

The il Leak

October 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 10

“The Steering Column”

By the time you're reading this, the leaves have started to turn, and the dust has settled for those that participated in the New England Meet.

We have a couple of spooktacular tours coming up this month to include the Stephen Anthony's Labor Day Luncheon on October 12th, the Annual Wayside Inn Dinner on October 15th, and the Spooktacular Woburn Halloween Parade on the 25th.

If you are planning on attending the Annual Wayside Inn Dinner, please remember to get your reservation request to Wayne Champagne no later than October 7th. This is a great evening of delicious food and camaraderie.

The nominating committee has identified a willing candidate for the Vice President's Office for 2027. It is encouraging when members step forward to serve the club in a leadership capacity.

Another Model A Story has come across my desk, so stay tuned for that coming soon. If you would be willing to share your story and have not had an opportunity yet, please take a few moments and share your Model A Story. It is a great way to keep the history of these great cars alive.

We are always looking for new content to share at the meetings. This includes new tour ideas, challenges faced while restoring and or caring for our Model A's, or even special events to be celebrated.

So long from the shores of Lake George,



~Peter



Sunshine

Sue Champagne

A "Thinking of You" card was sent to Robert Hart.

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)

- Oct 3** (Sat) 9:30 AM Apple Picking Dick Krug TL
Oct 7 (Wed) Regular Club Meeting
Oct 12 (Mon) 12:00 PM Steven Anthony's Lunch D.Ross
Oct 15 (Thur) 6:00 PM Wayside Inn Dinner See page 5
Oct 25 (Sun) 12:00 PM Woburn Halloween Parade*
Nov 1 (Sun) Wright's Chicken Farm *

* **More Info on Page 7**

TL = Tour Leader

Minuteman Model A Ford Club Treasurer's Report August, 2026

Income:

Member Dues	25.00
Parade (Wellesley)	405.00
<u>Raffle</u>	<u>58.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 488.00

Expense:

Oil Leak Printing	<u>80.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 80.00

Net Income \$ 408.00



MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

OCTOBER 1991 35 YEARS AGO

November's meeting will be our annual auction. "Car parts and car related items only!" It was announced that our Christmas Party would be held at the Natick Officer's Club. "Reservations required! Sign up early!" This year nine Model As enjoyed a week long Super Tour, a long distance tour to Quebec City! The trip was trouble free with one rainy day but mostly bright sun and great sights to be seen! Fun was had by all!

OCTOBER 2001 25 YEARS AGO

On a sad note, we are all still horrified by the events last month on September 11th. With the sorrow we all feel for the victims, their families, our nation and the world, we pray for happier times and peace throughout the world.

The latest MAAC Newsletter informed us that two items affecting the auto collecting hobby were defeated through the efforts of their lobbyists. The bills would have eliminated antique car insurance and make it illegal to install non-stock exhaust systems.

OCTOBER 2011 15 YEARS

There are a number of our members who quietly perform duties for the Club and should be thanked. Ed and Joyce Croci had been preparing our coffee at our meetings for quite a few years. They would arrive early and while Joyce made the coffee, Ed helped to set up the chairs. After the meeting they would clean up the kitchen and they did it all with a pleasant smile! "Next time you get your coffee, tell them Thanks!"

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

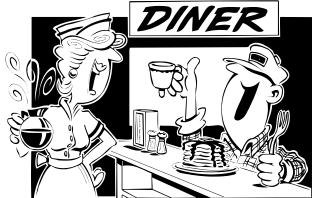
Harold Samuels, Brad Johnson, Tom Zappala, Doug Farrell, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

Sunshine: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

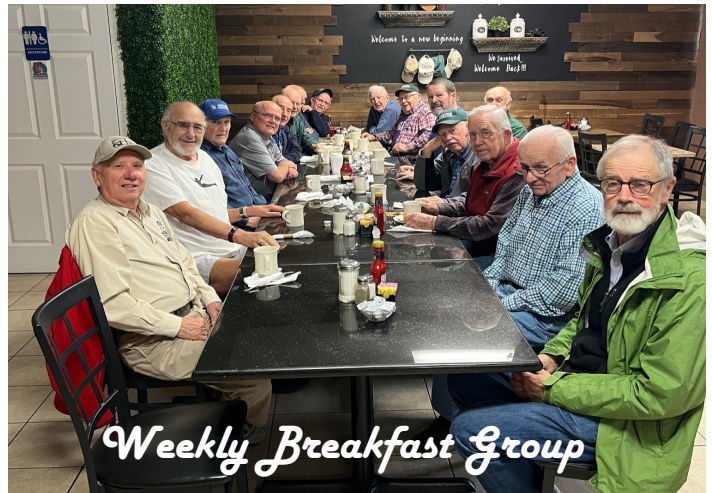
Newsletter Distribution: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

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.



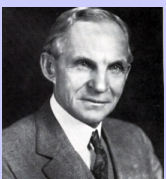
Weekly Breakfast Group

Welcome New Members

Nan reports two new members this month, please welcome:

Ray & Kathy Pagliarini
267 Ridge St
Arlington, MA 02474
1930 Huckster

Melanie Andrews
24 Russell Street
Marblehead, MA 01945
1930 Roadster



"Wealth, like happiness, is never attained when sought after directly. It comes as a by-product of providing a useful service". Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club September 2, 2026

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

The meeting was gaveled to order at 7:30 PM to 38 people in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance President Peter McLaughlin called for the acceptance of the Treasurer's report and Secretary's report as printed in the Oil Leak. The reports were accepted as printed.

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

Don Ross reporting on the tours mentioned that the August tours had less rain than the previous month. He reported that the Rich Batstone memorial tour might not happen. He thanked those who went on the Dairy Queen tour and mentioned that the Mendon Tour was cancelled. Tom Zappala led the Lookout Farm tour on August 20. Don and Doug Linden led a very enjoyable tour to Mt. Wachusett. On September 10 Doug Farrell will lead a tour to C & L Frosty's leaving Wayland at 5:30 PM. September 18 is the New England Meet in Southbridge. Brad Johnson will lead attendees from Wayland. September 26 Dick Krug will lead the apple picking tour. *(Note date has changed NOW Oct 3)*

Dave Libbey spoke on the New England Meet. He reported that a good number of Minuteman members were helping with the meet. He spoke of the grand tour that would be a long one ending at a unique collection with lunch at that venue. There are 150 registrations and there will be a Hubley Derby with 40 Hubley's participating.

On National News, Doug Linden reported that the new judging standards are close to being ready and the cost will be \$65. He mentioned that the New England meet conflicts with the MAFFI event at the Gilmore Museum. In 2028, the 100th anniversary of Model A there will be a weeklong event at Gilmore. Doug then presented a Pin to our president recognizing him as president of the chapter of the MAFCA. Election ballots were collected for the board of MAFCA.

Vice President Wayne Champagne pointed out the copies of our newsletter and the MAFFI newsletter. He also pointed out a flyer for an Ashland car show on September 12 to raise money

for the American Cancer Society. He reminded us of the Oct. 15 Wayside Inn dinner with cocktails at 6 and dinner at 7 pm.

The president reported that there would be a 50/50 raffle led by Dick Krug after the break.

The Model A Restorers club awarded Doug Linden for his outstanding newsletter production. Doug, in discussing some of the newsletter pictures, mentioned that he used AI to close the hood of Ben Chirco's Model A picture.

Margaret. Nan and Peg were thanked for the refreshments for the night and Ben Chirco and Barbara McIlhiney will provide refreshments next month.

There was some discussion about moving the October meeting date because of the Hershey meet drawing members away. It was decided to keep the normal date.

As the end of the year approaches, a slate of next year's officers is needed. Doug Linden and Peter McLaughlin volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.

Brad Johnson then spoke on his project of compiling a list of venders and also a list of specialized model A tools that members may already have. There are members that have tools like spring spreaders or gas gage tools and sources of vendors like someone who fixes wiper motors. It was voted to spend up to \$150 to print the source list. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 Pm.

After the adjourned meeting Craig Martin spoke of 1965 Mustang convertible he found for sale, just to pass the word along.



Respectfully Submitted,

John Erb

Secretary

Tour to the top of Mt Wachusett

August 29: was a beautiful day for our picnic tour to the top of Mt. Wachusett, the highest point in eastern Massachusetts at 2006 feet.

Tour Leaders Don and Sue Ross met up with the Lindens, the Libbeys and Mike Miller & Susan at our starting point. It was such a nice day we wished more members could have joined the tour.

The Model A were running well and the traffic was light. We even passed a procession of exotic cars turning into Bob Colling's American Heritage Museum in Hudson. There were sure a lot of those over the top sports cars, must have been a great show.

It was a pleasant ride to the base of the mountain and once we showed our State Park passes it was a easy drive to the summit parking lot. We found a nice spot for our picnic, set up our

chairs and had some good food and conversation.

We took the short walk to the observation tower and climb to the top to take in the incredible 360 degree view. The mountains and the city of Boston really stood out in the clear sky.

The summit was crowded with visitors like us, including a large group of motorcyclists on a cruise to raise funds for a Bellingham charity. In fact, talking with them Mike Miller had a had a commonality with one of those touring, Small world!

Soon it was time to descend the mountain, second gear seemed to work fine and save from using the brakes. The trip home was also pleasant and uneventful and we all agreed it was a fun Model A tour.



The Mt Wachusett Summit House: In 1874 Wachusett Mountain Co. built a 25¢ toll road to the top of the mountain. In 1875 the first wooden Summit House and barn were built and enlarged in 1879 with a bowling alley added. In 1885 a 3-story house was built, and by 1900 a hotel, bowling alley, horse barns, and icehouse had been added. In 1900 the State of Massachusetts bought the mountain for \$20,000.

In 1907 J. C. F. Mirick reconstructed the mountain house into the 3rd hotel. In 1910 its popularity leads to the building of a billiard room, laundry, and sleeping rooms in a new annex. Electricity was brought to the summit in 1925.

The Worcester Newspaper Wrote: "This house is located 2,006 feet above the sea level, on the summit of Mount Wachusett, and this season Mr. F. E. Miller is doing all in his power to make, the hotel a comfortable home for those seeking mountain air. The Summit House is located on the top of Wachusett Mountain, which is the second highest elevation in the state, being exceeded only by Mt Greylock.



While the height is sufficient for pure air and a magnificent view, it is not such as to make the ascent a tiresome climb. A good road winds with easy grades to the top of the mountain, disclosing at every turn new beauties of scenery. From the observatory, where a good telescope and field glasses are supplied, the finest view in the state is obtained. Parts of 6 states can be seen, dotted with villages, cities, towns, lakes, and mountains. This hotel has accommodations for 50 guests, the rooms being large and airy, and provided with excellent beds." *NOTE: The Summit House burned down in 1970*

Impromptu Tour - Classics for a Cause

We learned about the 9/12/26 Classics for a Cause, benefiting the 2027 yearbook at Woburn Memorial High School, the evening before the event. Since the high school is less than two miles away, it was a good trial drive for my new knee. So Mac and I took Jody (my A) to join the show that morning. There were about 35 cars to view, including a Delorean, the longest Lincoln Continental I have ever seen, and a Checker Aerobus. It looked like Jody was the oldest car there, until a 1926 T showed up. The star of the show, a '56 Packard Caribbean, made a fashionably late entrance. It has a three-toned color scheme, reversible seat cushions, and a self-leveling system for those times that there is extra weight somewhere in the car. Very ahead of its time.

Barbara McElhiney



Tour Information

Oct 25 Noon Woburn Halloween Parade. Meet at the Showcase Cinema parking lot at Noon. Parade starts at 1:00. Candy is optional. Go directly there. There will be a spot for Model A's

Nov 1 10:00 AM Wright's Chicken Farm tour is an annual final gathering of many area car clubs with a large display of cars. Dick O'Brien will lead tour. Price is \$28.60

CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Name a bolt type.
2. What is the water capacity of a Model A cooling system?
3. Name the car built by Elon Musk's company.
4. What car was considered Ford's Taurus's twin?
5. Name a once-popular used car parts source?
6. Describe an old original car.
7. What engine part is not seen on new cars?
8. When shifting into neutral, you are what?
9. What is a build-it-yourself car?
10. What is the slang word for the Chevy straight six?





The 69th Annual 2026 New England Meet

The 2026 New England meet is now in the history books, and everyone who attended had an excellent time. The event drew 157 registration representing 21 Model A Clubs and 140 Model A's running around the town of Southbridge. The New England Meet is a great way for all the northeastern Model A clubs to socialize and share information. The 69th meet was hosted by the Worcester County Model A Club. Although they have assisted other clubs this was their first time hosting the event, and they did a great job. The host hotel was excellent and the destination of the Grand Tour was to an extensive collection of cars, motorcycles and memorabilia. The Hubley Derby buzzing with excitement as 50 competitors roared down the track. The well attended Awards Breakfast featured presenting of the car awards, the raffle items and the drawing of the 50/50, which was \$1800. The 2027 NE Meet will be in Connecticut. Information is here: [20th New England Meet 2027 | Facebook](#)



Model A's at the Grand Tour Destination



A portion of the Raffle Room



Lunch at the Grand Tour Location



Model A's from the lobby



More Model A's at the Grand Tour Destination

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100 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

This poster was a joint effort of Paul Shinn, of the Model A Video fame, Trish Evans MAFCA's membership director and myself. I convened the group to develop a information card that could be used at public events where non Model A people could see what the Model A hobby is all about. If you scan the QR code on the poster it will take you to a special introductory video. I will display a poster size version at the Hershey Flea Market next week as well as have post card size handouts.

Ignition Cable - Clamp Modification

- Avoids removing Nut #8 to remove the distributor
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- Cutoff bottom of clamp as shown
- Install the modified clamp on top of Nut #8 & secure it with a thin 7/16 x 20 Jam Nut
 - Buy or make the jam nut by sawing a cylinder head nut in half



Illustration by Bob Bidonde LI Model A Club

ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Carriage Bolt
2. Three Gallons
3. Tesla Car
4. Mercury Sable
5. The Junkyard
6. A survivor
7. Carburetors
8. Out of Gear
9. A kit Car
10. Stovebolt Six



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

2/21/24 IPO Market Open: \$10.00

9/17/26 Market Close: \$ 12.62

Dividends Paid: \$ 0.41

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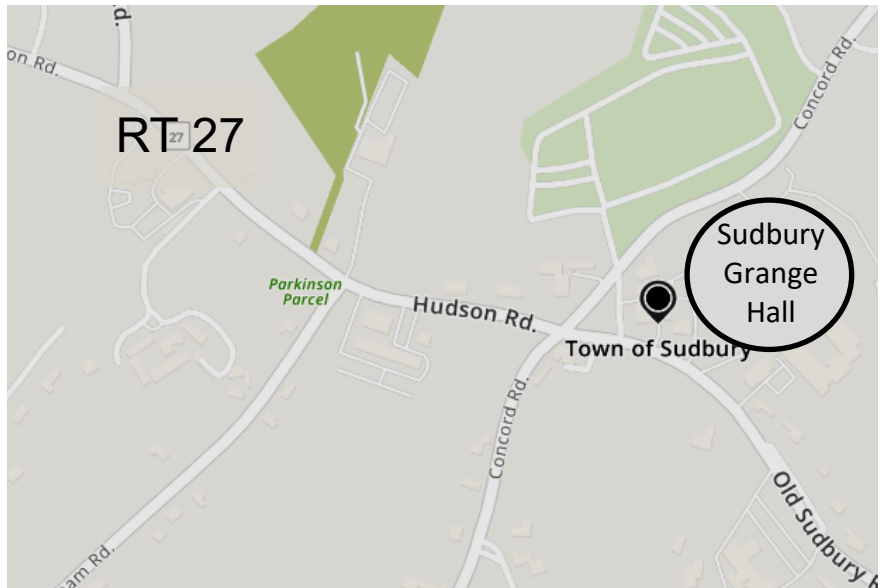
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October News

The October meeting will get a report from the nominating committee on office of Vice President.

The formal election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

Start saving your "stuff" for the club auction at the November meeting. Your generosity donating "stuff" to the auction aids our treasury and also provides a little fun.



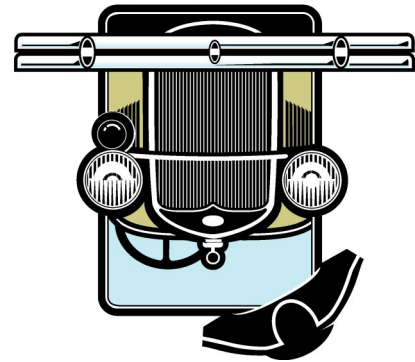
Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



or scan here

Visit www.oilleak.org

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Mail to:

October 2026

Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club
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