

The il Leak

July 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 7

“The Steering Column”

I am glad to see that many of you have been making it to the tours and showing the Minuteman flag. Unfortunately, I have had many positive family events happening that have kept me from club events.

I am looking forward to participating in the 4th of July Parade. I had hoped to have both of our A's in the parade. With limited garage time and some safety related issues, Roberta the Fordor will be sitting this one out.

The good news is, I was able to get the carburetor issue resolved and get her running and driving again



I am writing this article after a fifteen hour ride to the Outer Banks, North Carolina. Needless to say, this month is the shortest presidents message you will get from me.

Its time to catch a sunset, walk on the beach, or go for a swim. Below is my view for the week.



Have a Great Summer and I hope to see you on the road.

~Peter



Sunshine

Sue Champagne

No card were sent out this month.

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)

June 27 (Sat) 10 AM Live Model Steam Trains (see pg 3)
 July 1 (Wed) Monthly Club Meeting
 July 4 (Sat) Noon Sudbury July 4th Parade (see pg 3)
~~July 11 (Sat) 10 AM Mendon Diner Don Ross TL~~
 July 16 (Thur) Bedford Farms Ice Cream H Samuels TL
 July 18 (Sat) Nashoba Winery Lunch W. Champagne TL
 July 29 (Wed) Effingham Brewery Larry Conley TL
 TL = Tour Leader

MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

JULY 1991 35 YEARS AGO

Our hosts for the summer meeting in 1991 were Donna and Don Morris. Aldie Johnson attended the MARC National Meet in Indianapolis and brought us up to date on their status. Their membership at the time topped 8,500 with 562 A's attending and 50 judged in the final 500 point judging. Two events of note - Len Michelak took first place (375-400 pts) with his Roadster and Fitz Stevens was recognized for over 25 years of continuous membership and attendance at MARC meets.

JULY 2001 25 YEARS AGO

This July, our monthly meeting was hosted by Gene and Joyce Bunce and everyone in attendance is still talking about Gene's garage and memorabilia. A group of Minutemen gathered in Concord for an enjoyable evening of music by the Concord Pops who presented a patriotic concert salute to America. Prior arrangements had been made to pick up the Orchestra's Conductor, Dick Pitman and his wife, on the steps of the concert hall and give them a ride down the main street of Concord and back again to the Concert Hall. Art Callan was the chauffeur in his Phaeton taxi cab. .

JULY 2011 15 YEARS

Tom Zappala and his daughter Madeline are on their cross country adventure in the Woodie Wagon. They will be gone almost two months and will blog the details of their trip. Art Callan, MAFFI's Executive Director, gave an eloquent report on the new Model A Ford Museum planned for the grounds of the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners, MI. A great way to support the museum is to purchase a brick for the entrance walkway and add your personal touch to this great facility.

Minuteman Model A

Ford Club

Treasurer's Report

May 2026

Income:

Advertising	175.00
Coffee Can	19.00
Raffle - Club	40.00
Total Income	\$ 234.00

Expense:

Transfer (Ck for NE Meet)	376.14
Tune up Clinic food	150.00
2026 NE Meet Ad	175.00
Oil Leak Printing	80.00
Total Expenses	\$ 781.14

Net Income \$ -547.14



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 douglingen@aol.com

Steering Committee

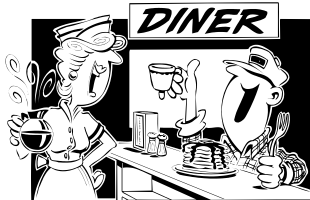
Harold Samuels, Brad Johnson, Tom Zappala, Doug Farrell, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

Sunshine: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

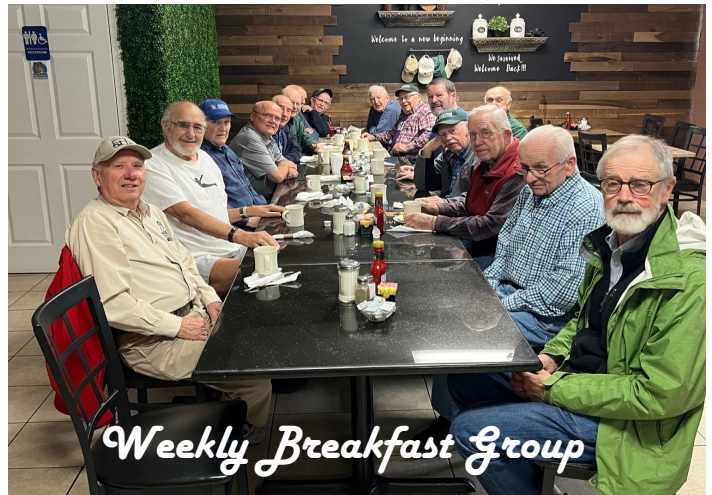
Newsletter Distribution: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

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

Tour Information

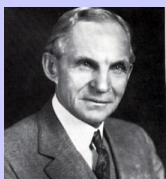
June 27 (Sat) 10 AM to travel to the Waushakum Live Steamer Trains. These are operating live steam train models. This weekend is the club's open house and we will be joined by the Worcester Model A Club.

July 4 (Sat) Paid Event Sudbury Parade. Lets have a good turn out for this parade. Line up is at noon at Chiswick Park off RT 20.

Welcome New Members

Nan reports one new members this month.

Doug Scott
7 Circuit Drive
Stow, MA 01775
1930 Tudor



"The unhappiest man on earth is the one who has nothing to do."

Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club June 3, 2026

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

President Peter McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM to 25 people in attendance. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Treasurer's report and the Secretary's reports were approved as printed in the Oil Leak.

He notified the members that at the last executive board meeting it was decided to move \$10,000 into two \$5K CDs for better return and the treasurer has done that.

Peter then thanked Larry Connolly and Craig Martin for refreshments and asked volunteers for next month's meeting. Margaret Klingmeyer and Ben Chirco volunteered.

It was announced that there would be a parade June 20 in Townsend and also a Car show in Maynard on the same date. The fourth of July Parade in Sudbury would be as usual and Wayne Champagne spoke of an after-parade event at the Wayside Inn for those who wanted to attend.

New member Doug Scott of Stow was called upon to relate his story of the purchase of a 1931 two door sedan. The condition and the friendliness of the seller were both a very positive experience for Doug.

As both Membership chair Nan Linden and National president Doug Linden were on the west coast for a Model A event there was no news of new members.

Don Ross then reviewed the tour schedule. Nine cars were in the Wellesley parade, and the Wellesley college parade was rained out. June 6 will be a tour in Needham led by Tom Zappala (rain date will be on the 7th), The flag day parade on June 14 will be in Cushing Park in Framingham. June 18 will be a tour to Pizzi Farm Ice Cream in Waltham, led by Doug Farrell, on the 21st there will be the Baystate Festival in Cushing Park. On the

27 there is the Steamers event in Hopkinton (No Clams), July 4 is the Sudbury Parade, July 11 there was to be a Mendon Diner tour but that will be moved. July 16th will be a tour to Bedford Farms led by Harold Samuels. July 17 will be a tour to Nashoba Winery. Larry Connelly will lead a tour to the Epigram Brewery on the 27th of July. On July 30 a plan is to have a re-enactment of the NE meet grand tour in memory of Rich Batstone on his birthday, but the date may change to a weekend date.

In National News Doug Linden is involved in an engine swap at the west coast event.

In Old Business, the president is still looking for pictures and stories of members cars.

Vice President Wayne pointed out the printed club rosters, the Maynard show flyers and some newsletters on the head table.

The president spoke of the entertainment tonight – the installation of the synchronized transmission by Epic Restorations.

Ben Chirco spoke of a Hopkinton truck event in which little kids really enjoyed his Model A truck.

Ed Underwood spoke of his recent acquisition of a Model A Panel truck that he uses to sell ice cream at events, where all proceeds go to charitable causes. The business is named after his late son who loved selling ice cream. He owned the truck for two months and has added significant wiring improvements for lighting and towing as well as beautiful paint.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Erb

Secretary



Wayside Inn Fire Truck Update

Work on the Wayside Inn's Model AA fire truck continues. Thanks to the donation of time and parts members of the club have the engine running again. Recently the tires donated by Jim Rousseau have replaced the worn out ones and with the wheels repainted the truck is getting close to make its inaugural debut at the Sudbury 4th of July Parade. Fingers Crossed.



The tires were so rotted they were one step away from being petrified. The only way to get the first tire off was to cut it off. That was a chore. For the others the tires were taken to Pete's Tire Barn and they were able to dismount them for \$20 each, what a bargain. Once the tires were off some sanding and a little paint made the wheels look pretty darn presentable. Lets hope our work leading up to the parade will prove the truck is drivable as we have never had an opportunity to test the brakes.

If the truck is in the parade you will know that all our work was successful.

Aim to have bright headlights

It's easy to see even better than drivers in Henry's day.

by Paul Shinn

The easiest and possibly best safety upgrade for your Ford Model A may be the conversion from incandescent to LED headlights. Thankfully, there are several choices for plug-and-play LED headlights for both 6- and 12-volt electrical systems, and they are becoming more and more affordable.

This upgrade is as easy as eating tortilla chips. You won't even need any tools to perform it, just your fingers.

The first step is to push the spring-loaded headlight



1. Push the spring-loaded headlight lens keeper back and down, releasing the lens and retaining ring

lens keeper back and down, releasing the headlight lens and retaining ring, as shown. Next, pull the lens forward and then up off the tab at the top and it will come completely off. Set it somewhere safe and out of the way.

Remove the old light bulb and save it in case it's needed later (or by someone else on the next tour). To remove, push in slightly and rotate counter-clockwise ("unscrew") about one-eighth of a turn, then pull forward and out of the socket.

Take the new LED bulb and plug it into the headlight socket by pushing in slightly and rotate clockwise ("tighten") until it locks into position.



2. Push in slightly and rotate clockwise ("tighten") until the LED locks into position.

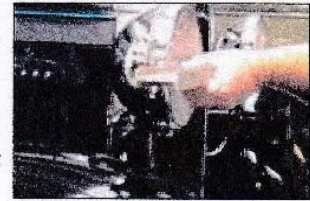
Turn on the headlights on their low beam setting (first click to the right) and see if just one row or both rows of LEDs is lit up. If both rows are on (high beam mode), remove the LED bulb and turn it over and reinstall. Now the LED bulb should have one row lit up on low beam and both rows on high beam.

Once you have done both headlights, reinstall the lenses and adjust the focus screw on the back of the headlight bucket for the smallest light image on a wall in front of the car. ☺

Ford Service Bulletins outline a complex way to align headlights that involves calibrated marks on a calibrated wall, etc. Here's a super easy and quick way.

Slightly loosen the headlight bar nut under each headlight bucket. You want it loose enough that you can manipulate the bucket and move it, but not so loose that it flops around.

Place a long straight object, like a pipe, two-by-four board, or a long carpenter's level as a straight-edge across the front of both headlight buckets. Make sure it goes all the way across both headlight buckets. Move the buckets until the fronts are square against the straight edge. That takes care of the horizontal alignment.



Here's the one place it's good to be just about half a bubble off level.

Vertical alignment is a bit different, and you'll need a bubble level. Place the level vertically (up and down) on each headlight lens and align it so the headlight points down just about half of a bubble from level.

Do the same for the other headlight. Once done, tighten the nut under each bucket to lock it in place.

Re-check the horizontal and vertical alignment to make sure nothing moved when you tightened the nut. If they're still where they are supposed to be, you're done! ☺

Paul Shinn, MAFCA's Technical Director, lives in Valley Springs, Calif.



The Restorer • September/October 2025 17

2026 MEMBERSHIP Application Form

PLEASE complete the form and return with your check for **\$25.**

Membership: Renew - No Changes ____ ; Renew - Changes ____ ; New ____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other Name _____ Model A : _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

email _____ Telephone _____ - _____ - _____

How would you like to receive your Newsletter: Electronically or US Mail (circle one)

Make Check payable to Minuteman Model A Club and send to: **Minuteman Model A Club**
PO Box 545
Sudbury, MA 01776



Here is our line up of cars for the Wellesley Veterans Parade. The weather was perfect and we had no car troubles along the route. Since this is a paid event good attendance is rewarded. Thanks to those attending

CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is a remote entry or start called?
2. What maintains the castor on the front end of the Model A Ford?
3. What part regulates the water temperature in an engine?
4. What was deleted on the Corvettes after 1962?
5. Name a 50's Chevrolet pickup truck?
6. What is used to test horsepower on an engine?
7. What name was stamped on the first Model A carburetor?
8. What would the Amphicar do that an ordinary car couldn't?
9. What auto company produced engines for the 1971-72 Jeep?
10. Name the first American car at LeMans in 1925?



“Artie - Fact”

By “A” **anonymous**

What do you call a Ford Fiesta that ran out of gas?
A Ford Siesta.

I always adjust the seat and mirrors when I drive my husband's car so he doesn't forget he's married.

Who can drive all their customers away and still make money?
Taxi drivers

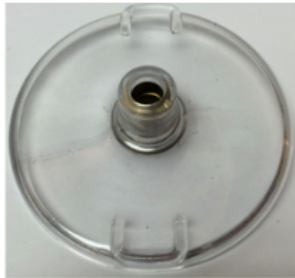
What did the tornado say to the car?
Want to go for a spin?

A cop pulls a guy over for suspected drunk driving. The cop opens the door and the driver falls out onto the asphalt. The cop says, “Holy crap, you're so drunk, you can't even walk!”
The drunk says, “No foolin', that's why I took my car!”



Distributor Cap Mod

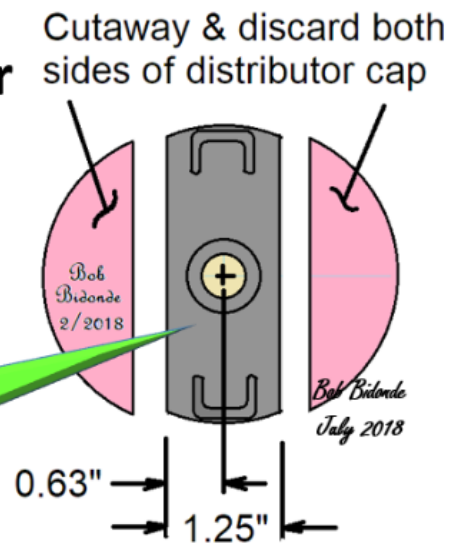
- Lets you see sparking at the rotor
- Should be purple / blue sparks
- Use a clear distributor cap available from parts dealers



Use as a
tool, not
for touring

or

- Modify a stock distributor cap



Smooth cut edges &
overcoat with clear
paint or nail polish

The distributor caps shown above are very good tools for checking the operation of your ignition system. The clear one available from Model A vendors works fine, but I would not recommend it for everyday use. The reason is that the clear plastic tends to break down and I have seen it allow the spark to be intermittent. I would only use it for testing. I have cut down a few original cap as shown above which is easy to do. The cut down cap works great. With either one you can see how good the ignition spark is performing. If you have a used distributor cap this would be a good project when your looking for an easy Model A project.



Getting Some Extra Help

Club member Bob Mangan decided to get some help from above recently. Bob took his Model A to St Matthew Parish in his home town of Windham and had the trusty A blessed. Bob is looking for a season of smooth and safe driving going forward this year.

SHOW TRUCKS

At the recent MAFCA National Convention Nan & I attended I was surprised to see so many trucks (A & AA) in fine point judging. Yes you always get a pickup but this time there were some excellent AA's as well. Pendleton, OR is farm country so maybe that had something to do with the number of commercial vehicles in the show. I have to say the red AA Canopy Express was amazing.



ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Keyless
2. The angle of the front axle.
3. Thermostat
4. The trunk
5. Apache
6. Dynamometer
7. Zenith
8. Could travel on land or water
9. Kaiser-Jeep
10. Chrysler



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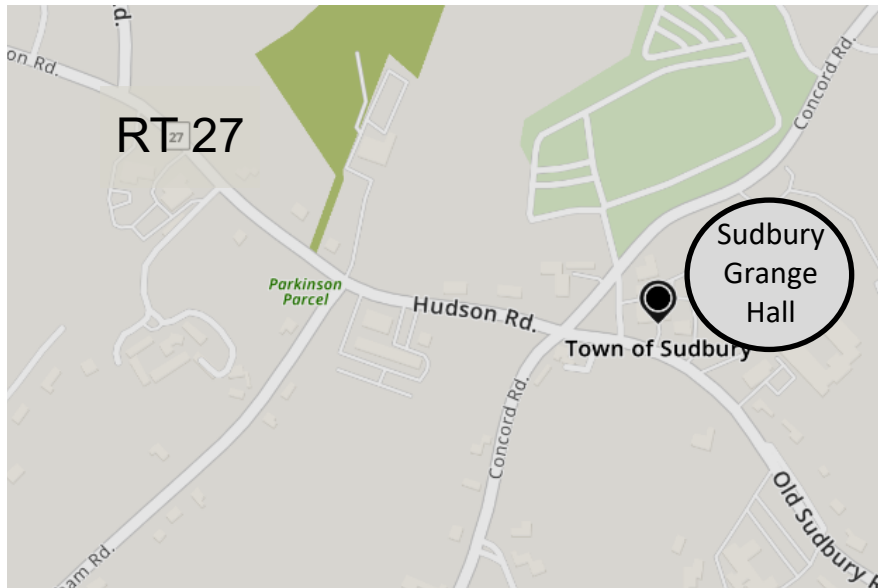
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July News



Have a great Holiday
and please make plans
to attend the Sudbury
Parade.

Details will be discussed
at the meeting.



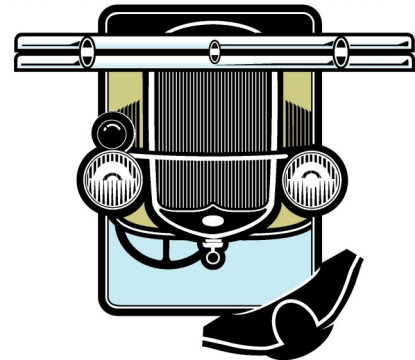
Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the
month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in
Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



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MINUTEMAN
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July 2026

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