

Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

March 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 March 1 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting	United Lutheran Church 3630 N. Rockton Ave.	
Sunday March 19 Noon	Celebration of St. Joseph	The Sheridans 7020 Clikeman Road, Rockford	
Sunday April 23 Noon	Annual Banquet	Hoffman House, Rockford	

Monthly Meetings – New Location and Time

Our first meeting of 2023 will be **Wednesday, March 1st at 7 p.m.** Note the new time and location – we will be meeting at **United Lutheran Church, 3630 N. Rockton Ave.** It's on the corner of Rockton Avenue and Riverside Boulevard. Thanks to Craig Sheridan for securing a meeting place for us.

Welcome!

We want to welcome our newest members to the club! Kent and Kathy Larson live in Florida. Kent has helped us in the past with the Little Hershey event and is the brother of club treasurer, Jay Larson.

Invitation

Craig and Rosie Sheridan would like to invite club members to join their family and friends at their home for a Celebration for the Feast of Saint Joseph on Sunday, March 19th, starting at noon. The address is 7020 Clikeman Road, Rockford. See page 4 for more information. Take outs are also available.

Those celebrating this month:

Birthdays

Gene Clifton	3/5
Joe Maurer	3/7
Scott Stier	3/11
Phyllis Orrison	3/12
Dave Lantz	3/25

Anniversaries

Wayne & Phyllis Orrison	3/29
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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! Here is a high level summary of events for the week:

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

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.





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.

Date	Event	Host/Chair	Event Location or Meeting Place
April	Ladies Day Out		
April	Tech Seminar		
April	Dust Off Tour		
April 23rd	Annual Banquet	Sheryl Stier	Hoffman House, Rockford
May 18th	Little Hershey Set Up	Dave Lantz	Boone County Fairgrounds
May 20th	Little Hershey	Dave Lantz	Boone County Fairgrounds
May 29th	Memorial Day Parade	Steve Kindell	Downtown Rockford
June 4th	Model A Day	Dean Wanfalt??	Sharon, WI
June	Dairy Breakfast	Duane Bunton	
July 4th	Kirkland 4th of July Parade	Duane Bunton	Baumann Park Cherry Valley
July 16th - 22nd	International Tour Devil's Head Resort		Merrimac, WI (608) 493-2204
July	Surprise Tour		
August	Sycamore Steam Show		
September	Overnight Tour		
October	Fall Tour		
TBD	Christmas Party		

Annual Banquet

This year's banquet will be a buffet lunch at the Hoffman House in Rockford on Sunday April 23rd. Bring something from home for the raffle! Watch the April newsletter for more details.

Non-Club News



**St.
Joseph
Altar**

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Celebrate St. Joseph's Day

My family starts serving pasta at noon on Sunday and continues all day until 6:00pm.

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday Night, March 18th
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Rosie Scalise Sheridan
7020 Clikeman Road
Rockford, IL 61101

Viva San Giuseppe!

Rockford's Model T Connection – Part III

In the first two segments of this series we looked at auxiliary transmissions and shock absorbers for Model T's that were made right here in Rockford. This month we'll look at the Fyrac company which made timers and spark plugs for Model T's, as well as spotlights for T's and other cars. Research didn't turn up many details of the early history of the Fyrac company, but it appears at some point the company became part of National Lock which was located on the corner of 18th Avenue and 7th Street (currently occupied by the National Business and Industrial Center and a skateboard company).

At one time there were over 300 brands of Model T timers on the market, according to Tim Wanfalt, who has an extensive collection of them. Fyrac was one of those brands. The Fyrac spark plugs have a very uniquely designed, elongated electrode offering one inch of firing surface, according to their vintage advertisements. Additionally, the ads stated the plugs could withstand 150 psi of pressure without leakage. Fyrac's Night Guide windshield spotlight was also a popular accessory for Model T's and Model A's.



A Fyrac timer listed for sale on Ebay



The brush or roller seems to be missing from the unit



From this angle the lettering clearly shows ROCKFORD, ILL. and includes the color code for connecting the wires.

FYRAC

Spark PLUGS

Durable



If your power cannot escape,
you save gasoline and money.
Fyrac, tested by 150-pound
air pressure, is leak-proof.
Power cannot escape through
Fyrac.

FYRAC MANUFACTURING CO.
Rockford, Illinois

This vintage ad for Fyrac spark plugs shows an exploded view of the unusual electrode design



A 60 cent spark plug may seem like a bargain, but with inflation, that same plug would cost over \$10 in today's money.



The Fyrac Company was once housed here. Today the factory is mostly covered in red sheet metal, but the clock tower is still clearly visible when you pass by the building.

FYRAC

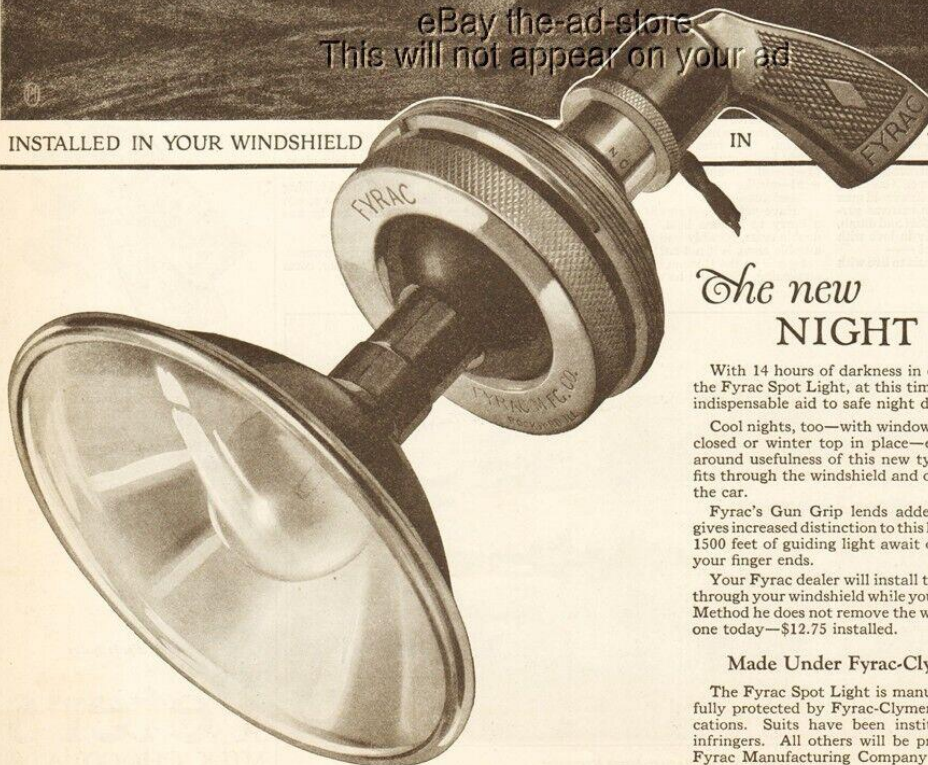
Spot LIGHT



INSTALLED IN YOUR WINDSHIELD

IN

TEN MINUTES



The new NIGHT GUIDE

With 14 hours of darkness in every 24, you'll find the Fyrac Spot Light, at this time of year, an almost indispensable aid to safe night driving.

Cool nights, too—with windows or curtains tightly closed or winter top in place—emphasize the year-around usefulness of this new type spot light which fits through the windshield and operates from within the car.

Fyrac's Gun Grip lends added convenience, and gives increased distinction to this handsome accessory. 1500 feet of guiding light await only your touch—at your finger ends.

Your Fyrac dealer will install the Fyrac Spot Light through your windshield while you wait. By the Fyrac Method he does not remove the windshield glass. Get one today—\$12.75 installed.

Made Under Fyrac-Clymer Patents

The Fyrac Spot Light is manufactured under and fully protected by Fyrac-Clymer patents and applications. Suits have been instituted against three infringers. All others will be promptly prosecuted. Fyrac Manufacturing Company, Rockford, Illinois.

While often associated with the Model A, this ad from the November 10th 1923 edition of the Saturday Evening Post shows the spotlights were being sold well before the Model A was in production. The ad implies a hole was cut in the windshield glass to install the spotlight.