

The il Leak

January 2024 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 61 Issue 1

The President Speaks:

Happy New Year, Minuteman Club!

I've only been part of the club for about six years, so I thought my first article would be to introduce myself. My Model A journey started in 1972 when I bought a totally unrestored '30 Tudor and took three years to restore it, learning as I went along. I bought a second Model A (a '31 Fordor) in '75, but because of a busy life, never got to restore it. They both got sold before Y2K. I've always said, "What do you need to own an antique car? Time, money, and space. When you get married and start a family, what do you not have? Time, money, and space." So my present car (some call it the taxi cab – thanks O'B.) is my third, and since pulling my first one apart, I've always loved Model A's. By the way, family includes, wife, four adult kids, and seven grandchildren who love my Model A almost as much as I do.



I never dreamed when I drove to my first meeting in October 2017, that I'd eventually become the president. As I look at the year ahead, our biggest job is to plan for the 2025 New England Meet. Thanks to Tom Zappala and Barb McElhiney, we have the Boxborough Regency reserved as our location. So, as many of our Model A's hibernate during January and February, please be thinking about how you can be involved with making this meet a total success of fun, enjoyment, and lots of Ahoogas.

As I write each month, I hope to bring you a little laughter. My family says I'm "famous" for dad jokes. True story – I was in Russia back in the '90s and tried using a pun. I realized that puns don't translate. "Oh no, I'm not funny in Russia," I said. My wife quickly replied, "You're not funny in America either." But I'm still convinced I can make you smile.

Prez Brad

Happy New Year!



Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A sympathy card was sent to John Erb on the passing of his wife Janet. Our condolences to John and his 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 2 Regular Club Meeting

TL = Tour Leader

MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

JANUARY 1989 35 YEARS AGO

After the secretary and treasurer's report it was plaque time...one for Phil Iorio and one for Doug Linden for their work on the 1988 Sturbridge Convention. The third plaque was from the MAFCA Foundation for our Club's donation to help them get established. The new V.P. Scott Studivan found his responsibilities were varied and wide. They included opening the Grange and getting the heat on, to warming up President John Jacobson's car at 9:45 P.M.!

JANUARY 1999 25 YEARS AGO

From the "Artie Facts" that were printed in this Oil Leak, "In 1916, 55 % of all the cars in THE WORLD were Model T Fords, a record that has never been beaten!" Joe DeMilia received the "Exceptional Service Award" for his longstanding contribution to the Club. Jack Stokinger was putting in another order for alternators for \$60.00 each! Today's catalog printed cost for these alternators is \$180.00 each!

JANUARY 2009 15 YEARS AGO

Tom Zappala went from sea to shining sea in his Model A over the previous summer with only one problem...a broken fan belt. That's testimony to the reliability of Henry's fabulous Model A - even at 80 years old! The Club's By-Laws had been reviewed over the past year by the By-Law Review Committee and the Board of Directors. In December, the first installment of the proposed changes was published for the club members review.

Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report November, 2023

Income:

Club Auction	\$ 984.00
Club Items Sold (hats)	60.00
Coffee Can	32.00
Holiday Party	500.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>740.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 2316.00

Expense:

<u>Oil Leak Postage</u>	<u>70.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 70.00

Net Income \$ 2,246.00



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

Vice President - Harold Samuels hsamuels10@gmail.com

Secretary - Rick Gadbois r.gadbois@comcast.net

Treasurer - Barbara McElhiney mcelhiney@rcn.com

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

Editor - Doug Linden douglingen@aol.com

Steering Committee

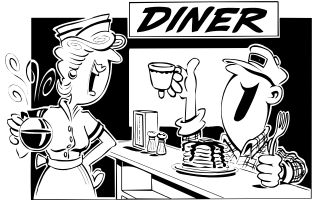
John Kerns, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

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



2023 MAFCA Awards Banquet

The Linden's recently attended the Awards Banquet in Santa Maria, CA. These events are small and give participants a chance to mingle together and enjoy the programs and tours the local club has planned. Nan & I enjoyed the tour of the Hearst Castle, visiting the winter home of the Monarch butterflies, and the Danish themed town of Solvang. Next year's Awards Banquet will be in Salt Lake City and the local club has some great plans for the guests.



"Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason why so few engage in it"
Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club December 5, 2023

No Meeting - Holiday Party



MINUTEMAN HOLIDAY PARTY



Sunday December 10th club members gathered at the Sudbury Point Grill to celebrate the holiday season. The weather was a little iffy for Model A's to attend, but I was told that one brave soul did drive their Model A to the event. I hope they had good wind-shield wipers as it was raining as we were leaving to go home. 54 members were signed up to attend and thanks to the planning efforts of Brad and Kathy Johnson we all had plenty of great food, The Sudbury Point staff was very attentive and did a great job serving us. Our collection table for Toys-for-Tots was full of great items and thanks go to Barbara & Mac McElhiney who will deliver them to the drop off location. And a special thank you to Kathy Johnson for baking the tasty desserts we had after dinner. Brad Johnson, with the help of Kathy as his voice was gone, thanked all the volunteers who made the club a success in 2023 and looks forward to working with them a in his new position as President in 2024. A great time was had by all.



“Artie - Fact”

by “A”nonymous

On a cold and frosty winter morning, a man heard his wife trying, unsuccessfully, to start the car. Again and again she tried to get the engine turning, but it just wouldn't catch. Eventually he went out to the garage.

“Didn't you try to choke it?” he asked

“No,” his wife replied through gritted teeth, “but I sure darn well felt like it.”



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Nan reports no new members this month.

However she did report that a new Model A has joined the club. Wayne Champagne recently acquired this very nice 1931 Station Wagon. We look forward to seeing it on tours.



2023 Maynard Christmas Parade

The rescheduled Maynard Christmas Parade was held on a Sunday December 17th. The weather was overcast and chilly but that didn't deter the number of participants in the parade or the large crowds lining the parade route. The club had a fine turn out with 6 Model A's in the procession. Thanks to the following members for attending: Don Ross, Dick Berry, Rick Gadbois, Dennis Mauro, Dave & Diane Libbey, Doug & Nan Linden w/grandson Blake. John Erb also attended but he was riding in "Leapin Lena" one of those crazy cars the jumps up on its rear wheels. The parade isn't long but it is fun to wave to all the people and see the kids excited about the arrival of Santa Claus who arrived by helicopter and brought up the rear of the parade on a fire truck.





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



2024

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

Jim's Technical Tip

by Jim Cannon,

Ignition Cam Screws

I have helped a few Model A owners with an unusual problem: For no reason at all, their distributor goes "out of time". They lose power and have to limp home. They reset the timing and the car runs great again, but after a while the same thing happens and they limp home. Gremlins? No.

The problem is that the ignition cam screw may not hold the cam down tightly to the distributor shaft. After a bit of driving, the cam rotates into a more and more "retarded" position and the engine loses power.

In spite of getting out a big screw driver and tightening the screw as much as possible, the cam still moves on them. Why is this? The **SCREW** that they are using is too long for the hole that is drilled and tapped in the top of the distributor shaft.

Some reproduction screws are just too long. Or the hole in the reproduction distributor shaft is too shallow. Or both! Whatever the case, the screw bottoms out in the hole and jams up tight before the cam is properly locked down on the shaft. So the cam moves.

The simple fix is to add a washer under the head of the cam screw. Now the cam will get locked down well before the screw bottoms out in the hole. You also want to inspect the underside of the cam; it should have ridges that help lock it down on the shaft. Once the screw is tight, put the rotor on the cam and gently try to turn it on the distributor shaft. It should not move.

If you or a friend encounters this problem with the engine going out of time, I hope my little Tip does the trick for you.

Jim Cannon
Have a Model A Day



CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What does a chain, belt, or light have to do with an engine in older cars?
2. This engine part can be electrical or mechanical.
3. Why is toe in or camber important in a car?
4. Need to pay here in most cities.
5. What auto company was once an aircraft company?
6. Name a carburetor adjustment.
7. What else can be adjusted on a model A steering wheel?
8. What is an "OD".
9. What is a prop rod?
10. Name a type of wheel on an automobile.

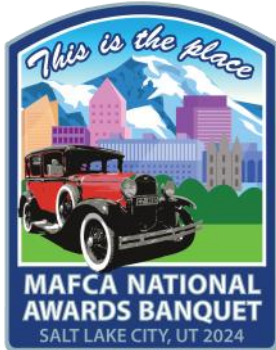


2024 Model A Events

MAFCA EVENTS



National Convention
June 23 - 29 will be in the Mountains of New Mexico in the ski town of **Ruidoso**. Seminar, tours and lots of A's. FYI the weather that time of year averages 80/47 degrees.



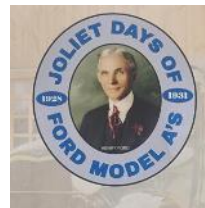
Awards Banquet.
Salt Lake City will be the location. These are small events packed with tours of the local area and interesting seminars for the guys AND ladies. Your registration also includes a polo

shirt with a picture of your Model A in the logo.

MARC EVENTS



National Convention
July 15 - 18. Asheville, NC will host this event. A highlight will be the visit to the amazing Biltmore Estate. This could be a trip in the modern car.



Membership Meeting April 4 - 6, Joliet, IL will be the location of the annual membership meeting. Includes seminars, tours and swap meet.



National Tour
May 21-23 Backroads and Buggies driving tour of Ohio and Amish country. Berlin, OH

2024 New England Model A Meet



Friday Sept 13- Sunday Sept 15, 2024.

Join CMARC in Connecticut for the 67th Annual New England Model A Meet.

Friday night welcome dinner, Saturday group tour & car judging, Saturday night banquet, Sunday brunch, awards and raffles.

The host hotel is: the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel
100 Capital Blvd. Rocky Hill, CT 06067 Mention NE Model A Meet 2024 for the room discount (\$139)

*Attention Minuteman Members: for the past few NE Meets our club has not had good participation for these events. Our club will be hosting this event in 2025 and we need to show support to the clubs who are hosting these events. **PLEASE** plan to attend the 2024 meet, it's near by and these are always fun events. Make your plans to attend now!!*

ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. They all have to do with timing an engine.
2. Fuel pump.
3. Need to be correct for proper front end alignment.
4. A parking meter
5. Saab
6. Idle screw
7. Hi and Low beam
8. Overdrive equipped car
9. Hood holder
10. Mag wheels



For Sale



1930 - 1931 Radiator

Recently Serviced
Very Nice Condition
Call Charlie 508-577-6636
(Marlborough) **\$600**



1930 Deluxe Coupe

Excellent condition and runs great.
Washington Blue and Black.
Nice interior.
Contact John Barrows
508-397-2056 (Milford)

\$15,000 (\$14,500 club member)

Support Our Sponsors

Breakfast

Lunch

BIG APPLE

890 Boston Post Road East
Marlborough, MA



EST. 1840

H.H. WARREN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

22 GLEASONDALE ROAD STOW, MA 01775

jsmith@hhwarreninsurance.com

JEFFERY SMITH
President

Tele: (978) 897-7074
Fax: (978) 897-9320

thread Logic



If you would like to order club apparel? Contact Thread Logic. They have our club logo on file and can add that to anything they have listed in their catalog.

Online: <https://threadlogic.com/>
Or by phone: [800-347-1612](tel:800-347-1612)

Mike's "A" Ford-able Parts

Mike Butcher



124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558
email: mike@mikes-afordable.com - www.mikes-afordable.com
Fax: 706 652 2492 - Phone: 706 652 3866
1 888 TRY MIKE (879 6453)



Specialising in 1928 - 1931 Model A Ford Parts

Class "A" Advertisers



Thomas J. Dyer, CPFA
Wealth Manager

354 W. Boylston St., Suite 231
West Boylston, MA 01583

978 264 1906 office
855 330 3679 fax
tdyer@pwfgllc.com
www.pwfgllc.com

Securities and Advisory Services offered through LPL Financial,
a Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC.



Specializing in Ford
Model A & T repair
and restoration.

Ryan Thibeault
Owner

67 Old Wakefield Rd
Milton, NH 03851
603-652-8609
tebobarn@gmail.com



EST. 1947

CUSTOMS
ANTIQUE
BOATS
RV'S

RUSMART
AUTO UPHOLSTERY

723 MAIN STREET (RTE. 12), NORTH OXFORD, MA 01537

Ken & Art Clements

(508) 987-1171



**MITCHELL
MANUFACTURING**



Steve & Cyndi Mitchell

Mitchell MFG.

530-458-4500 800-859-2088

www.mitchelloverdrivemfg.com
mitchmanfc@frontiernet.net

MODEL A FORD
SYNCHRONIZED-TRANSMISSION
VINTAGE CAR OVERDRIVES

FORD OVERDRIVES/UNDERDRIVES
1928-1948

P.O. Box 925

1157 Parker St.

Colusa, CA 95932



**CENTRAL MASS
POWDER COATING**

It's all in the details

32 Greeley St
Clinton MA 01510
info@CentralMassPowderCoating.com
www.CentralMassPowderCoating.com

(978) 365-1700



TAM'S MODEL "A" PARTS

42 TEMPLE STREET
WEST BOYLSTON, MA 01583

Tel: (508) 835-9292
(800) A-PARTS-1
Fax: (508) 835-9199



www.modelaparts.com
email: tamsforda@aol.com

EVERYTHING FROM A TO T!



**FREE
CATALOG**
\$10.00 Outside the U.S.

888-262-5712

snydersantiqueauto.com



THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF 1909-31 FORD PARTS!



800-255-1929 or www.brattons.com
1606 Black Acre Circle, Mount Airy, MD 21771

Send for a free 194-page illustrated Model A Catalog with over 3,900 Model
A parts, with full descriptions & illustrations—over 90% are U.S. made.

JANUARY Meeting

At the January meeting we will officially install the 2024 officers. Congratulations to;

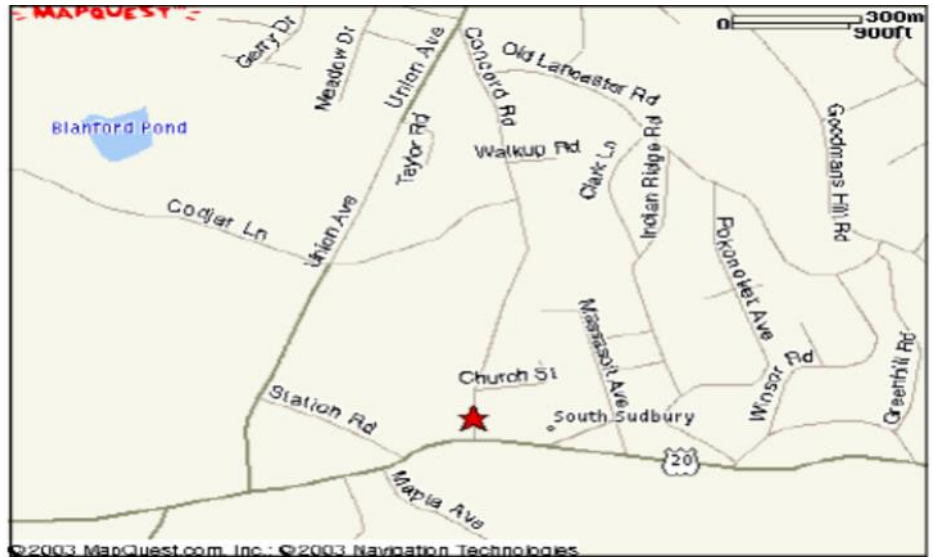
Pres: Brad Johnson

VP: Harold Samuels

Tres: Barbara McElhiney

Secy: Rick Gadbois

**Our Program for the night will be a presentation by Marty Grady on the history of the American flags.
See you there.**



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



**Please
Mail to:**

January 2024

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