



Quail Tales



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLE RHODY MODEL A CLUB

January 2026

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National Editor

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401-724-9154

Photography

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401-340-0239

President's Message:

This year we should have a lot to look forward to. There are club activities for everyone's interest. Dean and Dennis have tech activities after every meeting, and the roster has tours scheduled for the driving season starting with the Dustoff tour in April. Marie is also planning subjects of interest for the ladies after meetings. Something for everyone.

It was wonderful to have Marie back at the meetings, hope you stay well Marie. Also we missed Evie at the Christmas party, glad she is well again too. This is not a good time of year for illnesses, especially the flu. Please take care of yourselves with masks and hand washing.

It is nice to have so many old and new members at the meetings. It shows that there is still a lot of interest in the Model A Ford hobby.

John and I, Ken and Carol Trudel will not be at the February meeting, as we will be on a trip together. There will still be a meeting on February 8th at 2PM.

See you again in March.

Let's make this a great year for Little Rhody!

Be safe, and stay healthy.

*Till Next Month,
Dawn*



Connect with Little Rhody Online!

Club Website: <https://littlerhodymodelaclub.com>

Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2484753575034399/>

Meeting Location:

Cornerstone of Faith
United Methodist Church
1081 Main St.
Coventry, RI 02816

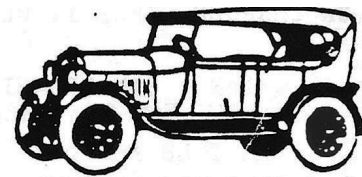
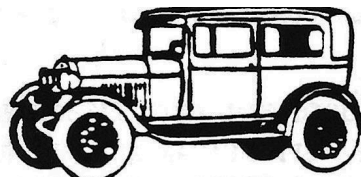
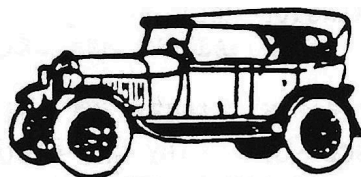
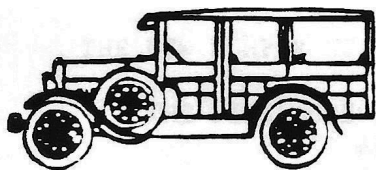
Model A Ford Club of America



Model A Restorers Club

Next Meeting:

February 8th



2026 Meeting Calendar

January 11th:	Meeting @ 2PM
February 8th:	Meeting @ 2PM
March 8th:	Meeting @ 2PM
April TDB:	Dust-Off Tour
May 17th:	Meeting @ 2PM
June 14th:	Meeting @ 2PM
July 12th:	Picnic @ 1PM
August:	No Meeting
September 13th:	Meeting @ 2PM
October 18th:	Potluck Supper @ 2PM
November 8th:	Canned Goods Donation & Brown Bag Auction @ 2PM
December 5th:	Christmas Party

Note that these dates are subject to change. If you are on the roster, you should expect to receive an email, text, or call with more details. If you have any questions, contact John and Dawn Mennucci.

Message from the Tour Planning Committee

Our goal is to plan a minimum of eight tours this year consisting of both educational and entertainment value. Our committee has started to meet to start the process of tour planning for 2026.

Want to contribute? Call Dean @ 401-573-3276

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please make sure we have your current contact information on file. We send out communications between the newsletter mailings by email. and phone calls to those not internet connected. So stay in the loop and don't miss any impromptu planning by keeping your club up to date on your contact info.

Technical Program / Educational Committee:

Our goal is to provide information on the maintenance and repair of your Model A so you can comfortably go *from the garage, to the street*. We pick subjects based on member input. We feel that working on a particular members problem as a group can be both educational and entertaining while also bringing another car into our touring fleet. It's a win win.

Refreshments

Contact Marie Penta for details or to sign up
401-486-4524

~ ~ ~ *Vintage Vehicles* ~ ~ ~



"1915 Model T Touring Car"

The 1915 Model T's had many improvements over the 1914's. Electric headlights, a new cowl design and curved rear fenders to name a few. It was a crossover year to "brass and black lights", while still retaining the Brass Radiator. Production estimates are 105,998 Touring cars, out of a total of 308,162 for 1915, priced at \$440. It came with a "Leatherette Interior". The family is heading out for a drive, Mom's at the wheel, Grandpa looks nervous. It sure looks sporty with the windshield folded down, gleaming white tires and shiny black paint. Such a beautiful car, the only thing missing is the "ACA 1st JR. Badge"!!

C/O Mark Henion Photo Collection

~Touring Report~

Touring Committee Report

Our next touring committee event will be our 2026 Tour Planning Committee Meeting where we will discuss this coming year's tour destinations and dates. We have some great destinations planned for 2026! Stay tuned for more information.

*Dean Travis
Touring Committee Chair*

Technical Program Report

At January's meeting we had an extensive discussion on flywheels, ring gears, pressure plates and clutch discs. We went over all the pieces to this puzzle and how important it is to align and adjust before assembly to ensure a good installation.

At the February meeting we will discuss internal parts of the engine, including the crankshaft, pistons, camshaft, cam, valves, valve springs and more. Many of the pieces will be on display!

March meeting we will discuss basic body work and paint

See you at the next meeting in February!

*Dean Travis
Dennis Allsop
Program Committee Chairs*

2026 New England Meet

The 69th Annual New England "Miles of Smiles" Meet is scheduled for the weekend of September 17–20, 2026, at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Hosted by the Worcester County Model A Club, this event features various social activities, including a Friday dinner with a guest speaker and comedian, a Saturday "Grand Tour" through scenic back roads, evening dinner with live music, and a Sunday morning awards breakfast buffet. The Saturday Grand Tour includes a tour of a private car collection and peer judging of the attendee's cars.

Registration is \$60 if completed before July 15, 2026

For those interested in learning more about the New England meet being held in September, please visit <https://wcnemeet.com/69thAnnualNewEnglandMeet.pdf>



Historian Committee Corner

Each month, we will post a picture from a past event. Sometimes it will be a vehicle and sometimes it will be a person, place, or a thing. All tied to a past Little Rhody event. Let's take a look back to memories of the past and remember some of our past members who may no longer be with us. Let's see if you can name a few of the details of each photo.



Dean Travis

Little Rhody Tech Tips

Spark Retarded: Never allow the engine to run for any length of time with the spark retarded because this creates a great amount of carbon to be deposited on the walls of the cylinders, combustion chambers, pistons, spark plugs, etc. The engine will not be developing its maximum power and will overheat.

Engine Noise: Noise in the Engine will be heard as “backfire” or “knocks”. The spark could be too advanced, you could have a poor mixture of gasoline, a clogged muffler or improper timing, to name only a few.

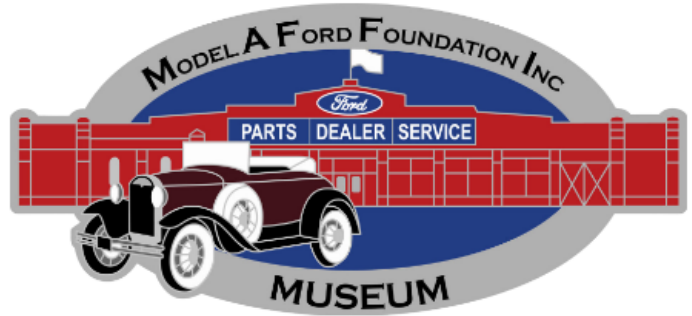
Tight Fan Belt: Over tight adjustment of the fan belt wears the belt down and causes early failure of shafts and bearings in the fan, water pump and generator.

Fan Fit: The fan should fit tight on the hub. Any play at this point would cause the fan blade to vibrate and eventually break.

Flickering Headlamps: If both headlamps flicker, look for a loose connection or intermittent ground. If flickering is due to a loose connection, amperage reading should be less than normal while they are flickering. If flickering is due to an intermittent ground, the amperage reading should be greater than normal while the lights are flickering.

MAFFI Minute

Happy New Year, Model A'ers! As we roll into another year, we find ourselves one step closer to our beloved cars turning 100 years old, which is pretty incredible to think about. The Board met in January to begin planning for the year ahead, including early discussions around Model A Days, along with ideas for upcoming exhibit changes and continued growth of the museum.



While things may seem quieter during the winter months, the museum remains very active behind the scenes. Winter is an important time for maintenance, organization, and preparing exhibits and vehicles for the year ahead. The volunteers of the Grape Country Model A's have been instrumental in this work, generously donating their time and skills. Leader of Fleet Maintenance Dan Cargo and Museum Manager Jerry Dennany, in particular, continue to provide invaluable leadership and hands-on support throughout the off-season.

Keep on motoring!

John Grossheim
MAFFI Trustee/ Secretary

Buy/ Sell/ Trade

WTB 30-31 Roadster cowl - Contact Dean Travis @ 401-573-3276 11/24

WTB Top half Model A Ford Holley Carb - 1927-1928 Contact Russell Dean 401-301-8306 5/25

WTB 21" '28-'29 Rims - Contact Russell Dean 401-301-8306 7/25

For Sale - Contact Robert Doucette @ 401-821-1384

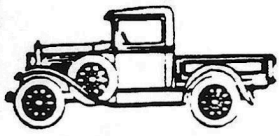
- 2 Rear Fenders for a 1928-29 sedan Fiberglass: \$150.00 11/25

For Sale - Contact Bob Gerold @ 941-685-3155

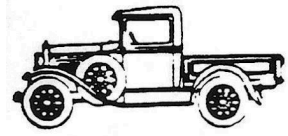
- Intake & Exhaust Manifold - Excellent condition: \$225.00
- 6 Volt Generator w/ cutout - Used, works fine: \$125.00
- Completely rebuilt distributor w/ new shaft - Like new: \$160.00
- Gas gauge wrench - Metal: \$15.00
- Set of four original Champion 3x Spark Plugs: \$100

For Sale - Contact Mike Marcello @ 401-340-0239 or mikemarcello40@gmail.com

- 6 volt generator w/ new bearings. Can be used as a core or to fix and use: \$75
- Late '31 exhaust manifold. Serviceable condition - \$40 11/25

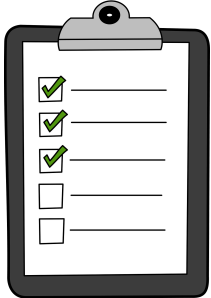


Minutes



Little Rhody Membership Meeting January 11th, 2026

--Attendance--



John and Dawn Mennucci
 Steve McCalligett
 Jeff and Debbie Barnes
 Rich Masterson
 Steve and Annie Swiader
 Dennis Allsop
 James Gardiner

Bob and Evie Osborne
 Al and Sandy Bowder
 Mike Sr. Jr. Marcello
 Andrew Lamoreaux
 Sandy Swenson
 Jimmy Pakuris

Ken and Carol Trudel
 Tom Cash and Marie Penta
 Bill Grenga
 Glenn Gresko
 Dean Travis
 Angel Caparrelli

Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by Dawn Mennucci, president.

Secretary's Report:

The reading of the secretary's report was waived by membership vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Ken gave us an accounting of the club's finances.

Vice Presidents Report:

No report.

Newsletter Publisher/Editors:

All on track.

Historian's Report:

The historian was not at the meeting, but Dean Travis talked about putting photos taken at events from the past in the QT to see who remembers the event and participants.

Guests and New Members:

Steven Mccalligett attended after some years absent from the club. Welcome back Steven.

Correspondence and Notices:

There was no correspondence or notices for this month.

Committee Reports:

National Editor:

Articles have been submitted for this period.

New England Meet:

Dean gave us information on the meet, it will be in Southbridge MA for 2026. He also read a list of clubs sponsoring the meet in coming years. He says there are fewer clubs with large enough membership to sponsor the event.

Membership:

Tom Cash gave us news that the club membership is at about 65 people.

Hospitality:

Marie Penta was back after an extended illness. Marie thanked Dawn and the other members of the club that helped put on events in her absence. She also asked members to sign up to supply refreshments to meetings.

Sunshine:

No report.

Librarian:

John put old copies of the “Restorer” and “Model A News” out for anyone who wanted them.

Webmaster:

The website has been updated recently with previous copies of the Newsletter.

Program:

Dean and Dennis gave a seminar on flywheels and ring gears.

Photography:

Mike continues to document club activities.

Business Old and New:

Dennis continues to send hard copies of the QT to members who don't use computers or have a current Email address.

Adjournment:

Adjournment was at 2:31 PM

50/50 Raffle: Tom Cash won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the treasury.

-- Birthdays and Anniversaries --

**Birthdays for January:**

Susan Mosca, Tim Strickland,
John Budziak, Jason StAment,
Michael Grenga

Anniversaries for January:

No anniversaries



The Little Rhody Model A Club is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Model A Fords.

- Little Rhody Model A Club **highly recommends** memberships in the organizations below
- Membership in MARC or MAFFCA is **required** if you take your Model A on any club tours

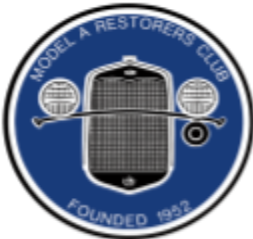


Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA)

- Dues are \$50 per year
- Includes a subscription to The Restorer magazine

For more information, visit

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



Model A Restorers Club (MARC)

- Dues are \$50 per year
- Includes a subscription to the Model A News magazine

For more information, visit

<https://model-a-ford.org/about-marc/>

Model A Ford Foundation (MAFFI)

- Dues are \$35 per year
- Membership includes access to the Gilmore Car Museum campus

For more information, visit

<https://maffi.org/WSCContent/Membership>

Membership/Dues

- \$22 a year (includes husband & wife)
- You will become a lifetime member at age 80 or older and have 5 years of previous membership
- Renewal Membership/Dues Due by January 1st
- Pay Dues at November meeting for following year, or mail your Dues to club treasurer

Qualifications for membership may include:

- Actual possession of a Model A Ford
- An interest in the objectives of the club
- A desire to take an active part in club activities

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact the Membership Chairperson

NEW MEMBERS:

A name badge with the picture of your vehicle will be made for you by John Mennucci. If you do not have a picture of your vehicle, a badge with a picture of a similar vehicle will be made.

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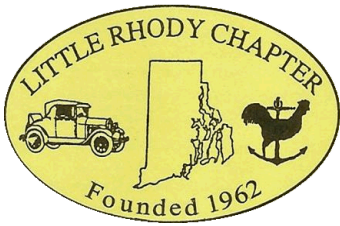
332 Georgetown Rd Strasburg PA 17579
ora@schwalms.com www.schwalms.com

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124 Model A Drive, Maysville, GA 30558
email: mike@mikes-afordable.com - www.mikes-afordable.com
Fax: 706 652 2492 - Phone: 706 652 3866
1 888 TRY MIKE (879 6453)


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Little Rhody Model A Club
Model A Ford Club of America
Model A Restorer's Club

Little Rhody Model A Club
Rhode Island Chapter
Membership Application

Please make checks payable to the Little Rhody Model A Club.
Send checks to Tom J. Cash, P.O. Box 111, Chepachet, RI 02814
Don't forget to send this form with the check!

DATE: _____

MEMBER CONTACT INFO:

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Mailing Address _____

Email address(es) _____

Birthdays: Name _____ Birthday _____

Name _____ Birthday _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

ANTIQUÉ CARS OWNED:

Make _____ Body Style: _____ Year: _____

Make _____ Body Style: _____ Year: _____

CLUB MEETINGS: Our club meets once per month at 2:00 pm. The meeting place in the Cornerstone of Faith United Methodist Church, 1081 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816. The meeting is held the second Sunday of each month BUT there are some exceptions to the rule which are published in the club newsletter, Quail Tales.

DUES: Yearly, \$22.00 per couple (or for a single membership)

PUBLICATIONS: Each Month a "Quail Tales" containing meeting minutes, tech tips, recipes, fashions, etc. is emailed to the membership. There is a web site and a web log (blog) of club activities. Addresses for the sites are in the Quail Tales. The club also has a library of books, Restorer magazines, videos, and more to borrow. Some videos have hands-on approaches demonstrated related to maintenance and repair of Model A cars and trucks.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: INSURANCE DISCOUNTS FREE CLASSIFIEDS USED PARTS
RESTORATION EXPERIENCE NEW PARTS NEW FRIENDS 10/2025