

'A' CLUB NEWS

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February Newsletter

I'm sitting at my desk watching the snow accumulating another 6 inches on top of the 18" from the last storm that fell on top of the 6" from ITS predecessor! And thinking about staying warm tomorrow at -11 degrees (windchill). My plan is to stay inside until all that is behind us!

What DOES work is to think about tours in our A's come warmer weather! Ernie and Bonnie Fancy have offered to organize our Dust Off Tour – a drive to the western part of the state. Details to be provided in due course. Thank you, both of you!

Diane and I will shortly be heading to the Hyde Park area in the Hudson Valley to generate some "boots (literally) on the ground" information for the President's Tour (June 14-18; previous information may have incorrectly mentioned June 15-19). This will be an opportunity to visit famous places such as Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park. Now known as a National Park, it was called Springwood during their lifetime. If there's a place that YOU would be interested in visiting there, please let us know.

While on the touring topic....let's have a conversation at our February 17 meeting about adding single day tours to our list of regularly occurring events.

I've been doing some work on a Model A coupe (not owned by a club member) that was refusing to start. It was blowing fuses as soon as inserted, indicating a dead short to ground. This led to an interesting discovery. The car employs a 6 volt positive ground electrical system – or so the label on the alternator claimed. And so I assumed. I traced the short to the alternator itself and decided to put a trickle charger on the battery before leaving for the day. Which was the moment I discovered that the battery (replaced a few months ago) had been installed with a negative ground. This was not a happy thing for the alternator, and likely the cause of its short. There's more work to be done, but I thought this experience might be a reminder to all of us would-be mechanics to check EVERYTHING!!

A word or two about our upcoming New England Meet. The early registration reports from the organizing committee are very encouraging. A lot of good work has been done, but much remains. We will need every member's help to bring it all together. Let's each of us be ready to volunteer.

Finally, a shout out to our members who are in Florida! Your northern buddies are missing you all.

Dave



A sympathy card has been sent to Bob and Sue Hart on the occasion of the passing of Bob's mother.

Lyn Stevens Sunshine



No new members
Lyn Stevens Membership



FEBRUARY 17TH @ 7:00PM
PAXTON LEGION
885 PLEASANT ST
PAXTON MA

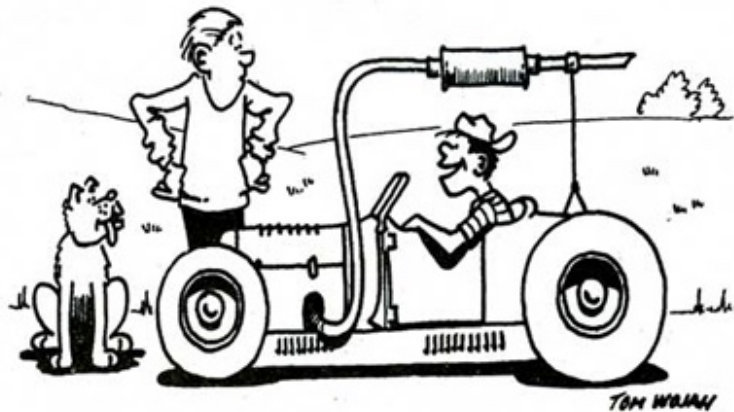


FEBRUARY 17TH @ 7:00PM PAXTON LEGION

MARCH 15TH @ 12:30PM PAXTON LEGION
ST PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

JUNE 14 TO 18 PRESIDENT'S TOUR

Treasurer's Report	
Balance, January 1, 2026	\$7337.53
Income	
50/50 Raffle	\$30.00
Coffee	\$17.00
Total Income	\$37.00
Expenses	
MAFCA Annual Dues/Insurance	\$75.00
Total Expenses	\$75.00
Net Income	(\$28.00)
Balance, October 31, 2025	\$7337.53



"Hey, when you build 'em this low, ya gotta put the muffler someplace."

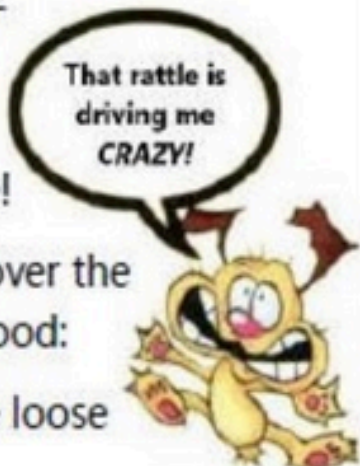


Jim's Tech Tip

by Jim Cannon, MAFCA

Rattles Under the Hood

Very few things are as annoying as a persistent rattle under the hood while you drive your Model A. Of course it stops when you pull over and look under there!



That rattle is driving me **CRAZY!**

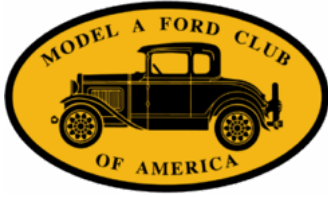
Here are some things that I have found over the years can sound like a rattle under the hood:

- The radiator support rods. They come loose at the radiator or at the firewall.
- The engine pans. Just one loose bolt/nut can rattle like crazy (hard to find).
- Hood support/prop brackets. The ones that "fold up" will rattle if closed all the way; open it back up $\frac{1}{2}$ " to separate the halves from touching.
- Brake rods. Jiggle them by hand. You may need to install some of the oversize clevis pins to tighten things back up, or replace the return/anti-rattle springs.
- Tools and things under the seat. (I found a large screwdriver once in my side curtain pan, way in the back, that was causing a rattle that I chased for **two** years!)

I hope this helps you track down that annoying rattle. In a future Tech Tip, I will cover potential sources of other annoying noises in your car. (Not the passenger!)

Until then, "Have a Model A Day!"

- Jim



President's Message – February 2026

As we begin 2026, I extend my sincere appreciation to all volunteers stepping up to serve as chapter officers. Your commitment is essential to maintaining your chapter as a welcoming space for socializing, touring in the Model A and sharing expertise – particularly with new and younger members. To ensure the future of our hobby, it is essential that we attract new members and share our collective knowledge.

At this time of year many of us have our Model A's in the garage. However, when the weather allows, it is always rewarding to take the Model A out for a drive. Last year, I made myself a challenge to drive the Model A every month. While a little snow wasn't an issue, I had to be cautious about the salt on the roadways in our area. Fortunately, I was able to meet my challenge. This year, though, we have had too much snow and salt on the roads to continue that challenge. I'm hopeful that better conditions will return soon, so we can all enjoy more time behind the wheel.

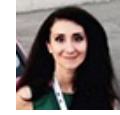
This is also a great time to get to those Model A projects that you put off until the end of last year's touring season. I have a generator that I would like to install an electronic voltage regulator. Only problem is when I tested the armature on my growler it failed and another armature had to be found. Now it's time to finish that project.

Looking ahead we will have a great opportunity to tour while attending the Pendleton National Convention taking place from May 31 – June 7, 2026. This will be a memorable event taking place in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Mountains in northwestern Oregon. Jack Remillard and his team have planned something for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to join us and register for this event.

In the meantime, I'm looking forward to better Model A weather.

Doug Linden

Husband and Wife Sell Their Old Ford Model A To Afford Living in Their Own Home



Published: 7 Feb 2026, 22:00 UTC • By: [Elena Luchian](#)

An elderly couple who have been living in a care home for quite a while is selling all the cars in their garage so that they can afford to live in their own home. Struggling with health issues and barely able to care for themselves, all they want is to go home. Now, they are selling a 95-year-old Ford Model A to raise money, and a detailer is giving them a helping hand.

Cynthia and Robin Schurdell have been living without heat for the past ten years. They just couldn't afford to pay for it. When Mrs. Schurdell had a medical emergency and had to be taken to the hospital, Mr. Schurdell, who couldn't care for himself at home, was taken to a rehabilitation center. He has Stage 4 lung cancer, and both his feet have been amputated.

When his wife no longer needed to be in the hospital, she was transferred to the same nursing home so that they could be together. Even though she is healthy enough to return home and take her husband with her, social care won't let them, and there is a solid reason for the restriction.

They haven't had any sort of central heating in their home for ages. They used electric space heaters, but that is not a reliable and efficient solution. To raise money, they are selling the cars that have been stored in their garage for years.

A while ago, we saw them selling their 1983 Ford Mustang, which ended up in the hands of detailers Mike and RJ of WD Detailing. They are not only cleaning the car for free, trying to return it to its former glory, but also helping the couple raise money so that they can go home. They have already raised over \$30,000.

In the meantime, the roof of their home has been fixed and is no longer leaking. The heat is also working for the first time in ten years. A local postal worker donated his free time to help the Schurdells. Now, he is working on their new kitchen furniture. He is one of the many volunteers who got involved.

Now, the time has come for their 1931 Ford Model A to be pulled out of the garage and into broad daylight for the first time in over 30 years. It is the car that Mr. Schurdell used to take to car shows and brag about. It was his baby, but it had been sitting behind a wall of stored items that the family no longer used. So, RJ basically has to dig it out to be able to push it onto the trailer.

The 95-year-old Ford is the oldest car that RJ and Mike have ever had in their detailing studio, so they can't help but be surprised by all the features that have disappeared from our cars over the years. The Model A has two spare tires, both functional, jump seats in the rear, and makeshift footsteps on the bumper and rear fender, for easy access.

Still, reaching those back seats is pure acrobatics. Besides, no adult could travel back there safely and comfortably. They had to squeeze in and hold their knees to their chest. That was how much space they had in there. There is a badge on the hood, which reads "Motormeter," which also acts as a coolant filler.

They unbolt the spare tires so that they have enough space (unlike in the jump seats) to get every surface cleaned up. They have to be careful. A straight jet of water during power washing might make the already flaked original paint of the Model A fly off the car.

The Model A is powered by a 200-cubic-inch (3.3-liter), which was derived from the power plant that set the good, old Model T in motion but with double the power. It produced about 40 horsepower back in the day.

Afraid that someone might steal the engineering information during development, which took place at the Rouge Plant in Michigan, the engine was Ford's top secret until the carmaker unveiled it with the Model A on December 2, 1927.

The engine made the car drive as fast as 60 mph (97 kph), which was scary at the time. Reports of the era showed people being sick due to the high speed. Around 5 million cars hit the streets between 1927 and 1931. Ford sold them for roughly \$500.

The detailing team uses carpet soap and an extractor to clean the soft top of the old Ford. Surprisingly, not a drop of water leaks into the cabin. It is a bare-bones cabin, which only hosts a bench seat, a steering wheel, a shifter, the ignition, and three gauges.

Because there was no AC back in the 1920s and '30s, Ford installed a windshield that could be popped open to provide natural ventilation. A family of mice might have been living in the cabin, chewing up the upholstery, but vacuuming does the trick and removes everything they left behind.

Once the job is done, Mitch and RJ take the Ford Model A to its owner to surprise him, just like they did with the Mustang.

<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/husband-and-wife-sell-their-old-ford-model-a-to-afford-living-in-their-own-home-265341.html#>



[HTTPS://youtu.be/PRwdavaDY90](https://youtu.be/PRwdavaDY90)