

# The il Leak

June 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 6

## “The Steering Column”

It is hard to believe that it is June already. The warm weather has finally arrived, and the “Touring Season” is in full swing. I hope that you all have been able to get out there and put some miles down.

I was happy to hear that our newest member Doug Scott was able to acquire a 1930 Tudor. I look forward to seeing him on tour.

For those of you with steering issues, I came across a new company that was started by a fellow model A'er. Might be worth checking out if you need to rebuild your 2-tooth or 7-tooth steering box. The site is [www.modelasteering.com](http://www.modelasteering.com) . While I have not used their products, I offer the information for those that might be interested in better steering.

I wanted to take a minute to thank Dave Libbey for not only letting me use the front end alignment tool on Roberta the Fodor's front end but also delivering the tool to my house.

My membership challenge from March continues. Please submit a photo of your model A to me at [petermclaughlin1485@gmail.com](mailto:petermclaughlin1485@gmail.com) with the year and model. It would be even better if you could tell us the story of your Model A. It doesn't have to be a novel, but a few words of who, what, where, and when of your Model A. I find these stories fascinating as we all come from different backgrounds, but yet we come together with the common interest of these wonderful ninety-plus-year-old vehicles. I would like to use these photos to add some additional content to our web and Facebook pages. By putting this content out there for people to see, we may generate interest and attract new members. It is up to us, and those like us, to keep our hobby alive.

I look forward to seeing 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 3** (Wed) Regular Club Meeting  
**June 7** (Sun) Volante Farm Food & Ice Cream TL Tom Z  
**June 14** (Sun) 9:00 AM Flag Day Parade (see page 3)  
**June 18** (Thur) 6:30 PM Pizzi Farms Ice Cream TL:D Farrell  
**June 27** (Sat) 10 AM Live Model Steam Trains (see pg 3)  
**July 1** (Wed) Regular Club Meeting  
**July 4** (Sat) Noon Sudbury July 4th Parade  
 TL = Tour Leader

### Minuteman Model A Ford Club

#### Treasurer's Report April 2026

<b>Income:</b>	
Advertising	100.00
Club Items Sold	20.00
Coffee Can	12.00
Member Dues	215.00
Misc Inc (Ck for NE Meet)	374.14
<u>Raffle - Club</u>	<u>19.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 742.14</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Flea Market Exp	255.71
Flea Mkt Space rental	300.00
<u>Oil Leak Printing</u>	<u>80.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 635.71</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	 <b>\$ 106.47</b>



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

**JUNE 1991 35 YEARS AGO**

Mild spring weather had provided our As with great early touring. Thanks went to all who had given their time to the club by participating in the parades benefiting our tool scholarship fund. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of our third annual scholarship/tool award in the amount of \$250.00, to Scott Fitzgerald. Scott was a senior at Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical School. A plaque and a check went out with the well wishes of the Minutemen.

**JUNE 2001 25 YEARS AGO**

Everyone was encouraged to write their State Reps encouraging them to leave the insurance regulations on antique cars as they were written at the time. There was action by some legislators to rescind what was the current regulation on the antique car rates. The Annual Minuteman Picnic was scheduled to be held at MaryAnn and Dave Clark's home on Saturday, June 23rd at 11 AM at 118 Nobscot Road in Sudbury.

**JUNE 2011 15 YEARS**

Tim Howe, a Sudbury firefighter from the Sudbury Fire Department gave a great presentation on the different types of fire extinguishers we should have in our garages and cars. He stressed your FIRST action should always be to call 911! Our own Tom Zappala and his daughter Madeline were off on a cross country adventure in his Woodie starting Memorial Weekend. They were gone for almost two months and they blogged their trip.

**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](mailto:petermclaughlin1485@gmail.com)

**Vice President** - Wayne Champagne [wchampagne@verizon.net](mailto:wchampagne@verizon.net)

**Secretary** - John Erb [john.erb@verizon.net](mailto:john.erb@verizon.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

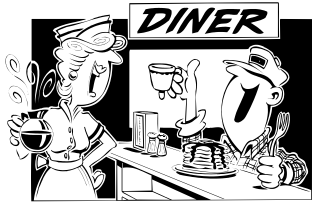
Harold Samuels, Brad Johnson, Tom Zappala, Doug Farrell, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**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. →



### **Tour Information**

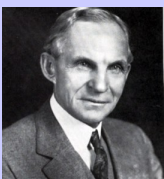
**June 14** (Sun) 9:00 AM Jim Rousseau has invited the club to participate in the Framingham Flag Day Parade. Meet at Cushing Park near the chapel.

**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.

### *Welcome New Members*

**Nan reports no new members this month,**

Welcome to the Club



*"All I personally own of any value is my experience, and that cannot be taken away." Henry Ford*

## Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club May 13, 2026

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

President Peter McLaughlin gaveled the meeting to order at 7:32 PM to the 35 people in attendance. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called on accepting the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports as printed in the Oil Leak and that was accomplished.

He told those in attendance that a board of directors meeting was held prior to the night's meeting. He explained that the budget was discussed and approved with minor changes and improvements.

Tom Zappala reported on the bad check that was received for attendance in the New England meet this year and explained some of the problems in collecting the funds and reported that the money was recovered.

Doug Scott of Stow visited and reported that he is looking for a Model A.

The Legges were thanked for hosting the tour clinic and all who helped with the successful event on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Darren Chapmen spoke on the visit to the Minuteman Vocational school in which 13 cars attended for the edification of the students. There was excellent feedback for the visit.

Wayne and Susan were thanked for helping Peter with refreshments. June's meeting will have refreshments provided by Craig Martin and Tom Zappala.

It was announced that there would be a parade in Townsend on June 20. Also a Medfield 350<sup>th</sup> parade will be held in October. It was also announced that June 20 would have a car show at the Sudbury St. Parking lot in Maynard with food and music starting at 8 AM.

Nan Linden reported that there were no new members this month.

Tour Chair Don Ross reported on the Post Office Pub tour, the Tour Clinic and the Dairy Queen tours which were well attended. The two Wellesley parades are up coming, and they bring in money to the club. On June 21 there will be a car show at Cushing Park in Framingham.

A Poem thanking the tour clinic was read by Don with an ovation at the end.

Vice President Wayne read a note from the Wayside Inn about an outside food truck and band event following the fourth of July Sudbury Parade.

We were assured that there would be a 50/50 raffle conducted by Dick Krug after the break.

Also, there will be entertainment by Doug Linden after the meeting – videos of the trip to the Minuteman Vocational School and the tour clinic.

On national news, Doug Linden reported that the MAFCA Convention will be at the end of the month. We donate to the raffle room. MARC is currently touring the NY finger lakes region. He spoke of the Cushing Show on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June where they hope to have cars that attended the first show at the Macomber Estate in 1939.

It was reported that the Valvoline lubrication shop in Natick does a great and inexpensive lubrication of a Model A.

In Old business, President Peter is still looking for photos and stories of member cars.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Erb*

Secretary



## Larry & Kathy Conley's Model A Ford Story

**August 1984**

I was driving around with my wife and kids through Pepperell, Massachusetts one day and I saw an old car in front of a barn. The car was covered up. I said to Kathy, "I think I'll stop and see if they want to sell it."

"Oh, sure she said! (like it will never happen)." I bought it for \$1,800.00. Vehicle Identification Number \*A3960648\*. This Model A Tudor sat in the barn since 1961. The Ford was originally the barn owner's father's car. The original miles on car today are 44,115.

To get the project started, I went to Central Mass Antique Auto Parts for a catalog. I purchased headlamps from a guy in Watertown. I then went to Nashua Library to get a book on Model A's. I found one and it was due back to the library in 4 weeks on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1984 (I forgot to return it!) The title of the book was 'Rick's Model "A" Shop Manual' I still use it today and is the most informative book ever.

I found PV Antique Ford in Tewksbury, and started the process of restoring the Tudor. I took whole car apart, purchased the parts needed, degreased, and washed the frame, sandblasted the wheels, bought 4 used shocks and a crank at the old Amherst flea market. I had the hood, visor, and many other miscellaneous parts sandblasted.

Our new top wood came from Newood Products in Monett, MO. I needed many more Model A parts. I went to 'Morrill's Model 'A' Garage in North Baldwin, Maine and got a correct crank, head, door parts, one front fender, a rear seat, a hood top, brake pads, a dash, and handles all for \$248.50.

A guy by the name of Sumner, was a friend of my brother-in-law out of Portland Maine. He charged me friend's rate. His multiple barns were filled with model A parts. It was located on the side of a mountain. (what a time I had going there!). It was probably 1985 or 1986. All the fenders and body went out to Gate City Monument in Nashua to get sandblasted.

In June of 1991, a friend Vic recommended Sparkies auto body in Tewksbury to do paint and body work. That cost was \$2,500.00 and it is still in great condition today. I finally had the card done by November of 2003. I bought floorboards from LaBarron Bonney, had the wheels powder coated at Summit Powder Coaters in Barberton, Ohio. (only paid \$65.00 each for 5 wheels and shipping).

I purchased many parts from PV, Tams, Snyders, Bratton's, and Macs. Macs in Lockport NY, rebuilt my engine, and still runs like a top today.

Ed Antosh, known as the Model A doctor was instrumental in getting all the mechanical work done and the engine purring. Robert Paul from Colorado rebuilt my hydraulic shocks along with some spares. The interior was made and supplied from LaBarron Bonney in Haverhill. I installed it myself. I had the bumpers re-chromed from a friend I have done business with at Bay State Plating in Everett, MA. I polished all the stainless-steel parts to include the headlamps, tail light, and dash panel to a mirror finish. I had the radiator re-done at Lowell Radiator.

During this process, I used some additional books that I got from PV. 'How to restore your Model A' volumes 1-8 were wicked helpful.

By 2004, I started attending car shows, and won 'The Nashua Telegraph's car event that summer in Hudson, NH. The 1930 Tudor is in all original condition, mechanical brakes, 3 speed on the floor, white wall tires. She runs and drives excellent.

A lot of fun...



# Annual Spring Tune-up Clinic

## April 25, 2026



The tune-up clinic was another great success with many mechanical and electrical problems identified and successfully repaired. This year we found more brake issues to fix and the electrical crew had some tricky lighting issues and some ignition/distributor problems needing work. A big thank-you goes to Harold & Sally Legge for hosting this popular and helpful club event.

Here is a link to a video of the day's activities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSfhWQpqqgc>



## 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 : \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

### **Battery Cables**

Battery cables for the Model A (actually any 6 volt car) are much fatter than you see today. The reason is the current required for 6 volts is 2X that need for an equivalent 12 volt system. Here is some good information.

- Use 6v battery cable should be 1/0 or 2/0 AWG size cables
- These are much larger than the 6 AWG size 12 volt cables
- Larger cables have less resistance to current flow.
- This provided faster for fast cranking engine. (credit Bob Bidonde)



### **CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. Name a type of brake
2. What is an exhaust manifold upgrade?
3. What is necessary for gas combustion in a cylinder?
4. What are extra-wide tires called?
5. Which 1935 boat tail cars were tested and driven at 100 mph?
6. How many gallons of water does a Volkswagen Beetle hold?
7. What model did Mercury introduce in 1950?
8. What type of transmission did the 1974 Jeep Wagoneer offer?
9. What was the Ransom E. Oldsmobile powered by in 1891?
10. How old was Henry Ford II when he took control of the Ford Motor Co.



# “Artie - Fact”



By “A” anonymous

## Police pull over a car driving on I5 at mph in a 70 mph speed zone

It was an older woman driving. He asks her why she was driving slow.  
 She says - "I saw a sign that said I-15, so I thought the speed limit was 15 mph"  
 Officer - "That is the sign for the Interstate 15. The speed limit is 70 mph on this road"  
 Then he notices 3 other older ladies in the back seat whose faces were white as a sheet.  
 He asks the driver what’s wrong.  
 Her - "Oh, we just came off I-215"

## For Sale

### 1964 Thunderbird

Long time member, Gary Hoyt, is downsizing..

Gary is listing his beautiful 1964 Thunderbird Hardtop.

Color is Patrician Green with light green interior.

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**Gary is reducing the price and is now asking \$15K**

Contact Gary Hoyt @ 508-655-0077

Just in Time for the Touring Season



## Thank you to the Touring Pit Crew.

This year our clinicians were challenged a lot, but they fixed all our cars, while smiling a lot.

Special thanks to our team, who comes back every year, as long as they get, pizza and beer.

### To Rick, Len and Jack,

Our Beam me-up team, that keeps our lights focused and, straight as a beam.  
True musicians they are, our engines swoon,  
They know the importance of timing and tune.

### Doug and Dick.

Our Steering, Toe-in, and brake-dancing team, keeps us going straight when in- lines with the team they work on the brakes and get the cars to almost stop,

If you know what a good “A” stop means.

### Wayne,

Our fearless Test Driver takes the first ride, His eyes and ears are trained to detect, any and all Model A defects.

He is an “A” man with the powers of Zen, He adjusts distributors by the engine’s ping and roar

That always give our A’s the power to sour..

### John P.

Our Lug and tire Man who keeps us, Inflated, torqued and well screwed,  
He works hard, John is one helpful dude.

### Harold,

Our Land-Lord and Grand “A” Master, who Gives us a lift and, shares his know-how, whenever it matters,

Needing a spare part he will go to his ladder, And gather the part from the Harold part attic,  
Whenever he helps the cause, he couldn't be gladder.

### Thanks to our support team

Who supplied us with vitals, That helped us deal with many a hard riddle.

It was a very fun day, every one answered the call, What makes our club great is due to us all.

By “A”anonymous

# MINUTEMAN TECH MODEL "A" DAY

May is Model A Youth Month and thanks to the help of club member Darren Chapman we were able to display our Model A's for the students and the Faculty on Tuesday May 5th. The idea behind this is a national club effort is to expose our youth to the Model A and the enjoyment you can get out of owning one. The weather was perfect which allowed for an excellent turn out of Model A's, thirteen were on display. The students, including the toddlers who attend the school day care program, enjoyed checking the Model A's inside and out. We had a display of Model A parts to show the difference in automotive technology almost 100 years ago. We enjoyed talking to the students and answering their question, which were many and varied. Darren said the administration feedback was excellent and would like us to return next year.



A video presentation of the event was played at the May club meeting and if you weren't able to attend or just want to see it again, here is link you can click on to watch it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZoh4tEuAoY>

**ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. Parking brake
2. Headers
3. Compression
4. Meats or Slicks
5. Auburn Speedster
6. Air-cooled. no water
7. Monterey
8. Automatic transmission
9. Steam powered
10. 28-year-old



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[www.FundamentalsFirstFund.com](http://www.FundamentalsFirstFund.com)

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

2/21/24 IPO Market Open:	\$10.00
5/11/26 Market Close:	\$ 12.69
Dividends Paid:	\$ 0.32

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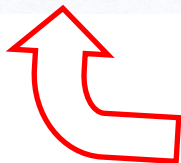
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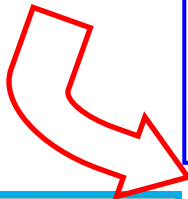
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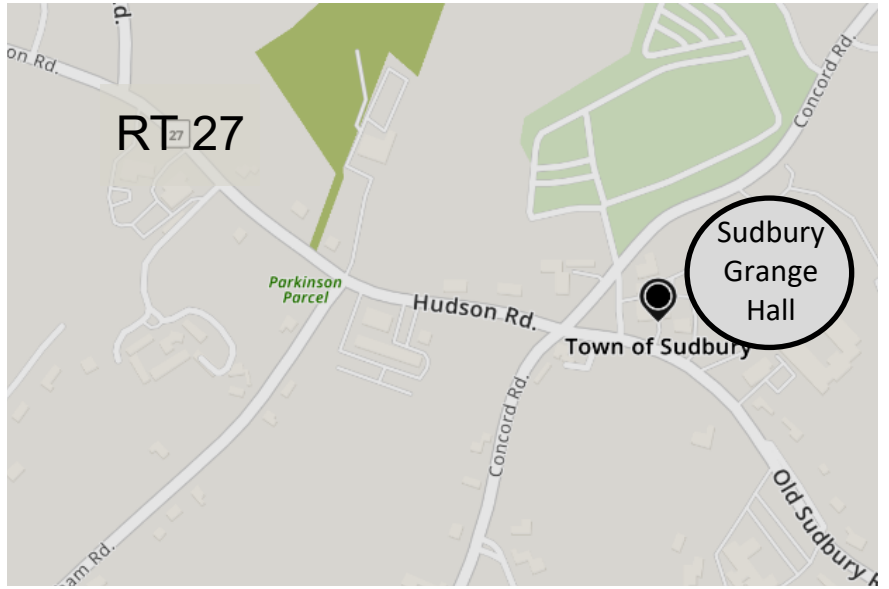
## June News

The program for the meeting will be an informative overview of the new Mitchell Synchronized Model A transmission.

June is a good month for touring and we hope you can participate in our scheduled events. Check out the schedule on pg. 2.

Have you registered for the New England Meet in September? Click on this link to register.

<https://wcnemeet.com/?cat=41>



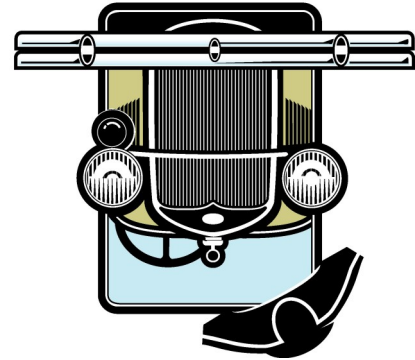
Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



or scan here

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June 2026

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