The Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

September 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>	Location	
Monday	Sept	2 nd	9 a.m.	President's Tour	North Towne Mall, Riverside and North Main	
Wednesday	Sept	4 th	6 p.m.	Brat Night	Orrisons	
				(Sept. Meeting)	13678 Sundance Tr, Rockton	
Sunday	Sept	15 th	TBD	Beloit Autorama	Meet at TBD with Model A	
					Club	
Tues/Wed	Sept	17/18	8:30 a.m.	Overnight Tour	Blassingham Park, Pecatonica	

OTHER LOCAL SHOWS AND EVENTS						
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>				
August 25	Geneva, IL Concours d'Elegance	Geneva, IL				
Aug 30 –	Rock River Thresheree	332 E. Cty. Rd. M				
Sep2		Edgerton, WI				
Sept 8	Rock Valley Mustang Club car show	Machesney Elementary School				
		8615 N Second St. Machesney				
		Park				
Sept 27/28	Fall Jefferson Swap Meet/Car Show	Jefferson County Fairgrounds,				
		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:

<u>Birthdays</u>	
Cam Fradkin	9/1
Duane Bunton	9/14

Anniveraries Steve & Cindy Kindell 9/29



Rockford Model T Club Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Club president Wayne Orrison called the meeting to order at United Lutheran Church, Rockford. Board and club members present included: Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Austin Farmer, Jay Larson, Deb Werner, Dave Lantz, Bill Werner, Steve Kindell, Aaron Crandall, Dean Wanfalt, Gene Clifton, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Larry Foht, Duane and Cathy Bunton, and Joe Maurer.

Secretary Deb Werner read the minutes of the June 2024 meeting. Deb noted she will correct the Progressive Tour minutes. Duane Bunton moved to approve; seconded by Joe Maurer.

Treasurer Jay Larson read the treasurer's report. Jay stated the club's current balance is \$3,708.46. Jay noted the 2024 new members, the Brunsons, the Franklins, and the Hackers receive free 2024 membership and do not need to pay any dues for this year, but stated the Brunsons and the Franklins paid anyway, so now their memberships are paid through 2025. Dean Wanfalt moved to approve; seconded by Kurt Duesterhoeft.

New Members and/or Guests: Anneta Moore, friend of Dean Wanfalt, was present again at the meeting.

Old Business: Larry Foht stated he called every former Rockford Model T Club member on the list provided to him in June, but stated he only reached a few former members that answered the phone and they declined to join the club at this time, except for Jeff Kennedy who noted he may be interested in joining again. Dave Lantz stated he would like to insert a supplemental page in the membership books with the listings of the new members info, including their photos, if possible.

New Business: Steve Kindell stated he visited an embroidery store, Embroider This, and states he got a yellow polo shirt (instead of gold), including the Rockford Model T Club logo and his name embroidered on the shirt, for \$37. Bill Duffee is now a New Mexico resident. Kurt Duesterhoeft said the Tipsy History event at Midway Village Village on Saturday, Aug. 3 was a very fun event. Kurt said Midway Village enjoyed having the club there displaying old cars. Deena Lantz provided the banner for the event. Kurt also said he and Gene Clifton got the Model T at Midway Village back in working order once again. The Misfortune Award was awarded to Dean Wanfalt this month due to he had to use Wayne's air compressor to fill up a tire at the July 28th Progressive Dinner tour.

Little Hershey: Dave Lantz said he would like to set up an easel displaying history and photos of old cars. It was noted we could use more banners at the DJ and the entrance -- Dave said he will talk to Deena about that. It was also noted additional signs would be nice for the Model T's that are giving rides.

Past Club Events: Members said they had a wonderful time at the Progressive Dinner tour, which started at Gene and Betty Clifton's home for appetizers including a juice bar and bloody Mary bar. Then the club toured to Tim and Lisa Dickson's home for delicious salad with all the fixings. Next was burgers and hot dogs and potato salad and chips at Wayne and Phyllis Orrison's home in Rockton. Then the tour continued down the road to Duane and Cathy Bunton's home in Roscoe for numerous delicious desserts. Dave Lantz and Steve Kindell gave a summary talk about the International Tour 2024 in July in Cadillac, Mich. and said the 2025 International will take place in Owatonna, Minnesota; and the 2026 International will take place in London, Ontario.

Future Club Events: Aug. 25 -- Geneva, IL; Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m. -- Paulson's Ag Museum tour, meet at the museum; Thursday, Oct. 10 (note the new day of the week change) -- Fall Tour, meet at Clifton's home at 8:30 a.m., leave at 9:00 a.m. Gene stated the tour will include touring a facility.

Past Non-Club Events: Kurt Duesterhoeft said he toured with the Model A Club on the Poke-Along Tour. He stated the tour was along smooth roads in Ogle County. The tour included Railroad Park in Rochelle, touring to Stillman Valley, stopping for ice cream, then stopping at the AAR facility at the Chicago-Rockford Airport for a tour; Paulson's Ag Museum event; and the Overnight Tour. Joe Maurer said the tour this year will include great scenic roads, a museum and a train ride (\$12 per person); and overnight in Stockton, IL. President Wayne Orrison said please note the sign up sheets for future club events: President's Tour to Lena, IL.

Member's Projects: Austin Farmer said he bought an engine at Little Hershey and said its running good. He said he is doing assorted maintenance on the engine.

Next Club Meeting -- Wed., Sept. 4, 6:00 p.m. (please note earlier time) -- Wayne and Phyllis Orrison's home in Rockton for Brat Night. Members asked if they could bring anything and Wayne stated anyone could bring a dessert, if they'd like. **Adjourn** -- Wayne Orrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jay Larson moved to approve, Joe Maurer seconded; approved.

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? This is a volunteer club, so things only happen when someone volunteers to make them happen!

Date	Event	Time	Location	Chair/Host
September 2 nd	President's Tour	9:00 a.m.	North Towne Mall, Riverside and North Main	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	Model A Club
Sept. 17 th /18 th	Overnight Tour to Stockton	8:30 a.m.	Meet at Blassingham Park, Jackson & E. 7 th St., Pecatonica	Joe Maurer
October 2 nd	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
October 10 th	Fall Tour	8:30 a.m.	Clifton residence 8664 Trudy Rd. Rockford	Gene Clifton
November 6 th	Meeting	7:00 p.m.	United Lutheran Church 3630 N Rockton Rd	Craig Sheridan
December 8 th New Date!	Club Christmas Party and meeting	2 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 <u>Steve</u> <u>Kindell</u> 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 <u>Dave Lantz</u> know.

Geneva Concours d'Elegance – August 25th

As car shows go, this is one of the best-kept secrets in the area. Each year this show brings in some of the rarest and most unique automobiles, from full classics to exotics and everything in between. About an hour from Rockford, Geneva IL plays host to this show with the cars displayed downtown along the quaint, tree-lined streets. The cars are by invitation only, allowing the show to be very selective. Kurt Duesterhoeft's 1917 Model T Speedster has been accepted into this year's show. You can find more information at: <u>https://www.genevaconcours.net/</u>.

President's Tour – September 2nd

Hail to the Chief! Not *that* chief, our chief! Wayne Orrison is planning a Labor Day tour to Lena, IL. The Model A club will be joining us on this one. Meet at North Towne Mall (Riverside and North Main) at 9 a.m.

Brat Night and Meeting – September 4th

Brat Night is back for 2024! Wayne and Phyllis Orrison will be hosting this event at their home at 13678 Sundance Trail, Rockton, starting at **6 p.m**. The club will provide brats. You are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you like.

Beloit Autorama – September 15th

We'll be joining up with the Model A Club for breakfast before the event. Antique cars get prime parking at the entrance to the show, so you can sit back and watch all the show cars enter the field. More details to come.



Overnight Tour Agenda – September 17/18

Day one: Meet at Blassingham Park in Pecatonica at 8:30 a.m for coffee and donuts. Leave at 9 a.m. sharp! Off to Pearl City for a pit stop at Boco. On to Mt. Carroll for lunch and antiquing. After lunch we head to Elizabeth for more antiquing. Next stop is the Country Inn and Suites in Stockton. Dinner at the Pit Stop in Stockton followed by drawings and hospitality back at the hotel.

Day two: Breakfast at the hotel then depart at 8:30 a.m. Stop at the Blackhawk monument in Kellog's Grove for a special photo op. Drive through Krape Park then on to Freeport for a train ride and museum tour at Silver Creek (\$12/person). Lunch at Big O's. Sightseeing in Freeport including Royal Oak Antique Shop, Union Dairy, Lincoln and Douglas monument, and the Lincoln Statue in Taylor Park.

If you haven't made your hotel reservations yet, please call them at 815-947-0337 to get a special rate by mentioning the Model T Ford Club of Rockford. Call Joe Maurer with any questions at 815-541-9237.

Fall Tour Date Scheduled for October 10th

Thursday, October 10th will be our annual Fall Tour, hosted by Gene and Betty Clifton. 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. Sign up for the tour at the September meeting.

Midway Village Model T Repair – Latest Update

Gene Clifton and Kurt Duesterhoeft volunteered their time to help repair the museum's Model T C-cab pickup. Last fall vandals made off with the instrument panel, leaving a gaping hole in the dash. Kurt



donated and installed a replacement, but it turned out that wasn't the only issue. The starter motor and starter switch were both bad. Removing the starter also revealed a bent



Bendix spring. Kurt rebuilt the switch and the museum had the starter motor rebuilt at a local shop. Gene installed a new Bendix spring and together they re-installed the starter. The engine now spun over easily, but the truck had not run in a couple years. But with some fresh gas and a little carburetor adjustment by Gene, the old T came back to life and they even took a spin around the parking lot! The museum is very grateful for the assistance from the Model T Club.

PAST EVENTS:

67th Annual MTFCI International Tour (pictures courtesy of Dave Lantz and Steve Kindell)

This year's International was held in Cadillac, Michigan. Club members Steve and Cindy Kindell, Dave and Deena Lantz, Chuck and Betty Lesnewski, and Scott, Cheryl, and Scotty Stier attended the event along with Dave's parents, Conrad and Linda Lantz. A busy week was scheduled for all the participants.

Sunday – Self-guided tours around Lake Cadillac and Lake Mitchell and the kick-off event Sunday evening.

Monday: A 50-mile tour along the scenic Mackinaw Trail to the nearby towns of Tustin and LeRoy with the car show and vintage fashion show in the afternoon. Evening entertainment by The Ancient & Honorable Clam Lake Dock & Dredge Marching & Chowder Society Silver Cornet Band.

Tuesday: A drive along quiet rural roads north to Wellington Farm USA, a living history complex that depicts mid-western farm life as it was in the 1930's. An ice cream social and a Pinewood Derby competition for the youth on Tuesday evening.



The Rockford Chapter was well-represented in Cadillac, MI

Wednesday: Wednesday's tour followed the scenic Coates Highway to Manistee with shopping at local merchants and a beach on the shores of Lake Michigan. Wednesday evening was a free night to have dinner with family and friends.

Thursday: This tour went to the Music House Museum in Acme, MI, to see a collection of instruments that illustrate the history, craftsmanship, and mechanics of automated music, including music boxes and radios. Thursday evening the judging awards and fashion show awards were presented just before the Youth Auction.

Friday's 80-mile tour headed to Reed City and the Old Rugged Cross Museum. Friday evening capped off the Tour with the Closing Dinner and Tour Awards at the Wexford County Fair Facility



Dave gets a little "fatherly advice"!



Model T's fill the streets of Harietta, MI during the International Tour

Progressive Picnic Tour – July 29th (compiled with the help of Wayne Orrison and Deb Werner, pictures courtesy of Joe Maurer and Steve Kindell)

The Touring Group, consisting of Dave & Deena Lantz, Aaron Crandall, Larry Foht, Rick and Cheryl Heissler, Wayne Henson, Steve and Cindy Kindell, Joe Maurer, Sheryl and Scott Stier, Tim Wanfalt, Bill and Deb Werner and Yvonne Wilson and Bruce Schleinz met up at Farm & Fleet on Riverside. From there they headed to the "hors d'oeuvres" stop at Gene and Betty Cliftons in Rockford. Dean Wanfalt and Anneta Moore were already there to lend a helping hand with the snacks, juice, and the Bloody Mary bar.



Next up was the second course – salad with all the fixings at Tim and Lisa Dickson's home in the Town of Turtle, Wisconsin. There Tim had his red 1912 Model T speedster on display!

On to the main course at Wayne and Phyllis Orrison's in Rockton. Burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips and pop were available for the hungry guests. Tim and Lisa joined up with the group and Cathy Bunton got a "to-go" plate for her and Duane.

The Bunton were the hosts for the fourth and final stop – Dessert! They had quite a spread there with delicious pie, ice cream, brownies, watermelon and more. It was certainly a fun, yummy stop.





Model T's on the tour included tour guides Dave and Deena in their '26 Tudor, Steve and Cindy in their '24 Touring, Aaron with his very unique '10 Tourabout, and Gene and Betty with their '26 Coupe. The rest drove modern as there were on and off rain showers throughout the day. No issues were reported except for a low tire on Dean Wanfalt's Oldsmobile.

A big THANK YOU to all the hosts for welcoming us into your homes and to Dave for leading the way.

The Roaring 20°s at Midway Village -August 3rd

Model T's and Model A's set the stage at the Roaring 20's/Tipsy History event at Midway Village Museum with participation by both the Model T and Model A clubs. The cars were a big hit as around 260 guests took selfies, asked questions, and some even got a ride when we took laps around the grounds. Dave Lantz and Anne Laviolette were especially good at engaging the guests and acting as ambassadors for our hobby. Deena Lantz made a new club banner which we had on display to help promote the club. Thank you Deena – it looks great! In addition to the cars, there was a working display of wind-up Victrola phonographs which provided music throughout the day, a blacksmith demonstration,



The two clubs displayed four Model A's and two Model T's and the museum had its T on display as well

a Charlie Chaplin silent movie (The Kid), and re-enactors portraying moonshiners, liquor raids by federal agents, and suffragettes promoting the temperance movement. Beer and wine were available for purchase since Prohibition has since been repealed! The museum also had its own C-cab Model T pickup out and about for the first time in decades. You may have caught the cars on the evening news as Channel 17 WTVO interviewed the museum's director, Patrick O'Keefe, with the cars in the background. The museum provided lunch for us and kindly donated \$75 to each club to thank us for our participation



Working Together - Left to Right: Kurt Duesterhoeft, Steve Kindell, and Dave Lantz with the Model T Club and Anne Laviolette, Jim Morley, and Chuck Milazzo with the Model A Club



An impressive display of beautifully restored Victrolas provided old-time music throughout the day. The sound from these machines is amazing considering the technology of the day. No electrical power and no amplifier; just a cylinder, a needle, and a horn



These young flappers from Chicago were dressed the part and enjoying the day

Model A Poke-Along Tour – August 7th

It was a picture-perfect day to be touring with nine Model A's, two Model T's, four modern cars, and one Border collie. Our first stop was the AAR repair facility near the airport. We were given a very insightful tour of the facility which had three Boeing 737's undergoing upgrades for United Airlines. As interested as we were in the planes, the aircraft mechanics were equally interested in our cars. They took a break, came outside, and enjoyed looking at the cars and asking lots of questions. We even got a swag bag as a parting gift. On to the next stop - the railroad park in Rochelle where we took our lunch break. The park is situated between two rail lines





and while we ate, a very long freight train lumbered by to the delight of train nerds, both young and old. Sadie the Border collie made sure no food crumbs were left on the ground. After lunch we headed to Roberts Armory, a warehouse just south of Rochelle that is jam-packed with WWII items. Tanks, halftracks, staff cars, weapons, uniforms, supplies, and personal effects were crammed into every nook and cranny. It was almost overwhelming to consider how much history you were looking at. Stillman Valley was our next stop since no tour is complete without ice cream. From there, the T folks consisting of Wayne & Phyllis Orrison, Kurt Duesterhoeft, and Steve Kindell (with grandkids Breanna and Christopher Frink) had to break off to get back to Rockford for our monthly meeting. A very special thanks to Dave Werckle and the whole Model A group for including us on this tour. Smooth roads, interesting sights, good company, and one friendly dog made for a most enjoyable day.

Sycamore Steam Show – August 10th (by Wayne Orrison)

We met at Bauman Park in Cherry Valley at 8:30 for coffee and donuts on a picture perfect day. The weather was so nice for just about anything you wanted to do outside, especially an old car tour. We waited for our tour Chairman, Tim Wanfalt to arrive and lead us to the show. We waited, and waited, and called, and called, but no Tim. Finally, at 9:25, we left with Steve Kindell guiding us there. We were a small group, only four club members. However, we were accompanied by Steve's family in his '24 Model T Touring, including: Breanna, Ethan, and Christopher Frink. Also making the trip was Austin Farmer, riding along with Wayne & Phyllis Orrison in their new-to-them '31 Model A 2 Dr Sedan.

We drove along great roads and made our way to the Steam Show. Upon arrival, we were directed to the usual area near the entrance gate reserved for "old cars." It seems to me that the area has been expanded and there were many, many old cars. A couple that caught my eye included a huge '10 Packard Touring car. It was "concours" ready and a beautiful thing to see. Oddly, there was a power washer on the floor board in the back seat? Another car that caught my attention was

one I have never personally seen before. I thought it was a Studebaker Hawk at first, but it was actually a '58 Packard "Hawk" that looks almost identical to the Studebaker Hawk. It was the last year for that company. It was sure a gorgeous car.

We made our way to the swap meet area, just to look around and eventually to the Corn Stand to enjoy an ear of sweet corn. Boy was that good. We continued to wander around and eventually made our way to the "hit n miss" engine area, where we expected to see Scot and Sheryl Stier. Yep, they were there along with their grandchildren and Scotty was there too. They have quite a collection and display of hit & miss engines now, including several mini engines. Nice. Also there with a display was Rick Heissler. I did not really explore his display, but in conversation, he said the show has been real busy with a lot of attendees.

We continued to look around, admiring many old steam tractors driving long belts providing power to old machines: threshers and log cutting machines. Folks were working hard feeding those machines with corn, wheat, or logs. I always enjoy the sights and sounds and smells of those old steam engines and machines performing like they were new.

It was also wonderful seeing the crowds and families; lots of children from new born to teenagers/young adults. It was refreshing to see all the young people engaged with all this old time stuff and not glued to a cell phone. In fact, almost all the people I saw with cell phones were adults taking pictures of the kids and stuff.

Of course we ate lunch. This time I elected to forego the pork chops and had some Mexican food. It wasn't bad.

We found a good viewing spot in the stands to enjoy the parade of tractors. It was not disappointing. There were more than two dozen steam tractors and over 100 old gas, diesel and kerosene-powered tractors and they did not disappoint either. Next came scores of garden tractors and other utility machines. Almost all had some youngsters driving or in some way controlling/working these old machines, which was refreshing to see. It's good to know that some of the 'old' hobbies are going to survive and thrive with the younger folks taking an interest. I wish our Model T's garnered the same interest among the young.

After the parade, we loaded up and headed for home. Steve's foot was bothering him some, so we shuffled some passengers and Austin drove Steve's T home. Austin was thrilled at the opportunity, because he does not really have that much time behind the wheel of a T. However, about 25 minutes from Cherry Valley, Austin drove us into a swarm of bees

and it caused quite a ruckus. Ethan got stung and we pulled over to get the bees out of the cars. Very exciting. I'm glad we were following Austin and that Phyllis was driving the A. The T took the brunt of the swarm and we only had a few strike the A's windshield/car and only a couple made it into the car. A little clean out and an ice pack for Ethan, and we were on our way to Cherry Valley and Bauman Park to end our day.

I guess we are going to have to get Tim a new alarm clock. All in all, it was a great day at the Steam Show and a fun drive there and back. If you missed this tour, you sure missed a great day.

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MART SER MARTIN

Rock River Thresheree – August 30 – September 2nd

If you missed the Sycamore event, there's another steam show in the near future – The Rock River Thresheree is this Labor Day weekend. You can find more info at http://www.thresheree.com/.

