



The Desert A

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Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America and Region of the Model A

Restorers Club

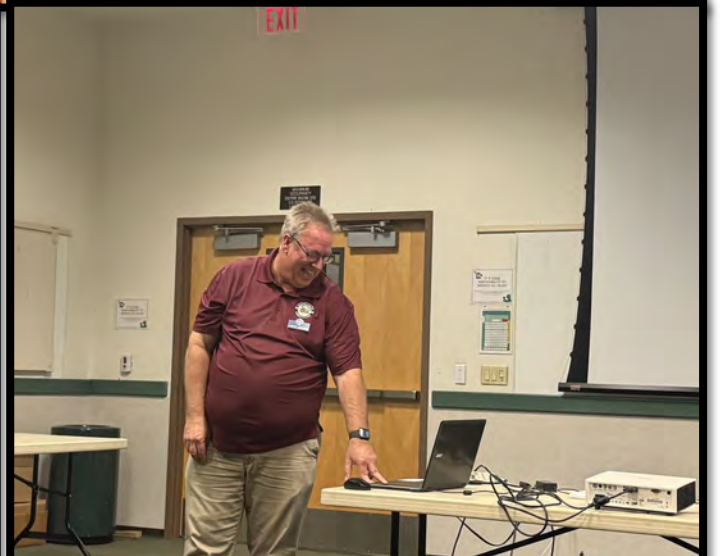
Michael Goode, Editor: armchaircars@gmail.com



**More “On Assignment” : Model A’s in Holland,
Los Angeles, Michigan, the Northeast!**

Events

(left and below) West Side Breakfast at Biscuits Café in Peoria, *(below)* East Side Breakfast at Egg & Joe in Gilbert, *(bottom left and right)* General Meeting...including new members with their coupe-look for a feature on this car coming soon!



From our Facebook Page



(left, top to bottom)...Impromptu west side breakfast, Willie Black's Huckster in front of the Prescott Courthouse, Model As in Holland. **(Below, top and center)** Desert A'ers at Model A Days at the Gilmore in Michigan, **(below bottom)** at the NE National Meet.



Presidents Message

September 22, 2025

Fluid pumps can be a maintenance headache on many types of machinery ranging from railroad locomotives to marine engines and to Model A Fords. Fortunately, Model As do not have fuel pumps so that leaves only the water pump.

One of my Model As does not have the “leakless” water pump, so in due course the stock water pump started to leak coolant. A tweak on the packing nut solved the problem for a while but eventually the packing was so far gone that simply tightening the packing nut would not solve the problem.

There is some material in Les Andrews’ red book on how to service the packing and a discussion on the subject is contained on pages 148 and 149 of the Model A Service Bulletins Complete from Lincoln Publishing Company. Fortunately, Sammy at Arizona Model As sells the “metallic split ring packing” as it is called. He also sells a spanner to turn the packing nut on and off the pump body. If this is not available, a screw driver or open end wrench will work.

It is possible to change out the packing without removing the water pump from the car. First you have to drain the coolant down below the level of the pump. However, it is necessary to remove all the flattened and crushed pieces of the old packing before proceeding further. Auto parts stores sell gasket pics which can be used for this. In my case, one hobby complimenting another, I used old dental pics scrounged from the dentist to work on model trains.

The new packing comes with directions on how to fit to the pump shaft and then it simply a matter of threading the packing nut back onto the front of the pump housing and drawing it up tight enough to prevent leaks. Lubrication is the key to success so grease the pump occasionally.

-Phil Francis



Vice Presidents Report

We are back from an extended vacation and would like to thank Sylvia Summers for sending out reminders on our behalf. The temps are falling and we're actually getting some much-needed rain this sets us up for excellent touring weather. 4 Model As and their drivers will be leaving on Oct. 7 for Holbrook, connecting with the group traveling from Chicago to CA on rt 66, care to join us - contact Marlies.

Our October General meeting will be held on the 25th at Desert Breeze. It's the Chili cook-off so please bring either some chili, cornbread, a salad or a dessert and let Marlies know of your choice.

If you'd like more tours just let us know!

Regards, Marlies & Joop

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

For the Meeting Held on September 21, 2025

The President opened the meeting at 4:03. It's time to think about the upcoming Elections. Our President is willing to run for a second term. LaMont is a candidate for Vice President. We have broken down the vice-presidential responsibilities into four positions: Coordinator of the East-side breakfasts - Pat and Jack Ripley are willing to do this, Coordinator of the West-side breakfasts - Tim and Julie Mitchell are willing to do this, Party planner - Lois Cook is willing to do this and tour planner - Marlies is willing to do this.

We are looking for somebody to do the 50/50 at the General meetings.

We are looking for somebody to fill the position of Secretary.

Sylvia Summers is willing to be Membership.

Carol Wade is willing to be Treasurer for a second term and Michael Goode will continue as Editor.

The Treasurer gave the report.

The VP stated that the breakfasts and the general meetings have been less well attended but considering the temps this is normal. We should see attendance rising as the temperatures continue to fall.

Our next General meeting will be held on Oct. 25 at Desert Breeze and it will be the Chili cook-off. Bring one of the following: chili, a dessert or a salad and please let Marlies know of your choice.

The President closed the meeting at 4:25.

MARCAZ General Meeting Minutes

September 02, 2025

Call to Order -- Phil Francis, President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance (Flag Salute)

New members – Debi and Garrett O'Dell drove the only Model A present at the meeting. Their 1931 coupe has been restored with a hard completion date – their daughter's wedding. Garrett was disappointed that the rest of us let the temperature dictate the cars we drove. He was assured that the October 25 meeting at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler would rally lots of Model A's.

President Comments – Phil acknowledged the officers both present, absent and out of the country. He recommended thorough maintenance routines be performed on all of our Model A's in preparation for our touring season, which is finally upon us.

Secretary Report -- The prior General Meeting minutes were accepted as published in *The Desert A* .

Treasures Report – No report. Phil suggested no or little change from previous report.

Newsletter -- *The Desert A's* editor, Michael Goode, was present to accept congratulations on the August issue of our e-newsletter.

Sunshine – No report.

Vice President Report -- Marlies Plaggenborg and Joop were in Holland celebrating her Mom's 96th birthday. She sent a Facebook message indicating she had lots to tell us about (traditional) windmills, Model A Fords, gardening and fun. Stay tuned.

Membership Drawing -- As the chit box was not available, the drawing was postponed.

50-50 -- Under a flashy 50-50 Marquis, LaMont Johnson sold the tickets: Bonnie Gutherie, Jan Winslow, and Kirk Dewey each took away \$4!

Brag Bucket – None

Program – LaMont Johnson's presentation on the MAFCA Civil War National Tour peppered photos of the many, many battlefields with pictures of lots of Model A Fords and "Proof of Life" documentation – daily selfies of he and Kathryn that were required by his family. The projector worked!

Adjourn -- Phil Francis could discover no new or old business. He hammered the meeting closed at 7:35 p.m. and bid safe travels home to all.



Letter from the Editor

Take a look at our Calendar towards the end of this newsletter! There are quite a few fun events coming up here in Arizona as we are headed out of the blazing heat of the summer and into some truly beautiful Model A weather. The year has flown by, and I see that a lot of you have been active doing Model A related activities all around the world. I would love to feature articles about your adventures here in the newsletter! That brings me to a subject that I would like to bring up...some of you knew this was coming.

I am on social media-in fact, social media became a thing when I was in my late twenties and has exploded since then, for both better and for worse. On a positive note, we get to post about what we are doing quickly and easily, and it makes finding out about events very convenient. On the downside, some of the anticipation and excitement is removed. I grew up in the 80s, and could not wait to get the latest issue of Car and Driver, Road and Track, Hot VWs, Automobile magazine, CARtoons, and others. Growing up in Chicago, these magazines were mostly from California, except Michigan based Car and Driver, and a few others from the United Kingdom. I had to wait a month (or in some cases, two, as some publications were bi-monthly) to find out what people were building or how things were done to cars in another state or part of the world. The California custom car magazines showed trends that were seldom seen the Midwest.

Facebook and YouTube are great for showing some of this, but there is something still lacking. The magazines had photos and details that a quick online post simply cannot compare to. And maybe the anticipation of having to wait another month to see the next feature brought out something that the instant gratification of the internet cannot match. It told the story of the car and its owner...more than a quick post, an article that really brought you a glimpse of the connection between man or woman and machine. The new car magazines often told how that new car came to be, along with its merits and deficiencies.

I encourage you to keep using social media to spread the Model A hobby. But let's also get a little more detail on some of your adventures, projects, and cars here in the newsletter. I'll start reaching out to some of you, but please also send me an email or a text if you have something you would like to tell other Members about here in the Desert A! In the meantime, I have put a few photos up from some of the events and other places some of you have visited this summer. On the cover is a Model A that my son Rhyse and I spotted recently just outside of the Lost Angeles Farmers Market-which, if you have not been to, I highly recommend. It's been around since just after the Model A era, in 1934, and features grocers, restaurants, arts, crafts, and much more. Really a neat place to visit, and not far from it is the Peterson Automotive Museum, which houses a very impressive variety of cars, including, of course, a few Model A Fords.

Let's get you, your car, or an event you've attended featured! Contact me by texting (773) 407-1884 or send me an email at armchaircars@gmail.com. As a reminder, only paid members get this newsletter, so a feature would be something special for those that really support the Club.

-Mike Goode

20 Years Ago : Southern California Regional Meet

The **Gemmell's** and **Guthrie's** left Scottsdale at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 14th. The Plan was to drive directly to the hill climb in time for lunch. We arrived at 11:30 ½ hour before the scheduled break, but alas, they broke for lunch at 11:00 a.m. and the last hot dog was being consumed, as we approached **Ron Mosher's** race car repair and eating area. Oh well, the timing resumed at 12:00, we watched several of the popular competitors that we see at all the hill climbs. **Art and Olive Moore**, consistent winners, both had broken race cars by the time we arrived. **Raul Castillo** was again 'King of the Hill' in his OHV powered coupe.

We later checked in at the Marriott, Ontario, for the first of 4 days of fun packed Model A events. We met up with lots of friends from the Southern California Region, and met some new ones. The Welcome Party, Seminars, Hubley Derby, Car Judging, Fashion Show, Casino Night, Grand Tour, and the Awards Banquet kept us constantly on the go.

Always fun, if you have not attended a Regional or National Event, Try It, ***You'll like it!***

Board Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2005.

The meeting was called to order by **President Bert Diehl** at 7:15 p.m. at the home of **Sammy Guthrie**. The minutes were read and approved and **John Willis** reviewed the account balances. **George Woods** said we have sold only a few Entertainment Books so far. **Lois Cook** discussed the **Fred Laurita** Memorial Chile Dinner in November. There will be a sign up at the October General Meeting. We will need pots of chili and pies for desert. **Lois** then discussed past and upcoming tours. It was decided that the Christmas Party will be a buffet at the Landmark Restaurant. Some important dates to remember for the next year include: The San Diego Swap meet in February, Guthrie's Yard Sale in March and also the General Yard Sale, at the Gemmell's home in Scottsdale, also in March. **Sammy** reported that we have 138 families in the club now. The renewal forms for this year will be in the next issue of the Desert A. **Bill Draper** will contact **Russ Dunn** about the club's mile-age awards. **Paul Mahacek** reported that he has three people nominated for new officers. **President...Bert Diehl. Treasurer...John Willis. Secretary...Lois Cook.** The Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be at the home of **John and Cheryl Willis**. Respectfully Submitted, **Cheryl Wood**, Secretary.

President's Message...Fit's me like a Comfy Tee Shirt! Walked out to the garage early last Saturday morning to get the 'A' ready for the breakfast tour at Coco's. Usual Ritual, I opened the hood to check the oil level, had a look-see at the water level, wiped some of the oil mist off the oil filler tube, starter switch and starter, checked the starter rod to make sure it hasn't backed off to far etc. After checking the fluids under the hood, I generally dust off the big pieces and if I have time, do some spot polishing and wipe the road dust off the wheels. After all, if the 'A' is going out in public, it should look **purty!**

I thoroughly enjoy sitting behind the wheel of the coupe. The bench seat is comfortable and I've grown to appreciate the location of the steering wheel, the slight pressure of the shift lever against my leg and the view out the window. Took a look around the interior of the ol' Ford and it's about as simple as you can get. No idiot lights to look at, no radio to disturb all the squeaks and rattles, ain't got no time piece to tell me if I'm ...

(continued on following page...)

20 Years Ago (continued from preceding page)

...ahead of schedule or running late, no compass or outside temperature readout that tells me what direction I'm headed in and just how hot it is out there. Come to think of it, I can pretty much tell how hot or cold it is out there just by paying attention to whether I'm perspiring or shivering! Add the information provided by the gauges in the dash, and you've got the very basics necessary to drive the car. Need an on/off switch, sight gauge for the fuel level (almost as interesting as watching your endies float by in the clothes dryer window), ammeter to look after the charging circuit, and the odometer-speedometer.

Come to think of it, all of the gauges bounce around as you're driving along almost as though they're keeping a beat, with the heart of the machine. I'm tellin' ya, it's an awesome adventure and there's nothing like it in a modern automobile. I like it, and it fits me like a comfy tee shirt!

Hey **Martha**, wanna go for a ride? I would do it myself, but every so often you've just got to share the joy. Heck if you'll just sit there and quietly share the sights and sounds with me, I just might let you take control of the machine on the way back home. Control yourself **Martha!** Till we're just a little further down the road.... -

-Bert

Goodies for October...**Michelle Filkins Jordan, Lynn Gilliland, Lois Cook, and Rusty Bradley.**

50/50 Winners are: **Alice Woods, Dave Packard, and Bernie Kaplan.** Cash Box Drawing, **Lil Bratrud** (not present)

Honk if you love COOL Cars...**Frank Gemmell** appeared in the Arizona Republic Newspaper, in September along with other stories about car enthusiasts. The Model 'A' fits in perfectly with the Ferraris, Mustangs and Street rods. Frank is shown standing between his 1931 Standard Coupe and his 1930 Town Sedan. Frank is semi-famous for once shipping the sedan to Europe and driving it through the Alps...! **-Ernie**

In the Model A Era : At the Movies

The Jazz Singer was released in October 1927 (before you say, "hold on! The first Model A didn't come out until 1928!", well, Henry's Lady was actually introduced just a few weeks after this movie, on October 20, 1927. And since this first feature length talkie was still in theatres when the New Ford Car first hit the streets, we felt it was appropriate.

The Jazz Singer marked the end for the silent film. While a part talkie, part silent film, it was indeed Hollywood's first full length movie to feature synchronized moving pictures and sound.

The first vocal performance in The Jazz Singer, by Al Jolson playing Jack Robin, begins at the 17:25 mark of the film, and include the spoken words, "Wait an minute, wait a minute, you ain't heard nothin' yet!" which was a well established stage patter of Jolson. It also features him singing "Dirt Hands, Dirty Face" among other tunes.

The Jazz singer was a high budget film, costing not quite double Warner Brothers typical cost of \$250,000 at the time, but it was also a very large success, becoming one of the top 3 highest grossing movies on 1927 and winning an Honorary Academy Award for Warner Brothers.



In The Model A Era

In the 1920s and 30s, Halloween evolved from a holiday focused on mischief and outright vandalism, including pranks, property damage, and fights, to a more commercialized and family friendly tradition similar to what we know today (although if we are being honest, the former has not, unfortunately been completely eliminated). The destructiveness of these incidents lead some communities to consider banning the holiday. Many communities responded by organizing festivals, parties and parades, and promoting trick or treating as a safe alternative for children to receive treats without causing trouble. Commercial haunted houses were developed as another way to introduce safe fun. The 1920s saw the emergence of paper costumes that were mass produced, such as clowns, witches and flappers, but by the 1930s boxed costumes featuring plastic masks and modeled after popular characters of the day emerged (Mickey Mouse, Popeye, and Little Orphan Annie) were popular. Horror movies of the day also had an influence on costumes. The 1920s and 30s marked a turning point for Halloween in the USA, moving away from a holiday of widespread destruction to one that became quite similar to what we have today.



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Most of these vendors can help with your Model A woes. So can coming to our General Meeting, which is the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm at 640 N. Mesa Drive, In Mesa, AZ except as noted in Touring Calendar!



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Club Members - "MODEL A" Merchandise - Buy, Sell, Trade, Wanted

Submit New ads or Changes to ads no later than the **15th of each month** to make next months newsletter. Send the information to: **Mike Goode** **armchaircars@gmail.com**

Ads published for 3 months and will be removed if no additional 3 month request is received.

For Sale –

NEW Model A die-cast Hubley coupe that is still in the plastic wrapped box - \$35

Dash rail mounted dual cup holder - \$20, sells for \$50 new

Locking gas cap for model A - \$10

Restored locking door handles - \$20 ea or 2 for \$30, I have a 5 or 6.

Signed Model A print – The Windshield Cowboys Signed and numbered by Gary Carter - \$40

Call Tim Wilson - cell - 937-725-3901

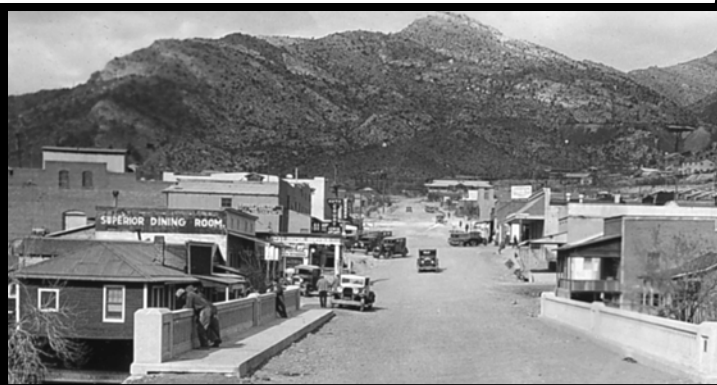
For Sale: 1930 Town Sedan: Interior is Grey Mohair, features trunk and trunk rack on rear bumper. Engine compartment is in #2 condition, original 4 cylinder with updraft carb, 3 speed manual transmission, radiator is original style and appears to be leak free. Electrical wiring is original cotton covered as designed by Ford. Generator has been updated to an alternator. Chassis is in #2 condition, single exhaust is solid and without leaks. 19 inch spoke wheels are matching and have Goodyear tires with good tread depth. No excessive grease or oil leaks. Undercarriage is fairly clean for a driver condition car.

Contact Georgia Ruppert. Located in Resse, Michigan. (989)868-4356 or email at Georgia-rupp@hotmail.com



Local Images in the Model A Era

Superior, Arizona in the 1930s...



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"A" Chit Chat

Contact **Lois Cook** 602-717-9252
if you know of anyone that needs some Sunshine.

Cards mailed out for December Sunshine:

Scott Roberts, Angela Ford, Greg Willits,
Shaun Jacob, and Karen Mahacek

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

Thank You for keeping me up to date.
Please let me know if someone needs a card.

*Hi Lois - Want you to know how much our
club appreciates the time and effort you take to
send sunshine to all of our members.*

Take Care

Name Tags **Ron Jackson** 480-510-6465
Photographer **Bill Draper**
Era Fashion **Patti Jones** 623-214-2220

Log into our MARCA Facebook

Facebook Group keeps our members private and
lets us have fun and learn more about our hobby.

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Shaun Jacob 623-570-9616

Model A Restorers Club of Arizona Facebook
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Dues are \$20/ year for **MARCA** and \$50/year for **MAFCA**

Events and Touring Calendar

October

Oct. 4	7:30 am	East-side breakfast, Biscuits, 1815 E. Elliot Rd, Tempe
Oct. 6-10		Rt 66 tour to Payson, Holbrook, Williams and Kingman
Oct. 7		NO GENERAL MEETING
Oct. 18	7:30 am	West-side breakfast, Campbells, 9098 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd, Peoria
Oct. 19	4 pm	Board meeting
Oct. 25	10 am	General meeting and Chili cookoff, Desert Breeze, 427 N. Desert Breeze Parkway W., Chandler

November

Nov 1	10am	International Model A day, the American Legion, 2125 S. Industrial Park, Tempe. Burger bash bring a salad or a dessert to share
Nov. 4	7 pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa – Hubley evening with Steve Giancola
Nov. 15	7:30 am	East-side breakfast, Henhouse, 3133 S. Lindsay Rd., Gilbert
Nov. 22	7:30 am	West-side breakfast, Cave Creek @ Greasy Earl's, 6135 Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ
Nov. 23	4 pm	Board meeting

December

Dec. 2	7pm	General Meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr., Mesa –Swap meet, bring your Model A related parts to sell or buy.
Dec. 6	7:30am	East side breakfast-Biscuits #2, 4623 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix
Dec. 7	11 am	Christmas party, Old Spaghetti Factory, 1418 N. Central Ave, Phx
Dec. 13	7:30 am	West-side breakfast, The Thumb, 9393 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale
Dec. 21	4 pm	Board meeting

2026

January

Jan. 6	7 pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa
Jan. 17	8 am	Hubley Races, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa
Jan. 18	4 pm	Board meeting
Jan. 19	11:30 am	Lunch at Pappa Paul's, 118 N. Old Litchfield Rd, Litchfield Park

(continued on next page)...

Events (continued from preceding page)

February

Feb. 3	7 pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa
Feb. 16	11:30	Lunch at Lake Pleasant
Feb. 22	4 pm	Board meeting

March

Mar 3	7 pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa
Mar 6-8		MATO – Midnight at the Oasis, Yuma
Mar 14	11:30 am	Lunch at Verrado Grille, 4242 N. Golf Dr, Verrado
Mar 15	4 pm	Board meeting
Mar 17		St. Patrick's Day

April

April 4	11:30	Lunch in Cave Creek
April 7	7 pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Dr, Mesa
April 19	4 pm	Board meeting

May

May 1-3		Central CA Regional, CCRG Jamboree in Bakersfield, CA
May 5	7pm	General meeting, 640 N. Mesa Drive, Mesa
May 17	4pm	Board Meeting
May 22-24		Northern CA Regional, NCRG-Sonora, CA
May 31-June 7		MAFCA National Meet in Pendelton, OR
July 12-16		MARC National Meet in French Lick, IN

