

# The Ford Script



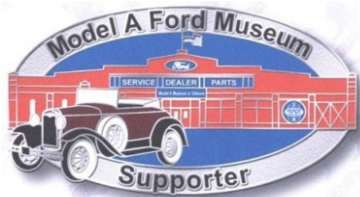
Vol. XLV

November 2024

No. 11



The GWC tour group assembled at the Willowcroft Winery



Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords  
61 Years 1963-2024

# The Ford Script



Official publication of:  
George Washington Chapter, Inc. of  
the Model A Ford Club of America and  
the George Washington Region of the  
Model A Restorers Club  
Post Office Box 971  
McLean, VA 22101

Chapter meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia. Social meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7:45. Members and guests are invited and encouraged to drive their antique cars to the meetings.

Chapter members are encouraged to belong to both MAFCA and MARC national clubs and the Model A Ford Museum (MAFFI). The chapter Web page on the Internet may be accessed by:

[www.gwcmodeleda.org](http://www.gwcmodeleda.org)

Web Master: Greg Shepherd

## Board of Directors

|                       |                  |              |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President             | Milford Sprecher | 301-830-2198 |
| VP & Program Chairman | Don White        | 703-623-9805 |
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| Youth Development     | James Kolody     | 703-795-9301 |
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## Appointed Positions

|                      |            |              |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Concessions Chairman | (vacant)   |              |
| Club Librarian       | Jay Melton | 703-966-7719 |
| Historian/Archivist  | Doug Tomb  | 703-967-5229 |
| Sunshine Chairman    | Jim Gray   | 410-353-0381 |
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Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor at: [billhsims@gmail.com](mailto:billhsims@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: Monday, December 2nd**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



October is a big month for old-car activities. Hershey is the big draw and always worth the time spent there. I had a long list of parts needed for my various cars and did find a few.

I was foolish enough to try and get a Senior award at the car show at Hershey. I spent a lot of time under the car cleaning and repainting. I removed and painted my engine pans, replaced the handles on my trunk and got the car looking pretty good. My detailing uncovered a variety of problems with my restoration of unknown vintage. Bottom line was that I did not get a Senior award. The lead Model A judge was a Model A expert and I figured that I was going to have a tough time.

MARC member Bob Martino had his '28 phaeton in judging near me and it is a terrific restoration. I bought a restored gas cap from him that I put on my car, but it didn't help my score much, if any. I did enjoy detailing the car and I think it looked better than it has looked in a long time. I addressed a number of mechanical issues I discovered and tightened up a lot of nuts and bolts.

October is also the Rockville Car Show, which is a favorite of mine. There were 12 Model A's registered, but only six showed up. We had a nice selection there and had a lot of questions from attendees. I gave out all but one of my GWC brochures that I had taken there.

The October meeting featured a terrific presentation by member and emeritus curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Peter Jakab on the Wright brothers and their first manned, powered flight at Kitty Hawk, NC. A fascinating story.

I had to cancel the Northern Neck tour because of issues with two of the major activities. That is unfortunate because I was looking forward to the trip. It highlights the challenges that come with a tour of an area that I was not very familiar with. I made two recon trips to plan the tour, which we enjoyed. I hope to reschedule next year.

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of another year. We have the Christmas party and the gift exchange coming up in December, two great activities to finish off the year. The annual meeting is in November when voting for the GWC board for next year, so be sure to join us.

Milford

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

I was really disappointed that the Northern Neck tour got cancelled. My baseball team lost in the semi-finals last Sunday, which meant I was free next weekend to join the tour. It would have been a chance to return to the scene of the crime, where "Blaze," my black Town Sedan, got its name when the muffler disconnected and a metal sleeve dropped down to the road and bounced into a cornfield, setting it on fire. Meanwhile, Alice and I were working on reconnecting things after it cooled down. She had to tighten the nuts on the coupler while I lay underneath and held the muffler up in place. Quite a fun outing.

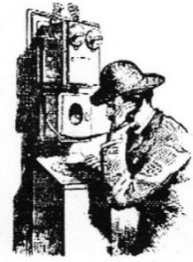
That was some time ago. I just realized I'll be entering my 30<sup>th</sup> year as the Script editor in January. I've served under 14 different presidents. No, I'm not thinking of retiring. It's just amazing how you can get into doing something and the time just whisks by.

Bill Sims

**November 2024**

## FROM THE ZOOM BOARD ROOM

Board Meeting  
October 23, 2024



Milford Sprecher called the GWC board meeting to order at 7:18 PM. Board members in attendance: Milford Sprecher, Don White, Doug Tomb, Jeff VanGorder, John Dougherty, Valerie Faircloth, Bill Sims, Bill Bass, Bruce Metcalf and Dave Greenwood.

President's Report: Milford must cancel the Northern Neck Tour because the ferry to Tangier Island is not running past October. We will try to reschedule for the spring.

Milford has received a report from Stan Johnson and the Nominating Committee. Most of the officers will be returning and final discussions will be held for the Sully co-chairs and Youth chair. The motion for approval was by Doug Tomb and seconded by Bill Bass. The Board unanimously approved the list of officers. They will finalize the list details, and it will be put to a members' vote at the November meeting.

Jeff VanGorder proposed, seconded by Doug, that we keep the same dues for 2025. After much discussion on paying dues electronically, Doug will take action to determine if we can use Zelle directly to the GWC bank account at Wells Fargo. The Board unanimously approved the 2025 dues and Jeff will be sending out an e-mail notice once the Zelle issue is finalized.

Don White said the November Members Meeting program will be the members discussing their experiences at the Hershey Car Show and Flea Market.

Valerie will be finalizing a fall picnic and winery tour hosted by John Leydon's Garage and a tour to Willow Croft Winery led by Bruce Metcalf.

The November Board meeting will be held the day after the Members' meeting. There will be no December Board meeting. The next in-person meeting will be January 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM at a local restaurant—details to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Dave Greenwood  
Secretary



## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER 25 YEARS AGO

In his President's Computer Column Clem Clement wrote "Well, turn me over and stick a fork in me, I'm done".

He was referring to all the places he had gone in his Model A—the MARC National, the 900-mile Glidden Tour, and trips to Carlisle, Hershey, and York to play trains for 5 days "and I am wore out with so much fun." He also spoke of the day trip to Graves Mountain Inn and the Roaring Twenties Museum with the Skyline club joining in. He said they tried to line up the cars and folks for a group photo and speech session, but it was like herding cats.



Members were told to not forget the December meeting program—the Brown Bag and Story night. They were asked to gather up some Model A parts around \$5 in value to bring. Club ladies had said they would like to participate more. Clem's comment, "No Sandy, you can't put my Phaeton in a giveaway bag,"

Eric Rodgers, reporting on the October Board meeting held at George Smolenyak's home, was attended by Walt Bratton, Clem Clement, Dave Henderson, John Howell, Andy Jaeger, Stan Johnson, Dan Lyon, Chuck Manns, Eric Rodgers, Bill Sims and Don Temple. Donnie reported he was continuing reviewing possible member driving awards with help from Jim Cartmill and was also considering a Ladies Driving Award to encourage more participation from them.

Stan Johnson reported the engine compressor restoration project was beginning to shape up through the generosity of members who had donated parts, including a restored frame, an axle assembly, gas tank, hood, etc.

Dan Lyon reported that he was still researching activities and methods for increasing youth involvement. He headed the Long Range Focus group and was assessing the appropriate ages to target and how to structure efforts in a manner that will reinforce interest in the hobby over time.

In the Classifieds, no one was offering anything for sale, but Dick Pickering wanted a cab for a '30 closed cab pickup, Rick Menz was seeking a rumble seat coupe or roadster of any year in great shape, and Howard Minners needed a show quality front bumper for August '30.

Now for jingles:

A big mistake  
that many make  
is rely on horn  
instead of brake

*Burma-Shave*

He saw the train  
and tried to duck it  
out of luck  
he kicked the bucket.

*Burma-Shave*

Dave Henderson

**George Washington Chapter 2024 Approved Budget - AS OF 10/31/2024**  
**OPERATING BUDGET #2**

| <u>Budgeted Income</u>         | <b>Contact</b>   | 2023 Actual         | 2024 SEPT          | 2024 ACTUAL        |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Membership                     | <b>VanGorder</b> | \$ 2,895.00         | \$ 108.00          | \$ 2,227.00        |
| Misc Income (Donations)        | <b>Tomb</b>      | \$ 65.00            | \$ -               | \$ 210.00          |
| Programs & Technical Seminars  | <b>White</b>     | \$ 56.00            | \$ -               | \$ -               |
| Club Tours & Activities        | <b>Faircloth</b> | \$ 1,460.00         | \$ 410.00          | \$ 510.00          |
| Script Advertising             | <b>Bass</b>      | \$ 450.00           |                    | \$ 650.00          |
| Hands on Seminars, Repair      | <b>Leonard</b>   | \$ -                | \$ -               | \$ -               |
| Sully Income                   | <b>Dougherty</b> | \$ 13,826.50        | \$ 60.00           | \$12,839.00        |
| <b>Total Income</b>            |                  | <b>\$ 18,752.50</b> | <b>\$ 578.00</b>   | <b>\$16,436.00</b> |
| <b>Budgeted Expenses</b>       |                  |                     |                    |                    |
| Membership                     | <b>VanGorder</b> | \$ 868.07           | \$ 157.61          | \$ 1,021.38        |
| Club Programs                  | <b>White</b>     | \$ 1,650.34         |                    | \$ 36.74           |
| Club Tours & Activities        | <b>Faircloth</b> | \$ 5,701.44         | \$ 956.86          | \$ 1,917.75        |
| Tool Shed / Tools              | <b>Leonard</b>   | \$ 308.63           |                    | \$ 428.52          |
| Sully Car Show Expenses        | <b>Dougherty</b> | \$ 4,445.04         | \$ -               | \$ 4,153.17        |
| Web Hosting Expense            | <b>Shepherd</b>  | \$ 163.22           | \$ -               | \$ 165.22          |
| Presidents Fund                | <b>Sprecher</b>  | \$ 943.63           | \$ 348.13          | \$ 1,049.51        |
| Secretary Supplies             | <b>Greenwood</b> | \$ 157.40           | \$ -               | \$ -               |
| Treasurer Supplies & Insurance | <b>Tomb</b>      | \$ 552.46           | \$ 600.00          | \$ 2,727.70        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          |                  | <b>\$ 14,790.23</b> | <b>\$ 2,062.60</b> | <b>\$11,499.99</b> |
| <b>UNDER/(OVER) Revenue</b>    |                  | <b>\$ 3,962.27</b>  |                    | <b>\$ 4,936.01</b> |

>>>>>>

## CONTRIBUTION BUDGET

|                             |       |                    |             |                    |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| MAFFI                       | Board | \$ -               | \$ -        | \$ -               |
| MODEL A YOUTH REST<br>AWARD | Board | \$ -               | \$ -        | \$ 500.00          |
| SCHOLARSHIP                 | Board | \$ 1,500.00        | \$ -        | \$ 4,500.00        |
| AFRH                        | Board | \$ 500.00          | \$ -        | \$ -               |
| MILEAGE AWARD EMBLEM        | Board | \$ 263.92          | \$ -        | \$ -               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                |       | <b>\$ 2,263.92</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 5,000.00</b> |

## WELLS FARGO BANK CD + RESERVE FUND (Information only)

|                                  |           |             |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|
| WELLS FARGO ONE YEAR +<br>CD     | Board     | \$10,000.00 | \$ -  | \$ -  |
| Peyton Randolph Memorial<br>Fund | Remainder |             | \$ -  | \$ -  |
|                                  |           | =====       | ===== | ===== |
|                                  |           | \$10,000.00 |       |       |

|                         |             |             |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | \$17,054.15 | \$ 2,062.60 | \$16,499.99 |
|                         | =====       | =====       | =====       |
| Sum Income and Expenses | \$ 1,698.35 | -\$1,484.60 | -\$ 63.99   |

Current Bank Balance + CD as of 10-31-2024 **\$ 34,843.75**

Beginning of year Balance (01-01-2024 Actual) **\$ 34,907.74**

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## OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING REPORT

This month's presentation was on the history of the Wright brothers.

President Milford Specter called the meeting to order at 7:47 with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 20 members and guests present and 6 online virtually attending.

Treasurer: Doug Tomb gave the current financials, the highlights are in the Script.

Membership: Jeff VanGorder said the 2025 dues are being collected and we are exploring a way to allow payment by Zelle, details to follow.

Activities: Valerie Faircloth gave the group an update on the plans for the Christmas party. She is currently gathering door prizes. Upcoming events:

- Rockville show October 19
- Country Fall Picnic & Wine Tasting. John Leydon's Garage will host the Club and will be followed by a tour of the Willowcroft winery.
- Christmas party at the Fairfax VFW is reserved for December 7

Programs: Don White said the November program is focused on short discussions by members who attended the Hershey car show and swap meet. Be prepared to share your stories and lessons learned.

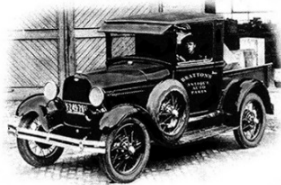
MARC Liaison: Bill Bass reminded members to vote for MARC board candidates. Comments were opened to the Floor: Stan Johnson updated the members on how a group from the GWC went to Benny Leonard's to install an access ramp into his house to aid him through his ongoing health challenges.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Program: led by Dr. Peter Jakab, Chief Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution, included a slide show and discussion on the fascinating story of the Wright brothers and the first manned flight. Dr Jakab explained the brothers' history and careers leading up to the first flight and then the history of the actual plane they used. The brothers got most of their mechanical inquisitory nature from their mother. Not only was the flight historic but it was also the first time for controlled flying. Those concepts were the basis for modern aircraft control. The actual aircraft is currently on display in the Smithsonian Institution.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15

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## THE MAFFI MINUTE

Model A Friends,

Those of us in the snow belt are squeezing in all the driving time we can get before the “white stuff” shows up and those of you in the southern states are gliding into some cooler driving weather about now.

The commercial bus (see bus photo) made its debut at Model A Days; the bus is a work of art and a historically correct piece of Model A history ---thanks to many Model A'ers, especially Ron and Ken Ehrenhofer. From Model A Days in Gilmore, MI in September, the bus made its way to Hershey, PA in October where the headlines now read, “The Bus wins First Place Junior at Hershey Fall Car Show!”

Back at the Model A Museum grounds in Michigan, Red Grow's Model A, Betsy, which was 2024 Sweepstakes car to help raise money for the museum expansion, was won by Neil Wingate of Lowell, Indiana. Thanks to all who participated in the sweepstakes and congratulations Neil! Lastly, the expansion is moving along with the foundation in place. (see photo below). So much happening in the Model A world! Don't you just love it!!

Happy Motoring!

Cindy Ellenbecker  
MAFFI Trustee, Secretary



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## **GEORGE WASHINGTON MODEL A CLUB OFFICERS**

| <b><u>Position</u></b>  | <b><u>2025 Nominee</u></b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| President               | Milford Sprecher           |
| Vice President/Programs | Don White                  |
| Activities Chairman     | Valerie Faircloth          |
| Editor                  | Bill Sims                  |
| Assistant Editor        | Bruce Metcalf              |
| Secretary               | Dave Greenwood             |
| Membership Chairman     | Jeff Van Gorder            |
| Treasurer               | Douglas Tomb               |
| Assistant Treasurer     | Bill Bass                  |
| Annual Meet Chairman    | Jim Gray                   |
| Club Property Manager   | Benny Leonard/James Kolody |
| Youth Chairman          | Blaine Adcock              |
| National Club Liaison   | Doug Tomb                  |

## **THE BEST LAID PLANS - - NORTHERN NECK TOUR POSTPONED**

I had to cancel the planned Northern Neck Tour due to a perfect storm of obstacles that presented themselves at the last minute.

We drove down to finalize the route and stay in the selected motel to make sure that everything would work out. The first problem we encountered was that the ferry to Tangier had stopped for the season. There was no indication of this on the web site and when we visited the marina where the ferry was docked, the office was closed and the boat was at the dock. Apparently, the restaurants on the island close in late October, so they suspend the ferry service for the season.

The second potential problem was that the motel, while clean, was very basic and there was no breakfast available nearby. If we were to use the motel, we would need to take care of our own breakfast and bring coffee and the like, so a little more preparation was involved. I identified a potential alternate hotel, but it had recently closed, so that was not available. There are not many hotel options in the area, so our choices were limited.

The final obstacle was that in confirming the Model A collection to visit, I was told that they wanted at least ten cars to make it worth their while to open it up. We had six cars, so under their minimum. I had been in touch with them multiple times and this requirement was never mentioned before.

I was very disappointed, but hopefully we can put the tour together next year with some more planning and inviting other clubs to join us. I went on a tour with the V8 club to the area last week and it was a lot of fun, so it is an area worth exploring in a tour.

Milford

## **MAFCA MEMBERSHIP LONGEVITY ANNIVERSARIES**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Wayne and Sharon Parker | 50 Years |
| Bill and Carol Benedict | 40 Years |
| Don Swofford            | 30 Years |

## **REED MARTIN PASSES**

Taken from **Bluegrass Today**

Posted on [October 18, 2024](#) by [Guest Contributor](#)

*This remembrance of banjo player Reed Martin, who died on September 30 in Potomac, MD after a long stint with Alzheimer's Disease, is a contribution from his friends and family. He was 78 years of age.*

Reed Martin was one of a kind, a rare breed of human that was beloved by untold people around the globe. Perhaps he described himself the best, so as he put it, Reed was "the last known translator of Kentucky and Hoosier," who "majored in bicycling, banjo, fishing, hanging out, and talking to older people who would stand still long enough." He collected things (vintage banjos, Model A and earlier vintage cars, antique spark plugs, circus giant rings, life-sized fiberglass bulls, tether cars and miniature model gasoline engines), but especially poignant were the stories and tales that went with each beloved object.

Reed was a masterful clawhammer banjo player who had an intricate, driving playing style, winning contests and inspiring generations of players to take up the instrument at numerous banjo camps and workshops across the country. Banjo players such as Jeremy Stevens, Russ Carson, Ned Luberecki, and Chris Coole count among those influenced by Reed in their formative years.

His self-released project, *Old Time Banjo*, consisting of 37 tunes recorded in Reed's living room in 1996 by Don Anderson, was considered a musical master work by many of his peers. Reed was also featured on various projects which include *The Old Time Banjo in America* (1979), *The Young Fogies* (1985), and more recently, Tom Mindte's *The Patuxent Banjo Project* (2014). While still in his early 20s, Reed was recruited by Ralph Rinzler to be the MC for the banjo workshops held at the Washington Folklife Festival, which he did for five years, featuring great players such as Dock Boggs, Don Stover, Buell Kazee, Kyle Creed, Fred Cockerham, Earl Scroggs, Wade Ward, and Libba Cotton, among many others.

Reed was a model maker working at the Smithsonian for a time. He and his buddies could, and did, make *anything*. In 1990, Reed shipped his single cylinder 1900 Knox three wheeler to England, where he and his wife Barbara completed the 57 mile London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. First held in 1896, the London to Brighton Run is the world's oldest motoring event, open only to pre-1905 cars.

His favorite things were hanging out and playing tunes, working on antique cars and engines, going to yard sales, thrift shops and swap meets, canoeing and bicycling, and talking to anyone and everyone he met. He rode the 185 mile C&O Rail trail from Cumberland, MD to Georgetown, DC a dozen times just for fun.

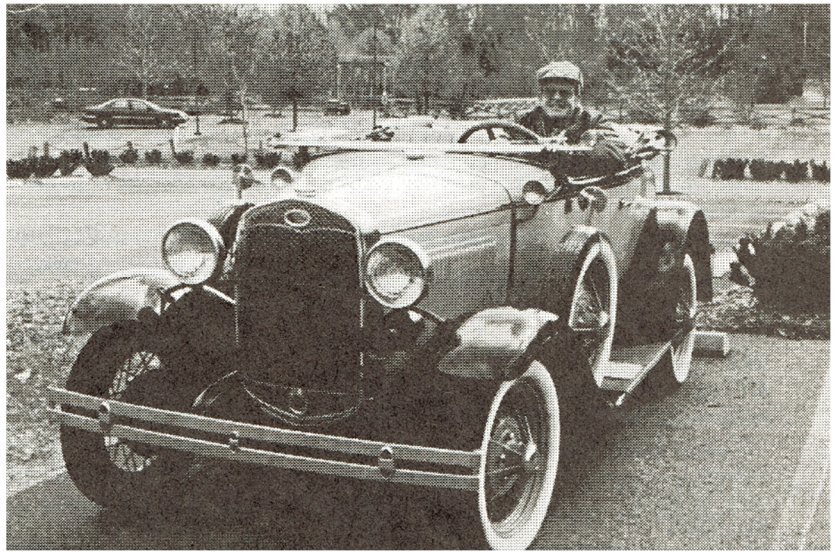
Reed's beloved wife, Barbara Martin, died before him. His loss is felt by many friends from around the world, including the communities of old time banjo music, the Fairfax, VA, Model A Club, FARTS (Friends of Antique Road Transportation), Cabin John Association, CAMS (Chesapeake Area Metalworking Society), Smithsonian Folklore Society, and collectors and curmudgeons of all stripes.

Family and friends will be hosting a musical celebration of Reed at Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo, MD in the spring of 2025.

## REED MARTIN IN PICTURES



Reed drove his 1901 Knox in England's London to Brighton run in 1989 and then brought it to Sully in 1990.



Reed Martin in his topless '31 Delux Roadster



Reed at the Rockville show in 2008 sitting in his 1901 curved dash Oldsmobile with his 1899 DeDion trike in the foreground.



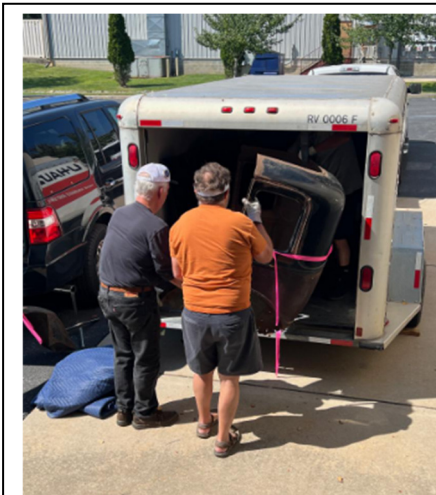
## GEORGE WASHINGTON CLUB PERFORMS MAGIC



On Sunday, September 15, a team of 7 members of the GW club, caused a “ton” of metal to disappear from the Bratton warehouse and reappear inside a U-Haul trailer. The used parts were donated by Bratton’s Antique Auto Parts to the Model A Ford Foundation (MAFFI) for use during their annual Swap Meet, a part of **Model A Days** at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

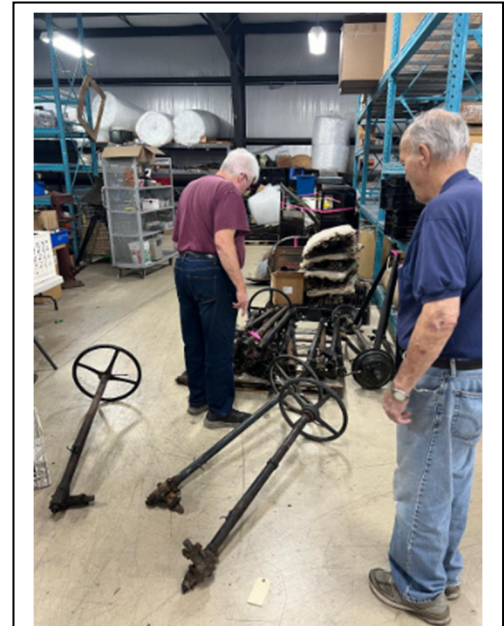
Jeff and Debra Kichline had offered the parts provided MAFFI would be responsible for moving them. Members John Dougherty, Bruce Metcalf, Jason Cunningham, Luke Chaplin, Rick Reale and Ed Ables responded to Stan Johnson’s request for help.

There was a vast collection of parts; wheels, fenders, headlights and even an entire Model A body (disassembled). Not all could be taken, so a large variety of parts was selected. An



**John Dougherty and Bruce Metcalf load a sedan body into the U-Haul trailer.**

“inside” team moved the parts to the loading dock, and an “outside” team moved the parts from the loading dock into position in the trailer. New member Ed Ables earned accolades as the man inside the trailer, lifting, moving, placing parts on what turned out to be a warm fall day. He was ably assisted by Bruce Metcalf and Rick Reale. Meanwhile inside, Luke Chaplin, Swap Meet Champion, was selecting small parts while others, including the Kichlines, were moving parts identified with special ribbon to indicate they had been previously identified.



**Luke Chaplin and Stan Johnson assess the steering columns**

At the end of the loading, Stan thanked the loading crew for performing a project that a few days before had looked

impossible. The next challenge was to get the loaded trailer to Michigan. Club President Milford Sprecher arrived back in the DC area in time to hook up to the trailer and tow it to Hickory Corners, Michigan, the site of the Model A Museum.

On Thursday, September 19, a group of MAFFI volunteers unloaded the trailer and placed the items in a display for sale. At a gathering at the end of the Model A Day celebration, the operator of the MAFFI swap meet space presented an envelope containing over \$800 from sales at the site. This more than covered the cost of the trailer to move the parts. Many items still remain from the Bratton donation, which will be offered for sale at coming events at the museum. An outcome that was magical, performed by our George Washington Club. Thank you all!

Stan Johnson

## **THE RESTORATION OF THE MODEL A BUS FOR THE GILMORE**

by Ken Ehrenhofer

I had known about this bus, a 1931 Model AA passenger bus, for many years, but never did I think I would ever get a chance to own it! Lee Roy Hartung owned many Model A's, but this old bus caught my eye. I thought it would be cool to own a Model A bus and take the whole family for a ride in it.

Lee Roy passed away in 2011 and I went to look at his estate on display prior to the auction. He was a great collector and had bicycles, license plates, motorcycles, old cars, world's fair collectibles and Model A Fords.

I went home and told my wife that I could possibly bid on a Model A bus and she said, "Go ahead!" I almost fell off my chair and immediately went to the bank to make arrangements.

Lots of Model A's were being sold and the prices were very high, so I expected that the same would happen to the bus. To my surprise, there were only two of us bidding and I made the top bid of \$4,500 and \$5,300 out the door, including taxes. I couldn't have been happier as I now owned a bus that I had been looking at for over 40 years. I had to hire a flat bed to take it home because the back wheels were frozen because the barn flooded every time there was a heavy rain.

While I owned the bus, my friend Tim Stegenga replaced a broken rear main leaf spring, the rear backing plants and all the brakes and wheels on the back as they were completely rusted away. Thanks to Tim, we drove the bus out of my barn in 2015 in front of a big crowd of people attending our Model A and T parts swap meet held each year on my front lawn. We had an exciting ride around my driveway with rust and dirt flying as we rode.

After owning the bus and enjoying driving it, I was in my mid-seventies and wondered, "What am I going to do with the bus now?" I knew that I could not afford to restore it. I thought about the sister bus in Greenfield Village at the Henry Ford Museum. Their bus gives rides to visitors daily in Greenfield Village. In fact, in 2019, it gave rides to 37,000 visitors. I thought this was a wonderful thing to do. I then had the idea of donating the bus to our fantastic Model A museum, with the intent of using it to give rides to visitors of the famous Gilmore Museum. A great idea, but it needed a full restoration, so we developed a plan.

First we asked for donations of a rebuilt engine and we found a Model A club willing to rebuild the chassis. If we could get a lot of help and money, we could actually restore the bus! Counting on our Model A family to step up and help complete this crazy restoration project. It sounded like a good idea, but would our community step up and support the project? All we could do was to try and see what happened!

The donations starting coming in and everyone seemed to like the idea. People asked how they could help and said they wished they lived closer so they could help us.

We started to sell t-shirts and sweatshirts to help raise money. Tim Stegenga, who is a good friend of Jay Leno, arranged for us to raffle two airline tickets for a visit with Jay. This helped us

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## THE RESTORATION OF THE MODEL A BUS (Cont.)

raise enough to get the project started and we were on our way!

I was looking for someone to help restore the chassis. I called Don Temple and Grier Fleischhauer in North Carolina and they agreed to restore the entire chassis. The Coastal Carolina A's stepped up and provided the labor to get this job done. In about a year, they were ready for us to pick up a completely restored long wheelbase 157" chassis. They kicked the project into high gear with this fast turnaround and we went down to attend a great cookout and pick up a restored chassis. The body, floor, windows, hood and other parts were restored in my shop, the Forty Horse Farm, with help from the Napier A's. Finally the bus was completed in time for an unveiling at Model A Days at the Gilmore Museum in September 2024.

Many thanks to all the people who helped bring this project to fruition by donating money, time and parts to allow us to complete this restoration. The GWC donated a high compression cylinder head to the project. To see what the bus looked like when I bought it, go to this link from the auction web site <https://rmsothebys.com/auctions/lh11/lots/r126-1931-ford-model-aa-bus-chicago-paddy-wagon/>

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## MEMBERS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

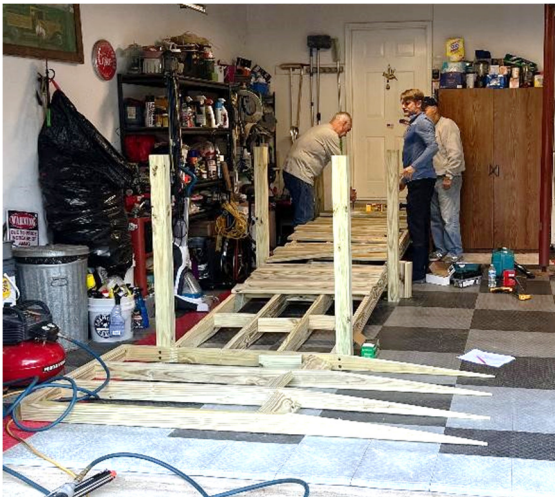
It seems like every few weeks our GWC members are assembling at another member's home or garage to work on a Model A to get it on the road. Well, this month it took a slight turn.

Benny Leonard, long-time member, mentor and GWC tools chair, needed some help to facilitate access to his home while he goes through medical treatments. His first call was to James Kolody, his tools co-chair. James reached out to the regular repair team, and he was not disappointed. On Friday, October 10, Paul Bjarnason obtained and stockpiled the materials for the construction. On October 11, the team of James Kolody, John Dougherty, Stan Johnson and Dave Greenwood met at Benny's to build a ramp.

There were many jokes about Benny building a Hubley car race ramp but, in the end, it will allow all-weather access to his home. Unfortunately, it did take up a parking space but it was a small price to pay. Benny does have room in his other garage; no Model As will be neglected.

After a wonderful lunch and ample refreshments, the ramp was completed on Saturday, October 12, with the aid of Zak, Bennys grandson. Now Benny and his family can get to and from his appointments and hopefully out to his garage and his A. What assistance to a GWC member will be next, time will tell? Who knew, members are even good at carpentry, I guess that comes from working on the Early As. We will let you know when Hubley races are scheduled.

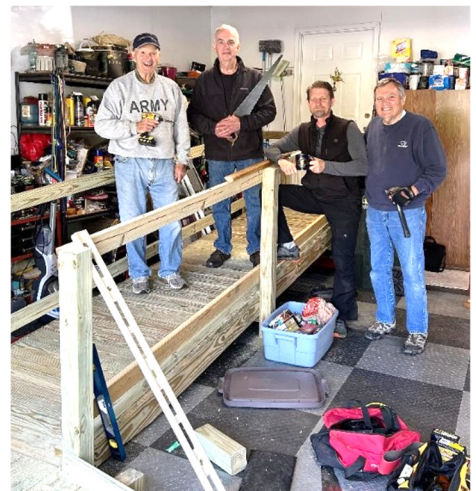
Dave Greenwood



Ramp in progress



Sharon, Zak, James & Benny



Stan, John, James & Dave



The final product!



## WILLOWCROFT WINERY EXCURSION 2024

Photos that accompany this report of our excursion to the Willowcroft Winery last weekend will show it was a **drop-dead gorgeous fall day. Wow!** Low 60°s, clear blue skies, you name it .... **Perfect !!!!**

We all met Sunday (11/3) at John Leydon's garage in Aldie for morning snacks, car talk and chat: Valerie Faircloth and her sister Kimberly Ramm, Bruce and Loretta Metcalf, Mike DiBernardino, Doug Tomb, Barbara Edwards and her sister Karen Hutchison, Steve and Nancy van Pelt from Annapolis .... **Annapolis !!** (Got that, all you missing local Fairfax and Loudoun County members??)

The cars ran beautifully through some spectacular Western Loudoun farmland, guided by Bruce and Loretta .... a little past peak foliage, but still colorful. The food was great ('cause we brown-bagged it ourselves :-)) and Lew Parker's wines washed it all down smoothly ..... some discussion re: which wines to choose that might go best with peanut butter and jelly (PB&J) and BLTs. But we figured it out.

After the winery picnic, several of us headed over to James Monroe's *Oak Hill Farm* where, as some of you may know, the presidential estate is scheduled for conversion to a Virginia State Park in 2025. This was a "lay-of-the-land" visit to familiarize Val with the landscape and facilities if we put together one last multi-club spring bluegrass picnic at the farm. Tentative plans are for a gathering of the Richmond, Baltimore and Washington Model 'A' Clubs at *Oak Hill* on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> next year**. Pencil it into your calendar and give it a thought.

Meantime, Happy Fall everyone. Stay safe!!



Members gather at John Leydon's garage for morning snacks. Left to right: John, Valerie, Kimberly, Doug, Nancy, Steve, Barbara, Loretta and Bruce

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**WILLOWCROFT WINERY EXCURSION 2024 (Cont.)**



The A's at John's garage in Aldie



Touring the Maryland countryside



Cruising on a gorgeous day



Dining at Willowcroft



Lined up at Willowcroft



Posing in front of Monroe's Oak Hill Farm

## **COLD WEATHER STORAGE TIPS**

**Looks like the cooler weather may finally be working its way in. Holidays are here and the old cars will be put away for the winter. Here are a few tips to make sure your Model A is stored properly and will be ready to go again next spring.**

-Make sure your gas tank is full. This will reduce the amount of moisture that can be absorbed into your fuel system. This also reduces the rate at which gasoline will turn to varnish. Like I'm always saying, use "Ethanol Free" fuel, especially for storage.

-Use Anti-freeze. Not only will this keep your engine from freezing, but it will also keep rust from forming in your cooling system.

-Wash the car and apply a good wax. Don't forget to clean the interior too. Do this early in the day so it will have plenty of time to dry before you put it in the garage.

-If you have a convertible top, leave it up. Convertible tops can develop some nasty creases when stored in the down position. Also store your car with the windows up tightly to prevent any insects or varmints from getting inside. Don't forget to make sure your floorboards are in place for the same reason.

-Now, take the car for a nice drive, 30 minutes or so, to get all the moisture from the engine and exhaust system before it is put away for the winter. This will also help keep rust at bay.

-Change the engine oil before storage. Dirty oil is contaminated with acids and moisture which can cause premature damage to your engine. If you believe your car is going to sit for a year or more, then remove the spark plugs and pour some "upper cylinder lubricant" into the engine. I like Marvel Mystery Oil for this.

-If you are storing your car in the basement or other damp location, then I would recommend spraying some WD-40 on all exposed metal surfaces under the hood and chassis. Don't even bother wiping it off, just spray it on to keep the rust away.

-To keep flat spots from forming on your tires, over inflate them slightly, or put the car up on Jack stands if possible.

-Keep that battery charged. A fully discharged battery will go bad in just a few days. Use a low amperage "Battery Tender" if you have one, or charge the battery every few weeks. Keep the battery disconnected during storage by removing the fuse, or one of the battery cables.

-The best thing you can do for any car in storage is to visit it at least once per month and take it out for a nice drive. This will keep the battery charged and all your mechanical parts moving like they are supposed to. This is not only good for the car, but good for the owner as well.

## COMING EVENTS

### November

**November 8-11 (Friday-Monday) - CANCELLED--Northern Neck Tour**

**November 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) – GWC & CDC Breakfast – Fair Oaks Silver Diner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway – 9:00am**

**November 20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall 7:45pm Monthly board meeting to follow the Membership Meeting**

**November 21 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) – Monthly board meeting, 7:00 PM, the day after the Membership Meeting, on Zoom**

### December

**December 7 (Saturday) – Annual GWC Christmas Party at American Legion Hall – Fairfax, VA**

**December 11 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) – GWC & CDC Breakfast – Fair Oaks Silver Diner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway – 9:00am**

**December 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall 7:45pm**

## WANT ADS

### For Sale

1931 Woody Wagon. The car was purchased by my father in law in the early 70's and was left to my wife after he passed in the early 90's. It has had very little use since then, it was at one point in a local shop (we are located in Great Falls, VA) where the engine was reconditioned to get it in good working order but hasn't been run for about a decade or so. It has all matching numbers and we are in possession of the title. We are really looking to get it into the hands of someone who will love and cherish it and aren't looking to make a lot of money on the sale. It turns over after charging the battery.

Asking \$4,000. Contact: Steve Varani at **609-226-6630**

[Varani.steve@gmail.com](mailto:Varani.steve@gmail.com)



1930 rumble seat coupe, complete car that has been disassembled for restoration, one owner, rust-free western car, was complete and running. Every part is there, including cowl lights. \$9000 spent on restored chassis, rebuilt balanced motor, new trans and rear axle components, cast iron brake conversion, backing plates rebuilt to standard chassis is all painted and assembled with motor, trans and rear, powder coated straw wheels on new Firestone black walls. Seats still have upholstery. Body has never been damaged or patch panels. Extremely nice project if looking for a coupe. All sheet metal was stripped and primed, body and fenders very nice and straight. \$9500. Don Temple. 252-943-4373

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**WANT ADS (Cont.)**

**For Sale (Cont.)**

1929 Ford Model A Briggs Blindback (60B). Vagabond green, LeBaron-Bonney interior, frame-off restoration 2007 (comes with CD documenting restoration), engine rebuilt by Schwalm in 2014 with Dan McEachern gears. Trunk is period correct: restored: covered with car's top material and leather. Following has been replaced, restored, or rebuilt over the years: wiring, carb, distributor, starter, 7 tooth steering, tie rods, speedo, horn, steering wheel, etc. Five American Classic 21" radial tires (black wall) with thick radial tubes, liners and beads, black powder-coated wheels. All records go with car.



Other considerations: shocks and license plates do not transfer with the car; has alternator, has oil fill tube with breather hose like fumaze. I am the second owner since 1962. Asking \$18,000. Contact: Bud Pratsch at [lpratsch@verizon.net](mailto:lpratsch@verizon.net)

Model A Motors - Five assembled short blocks, were running when removed. All need rebuilding; would be excellent cores for rebuilding. Two with heads and oil pans. \$650 for all. Don Temple 252-943-4373

Model A Sheet Metal - Nice set of '31 front fenders, '31 splash aprons, '31 rear Tudor fenders, no breaks in fender edges, have scuffs and scratches, replacement cost today would be \$2200 and shipping. \$1100 for all. Don Temple 252-943-4373

A two and a half foot-stack of Restorer magazines, some few going back as far as 1956. They have removable tabs identifying the many technical articles contained therein. \$50. Call Dave 703 938 8954

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