to support the club by volunteering as an officer, including president. His leadership as Co-chairman of the 1988 MAFCA National

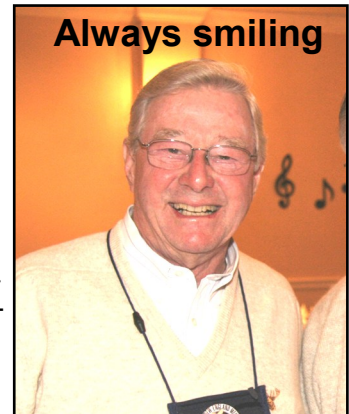


Dick Stitt and Rich Batstone together at a meeting



Dick and the team getting Matt's Coupe close to being finished

Convention was a major reason this event was such a success. Dick enjoyed the simplicity of the Model A, so much so that he embarked on the complete restoration of 3 Model A's and a 1940 Pontiac. One restoration became a mentor project with young Matt Johnson, who learned the art of restoration and repair under Dick's guidance.



When the Coupe was finished Dick gave the keys to an excited Matt. Later, when Dick realized it was time to pass on his beloved Town Sedan, he entrusted it to Matt as well. Dick passed away just a few weeks before his 99th birthday leaving behind a legacy of great Model A memories.

**Rich Batstone** joined the Minuteman club around 1975. He had purchased a 1930 Coupe and was looking for support during its restoration. The end result was an award winning Model A the took numerous awards, including a National AACA 1st Place Junior in Hershey. Rich and Linda were regulars on club tour, both long and short, always enjoying the ride.



Proud as he could be with his AACA 1st Senior

Rich acquired a nice Tudor Sedan in close to original condition. He brought up to great operating condition and then gave it the spit and polish treatment to ready it for his daughter's wedding. The guys at breakfast were duly impressed



when he showed off his work. And not to forget about the coupe, after almost 40 years, Rich took it back to Hershey and won the coveted National AACA 1st Place Senior Award. Needless to say he was ecstatic. Rich left us too early and his presence will be missed by the gang at weekly breakfast gathering and at regular club events that he and Linda always attended. Rest in peace Rich.

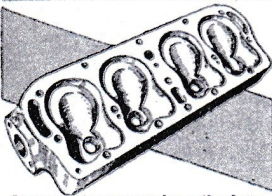


Found in the November 2023 issue of the "Chatter", the official newsletter of the Calumet Region Model A Restorers Club

## Model "A" Winter Storage Tips

1. Change the oil and lubricate the chassis.
2. Wash and wax the exterior, including the chrome.
3. Vacuum and wash the interior and apply a protectant such as Armor All on all vinyl, rubber and plastic parts.
4. Fill the fuel tank to prevent moisture from forming and rusting the tank.
5. Add a gasoline stabilizer. Fuel spoils after 30 days (source: Road & Track.com).
6. Make sure the battery is fully charged.
7. Be certain that the cooling system is filled with a sufficient amount of good-quality antifreeze to protect from rust and freezing.
8. Spray the chassis parts that may rust with a rust inhibitor such as WD-40.
9. Drive the car before storage to be sure that all parts are well lubricated.
10. It may be desired to raise the car off the tires to prevent flat spotting, but adding about fifteen or twenty more pounds of pressure to the tires will help considerably.
11. Do not set the parking brake for a long period of storage, as the drums could rust and seize the shoes. The brakes could also stick from rust or moisture.
12. The car should be covered to prevent damage from birds, cats and bugs.
13. If the car is to be stored inside, use a breathable cover to prevent moisture from forming and creating more problems than no cover at all. If the car is outside, of course, it must have a waterproof cover or moisture will collect and attack the chrome and body.
14. I put a wad of steel wool loosely in the tailpipe to discourage chipmunks & mice from taking up residence in the muffler.

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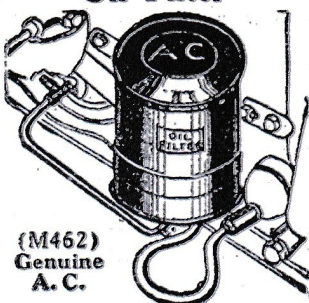
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A few fun items  
from era  
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catalogs  
1928-1931

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### Oil Filter

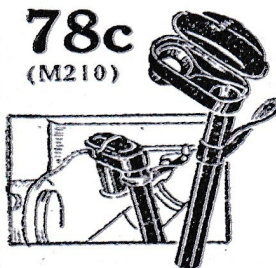


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YOU TAKE  
THIS OUT.....

.....AND PUT  
THIS IN





## The History of Thumbprint Cookies

Lauren Cabral 2023

Thumbprint cookies are widely thought to be an Americanized version of a classic Swedish cookie known as *hallongrotta*, meaning “raspberry cave.” (The name refers to the cookie’s thumbprint divot, which is traditionally filled with raspberry jam.) Other names for these cookies include bird’s nest cookies, butterballs, and Polish tea cakes. While most sources consider these cookies to have their roots in Sweden, some food historians think they could have originated in Poland or

the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe. Thumbprint cookies are generally served during Christmastime and while the traditional filling is raspberry jam, it’s common to see filling variations such as other fruit preserves, chocolate, Nutella, or even lemon curd. Today, these cookies remain popular in the United States — especially during the Christmas season — as well as in Sweden and other parts of Europe.

From Backthen: [The History of Thumbprint Cookies](#)

### Welcome New Member

Nan reports one new member this month:

Lee Oliver  
15 Ocallaghan Way  
Lynn, MA 01905-1338  
Currently no Model A

### “Artie - Fact”

By “A” **n**onymous



What is the difference between a poorly-dressed man on a tricycle and a well dressed man on bicycle??



**ATTIRE**

### FORD TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Who founded the Ford Motor Company?
2. What year was the Ford Motor Company founded?
3. In which city was Ford Motor Company founded?
4. What was the name of Ford first mass production car?
5. In what year did Ford first start the assemble line?
6. Approximately how much did the “T” cost when introduced?
7. By 1918 what percentage of cars in the world were “T”s?
8. In which Ford model was the first mass produced V8 available?
9. What luxury brand did Ford buy in 1922?
10. Where was Ford first foreign factory located?







## Time to renew your **MEMBERSHIP**

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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. Henry Ford
2. 1903
3. Detroit, MI
4. Model T
5. 1913
6. \$850
7. 50%
8. Model 18
9. Lincoln
10. Manchester, England



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

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11/28/25 Market Close: \$ 11.36

Dividends Paid: \$ 0.28

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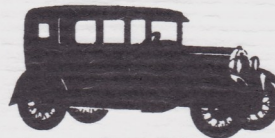
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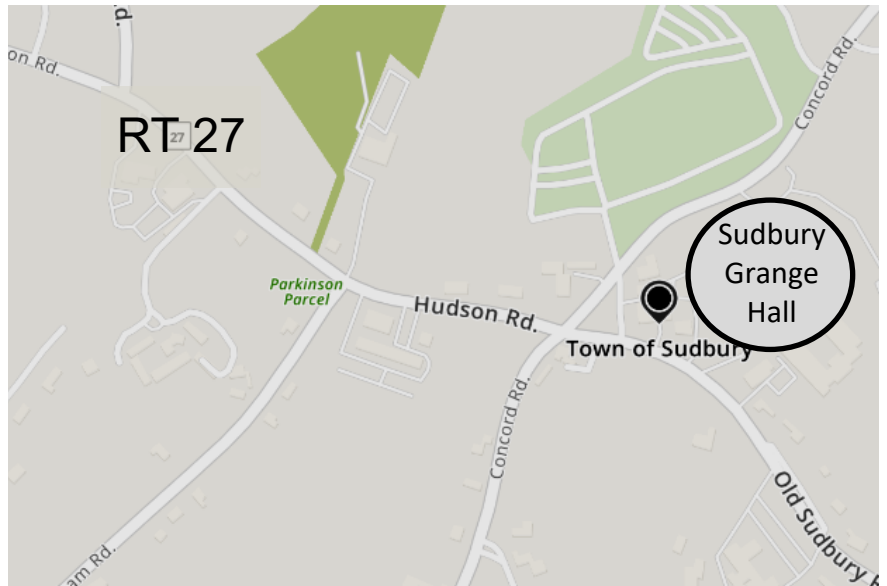
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## January News

Join us for the January meeting as we officially install our 2026 officers.

We will also be presenting our fun loving Hard Luck Trophy to the member with the most deserving problem.

We should also get a final financial accounting for our 2025 NE Meet.



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](http://www.oilleak.org)

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January 2026

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