

# The il Leak

March 2024 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 61 Issue 3

## *The President Speaks:*

March winds are almost here. April showers and May flowers (I won't say anything about Pilgrims) aren't too far behind. It's almost time to dust off those fenders, change the oil, grease what seems like nearly a thousand places on our A's, and start our engines. Riding and smiling are not far away.

Speaking of March, this month we'll be celebrating a holiday that the Irish have observed for over 1,000 years. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17th, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. "The luck of the Irish to ya."



We sure can use everyone's help with the March 24th Flea Market. And we're looking for some new ideas for tour destinations. Please consider volunteering to lead a tour this summer.

Because of technical difficulties, last month's "dad joke" didn't make it to print. So, this month for your enjoyment, here's a double dose of laughter:

I've recently been feeling my age with some health issues. But I hate it when people say, "Age is just a number." They can't fool me – I know it's a word. I also recently decided to hire a handyman to help around the house. I gave him a "to do" list. When I got home, he had only done items 1, 3, and 5 on my list. Turns out he only does odd jobs.

*Prez Brad*





## Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A Thinking of You card was sent the Martins.

A Sympathy was sent to Don Ross for the passing of his brother. Our condolences go to Don and 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)

- Mar 2** Model Engine Show Waltham (see page 10)
- Mar 3** MARCOM Flea Market (see page 5)
- Mar 5** Regular Club Meeting
- Mar 20** **Pizza Party & Quiz (see page 8)**
- Mar 24** **Minuteman Winter Blahs Flea Market (see page 5)**

TL = Tour Leader

### Minuteman Model A Ford Club Treasurer's Report January, 2024

#### Income:

Coffee Can	30.75
Member Dues	200.00
Raffle	40.00
Total Income	\$ 270.75

#### Expense:

Coffee Supplies	17.75
Dues/Subscriptions	35.00
Flea Market	108.41
Installation/Awards	50.23
MAFCA Insurance	75.00
Meeting Room Fee	765.00
Oil Leak Printing	80.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1131.39

**Net Income** \$ -860.64



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### MARCH 1989 35 YEARS AGO

Phil Iorio was having his ups and downs, reported John Jacobson. His inner ear problem was sending him to bed, and a sore back was making him get up! Dan Noyes had an interesting classified ad in the March Oil Leak: a 1967 Chevrolet Caprice 4 door H.T. black with a 327 cu engine. 2nd owner. \$1,200 or best offer. The Tool Award, chaired by Art Callan, reported on acceptance of our club's \$250.00 offer to the Assabet Regional Vocational School in Marlboro.

### MARCH 1999 25 YEARS AGO

We were gearing up for the Annual Swap Meet which would be on March 21st at Acton Ford. The indoor vendor spots were sold out. A sign up sheet for helpers was at the next meeting. It wasn't too early to sign up for the MARC National Meet which would be held in Lancaster, PA - August 8th - 13th or for the NE Regional Meet held on Long Island from September 17th to the 19th.

### MARCH 2009 15 YEARS AGO

Art Callan was pleased to report that the Minuteman Challenge for the MAFFI Museum had resulted in 26 Clubs donating an impressive total of \$14,150.00! As Executive Director, Art Callan would continue to report during this 2009 campaign. Gene Laks received the MAFCA Award of Merit for his efforts on our website and Doug Linden received the MAFCA Award of Merit for the Club's Newsletter - The Oil Leak.

### National Organizations:



**Model A Ford Club of America ([mafca.com](http://mafca.com))**

Membership dues \$50/year



**Model A Restorers Club ([model-a-ford.org](http://model-a-ford.org))**

Membership Dues \$50/year



**Model A Ford Foundation ([maffi.org](http://maffi.org))**

and the Model A Ford Museum \$35/yr.



## 2023 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

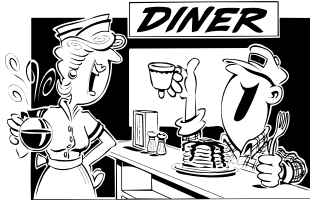
John Kerns, Rich Batstone, Tom Zappala, Harold Samuels, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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



## National News

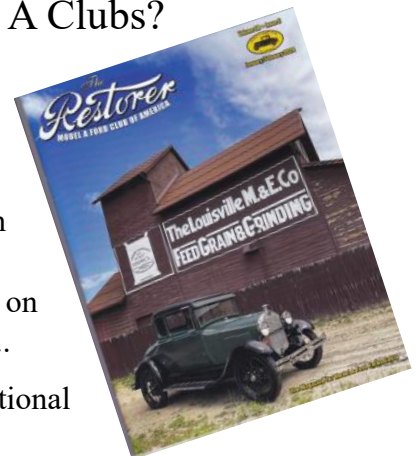
Have You Joined the National Model A Clubs?

**No!**



Well you are missing out on receiving two great magazines filled with Model A stories, technical information and national activities. Membership is easy, just visit their website information on Page 2 and you can join right on the spot..

Both clubs (MAFCA and MARC) have national events planned for 2024.



*"Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs."*  
Henry Ford

## **Secretary's Report**

### **Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club February 6, 2024**

**Memorial Congregational Church, Sudbury, MA**

Tonight's meeting opened with President Brad Johnson leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 37 members in attendance.

The business meeting kicked off at 7:31 pm.

#### **Officers Reports:**

Brad requested a motion to accept the Treasurers' Report as printed in the

Oil Leak – MSP.

Brad then requested a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as printed in the

Oil Leak – MSP.

#### **VP Reports:**

VP Harold Samuels had a long list of activities to report on;

- 25<sup>th</sup> Model Engineering Show – March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Charles River Museum.
- Gore Place – August 4<sup>th</sup> show featuring auto's, bicycles and motorcycles.
- Winter Blahs Flee Market – March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Wings & Wheels Swap Meet - Fitchburg – April 28<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars!

Harold also read a MAFCA Thank You letter for the clubs \$250 donation for the Model A Youth Scholarship Award.

#### **Membership:**

Nan - if dues are not paid you may not be getting your newsletter next month.

#### **Touring:**

Doug – A touring meeting will be held in February, please attend and bring some new ideas. Check your e-mail for schedule and location. February 20<sup>th</sup> is a likely date.

#### **National News:**

Doug mentioned the 2 National meets this year, they will be in North Carolina and New Mexico.

Also don't forget MAFFI Day's in Hickory Corners next September. What is happening now is that MAFFI is planning to double the size of the current museum as they are running out of space. They are raising funds from clubs, individuals and sponsors. This topic was

discussed and voted on at the clubs Board of Directors meeting. The Board is recommending that the Minuteman Model A Ford Club donate \$5000.00 to Museum Expansion Fund. This money will come from the long term account that was set up years ago for issues like this. A formal motion was made and approved by the Membership at tonight's meeting. MSP.

Doug also spoke about the individual fund raising program called "My A program". Any individual who donates \$200 or more will have a plaque with a picture of their Model A on the wall at the Museum.

**Old Business:** None

#### **New Business:**

Craig Martin - The Annual Winter Blahs Swap Meet will be held Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Maynard Elks. This is the clubs 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet and Craig's 16<sup>th</sup> year organizing it. Thank you Craig!! He will be looking for volunteers to assist vendors in the loading and unloading process, vendors start showing up at 6:30AM and we are usually wrapped up by 11:30AM. We are also looking for donations for the Raffle Table, if you have any good Model A items you are not using and would like to donate to the raffle please contact Craig.

Tom Z. - provided a quick update on the ongoing plans for the 2025 New England meet. The Grand Tour for the meet will be ending at Fruitland's in Harvard Ma. With that in mind Tom has proposed we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by doing a test run of the Grand Tour ending at Fruitland's with a picnic lunch. He has proposed that attendee's pay a nominal fee with the club picking up the remaining cost for the lunch. A motion was made that the club spend no more than \$3500 on this event – MSP.

Brad thanked Len, Peg and Peter McLaughlin for providing tonight's Refreshments. Volunteers for next month's meeting are Dick O'Brien and Charlie Gautreau

#### **Programs:**

Doug Linden will discuss Model A generators and alternators.

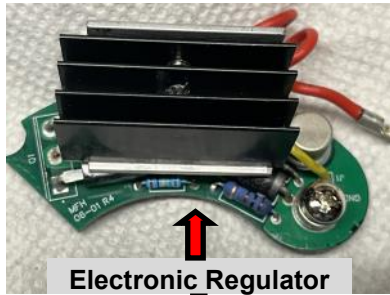
Meeting was officially closed at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

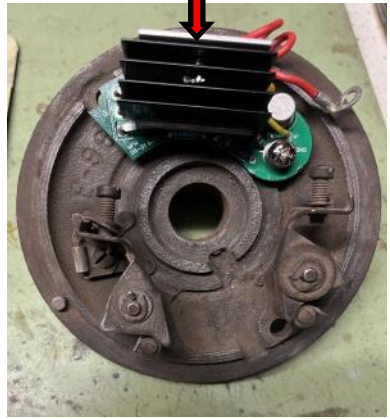
***Rick Gadbois***

Secretary

## MODEL "A" GENERATOR UPGRADE



**Electronic Regulator**



At the February meeting I gave a short presentation on the various options to charge the battery on a Model A. The Model A generator as supplied was a very crude unregulated device. As a result it can overcharge or undercharge the battery. Many of us have switched to alternators which are internally regulated to only charge the battery with as much current as required. With modern electronics, a standard Model A generator can be upgraded with a circuit board, that mounts on the inside back cover of the generator. The device replaces the generator's third brush and now can fully regulate the current flowing to the battery, the same as an alternator. The big advantage of this is you have the original looking generator with modern current regulation. Something to consider if you want to maintain an original looking engine compartment. *Doug Linden*



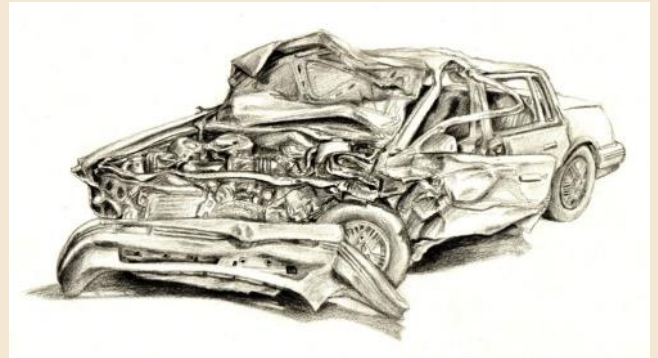
## Sunday March 24th

**7:30 AM - 11:30 AM**



Maynard Elks Lodge  
34 Powder Mill Road (RT 62)  
Maynard, MA 01754  
Vendor Spaces: \$20.00  
General Admission: \$3.00  
Craig Martin (978-562-2390)  
[cmartinstow@comcast.net](mailto:cmartinstow@comcast.net)

## **"Artie - Fact"**



Sarah had just passed her driving test and had managed to persuade her father to lend her his new car for the day. She hadn't been gone long when the phone rang.

"Dad," came the worried voice, "I think that there is water in the engine."

"Don't worry," her father replied kindly, thankful it was nothing more serious, "where is the car? I'll get a mechanic to come and have a look at it."

Unfortunately... returned the quivering voice,

"...It's in the lake..."

## **MARCOM FLEA MARKET**

**SUNDAY- MARCH 3rd**

**WINTER FLEA MARKET**

**AT HOLMES TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**

**22 MYRTLE STREET, NORFOLK, MA.**

**FROM 7:30 AM TO 11:00 AM Admission**

**\$3.00**



## ~ News From The Era ~ THE PINES WINTERFRONT

Back in the early days of automobiles, one of the problems with driving in cold weather was that the water in a car's radiator could freeze. This could cut off the circulation of cooling water, ironically causing the engine to overheat. The radiator sits right in the front of the car behind the grille, so to avoid freezing, folks would sometimes put a blanket over the grille or a piece of cardboard between the grille and the radiator to keep cold air out.

The Pines Winterfront Co. of Chicago manufactured thermostatically controlled radiator shutters. Invented by James Raleigh in the early 1920s, the Winterfront had a thermostat that pressed against the radiator core. Its shutters cut off airflow when cold, allowing the engine to warm up. When warmed up, the threshold was said to be 130 degrees F (appropriate in the days of alcohol-based antifreeze with a low boiling point), and the thermostat operated levers that opened the louvers.



This may be a Winterfront unit on a Model A

Winterfronts were sold at auto service stations and via the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Business was good enough that a larger factory was designed by the firm Mundie & Jensen and built in 1929. But the young company didn't last long in its new building.



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BOB FRIZOL, ERIC BECKMAN, Props. PHONE 223

Some of the nicer models of cars came with louvers in the front that could be opened and closed manually to control the flow of cold air over the radiator. Stutz, Duesenberg, and Marmon (and others?) all used Pines shutter assemblies on their factory radiators. Ford did not.



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*No need to blanket the hood*

Sometime in the 1930s, manufacturers began to install thermostats inside their engines. Thereafter, the need for Winterfronts faded. Temperature-control technology in cars was making the Winterfront obsolete. The Pines Winterfront Co. dissolved in 1940 and the factory building was sold.

*Credit: the Sullivan's Trails (NY) Newsletter*



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



**Last Issue if you have not paid your 2024 dues?**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Spouse/Significant Other Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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



# IT'S PIZZA PARTY TIME!

**March 20, 2024**



It's BAAACK ! Covid put the brakes on this fun event and we are finally getting this annual event back on schedule. We all like to get together for pizza and a beverage, but what really sets this apart is the Pizza quiz and prizes. The quiz will test your knowledge.

The menu will be assorted Pizza and tossed salad. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

**Where:** Southborough Fire House Pizza  
5 Main Street (RT 30)

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Price:** \$12.00 per person.

**Reservations are requested**

Contact Doug or Nan Linden

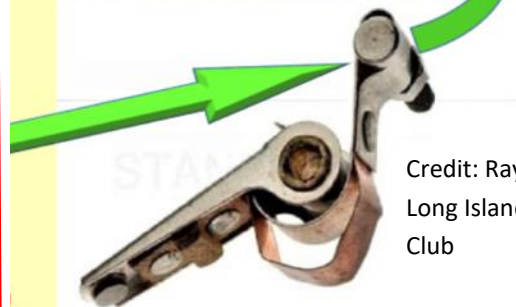
508-485-7575 or douglinden@aol.com

**& World Famous Pizza Quiz**

## Ignition Points Mod For Easy Replacement

- Reshape head of point mounting stud round to oval
- Size stud head so it slides thru loop in point spring
- Permanently mount stud in distributor plate
- When replacing points, discard new post

*By Ray LeBlond*



Credit: Ray LeBlond  
Long Island Model A  
Club

## CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Name the 1970s Valliant offshoot.
2. What is a premium motor oil?
3. What was the first US auto company?
4. What was used as a crash tester?
5. Name an important wheel adjustment.
6. Name an extinct Chrysler product.
7. What was the Mustang-based Mercury?
8. What used to be the edge of town sign?
9. Name the safety pillow used in new cars.
10. Name the important part of a braking system





## Jim's Tech Tips

### *"Preventing Problems with the Starter Switch Rod"*

The Starter Switch Rod passes through the firewall and screws into the Starter Switch. You step on the head of the rod to start the car.

You will find that today's reproduction rods screw quite easily into and out of the switch. This can be nice when you are assembling things.

But I have found on more than just a few cars the engine vibration can cause the rod to unscrew itself and back out of the switch. You hit a bump and the rod drops down and makes contact with the post on the starter switch, where the battery cable connects. Yikes! That's a direct short to ground, with a LOT of amps behind it.



So you want to make the rod a bit harder to turn when installing it in the switch. Add a small drop of blue thread locker to the rod before you screw it in, or gently tap the threads a little with a hammer to deform them and make them harder to screw in and out.

Another simple solution, if you are not doing a car for Fine Point Judging (because it is not how the switch was originally done), is to add a 5/16" nut to the threaded end of the rod before screwing it into the switch. When you have the rod where you want it (desired button height inside the car, etc.) use that nut as a jam nut and lock the rod to the switch. It will not back out while driving, but you can easily undo it when you need to take it apart.

Whichever approach you choose, you will have more trouble-free miles if you get ahead of this potential problem. Until next time...

*Have a Model A Day!*

Jim Cannon

**Editor's Note:** I can attest to the problem Jim covers above. While participating in the MAFCA National Tour in Utah we were ready to head out on tour and my car didn't start. The starter button didn't move but lights and horn worked so a few guys push the car and it started right up. It was a beautiful drive to Bryce Canyon National Park and once we parked we decided to see what the problem was. Yes, the starter rod had disconnected from the switch and it was so close to the battery cable. Yikes this could have been disastrous. Fortunately I had a nut that we used to lock the rod in place and it's still there doing its job

### ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Duster
2. Synthetic oil
3. Duryea motors
4. Dummy
5. Wheel balance
6. Desoto
7. Cougar
8. City limit
9. Air Bags
10. Antilock system



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SEE! OPERATING SCALE:

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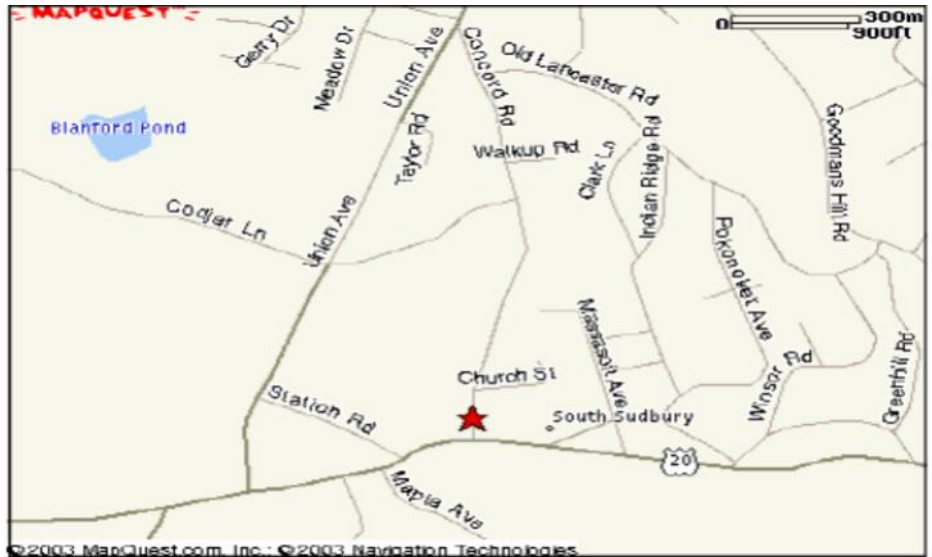


### Meeting Information

At the March meeting Craig Martin will finalize his list for volunteers at the Flea Market. The most important need is having help to unload the vendors in the morning.

We will also have a report on the recent Tour Planning meeting.

And finally there will be a short technical presentation on the proper use and setting of the Model A carburetor. Plan to attend,



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



Please  
Mail to:

March 2024

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