

# The il Leak

May 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 5

## *“The Steering Column”*

With the April showers behind us, and the trees starting to bud, I believe it is now safe to say that it is “officially” Model A Ford Season (strike up the band!). So, let us get out there and put down some miles.

I know for Lisa and I, there has been a lot of maintenance taking place on “Shirley the Coupe” and “Roberta the Fordor” to prep the ladies for the season. Shirley is road ready and looking forward to the Spring Clinic. It is always a good idea to have another set of eyes take a look to ensure you did not miss something in preparing for the touring season. I for one am excited.




We were able to get Roberta fired up after a couple years of being in the shop, she has developed a bit of a death wobble though, so a little more physical therapy may be what the doctor orders before she is truly road worthy.

I recently got a call from a longtime Westborough friend (Carmen Borgia) who needed a hand putting on a top boot on his Model A Phaeton. In true Minuteman fashion, I went right over to lend a hand. The boot was a little tight but we got the job done. With the car being outside of the garage and the sun shining bright, I suggested that we would be foolish if we did not go for a ride. This was my first ride in a Model A open car. By the end of the ride my face hurt from smiling so much.

I had to put a call out to the membership for some assistance with advice, some Model A specific tools, as well as a lifeline for a “carburetor rescue.” Thank you to Wayne, Lenny, and Doug for all the help. Without your wealth of knowledge and experience, I would probably still be sitting in the garage wondering, what have I done now and how am I going to fix this.



*~Peter*



# Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A get well card was sent to Andy Adams for his recent surgery.

*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)


- May 3** 10:00 AM Post Office Pub Lunch Grafton Don Ross TL
- May 6** Meeting date Changed to May 13
- May 12** 6:30 PM Ashland Dairy Queen OYO
- May 13** Regular Club Meet NOTE DATE CHANGE
- May 17** Noon Wellesley Veterans Parade (see pg 3)
- May 24** 10AM Wellesley College Reunion (see pg 3)
- June 3** Regular Club Meeting

## Minuteman Model A Ford Club

### Treasurer's Report

#### March 2026

<b>Income:</b>	
Coffee Can	9.00
Flea Mkt	698.00
Flea Market Attendance	1160.00
Flea Mkt Vendor Fee	280.00
Member Dues	275.00
<u>Raffle Club</u>	<u>31.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2453.00</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	
Coffee Supplies	9.00
Flea Market	246.57
Oil Leak Printing	80.00
<u>Trans to Middlesex Svg</u>	<u>5.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 340.57</b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	 <b>\$ 2112.43</b>



## MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

### MAY 1991 35 YEARS AGO

John Purdy, responding to an ultimatum from the town of Hudson, MA, announced a yard sale of Model A parts, cars, and trucks, set for May 25th. There was a super turnout for the May meeting -- 49 Model A's filled the parking lot! A tour to Quebec, Canada had been finalized and was scheduled to begin on August 3rd, and a second tour would start on August 9th, with Stowe, VT as the destination. Both tours merged in Stowe, VT for a spectacular weekend!

### MAY 2001 25 YEARS AGO

The 45th Annual New England Model A Ford Meet at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, MA from September 21 to the 23rd of 2001 was scheduled to be run by the Minuteman Model A Ford Club. The chairmen would be Dick Stitt, John Jacobson, and Doug Linden and our meet coordinator was Jo Johnson. Marlies reported that our Annual Flea Market/Swap Meet was a huge success! The Flea Market netted \$1,913.50, which exceeded the previous year's total by over \$700!

### MAY 2011 15 YEARS

The Winter Blahs Swap Meet was a success! The weather cooperated, bringing out many vendors and buyers. We owed a big thanks to Gene Bunce for donating a transmission for the raffle, which added nicely to our net income. Our Spring Tour Clinic was held Saturday, April 16th at the home of Jack and Jo. Fourteen members took advantage of the Clinic and brought their As to be checked out. The As rolled in at 30-minute intervals and got a thorough road test. They then moved to the test stations where various checks were done and anything faulty was corrected on the spot. All in all it was a great day! We identified and fixed problems that would make those As better touring cars for the upcoming summer touring season.

**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 [douglinden@aol.com](mailto:douglinden@aol.com)

### Steering Committee

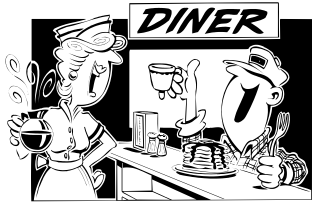
Harold Samuels, vacant, Tom Zappala, Wayne Champagne, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

**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.



### **Paid Events**

**May 17:** The Wellesley Veterans Parade is a paid event for our club. Line up is at the Wellesley Public Works on RT 9 at **Noon** for a 1PM start. We get paid by the # of cars, so lets have a good turn out.

**May 24:** At the Wellesley College Reunion our club provides the most senior class members attending the reunion a ride in the Model A's for the short campus parade. The more A's we have the more elderly ladies we can give rides to. We line up at the chapel on campus at **10AM**.

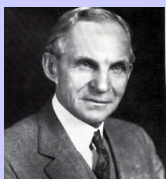
### *Welcome New Members*

**Nan reports two new members this month**

**Sean & Kaitlyn O'Brien**  
130 Rounsevell Rd  
Tewksbury, MA 01876  
No Model A ..yet

**Ed & Mary Underwood**  
70 Potash Rd  
Mansfield, MA 02048  
1929 Panel Delivery

Welcome to the Club



*"Higher wages are not an additional cost under proper management. Better paid workmen are more willing and more efficient"* Henry Ford

## Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club April 1, 2026

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

President Peter McLaughlin gavelled the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 32 people in attendance. He then called for motions to accept the Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report as printed in the Oil Leak. That met with success. He thanked Vice President Wayne for presiding at the March meeting. He reminded us that next month the meeting would be held a week later May 13.

In talking of upcoming events: the tour clinic will be held April 25 at Harold Legges. Don Ross has the sign-up sheet for the clinic.

Doug Farrell was thanked for bringing refreshments and officers Wayne and Peter will bring refreshments in May.

Nan Linden reported that we have two new members: Sean O'Brien of Tewksbury who is looking for a car and Ed Underwood of Mansfield who just acquired a Model A Panel truck.

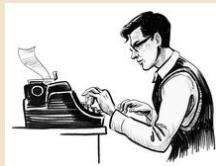
Ben Chirco was called upon to report on the Winter Blahs Flea Market. He reported there were 14 fewer people through the door than last year. Profits were made on the refreshments, entrance fee and vendors (although there were fewer vendors). Expenses were for hall rental \$300 and advertising and refreshments. He suggested that he will reach other car clubs like the V8 club to increase attendance and gain some vendors. He suggested March 21, 2027 for the event next year. He was recognized for his efforts with a round of applause.

Don Ross was called upon to report on tours. He reported that the Clinic will be held in Natick from 8:30 to 3:00 and the slots are filled. He mentioned a few changes in the tour card: April 21 will be to Dairy Joy and unless we get a leader it will be on your own. May 3 is the Post Office Pub tour in Grafton. May 5 we will go to the Minuteman Vocational School to meet with students and display our cars. Rain date is May 6. May 17 is the Wellesley Veterans parade and May 24 is the Wellesley College Parade. Both are paid events benefiting the club. The flag Day parade is June 14.

Doug Linden was asked about National news. He reminded us that both national clubs offer one-year free membership to new members. He was happy to report that new judging standards are being prepared and soon going to printers. This serves as restoration guidelines and judging standards. Also, a new roster of members is being prepared, and this can be a nice thing to have in distant locations when needing help with your Model A.

In Old Business we were reminded that photos and stories of members' cars will be collected for the website and newsletter.

Vice President Wayne Champagne reported on correspondence: MAFFI is raffling off a 1930 Town Sedan. The winner can take the car or \$15,000. May 9 is the Wilbraham Hill Climb Car Show. Jo Johnson is requesting donations to the Youth Scholarship Fund. Our club usually donates \$250. This comes out of the endowment fund and not the operating account. May 3 is a talk in Townsend on a cross-county trip in a Model T in 1927.



On the head table, there are tire gauges, two key fobs and newsletters for any that would like.

Wayne proceeded to explain the MARC driving award program which is a recognition of mileage that MARC members drive their A's during the year. There are sign-up sheets available and the cost is \$1.00. A member can get a tag recognizing 1000 miles and up. Tonight Don Ross got recognized for his 2 door 1929 A for 10,000 miles. Bruce Marshall was recognized for 20,000 miles in his 1931 Town Sedan. It was mentioned that Doug Linden has travelled 95000 miles. Wayne displayed the radiator badges that award recipients can display.

It was reported that after the break there would be a 50/50 raffle and a video of preparing your car for the touring season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

*John Erb*

## Thomas Chaput's Model A Ford Story

In 1954 my dad bought this 30 Roadster in Irvine CA for \$25. He got the engine rebuilt, bought new tires, a new top, and fixed the brakes. Then in the summer of 1955 he drove it home to Stoneham MA.

In 1960 he took it off the road. As a kid I remember him saying he hoped to do a full restoration someday. But over the years, which included raising five children and nine grandchildren, his priorities and interests changed. He never got back it.

I brought the roadster home in 2022 and it was in rough shape, to say the least. I was however relieved to find the motor still spun freely.

Early in 2024 I finally had a chance to work on it. I replaced the gas tank, radiator, battery, most of the ignition system and cleaned the carburetor. I attempted its first start in 64 years. It ran!

After playing on, in and around this car since I was four or five years old, hearing it run for the first time was just amazing!

Two more years and many hours of body work later, it is just about ready for the road again.



Just a few years ago



Into the garage in Massachusetts



## 30th Annual Winter Blah's Flea Market March 22, 2026

The 2026 Winter Blah's Flea Market went off without a hitch thanks especially since the rain that was forecasted in the morning held off until after the event. Also a big shout out goes to all the club members who helped make this event a success. Ben Chirco and John Pierce were laying out vendor spaces at O-Dark Hundred. Brad & Kathy Johnson had the coffee and donuts ready and Nan Linden & Dawn Lavesque started collecting entrance fees at 7:30am. The club helpers; Brad Johnson, Doug Farrell, Doug Linden, Dennis Porter, Harold Legge, Bob Quebec, Tom Zappala, Blake Sullivan, Peter McLaughlin, Jim Flanagan and John Pierce got all the vendors in and out of their spaces, which the vendors really do appreciate. Don Ross & Doug Farrell sold raffle tickets for a variety of donated items. Dick Krug provided security and all the cones along the street made sure we had no visits from the Maynard Police. All and all, it was a good Spring kick off event for the Club and the income we made will be a big help to our treasury.

Ben Chirco did a great job in his first year taking over the responsibility from Craig Martin. Ben has already secured the Maynard Elks for next year. BTW, the leftover hand truck and missing traffic cones have been reunited with their owners,

**Editor's Note:** For the vendor's inside it was nice and warm in the Elks Hall, but the vendors outside said it was pretty cold. They made trips inside for some hot coffee.



**Don & Doug Selling tickets.**

A few pictures of the action at the vendor spaces. I heard vendors were happy with sales.





## 2026 New England Meet

September 18– 20, 2026

The Worcester County Model A Club will host this event in the town of Southbridge, MA. Registration for the Meet is currently underway and if you have not registered for this great event just click on or visit this link to do so.

<https://wcnemeet.com/>

The Worcester club provided us with the help needed to make our event last year a success, so lets return the favor and support them by registering for the meet. Also check out the neat looking number plate topper they will be selling. It's always nice to see what new item each host club offers to commemorate their event. Hotel rooms are still available so visit the site and get all the details.

See you there!



## 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.

Power Steering & Brakes, Automatic Transmission. 390CID 300 Horsepower engine with recent Carb Rebuild

Two Natick owners since new.

Only 45,000 miles, Fully restored and runs great.

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

**Contact Gary Hoyt @ 508-655-0077**



## Ziti's Night Out

On April 16th club members got together at Ziti's Trattoria in Natick for some great Italian food. It was chilly night but those attending had a great evening of conversation and discussing Model A events. It was also good to have Grace Doyle join us after being away in Australia for many weeks. Food events always seem a popular way to get members together.



# Top 10 Checklist

1. Check the Tires
2. Check the Battery
3. Check/Change the Engine Oil
4. Check/Fill Transmission Oil
5. Check/Fill Rear Differential Oil
6. Antifreeze/Coolant System
7. Check/Fill Steering Box Oil
8. Grease, Grease, Grease
9. Lube
10. Cleaning the Spark Plugs

The entertainment for the April meeting was a video covering the Top 10 Maintenance items to check after your Model A has been in the garage for the winter. The video was well done and very informative. Many of us probably do most of these, but not all. So it was a good reminder of the things to look at when you open the garage doors to get the Model A back on the road.

You may want to check the items listed here and on page 9 as both of these lists cover many of the things we don't check at the spring Tune-Up Clinic.

The video was done by Epic Restorationz and if you search YouTube you will find all the videos they have done. If you didn't make the meeting here is a link to the video.

<https://youtu.be/LuNfpt2JisY>

## MARC Mileage Award

10000 Miles  
20000 Miles

Congratulations to Don Ross for reaching **10,000** miles in his 1929 Tudor and to Bruce Marshall for reaching **20,000** miles with his 1931 Town Sedan.

Report By: *Wayne Champagne, Minuteman MARC Driving Coordinator*

The MARC Mileage Driving program is open to all Minuteman members who are also MARC (Model A Restorer's Club) national members. Contact Wayne for more information.

## "Artie - Fact"

By "A" nonymous



A group of pensioners were discussing their medical problems at the Day Center morning coffee.

'Do you realize,' said one, 'My arm is so weak I can hardly hold this coffee cup.'

'Yes I know' replied the second, 'My cataracts are so bad I can't see to pour the coffee.'

'I can't turn my head,' joined the third, 'because of the arthritis in my neck.'

'My blood pressure pills make me dizzy,' commented the fourth, adding, 'I guess that's the price we pay for getting old.'

'Well, it's not all bad.' piped up the first, 'We should be thankful that we can still drive.'

## CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is a completed engine overhaul without the cylinder head?
2. What is a clear safety car item?
3. What was originally used to seal the Model A water pump to prevent leaks?
4. What did the Crosley car company produce besides autos?
5. What is a portable speed monitor?
6. Name the '50s Pontiac station wagon.
7. What is a pampered car called?
8. What is a crash test "victim"?
9. What is a Ford "break-out" model?
10. What controls the air and fuel mixture in an automobile?



## 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**

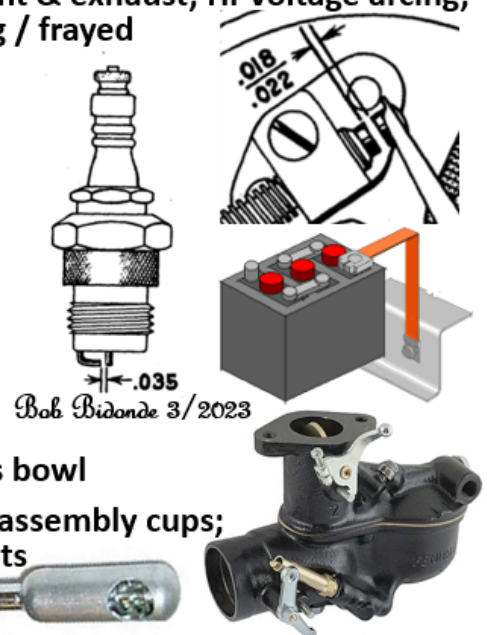
As we take our Model A's out of the garage for the upcoming touring season, here are a few helpful tips to follow. These tips will help ensure key areas have been checked and that any necessary adjustments have been made for trouble-free travel.

*Credit: Bob Bidonde - Long Island Model A Club*



### *Tune-up Sequence of Events*

1. **Inspection:** Fluid levels; Leaks of vacuum, gasoline, coolant & exhaust; Hi-voltage arcing; Fan cracks; Fan belt; Engine pan tab cracks; Wires chafing / frayed
2. **Compression Test:** Record results & compare to last test
3. **Electrical:** Battery & all wire connections bright & tight
4. **Generator:** Adjust charging rate; Adjust fan belt tension
5. **Distributor:** Check shaft play; Points; Condenser; Clean plastic parts
6. **Spark Plugs:** Read combustion color; Clean & adjust gaps
7. **Coil:** Clean plastic; Inspect hi-voltage wire connections
8. **Water Pump:** Packing nut adjustment
9. **Gasoline Sediment Bowl:** Drain out sediment; Clean glass bowl
10. **Lubricate:** Distributor; Water pump; Generator; Throttle assembly cups; Steering gear box; Vacuum wiper motor; Control rod joints
11. **Time Ignition**
12. **Carburetor:** Adjust idle air with GAV ¼ turn open & engine @ 160 F; Adjust idle speed



Bob Bidonde 3/2023

**ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ**

1. Short block
2. Safety glass
3. Rope, impregnated with graphite
4. Radios & Kitchen appliances
5. Radar gun
6. Safari
7. Creampuff
8. Dummy
9. The Escape
10. Carburetor



**Fundamentals First Fund**

Symbol: KNOW

**Your money  
Carefully managed**



The Fundamentals First Fund, an ETF, is part owner of approximately 100 publicly traded worthy companies and owns publicly traded debt. We have been individually selecting companies with care for over three decades as Mason Capital Partners. If you are interested, read on via our website at

[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
4/14/2026 Market Close:	\$ 12.57
Dividends Paid:	\$ 0.35

*Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the Fund, please call 617-228-5190 or visit our website at [www.fundamentalsfirstfund.com](http://www.fundamentalsfirstfund.com)*

*Investments involve risk. Principal loss is possible.  
Quasar Distributors LLC.*

**Support Our Sponsors**



The Big Apple restaurant



**(508)229-2829**

[www.bigapplerestaurant.net](http://www.bigapplerestaurant.net)

890 Boston Post Road E  
Marlborough - MA

EST. 1840

**H.H. WARREN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

22 GLEASONDALE ROAD STOW, MA 01775

[jsmith@hhwarreninsurance.com](mailto:jsmith@hhwarreninsurance.com)

JEFFERY SMITH  
President

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

**STONEWALL**

insurance group inc.

We work with all of the top insurance companies to find you the best coverage for the best price.



Jeff DeMarey  
(413) 514-0469

**THE BEST CARS DESERVE THE BEST INSURANCE.**

[stonewallinsurancegroup.com](http://stonewallinsurancegroup.com)

**Mike's "A" Ford-able Parts**

**Mike Butcher**



124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558

email: [mike@mikes-afordable.com](mailto:mike@mikes-afordable.com) - [www.mikes-afordable.com](http://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



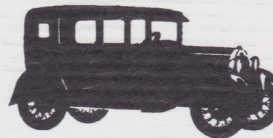
**1909-48 FORD Parts**  
Model A, T, & V-8 Parts



**800. 242.6491**

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

1445 S. US Hwy 68, Urbana, OH 43078



**Steve & Cyndi Mitchell**

**Mitchell MFG.**

530-458-4500 800-859-2088

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

[mitchmanfc@frontiernet.net](mailto:mitchmanfc@frontiernet.net)

MODEL A FORD  
SYNCHRONIZED-TRANSMISSION FORD OVERDRIVES/UNDERDRIVES  
VINTAGE CAR OVERDRIVES 1928-1948

P.O. Box 925

1157 Parker St.

Colusa, CA 95932



Welcome to our new advertiser



**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](http://www.modelaparts.com)  
email: [tamsforda@aol.com](mailto:tamsforda@aol.com)

**EVERYTHING FROM A TO T!**



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

**888-262-5712**

[snydersantiqueauto.com](http://snydersantiqueauto.com)



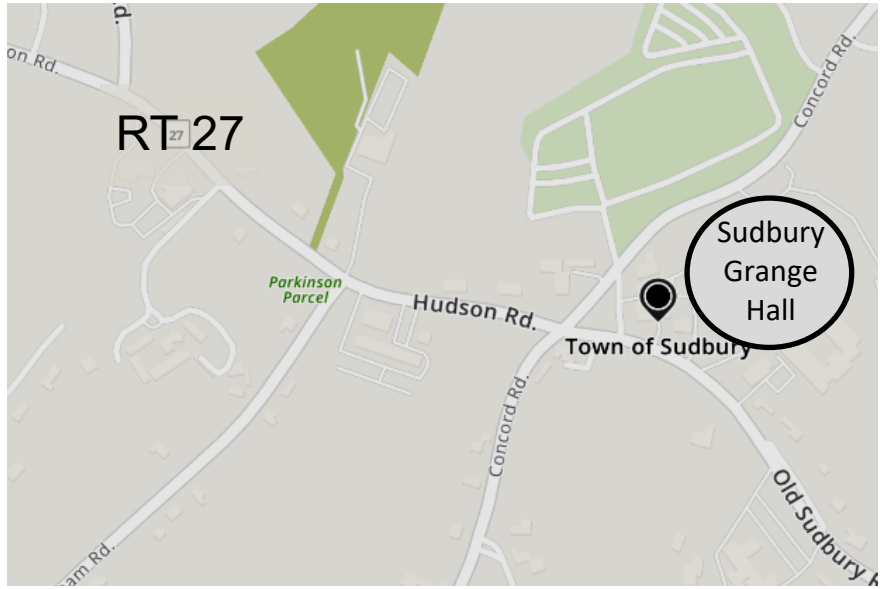
**THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF 1909-31 FORD PARTS!**

**May News**

**Meeting  
Date  
Change**

**MAY 13 meeting Date,**  
don't forget the May  
meeting had to be re-  
scheduled due to a con-  
flict at the Grange.

The program for the meet-  
ing will be an informative  
over of the new Mitchell  
Synchronized Model A  
transmission.



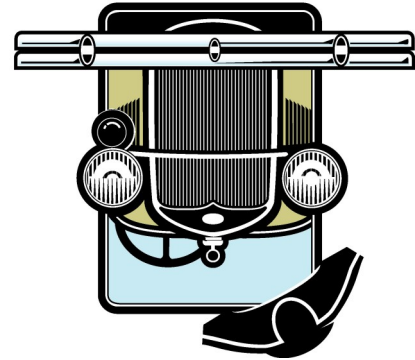
Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the  
month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in  
Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



or scan here

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

MINUTEMAN  
MODEL "A" FORD  
CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS



Please  
Mail to:

**May 2026**

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