



Quail Tales



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLE RHODY MODEL A CLUB

February 2026

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401-340-0239

President's Message:

What a winter we are having! Ice, snow, wind and cold! We are having an old fashioned New England Winter. John and I missed the February meeting, as did Ken and Carol Trudel. We had planned a trip to a resort in Punta Cana D.R. to celebrate Ken's 70th birthday. I came down with a cold/sinus infection and we had to cancel the trip and missed the shindig. Not fun.

Thank you Evie for conducting the meeting and taking the minutes. It's great that we can depend on one another to insure that the club runs smoothly.

The tour committee has been busy planning events for the coming season. I'm looking forward to the rides and companionship with fellow club members. Thanks to all the work involved in making the rides successful and fun.

The next meeting will be on March 8th at 2PM, I am looking forward to seeing everyone. With my mobility issues I have to be extra careful about falling when out and about, but the meetings are a priority to me.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.

*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

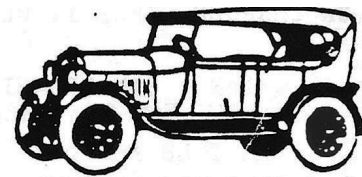
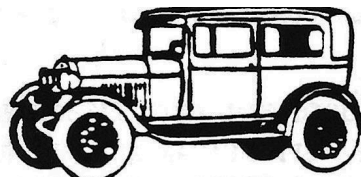
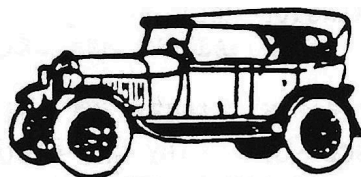
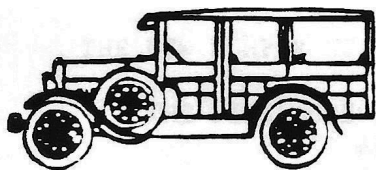
Model A Ford Club of America



Model A Restorers Club

Next Meeting:

March 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

One volunteer needed for November!

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

~ ~ ~ *Vintage Vehicles* ~ ~ ~



“Early 1928 Model A Roadster”

This photo shows what seems to be a brand new 1928 Roadster! It has the early "Left hand brake system" as shown by the non-bulging splash apron. Ford made the changeover in the middle of 1928, moving the emergency brake to the transmission tower, in front of the gear shift. The Ford Service Bulletin debuted the change in July of 1928, engine #225,000-ish. Other early features include; hood louvers not parallel with the hood hinge, longer lug nuts, a red steering wheel, no outside door handles or wind wings. It also has fluted head light lenses, and open pinstriping at the cowl. Questions or comments, let me know.

C/O Mark Henion Photo Collection

~Touring Report~

Touring Committee Report

Hello Members,

Your 2026 Tour Planning Committee meeting was held on February 28th at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Coventry, There, we discussed our proposed tour destinations and dates for this coming touring season. We are excited to announce our Dust Off Tour to be hosted by our own club member, Bill Grenga, at his farm in Johnston RI. On Saturday, April 25 th, 2026.

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

“The Dust Off at Snake Den Western Johnston”

89 Brown Ave, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919

Hosted by Bill Grenga

Details for the tour to the Dust Off with meeting places along the way are being worked out.

Many THANKS to Bill for the invite! We greatly appreciate his hospitality.

Dean Travis

Touring Committee Chair

Technical Program Report

Members,

During the February meeting we discussed internal parts of the Model A engine, including the crankshaft, pistons, camshaft, cam, valves, valve springs and more..Many of the pieces were on display!

March meeting we will discuss basic body work and paint

April meeting will be held on the Dust Off

May Meeting will be held in the parking lot of the church weather permitting. Let's walk around a Model A and learn how to operate the car from the driver's seat. I need a car or two for this event.

See you at the next meeting in March!

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> or call Alex Dietz at 401-339-4876 to register.

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.



From the Dean Travis picture collection

Dean Travis

Little Rhody Tech Tips

Distributor Bushings: When distributor bushings are worn or loose, and you cannot take time to replace the bushings or replace the shaft, a temporary cure is to open up the point gap. Do not, however, put off the repair job for too long.

Speaking Of Point Gap: If the engine starts hard, or refuses to start, or if the engine has a tendency to buck at low speeds, points are probably too far apart. If points are too close together, the engine may misfire at high speeds. If points are really too tight, the engine may not run at all.

Paint Enemies: The enemies of the glossy surfaces of your paint job are: mud, dust, muddy water, oil, grease, road tar, soap, hot water, gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, dampness, sunshine, some body polishes, and reckless drivers.

Cleaning Rags: More than once, a left behind cleaning rag has interfered with the operation of the Model A Ford. Rags left in the engine compartment can catch fire, or get tangled in the fan belt.

Carburetor Leak Causes: Dirt in the float valve. Float valve stuck open. Fuel level too high.
Worn float valve.

MAFFI Minute

Punxsutawney Phil may say that spring is still 6 weeks away, but at the museum spring cleaning has already begun! We are excitedly moving forward with continuing to get everything ready for guests and school groups to come experience our hobby.

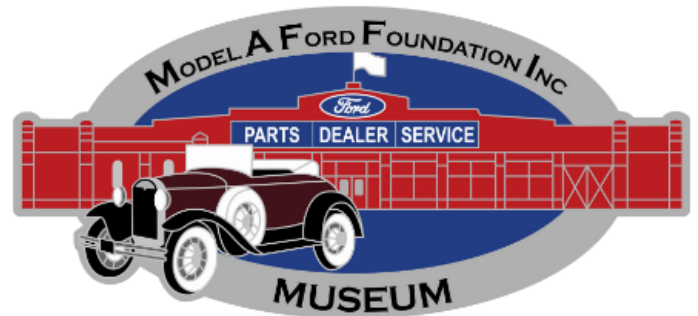
We have rolled out a new order form for the My-A-Program which is a great way to donate back to the museum. Val Maron can be reached at TheMyAProgram@gmail.com or call her at (847) 951-5858 for details.

We have been busy at the museum with beginning to plan the 2026 Model A Days, and wow! It is going to be a phenomenal experience! The theme, dates, and information will be released on March 15th so keep an eye out for an email from MAFFI or on social media.

Finally, we are getting ready to release information on our sweepstakes car for this year and it is an absolutely breathtaking car! More information will come out in March as well.

Keep on motoring!

John Grossheim
MAFFI Secretary & Trustee



Buy/ Sell/ Trade

~~ Buy/Trade ~~

WTB 30-31 Roadster cow1 - 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 ~~

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

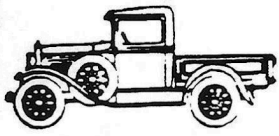
- 2 Rear Fenders for a 1928-29 sedan Fiberglass: \$150.00 11/25

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

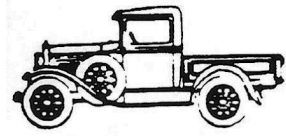
- Intake & Exhaust Manifold - Excellent condition: \$225.00
- 6 Volt Generator w/ cutout - Used, works fine: \$125.00
- Completely rebuilt distributor w/ new shaft - Like new: \$160.00
- Gas gauge wrench - Metal: \$15.00
- Set of four original Champion 3x Spark Plugs: \$100

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

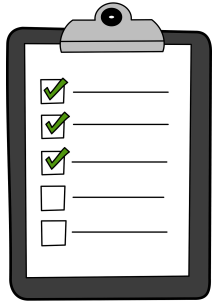
- 6 volt generator w/ new bearings. Can be used as a core or to fix and use: \$75
- Late '31 exhaust manifold. Serviceable condition: \$40 11/25



Minutes



Little Rhody Membership Meeting February 8th, 2026



--Attendance--

Mike Marcello Jr.

John and James Gardiner

Dennis Allsop

Tom Cash

George Taber

Thomas W. Angell and Ruth Strach

Al and Sandy Bowder

Steve and Annie Swiader

Dean Travis

Russell and Marilyn Dean

John and Barbara Budziak

Jeff and Debbie Barnes

Glenn Gresko

Bill Grenga

Rich Booth

Evie Osborne

Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Evie Osborne.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary was not present, refer to the January Quail newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer was not present. Evie Osborne read the report prepared by Ken Trudel.

Vice Presidents Report:

Russell Dean reported on the possibility of arranging a tour with MARCOM club and that we will consider letting them know when our tour schedule is finalized. He also shared information about a research article published in 2013 about a shortened Pitman Arm and how shortening the arm should be done to optimize turning radius as a DIY project. He encouraged having an experienced welder to re-attach the pieces of the shortened arm. He brought copies of the article for any member interested. Discussion followed.

Newsletter Publisher/Editors:

The January Newsletter went out as scheduled.

Historian's Report:

The Historian was not at the meeting.

Guests and New Members:

Jim Gardiner brought his son, John, to the meeting and he joined the club!

Correspondence and Notices:

None to report.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

Nothing new to report.

Hospitality:

The sign-up sheet for refreshments was re-circulated. Sandy Bowder and Ann Swiader provided today's refreshments.

Sunshine:

Marguerite Pakuris was not present.

Librarian:

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

Webmaster:

The Webmaster was not present.

Program:

Dean Travis introduced the program for today's meeting which includes looking at the internal parts of the engine, including the crankshaft, pistons, camshaft, cam, valves, valve springs and more for members to peruse and discuss. Next month's program will include information on body work.

Photography:

Michael reports that he is still taking pictures.

Business Old and New:

Dean Travis reported on the statistics of the New England Meet last September. A discussion followed about the next New England Meet and questions were posed as to the specifics of hotel reservations at the venue and outside of the host hotel.

Also, Dean reported on the activities that are planned for the Tour Committee. There may be some links worked out with other area clubs which may be interested in joining our tours. Opportunities to take tours in the northern part of the state and into Connecticut/Massachusetts may be considered. Please see the Touring Committee Report.

-- Birthdays and Anniversaries --



Birthdays in February:

Pat Beauchaine, Clara Browning
Ken Trudel, Russell Hornik

Anniversaries in February:

Jeff and Debbie Barnes



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 MAFCA 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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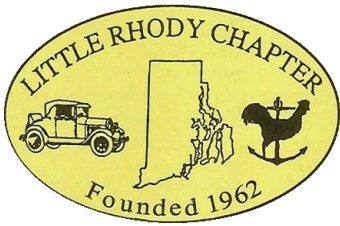
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ora@schwalms.com www.schwalms.com

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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