

# The il Leak

March 2021 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 58 Issue 3

## No Club Events Until Further Notice

### *The President Speaks:*

Hello club members and again I hope all of you are doing well and keeping busy.

March is now upon us and spring is only a few weeks away. SOUNDS GOOD. I don't want to wish the weeks away, but spring is a special time of year that we all enjoy and look forward to.

As you all know it is still many months away from having club meetings again but there is light at the end of the tunnel. With most of us getting vaccine shots over the next few weeks and months things will improve and not a day to soon!!!

The MAFCA NATIONAL TOUR in NORTH CONWAY NEW HAMPSHIRE is still on for June 20to25 and something to look forward to. It is 4 months away and lots of changes are going to happen between now and then. (see page 6)

If anyone has forgotten to send in your dues for 2021 please send in as soon as possible. (see page 5)

We are all looking forward to tours and club meetings and it will happen again. Better than ever!! Find good things about everyday.



**KEEP SMILING EVERY DAY**  
*Doug Farrell*



## Sunshine

Sue Champagne  
(sdchampagne1931@gmail.com)

A get well card was sent to Dave Robbins, we all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him and Leslie at the NE Meet in Maine.

*If you know of a member who needs a little cheering up contact me.*

## Coming Events

(Tours Start at Wayland Town Center RT 20)

**MARCOM Flea Market**  
**Winter Blah's Flea Market**  
**V8 Flea Market**

**Canceled**

(see page 4)

**No Other Events scheduled.**

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

Treasurer's Report  
January 2021

### Income:

Member Dues	\$ 360.00
Total Income	\$ 360.00

### Expense:

Oil Leak Postage	\$ 250.00
Dues & Subscriptions	20.00
MAFCA Insurance	75.00
Oil Leak Printing	70.00
Website Fee	<u>263.88</u>
Total Expense	\$ 678.00

Net Income \$ -318.88



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Art Callan

### MARCH 1986 35 YEARS AGO

Pres Stitt reports 48 paid members. Club votes to join MARC national club.

Doug Linden reports that the Mass Ant Auto Council is working on an option to use authentic year of mfg plates.

### MARCH 1996 25 YEARS AGO

Meeting at Grange Hall but record snow falls today. New tour cards ready, thanks to Dick O'B and Wayne Champagne's committee.

New member: Clint Jackson (our in-house magician) Glen Bessert back after long illness. Tour to A&L in Canton, Conn (mfg of Model A parts).

### MARCH 2006 15 YEARS AGO

Pres Tom Zappala quotes Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success". He is referring to many tours planned and invites all members to be involved.

Tours: Maple Sugar & Quiz, MAFCA national meet in Mansfield, & the Vinyard.

### ----- ARTI-FACT -----

In 1955, the Honeymooners with Jackie Gleason & Art Carney.

In 1957, In God We Trust appeared on US paper currency.

In 1962, Johnny Carson started hosting the Tonight Show.

In 1971, Disney World opened in Orlando.

**National Organizations:** If you are not already members of the following organizations, 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 \$45/year



**Model A Ford Foundation (maffi.org)**  
and the Model A Ford Museum \$25/yr

## 2021 Board of Directors

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**Editor** - Doug Linden [douglingen@aol.com](mailto:douglingen@aol.com)

### Steering Committee

Wayne Champagne, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**Tour Director:** Don Ross 617-584-5245

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

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



**Annual Model A Day**

**Swap Meet**

**Fashion, Seminars,  
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**September 17th & 18th 2021 9-5pm**

 **The Gilmore Car Museum**  
**6865 W. Hickory Road**  
**Hickory Corners, MI 49060** 

**SAVE THE DATE**

For more Info 269-615-3719 Jerry Morrissey  
For Seminar Information Ken Ehrenhofer 630-697-3906  
For Swap Reservations Mark Maron 847-302-7900

This is a wonderful event to attend. If you can schedule a visit during this weekend you will see lots of Model A attending and be able to take in a great Model A only flea market. Give it some thought.



# Secretary's Report

**No February 2 , 2021 Installation Dinner**

**Nothing to Report - Stay well**

## Major Cancellations

**MARCOM Flea Market:** The annual March (7th) flea market held at Holmes Transportation in Norfolk has unfortunately been canceled due to continuing pandemic restriction.

**Minuteman Winter Blahs:** Unfortunately our flea market typically held at the end of March has also been canceled due to restriction on large gathering due to the lingering Covid virus.

**Early Ford V8 Flea Market:** The annual (April) flea market hosted by the V8 club at the Fitchburg Airport has been canceled for this year. They hope to see you in 2022

All of these events will be back . . . See you in 2022

## Trivia for Quiz

1. What auto manufacture began by building Jet fighters?
2. What became padded for a safety feature?
3. Name a coastal town for a Mercury model.
4. Stanley turned water into this.
5. What were the 1932 Ford's coupe nickname?
6. What was used before the halogen bulb on headlights?
7. What type of engine did the Ford motor company offer in 1952?
8. Where was the engine located in the Corvair?
9. What year was the last M.G. built?
10. What does the expression "Chopping" imply in Customizing

## ANSWERS

1. SAAB2
2. Dash engine
3. Monterey
4. Steam
5. Duce
6. Sealed Beams
7. Overhead valve engine
8. in the rear
9. 1981
10. lowering the roof line



## V P Needed

The club can use your help! Yes we are looking for a volunteer to fill the VP position. Please contact Doug Farrell,,,  
Thank You.



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

***2021 Dues is Due***



**DUES NOT PAID? THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER**

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.*

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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No Changes \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over 80 and been a member for at least 5 years? \_\_\_\_ If, yes, membership is free. **However a donation in lieu of dues is always welcome**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

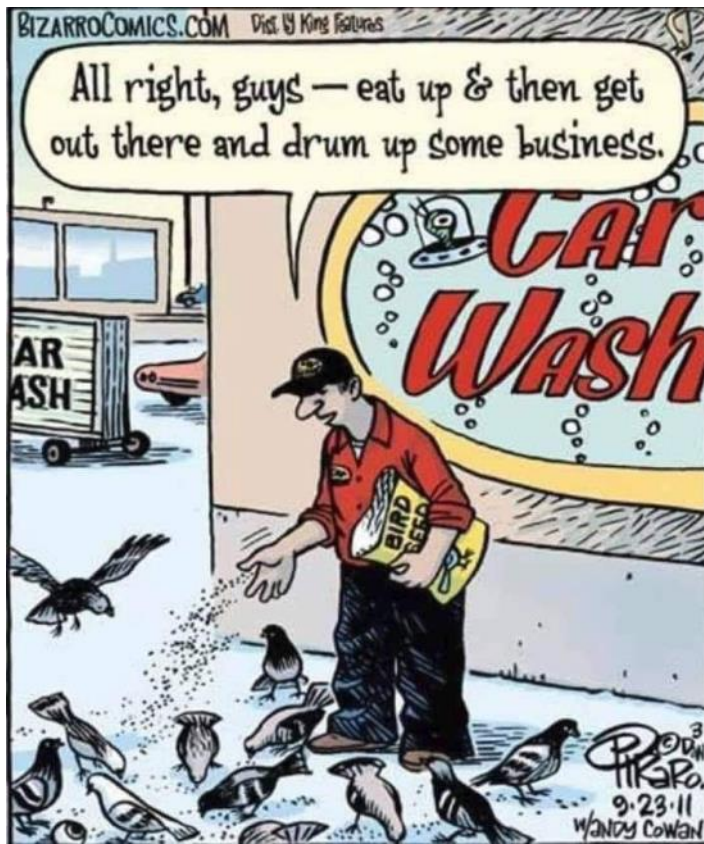
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Year \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Year Acquired \_\_\_\_\_

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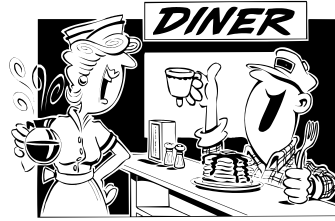
Please make check payable to: Minuteman Model A Ford Club and mail to

Minuteman Model A Club  
P.O. Box 545  
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## ↑ Weekly Breakfast Group ↑

Doing anything on Wednesday morning? No. Well, you are invited to re-join the breakfast group at the Big Apple, 890 Boston Post Road East (RT 20) in Marlborough, MA. The food is



good and there is plenty of Model A talk. New time 8:00AM, Masks Required (see ad page 11)

## UPCOMING EVENTS TO KEEP IN MIND



For 2021 we have a couple of really great events that are going to take place in the New England area. First is the **Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) National Tour** which will be held in North Conway, NH. This event will take place in June and is open to all MAFCA members. The second event that is always great fun the annual New England Model A Meet that will be in September at the Sunday River Resort in Maine. The Registration



Forms for the MAFCA Tour is in The Restorer magazine but it is being updated to conform to covid changes and will be on line soon. Visit <https://www.2021mafcanationaltour.com/> for more info. The New England Meet registration form will be reissued soon also, These will be great events to consider attending, especially after being off the road for so long.





Got these pictures from Bruce Marshall who wanted to let us know the he and Trish enjoyed a tour with the South Carolina club they belong to as they escape the winters of Maine. The Low Country A club is active and sure has a jump on us when it comes to starting the new touring season, nice to see no snow on the ground. . Bruce also has the coupe in SC.

## The Famous Flexible Flyer Sled

Samuel Leeds Allen was born on May 5, 1841 in South Jersey. By 1866 he created his first invention, the Planet Drill that allowed farmers to plant seeds in their fields and that made him a very wealthy young man. His first factory burnt, his second one was located in Philadelphia, where he had better access railroads. For years Allen nursed a personal obsession with "coasting" as sledding was then called. He designed several of his own sleds throughout the 1880s and even built a quarter mile long sled run on his property. Coasting was done largely with either gooseneck sleds and toboggans that could not be steered or articulated sleds with two sets of runners, which proved expensive and unstable. On August 17, 1889 Allen received patent number 408,681 for his design of a sled that had laterally bending runners, which allowed it to be steered, and the Flexible Flyer was born.

Allen began manufacturing sleds at his factory as a way to keep business and production steady year round. His ultimate vision was to make farm supplies in the winter and shift to sleds in the summer, keeping his trained em-

ployees working full time. But the Flexible Flyer was not an instant success. The product was rejected by retailers for years and his sales staff advised him to give up the toy line. But Allen remained undeterred. "It takes seven to nine years to introduce a new article," he wrote to his son. Outdoor sports went through a rebirth in popularity at the turn of the century and major retailers like Wanamaker's in Philadelphia and Macy's in New York began selling the Flexible Flyer in their stores. Allen expanded his plant with a modern concrete addition in 1909, and again with a ornate brick-faced structure in 1911. Flexible Flyer was now a household name. By 1915 the company was selling 2,000 sleds a week with an estimated 120,000 each winter season. The popularity of the Flexible Flyer brand grew steadily in the 1920s and the product's design was improved with changes like steerable bumpers in 1928 and rounded rears for the runners in 1935 to help prevent sledders from accidentally impaling themselves on sleds ahead of them. By the 1950s the Flexible Flyer was as popular as ever as suburban expansion boomed and



American postwar optimism fueled the consumer market. Over time the company's finances suffered as a result of other ventures and the company was eventually sold. The Flexible Flyer name was bought by Paricon of Maine in 2005, formerly the Paris Manufacturing Co. which, ironically, had once manufactured the "Speedway" line of sleds, Flexible Flyers' primary competitor.

***I don't know about you but as a kid one of my best Christmas presents was a new Flexible Flyer sled.***



# Revisiting the Model A Electrical System

by Jim Conaway

The Model A electrical system, as designed over 90 years ago, is elegant in its simplicity. The six-volt system with its simple generator and cutout charging system, theft-proof Electrolock® ignition switch and diagnostic ammeter were all that was needed when the car was new. The headlight switch is conveniently located for the driver, intuitively simple in design and easy to use. When the Model A was introduced in 1928, the 32/32 cp incandescent headlight bulbs were more than adequate when driving speeds were generally not much above 35 mph.

However, by the 1940's and 50's when many Model A's were still on the road, driving speeds were much faster and brighter headlights were needed. Almost every Model A I remember seeing when I was a teenager had sealed-beam headlights installed, which severely challenged the electrical system, as these bulbs generally drew 15 amps or more, near maximum capability of the charging system. Generally Model A owners either changed the electrical system to 12 volts, used a 6 volt alternator set the charging rate on the stock generator so high that daytime driving would boil the battery dry. Although a 12 volt system solves the headlight issue, the characteristic sound of an original Model A engine starting up is lost and the alternator sure doesn't look very authentic.

Advances in electronics technology in the past ten years make it possible to keep the original 6-volt electrical system and have bright headlights at the same time, as well as also being able to power a USB charging port for GPS, cellphone or handheld radio.



LED headlights are available from both LogoLites® (\$30 each) and LEDlight.com (part # 74475, \$19 each). Both suppliers' headlights are direct plug-in replacements for the original incandescent bulbs and have two rows of LED's; the LogoLites® headlights use the upper row for low beam and both upper and lower rows for high beam. Headlights from LEDlight.com use half of the LED's on both up-

per and lower rows for low beam, and all LED's on both rows for highbeam; this headlight is also available in two colors, bright white and warm white.

LEDlight.com part #68574 (white 600k, \$6 each) is a direct replacement for the original taillight, and part# 68574 (red 625 nm, \$6 each) is a direct replacement for the original brake light; this brake light LED can be used behind the original amber brake lens and when lit will be bright red. Cowl light bulbs can be replaced with LEDlight.com part #84765(\$4 each). With LED headlights turned on high beam, total current draw is around 2 amps, which is easily supplied by an original generator.



Funprojects.com sells electronic voltage regulators (~\$70 each) for Model A's for either 6 or 12 volt systems, positive or negative ground. These units, identical to an original Ford cutout, are not simply diodes, but allow the generator to charge the battery only when needed, thus avoiding boiling the battery dry by overcharging. I set the maximum charge rate on the generator in my Model A to 8 amps, but rarely see the ammeter charging more than 4-5 amps just after the engine has started.



There now is also another alternative, the 6 volt PowerGen. This is a modern alternator that is housed in a regular Model A generator housing. So you get the best of both worlds, modern voltage regulation that looks all original. This



(Continued on page 9)



unit cost about \$375.

Another modern upgrade is to add a USB charging port. Amazon sells a dual charging port unit with a power switch that works on 6 volts. The item description reads “Car Charger with Switch, CHGeek 12V/24V 22W Waterproof 2.1A & 2.1A( 4.2A) Dual USB Fast Charger Socket Power Outlet”.

The final upgrade to consider is addition of turn signals/emergency flashers for safety. LogoLites® sells an excel-lent LED turn signal kit (\$199) for a Model A that requires no modification or drilling to install. The LEDs in this kit mount between the upper and lower bars on both front and rear bumpers. The control attaches magnetically to the front dash/gas tank and can be positioned such that it's convenient to operate, yet very unobtrusive.

I have made all these upgrades to my Model and have been very pleased. Not only is the car lighting significantly brighter, I can charge a cell phone or GPS, and the electronic voltage regulator keeps the car battery fully charged without overcharging it. Perhaps the

biggest benefit of these electrical system performance improvements is that the car retains its original appearance and start-up sound.

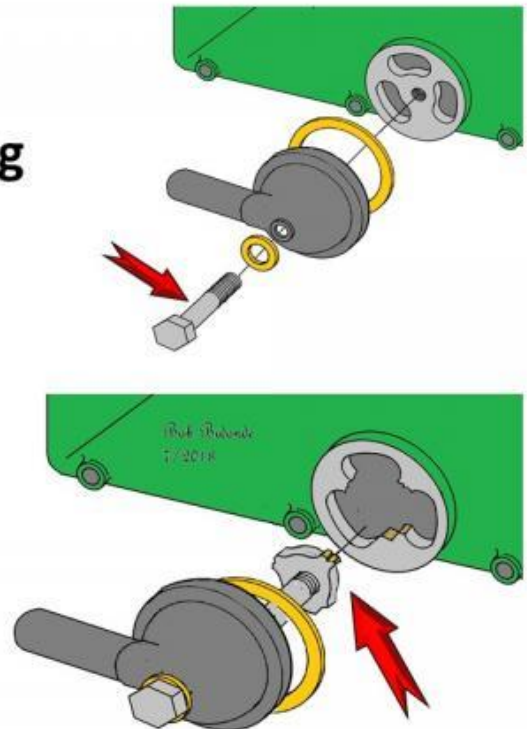
If, after reading this, you still want to switch to a 12 volt electrical system, you don't need to buy an alternator; the Model A generator will easily charge a 12 volt battery. In fact, the Model A generator will put out up to 40 volts, so always be sure a battery is installed in the car when engine is running, as the battery determines the system voltage, not the generator. To switch to a negative ground system, simply repolarize the generator with the case grounded to negative and a positive current applied to the output terminal.

*I saw this article in another club's newsletter (can't recall the club) and thought it had some good information on the new LED lights and other electrical items for the Model A.*

## TECHNICAL HINT

### Oil Return Pipe

- Consequence of over-tightening oil return pipe bolts
- Crack-out of valve cover
- Same can happen to engine block
- Lightly snug bolts just enough to seat gaskets



The bolts holding the Oil Return Pipe on do not have to be cranked up tight. If you do you run the risk of snapping the web on the valve cover. As mentioned you should just snug up the bolts.

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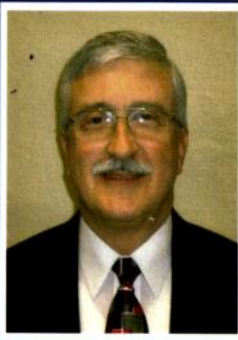
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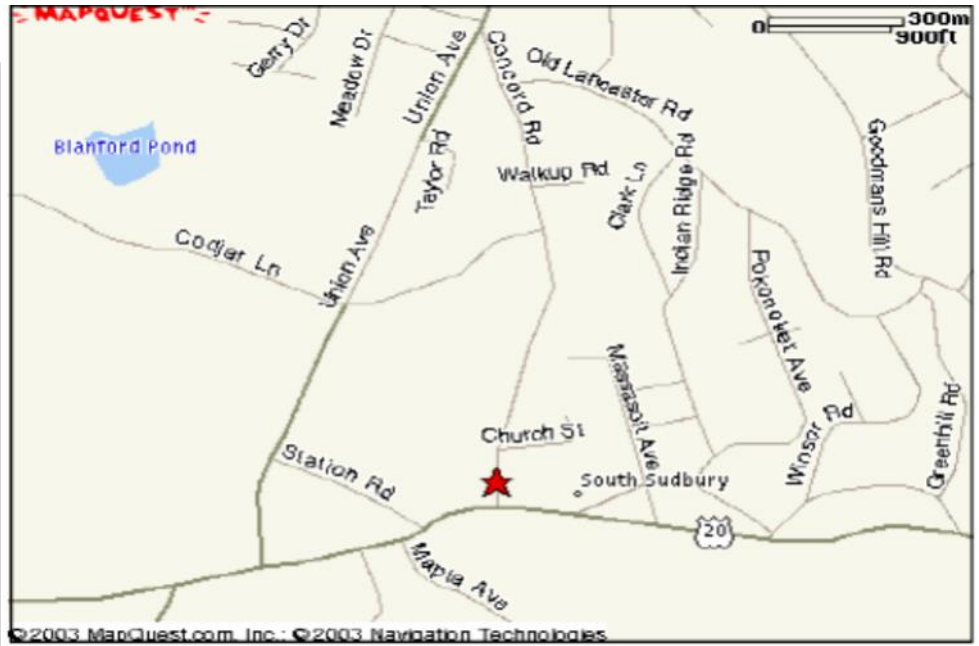
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### Hopefully Soon

I hope you have been able to get, or are schedule to get, your Covid vaccination. This is important not only for our safety but the community as well. Getting the shot will also help get us back on the road with our Model A's. It has been a long winter and doing anything that will get us out and about sooner will sure be appreciated. Hopefully we will even be able to have a meeting soon. It will be nice to see everybody again.



Monthly Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month at the Memorial Congregational Church, 26 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM, preceded by "Tire Kicking" at 7:00 PM.

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



**March 2021**

Please  
Mail to:

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