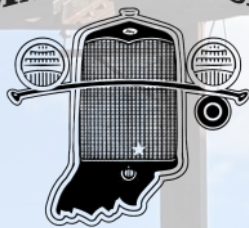


MARC/MAFCA



MODEL A FORD CLUB
COLUMBUS, INDIANA

GOING *Places*



Route 66 Tour Completed
Rob Kirkpatrick reports on his epic tour
NOVEMBER 2025 Vol. LXI Issue #10
www.modelacolumbus.org





**Columbus MARC Region Since 1964,
MAFCA Chapter since 2009**

*From
the
Editor...*



John Emmering

2025 Club Officers & Committees

President

Tim Diehn
812-374-2882
timdiehn@yahoo.com

Vice President

John Emmering
331-425-1187
Shoebordford.john@gmail.com

Secretary/Membership

Rob Kirkpatrick
317-402-2562
rob@kirkpatrick.net

Treasurer/Tour Master

Phil Sutton
812-336-8672
pgsutton@indiana.edu

Board of Directors

Jay Williamson
317-223-1379
letterpressman@icloud.com
Sid Pendency
812-844-0092
sidpendy@msn.com
Dennis Meyer
317-727-5098
dmeyer4066@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter/Historian

John Emmering
331-425-1187
Shoebordford.john@gmail.com

Swap Meet Chairman/Webmaster

John Prohaska
812-350-8780
prohaska1069@yahoo.com

Care and Concern Committee

Linda Sullivan
812-523-3674
roadsterman1929@yahoo.com

Fellow Members:

As we head into the month of November our pace will slacken a bit from the peak touring months of spring and summer. The Fall Foliage Tour led by the Sullivan's is slated for November 1st and will be the last such tour of the year. Tim Diehn has organized a trip to the Indianapolis Speedway Museum Saturday November 8 which should be fun.

This issue will recap some of what took place in October with a report on Dennis Meyer's "Blue Book Tour". Jay Williamson was kind enough to send in a story about his purchase of his latest Model A, a 1931 Deluxe Coupe along with some photos. Rob Kirkpatrick contributed our cover story on his exciting Route 66 Model A journey.

I appreciate members submissions and the support you give to our **Going Places** Newsletter.

John

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 -- Fall Foliage Tour (Sullivan)

November 8-- Speedway Museum Tour, Indianapolis (Diehn)

November 13- Membership Meeting 5:30 pm

December 7 -- Christmas Party at the Seasons Lodge 3:00

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Word From Tim Diehn



2026 DIRECTOR & OFFICER CANDIDATES

President: Tim Diehn
Vice-President John Emmering
Treasurer: Phil Sutton
Secretary: Rob Kirkpatrick

Board Member 1: Dennis Meyer
Board Member 2: Jay Williamson
Board Member 3: Roger Dean

Hello Membership,

Another year of Model A touring has rolled into the garage, and what a run it's been! As we put the final polish on our vintage rides for the season, now is the perfect time to reflect on the year we've shared. I encourage you to take a moment and think about what tours, events, or activities really hit on all cylinders for you. And, just as importantly, what left you feeling like we had a flat tire. If you loved something, let a board member know so we can repeat that success. If something didn't quite work, please tell us. Let us know *why* and offer suggestions for how we can make it better.

Our November Membership Meeting is one of the most important of the year. We'll be tackling two key pieces of club business:

Electing 2025 Club Officers: We have a slate of nominees ready for a vote (*see the inset above*), but if you've developed a sudden passion to give back to the club this is your chance! Please let me know beforehand if you'd like to add your name to the ballot.

Voting on 2025 Club Dues: The Board will be recommending that we keep the current dues at \$10. However, the floor is open! If you wish to propose a change, please be prepared to make a motion and explain your reasoning to the membership.

A crucial reminder on voting: Our bylaws are crystal clear. **Only those members who are *present* at the November 13th Membership Meeting will be able to cast a vote.** There will be no mail-in, absentee, early, or proxy voting. You must be in the room to participate in these important decisions.

Continue to enjoy these frosty mornings and warm afternoons while they last. We all know what comes next!

Regards

Tim



Nov. 1 Fall Foliage Tour (Sullivan)

Meet at Westhill Shopping Center 4280 W. Jonathan Moore Pike, Columbus at 8:45, leave at 9:00 am. We will take 258 to Bedford and pick up Bloomington friends at the Marathon Station on the left after turning off Hwy 37 onto 450. From there, we will wind our way to Shoals, where we will have lunch at Velma's Diner. The diner has a cash only policy. Every Fall outing should include an orchard, so we will stop at Apple Archers on our way back to Bedford. Hope to see you for our last big hurrah!

Nov. 8 Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum Tour (Diehn)

Start Your Engines for a trip to the IMS Museum on November 8! With your pit crew having filled your gas tank and aired your tires, we will depart the Jay C/Westhill parking lot at 8:00am headed for our first stop; brunch at *Charlie Brown's Pancake and Steakhouse* (1038 North Main Street, Indianapolis, IN 46224) in Speedway, IN for a 10:00am arrival. With our bellies now full, we will immediately go to the IMS Museum and spend ~3 hours enjoying this freshly revamped look at IMS tradition. I've been told this is quite the experience; much different than the museum of old. You are on-your-own to plan an experience you will enjoy which may include the Yard of Bricks, Pagoda, Victory Podium. Checkout the museum's website for options. The Museum is a cashless venue and tickets can be purchased online at <https://imsmuseum.org/tickets/> with senior and veteran's discounts available. Whatever you decided to, we will wrap-up by 4pm for the trek back to Columbus. Please RSVP to Tim Diehn at 812-374-2882 (text or call) or email timdiehn@yahoo.com so he does not leave anyone behind!



THE *running* BOARD REPORT



From Tom Hovetter, President and Jim Zimmer, Director of Regions

November 2025

Members had a great time at Hershey this year. The chili/hot dog lunch was a great success and raised over \$1,000 that will be donated to MAYRA. This year we opened the tent early on Monday afternoon to allow existing members a chance to renew and new members to join. Look for additional changes for next year!

Also, the MARC National Meet for 2026 is just around the corner in July. Driver Class judging will be offered again this year. If you are proud of your Model A and would like to be recognized for the quality of work you have in your vehicle that has been modified from original to enhance your driving experience, please consider registering for French Lick next year. New improved judging standards will be published soon!

Remember that the 2026 Finger Lakes National Tour will be held in May of next year. This will be a very popular event based on the interest so far. Registrations will be limited due to the hotel and banquet capacity. The team is working hard to make this a memorable event for our members!

Certainly you read in last month's newsletter that Larry Shepard is compiling a list of Model A mechanical experts to assist members and potential new members with mechanical issues or restoration questions. I'm sure that every Region has at least one person that should qualify. If any of your members are willing to help, please contact Larry at marctech@modelarestorers.org and provide your name, contact information and area of expertise. One of the best parts of being a MARC member is being able to tap into the wealth of Model A knowledge this club has to offer.



Annual Christmas Party

December 7th 3:00 pm

Season Lodge

560 SR 46, Nashville, Indiana



The buffet style dinner is \$30 per person which includes choice of three mains, sides and dessert. A cash bar will be available for drinks. The Club will pickup the remainder of the evening charges including gratuity and taxes.

Please RSVP (and pay) Phil Sutton at 936 S, Hawthorne, Bloomington, IN 47401 (812) 336-8672. It's a good time to pay your 2026 Dues. Also, December 1st is the final RSVP date so we can get an accurate count for the Seasons. Hope to see everyone there!



Meeting Minutes



John Emmering

Membership Meeting Minutes
El Nopal Mexican Restaurant, October 9, 2025
Meeting was called to order at 6:21 PM by President Tim Diehn

30 members were present: Dick Bray, Degland Cunningham, Ed & Mary Dathe, Roger Dean, Tim Diehn, Chris & Susan Easton, John Emmering, Dave Engle, Blake Hudman, Scott & Francis King, Bob Kinser, Dennis Knight, Ron & Katie Lawson, Mike & Bev Marsh, Don & Ellen McGlothlin, Albert & Roberta Ogden, John Prohaska, Chris Rider, Robert & Angia Watts, Don Wessler, Niel Wessler, Jay Williamson. Our guest was the speaker for the night Rick Bray. Five Model "A" Fords were driven out to the meeting by our members.

Minutes from the September 11 meeting were approved. Tim noted that attendance was lighter than usual as there were a number of members attending the Hershey Car Show & Swap Meet in Pennsylvania.

Treasurer's Report

Starting balance was \$6,452.79

9/16 50/50 income 40.00

Dues 40.00

Ending balance was \$6,583.79

Touring Notes:

October 11 Blue Book Tour Meet at Court yard Café in Franklin 8:00 am. Depart tour at 9:30 am.

Oct. 20-24 Fall Tour Ohio Amish Country

November 1 Fall Foliage Tour (Sullivan)

November 8 Speedway Museum Tour, Indianapolis, IN (Diehn)

December 7 Christmas Party 3:00 pm., Season Lodge Nashville, IN

Committee Reports: Some members of the National Meet Committee will need to meet in French Lick later this month for a planning session on site.

New Business: Nominations open for Club Officers and Directors. Slate of Candidates will be Announced in the Newsletter. Election will be held in our November Meeting. A Discussion on the amount to be charged on the 2026 dues will be voted on.

Other events: Scott King showed the device he made to flush a Model A Radiator. Degland Cunningham requested that an experienced person inspect his mechanical work on his Model A pick up truck he is restoring.

50/50 Winner: Chris Ryder won \$52 in the 50/50 drawing.

Speaker: Rick Bray gave an interesting talk and PowerPoint presentation on historic Indiana Bridges.

The meeting adjourned after 7:26 PM. Respectfully submitted.

John Emmering



Blue Book Tour Reenacted Early 20th Century Motoring

by John Emmering

Model A Fords pulled into parking places on East Court Street in Franklin early on Saturday, October 11 as Members of the Columbus Model A Club converged on the Court House Café for a hearty breakfast.

The gathering was in anticipation of an interesting tour organized by Dennis Meyer. Dennis, who has a great appreciation for the history of our southern Indiana region planned to recreate the experience of automobile travel as it was back in the early 20th Century before there were accurate road maps and certainly before drivers followed our present day GPS. Dennis had uncovered an old Automobile Blue Book from 1917 and used it to chart the course of our tour through the detailed instructions.

With breakfast finished participants lined up in Franklin in a group which included 12 Model A Fords. Dennis narrated the journey over his CB radio explaining which buildings still remained in Franklin and things, like the trolley station that no longer exist. The tour headed out of

Franklin into the countryside and veered through the small hamlet of Amity and then through Edinburg and Taylorsville.

Crossing through Columbus the group headed south on Rt. 11 on the way down to Scottsburg. There was a stop at a cemetery where some interesting grave stones were observed, some in the form of statues of the deceased.

Reaching Scottsburg the group pulled into Flipdaddy's Restaurant where they enjoyed a break from the drive and ate lunch. Drivers had a chance to fill up their gas tanks and continued west on Highway 56 and then north on Highway 39 through Little York, Tampico and Dudleytown.

As the group reached Seymour the final stop was at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt where members concocted their own deserts and added their favorite toppings. After finishing their treats participants headed home having enjoyed touring in vintage cars following directions written in the early days of motoring.





Route 66 Model A Tour



"A great bucket list trip is in the bag, but the memories will last a lifetime."

By Rob Kirkpatrick

A group of eight Model A Fords and our SAG Wagon met on September 23rd at the starting point of the old US Route 66 in Chicago, Illinois and headed down the 2,448 mile highway to its end on Santa Monica Pier in California three weeks later. Other than two cars from Northern Indiana who travel together often, we were strangers about to become great friends.

Our group included a farmer/super-mechanic, a school bus driver, a rocket engineer (who worked on Apollo 11!), a Burtz engine builder & mechanic extraordinaire, a PhD history professor (specialty: Western US) who has authored several books related to the Mother Road, a great blogger, and several other experienced Model A drivers.

The journey took us through eight states and we were able to follow the early routes. In some cases the routes were paved over by the interstates, but in many cases we had the joy of driving on the original road, often sidelined to "frontage road" right along next to the fast road.

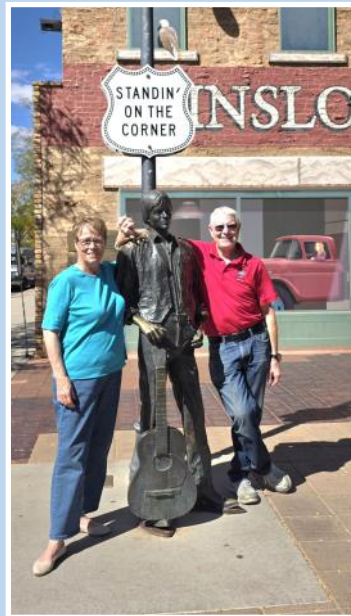
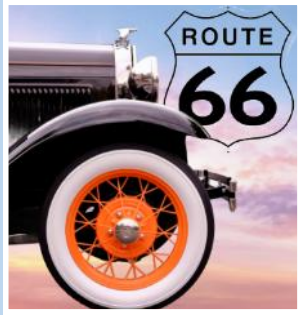
We were greeted by members of many clubs along the way, some for a meal, some even joining us for a day or three, some providing parts we needed, and one even providing a shop and helping hands! The last mentioned was Oklahoma City Model A Restorers Club, and their hospitality included a cookout feast and a club full of hosts at "their" shop owned by a long-time member.

There are so many interesting, informative, historical, or just plan fun things to see along the way that it would take a year to cover it all. With a lot of advance planning, we were able to zero in on a nice itinerary.

There were some gotta-sees, like the Cadillac Ranch near Amarillo, but also some unexpected delights. Most memorable: An impromptu roadside lecture at Pigeon's Ranch in the Goriotta Pass, Santa Fe Trail. Dr. T. Linday Baker offered a fascinating history of the area we drove through, from the pre-colonial native inhabitants, the trade route we stood on, to the decisive 1862 Civil War battle that protected Colorado gold from boosting the rebels' weapons funds.

We got a permit to drive over the Chain of Rocks Bridge across the Mississippi! That narrow bridge served Route 66 from the 30s to 1968! It was closed in 1970 and set for demolition, but you know how historic preservationists can be! It's a walkway park now, but with a fee and a permit, we got to drive over what was a narrow 2-lane road with a bend in the middle of the river.

This final piece of fun to mention before "the rest of the story" at our November meeting: Permission to drive onto the Santa Monica Pier, and then have dinner within eyesight of our cars. See you November 13th!





Quest For A Coupe by Jay Williamson

As many of you know, Caryn and I placed our home on the market in June of this year. Our plan was to build a new house while our home was on the market. Little did we know that our home would sell in 72 hours. I sold both of our Model A's earlier this year in anticipation of an eventual move. We really thought that was the end of our Model A days.

We moved into temporary housing which is where we are today. As the past few months went by, we began to miss our Model A friends. Our Model A's were also Caryn's favorites. We thought about it and decided to begin a search for another Model A.

We had decided after the long trip to Asheville a couple years ago, that we wanted to find a car that would be a little more comfortable than our Tudor, deciding on another Slant Window Sedan or a coupe. I found a couple of Slant Windows, but the asking prices were well above market. So I turned my attention to a Coupe.

We found a '30 Cabriolet in Southern Indiana that we really liked, but we wanted something with a hard top, so we focused back on a Coupe and found one near Lexington, Kentucky. We checked it out and it seemed to be in great shape. It had some safe-

ty upgrades on the car and we thought we would try to negotiate a price.

But before that happened, John Emmering told me about a '30 Coupe about 50 miles from the other Coupe in Kentucky. It had not been driven in about four years. The owner's 90 year old father bought it as his dream car, but never had a chance to drive it. He passed at 92 and then the car sat for another two years. It was being offered for quite a bit less than the Coupe we had already looked at. When I arrived for the test drive, I found a very nice car that had not been upgraded except for one thing. I was shocked to learn that the car had a 5 speed transmission!

I went back and forth on the two Coupes, but in the end, I went with the first Coupe, a 1931. Even though it did not have a five speed, it had upgraded drums and safety glass all around. It also had a rear roll down window, which I really liked. I was able to work with the owner on the price and so I pulled the trigger. I want to send a special thank you out to Dennis and Kathy Meyer, who are allowing us to keep our car in their barn until our house is complete in a couple of months. Looking forward to joining you all again next touring season.

1931 Ford Model "A" Deluxe Coupe

Jay & Caryn Williamson's new acquisition





FORD MODEL "A" MECHANICAL TIPS

How to Cure Backfiring & Overheating

(From the Tulsa, Oklahoma Chapter MAFCA)



How to Cure Backfiring

Back firing is usually caused by the condenser failing, or the points may not have sufficient gap. Make sure they are set at .018 to .020". Make sure they are not burnt.

Backfiring can be caused by intermittent firing of the ignition system or very lean fuel mixture. If the car has been setting for a while, the carburetor float valve may be sticking. Clean the float valve good and set the float level. Backfiring due to intermittent ignition can be caused by a frayed wire on the bottom side of the distributor plate . . or .. by intermittent connection of the ignition switch.

Potential Solutions:

- Check point setting first.

- Replace condenser next (unless you are using modern points). Make sure the condenser you buy is the right length, some are too short. Make sure that it is good quality.

- Check that the carburetor float valve is operating correctly.

- Sometimes the pop out type ignition switches get intermittent. As a last resort, replace the ignition switch/cable.

- Check the GAV to make sure it is not set too lean

How to Deal with Model A Overheating

There are several things that can cause a Model A to overheat. The main cause is usually the radiator. First you can check to see if your radiator has 3 rows of tubes. Some of the older replacement radiators had only 2 rows. That will not provide sufficient cooling. If the radiator is old and has been in the car a long time, the fins of the radiator become loose and cannot dissipate the heat. Also, if the radiator is old calcium deposits in the radiator will reduce the cooling efficiency of the radiator.

Like many Model A owners we had to replace a radiator as once we got the car over 40 MPH it would get hot. The radiator had 3 tubes but only 6 fins per inch (normal) plus the flow rate was quite slow. The new core that was put on has 12 fins per inch plus they are crinkled to provide maximum cooling surface area. Replacing the radiator along with slowing the rate of flow (installed a Thermostat) stopped the overheating on our "A".

Other potential causes of overheating: First make sure the timing is set correctly. Then make sure nothing is blocking the front of the radiator, like a license plate. If you have a new engine, it will sometimes run hot until it is broken in. There are several books and articles that have been written that will tell how to correctly set the timing. A blown head gasket can also cause overheating. Check for bubbles in the water at the filler neck. This may indicate a blown head gasket. Running your car too lean (Gas Adjustment Valve, GAV) can also contribute to your motor running hot. In hot weather there can be many contributing factors.



First Model "A" Fords Produced 98 Years Ago

After nearly two decades of producing the iconic Model T, Henry Ford made a bold move in 1927 by shutting down his factory for seven months to prepare for a brand-new vehicle. The launch of the Ford Model A on December 2, 1927, was met with tremendous excitement. Although the first Model A rolled off the assembly line on October 20, 1927, it wasn't revealed to the public until December. The first units were produced slowly but the assembly line's pace quickened and serial production began in November 1927.

Unlike its predecessor, the Model A offered buyers more choices, with seven different body styles and four color options. Its engine was a robust L-head 4-cylinder, cast as a single block, featuring a 3-7/8" x 4-1/4" bore and stroke, and a displacement of 200.5 cubic inches. The car delivered 24.03 SAE horsepower and 40 brake horsepower at 2200 rpm. Fuel efficiency ranged from 20 to 30 miles per gallon, thanks to its Zenith one-barrel carburetor.

The Model A rode on a 103.5-inch wheelbase with 4.50 x 21-inch tires and a gear ratio of 3.77:1. It was equipped with a three-speed sliding gear transmission and a reverse gear. Safety and comfort were enhanced by four-wheel mechanical brakes, Houdaille double-action hydraulic shock absorbers, and semi-elliptic transverse springs at both the front and rear. The car could reach speeds of up to 65 mph.

Standard features included a starter, five steel-spoke wheels, dash light, mirror, windshield wiper, oil and gasoline gauges, rear and stop lights, speedometer, a set of tools, and a pressure grease gun for lubrication. Notably, bumpers were not part of the standard equipment.

Pricing for the Model A was competitive: the Tudor Sedan was \$495, the Fordor was \$570 (F.O.B. Detroit), the Roadster was \$385, and the Phaeton was \$395. The Coupe was priced at \$495, while the Sport Coupe, which featured a popular rumble seat, sold for \$550.



Fashions of 1920s & 1930s



Men's Casual Wear and Other 1920s Fashion Trends

While the 1920s were well-known for the iconic suit that dominated the era, we can't overlook the emergence of a few noteworthy casual fashion trends.

The 1920s witnessed the emergence of casual wear as a distinctive category, with three separate items that characterized the era with relaxed and comfortable styles:

- Polo shirts, Sweaters, Knickerbockers

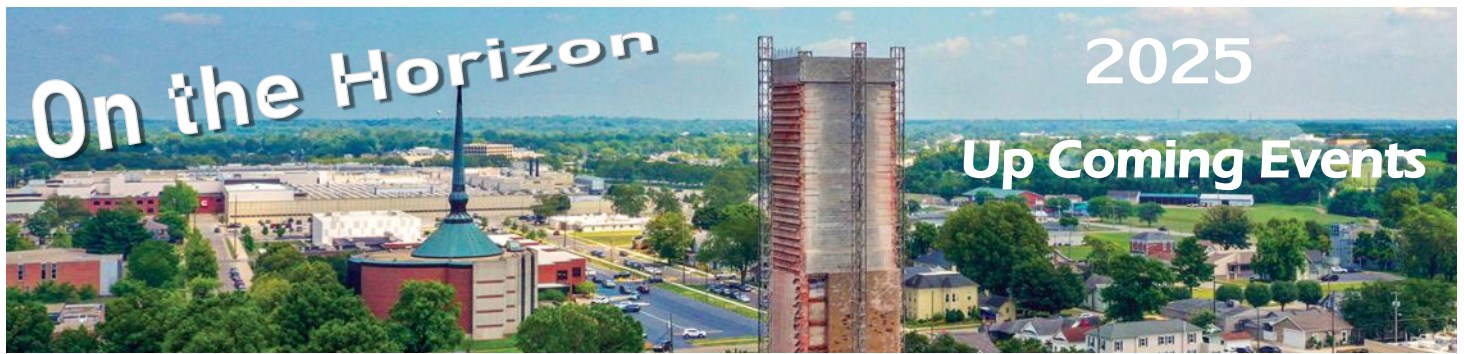
The Polo shirts, characterized by their short sleeves and soft collars, were well-suited for leisure activities such as golf and tennis. Sweaters, typically crafted from wool, were worn over shirts to provide warmth and style. Knickerbockers, a type of baggy, knee-length trousers, became fashionable, especially for sports and outdoor pursuits.



YOUTH Department



The Model A Youth Restoration Award (MAYRA) is a great program started in 1994 to encourage young people who have undertaken a Model A Ford restoration project. It provides funds to financially assist young people with their Model A projects. The program is endorsed by MAFCA and MARC. Details of the program can be found on the web at modelayouthrestorationaward.org Eligible youth must be under 22 years of age by May 31, 2026 which is the deadline for applications. In 2024 thirteen recipients received \$2,000 gift certificates. Lets have nominee from Columbus this time.



November 1 Fall Foliage Tour (Sullivan)

November 8 Speedway Museum Tour, Indianapolis, IN (Diehn)

November 13 *Membership Meeting—El Nopal National Rd, 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Meeting.*

December 7 *Christmas Party, The Seasons Lodge, 3pm, Nashville, IN (Diehn)*

CLASSIFIEDS



FOR SALE: 1929 Model A Fordor
Vehicle Runs Well, Smooth ride, Always parked indoors, New tires, No pets, Must test drive, Title in possession, Family friendly, Drives great, No Rust . **Asking \$12,000. Located in Sellersburg. Call 812-487-1468**



FOR SALE: 1930 Model "A " Deluxe Coupe. Has a Rumble seat. Excellent like new interior. Located in Noblesville, IN. **Asking \$17,500. Contact Mel Minion at 317-379-1693**

"95th Anniversary of the 1930 Ford "



GOING PLACES

3965 Fenwick Lane
Columbus, IN 47201



[Columbus, IN - MARC / MAFCA - Model A Ford](#)



NOVEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The Blue Book Tour on Saturday October 11th took our participating members in their twelve Model A's on a nostalgic journey following the Blue Books 1917 travel instructions. The hungry group after a long drive broke for lunch at Flipdaddy's restaurant down in Scottsburg, Indiana.