# The Ford Script

**Vol. XLVII** **November 2026** **No. 11**



The line-up at the GWC fall picnic

Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords for over 63 Years 1963-2026

# 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.gwcmodela.org

Web Master: Greg Shepherd

Board of Directors

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | Milford Sprecher | 301-830-2198 |
| VP & Program Chairman | Don White | 703-623-9805 |
| Activities Chairman | Val Faircloth | 703-609-6713 |
| Editor | Bill Sims | 301-891-3616 |
| Asst. Editor | Bruce Metcalf | 952-288-3508 |
| Secretary | Dave Greenwood | 703-801-5526 |
| Membership Chairman | Jeff VanGorder | 703-585-0007 |
| Treasurer | Doug Tomb | 703-967-5229 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Bill Bass | 301-221-6598 |
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| Tool Chairman | Mike DiBerardino | 443-564-0147 |
| Youth Development | Blane Adcock | 703-395-5027 |
| National Liaison | Doug Tomb | 703-967-5229 |

Appointed Positions

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Concessions Chairman | (vacant) | |
| Club Librarian | Don White | 703-623-9805 |
| Historian/Archivist | Doug Tomb | 703-967-5229 |
| Sunshine Chairman | Jim Gray | 410-353-0381 |
| Technical Advisor | (vacant) | |

Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor at: billhsims@gmail.com

**Next deadline: Monday, November 30th**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am writing this on Halloween and it is getting chilly, nearing the end of driving season, although I take my cars out in the winter as long as there is no salt on the roads.

Next meeting is the board election. I tried to slip out of being president, but no one has stepped up to take over, so I guess you have me for another year. I do think changeover is good because you get new ideas and perspective. Serving as president of two car clubs and being on the MARC board will keep me busy, however.

A week or so ago I went to the Jim Finney auction in Oblong, IL. He was a long-time early Model T collector and also sold parts. It was a good crowd and a place I have never been to. Oblong is very small. The nearest town with a hotel, was Robinson, IL, a town of about 7,000 people and the home of the Heath Bar, which is now owned by Hershey. There is a Hershey plant in Robinson and I wondered about that until I looked the town up.

The sale was a lot of fun and prices were on the high side. The only Model A in the collection was an unrestored and probably not running 1930 roadster. It brought $17,000 plus the 9% buyer's premium, so around $19.000 for a car that on a good day might bring $10,000. That gives you an idea how the prices were. Attendees had a bit of auction fever. I bought a few things, but nothing outrageous.

I missed the picnic because of the auction, but it sounds like it was a success. Next on the agenda is the Christmas party, details of which are elsewhere in the Script.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

Milford

## FROM THE EDITOR

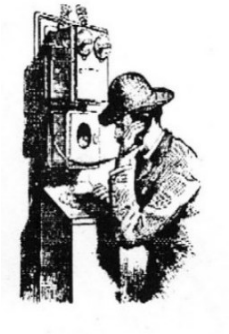
We've now lost 2 valued long-time members in the course of a month. This issue of The Script is mostly dedicated to Sharon Leonard. Although Howard Minners' obituary is included in this month's Script, the plan is to run any write-ups of his contributions to our Club, as well as photographs, in the December issue.

Howard was the editor of The Ford Script in the 1980s and won MARC'S Best Newsletter award in 1985. That was the good news. He later told me, when I had been doing The Script for several years, that that award rendered the Club ineligible to ever receive that award again. He said he tried to persuade MARC to change that policy to no avail. I think they created a Highest Achievement award a decade ago for previous winners, which we won in 2019, along with 4 or 5 other newsletters. But for now we're still shut out for consideration for the top honor.

In other news, my Town Sedan now sits in my driveway and doesn't seem to want to start. I took it out several weeks ago for a short jaunt and it suddenly began backfiring like crazy to the point where I had to pull over and park it. I got Milford to try to restart it the next day to no avail. So he towed me home about a mile away, worked on it for several hours, and was baffled as to why it wouldn't start. I've since added fresh gas to the almost-empty tank, but it still won't start. Next week Milford promises to solve the problem. Meanwhile, it sits out in the weather mocking us.

Bill Sims

## REPORT FROM AN ONLINE MEETING



Board Meeting
October 29, 2026

Milford Sprecher President called the GWC board meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Board members in attendance: Milford Sprecher, Don White, Doug Tomb, Valerie Faircloth, Jeff VanGorder, Bill Sims, Michael DiBerardino, Blane Adcock, Bruce Metcalf and Dave Greenwood. We had a quorum.

Milford explained the Carl Patrick award nominee. The Board unanimously approved the posthumous award to Bill Condon. The award will be presented at the Christmas Party and Milford is inviting the family to accept it.

Doug provided an update, which was also in the last Script. He will update it again when the end-of-month statement is available. He has looked at the year-end expenses and believes we should not need to use any funds from the CDs. After further discussion, the board suggested that we may want to have one CD be for a 6-month duration. The decision will be made in December after we review the 2027 budget.

**Club property storage**: Michael obtained a first quote on a 12 x 20 shed for $14,910. However, he expects it will be reduced by over $3,500 for on-site installation. He will bring it to the Board after he has narrowed the costs. The terms are: 30% at the time of order, 60% at delivery and 10% after installation. This will be factored into the 2027 budget for the Club portion. Michael indicated that James Kolody has spoken with the Leonard family and there is no urgency to move the tools at this time.

The Smith Compressor is stored and we want to get it sold before the tool transfer. Dave Greenwood and Michael have pictures of the compressor from April 2023 when it was last put into storage. Milford will use those to begin the process of selling the compressor. The bylaws require membership approval for an asset sale above $2,000, so after a buyer is located, we will bring it before the membership. The sale will help offset the cost of the new storage shed.

**Annual Car Show**: Michael updated the Board on discussions with the Park Authority about the 2027 show and beyond. The Board gave Michael support to continue dialog to resolve issues.

**Programs**: Don said the November program is our Annual Meeting and vote on officers for 2027. Also, we will ask members to recap their experience at the Hershey swap meet and car show. The December program will be our Brown Bag gift exchange.

Activities Valerie said the Fall Picnic was well attended, and 10 antique cars were driven to the event. She is currently obtaining items for the gifts ticket drawing at the Christmas Party. She has received the down-payment check from Doug and will deliver it to the hotel. Jeff will get information out to the members soon.

**Membership**: Jeff asked for Board approval to hold the dues at the 2026 level of $20 for the e-newsletter. However, he made a motion to add a $2 convenience fee if members pay through the GWC website to cover credit card and processing fees. Doug and Val seconded the motion and the Board approved it unanimously. There was a discussion about reexamining the processing fees for online registration for future car shows. Michael will follow up with Greg Shepherd and Doug on those fees to build into the 2027 budget.

**Nominating Committee**: Jeff and Dave reported that all officers have agreed to serve again in 2027. However, the President's position is not filled. Milford agreed to serve one more year but asked the Board to diligently work for a 2028 replacement.

Bill reminded us that the Script articles are due on November 2nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM

Dave Greenwood
Secretary

## GWC MEMBERS MEETING FOR OCTOBER

20 Members and guests attended in person and 2 online—yes, you missed the presentation and discussion on the restoration of a 1931 Delivery by Steve Meyer.

Milford opened the Meeting at 7:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Treasurer's report**: Nothing material has changed from the last Script. Doug will update once the end-of-October statement is available. Our two CDs mature on December 3rd and 30th. Doug will be preparing the 2027 budget and evaluating the year-end funding needs before renewing.

**Activities report**: Valerie updated the members on upcoming events that will be shown in the Script. The October 25 fall picnic will be at Algonkian Regional Park shelter 3 in Sterling, VA. The Christmas Party will be on December 12 from 12:00-4:00 at the Embassy Suites in Tysons Corner, VA. Expect a message from Jeff about the details.

**Vice President**: Don said the November meeting is election of officers and open discussion of Hersey experiences. The December meeting will be the traditional Brown Bag gift exchange.

**Annual car show**: Michael is continuing dialog with the Sully Park but nothing new to report.

**Old business**: Michael is working on permits and preparing the foundation for the Club tool shed. More to follow regarding work days. He will likely rent an onsite storage POD to use until the permanent shed is built.

The formal meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. After a refreshment break, the program began.



Milford introduced Steve Meyer of the Baltimore club. Steve is restoring a 1931 Sedan Delivery. He found it in a field not far from his home and embarked on the complete restoration to Fine Point Judging Standards. Steve said he has been aided greatly by talking to the Fine Point Committee judges and others who have restored a similar Sedan Delivery. He bought and fit all new wood for the body but had to find a completely new chassis. Fortunately, he was able to rescue the portions of the frame that contained the Serial number (VIN). He presented extensive photos and a few video clips to walk us through the process of finding the vehicle, transporting it into his garage and may surprises along the way. That included the presence of a black snake that had taken up residence. He stressed the importance of keeping all the original, wood, interior and other parts no matter what the condition. Those have been extremely important to consult for details as well as his extensive disassembly pictures. Having adequate storage for inventory is key to finding the parts for consulting the details. The bodywork has been extensive and sorting out the paint scheme has been critical for Fine Point Standards. He is finally in the painting



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## GWC MEMBERS MEETING FOR OCTOBER (Cont.)

and reassembly stage. The interior will be the next hurdle, then all the fine details and small parts. Of course, because it is a rare model, he is always looking for suitable original parts. Steve had some time for questions and hopes to return for another program when it is completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Dave Greenwood











## SHARON LEONARD- IN LOVING MEMORY



Sharon Leonard loved to laugh, and if you were around her, you would most certainly be drawn into whatever shenanigans she had dreamed up. Here Edna and Betty have been drawn into a scheme at our Small Parts day at Janet Merkel's house in 2012. What was so funny? Well, everything.

Like when we used to drive up to the Blue Ridge Parkway and participate in their Apple Butter festival at Skyland. Benny must have been helping someone with his or her Model A, which was good since someone's camara caught Sharon snuggled up with none other than Billy Gibbons of Z.Z. Top.



This after Sharon and Benny had exchanged pranks with George and Janet Merkel employing fake creatures and prank toilet tissue and honey on the seat.

I remember this trip in 2012 well since Benny let Sharon have the walkie talkie… and talkie she did – almost without a break until her battery ran out of juice.

Sharon loved an audience and a crowd – she and Benny livened up many a Brown Bag night. I remember one such Brown Bag night in 2012 when Sharon won an Angel.





Now she is one.














EXIT

## GWC 25 YEARS AGO (NOVEMBER 2001)



On the cover is a picture of member John Kandl and his resurrected Huckster, which he "drove" to the Pig Pickin' (sitting happily on its trailer).

Inside, President Jon Phillips praised the Club Board for doing an "excellent job of managing the affairs of the Club this year." Jon's term as President was drawing to a close, and he went on to thank all the members who helped make the year a success.

From the Editor's column, Editor Bill Sims reported that he had been in the job for nine years, and the Assistant Editor position was open. He wanted to encourage any member who wanted to be editor each year, for a month or two, to let him know. (I guess Bruce Metcalf stepped up.)

From The Smoke Free Room, it was reported that Benny Leonard had agreed to become the Tool Chairman. Arrangements were in the works to obtain a suitable shed that could house the tools at Benny's house.

In the 25 Years Ago column (1976), Dave Henderson reported that the Club was enjoying their new meeting location at the American Legion Hall in McLean. There was a caravan visit to the Trolly Museum in Norbeck, MD, planned. A demonstration on the art of wood graining was held by one of the vendors at Joe Thoma's garage. It was noted that many of the advertisers in the Script (1976) were no longer around (2001), but the Model A Fords were still going strong.

Mary Simmons, from Washington D C wrote a letter thanking Club members for helping her sell a Model A coupe that belonged to an estate. She mentioned help from Jon Phillips, Harry White and Jim Gray being instrumental in the selling process. She let the Club know the car had just been sold to a man from Georgia.

There was a slate of officers for the 2002 season. Familiar names: Stan Johnson, Bill Sims, Jim Gray, Phil McCormick, Andy Jaeger, Benny Leonard and Howard Minners were on the list to be voted on at the November Members Meeting.

Stan Johnson brought up an interesting Model A technical tip. He found that some Model A head gaskets do not have a Hole B in the middle. That is because some Model A blocks do not have a Hole B. Also, some Cylinder Heads have a Hole A, or a Hole B, or both. Stan advised that if your Model A has overheating problems, make sure your cylinder head matches the block, and you also have the correct head gasket too, and that Hole A, B, or both, line up correctly.

And, Finally, the following was reported by Bill Worsham, who attended the Fairfax County Parks Banquet recently (2001), with over 350 people in attendance. The following was announced to the crowd:

"The George Washington Chapter of the Model A Ford Club has created a partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority through the annual Sully Antique Show. The 275 members in the George Washington Chapter spend a large amount of time each year preparing for the show, which takes place on Father's Day. The car show is not only entertaining, but educational as well, depicting the evolution of transportation through time. This year there were over 400 antique and classic cars on display. Since 1976, the car show has raised more than $500,000 for the Park Authority's trust fund".

For Sale items included 3 Model A's for one price ($25,000), 4 cars for sale (Chevy, Hudson, Nash, Corvair), and a 1930 Tudor body, doors, all parts there, but the power train, for $2,500.
The George Washington Chapter, and Mount Vernon Region, in action.

Doug Tomb

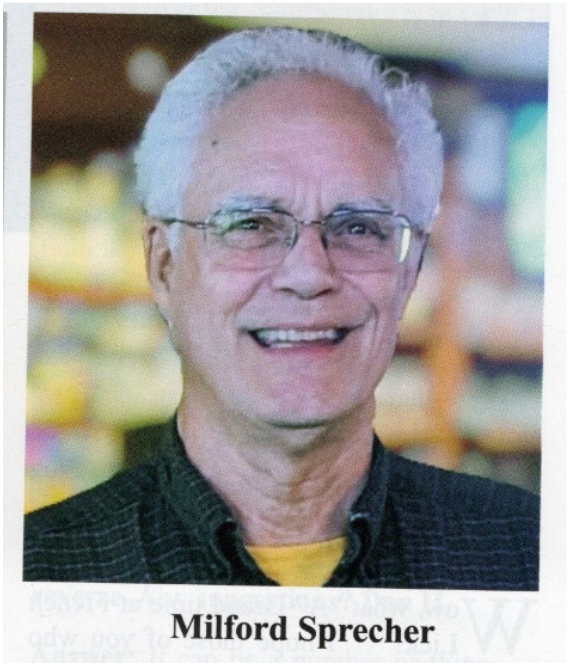
# New Directors - MARC National BOD

## Milford Sprecher
## Takoma Park, Maryland

Milford is a long-time antique car and Model A enthusiast. His interest in Model A's began when he was a teen, when he bought a 1930 coupe that he never got on the road and sold once he went to college. He first went to Hershey in 1966 and has been attending regularly since then. Work and family intervened and he bought a 1930 Town Sedan about 15 years ago. He supplemented that with a 1928 roadster and also owns early V8's and Model T's.

He is president of the George Washington Chapter based in northern Virginia, where he has also served as Vice President and Assistant Treasurer. He has also organized tours for the Model A club and helps members troubleshoot their cars. He attended his first MARC meet in 2019 and has been to most annual meets since then. He and his wife have participated in the fashion show and fashion judging. He has also been active with the repair tent and, for the last two years, in fine point judging. His professional career was spent in sales and business development roles in IT and market research.

When asked about joining the board, he thought about how much he has gained from MARC membership and that it was time to give back to the club and help keep the club vibrant, provide value to the membership and work to grow the hobby. In addition to MARC, Milford is a member of MAFCA, AACA, the Early Ford V8 Club, the Model T Ford Club of America, the Model T Ford Club International, the Horseless Carriage Club and others.



**Milford Sprecher**

## MAFFI Minute
## November 2026

**Congratulations to Our Sweepstakes Winner!** 🏆 🎉

Congratulations to **Tim Hoerauf of Saline, Michigan**, winner of the **1930 Ford Model A Town Sedan** in this year's MAFFI Sweepstakes!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the sweepstakes and supported the Model A Ford Foundation. Your generosity helps us continue preserving and celebrating the history of the Model A Ford for generations to come.

**Exciting Updates Coming to the Model A Museum**

The Model A Museum is getting a little refresh! Beginning **December 25, 2026, through April 1, 2027**, the museum will be closed while we replace the flooring in the original section of the building to match the flooring in the expansion.

While we won't be welcoming visitors during this time, you can still follow along with the improvements! **The museum's online cameras will remain operational**, so we encourage everyone to tune in and watch the progress as we bring a fresh, consistent look to the museum.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back once the project is complete!

Next stop, full tanks and thankful hearts!! 🌱 🦃

Heather Marshall Resnick
MAFFI Trustee




## George Washington Chapter 2026 Approved Budget - AS OF 10/31/2026

## OPERATING BUDGET #2

| Budgeted Income | Contact | 2025 Actual | 2026 ACTUAL | 2026 OCT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Membership | VanGorder | $ 3,133.00 | $ 1,110.00 | $ 60.00 |
| Misc. Income (Donations) | Tomb | $ 89.00 | $ 1,450.96 | $ - |
| Programs & Technical Seminars | White | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Club Tours & Activities | Faircloth | $ 2,400.00 | $ 860.00 | $ - |
| Script Advertising | Bass | $ 550.00 | $ 550.00 | $ - |
| Hands-on Seminars, Repair | Leonard | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Sully Income | Gray | $10,151.50 | $ 9,709.67 | $ 719.00 |
| Total Income | | $16,323.50 | $13,680.63 | $ 779.00 |
| | | | | |
| Budgeted Expenses | | | | |
| Membership | VanGorder | $ 440.20 | $ 30.00 | $ - |
| Club Programs | White | $ 855.92 | $ 34.97 | $ - |
| Club Tours & Activities | Faircloth | $ 9,343.06 | $ 1,275.86 | $ 82.91 |
| Tool Shed / Tools | DiBerardino | $ 81.93 | $ 135.47 | $ - |
| Sully Car Show Expenses | DiBerardino | $ 4,667.61 | $ 2,646.15 | $ - |
| Web Hosting Expense | Shepherd | $ 189.22 | $ 245.27 | $ - |
| President's Fund | Sprecher | $ 1,021.50 | $ 1,743.70 | $ - |
| Secretary Supplies + Zoom | Greenwood | $ 167.90 | $ 167.90 | $ - |
| Treasurer Supplies & Insurance | Tomb | $ 3,207.50 | $ 1,430.00 | $ - |
| Total Expenses | | $19,974.84 | $ 7,709.32 | $ 82.91 |
| UNDER/(OVER) Revenue | | $ -3,651.34 | $ 5,971.31 | $ 696.09 |

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## 2026 CONTRIBUTION BUDGET

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **MAFFI** | **Board** | $ - | | $ - |
| **MODEL A YOUTH REST AWARD** | **Board** | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| **SCHOLARSHIP** | **Board** | $ 1,500.00 | $ 3,000.00 | $ - |
| **AFRH** | **Board** | $ 500.00 | | $ - |
| **MILEAGE AWARD EMBLEM** | **Board** | $ 263.92 | | $ - |
| **TOTAL** | | $ 2,263.92 | $ 3,000.00 | $ - |

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

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WELLS FARGO ONE YEAR + CD** | **Board** | $ 10,781.73 | $ - | $ - |
| **WELLS FARGO PART YEAR + CD** | **Board** | $ 10,000.00 | | |
| | | ========== | ========== | ========== |
| | | $ 20,781.73 | | |
| **Total Expenses** | | $ 22,238.76 | $10,709.32 | $ 82.91 |
| | | ========== | ========== | ========== |
| **Sum Income and Expenses** | | -$ 5,915.26 | $ 2,971.31 | $696.09 |

**Current Bank Balance, as of 10-31-2026** ***$ 9,032.60***

**Beginning of year Balance (01-01-2026 Actual)** ***$ 6,061.29***




# *Howard A. Minners*

**1 September 1931 -- 22 October 2026**

Born in September 1931 in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York, Howard Minners (95) held a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Princeton University; an MD from Yale University School of Medicine and a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University School of Public Health. He was board certified in Aerospace Medicine with a distinguished 10-year career in the Air Force with assignments that included four years as the NASA Flight Surgeon for the Project Mercury and Gemini astronauts. He further served 21 years in the US Public Health Service (USPHS), including prominent assignments at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) focusing on vaccine development, transplantation immunology, research reagents and geographic medicine. He also served for three years as the head of the Office of Research at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Upon his return to the US, Howard was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, Assistant Surgeon General in the US Public Health Service (USPHS), Office of International Health, with a subsequent assignment as the Science Advisor to the US Agency for International Development (USAID). He retired from the USPHS in 1987 after 31 years of prominent service.



Feeding off of his son's interest in Ford Model A's, Howard grew a deep historical interest in the development and era surrounding the Ford Model A. The introduction and advertising campaign for the New Ford caught Howard's attention inspiring him to collect original era Ford advertisements and sales brochures from all over the world. His extensive international collection of Model A advertisements and sales brochures was one of the largest in the world. Howard, however, did not collect for himself, but rather enjoyed sharing his knowledge with fellow collectors. To share his knowledge, Howard formed the "Model A Ad Collectors Region" of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC) and the "Model A Ad Collectors Chapter" of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) with members enjoying his quarterly newsletter, Model A Ad Collectors, in every corner of the globe.

His science-based mindset fueled his and his late wife Gretchen's meticulous restoration of their 1930 Cabriolet, which was subsequently awarded a MARC of Excellence, a MAFCA Award of Excellence, as well as a Henry Award. This success, along with his passion for researched details, motivated Howard to become a Master Model A Judge with an area of expertise in upholstery. Howard and his late wife, Gretchen, spent years researching and documenting the correct original upholstery for the Ford Model A at both The Henry Ford as well as deep in the personal archives of like-minded collectors. To share with fellow collectors what he had learned, he joined what would become The Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI) Upholstery Project. Howard, and Gretchen, spearheaded the Upholstery Project's research by collecting original upholstery samples from members of the Model A community. So that all members could benefit from his research, he and his team compiled the material in three binders containing samples of both original upholstery material and replacement

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## HOWARD MINNERS OBITUARY (Cont.)

material. One of those binders is available for research at the Model A Museum in The Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan, with the other two distributed to the two national clubs.

In 1995, Howard became the President of MAFFI and, during two terms as president, he led The Foundation through a period of significant growth. Under his leadership and guidance, Howard organized a team of volunteers over several years to document and index the thousands of mechanical engineering drawings, which are stored in boxes in the bowels of the Benson Ford Research Center of the Henry Ford. Because of this new, organized access to the original Ford parts drawings, reproduction parts manufacturers now are able to make more accurate replacement parts for our Model A's.

In 2009, when MAFFI was looking for a location for its new museum, Howard and his late wife, Gretchen, attended the annual meeting at Merillville, Indiana, with an exploratory stop along the way at The Gilmore. Based on Howard's strong recommendation, the Trustees subsequently made the trip and began to form a consensus that the business relationship offered by The Gilmore Car Museum was superior to all the other offers then under consideration. One year later, at the annual meet in Vancouver, BC (2010), a memorandum of understanding was signed with The Gilmore Car Museum. At the time, Howard was also a member of the museum building selection committee. It was through his research in his personal Ford literature archives that he located and proposed what would later be selected as the general design of The Model A Museum building.

Howard was a long and dedicated board trustee of MAFFI as well as an active member of the MAFFI Investment Committee, insuring that the memberships funds continued to grow and will be able to sustain The Museum's operations in perpetuity.

Early in his service to his local Model A club (the George Washington Chapter / Mount Vernon Region) Howard was entrusted to be the club's newsletter editor. He didn't just write the newsletter however, he transformed it into a valuable, relevant and focused publication which ultimately was awarded the coveted MARC Best Newsletter Award, followed for several years by the MARC Award of Continuing Newsletter Excellence. He also served on the local club Board of Directors as well as the National Liaison to both national Model A clubs.

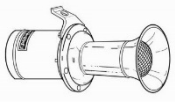
Speaking of national clubs, Howard was not only an active leader in his local club, and MAFFI, but he also passionately contributed to both the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) and the Model A Restorers Club (MARC), where he ultimately served for four years as National Secretary of MARC. While not busy judging cars, or hosting seminars at the annual national or membership meets, Howard could usually be found playing the piano, or ukulele, as background music for the era fashion shows or awards banquets or manning the "MAFFI table" to help grow the MAFFI membership, increase MAFFI community influence and promote financial donations to MAFFI. For his lifetime achievements, extraordinary service and significant contributions to the Model A hobby, in 2001, he was awarded MARC's highest honor: The Ken Brady Award.

In September 2022, Howard was inducted into MAFFI's Model A Ford Hall of Fame, among the best-of-the-best in the Model A hobby. When not focused on Ford Model A's, Howard also enjoyed researching and collecting (and showing) early dated coins as well as pre-war Lionel Standard Gauge Trains of which he had an extensive collection.

He was an active member of MARC, MAFC, MAFFI, GWC, AACA, ANA, ANS, and the TCA.

On 22 October 2026, Howard passed away in his assisted living apartment in Bethesda, MD. He was predeceased by his first wife, Gretchen (80; October 24, 2011) and his second wife, Eleanor (93; June 11, 2024). He is survived by his two sons Todd and Bradford, their two wives and two granddaughters.

# GWC FALL PICNIC!



*Perseverance*! That was the word for the picnic this year! The first attempt was thwarted by severe thunderstorms, and the second attempt was just too hot and humid with feels-like temps in the low 110s! But on Sunday, 25 October 2026 at Algonkian Regional Park's Shelter 3, we were rewarded with a cloudless, picture-perfect day! We were among the trees along the Potomac River and enjoying the Fall colors, sights and sounds of the river, a yummy meal, and great conversation with friends.

Eight Model As and one 1930 Buick arrived and were the center of attention for passers-by throughout the day. The day's fare included BBQ brisket, pulled pork and KFC chicken. Accompanied by an array of salads, side dishes, hors d'oeuvres and desserts brought by the 36 attendees!

Great food, great fellowship, great weather, and a great venue all working in concert; it doesn't get much better than that!

Val Faircloth











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## GWC FALL PICNIC (Cont.)















# The Model A Restorers Club, Inc.

## The Running Board Report

**Tom Hovetter, President** **John Prohaska, Director of Regions**

## November 2026

Make sure you renew your membership before expiration. You can renew online, by mail or by calling the office to continue receiving the Model A News (MAN) and access to the website and all the industry leading technical resources it provides.

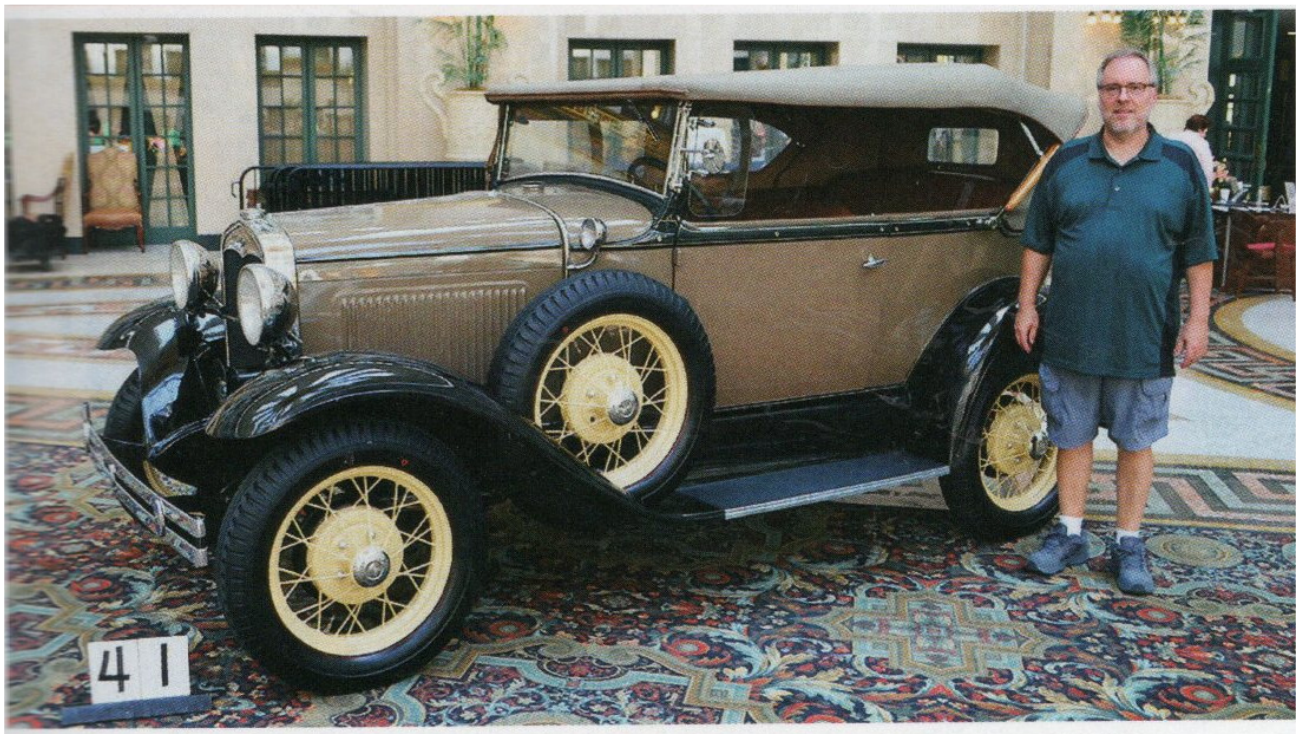
- $30/year for online access to MAN and full member benefits
- $50/year for hardcopy & electronic MAN and full member benefits.

As a reminder, some of you have reached out to us to let us know you have new local region members to your club that are joining MARC for the first time. **If individuals are joining MARC for the first time, they can sign up for free online membership for one year.** Please continue to help make our club grow!

Remember to make you reservations now at the hotel for the MARC Membership & Tour in Galena, IL, the hometown of President Grant in May and for the MARC National Meet outside of Tulsa in Broken Arrow, OK in July. Hotel information is available on the website and in Model A News, Sept-Oct issue. Registration information is coming in the MAN.

Can't believe another edition of Hershey is behind us. Everyone enjoyed seeing those of you that attended at the MARC Tent and we hope you were able to purchase or pick up your new Judging Standards. If you did not attend, please know that the standards are available at modelarestorersclub.org for purchase or by calling the office.

**MARC NATIONAL MEET FINE-POINT JUDGING AWARDEES FROM GWC**




**1931 Deluxe Phaeton - Joe Candella – Odenton, MD**
**462 Points - MARC of Excellence**




**Steve Van Pelt - Annapolis, MD - 1931 Fordor**
**1st Place Plaque, 445 Points**

## GWC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2027

**Keep Your Membership in Good Running Order!**

**ATTENTION, MODEL A OWNERS!**
It's time once again to **renew your GWC membership for 2027!** And here's some good news from the GWC garage: **the membership rate remains unchanged for the 25th consecutive year!** Twenty-five years at the same price? Why, that makes our membership dues just about old enough to be a **genuine antique!** And unlike a Model A, you don't even have to crawl underneath it to keep it running.

**GWC MEMBERSHIP — BUILT FOR VALUE!**
**$20 — EMAIL MEMBERSHIP**
Receive your digital *Script*, club news, event announcements, and all the latest GWC happenings delivered right to your computer.
**$30 — PAPER MEMBERSHIP**
Available to our grandfathered members who continue to receive the printed *Script*.

**A WORD FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT:**
If you currently receive the paper *Script*, why not consider making the switch to email? You'll save **$10**, and the Club will save on printing and postage. That's what we call **good economy—and Henry Ford would approve!**

**NEW FOR 2027 — MODERN CONVENIENCE!**
Even though we still like our Model As the old-fashioned way, the GWC has added a little modern convenience. You can now **renew your membership online with a credit card!** Just point your browser toward:
**www.gwcmodela.com/membership.asp**

Online credit-card payments include a **$2 booking fee** to help cover credit-card and website processing costs. Consider it the price of letting modern technology do the cranking for you!

**OR, USE THE TIME-TESTED METHOD:**
**BY MAIL:**
Send a check payable to **GWC** to:

Jeff VanGorder
46363 Newfield Place
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

**AT THE GWC MEETING:**
Bring your cash or check along to the next membership meeting. No appointment necessary!

**BY ZELLE:**
Send payment to **gwcmodela25@gmail.com**

**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP RUN OUT OF GAS!**
Renew today and keep your GWC membership **properly tuned, well lubricated, and ready for another year on the road.**

After all, **25 years of the same dues is too good a bargain to pass up!**

# 2026 GWC MODEL A FORD CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 12, 2026

**WHAT:** We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the GWC Club Christmas party! The event is from 12:00pm – 4pm. Cash bar will be open. Lunch will be served from 1:00-3:00pm. And, did I mention music??!! Dave Nichols is with us again this year!

As always, we are again supporting "Toys for Tots". If you wish to participate, please bring an unwrapped toy and we'll deliver it to the Marines.

And, of course, we will have the Silent Auction!

**WHERE:** Embassy Suites Hotel Tysons Corner
8517 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182

**COST:** $20 per person

**ENTRÉES:** Choose one from the following for your entrée and tell Valerie:

1. Beef Tenderloin with Demi Glaze Sauce
2. Chicken with Marsala Sauce

All entrees are served with Mixed Garden Salad with Ranch or House Vinegarette, Roasted Seasoned Potatoes, Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, Rolls with Creamy Butter, and Chef's Selection of Dessert.

**DRINKS**: Iced Tea, Iced Water, Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee, and Sodas. Cash bar of beer and wine.

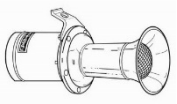
**RESERVATIONS**: Will be accepted at the November Monthly Club Meeting or you can send an email or text stating the desired entrée(s) and how many are attending, then send a check (payable to "GWC") along with a note indicating your entrée choice(s) to:

Valerie Faircloth - GWC
803 Potomac Ridge Ct.
Sterling, VA 20164

RSVP by: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2026

NO RESERVATIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE!! NO WALK-INS CAN BE ADMITTED!!

Email me at valerie.faircloth@gmail.com if you have any questions. See you there!



# Upcoming Activities

**November 2026**

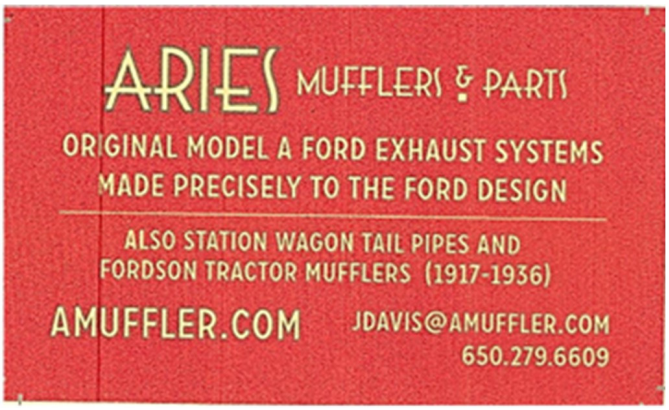
- November 11 – CDC Breakfast (2nd Wednesday) – Fair Oaks Silver Diner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway – 9:00am
- November 18 – Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Wednesday) – American Legion Hall, McLean – 6:30pm
- November 25 – (4th Wednesday) – Board Meeting – Zoom 7:00pm

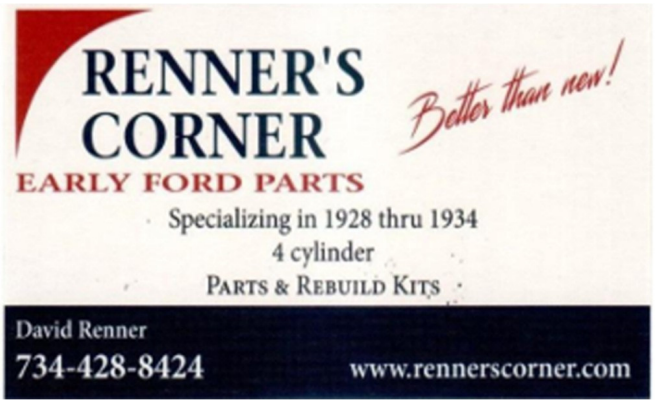
**December 2026**

- December 9 – CDC Breakfast (2nd Wednesday) – Fair Oaks Silver Diner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway – 9:00am
- December 12 – (2nd Saturday) – GWC Christmas Party – Embassy Suites Hotel Tysons Corner – See flyer this issue.
- December 16 – Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Wednesday) – *Brown Bag Gifts and Nourishments!*
- December TBD –Board Meeting – Zoom 7:00pm

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

There are no classified ads this month.

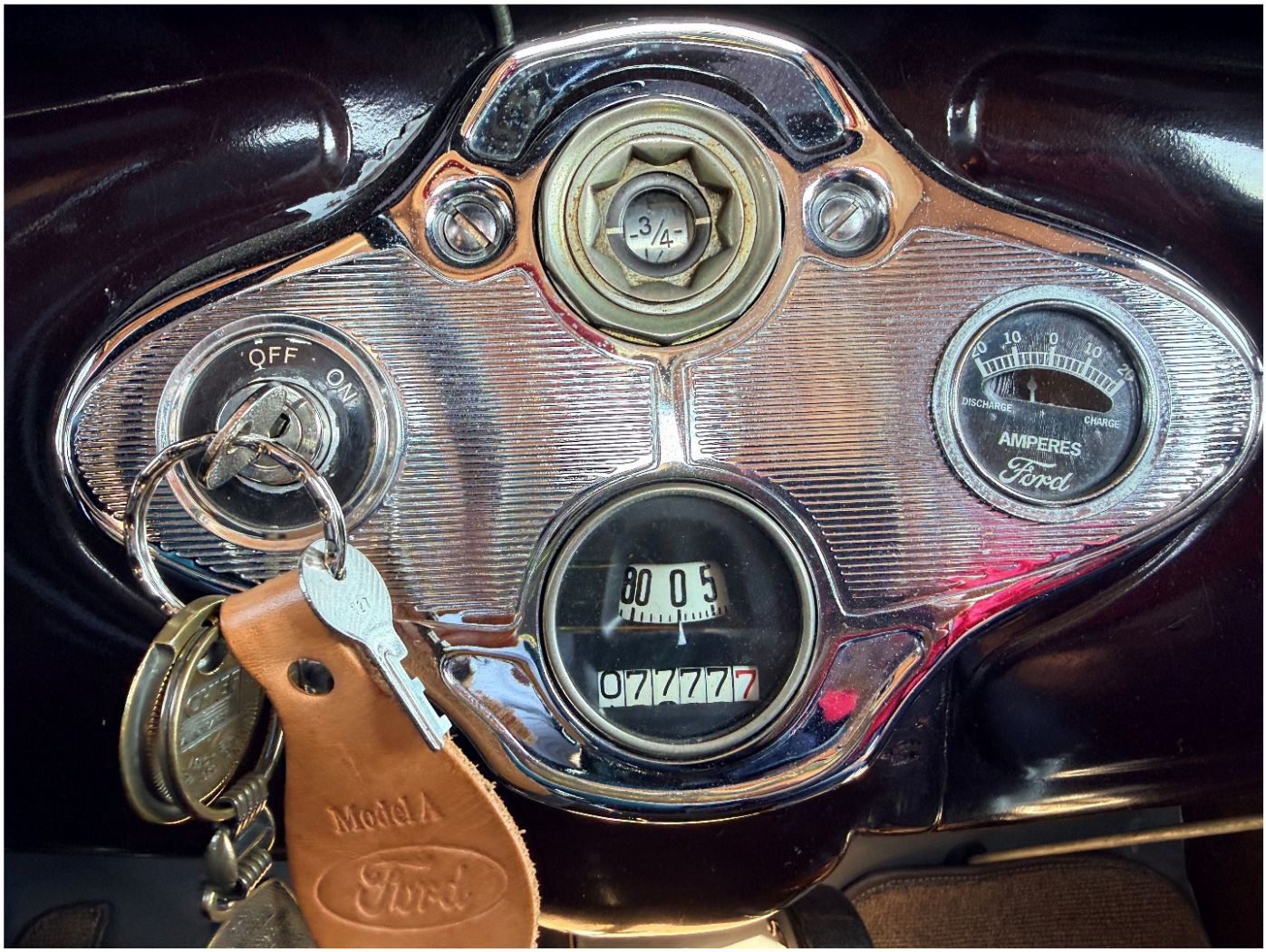




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DECEMBER 11 & 12
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NETHERLAND PLAZA
2026 NATIONAL AWARDS BANQUET




Valerie's Faircloth's odometer rolled over to Lucky 7s in October. It might've been a good day to play the lottery.