

The Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

April 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 April 3	7 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	United Lutheran Church 3630 N. Rockton Ave.
Sunday April 21	9:30 a.m.	Dust-Off Tour	Farm & Fleet on Riverside
Sunday April 28	Noon	Annual Banquet	Thunder Bay Grille

OTHER LOCAL SHOWS AND EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 26 th – 27 th	Spring Jefferson Swap Meet	Jefferson, WI Fairgrounds

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

Betty Clifton	4/7
Kurt Duesterhoeft	4/7
Chuck Lesnewski	4/9
Steve Kindell	4/28

Anniveraries

Len & Vera Belpedio	4/19
Gene & Betty Clifton	4/23
Bill & Deb Werner	4/23



Get Well Wishes

Wayne Henson is recovering after a brief hospital stay. We wish him a speedy recovery!



The Prez Sez (Monthly Musings and Random Ramblings)

Hi All,

What a wonderful way to start 2024. Spring seems to have been with us since the end of Fall and who can complain about that? Our first meeting in March saw us update the Roster book and make a change to the Dues section and we got us a VP - thanks Austin Famer for stepping up.

The Chili Cook Off was great and congratulations to all of you who made some great Chili. And congrats to our winners of the Chili Cook Off, Duane and Cathy Bunton, who received a swell apron as a prize for your great entry. I enjoyed it all night and most of the next day.

We have a new award for our tours..... The Naughty T Award and I don't want it. Who gets it first? We'll see. Better get those cars up to snuff.

So now in April, we have our first tour... the Dust-Off Tour. We have a good one planned; won't be too long, but there will be a great lunch stop and probably some ice cream too. Even if you don't drive your old car, load up and join in the fun. What else you got to do?

We still need some folks to chair some events, so come on and sign up. And can you believe it? Little Hershey is coming Fast. Dave is really on top of this - thank you Dave.

Tim Wanfalt has loaned me a cooker, so we have to get a cooker tour planned. Thank you Tim. We have a lot of recipes now. YUM!

It's easy and remember, you can volunteer to help co-chair an event/tour.

HEY! The Dust-Off Tour is next and we have a nice, simple one planned. We meet at Farm & Fleet on Riverside in Rockford at 9:30 a.m. for Coffee and Donuts and leave at 10:00 a.m. We will go north thru Rock Cut State Park (potty stop) and then head to Clinton WI to the Sun Down Cafe for lunch. Yum. It is going to be a nice easy drive to get those kinks out of the old cars and bodies and renew our touring skills and of course we will have an ice cream stop, probably Cherry Valley and then we end the tour there.

Wayne



2024 CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS BY MONTH

Help fill in the **TBDs!!** We need volunteers to complete our planned tours.

Date	Event	Time	Location	Chair/Host
April 3 rd	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan

April 21 st	Dust Off Tour	9:30 a.m.	Farm and Fleet on Riverside	Wayne Orrison
April 28 th	Annual Banquet	Noon	Thunder Bay Grille, Rockford	Sheryl Stier
May 1 st	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
May 4 th	Cars & Coffee Car Show	8:30 a.m.	Katie's Cup, Rockford	Dave Lantz
May 16 th	Little Hershey Setup	9 a.m.	Boone County Fairgrounds	Dave Lantz
May 18 th	Little Hershey Swap Meet/Car Cruise-In	See Work Schedule	Boone County Fairgrounds	All hands on deck!
May 27 th	Rockford Memorial Day Parade	TBD	Downtown Rockford	Steve Kindell
June 2 nd	Model A Day	TBD	Clinton, WI	Dean Wanfalt
June 5 th	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Dickson Restoration 2571 Park Ave, Beloit, WI	Tim Dickson
June 23 rd	Progressive Tour	TBD	TBD	Wayne Orrison
July 4 th	Independence Day Parade	TBD	Kirkland, IL	TBD
July 13 th – 20 th	MTFCI International Tour		Cadillac, Michigan	
July 28 th	Landmark Tour	TBD	TBD	Wayne Orrison
August 3 rd	Tipsy History	1 - 7 p.m.	Midway Village Museum, Rockford	Kurt Duesterhoeft
August 7 th	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
August 10 th	Sycamore Steam Show	TBD	Sycamore, IL	Tim Wanfalt
August 25 th	Surprise Tour	TBD	TBD	All
September 2 nd	President's Tour	TBD	TBD	Wayne Orrison
September 4 th	Meeting (Brat Night)	6:00 p.m.	13678 Sundance Tr, Rockton, IL	Wayne Orrison
September 15 th	Beloit Autorama Car Show	TBD	Preservation Park, Beloit, WI	TBD
Sept. 25/26	Overnight Tour	TBD	TBD	Joe Maurer
October 2 nd	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
TBD	Fall Tour	TBD	TBD	Gene Clifton
November 6 th	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
December 7 th	Club Christmas Party and meeting	noon	United Methodist Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Sheryl Stier
January 1, 2025	New Year's Day Tour	TBD	TBD	TBD

Rockford Model T Club Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Club president Wayne Orrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at United Lutheran Church, Rockford. Officers, Board, and club members present included: Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Austin Farmer, Deb Werner, Jay Larson, Dave Lantz, Bill Werner, Craig Sheridan, Larry Foht, Tim Wanfalt, Scott and Sheryl Stier, Wayne Henson, Aaron Crandall, Rick and Cheryl Heissler, Brian Fradkin, and Duane and Cathy Bunton, and Steve Kindell via phone.

Due to no club meetings took place in January and February, no meeting minutes were read.

Treasurer Jay Larson read the treasurer's report. \$4,379.20 is in the club account. Jay stated, as of current, no charitable donation checks have been sent to Steve Sell, seriously injured in a Model T accident, and the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant Museum, but will send the checks when he receives the new package of checks from the bank. The other charitable donation checks have been sent to Carpenter's Place, Walter Lawson Home, Rockford Special Olympics, Rock River Valley Food Pantry, MELD, Milestone, Rockford Rescue Mission, and Nicholas Ritschel Foundation.

Old Business: no Old Business at this time.

New Business: President Wayne Orrison presented an award to Aaron Crandall for the excellent job as club president for the past year. Thanks, Aaron, for a job well done! Wayne asked that club members sign up for upcoming club events: Sat. March 23 Chili Cook-Off; Sunday, April 28 Model T Club Annual Banquet; and also stated a host is needed for the Dust-Off Tour, as well as hosts needed for other tours for 2024. Explanation of the new ideas for fun awards for the "Naughty Model T Award" and the "Misfortune Model T Award" was discussed and club members stated the awards sounded like fun. Discussion took place regarding suspension of club membership dues for members 90 years old and older for members in good standing. Brian Fradkin suggested the age be lowered to 85-years-old (includes the year the member turns 85-years-old). It was noted these members will still continue receiving the monthly club newsletter. Dave Lantz made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Foht, approved. Austin Farmer volunteered for the open spot of office of Vice President and club members unanimously approved. Thanks, Austin, for volunteering for the office of Vice President! Steve Kindell stated he will update the new membership book to include the Vice President announcement and the suspension of annual club membership dues for members 85-years-old and older.



Little Hershey: Dave Lantz reported he has 27 vendors signed up already and took advantage of the early-signup 2 for 1 special and states he deposited \$860 into the Parts Fund. Dave states he has placed 2024 Little Hershey event ads in the Model T Club International magazine and Hemmings magazine. Deb Werner stated she would place ads in the Boone County Shopper and the Bargain Hunter/The Source newspapers. Dave said Kurt Duesterhoeft will be the DJ this year. Dave also said the caramel corn vendor and the Puerto Rican food vendor will once again be available at the event and the Belvidere American Legion stated they will be ready for food and coffee sales starting at 6:00 a.m. at the event. Dave said he will invite the Model A Club and also said the Hudson Club would like to be present at Little Hershey event again this year. Dave had numerous Little Hershey flyer pads and mini-flyers available for members to distribute to area businesses and organizations.

Illnesses: Joe Maurer has not yet had surgery regarding heart issues. Austin Farmer and Wayne Orrison stated they both have been in contact with Joe who states he is basically waiting for the medical professionals to decide what is needed and when any procedures will be done.

Future Club Events: Sunday, April 28 – Sheryl Stier spoke about the upcoming Model T Club annual banquet, which will take place at Thunder Bay Restaurant in Rockford, starting at 12 noon. Club members will pay for their meal and drinks, gratuity, and tax. Members are asked to donate a car-related item for a raffle item; the raffle will take place after the meal. Saturday, May 4 – Cars & Coffee at Katie's Cup, 7th St., Rockford, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Dave Lantz stated the Model T Club will be the sponsors. Saturday, May 11 – Cheryl Heissler stated Maggio's Truck & Towing, 4752 Baxter Road, Rockford, will be displaying trucks but have stated they would like to see cars on display as well. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 29 – Nash Club will be displaying cars, including Nascar and AMC cars, at Stronghold in Oregon. Bill Werner said he has begun listing some dates for 2024 car shows and cruise nights on the Rockford Area Cruise Nights, which will begin in April, and Bill also noted that Cars & Coffee will have their first car gathering on Saturday, April 6 at Katie's Cup, 7th St., Rockford.

Non-Club News: Cathy Bunton stated Duane Bunton has been asked to participate in this year's Vets Roll event and states Duane is looking forward to being a part of this inspiring trip event.

Member's Projects: Austin Farmer stated his car is almost ready to go and states he, with the help of Tim Wanfalt, have been working steadily on the car's issues. Cheryl Heissler states Rick's 1931 coupe will be on display at "World of Wheels" at Rosemont. Sheryl Stier states she and Scott have been working on their 1911 and 1913 Model T's.

Craig Sheridan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Foht seconded; approved.

Next Club Meeting: Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at United Lutheran Church, Rockford.

Dust-Off Tour Planned for April 21st

Don't let the recent snow fool ya – Spring is right around the corner and our first tour is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st, hosted by Wayne and Phyllis Orrison. The Model A club has been invited to join us on this tour. We'll meet at Farm and Fleet on Riverside at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and donuts and leave around 10 a.m. Wayne has promised an easy tour, winding through Rock Cut State Park and then up to Clinton, WI for lunch. On the return trip we'll find ice cream somewhere, probably in Cherry Valley at the previous site of Don Nelson's shop, now known as Cattle & Cream. So get out in the garage and get that T ready to go (or join us in a modern car). All are welcome!



Rockford Chapter Model T Ford Club

Annual Banquet

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Brunch - Noon



7652 Potawatomi Trail

Rockford, IL

\$25.00 per person plus tax & gratuity

Private room, all you can eat, modern take on rustic

American cuisine, handcrafted & authentic!

Yum.....Delicious!

Please contact me with your RSVP

Sheryl Stier / 847-669-3848 / 815-375-8945 / sastier@prodigy.net

ALSO - Don't forget your prize for our Annual Raffle

Soup Luncheon with the Rock-Ford A's Club (By Deb Werner, Photos by Dave Lantz)



The Rockford Model A Club invited the Rockford Model T Club to their soup luncheon event on Saturday, February 17th, which took place at the Central Christian Church, Rockford. 71 folks were in attendance. Rockford Model T Club members Tim Wanfalt, Dave Lantz, Craig Sheridan, Austin Farmer, and Deb and Bill Werner enjoyed their choice of numerous, delicious homemade soups, salads, and desserts. Wayne Henson, Larry Foht, and Joe Maurer, who are also members of the Rockford Model A Club, enjoyed the luncheon as well.

The luncheon was followed by announcements and discussions by the Model A Club. Joe Maurer announced the dates for the Model T Club's annual Overnight Tour are scheduled for September 25th to 26th and invited the Model A Club members to the tour. The Model A Club also had a drawing for door prizes and Austin Farmer won a nice set of large screwdrivers!



MTFCI 67th Annual Tour

Have you made your reservation yet? This year's event is titled *Great Lakes, Great Times* and will be held in Cadillac, Michigan. You can find all the details in your latest issue of the *Model T Times*.



Little Hershey Flyers

Again this year we'll be posting Little Hershey flyers at local automotive-related businesses. We have identified over 60 locations in the greater Rockford area. To make the task more manageable, we've broken it down into regions with about 10 businesses each. Please consider volunteering to take one of those regions. It doesn't take a lot of time if we get enough volunteers. We'll also be handing out flyers at local car shows and cruise nights if you'd like to help with that.

Rockford Model T Club Is Proud To Announce Our 59th Annual

Little Hershey Swap Meet & Cruise In

Saturday May 18th, 2024

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 1999 & Older
Car Gets In Free**



**Free Model T Rides
Hit & Miss Engine Demo**

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

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

Model T Times Back Issues

Scott Stier is looking for the May/June 2016 Issue of The Model T Times (Issue #403)

If you have an extra, please contact Scott at 847-669-3848 or 815-981-6651.

Bob's Antique Auto Parts - Liquidation Sale



Attention Club Members - Years & Years of collecting - time to unload.

Model T Parts & Everything Disney

Contact Bob for the best deals - 815-633-7244

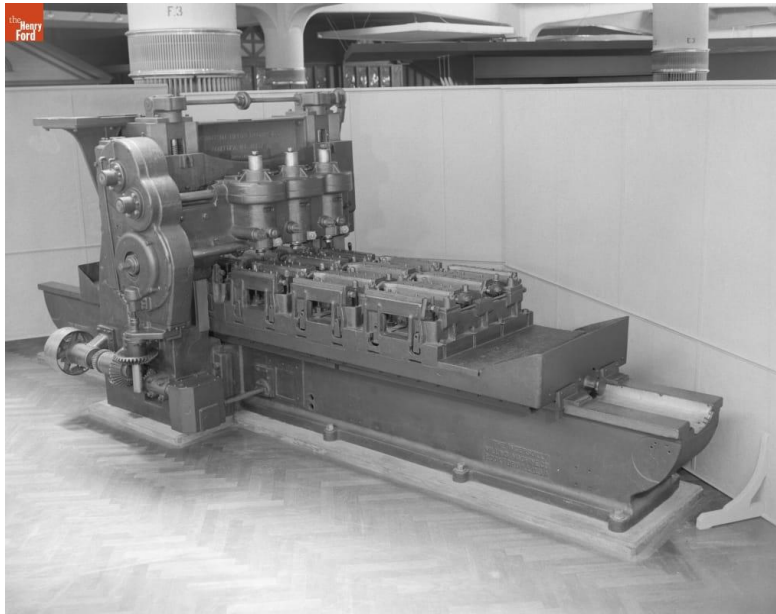
Rockford's Model T Connection (by Kurt Duesterhoeft, photos courtesy of The Henry Ford museum)

In previous articles we've looked at Rockford-made products for the Model T that were sold to both the OEM and primarily the aftermarket suppliers. But Rockford wasn't just a supplier of parts. It also played a key role in the actual manufacture of the Model T itself.

As the Model T gained popularity, production was moved from the Piquette Avenue plant (now a museum) to Highland Park in 1910, where Henry Ford introduced the moving assembly line. As production numbers for the Model T increased, Ford realized he needed to reduce the time it took to make a car. This meant the number of steps to build a car had to be reduced and those steps had to be accomplished more efficiently. Enter the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company. The company was established in Rockford in 1891 by Winthrop Ingersoll and manufactured just the kind of equipment Henry needed to produce his beloved Model T quicker and more efficiently. A milling machine is a piece of equipment designed to remove metal. For the Model T, the rough engine castings had to be machined to precise tolerances by removing excess material until the dimensions were just right. In 1912 Ford installed six Ingersoll planar-type milling machines which could mill in both the horizontal and vertical directions. The bearing holders in the engine block were shaped by cutters on the horizontal spindle while cutters on vertical spindles milled the bottom surface of the engine blocks flat. Not only could the machine perform two different machining steps, it could perform those steps on a batch of fifteen engine blocks at a time. This effectively reduced 30 separate manufacturing steps down to one. Multiply this by six machines and it's easy to see how this equipment was a game-changer. Those six machines could be machining 90 engine blocks at a time. Through advancements like this, Ford was able to reduce the time to produce a Model T from 12.5 man-hours down to a mere 1.5 man-hours – and Rockford played a role.

Only one of those six machines still exists today and can be found at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, MI. If you've never been there, it's worth the trip.

(A special thanks to Dean Wanfalt for suggesting this story)



At 21 feet long and 8 feet tall, this was no small milling machine. There are two inscriptions on the machine:

Cast in bed: THE INGERSOLL MILLING MACHINE CO. ROCKFORD ILL. U.S.A.

Cast in cross rail: THE INGERSOLL MILLING MACHINE CO. ROCKFORD ILL. U.S.A. / patd. July 8 1912



In this photo from 1915, you can see Model T engine blocks stacked upside down like cordwood at the Highland Park facility.