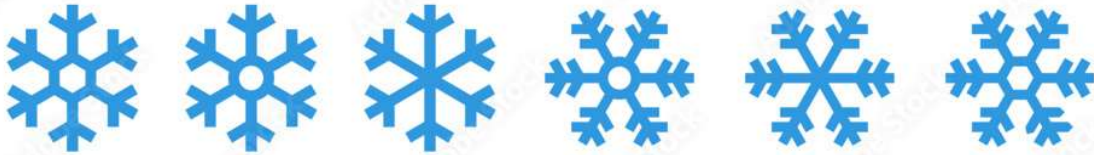


# THE STEERING COLUMN

The Official Publication of the Greater Baltimore Model A Ford Club

Vol. XXXVI, Issue 12 (December 2025)



Snow in the forecast!



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**THE GREATER BALTIMORE MODEL A FORD CLUB**  
**Please visit our website: <http://gbmodelafordclub.org>**

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Newsletter Editor: Dave McLeish ( <a href="mailto:dave.b.mcleish@gmail.com">dave.b.mcleish@gmail.com</a> ).....	240-676-3377
Information Technology Coordinator: Perry Lynch .....	310-943-8222

**ABOUT US . . .**

The Greater Baltimore Model A Ford Club is dedicated to the Model A Ford as a means of preserving a part of our national heritage and passion for the motor car.

Classified ads are free to members and may be renewed upon request but are subject to space limitations.

Local dues are \$25 per year. Membership in the Model A Restorers Club (MARC) is required and membership in the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) is encouraged. Contact the Membership Chair at the number shown above for GBMAFC, MARC, and MAFCA membership application forms.

*The Greater Baltimore Model A Ford Club remains committed to all of its members. If any Club member needs assistance, whether it's a maintenance problem or even in the event that a surviving family member needs advice on the liquidation of their Model A, please feel free to contact any of the Club officers. We will try to provide you, get you, or at the very least let you know where to get the help you need. Remember, we are here when you need us most.*

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**NEXT Membership Meeting:**  
**Holiday Party**  
**11:00 – 3:00 PM**  
*Friendly Farms Restaurant,*  
17434 Foreston Road, Upperco, Md.

## Newsletter Update

Keep all those articles, updates and Tech Tips flowing into the newsletters. Your efforts are appreciated.

Submit items for the next newsletter by

**December 21st**

Send to [dave.b.mcleish@gmail.com](mailto:dave.b.mcleish@gmail.com)

**January's** issue will be published about **DEC 27th**



# THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings fellow Model A VIPs,

We are in the last months of less-than-bitter-cold weather, so I hope that you are enjoying driving your A. We are coming up on the last time to renew your membership for 2026 without missing the January newsletter, so if you haven't already done so then please renew now (stop reading this newsletter and renew right now). I look forward to seeing most of you at the Holiday party at Friendly Farms on December 6.

Fire Engine status: Rear brakes are cleaned and the drums restored (wood and metal); I'm currently adding pin striping. The re-plated radiator shell has just been received and looks great. I'm expecting the steering column control rods back from plating within the week. I'm aiming to have the vehicle running and ready to show by mid-December (ever the optimist).

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and I wish you MOTR (More On The Road) time.

Harvey

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## GBMAFC Vice President Corner

By Miguel Escobar

I think we all enjoyed Rick Black's talk at the last meeting, about instruction books and tools provided when you purchased a new Model A.

Upcoming monthly meetings:

### December 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party

**Location:** Friendly Farms Restaurant - 17434 Foreston Rd, Upperco, MD from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

I've been working on several leads for next year's club meetings but people don't seem ready to commit at this point. I'm still on it.

### January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Location:** Lincoln Tech 7:30 PM

**Speaker:** Laurent Frugier

Laurent, is the CEO of Fuel2Electric, a company that assists classic car enthusiasts convert their beloved rides to electric cars. You can get more information from their website: [www.fuel2electric.com](http://www.fuel2electric.com)

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**Steve Meyer, Activities Chair (443-285-3890)**

<b>December 2025</b>	
<b>Sat., Dec. 6</b> <b>11:00—3:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Holiday Party at Friendly Farms Restaurant</i></b> <b><i>2026 Executive Board Election</i></b> 17434 Foreston Road, Upperco, Md. Volunteers needed Contact Steve Meyer, 443-285-3890
<b>January 2026</b>	
<b>Fri., Jan. 9</b>	<b><i>Lunch at Beck's Restaurant</i></b> <b><i>7565 Main St, Sykesville, MD 21784</i></b> <b><i>RSVP please to Steve Meyer by Jan 7 at 443-285-3890</i></b>
<b>Tues., Jan. 20</b> <b>7:30 PM</b>	<b><i>Membership Meeting</i></b> Lincoln School of Technology in Columbia, MD 21046
<b>February 2026</b>	
<b>Tues., Feb. 17</b> <b>7:30 PM</b>	<b><i>Membership Meeting</i></b> Lincoln School of Technology in Columbia, MD 21046

## **FUTURE Activities (cont.)**

**May 2026 — MARC National Tour — May 11th – 14<sup>th</sup> - Finger Lakes Region, NY**

**May 2026 — Possible club road trip after the National Tour timeframe.**

## 2026 Executive Board Election

From the nominating committee of Jon Miller, Bill Crawford and Don Keller

This is our list of officers for 2026:

President	Harvey Hack
Vice President	Miguel Escobar
Secretary	Harry Pressman
Treasure	Joe Candella
National Rep.	Kevin Mueller
Activities	Steve Meyer
Membership	Dave McLeish

If anyone would like to run for any office they can either submit their name before our Holiday party or at the Holiday party on Dec. 6th.

---

## Membership

Currently, the club has 101 members. 28 have renewed for 2026. There will be a table at the holiday party to renew – bring your checkbook! Make the transtion to 2026 easy for your volunteers!

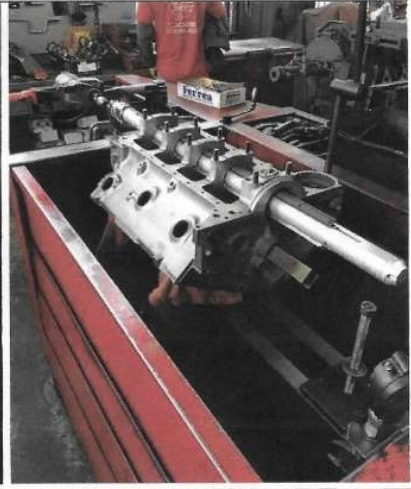
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November 18, 2025 Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to Order @ 7:31pm by President Harvey Hack

Opening – Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance

Visitors – David Rini with a '28 Tudor & '29 Truck

Andrew & Eliza Spenser – No Model A yet but have a Volvo and a Porsche. Looking for one that fits 2 car seats in the back.

Tom & Bill Green (Brother and Father of Michael Green) – They have two 1930 A Coupes

Presidents Report – Harvey Hack:

We have our Guest Speaker Rick Black with us Today.

Guest Speaker - Rick Black of Las Cruces, New Mexico

He owned a Model A hot rod in the early '60's

He got out of army in 1968, he got a 1931 Model A Tudor and wanted to leave it stock  
In 1996 he proposed and in 1997 helped launch and run the MAFCA Web Site until he retired in 2024

He also worked on editing the Judging Standards

Model A Tools Program – Using the MAFCA web site for picture references.

[Model A Tools – Model A Ford Club of America](https://mafca.com/tools/) - <https://mafca.com/tools/>

<https://mafca.com/instructionbooks/>

<https://mafca.com/v-background/>

<https://model-a-ford.org/product/model-a-restoration-guidelines-judging-standards-complete-set/>

The tool kit consists of:

Adjustable Wrench, with and without script and has square drive end

Starting Crank – Several different versions

Grease Gun (hand) made by Alemite

Jack – 10 versions – Beware of the Model A clone jack

Jack Handle – 3 versions

Oil Can and Firewall Bracket – Used until May 1928

Two Open Ended Wrenches – Most are not Ford Script but marked Circle M

Pliers with Screwdriver Tip – Some are Ford Script

Screwdriver – Wood with steel all the way through handle – 8 9/16" long

Spark Plug Wrench – Larger than Model T Version

Tire Irons – 3 versions

Tire Pump

Instruction Manual – At least 13 different versions that followed the progression of the Model A's. Not including all the versions for exports and foreign languages and countries.

The Copyright date is only one clue to telling when it was made.  
Reprints are everywhere and usually identified by an incorrect cover.  
Originals had true grayscale illustrations with better paper.

And a Tool Bag – Made from leftover top materials for small tools

Then there were multiple Accessory Tools:

Tire Gauges  
MotoMeters of various versions  
Fancy radiator caps  
Sport Lights and lots more

AA Truck tools were different for the Crank, Jack, and tire irons  
Only the 1930 version had trucks in the manual

Canadian and Foreign Tools are less well documented

Ford part numbers started with a year designator in front beginning with the Model A and carried that designator all the way through the 1990's

Up through T's were just numbers  
A's were A-xxx or AA-xxx part numbers  
1932's were B-xxx

1933 and up the year was marked with 2 numbers or a number and letter  
Letters and numbers at the end signified versions of the part

The part numbers in the middle were in blocks to designate what type of parts they were.

The Presentation ended @ 8:20pm

Back to the President's Report – Harvey Hack:

Board Member Report:

Remember to get your renewals in now so the roster can be completed and the club can have a smooth transition to 2026

Holiday Party (Sat Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 11-3 @ Friendly Farms, Upperco Md) – Joe will be away after Nov 25<sup>th</sup> so get your payments in early or get locked out.

Nominating Committee – Don Keller, Jon Miller, Bill Crawford, and Harvey helped out:

2026 Slate: Pres – Harvey Hack

VP – Miguel Escobar

Secretary – Harvey Pressman

Treasurer – Joe Candella

National Rep – Kevin Mueller

Activities – Steve Meyer

Membership – Dave McLeish

Nominations from the floor are always open to those wanting to run for office.

Harvey Hacks AA fire truck status

He had to buy a 20" gear puller to remove the rear hubs and wheels  
He showed the unusual brake setup on his Brantford Canadian AA Fire Truck.

Not like anything else for sure but looked to be in good condition

Replating the Radiator Shell in process

Replaced the passengers Splash Pan

Rebuilding the steering column

Found an excellent Machinist: Jim Sappington in Forest Hill MD

He is planning (hoping) to finally drive it in Mid December

Secretary – Mike Silbert:

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes (nobody read them???)

Treasurer – Joe Candella:

Checks coming in for annual dues and holiday party payments.

Renewals are falling behind, let's get them in before things get all jammed up.

And he got a new ride, a beautiful Jan 1931 Deluxe Phaeton from Dallas Tx.

It is a MAFCA winner and he will enter it in MARC judging in 2026

His wife wanted a convertible so she could put down the top and run "topless"

VP Report – Miguel Escobar:

He is having trouble finding presenters and looking for ideas for club meeting topics

Send any and all suggestions to Miguel or Harvey to make the meetings the best possible

He has had several presenters bow out making unpleasant headaches

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> meeting topic: EV conversions of antique automobiles

Remember the Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party @ 11-3pm

National Representative – Jeff:

Dec 3-6<sup>th</sup> MAFCA Awards Banquet in Mobile AL

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> GBMAFC Holiday Party

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 Steve Ryan Model A Show and Swap in Trexlertown Pa

May 11-14<sup>th</sup> 2026 MARC National Tour in Finger Lakes NY

The tour opens Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and information will be in the next "Model A News"

July 12-16<sup>th</sup> 2026 MARC National Meet in French Lick IN

Membership – Cindy Titus:

Renewals and new memberships coming in

The Roster will be out soon, after we get membership renewals in, so help everyone out and don't wait.

Activities – Steve Meyer:

See the newsletter and web site for the latest information

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party

Working on Activities for 2026, always open for suggestions

Youth Outreach – Bill Long:

No current plans

15 minute Break from 8:43pm – 9:02pm, The Indians were very restless tonight

Tech Talk:

Norm Molter: Discussed the distributor and points.

The Sept-Oct 2025 "Model A News" had an article on making quick change points.

There have been multiple ideas and articles about different ways to do this

There is also a Nov 1930 Ford Service Bulletin covering a version of quick-change points

Converting to quick-change removes the need to remove the distributor cam and re-time the engine

“Modern points” do not need the cam removed for replacement either

There was a discussion about the MARC article on axle thread restoring tools and how they will get you out of trouble sometimes.

David Rini was asking about how to deal with the float needle getting stuck on his Tillotson preventing it from running. Many suggestions to try and solve the issue. Also, that the timing and spark needs to be checked after it has sat for years.

The Green family has/had an issue with the horn on one of the cars.

It quit working and when bench tested the wires got hot fast so he re-bushed it and it works on the bench but not on the car now. The voltage across it is very low and seems likely that the horn switch is dirty. A discussion about wiring and connections happened. He has more ideas to try including removing the coupe rear window (again) to get into the horn switch.

50/50 was \$10 and won by Tony Burdelas and donated to Eliza for the good job she did picking a ticket

The club is going to add an axle re-threader tool to the club loaner tool collection

Next meeting – December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 11-3 for the holiday party

Meeting Closed @ 9:30pm



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The advertisement features the Mike's logo, a promotional message about new parts, contact information, and images of a catalog and mechanical parts like a shift tower and forks.



# Tech Tips

Submitted by Norm Molter

While reading the article written by Larry Shepard in the Sep-Oct 2025 issue of the Model A News, I noted he mentioned "quick change" points for the distributor. It piqued my interest as I had never heard of them. I referenced Tom Sieffert's "Model A Ford Technical Index" and found a few articles from Restorer and Model A News magazines – two of which I have included here.

## Easy Replacement of Original Points

Idea by Ronald Jawernycky, Farmington, Michigan  
Illustration by Steve Holt, Urbana, Illinois

**Tiny Tips**  
From MAFCA Members

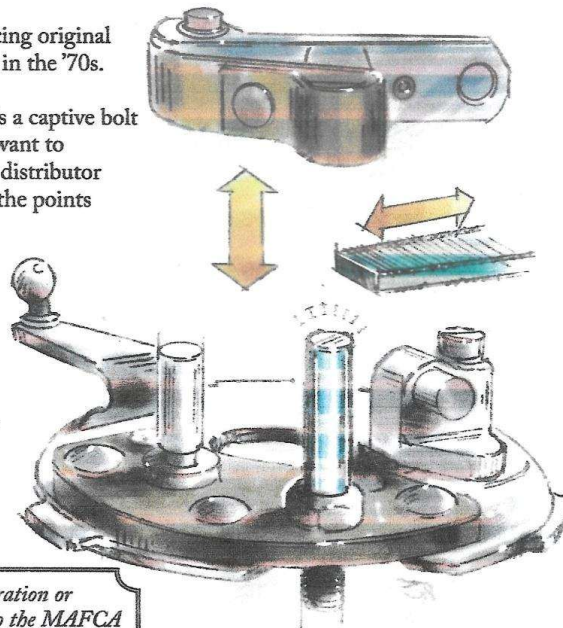
**I**FIRST LEARNED this tip for more easily replacing original style points from the Motor Cities club back in the '70s.

ON THE DISTRIBUTOR's upper plate there is a captive bolt that holds down the original style points. If you want to replace the points, you have to remove the upper distributor plate and unscrew the bolt ... and only then can the points be replaced.

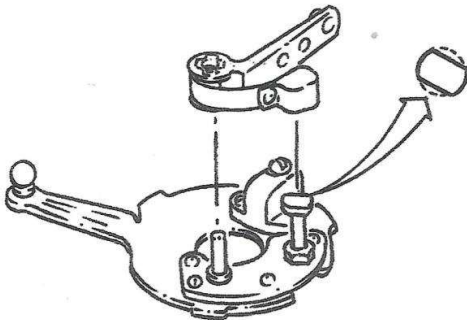
**HERE IS THE TIP.** Using a Dremel tool or small file, grind down the edge on both sides so the points can be slid off without removing the upper plate.

**DO THE SAME** with the replacement points. This way you can replace the points within seconds by simply sliding off the worn set and sliding on a new set. Don't worry; the points will not slip off during use. ☺

IF YOU HAVE A HELPFUL TIP about Model A restoration or maintenance, please send it, with a photo or sketch, to the MAFCA office: 250 S. Cypress St., La Habra, CA 90631 or email to: [Restorer@mafca.com](mailto:Restorer@mafca.com)



## Tiny Tips

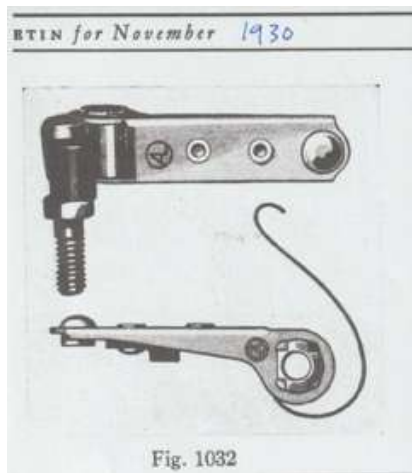


ILLUSTRATED BY HOWARD BARNES

Unless you really like to run the risk of shorting out the pigtail under the upper distributor plate everytime you change points (because you have to take off the distributor cam to get to the bottom side of the upper plate to loosen the pivot post nut for the moveable point), here is a small modification which allows the timing cam and upper distributor plate to stay in place while you change points. Remove the pivot post from an old set of points and grind the head into an oval shape just small enough to slip through the wrap-around spring. The remaining head should be adequate to keep the spring in place. Install this post (permanently) in the upper plate of the distributor. When installing a new set of points, remove the (new) pivot post from the moveable spring arm and just slide the spring down over the (permanent) post. It is essential that the correct gap be set at 0.022" for new points.

Ed Giovannella, Minuteman Chapter, Medway, MA

I also found an illustration of original points in the November 1930 Ford Service Bulletin (below). As you can see, there is no closed loop where the points attach to the post which connects to the lower plate wire.



After experimenting with the first two methods, using a Dremel tool with a cut-off wheel, I cut the loop attaching the points to the mounting post like the method used by Larry and similar to the original points depicted in the Ford Service Bulletin (above).



While all of these methods work, I found the method that Larry used to be the easiest.



The beauty of this method, is that you do not reset your timing since you don't disturb the cam – BUT you will want to check and set the points gap.

Ora Landis

# Schwalm's

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## The Model A Restorers Club, Inc.

# THE *running* BOARD REPORT

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

December 2025

**M**embership in MARC has increased this year over last year. This after declining for many years. This is Very Encouraging for our hobby! Many thanks to Regions who have encouraged their new and existing members to either take advantage of our free 12 month membership (non MARC members, digital magazine) or take our regular membership and receive the award winning *Model A News* magazine. Please continue to invite your members and anyone interested in our hobby to join.

**A**s you may know, we are updating the *Driver Class Judging Standards*. For example, some of these changes include the acceptance of fiberglass fenders, later Ford front and rear axles and leather or vinyl upholstery material for all years/models. The updated standards will be published soon. Make plans now to enter your Model A in Driver Class judging at French Lick in July!

**R**ecently we asked Region Presidents/Directors to email your Region's logo, in an image, PDF or similar format, for inclusion in our updated website. We have received many, but are missing many more. You will want your logo to be proudly displayed! If you haven't already, please email a copy of your logo to the MARC office at [modelarestorersclub@gmail.com](mailto:modelarestorersclub@gmail.com) or to Jim Zimmer at [jwzimmer9119@gmail.com](mailto:jwzimmer9119@gmail.com). Additionally, Larry Shepard is looking to compile a list of Model A Mechanics to use as a resource to help fellow Model A owners with mechanical questions. Please volunteer by emailing Larry at [marctech@modelarestorers.org](mailto:marctech@modelarestorers.org).

**C**ertainly we are all looking forward to the upcoming MARC Finger Lakes Tour next May. Online registration forms will be available on December 1st and hotel reservations will open on December 10th. Plan now to attend another great MARC event in a beautiful part of our country!





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Club Members can list items that they would like to sell, give away or are searching for. Listings run for one month unless you extend them by email or phone call.

---

## Sunshine News

Jeff Whitsett, Sunshine Coordinator, 240-461-8802 or [jwhitsett@hotmail.com](mailto:jwhitsett@hotmail.com)

Please contact me if you hear of someone who needs one of our special Club cards!





November 17, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Call to Order @ 7:01pm by President Harvey Hack

Attendees:

Harvey Hack  
Miguel Escobar  
Joe Candella  
Steve Meyer  
Cindy Titus  
Mike Silbert

President: Harvey Hack

Things have been running smoothly so there is not much to discuss  
The slate of officers for 2026 is ready so there will be a future

VP: Miguel Escobar

He has been having trouble coming up with speakers for meetings.  
Getting appropriate interesting topics that fit in the required time windows is a challenge  
All suggestions are welcome

Treasurer: Joe Candella

Checks for renewals and the Christmas party have been coming in  
Figuring out what the checks are for has been a challenge.  
Expecting a lot of checks @ the membership meeting tomorrow

National Representative: Jeff Whittset

No Report

Membership: Cindy Titus

The updated Roster is due to be delivered soon  
New memberships are coming in  
She has a potential topic of early women who drove across America  
She has finally overcome her computer issues

Youth Outreach: Bill Long

No Report, There will be a new chair for 2026

Mileage: Miguel

Let's keep rolling along, things are working

Sunshine: Jeff  
No Report

Activities: Steve Meyer

Looking at adding a tour to the May 2026 MARC Finger Lake (New York) National Tour but has not seen the itinerary yet. This would partner with, before (to the tour), or after (on the way back) from the planned tour. Need more information before plans can be made.

The Finger Lakes Tour registration and itinerary opens Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

Harvey Hack wants to tour over Niagara Falls, but it might be a dead end.

Some members thought he should do it, and some were concerned.

There was a discussion about the Finger Lakes Tour.

Newsletter: Jeff  
No Report

The club is looking for a new Country Store Chair

Old Business:

Cindy was going to sell her car but has since decided to keep it

It needs the gas tank cleaned and the steering box adjusted / repaired plus a horn wire fix

New Business:  
None

Note: Retiring board members are invited to the first 2026 board meeting to transfer information







# National News

by Jeffrey Whitsett



## MARC

January 10, 2026. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Winter Swap meet. Specializing in Model A Ford Parts. Shepherdsville, KY.

March 7, 2026. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Swap Meet. Washington County Fairgrounds, Marietta, OH. Admission is \$5 per person.

April 26, 2026. The Annual Steve Ryan Model A/AA Show and Swap. Trexlertown, PA.

July 12-16, 2026. MARC National Meet in French Lick, IN. French Lick Springs Hotel.

September 17-20, 2026. 69<sup>th</sup> New England Model A Meet. Wellsworth Hotel, Southbridge, MA.

The Model A Restorers Club has a noteworthy youth coordinator. Her name is Emily Ellway, she can be contacted at [YouthCoordinator@Model-A-Ford.org](mailto:YouthCoordinator@Model-A-Ford.org). Ask about Jr. MARC for youth.

## MAFCA

### President Tolman reports the following...

With autumn colors in abundance and temps more bearable, this is a great time of year to get our Model A's out on the road and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us. And I hope your local chapters are doing just that. But what of those members of your club who are having difficulty keeping 'ole Betsy running? Whether it's the widow or single lady (or guy) who needs help, or the Newbie who just feels lost when it comes to working on their Model A, there are many of us that need that assistance.

I want to take time to acknowledge a couple of chapters that have come up with a great way to serve their fellow MAFCA members. First, the Diamond Tread chapter of Downey, California where my cousin, Chuck Mayhew, is a member. Several years ago Chuck and a few other club members decided to band together and visit folks in their chapter who needed help in getting their cars running. They would plan a Saturday morning or afternoon and schedule visits to various members to 'checkup' on them. And whatever was needed, whether it was an oil change and lube job, front end alignment or ignition issue, they would get the car on the road again. They call themselves "Henry's Helpers" and endeavor to do just that. Another such group is the San Fernando Valley chapter where Arthur Bender and Wade Ratzlaf and their group of volunteers, calling themselves the 'A Team', assist folks in a similar fashion. I'm sure your local chapter may have 'Helpers' like this so don't hesitate to reach out to them.

I've heard firsthand accounts from MAFCA members who were helped by these groups, to get

their Model A's functioning and on the road again. And some have volunteered to do the same and join in the fun. Kind of a 'Pay It Forward' attitude. Of course there is an ulterior motive at work here, any guess what that might be? And no, it isn't that "Misery loves company"! Tours are so much more fun when everyone's cars are in working order. Fewer breakdowns mean more miles traveled and sights seen. And of course, more time to sit and enjoy that meal that we never seem to miss...

In closing, I just returned from the Model A Days at the Gilmore Car Museum near Kalamazoo Michigan where the Model A Ford community helped celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Expansion of the Model A Ford museum. What a wonderful testament to the hard work of Model A enthusiasts all over the world. And kudos to the Model A Ford Foundation and their efforts in putting together a museum worthy of Henry's Lady! The vignettes and displays showcasing our beloved automobile are well presented and they also have a spectacular 'Learning Area' where seminars can be given. This museum truly is wonderful and a great place to share our hobby with family and friends. I've said it before; everyone should schedule time for a vacation to Michigan and visit this grand museum of Automobilia. And finally, mark your calendars for a big party in September of 2028 where the Model A Ford Club of America will join the Model A Restorers Club and Model A Ford Foundation in celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Model A Ford.

Keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down and don't forget to honk that horn!

Ed Tolman

May 31 – June 7, 2026, MAFCA National Convention, Pendleton, OR.

### **MAFFI Minute** (Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.)

Winter is approaching here in the Midwest, and the museum is still rapidly working on new and updated exhibits! Darwin Schafer donated a special unrestored and fully original 1930 De Luxe Delivery (130) which was originally used by a funeral home for flowers. This will be used during Model A Days to demonstrate corn shelling since it has a power take-off system for a belt (though personally, I might try and sneak an ice cream maker on it!).

Andrew Oliver of Connecticut won the sweepstakes on the 1928 Phaeton, and Kris Wilson of Missouri won the rebuilt engine.

Now that the trustees have had a chance to go over the numbers for the 2025 Model A Days, it looks like it was a great success thanks to all our hobbyists who came to support the museum. There are plenty of ways to get involved with helping and still plenty of ways to donate to the museum between the My-A-Program, Brick Memorials, and even regular donations. As we get towards the Holiday Season, this is something great to keep in mind, especially for your local club.

Keep on motoring! John Grossheim, Trustee and Secretary of MAFFI

### **Other Collector News**

Our **Calendar** of up-to-date events for 2025 is listed on our website under the calendar tab. [www.gbmodelafordclub.org](http://www.gbmodelafordclub.org)

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