

Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

May 2023

MEMBERS WORKING FOR YOU:

<i>President</i>	<i>Aaron Crandall</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Steve Kindell</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Deb Werner</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Jay Larson</i>
<i>President Emeritus</i>	<i>Steve Kindell</i>
<i>Directors</i>	<i>Bill Werner</i>
	<i>Craig Sheridan</i>
	<i>Duane Bunton</i>
	<i>Dave Lantz</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Kurt Duesterhoeft</i>
<i>Little Hershey</i>	
<i>Swap Meet</i>	<i>Dave Lantz</i>
<i>Sunshine Persons</i>	<i>Duane & Cathy Bunton</i>



PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

The purpose of this chapter is to promote the interests of the public in the preservation and restoration of antique autos, particularly the Model T Fords, their accessories, lore, and literature.

AT A GLANCE – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday May 3	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	United Lutheran Church 3630 N. Rockton Ave.
Saturday May 6	8:00 a.m.	Cars and Coffee	Katie's Cup, Downtown Rockford
Thursday May 18	9:00 a.m.	Little Hershey Setup	Boone County Fairgrounds
Saturday May 20	All day	Little Hershey Swap Meet	Boone County Fairgrounds
Monday May 29	8:30 a.m.	Memorial Day Parade	Downtown Rockford

OTHER LOCAL SHOWS AND EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 28-30	Jefferson Swap Meet	Jefferson, WI
April 29-30	World War I Re-enactment	Midway Village Museum
June 4	Model A Day	Clinton, WI

You can find all the local car shows and cruise nights at Bill Werner's website by clicking <https://rockfordcruisenights.weebly.com/events.html>.

Those celebrating this month:

Birthdays

Brian Fradkin	5/2
Sheryl Stier	5/5
Cathy Bunton	5/11

Anniversaries

Brian & Cam Fradkin	5/27
Craig & Rosie Sheridan	5/30



Rockford Model T Club Board/General Meeting Minutes, April 5, 2023

Club president Aaron Crandall welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at United Lutheran Church, Rockford. Officers, Board and club members present included: Aaron Crandall, Deb Werner, Steve Kindell, Dave Lantz, Bill Werner, Craig Sheridan, Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Scott and Sheryl Stier, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Bill Duffee, and Brian Fradkin.

Guests: Charles Peterson and his cousin's daughter, Becky, attended the meeting to provide info and get club members' feedback about Becky's father Daryl's three old cars, including a 1925 or 1926 Model T coupe.

Secretary Deb Werner read the minutes of the March 2023 meeting. Sheryl Stier moved to approve, seconded by Craig Sheridan.

Treasurer Jay Larson was not present at the meeting.

Old Business: No Old Business at this time.

New Business: Sheryl Stier provided additional info regarding the annual club banquet, scheduled for April 23 at Thunder Bay Restaurant for the brunch buffet at 11:30 a.m. Brunch cost is \$25 per person. Sheryl stated she will sell tickets for a gift giveaway and asked that club members bring an unwrapped car-related item from their home (not a white elephant item) and states club members will draw for a gift giveaway item. Club members were informed that Helen Anglemire's 100th birthday celebration at the banquet is cancelled due to Helen has been placed in hospice care this past week and will not be at the banquet. Helen resides at Peterson Meadows, Newburg Road, Rockford, IL 61108, Apt. 221.

Little Hershey – Dave Lantz updated club members regarding next month's Little Hershey event. Dave said Thursday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m. is the set-up date and time at Boone County Fairgrounds Wayne Orrison passed around the sign-up sheet for gate volunteers. Kurt Duesterhoeft handed out Little Hershey packets to club members to distribute by April 20 to area auto related shops and stores. The packets included fliers and tickets to Little Hershey 2023. Kurt also states the best way to reach everyone is the newsletter email data list. Dave said he invited Nik's Wish, a charity that grants wishes to terminally ill children, a vendor spot at Little Hershey. Dave said he signed food vendor J & S Ice Cream for this year and also said most of the food vendors said 'No' for this year. Steve Kindell has designed the bright yellow signs to be used this year. Bill Werner said he has updated and will distribute the roadside signs again this year. Kurt states he will be doing the DJ'ing and has built a portable PA system including speakers, amplifiers, and microphone. Dave asked if a meeting should be held the week of April 24 and also if an after-event meeting should be scheduled. Scott Stier and Gene Clifton stated they will bring antique engines to display.

Past Club Events – Scott Stier talked about the Jordan Bellar’s Museum – Romeoville tour on March 12. Scott said it was a fun tour and the museum has numerous classic cars including a 1932 Model A, built by Con Jackson.

Future Club Events – Sat. April 6 at 9:00 a.m. – Cars & Coffee – Katie’s Cup, 7th St., Rockford; Sunday, June 4 – Model A Days - ****new location**** in Clinton, Wisc. (due to lack of volunteers in Sharon, Wisc.). Aug. 26 – Marengo Car Show. Scott Stier discussed the International tour in Baraboo, Wisc. Scott said fun tours are planned and states approximately 250 cars are expected for the tour.

Illnesses – Duane Bunton fell recently and broke his ribs. Helen Anglemire has been placed in hospice care. Kurt Duesterhoeft made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Craig Sheridan seconded; approved

Next Club Meeting – Wed, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. – United Lutheran Church, Rockford.

Katie’s Cup Cars and Coffee Car Show – Saturday May 6

We need you and your T! Once again this year we’ll be promoting the Little Hershey Swap Meet by having our Model T’s on display at the May Cars and Coffee in downtown Rockford. Parking is not reserved, so plan to get there around 8 a.m. so we can park as a group. Let [Kurt Duesterhoeft](#) (815/874-5102) know if you’ll be attending. If you can’t get there by 8 a.m. we’ll try to hold a spot for you. This is a great opportunity for us to promote our hobby to the public. By having our T’s on display it gives people a chance to see them, ask questions, and learn more about the vehicle that put America on wheels. It also gives us a chance to promote Little Hershey to like-minded car people. The event winds down by noon, so you’ll still have a good portion of the day for other activities.

Rockford’s Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will take place Monday May 29th. We will assemble on 7th Street at 8:30 a.m. with a step off time of 9:00 a.m. The parade route is the traditional route. Contact [Steve Kindell](#) (815/721-4700) if you are planning to attend. Let’s not forget those who gave so much to protect and defend our freedoms.

Little Hershey Swap Meet and Car Cruise-In

It’s just a few weeks away! We will be setting up the grounds of the Boone County fairgrounds on Thursday May 18th starting at 9 a.m. We need to mark off and label the swap spots, put up signs, and setup the club booth. If you want to bring your Model T on Thursday, there is indoor parking that will be locked overnight. Then it’s all hands on deck on Saturday May 20th for the swap meet and car cruise-in. Gates open at 6 a.m. New this year – Gene Clifton and Scott Stier will be demonstrating their antique hit-and-miss engines for the crowd. Kurt Duesterhoeft will be DJ-ing the car cruise-in.

Little Hershey is our only fund-raiser of the year, so we need everyone to chip in and help. If you haven’t already signed up to help at the gate, contact [Wayne Orrison](#) (815/624-2152). For those working the gate, something new this year are the complimentary passes. We’ve given these out to the businesses who let us put up flyers in their stores. We want to collect these passes so we know how many of them got used, so be sure to collect and turn them in at the end of your shift.

**Rockford Model T Club Is Proud To Announce Our 58th Annual
Little Hershey
Swap Meet & Cruise In**

Saturday May 20th, 2023

Boone County Fairgrounds -- Belvidere, IL

**Enter @ Gate 3 -- South Entrance
Gates Open Saturday at 6a.m.**

**\$7 Entry For Spectators - Children Under 12 Free Food Available On The Grounds
Rain or Shine Free Parking**

*Vintage Car Cruise In
For Makes 1998 & Older
Car & Driver Get In Free*



*Swap Meet & Cars For Sale
Over 300 Swap Spaces
Available Inside & Out*

Free Model T Rides

Vendor Gate Open For Setup 10am - 6pm on Friday

Portion Of Proceeds Go To Local Charities

Any Questions Please: Call Dave (815) 979-4544 or Email: littlehershey1@gmail.com



Here's a list of proposed activities for 2023. Some folks have already stepped up and volunteered to host an event, but we still have lots of opportunities. When is the last time you hosted an event? It's only through volunteering that the club can continue to keep our hobby active. So take a look at the list and find one that fits your schedule. **We'll be looking at this during the May 3rd meeting, so bring your copy along and we'll fill in the blanks.**

Date	Event	Host/Chair	Event Location or Meeting Place
Saturday May 6th	Cars & Coffee	Kurt Duesterhoeft	Katie's Cup, Rockford
Thursday May 18th	Little Hershey Set Up	Dave Lantz	Boone County Fairgrounds
Saturday May 20th	Little Hershey	Dave Lantz	Boone County Fairgrounds
Monday May 29th	Memorial Day Parade	Steve Kindell	Downtown Rockford
Sunday June 4th	Model A Day	Dean Wanfalt??	Clinton, WI
Saturday June 10th	Farm Breakfast		Johnson-Five Holsteins 6431 Stateline Road, Poplar Grove, IL
Tuesday July 4th	Kirkland 4th of July Parade		Baumann Park Cherry Valley
Sunday July 16th - Saturday 22nd	International Tour Devil's Head Resort		Merrimac, WI (608) 493-2204
July ??	Surprise Tour		
Saturday August 5th	Tipsy History		Midway Village Musuem, Rockford
Saturday August 5th - Sunday 6th	Freeport Steam Show		2954 S. Walnut Rd Freeport, IL
Thursday August 10th - Sunday 13th	Sycamore Steam Show		27707 Lukens Road Sycamore, IL
Sunday September 17th	Beloit Autorama Car Show		Preservation Park Beloit, WI
Tuesday September 26th - Wednesday 27th	Overnight Tour	Joe Maurer	Cave of the Mounds Blue Mounds, WI
October	Fall Tour		
TBD	Christmas Party		

2023 International Meet

“Beer, Cheese, and Model T’s” is the theme of the International Meet scheduled for July 16 – 21, 2023 at Devil’s Head Resort in Merrimac, WI. The Meet is not likely to be this close again for many years. So start thinking about attending! If you can’t get away for the whole week, consider attending just for a day. Scott and Sheryl Stier have been busy laying out cruises in the area. So far club members that are planning to attend include Scott & Sheryl Stier, Dave & Deena Lantz, Steve & Cindy Kindell, and Kurt Duesterhoeft. If you can’t make it for the whole week, come up for a day!



Here is a high level summary of the daily events:

Sunday, July 16 – Registration open all day/self-guided tour of the area/kick-off gathering in the evening

Monday, July 17 – Car show and judging/supper club/railway museum/big cat rescue. If you’d like to have your car judged, you can find all the classes and information here:

<https://www.2023modelttour.com/tour-awards-and-car-judging>

Tuesday, July 18 – Delaney’s Salvage/Dr. Evermore metal sculptures/cheese factory/vintage fashion show

Wednesday, July 19 – long tour day/Amish settlement/Portage WI

Thursday, July 20 – tour of Wisconsin River valley and driftless areas/car show awards/Youth Foundation auction

Friday, July 21 – Circus World museum/Closing dinner/tour awards

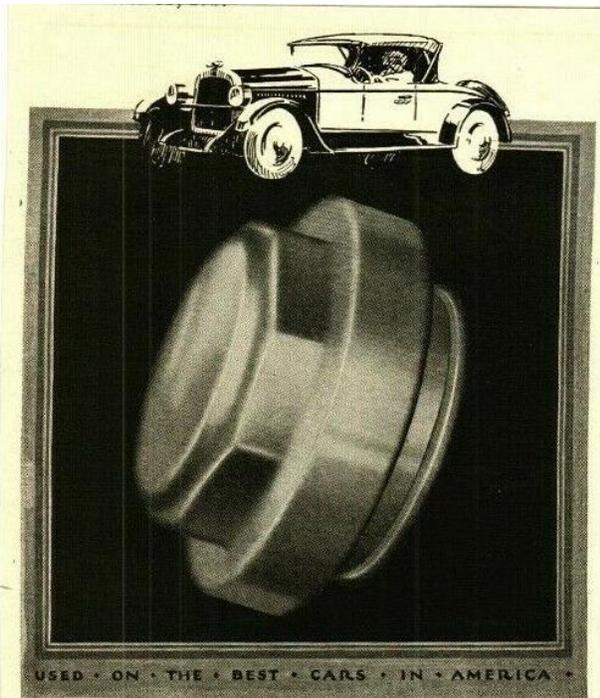
Sign up by using the form that came with your latest edition of the *Model T Times*. Or you can download the form and get email updates at the tour website:

<https://www.2023modelttour.com/>

You can book a hotel room using the link below. Use Group Code **71623MTF** when you register to get the special rate. Lodge/Inn/Premier Rooms should be \$119 per night plus tax. Suites should be \$139 per night plus tax.

<https://www.devilsheadresort.com/lodging-condos-resort-sauk-merrimac-wi-wisconsin/>

Alternatively, you can call (608) 493-2204 and press 1 to get reservations. Ask for the Model T Ford block of rooms.



HUB CAPS

MADE IN ANY METAL—IN ANY FINISH

by the Rockford Metal Specialty Company are standard equipment on the world's leading automobiles. They combine quality and durability and in design are an instant and focal point of beauty in automobile appearance.

Rockford Quality Hub Caps are produced in any quantity.

**ALSO—Automobile
Hardware and
Difficult Stampings
for Exacting Manufacturers**

*Write or wire today. Our engineers
will be glad to estimate on your
requirements.*



Rockford's Model T Connection – Part V

In this series we've been looking at the contributions Rockford made to the Model T industry. In this installment we'll look at O.E.M. hubcaps that were made in Rockford for over 70 years. Model T hubcaps were originally made by the Rockford Metal Specialty Company on Cedar Street. They made hubcaps for a number of automobile manufacturers, including Ford. Former MTFCI President Robert Bergstadt Sr. (and founding member of the Rockford chapter) acquired the dies used by the company in 1961. He started manufacturing the hubcaps once again using those same OEM dies. The hubcaps sold well (5,000 by 1965) and became the basis for Bob's Antique Auto Parts on Auburn Street in Rockford which started selling new and used Model T parts. Local production of the hubcaps continued when Bob Jr. took over the business (now located in Loves Park) until about the year 2000 when the local spinning shop that was producing the hubcaps went out of business. The dies were recently sold to Birdhaven which acquired Bob's new parts inventory. Birdhaven does not plan to re-manufacture the hubcaps at this time, as it isn't economically viable. Any hubcap manufactured in Rockford can easily be identified by an "R" which is located below "MADE IN U.S.A." So check out the hubcaps on your car to see if they were made here in Rockford! They aren't being made any more and may never be made again.



Antique Car Parts Sold Here

Auto Hobby Becomes Business

By ROBERT MONAHAN
Register-Republic
Automotive Editor

Want to build your own car? Of course, it would have to be a Model T Ford. Probably vintage, 1911 or 1916, all shiny black and brass, with three pedals on the floor. (Chrome and comfort came later).

But, if you're the do-it-yourself kind of motorist, Bob and Faye Bergstadt have almost enough material in Rockford for building one of the nearly 15,000,000 "Tin Lizzies" that Henry Ford manufactured from 1908 to 1927.

THE BERGSTADTS operate a most unusual store — Bob's Antique Auto Parts, 2904 Auburn St. Their customers — 75 percent of them mail-order — buy new or used Model T parts or equipment for other antique cars.

Bob, 41, otherwise known in the community as R. W. Bergstadt, general contractor — residential and commercial — has let a hobby become almost a full-time business.

"We were on a trip to Canada in 1957. We saw some (antique) cars along the road and stopped to look at them," said Bergstadt.

For the Rockford couple and their three children — Sharon, David and Robert Alan — it was a new adventure that has never stopped.

"This thing more or less pyramided to the point where it got out of hand," Bob confessed. "In restoring cars I was out buying parts, instead of buying one part I wound up buying a whole truck load. This year it turned into a busi-

Road Roamer

ness. But, actually I have been accumulating stuff since about 1960."

The Bergstadts, who reside at 3724 Crosby St., saw this accumulation spread to a farmer's barn near Rockford, a warehouse on Railroad Ave., and finally to the building they now lease on Auburn St.

THEIR CATALOGUE — which has attracted customers from the 50 states, England, New Zealand and Latin America — lists items ranging from a 10-cent large bearing disc for a generator to a \$20 used cylinder block.

Bob restored his first Model T in 1957. "It was a basket case," said Faye, a most understanding wife for a hobbyist. "It came on a hay rack from a farm up on Rockton Ave.," Bob added.

Restoration of this 1919 touring car to like-new condition propelled Bergstadt to become one of the founders of the Rockford Model T Ford Club and the presidency of the Model T Ford Club International in 1964. The local club has about 45 members.

In all, Bergstadt has completely restored three cars "from start to finish" and has owned more than 20 different antique cars. A few of his one-time acquisitions are now in

antique auto museums. "Presently, we have just the 1911 touring," Bob said.

WHERE DOES HE acquire old car parts? "All the way from Pennsylvania, to Wisconsin, to Iowa, Missouri — small towns, farms, garages — just about everywhere," Bergstadt explained.

Small town garages that were overstocked on original equipment parts have been one source that Bob explored. "Quite a number of parts also are re-manufactured," he added.

Bergstadt has been making a Model T hub cap in Rockford since 1961 from a die used by the original manufacturer — Rockford Metal Specialty on Cedar St. — for the 1926-'27 Ford. He's sold about 5,000 copper-nickel alloy hub caps to Model T buffs interested in this particular model.

It's questionable just how many "Tin Lizzies" exist but Bergstadt estimates 150,000 to 200,000 still survive. Prices varied during the 19-year Model T production but in 1921 you could buy a brand new roadster for \$260.

HOW DID THE sputtering 1909 Model T touring (suggested list price \$850) compare with today's cars?

The four-cylinder engine and its planetary gear transmission combined to provide 22 horsepower at 1,600 crankshaft revolutions per minute. If you were frugal, especially about speed, the nine-gallon tank permitted travel at 13 miles per gallon. Otherwise, at full throttle you could drive at 40 miles per hour.



Bob and Faye Bergstadt compare kerosene lamps for Model T Fords. In the 19 years Model T's were built, the cars used carbide, kerosene and electrical lamps. (Register-Republic staff photo)

Bergstadt's current inventory also includes some optional equipment for Model T's. The accessory line includes a three-can set for oil, water and gas at \$12.50 to be mounted on the running board.

Recently, a couple from Circle, Mont., stopped to visit the Bergstadts. The Montana pair was en route to Europe in their Model T!

Bob Tannhauser, driving a Saab, won the recent 2½-hour, 88.8-mile rally of Rockford's Sports Car Enthusiasts Touring Association, scoring 695 points. Tom Bruneni, String Ray driver with 745 points, and Dick Kendall, wheeling a Simca "1000" who collected 658

points, were second and third, respectively.

In all, SCETA had 35 participants for its rally and awarded nine trophies.

ROCKFORD'S best hope for top honors in the American Road Race of Champions went to Dave Heinz crashed in the first lap of the A and B production event at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Heinz, driving a Sting Ray Corvette owned by Tod Oseid and sponsored by Bachrodt Chevrolet, escaped unhurt in the accident on the No. 1 turn.

Harold Keck of Baltimore, Md., won the race over the twisting 3.1-mile course at an average speed of 101.825 miles per hour.

Bob Sr. and Faye Bergstadt are shown in this newspaper article from December 4th, 1965, which chronicles how Bob's interest in old cars turned into a business.

Model A Day will be June 4th in Clinton, WI.

After 25 years in Sharon, WI, Model A Day is moving just down the road a few miles to Clinton WI. The folks in Clinton are enthusiastic about bringing this event to their town. The new venue will have more room for vendors and swappers. Our friends at the Rockford Model A Club are already busy planning this annual event and they are inviting us to join them for the day. Take your T to Clinton and hang out with fellow Ford fans. The small town atmosphere really makes this a special event.

