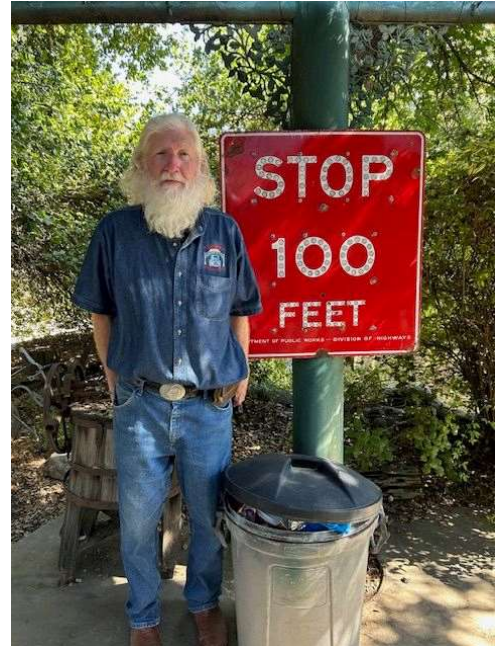


# The Fuel Line Connection

December 2025 Est. 1994



**Gordon Oakley and  
his 1929 Model A Tudor.**

## **From the President's Pen**

Happy, happy, happy Holidays to all our fellow Model A'ers. I heard the Turkey Run was quite a challenge this year! Thank you to the Tomlinsons for this annual November treat.

On Tuesday, December 9th, we will have our Christmas Party and Installation Dinner at The Bear Club on Manning & Buttonwillow Avenues in Reedley. Social hour is at 5:30pm with Dinner (everyone will be ordering off the menu) to follow

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around 6:30 or 7:00pm. Mr. Jim Riley will be installing our new Officers for 2026 with his usual insight and hilarity.

In this, my last President's Article (hooray!) I'd like to say stay healthy everyone to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And to say Happy Birthday to Todd Riley-Dec. 18th and Ken Wall-Dec. 23rd. Looking forward to seeing you on December 9th!

May God Bless,  
President Alan

**\*\*About the picture: Gordon Oakley joined The Blossom Trail A's Model A Club this year. He drove his 1929 Tudor to Arnold's tour of Kingsburg Historic Park on September 20th and he is a valuable addition to our meetings and tours. He has a wealth of knowledge with his background as a fire department mechanic and his association with other Model A clubs. Plus he has a secret identity! In December, he dons a red suit and becomes Orange Cove's Santa Claus driving his antique red firetruck. You better be nice !**



Peggy Riley is our **Sunshine** Representative. She needs to know when members are ill, have surgery, or are in the hospital. Please call her at (559) 259-6106 if you have something to share or request prayer. Everyone is encouraged to call or send a card to anyone who misses a meeting.

Keep these folks in your thoughts : **Linda Roushall**-has moved closer to her doctors! LOL She'll be pleased if we schedule more tours near Clovis. **Barbara Tapley**-if she can get her tests completed during these holiday hours, she has a January 6 back surgery scheduled. Condolences to **Tamyra Tomlinson** on the death of her aunt in November. **Sandra & Jerry Eitzen & Peggy & Jim Riley**-as they help each other through continuing medical treatment

### **DECEMBER Calendar:** Festivity and Fog

Dec 09	Christmas Banquet & Officer Installation 5:30pm at the Bear Club
Dec 18	<b>Todd Riley-birthday</b>
Dec 23	<b>Ken Wall-birthday</b>
Dec 25	<i>Christmas Day.</i>
Dec 31	<i>New Year's Eve</i>

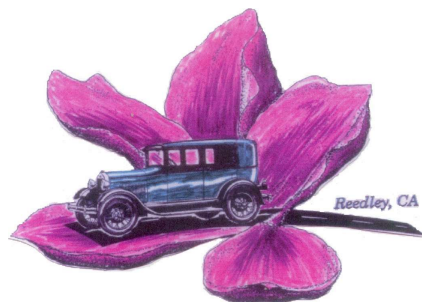
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## **JANUARY Calendar:** Baby, it's Cold Outside

Jan 01      *New Year's Day*

Jan 13      Blossom Trail A's Meet@ KRMHC Clubhouse @7:00pm

Jan 19      **Barbara Tapley-birthday**



### **Blossom Trail A's General Meeting**

November 11 , 2025

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Alan Borba. Club members Jim Riley, Robert Tapley, and Craig Tomlinson were thanked for their military service on this Veteran's Day Holiday.

Roll Call: Alan Borba, Randy Campbell, Arnold Chakerian, Jerry & Sandra Eitzen, Robert Fransen, Gordon Oakley, Jim & Peg Riley, Linda Roushall, Robert & Barbara Tapley; Craig, Tamyra & Wyatt Tomlinson, Ken & Marilyn Wall, Linda & Don Williams.

Thank you, Linda Roushall, for providing refreshments.

Birthdays this month: Arnold Chakerian -27 Anniversaries this month: Robert & Rachel Fransen – 6, Jerry & Sandra Eitzen – 21.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the October meeting were accepted as printed in the Fuel Line Connection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Roushall's official report was presented. An updated report will be presented at the January meeting reflecting new member's dues, raffle income and disbursements.

**Old Business:** The Executive Board will present a draft amendment to the by-laws concerning membership to be presented to the club for a vote at the January meeting. This will clarify expectations for club members to remain in "good standing". Ballots for next year's officers were passed out. Some corrections were made verbally before the voting began.

Next year's officers are: President-Robert Tapley, Vice-President-Arnold Chakerian, Secretary-Tamyra Tomlinson, Treasurer-Linda Roushall, Fuel Line Editor-Linda

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Williams. Our officers will be installed at our Christmas Party, December 9th by Jim Riley.

Alan gave an update on the SWAP Meet which is the third Saturday in March, the 21st. Some members will be needed to set up all day Friday. Work shift sign ups will begin at the February meeting.

Arnold brought up an additional activity for interested club members to attend; a December 13th matinee performance of "A White Christmas" at the River Theater in Reedley. Speak with Arnold if you have questions or are interested in attending.

**New Business:** Alan gave an update on the Christmas Party, December 9. Members will be ordering off the menu with the Borba's and Linda R. serving as hosts. Happy Hour begins at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:30 at The Bear Club in Reedley, located at Buttonwillow and Manning.

Arnold passed around a 2026 monthly sign-up sheet for hosting a tour and for providing meeting refreshments. Come prepared to sign up at the December and January meetings so we can fill our slots for the directory.

Gordon Oakley gave a report on the multi-club October 18 tour to Whited's Car & Memorabilia collection near Woodlake. He stated the BBQ was good. Several other members attended this event.

**Technical Advisor:** Jerry asked who was working on carburetors. Robert F. is working on his carburetor. Randy Campbell said he had a "loaner" car which seemed to be running fine.

**Tours:** The Tomlinson's Turkey Run will be November 22 nd . We will meet at Georgia Penner's, 239 South Reed at 9:30 am. Refreshments will be provided. The Dinuba tour run will end with lunch at the Tomlinson's. Prizes will be awarded for the top three poker hands.

The Christmas Party will be on our regular meeting night, December 9 th , hosted by Linda R. and the Borbas. Installation of officers will take place after dinner.

**Sunshine:** Barbara shared she has a surgery date regarding her back, January 6th , in Beverly Hills. She is hoping for a good outcome. Remember to contact Peggy if you are ill or know somebody that is.

**Membership:** Tonight was Randy Campbell's first meeting as a member! Welcome Randy!

**Fuel Line:** Linda W. reported there was no new news.



**Historian:** Alan asked for members to print or send pictures so he can add them to the albums located at his office at the Selma Swap Meet location.

**CCRG:** Alan and Todd agreed to share the job for 2026. Jerry offered to be an alternate. There was nothing new to report.

**MAFCA:** Jim indicated that there was no new news.

**Raffle:** Arnold ran the raffle.

**Cultural Advancement:** Peggy shared some “cultural advancement”.

**Calendar reminder:** The next meeting is our Club Christmas dinner and installation of 2026 officers on December 9th at the Bear Club at 5:30 pm. The next regular meeting is January 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tamyra Tomlinson, Secretary



## O-Ring to Protect Upholstery

I GOT THIS SIMPLE IDEA from a friend of mine – Bobby Roy, who lives in Ola, Arkansas.

Behind a finish washer for upholstery, use a #78 O-ring under the washer as a backup to keep from cutting into the material. I have put this idea to use with good results.



From: Doug Zinn, Little Rock, Arkansas

Illustrated by John Pratt, Urbana, Ill.

The Restorer, May/June 2020 - Volume 65, Issue 1

Successful Model A Clubs have one necessary common ingredient. They have members who will plan events and volunteer to assist in running the organization. Look for your niche in our club this new year.



The 2025 Turkey Run, hosted by the Tomlinson's, had 5 stops around Dinuba. The day started foggy but sun broke thru just in time for the start! We ended up for lunch at their country home, having a simple lunch of sandwiches, chips, fruit & brownies! Poker hands were determined after grading the Trivia questions, establishing the winners. All had a wonderful time!



1<sup>st</sup> Place:  
Jim & Peggy Riley  
and Elisabeth Fransen

The Riley's owe Elizabeth at least a Turkey Leg!



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Marilyn & Ken Wall



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Tamyra & Wyatt  
Tomlinson

Arnold & Susan Chakerian - Jerry & Sandra Elzen - Robert, Rachel, Elizabeth, Hannah Fransen





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December 2025

Dear Model A Owners and Hobbyists;

Thank you for your continued support of The Model A Ford Foundation and of our museum, located on the grounds of The Gilmore Car Museum. Through your membership and donations, we have established a world-class museum featuring authentic vehicles, era fashions, and memorabilia celebrating the Ford Model A.

If you haven't visited the museum recently, at your next visit you'll discover many exciting additions. Our recent expansion includes new exhibits such as a period schoolhouse vignette, a Dust Bowl-era display, a photo opportunity in one of the Museum's Phaetons, a recreated Mercantile Store, and an educational garage area designed to teach Model A maintenance and repair. More exhibits and displays are already in development for the coming year.

We're proud to share that the Model A Ford Foundation has built and expanded the museum *without incurring debt*—thanks entirely to the generosity of members and donors like you. Our funding comes primarily from annual memberships, the sale of commemorative museum items such as engraved bricks, proceeds from our annual Model A Day, and contributions from clubs and individuals.

We also maintain an endowment fund, where earned interest helps support ongoing operations. As we continue to strengthen that fund and enhance our exhibits, we ask that you consider making an additional gift to help us maintain our endowment and sustain our operations. Your generosity keeps the Model A legacy alive, allowing us to share this important chapter of automotive history with generations to come through one of the finest museums in the world.

Thank you again for your loyal support and enthusiasm.

***Happy Holidays!***

*John D. Marshall*

John D. Marshall

Executive Director

MAFFI is a 501 C3 organization. All Donations are deductible to the limit of the law.

## Ladies Fashion



## Ladies Fashion



1930's Hat Fashion - timeline - 1930 to 1940

glamourdaze.com

The *Friend Telegraph* on December 11, 1925, remarked in an editorial entitled "How Times Change": In Christmas seasons gone by, it was not considered good form for a young man to give his best girl articles of wearing apparel. To do so indicated that her people neglected to clothe her. A man's gift had to be an album, a toilet set or something along that line.

In the 1920s Christmas giving grew more sensible giving the recipient gifts they could use. People bought more for the home. Rather than pictures and mementos, a chair, a new rug, dishes or silverware, labor-saving devices and even new-fangled cooking utensils became favorite gifts. "Give a woman something serviceable to wear or something she can use in her home and you gladden her heart. Give a man something for his auto, or something he can wear besides neckties, and you win his thanks."

The 1920s became the age of flapper fashion and jazz music. New fashions in art and architecture, from art deco to modernism jumped into fashion. Frank Lloyd Wright built his ultra-modern homes. In 1927, Lindbergh made the first flight across the Atlantic. Hot toys included die-cast metal toys, the Raggedy Ann doll, and, toward the end of the decade, the yo-yo. —Read more at [www.bhhhistory.com/2013/12/christmas-during-1920s.html](http://www.bhhhistory.com/2013/12/christmas-during-1920s.html)



\*\*Thank you to the Charter Oak's Acorn News for these fashion articles.-Editor



## Technical Tips

### The Model A Heater — Comfort Without Electricity

As December settles upon the motoring world, many enthusiasts elsewhere tuck their Model A Fords into barns and wait for spring. Here in Santa Barbara, however, our cars continue their rounds — often with chilly fingers and bracing cabin temperatures that make a brisk drive feel positively Antarctic.

The Model A Ford left the factory with **no built-in heater**, a fact that confounds newcomers and amuses old-timers. In 1928, “cabin temperature comfort” was not yet part of the automotive vocabulary. Drivers wore wool coats, passengers carried lap robes, and Henry Ford assumed you would generate heat the same way the car did: by moving.

That said, **heat was available** — if you were bold enough.

#### THE MANIFOLD HEATER *The Original Do-It-Yourself Furnace*

Early accessory catalogs offered a curious device: a metal box bolted directly over the exhaust manifold.

As the engine heated, so did the box. Air routed through it, via flexible tubing, entered the cabin as **warmish, slightly exhaust-perfumed encouragement**. Owners swore by it — and occasionally swore at it.

#### Pros:

- No electricity required
- Period-correct accessory
- Works as long as the engine runs

#### Cons:

- Heat output varies wildly
- Leaks could introduce exhaust fumes
- Risky if not installed correctly
- Known to scorch wool blankets



“I never installed a manifold heater on my Fords — and never will. They were effective for cold-weather driving and they did work—wonderfully—but dangerous. In those days, drivers were sometimes found at the side of the road with the engine idling and carbon monoxide in the cabin. Two of my Model A’s had holes for heaters, but I plugged them. There’s a fine line between cozy and toasty when your heater shares real-estate with the exhaust!”

—Aaron Machado

Even today, some Model A owners experiment with manifold heaters. The principle remains simple: **the hotter the exhaust, the warmer the occupants**. The sensible question becomes: *Can one be comfortable without becoming combustible?*



“Who needs a heater when you’ve got spirit?”

#### MODERN OPTIONS (Tasteful Alternatives)

For those wishing to remain warm **and alive**:

- 12-volt accessory heaters powered by converters
- Period-style lap robes (still popular and charming)
- Wool hats, gloves, and scarves—historically authentic and reliable
- Drive faster (*warm at heart, scientifically questionable*)

#### WINTER SAFETY TIP Regardless of heating method:

Always keep windows cracked for ventilation.  
Exhaust fumes are invisible but persuasive.

\*From The Mohair Flyer , newsletter for the Santa Barbara MAFC. Thank you. -Editor

## Blossom Trail A's 2026 Officers

<b>President:</b>	Robert Tapley	labbrat226@yahoo.com
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<b>Secretary:</b>	Tamyra Tomlinson	tlynnt1950@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Linda Roushall	ldro719@gmail.com
<b>Editor:</b>	Linda Williams	tflc12@gmail.com
<b>Executive Board:</b>	Barbara Tapley	barbtapley@yahoo.com
	Don Williams	donbch@sbcglobal.net



### ... to join the Reedley Blossom Trail A's Model A Club

The Model A Ford Club of America is dedicated to the preservation of the Model A Ford and its era. Anyone with an interest in Model A's is welcome to attend our meetings and join the Reedley Chapter. **We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month in the Kings River Mobile Home Park Clubhouse at 1300 W. Olson, Reedley at 7:00 PM.** All members of the Blossom Trail A's are expected to also be members of MAFCA. **For a MAFCA Membership, the application is available online at [www.mafca.com](http://www.mafca.com). Just click on Join MAFCA !**

Write to the **Reedley Blossom Trail A's at P.O. Box 26, Reedley, CA 93654.**

*The Fuel Line Connection is the official publication of The Blossom Trail A's. It is published once a month for the enjoyment of the members. Information in this newsletter may be borrowed from other publications. Credit will be given when known*

### Breakfasts, Tours and Refreshments for Dec 2025-2026

Month	Breakfast	Tour	Meeting Refreshments
January			1/13
February	Williams tour/ breakfast		2/10 Don & Linda Williams
March	3/21 Selma Swap		3/10
April			4/14
May	5 /1-5/3 CCRG Jamboree in Bakersfield		5/12
June			6/9
July			7/14
August			8/11
September			9/08
October			10/13
November			11/10
December	12/09/25 Christmas Dinner & Officer Installation		12/09 Christmas Party