



Quail Tales



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LITTLE RHODY MODEL A CLUB

March 2026

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President's Message:

We had a really good meeting this month, with the largest number of attendees in quite some time. Please keep attending the meetings, we all work well together, which is the key to a successful club. I really appreciate what the membership does.

It sounds like we are going to have a great year with all the tours and activities we are planning.

Thanks again to the tour committee for all the work putting the tours together. Hopefully membership will take advantage of the great scenic spots all over the State of Rhode Island and attend the rides, so come one, come all and enjoy the view, restaurants, museums, etc. There are 14 tours planned, hopefully the weather will cooperate.

The dustoff tour will be on April 25th, with details available before the tour. Should be a fun day.

We are always looking for suggestions for tours, program, etc. Let us know your ideas for planning, this is your club, so participate any time.

John and I wish everyone a very happy Easter with family and friends. Just maybe the Easter Bunny will be around!

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

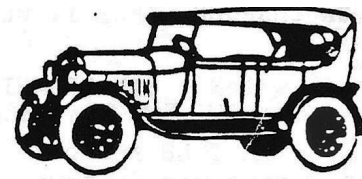
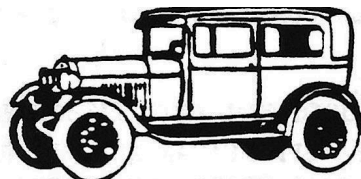
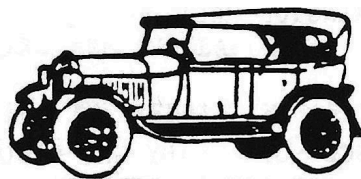
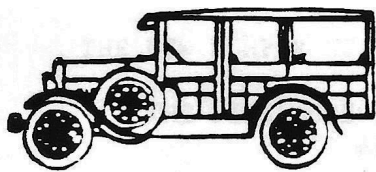
Model A Ford Club of America



Model A Restorers Club

Next Meeting:

Dust-Off Tour
April 25th



2026 Meeting Calendar

January 11th:	Meeting @ 2PM
February 8th:	Meeting @ 2PM
March 8th:	Meeting @ 2PM
April 25th:	Dust-Off Tour @ 11AM
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

Refreshments will be included in the Dust-off tour

Little Rhody Tours & Events 2026

April meeting on Tour #1 Dust off

Tour #1 Saturday, April 25, 2026 11am, (Rain Date: Saturday May 9th 11am)

"The Dust off at Snake Den Western Johnston"

89 Brown Ave, Johnston, RI 02919 Hosted by Bill Grenga

Cookout during event! Head count needed!

Travis, Allsop, Bowder, Swaider, Dean, Trudel, Mennucci, Gresko, Henion, Swenson

Tour #2 Saturday, May 9, 2026 *

(This tour will be replaced by the dust-off tour if it is rained out)

New England Steak and Seafood Tour, 11 Uxbridge Rd Mendon, MA 01756

Travis, Allsop, Gresko, Dean, Swaider

May Meeting May 17th, 2026 @ 2pm

Tour #3 Monday, May 25, 2026 *

Exeter Memorial Day Parade, Clam Cakes and Chowder Tour

West Greenwich Fire Dept, 830 Noose Neck Hill Road, West Greenwich RI

Travis, Allsop, Booth Swaider Dean

Tour #4 Saturday, June 6 2026 10am *

The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park, 21 Lafrate Way, North Kingstown, RI 02852

401-451-9473 Joe Frigon – Museum Pres – Our Contact

Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Swaider, Gresko, Henion, Dean

June Meeting June 14th, 2026 @ 2pm

Tour #5 Saturday, June 20, 2026 *

Chepatchet Village Antique Tour

Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Gresko, Swenson, Dean, Swaider

July Meeting July 12th, 2026 - Picnic @ 1pm

Summer Picnic Sunday, July 12, 2026 @ 1PM *

Bring your cars! Pictures will be taken of the cars!

Tour #6 Saturday, July 18, 2026 *

Blue Berry Picking Tour

Smith's Berry Farm, 320 Shermantown Road, Saunderstown, RI 02874

Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Swaider Gresko, Swenson, Dean

Tour #7 Saturday, July 25, 2026 *

Museum of Work and Culture, 42 South Main Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Travis, Allsop Swaider Gresko, Dean

Tour #8 Saturday, Aug 8, 2026 *
Westerly Granite Tour
Babcock-Smith House Museum, 124 Granite Street Westerly, Rhode Island
Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Swaider Gresko, Henion, Swenson, Dean

Tour #9 Saturday, Aug 15, 2026 * 12:30 – 3:30pm
Clara Browning Tour, 55 Scallop Shell Way, Wakefield, RI 02879
401-364-1060 Melinda – Our Contact
Travis, Allsop, Swaider Gresko, Henion, Dean

August No Club Meeting

Tour #10 Saturday, Aug 22, 2026 *
Fantastic Umbrella Factory Tour, 4820 Old Post Rd. Charlestown, RI 02813
401-364-1060
Travis, Allsop, Barnes, Swaider Gresko, Henion, Swenson, Dean

Tour #11 Sept 5, 2026 11am
Historic Dame Farm and Orchards Apple Picking Tour, 91B Brown Ave, Johnston RI
Hosted by Bill Grenga
Cookout during event. Head count needed!
Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Gresko, Henion, Dean, Swaider

September Meeting Sept 13th, 2026 @ 2pm

Tour #12 Sept 17th – Sept 20, 2026 *
New England Meet / Worcester Club Massachusetts
Wellsworth Hotel – Host Hotel
14 Mechanic Street Southbridge, MA 01550
Travis, Allsop, Swenson, Swaider, Trudel, Mennucci, Dean, Marcello, Angell, Gardiner, Strickland, Cash, Henion

Tour #13 Saturday, Oct 3, 2026 *
Nine Men's Misery Tour, 1464 Diamond Hill Road Cumberland, RI 02864
Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Swaider Gresko, Swenson, Dean

October Meeting Oct 18th, 2026 Pot Luck Supper @ 2 pm

Tour #14 Sunday, Nov 1, 2026 *
Wright's Chicken Farm All Clubs!, 84 Inman Rd, Harrisville, RI 02830
Travis, Allsop, Trudel, Swaider Gresko, Dean

November Meeting Nov 8th, 2026 Canned Goods Donation & Brown Bag Auction @ 2pm

December Meeting Dec 5th, 2026 Christmas Party Richard's Pub @ 12 – 4:30pm

Christmas Party Saturday, Dec 5, 2026 @ 12 – 4:30pm *
Richard's Pub, Route 2, East Greenwich, RI 02818

~ ~ ~ *Vintage Vehicles* ~ ~ ~



“Speaking of Snow Storms”

In January and February of 1916 the Portland Oregon area was hammered by snow storm after snow storm. The snow and ice even toppled the phone poles! This is a 1916 Franklin Touring Car, Model Six-30, 120" W.B. and 32 H.P. They sold for \$1950. Franklin's are known for their air-cooled engines as well as their reliability and smooth ride. Some Franklin's came with an engine mounted compressor for filling tires. I'm not sure how tall the car is, but it must be close to 7' tall. There's no chance of this Franklin overheating in this picture!! (Here's to Surviving the Blizzard of 2026!)

C/O Mark Henion Photo Collection

~Touring Report~

Touring Committee Report

Hello Members,

Your 2026 Touring Calendar has been emailed out to the entire membership and posted here in this newsletter. Our first event will be the Dust Off. I need a head count for refreshments, etc. for this event so please email me to let me know that you are coming. A quick version of our club meeting will be had on this tour. Here is the information:

Saturday, April 25th, 2026
Rain Date Saturday, May 9th, 2026
“The Dust Off at Snake Den Western Johnston”
89 Brown Ave, Johnston, Rhode Island 02919
Hosted by Bill Grenga
Cookout during the event. Head count needed!

Details for the Dust-Off tour: I will be emailing out details of routes of travel shortly. The two meeting places for this tour will be:

1. Our monthly meeting place, The Cornerstone of Faith United Methodist Church
2. The Village Green in North Scituate
 - a. This area is directly across from the North Scituate Public Library on Route 116. Driving north on Route 116 just after you pass through the Route 6 intersection and before you reach the corner where Famous Pizza is located (Site of the Scituate Arts Festival).

Any questions? Contact me at dean@travistechnologies.com or (401) 573-3276 Cell

Again, a big Thank You to club member Bill Grenga for hosting our first event in 2026!

Dean Travis
Touring Committee Chair

Technical Program Report

Members,

During the March meeting I discussed basic body work and paint. We will continue this discussion periodically over the next few months.

The April meeting will be held on the Dust Off.

The 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.

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

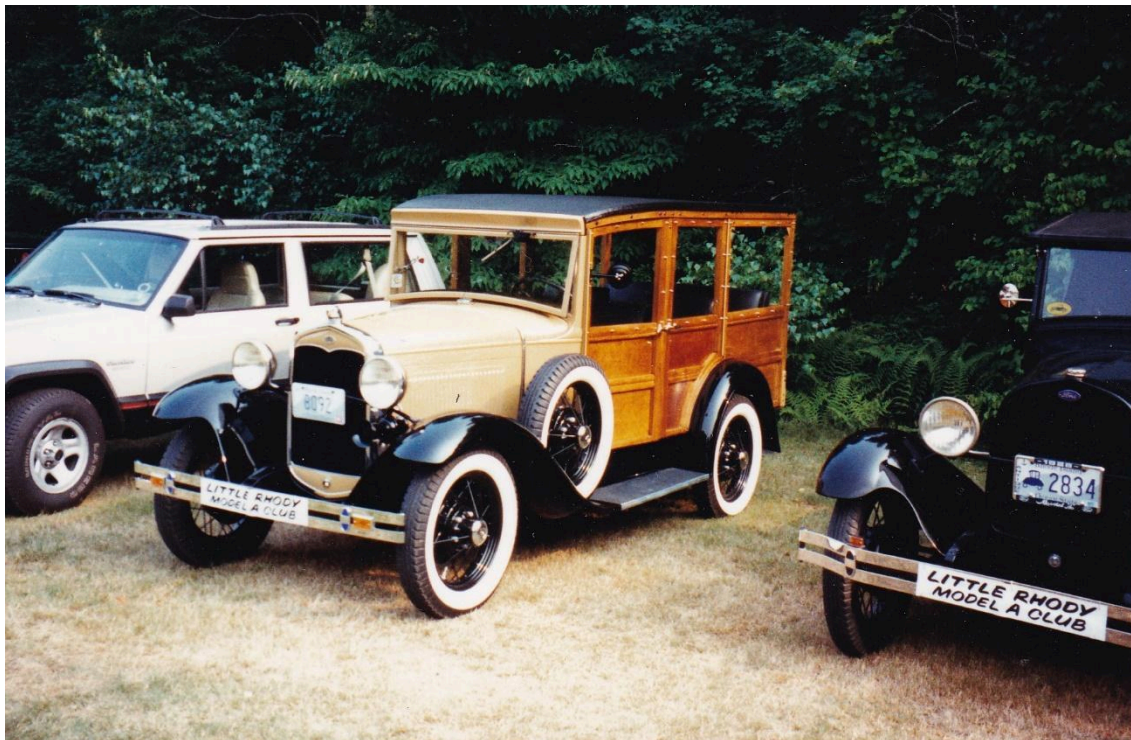
For those interested in learning more about the New England meet being held in September, please visit <https://wcnemeet.com/69thAnnualNewEnglandMeet.pdf> or call Alex Dietz at 401-339-4876 to register.

Historian Committee Corner

Each month, I 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. Let's see if you can name a few of the details of each photo.

Last Month's picture was a 1931 Tudor Deluxe Phaeton. Driven and maintained by Skip and Nadine Chaffee. Picture dated 1998. Little Rhody Summer Picnic

This Month's picture:



From the Dean Travis Picture Collection

Dean Travis

Little Rhody Tech Tips

Horn Sound: The horn sound will vary due to temperature conditions. The horn contains a motor, and the speed of the motor and the sound of the horn will vary due to the temperature of the lubricant in the bearings. The sound will also vary from poor adjustment and from battery condition.

Remember: Try to remember how you took something apart, make notes, take pictures, anything to remind you of the correct sequence.

Logic: Many people always imagine the worst when something happens to their Model A. Try to make a practical evaluation of the problem, starting with the simplest, most apparent difficulty. Keep in mind that the Model A is a simple machine, and the remedy is usually something obvious.

Shock Absorber Fluid: It is advisable to stick with one type of shock absorber fluid. If a switch becomes necessary, the shock should be disassembled and cleaned before adding the new lubricant.

Lacquer: Use lacquer paint instead of enamel on any parts which come into contact with gasoline: the carburetor, engine pans and the sediment bulb, etc.

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

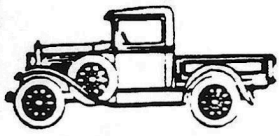
- 2 Rear Fenders for a 1928-29 sedan Fiberglass: \$150.00 11/25

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

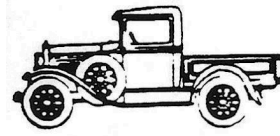
- Intake & Exhaust Manifold - Excellent condition: \$225.00
- 6 Volt Generator w/ cutout - Used, works fine: \$125.00
- Completely rebuilt distributor w/ new shaft - Like new: \$160.00
- Gas gauge wrench - Metal: \$15.00
- Set of four original Champion 3x Spark Plugs: \$100

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

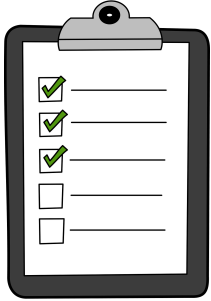


Minutes



Little Rhody Membership Meeting March 8th, 2026

--Attendance--



John and Dawn Mennucci
 Steven McCalligett
 Mark Henion
 Rich Masterson
 Glenn Gresko
 Mike Lyons
 Andrew Swiader and Nina Branch
 Bob Doucette

Russell and Marilyn Dean
 George and Marguerite Pakuris
 Bob and Evie Osborne
 Mike and Denise Marcello
 John Gardiner
 Tom Cash

Ken and Carol Trudel
 Jeff and Debbie Barnes
 Thomas Angell
 Michael Marcello Jr.
 James Gardiner
 Anne and Steve Swiader
 Steve and Sandy Swenson

Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM

Secretary's Report:

The reading of the Secretary's Report was waived by membership vote.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was read by Ken Trudel.

Vice Presidents Report:

Russell gave a report on winter activities. Dean Travis is working on a Summer tour schedule. A meeting of the tour committee was conducted to begin setting up dates and destinations of proposed tours. Dean also gave a report on 2026 New England meet, host hotel is filled, but alternates are available. Dean recapped the events scheduled for the meet.

Newsletter Publisher/Editors:

Michael says all is on track.

Historian's Report:

No report.

Guests and New Members:

Andrew Swiader attended as a new member.

Correspondence and Notices:

None to report.

Committee Reports:

National Editor:

Articles will be submitted before the deadlines.

Membership:

Tom said that he has club membership cards available.

Hospitality:

Refreshment volunteers all set.

Sunshine:

Nothing to report.

Librarian:

No report.

Webmaster:

No report.

Program:

The meeting's session will be on bodywork and painting.

Photography:

Mike has his sights aligned on club activities, and is acting "snappily".

Business Old and New:

One of members, Bill Grenga, has invited us to his property in Johnston as a destination for our dustoff tour on April 25 th . Dean Travis gave us a tentative set of dates for the 2026 club tours. He is also planning 2 nd "Clara Browning Tour" to the assisted living facility where she is living, date to be determined. Dean is also hoping to establish whose cars are capable of touring to what distance.

-- Birthdays and Anniversaries --



Birthdays in March:

Gene Andre, Marguerite Parkuris,
Sue Pillsbury, Dottie Cece

Anniversaries in March:

No anniversaries this month



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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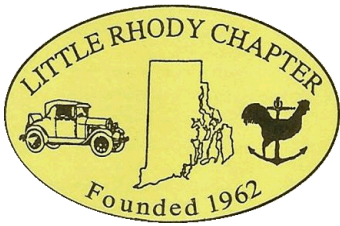
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ora@schwalms.com www.schwalms.com

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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