



The Ridge Runner Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 12, December 1, 2025

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Thankfulness is the feeling or showing of gratitude or appreciation of something good. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I feel thankful for this club, this band of brothers who are doing our part to preserve and enjoy a major part of history, the Ford Model A. It is my privilege to be a part of something so great! For this, and so many blessings, I thank my GOD for HE is way better to me than I will ever deserve!

On October 25th, eight Model A's made the trip to Ferrum College for the Blue Ridge Folk Life Festival. Fellow club member Harris Warner was also there showing his 1973 Capri. It was a great drive and we enjoyed the day so much. Members Mike and Susan Siler, Michael and Sue Westervelt and Randall and Tonda Strickland met us there. It was great to see everyone!

November 8th found us gathered at The Green Goat in Roanoke for our annual Elections and Business Meeting. Sixteen members and two future members enjoyed lunch and just being together. Locals David Honness, Pete File, Jonathan Shewbridge and John Garrison from Salem drove their A's. They definitely drew a lot of attention. Please see the secretary report to find out what was decided at the meeting.

We were proud to honor our Veterans at the Floyd parade on the 9th. Russell Green led seven A's in the parade, and Don Griffith was interviewed for the local paper. We were glad to have a local member, Terry Conner, riding with us.

NOW, here comes the BIG event. December 6th is our Christmas Party at Belview Church, in Radford, VA. You do not want to miss this one! We have the best time, with lots of good food, laughter and fun!! We will start gathering at 4 PM and eating by 4:30. Ya'll come, now. Ya hear?

I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. I wish you days that make you joyful. Good health that keeps you active. And good friends and A's that make you smile.

Your President, JOHN WEEKS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/03 Norman Altizer

12/05 Holly Giles

12/16 Carlene Woolwine

12/19 Tonda Strickland

12/27 Joyce Kitts

12/28 Kenneth Dawson

12/30 Thomas Deacon

LIST OF OFFICERS

- President: John Weeks
540-392-8573
- Vice President: Jim Palmer 540-616-9772
- Secretary: Kim Weeks
540-392-8403
- Treasurer: Buck Goforth
540-588-5593
- Chaplain and Newsletter Editor: Jonathan Shew-bridge 540-598-5337

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you would like your birthday to be published, give the month and day to Kimberly Weeks (we will not disclose your age).
- Saturday, December 6th, is the Christmas Home Tour fundraiser for the Montgomery Museum. They are asking that we park some A's on the driveway in front of The Oaks Victorian Inn on Park St. to prevent those on the tours from parking there. We would need to arrive by 9:30 AM and leave by 3 PM because our Christmas Party is the same day. You can leave your car there and pick it up later if you wish to. This opportunity will make for some great photos, and I am told that a local artist will be there, and he hopes to do some sketches of our cars!! Please contact John Weeks if you are interested. (540)392-8573 or weeksamodel29@yahoo.com
- December 6th - Christmas Party 4p.m. Eating at 4:30 Belview Church Radford, VA (Dewey Eanes) (Kimberly Weeks) Address: 3619 Onyx Dr 24141 (Ham and Turkey will be provided, along with paper products. Please bring your favorite side dish, dessert and/or drinks.) Also, a Dirty Santa gift for each member, if you want to play.
- December 13th - Laying of the Wreaths Veteran's Cemetery Dublin, VA (Jackie Shelton). ***We will be taking up donations at the Christmas Party to pay for the wreaths. If you would like to donate, see Buck Goforth, Treasurer. ***
- Club Dues are due and payable to Blue Ridge Model A's as of now. Dues are \$20 per family. Cut off date is February 28th. You can pay at the Christmas Party or by check. Mail to: Buck Goforth, Treasurer 5131 Britaney Rd. Roanoke, VA 24012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
12/06/2025	9:30 AM-3:00 PM	Christmas Home Tour Fundraiser	The Oaks Victorian Inn on Park Street	John Weeks
12/06/2025	4:00 PM; eat at 4:30 PM	Christmas Party	Belview Church 3619 Onyx Dr Radford, VA	Dewey Eanes
12/13/2025	To Be Determined	Laying of the Wreaths	Veteran's Cemetery Dublin, VA	Jackie Shelton

TECH TIPS FOR TIRE CARE (from Jim Palmer)

Another controversy is the thermostat for model A.

First, I have stated the Model A engine performs best at 160-180 degrees. Recently I read an article by a very respected Model A person (Michael Eisenbise) with many years' experience and one of our parts suppliers (Eric Weninger of The Model A Medic) "Michael Eisenbise and the thermostat theory from Eric Weninger." With several rebuilt engine failures, they figured a thermostat may have caused it.

With sufficient miles on a rebuild they were running with 160 degree thermostats. Each had a temperature gauge showing well below 160 degrees which meant the thermostats were closed. Unfortunately, the temperature was taken at the return neck or watching the radiator cap when they failed. The number four cylinder was damaged and failed with no water circulating, especially to the rear of the motor. These cars were cruising at 50-60 MPH with 26% overdrive which may eliminate most of us, but with just 2 small holes in the thermostat body when closed, there may not be enough circulation. This is what two experts I consider came up with so you now have an opinion about running a thermostat or not.

ELECTION AND BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

John Weeks brought the meeting to order with sixteen members and two future members present. Chaplain Jonathan Shewbridge asked a blessing over the food and meeting. We welcomed new members John and Susan Garrison, and it is our hope that you enjoy being a part of the club. John opened the floor for nominations. Pete File moved that officers stay the same, and Judy Griffith seconded the motion. So, officers will stay the same for 2026.

It was also discussed whether or not to lower the dues. John Weeks, Jim Palmer, Pete Burkey, and Pete File spoke for or against. The subject was tabled for now. We also discussed adding to the bylaws that members 90 years old and above be honorary members, not having to pay dues.

THE *running* BOARD REPORT

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

December 2025

Membership 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.

As 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!

Recently 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 or to Jim Zimmer at 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.

Certainly 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!





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

William Richardson, the grandson of Vivian and Buddy Dickerson, is a new member this month, and he has a 1931 Coupe. Please reach out to him at natedogg42oh@gmail.com to make him feel welcome! We're glad to have you William.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

This is a thankful time of year, and I'm thankful for our Model A friends that we've met during our 6 years in the hobby.

I'm thankful for meeting some members who have gone on to be with the Lord. In particular, I'm thankful for Bud Akers. He was quiet, but very helpful and kind. He once let me have an ammeter when I urgently needed one. I'm thankful for Barbara Gordon. I have fond memories of traveling with her on trips to Abingdon, VA. Her love of ice cream always brings a smile to my face. Jack Bahm (from an Ohio club) was always funny, knowledgeable, and helpful. I still think of him often. He liked to make phone videos of fellow Model A hobbyists.

I'm thankful for Jim Palmer. He was my initial contact with the club, and he helped find our first Model A. He also helped me with a water pump replacement. (It never occurred to me that an impeller shaft would be intentionally manufactured too long, and he cut it down for me.) I'm thankful for Dewey Eanes and Preston Gordon and for all the work they did as Chaplains in the past. I'm thankful for John and Kim Weeks. They do so much for the club. (Unless you've been in a leadership position, you may not realize how much effort it takes to lead a group of people.) I'm thankful for Buck Goforth. Buck always has a funny story, and he has been my advisor on so many Model A topics.

I'm thankful for all my Model A friends. There are so many more I truly appreciate, but I've run out of space here. Thanks for your kindness, friendship, and help along the way. Most importantly, I'm thankful for my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that you follow Him too.

Please continue to pray for a healing touch for our club members who are suffering with health issues and remember their caregivers as well.

- Bob Brown is having health issues.
- Harris Warner is having some health problems.
- Bob Webb is having some health issues.
- Douglas Wayne Harvey is having back and other health problems.
- Preston Gordon still has some health issues.
- Don Elson's mobility is limited to a wheelchair.
- Kim Weeks is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- John Weeks is scheduled for replacement pace maker surgery.
- Leigh Mattox recently had hip replacement surgery.

Jonathan Shewbridge, Chaplain

SCRIPTURE

1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)

"Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; his love
endures forever."

If you have a Model A
prayer request, please
contact Jonathan Shew-
bridge at 540-598-5337.

EVENT RECAP

Blue Ridge Folklife Festival

On 10/25/2025, 10 Model As and about 12 club members converged on the Blue Ridge Folk Life Festival at Ferrum College. Here are some pictures.



Election and Business Meeting

On 11/08/2025, the Blue Ridge Model A club met at The Green Goat in Roanoke for a election and business meeting. 18 folks and 4 Model As attended.



"The remains of the old must be decently laid away; the path of the new prepared. That is the difference between Revolution and Progress."

— Henry Ford



TREASURER'S REPORT (from Buck Goforth)

Balance as of 10/20/2025		\$2,888.90
EXPENSES		
Newsletter Costs	\$23.70	
Total Expenses		\$23.70
INCOME		
Dues	\$40.00	
Donations for Dublin Wreath Laying	\$100.00	
Total Income		\$140.00
Balance as of 11/20/2025		\$3,005.20

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you have a Model A item that you would like to sell? Maybe a vintage accessory, some fenders or doors? Or tools, a spare engine or transmission, or maybe even a whole car. (Yay!)

All you need to do is send a description, your asking price, your city, and no more than one photo of what you want to sell to Jonathan Shewbridge, and he will put your free ad in the following newsletter. Your free ad will run for 2 months. If you would like to renew after it expires, just contact Jonathan to keep your ad going, month-to-month.

JIM COLLOP PROJECT

This is the project that Jim Collop has been working on. He and Ronnie Kitts picked up the car last December, and work progressed all summer.



BLUE RIDGE MODEL A CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date of Application: ____/____/2025 **Please Check:** ____ Renewal ____ New

Make \$20 check payable to "Treasurer" Blue Ridge Model A's

Mail to: Buck Goforth, Treasurer, 5131 Britaney Road, Roanoke, VA 24012

PLEASE PRINT

		Optional	Month/Day
Name		Birthday	/
Spouse Name		Birthday	/
Address		Home phone	() -
City	State: Zip:	Cell phone	() -
Email address			

Model A(s) Owned:	
Year	Model (Tudor, Fordor, Roadster, Phaeton, Pickup, etc.)
19	
19	
19	
19	

**I am a member of the following organizations
(please check):**

☐	MARC (Model A Restorer's Club)
☐	MAFCA (Model A Ford Club of America)
☐	MAFFI (Model A Ford Foundation Inc.)

BRMA's Constitution: Article II, Membership, Section 5, Payment of Dues: Annual dues shall be paid by January 1st. Any members whose dues are not paid by sixty (60) days after January 1st shall be expelled for non-payment of dues.

MARC (MODEL A RESTORERS CLUB) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P.O. Box 498, Howell, Michigan 48844 Office: (734) 427-9050 Email: modelarestorersclub@gmail.com

1 Year U.S. Membership: \$50 (first year is 50% off for the asking)

Call office for Discounts (First Year Membership, Youth Membership or Surviving Spouse Membership)

Make check payable to: Model "A" Restorers Club or (M.A.R.C.)

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION: __ Visa __ Mastercard __ Discover __ American Express

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV Code # _____

Phone # (____) _____ - _____ Membership # _____ (If renewing) Region Name (If member) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

I give permission to publish my phone number in the future MARC Membership Rosters: __ Yes __ No

I give permission to publish my email in the future MARC Membership Rosters: __ Yes __ No

BLUE RIDGE MODEL A CLUB

Founded in 1979, the Blue Ridge Model A Club serves 1928-1931 Ford Model A enthusiasts in the New River Valley, the Roanoke Valley, and surrounding areas. Our club is also an active Region (chapter) of the national Model A Restorers Club (MARC).

JOIN THE FUN

If you are not already a member, you don't want to get left out. Join today, using the Blue Ridge Model A Club Membership Application inside this newsletter.

Come and enjoy the fun, the fellowship, the ice cream, the road tours, and the community of loving people who genuinely care about each other and the Model A hobby.

MARC MISSION STATEMENT

The Model "A" Restorers Club - MARC, founded in 1952, holds as its aims the encouragement of members to acquire, restore, preserve, exhibit and make use of the Model "A" Ford. And most importantly, to enjoy the fellowship of other Model "A" Ford owners around the world.

Blue Ridge Model A Club
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Email: jonathan.shewbridge@gmail.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

«Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «ZIP»

