

The il Leak

September 2026 Minuteman Model A Ford Club Vol 63 Issue 9

“The Steering Column”

It is hard to believe that Summer is almost over and September is upon us. The good news is that with September's cooler weather, it's the perfect month for cruising in your Model A.

Life has kept me so busy practicing for my retirement, that I feel like an absentee club president. It has been a great summer and it isn't over yet.

The good news is that the tour schedule is still full of local tours as we head into fall. The 69th Annual New England Meet is being held on September 17th through the 20th. I believe that the Worcester Club is still looking for volunteers to assist with staffing intersections for the grand tour. Reach out to David Libbey if you are interested in helping them out.

With it being September, it's the perfect time to consider being a club officer. We will be putting together a nominating committee in September to fill the open positions. The club belongs to all of us, so it is important to get involved, share fresh ideas and help steer the club into the future.

We are always looking for input on Model A related topics for discussion, places that would be fun to tour, or even a special event to be celebrated.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming events this fall.

Have fun and get out there and drive.

~Peter





Sunshine

Sue Champagne

No cards 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)

- Aug 29 (Sat) 10AM Mt Wachusett Picnic D Ross TL
 Sept 2 (Wed) Club Meeting
 Sept 10 (Thur) 5:00 PM C&L Frosty Food & Ice Cream
 Doug Farrell TL
 Sept 18-20 New England Meet Southbridge Brad J
 Sept 26 (Sat) 9:30 AM Apple Picking Dick Krug TL

TL = Tour Leader

MINUTEMAN HISTORY

by Dick O'Brien

SEPTEMBER 1991 35 YEARS AGO

The Weekend Car Show at Stowe, VT was well attended by Minuteman Families. Eight couples toured up North on Thursday and we met quite a few other Minutemen over the weekend who travelled in modern vehicles.

On July 22, 2011 a tour left the Grange parking lot and toured through scenic Wayland and Weston before climbing into Wellesley Hills. The group climbed even higher to the top of Babson College campus where they circled the globe! Make that the Babson World Globe - a 25 ton, 28 foot diameter globe of the world, one of the largest free-standing globes in the world. Originally created in 1955, the globe was updated, restored, and re-dedicated in 1994.

SEPTEMBER 2001 25 YEARS AGO

If this was our September newsletter, it means we were down to the wire in preparing for the New England Meet. We still had lots to do to take care of this record breaking event. That's right, we'd received 183 registrations at press time! A second order of New England Meet shirts had come in and there would be another order placed the following week! Before the third order we had already sold over two hundred NE Meet shirts!

SEPTEMBER 2011 15 YEARS

Back to the Grange Hall meant summer was waning. The days were getting shorter and the tours slimmer, but there were still several great tours that Fall we could look forward to: Apple Picking, A Supper Tour, and a tour to Mt. Wachusett! We also had a tour in the planning stage for a Fall Weekend to Kennebunkport Maine with arrangements at the Village Cove Inn!

Minuteman Model A Ford Club Treasurer's Report July 2026

Income:

Member Dues	25.00
Parades	300.00
<u>Raffle</u>	<u>42.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 367.00

Expense:

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

Net Income \$ 287.00



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

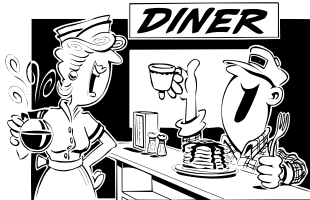
Harold Samuels, Brad Johnson, Tom Zappala, Doug Farrell, Jo Johnson - Emeritus

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

Sunshine: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

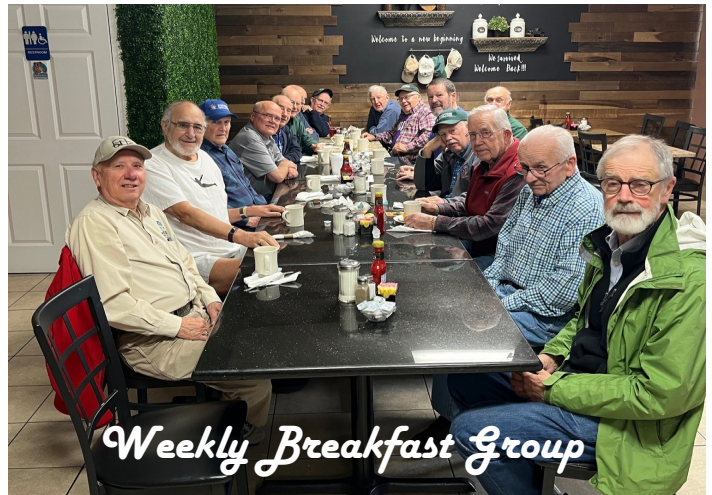
Newsletter Distribution: Sue Champagne sdchampagne1931@gmail.com

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

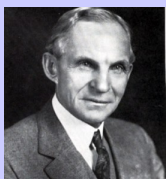
Tour Information

August 29 Mt Wachusett Picnic

Don Ross will lead us on the tour to Mt Wachusett in Princeton for a picnic lunch. You can also drive your Model A to the Summit if you would like to do so. A \$5 fee does apply for that.

Welcome New Members

Nan reports no new members joined this month.



"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young". Henry Ford

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the Minuteman Model A Ford Club August 5, 2026

Sudbury Grange, Sudbury, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by President Peter McLaughlin to 28 Model A lovers. Peter led us in the pledge of allegiance and then called for a vote to accept the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's report as printed in the Oil Leak . Reports were accepted as printed.

Don Ross was then called upon for the tour report. He mentioned that rain had a large negative effect on tours in July.

- The Valenti farm tour was rained out twice.
- Wayne and Sue Champagne led the tour to the Nashoba Winery, and it was well attended.
- Also well attended was the Bedford Farms ice cream tour led by Harold Samuels.
- The Hamond Castle tour was cancelled.
- The tour to reenact the grand tour of the NE meet in memory of Richard Batstone has been postponed.
- On August 10 there will be a tour to the Natick Dairy Queen and members can travel on their own.
- August 15 is the Mendon Diner tour.
- August 20 Tom Zappala will lead a tour to Lookout Farm for dinner and music.
- Don Ross will lead a tour on August 29 for a picnic on Mt. Wachusett.
- September 10 there will be a tour to Sherborn led by Doug Farrell.
- Don Thanked Larry Connelly for the tour to the brewery which was enjoyed but all came in modern cars because of the rain.

The September meeting will have refreshment provided by Peg Michalak.

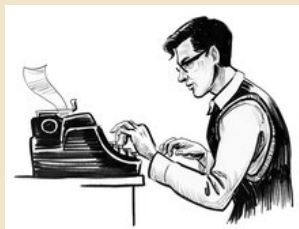
In Old business, President McLaughlin is still looking for pictures and stories of members cars. Please email the president.

Brad Johnson spoke of a resource list being created to give members resources for services in maintaining and restoring their Model A's. The current list was left for people to see and hopefully add new resources.

Larry Connelly had two Model A horns for sale.

At the conclusion of the meeting Ben Chirco gave a short talk on rebuilding vacuum wiper motors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.



Respectfully Submitted,
John Erb
Secretary



***Minuteman
Annual Wayside Inn Dinner***

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Cocktails in the Tavern 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Please Mail Your Check before October 7, 2026

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO "MINUTEMAN MODEL A FORD CLUB"

Mail your check mail to:

Wayne Champagne, 233 Winter St, Ashland, MA 01721

Member name: _____

Spouse-Guest: _____

Reservation Request

Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$65 ea	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Boneless Breast of Chicken	\$50 ea	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Vegetarian Ravioli	\$48 ea	x	_____	=	\$ _____
Total					\$ _____

Dinner includes entree, salad, vegetable, potato, and dessert.

Price includes all taxes and gratuities!

HOW MANY PREVIOUS OWNER'S OF YOUR MODEL A FORD DO YOU KNOW?

The Ben Chirco's Model A Story:

Ben bought the 1931 Model A pick up truck from Andy Kramer, past owner number one. Andy is a cabinet maker and Ben is a builder. They have worked together for many years.

When Andy found out that Ben liked old cars, Andy told Ben about the Model A pickup truck and said that he would sell him. It took about a year and a half to make this happen.

Andy had originally bought it for his father in law. His father in law painted and parked it ten years ago in a storage building in Marlboro.

Ben bought the truck in January of 2024. He brought it home and reached out to the Minuteman Model A Club for help. Wayne Champagne, Doug Linden and Lenny Michalak came one week to help, and the next week, John Pierce joined the team and together they all got it going.

John Pierce said that he was a previous owner of the truck. Past owner number two. With all of the help from the club members, Ben decided to join the Minuteman Club.

At Ben's first club meeting, he was introduced to Harold Legge. It turns out that Harold was past owner number three.

About two weeks before Ben started writing this, he took his truck to a local car show. When he pulled in, a gentleman came right up to him and asked him where he got the truck. Ben told him who he bought it from. The man told Ben that he was a previous owner of the pick up truck. The man was Andy's father in law, the guy who had painted it and parked it. This would make him past owner number four.

So, now we know the lineage of at least three or four different owners of Ben's Model A pickup truck.

At the Minuteman Club's annual tune up clinic, Ben had the misfortune to crack a head, which led to Ben being awarded the Hard Luck Trophy for 2025.

John Pierce was able to provide some additional history on the truck. Harold Legge bought his Model A Coupe and the Model A Pickup as a "package deal" from a Boston TV Personality. He then sold John the truck. The truck had no rear fenders, a rotted bed and a badly damaged roof that a barn had fallen on. Not a problem for John, he had just finished his Model A Roadster and was ready for another project.

John removed the cab and bed, cleaned and painted the frame. He also restored brakes and replaced the king-pins before doing any of the body work. The driver's door header was broken and the rear roof rib was missing.

Someone had lapped the rear panel and roof together and filled the joint with Bondo (like 1/2 inch of mud). The doors were kept shut with deadbolts.

John removed the roof panel and smoothed out the dents with an English Wheel that a member of the club bought and then when the job was done, returned it to Harbor Freight. On the advice of counsel, that club member's name has been redacted from this story.

John found the correct but fiberglass rear fenders at Hershey and walked away from the one thousand dollar asking price. The seller swore that it "Its a good deal". When the

counter offer of one thousand dollars for all four fenders was made, the deal was done and they were on their way back to Sherborn.

John cut out the rusted bed and replaced it with new oak and stainless ribs, put in a new rear sill and patch panel in the back of the cab. He still had some problems with the door fit.

Another club member, Harold Gates from Ashland, put an ad in the Oil Leak selling his wide bed pick-up. Harold said, "I'm 92, and my wife won't let me drive anymore. I've had her longer than the truck...so the truck has to go!"

It was a no-brainer for John, It was a complete, painted, running truck for less money than John had invested in Ben's truck. Plus, it had hydraulic brakesNot a problem, so John swapped the complete frame and running gear from the first truck onto the frame with the hydraulic brakes. He assembled the leftover parts and JP Mayo primed the body.

That's when Andy Kramer, the cabinet maker, saw it and thought it would be a perfect project for his father-in-law to finish. A deal was struck.....Andy would swap kitchen cabinets for John's kitchen, for his Model A Pick-up.

Here are some pictures of when the truck was owned by John Pierce and what it looks like today. Ben is enjoying driving the Model A, learning how to repair it and meeting members of the club who have much more experience in the ways of the Model A Ford. Ben is thankful for being part of the club, the relationships he has formed and the knowledge that he has acquired along the way.



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 _____

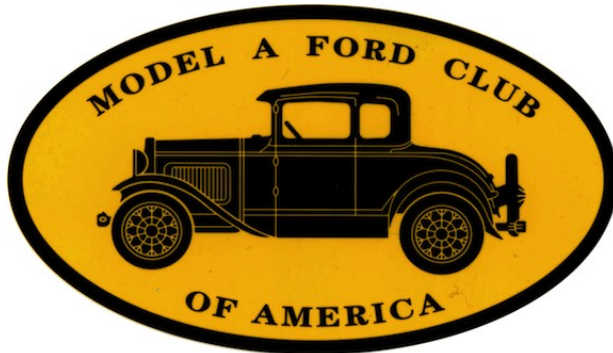
email _____ Telephone _____ - _____ - _____

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



MAFCA ELECTION BALLOTS

MAFCA members, you recently received ballots to vote for the candidates for the board of directors. Bring your ballots to the Sept meeting and they will be collected and then mailed to the national office. Saves you time and a stamp.

CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What is the Motor and Transmission combination called?
2. What is the purpose of the cam and rotor in a Model A distributor?
3. What is the result of hard oversteer?
4. What is an easy way to catch speeding drivers?
5. What is a common tire design?
6. What is a common finish on modern cars and trucks?
7. Name a supercharger brand?
8. What is high-octane gasoline called?
9. Who's initials were used to form A.C, Sparkplugs?
10. What does C.A.F.E. stand for?



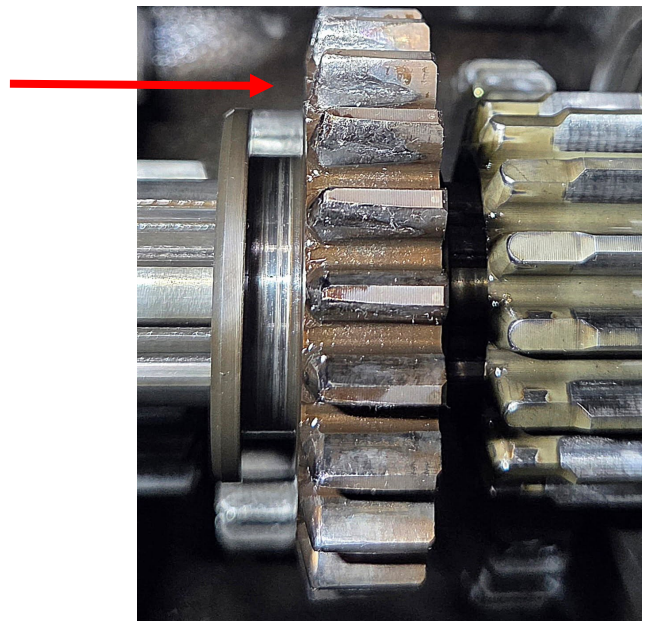
Service Call

On a recent road trip, Bruce Marshall notice his Model A was popping out of second gear. This was happening under acceleration and deceleration and while holding on the shift lever stopped that from happening, it was still nonetheless annoying. Bruce removed the transmission shift tower to examine the gears and found second gear looked pretty worn out and pitted. Suspecting this could contribute to the popping out gear he decided to order a new gear and other parts to repair the tranny. The only thing was getting support to do this repair. Once Bruce's situation was known our club's support team was at the ready and Harold Legge offered his garage to make the repair. Bruce trailered the Model A from Maine to Harold's in Natick where Wayne Champagne, Doug Linden and Harold waited for Bruce to Arrive. Once inside the garage the "operation" started and the team had the tranny out and ready to replace the worn-out parts in no time. The transmission was examined and second gear was the only problem gear. With new bearings, a new gear and a few other parts the transmission was ready for installation and when the job was done there were no extra parts on the floor.

Bruce loaded the Model A back on the trailer and head back to Maine. Job Done.



Wayne Checking the transmission



Jim's Tech Tip

On Assembling the Model A Starter Switch

You may find yourself wanting to disassemble your starter switch (once you have removed it from the starter) for cleaning and general refurbishment, and then having to put it back together. Today's tip is on how to reassemble it for years of trouble-free service.

There are two thin nuts on the switch post where the battery connects. Take both of those nuts totally off to disassemble the switch. Pay attention to how the insulating washers go in there as you tap down on the threaded stud that the nuts were on. Tap down, the big flat strip should come out. Pay attention to how the "pusher" is installed with the insulated piece between the hole in the flat metal strip and the metal tube.



When reassembling, as you install the post with insulators in the body, and you are tightening up the first nut on the post to lock it into the body, place the tip of a very small screwdriver into the switch between the flat metal strip and the insulator inside the switch body **SO THAT WHEN YOU TIGHTEN THE FIRST NUT, THE FLAT METAL PIECE INSIDE DOES NOT JAM AGAINST THE INSULATOR INSIDE THE SWITCH BODY.**

This is really important. When you attach the second nut, to hold the battery cable on, you **DON'T** want that stud turning, you don't want that flat piece of metal swinging over and jamming inside against the insulator. So get the first nut good and tight, and do it with a small screwdriver holding the flat metal piece in place when you tighten.

Then pay attention when later installing the battery cable (the second nut) that you don't torque it so hard as to turn the stud and jam the flat metal strip into the side.

It's that simple.

Have a Model A Day! Jim

ANSWERS TO CMARC TRIVIA QUIZ

1. The Power (or Drive) Train
2. Determines what and when to fire a sparkplug.
3. Fishtailing
4. A Speed Trap
5. Radial Tire
6. Base coat/Clear coat
7. Paxton, GMC, McCulloch
8. Premium
9. Albert Champion
10. Corporate Average Fuel Economy



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

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

8/18/26 Market Close: \$ 13.12

Dividends Paid: \$ 0.41

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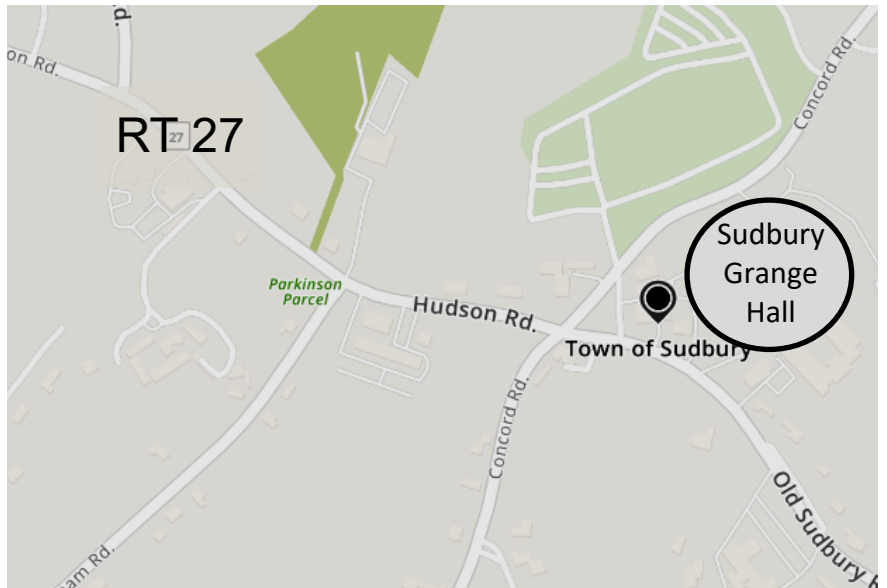
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September News

Join us at the September meeting. Turn in your MAFCA Ballots and we will make a group mailing.

Don't forget to sign up for the New England Model A Meet if you haven't already done so.

A technical session will be conducted.



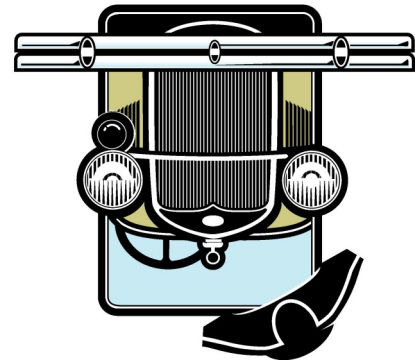
Our meetings are held on the **1st Wednesday** of the month at the Sudbury Grange Hall, 326 Concord Rd in Sudbury. Meetings start at 7:30 PM.



or scan here

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MINUTEMAN
MODEL "A" FORD
CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS



Please
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September 2026

Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club
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