

# The Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

October 2024

## MEMBERS WORKING FOR YOU:

President	Wayne Orrison
Vice President	Austin Farmer
Secretary	Deb Werner
Treasurer	Jay Larson
President Emeritus	Aaron Crandall
Directors	Bill Werner Craig Sheridan Duane Bunton Dave Lantz
Newsletter Editor	Kurt Duesterhoeft
Little Hershey	
Swap Meet	Dave Lantz
Sunshine Persons	Duane & Cathy Bunton



## 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	Oct	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7 p.m.	Meeting	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd
Thursday	Oct	10 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 a.m.	Fall Tour	Clifton residence 8664 Trudy Rd. Rockford

## OTHER LOCAL SHOWS AND EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept 27/28	Fall Jefferson Swap Meet/Car Show	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, WI
October 5	Last Cars & Coffee of the season	RPS 205 Admin. Building

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

Lisa Dickson 10/20  
Bean Maurer 10/23

### Anniveraries

Dave & Deena Lantz 10/22



Road to Recovery



### **On the Road to Recovery**

Gene Clifton is recuperating after a brief hospital stay. Get well, Gene!

Deb Werner is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery.



### **The Prez Sez (Monthly Musings and Random Ramblings)**

How can it be almost October? Now I have to start early Christmas shopping. I don't really say 'humbug,' but where did the summer go, or even Fall?

We have had another busy Aug. - Sept. The Model A Poke-Along Tour, Sycamore Steam Show, Car shows, Presidents Tour, Overnight Tour coming up and we have an exciting Fall Tour coming up as well. I hope all of you sign up for Gene & Betty's Fall Tour; it will be great fun. I know I'm looking forward to it.

I think we had a lot of fun on the Labor Day/Presidents tour. After meeting at North Town Mall, we headed north for a bit, then mostly west toward Lena for our lunch stop. We first stopped in Cederville for a gas/bathroom break and met up with Austin Farmer in his '22 Touring, a very nice looking car. This was Austin's first tour with his car and he had no issues that I am aware of. We had a fine lunch and worked our way to the Union Dairy in Freeport for ice cream - Yum. We went our separate ways from there. I think most folks enjoyed the tour. It was certainly a beautiful day for touring.

We have to start thinking seriously about our club elections (not to mention our local and national elections). Who will be stepping up? I hope all of you will give it some serious thought. It is not hard and there are a lot of resources in the club to help any first timers who want to have some fun and 'run' for one of the offices. Start your campaign now! We really do need you to help!

I think it is a good time to start thinking about and planning to attend the next International. It will be in Owatonna, Minn, July 20 - 25, 2025. It's a short distance of less than 320 miles from here. (I understand the 2026 International (tentatively) will be in Canada, a long, long drive wherever it is up there. The host hotel in Owatonna for the 2025 International is the Double Tree and it is now under construction and due to open in early 2025. Steve Kindell has indicated that because the designated host hotel, the Double Tree, has not completed construction and there is no guarantee that it will be completed by the start of the International July 20th, he implemented a back up plan/reservation at the Comfort Inn by Choice, which is next door to the new one being built. Their number is 507-444-0818. Use the block rate code "MODEL T 2025." I have made my reservation. The room rate is a reasonable \$135.00 per night, plus tax.

There is a facebook site you can go to register to receive emails on updates and when you can register for the tour. It has been a few years since Phyllis and I attended a national tour and we plan to go to this one. They are always great fun. More information will be available in future meetings and in the newsletters.

Of course, we also have a Christmas Party coming up... Sunday, Dec. 8th at 1 p.m. at the church. The idea of bringing a food item(s) to donate for charity is wonderful and certainly in keeping with the Christmas seasonal spirit. I hope everyone will participate. The "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest promises to be fun, so get your objectionable Christmas sweater out or make one and have some fun. I'm looking forward to it.

If you have something you want to 'put out there, or see in the Pres Sez, please send it to me.

Thanks - Have a great day.

*Wayne*

## **Rockford Model T Club Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Club president Wayne Orrison called the meeting to order, after Brat Night, at the home of Wayne and Phyllis Orrison in Rockton. Board and club members and guests present included: Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Austin Farmer, Jay Larson, Bill and Deb Werner, Dave Lantz, Craig Sheridan, Steve and Cindy Kindell, Tim and Lisa Dickson, Aaron Crandall, Dean Wanfalt and Anneta Moore, Scott and Sheryl Stier, Gene and Betty Clifton, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Larry Foht, Yvonne Wilson, Brian Fradkin, Chuck and Betty Lesnewski, Rick Heissler, Wayne Henson, Mary Sheley and Lyla Stull, and Joe Maurer.

The minutes of the August meeting were not read at this meeting.

Treasurer Jay Larson read the treasurer's report. Jay stated the club's ending balance is \$3,583.31. Jay said Midland Bank has approved two other club members, Larry Foht and Craig Sheridan, be listed on the club's accounts and the club's Little Hershey account, in the event of Jay or Dave's absences.

Old Business: No Old Business at this time.

New Business: Wayne Orrison stated the bright yellow, large sign displayed on the fence was produced by Deena Lantz to be used at various events, such as Little Hershey, to draw attention and promote the club.

Little Hershey: Kurt Duesterhoeft stated Dave Lantz will bring signs, and discussed making storyboards for each individual member's cars, to Little Hershey, or any car shows, to promote the Rockford Model T Club and its history and tours info.

Past Club Events: Monday, Sept. 2 -- President's Tour. Wayne Orrison said club members toured to Lena. Wayne said the roads and weather were perfect for touring. The group stopped for ice cream and most members disbanded after that stop. Wayne said there was a bit of the tour that didn't get done, but will be added to a future tour.

Future Club Events: Sunday, Sept. 15 -- Beloit AutoRama. Dave Lantz said a breakfast with the Model A Club is planned: meet at Nellie's in South Beloit at 7:15 a.m.. Sept. 17-18 -- Overnight Tour. Joe Maurer said there is still time to sign up and reserve hotel space. He stated the tour will be a beautiful drive with winding roads. Overnight will be in Stockton Joe said a tour itinerary is available. Tuesday, Oct. 10 -- Fall Tour. Gene and Betty Clifton are the hosts. Gene said meet at their house at 8:30 a.m., leave at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 -- Christmas Party, 1:00 p.m., at United Lutheran Church, 3630 N. Rockton in Rockford. There will be an Ugly Sweater Contest, a raffle (bring a car-related item to donate), and a collection to donate to the local food pantry.

Non-Club News: Brian Fradkin stated the Marengo High School car show event was their best year yet! Bill Werner stated he attended the Marengo High School event and was very impressed with the community's turn-out to support the local high school. Bill said he also enjoyed Ehrenhofer's show that same day.

Steve Kindell stated he had made approx. 20 magnetic signs displaying the Rockford Model T Club logo, to attach to the Model T's when touring. Steve said he can make 20 signs for approx. \$20.

Member's Projects -- Austin Farmer said his Model T is now on the road! He said the rods need a bit of work, and will continue working on his car.

Craig Sheridan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Steve Kindell seconded; approved.

Next Club Meeting -- Wednesday, Oct. 2 -- at 7:00 p.m. at United Lutheran Church, 3630 N. Rockton in Rockford.

## Club Calendar

Here's the list of remaining events for this year. Time to start thinking about next year! What events would you like to see? Officer elections are also coming up. When is the last time you served on the Board, chaired an event, or hosted a tour? This is a volunteer club, so things only happen when someone volunteers to make them happen!

Date	Event	Time	Location	Chair/Host
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Tour	8:30 a.m.	Clifton residence 8664 Trudy Rd. Rockford	Gene Clifton
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Club Christmas Party and meeting	1 p.m.	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Sheryl Stier
January 1, 2025	New Year's Day Tour	TBD	TBD	TBD

## Club Directory

There is an update to your Club Directory. Larry Foht's correct phone number is 815-594-0125 so be sure to update your directory accordingly. If you have any personal change of address, phone number, or email, please be sure to notify [Steve Kindell](#) so we keep our records up to date.

If you don't have a 2024 club directory, or need another one, be sure to let [Dave Lantz](#) know.

## FUTURE EVENTS:

### Fall Tour October 10<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Fall Tour, hosted by Gene and Betty Clifton. This is the last tour of the season, so you won't want to miss it. While the exact destination of this tour is always a well-guarded secret, Gene has divulged that it will be heading in a generally southwesterly direction. Exactly where will we end up? Well there's only one way to find out. Meet at the Cliftons at 8664 Trudy Road in Rockford at 8:30 a.m.

### Christmas Party – Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

Ho, ho, ho! Plans are already underway for our Club Christmas Party. Don your gay apparel, or at least your ugly sweater, to see if you can win the ugly sweater contest! Be sure to bring an item for the raffle and a donation for a local food bank, as well as your dish to pass. The club will provide chicken, ham, and beverages. The fun, food, and festivities start at 1 p.m. at United Lutheran Church.





## PAST EVENTS:

### President's Tour – September 2<sup>nd</sup>

A nice assortment of old cars participated in the President's Tour on Labor Day. Wayne and Phyllis Orrison hosted the tour driving their '31 Model A Tudor. Scott and Sheryl Stier brought a beautiful '23 Model T Depot Hack. This car is a fairly recent addition to their stable. The workmanship that went into the oak body was really quite impressive. The more you looked, the more detail you picked out. Dean Wanfalt and Anneta Moore arrived in a '30 Model A Tudor. Steve and Cindy Kindell drove their '24 T Touring while Dave Lantz had his '26 T Tudor. Aaron Crandall drove a '27 T Touring and Tim Wanfalt had his '27 Roadster Pickup. Yvonne Wilson and Bruce drove modern as did George Brunson and Kurt Duesterhoeft. After coffee and donuts in the North Towne parking lot, the group headed west. Traffic wasn't too heavy on this holiday morning, which was nice. Kurt had his truck equipped with flashing lights and signage at the back of the pack to warn approaching motorists there were antique cars on the road. Arriving in Cedarville, we stopped at the local gas station where Austin Farmer was waiting for the group with his '22 Model T Touring. Austin has been working on this car for quite some time so it was great to finally see it on the road! Sheryl's sister, Toni Galster, lives in Cedarville and gathered us together for a group photo. After that we headed through Lena to Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park. This is a gem of a state park that you could easily miss if you didn't know it was there. The road through the park was tight, twisty, and hilly, which Yvonne said is her kind of road. Some of the hills required low gear for the T's. Campers, hikers, and fishermen stopped to watch the parade of antique cars weaving their way through the park. From there it was back to Lena for lunch at Mulligan's Bar and Grill. Most of the folks had never been there, but the food was excellent and the place was hopping with a lot of motorcyclists out enjoying the open road just like we were. After lunch we saddled up and headed southeast to Freeport for our ice cream stop at the iconic Union Dairy. As with lunch, we seemed to arrive just before it got real busy. There were more flavors of Cedar Crest ice cream to choose from than you could shake a drumstick at. Ice cream was the perfect way to cap off a great tour on a picture-perfect day.



A very special thanks to Wayne and Phyllis for organizing and leading the tour (even if Wayne missed one turn!). And congratulations to Austin for getting his T on the road and touring with the group!

Photo by Toni Galster, sister of Sheryl Stier



## Brat Night and Monthly Meeting – September 4<sup>th</sup>

Brats and hot dogs from Eichmans, homemade potato salad, chips, soda, German beer, and desserts were just a few of the items on the menu for the return of Brat Night. Lots of folks turned out at the Orrisons to enjoy the meal and socialize on a beautiful late summer evening. After the meal the September business meeting was held. Brian Fradkin showed the group a special fixture he'd made for adjusting Model T ring and pinion gears using an old rear end housing which he re-purposed. It's tips and tricks like this that make club membership so valuable when restoring or repairing a Model T. A big THANK YOU to Wayne and Phyllis for bringing back this great event and hosting it at their home.



## Beloit Autorama – September 15<sup>th</sup>



The Model A and Model T clubs met at Neli's in South Beloit for breakfast before heading to the show. Wayne and



Phyllis Orrison drove their '31 Model A Sedan, Dave Lantz brought his '26 Model T Tudor, and Kurt Duesterhoeft had his 1986 Dodge Omni. Steve and Cindy Kindell along with their grandson, Christopher Frink, joined up after breakfast in their '24 Model T Touring. There was a large turnout for the show with 1247 show cars on the field including antiques, rat rods, customs, and classics. Chuck and Betty Lesnewski joined us at the show as did Tim and Lisa Dickson. Three folks from the Model A club went home with trophies, including Anne Laviolette who's Model A Coupe took Best of Show honors. Congratulations Anne! This is the second year in a row that a Model A or Model T has won Best of Show. It is nice to see these antique cars getting the recognition they deserve!



## Overnight Tour – September 17/18

by Wayne Orrison and Kurt Duesterhoeft, photos by Larry Foht and Kurt Duesterhoeft

Once again Joe and Bean Maurer put on a fabulous two-day tour of northwestern Illinois, covering scenic backroads, quaint towns, antique shops, and historical sites. The Model T club was represented by Steve and Cindy Kindell in their '24 Model T Touring, Wayne and Phyllis Orrison in their '31 Model A Sedan, Scott and Sheryl Stier with a '29 Model A Sedan, Dean Wanfalt and Nita Moore in his '30 Model A Sedan, and Rick and Cheryl Heissler in their '28 Nash. Larry Foht was the official photographer and drove modern as did Kurt Duesterhoeft who was the "sweeper" with his truck and trailer (more on that later!). And of course Joe and Bean were leading the group in their '30 Model A sedan. The Model A club contributed five more Model A's, a '66 Mustang, and '55 Oldsmobile 88 which joined for part of the tour.



**Day one:** The Tour met up at Blassingham Park in Pecatonica for coffee and donuts followed by the drivers' meeting. Everyone got a goodie bag and a set of driving instructions. Wayne's Model A was leaking gas, but Ron Lanquist and Jim Morley from the Model A club installed a replacement carburetor that Ron had brought along. Leak fixed! Then it was off to Pearl City for our first pit stop. From Pearl City we took some very scenic backroads to Mt. Carroll for lunch and antiquing. We had

reserved parking right in front of the Mad Hatter Antique Shop. They provided complementary water or coffee, which was most appreciated. What a fun stop in a nicely preserved little town. So much to see and there were several food choices available. Our parking on Market Street was also perfect since we had shade, making it very comfortable as we browsed the shops and sat outside, where seating was plentiful, until it was time to resume our tour.



*Mt. Carrol is a sleepy little town, as Wayne proved!*

After lunch we headed to Elizabeth for more antique shopping in a very large schoolhouse that was built in 1926 and operated for over 75 years. Joe Maurer's mother attended here in the 1940's. Next we headed to the Country Inn and Suites in Stockton. The further west we went, the hillier the terrain got. Farmers were busy harvesting the soy bean crop, but still took time out to watch the parade of cars go by. Friendly folks waved as we went by and curious cows wandered to the fenceline to see what was going on. Joe played on these roads as a youngster learning to drive his first car, a Model A he kludged together from several Model A parts and sources. He learned his driving skills very well and these roads were a good test for anyone, even today. Dinner that night was at the Pit Stop in Stockton followed by drawings and hospitality back at the hotel. Everybody went home with a prize, in addition to the wonderful goodie bag we got at the start of the tour.

**Day two:** After breakfast we packed up the cars and headed for the Blackhawk Monument in Kellogg's Grove for a special photo op. The Blackhawk Monument is a historically significant location, but is definitely off the beaten path requiring a gravel road to access it. This is the very site where a young, 23-year old Abraham Lincoln had his brief military command as a captain in 1832, decades before he was president. The park has a bronze statue of Lincoln and a memorial to those who died there in the Blackhawk War. Larry took pictures of each car at





this hilltop location which offered an amazing, panoramic view of the countryside. After pictures we headed to Krape Park. This park, in the city of Freeport, is quite large and has wonderful winding roads, perfect for old cars. After a brief stop there, it was on to Freeport for a stop at the Royal Oak Antique Shop. Here Wayne's car, which had been periodically running rough, made its presence known. While some folks shopped, the "experts" tried to fix the car, making numerous carburetor adjustments resulting in a series of thunderous backfires that sounded like cannon shots echoing through the entire downtown. It was really loud! Unable to resolve the problem, the car went on the trailer and Wayne and Phyllis rode with Joe and Bean for the rest of the day. Our next stop was the Silver Creek Museum train ride. Joe had made special arrangements for the train to run just for our group. What a wonderful treat as we enjoyed the 2-mile ride through the countryside! We also had an opportunity to tour the grounds and see the display of stationary steam engines. From there it was off to lunch at Big O's. After lunch we disbanded and folks headed home their separate ways.

and Bean for an absolutely amazing tour. The detailed driving instructions were so professionally done. The scenery and choice of roads could not be beat. And we were treated like rock stars everywhere we went, with reserved parking and special accommodations.

**What about Wayne's car?**

Kurt hauled the car to Joe's house near Freeport. He worked on it the next day and found the culprit wasn't the carburetor at all, but a badly rusted coil causing the car to misfire. After replacing the coil, setting the



timing, changing the oil, and re-adjusting the carburetor, the car was once again running good and successfully made the trip from the Maurers back to the Orrisons.

To merely say "Thank You" seems far too inadequate to convey our gratitude to Joe



**Misfortune Award**

**Is Proudly Presented to: Wayne Orrison**

**On this Date:** September 17 & 18th 2024 **For the Misfortune of:** Carburetor change outs and multiple attempts to tune it resulted in misses and backfires, which intensified to the point of needing to be trailered to Joe's garage, where he found a bad ignition coil. He should have drove his "T".