





Special thanks to our guides  
Dick Gauldin & Gary Rice

## *The First Airport Shuttle Bus*

### The “Fordson” – 1931 Model A Ford Bus

One of the highlights for me during our tour of the Mid-America



Flight Museum was getting a close look at the 1931 Model A Ford Bus. This six-rowed, 12-18 passenger bus, was purposely built exclusively to transport Henry Ford’s guests and business associates as they arrived in Ford Trimotor aircraft at the Dearborn Airfield, to the Dearborn Inn, and then to and from the Ford manufacturing plant. The specimen in the museum is reportedly the last remaining of the six buses of this type built.



*Photo courtesy of Mid America Flight Museum*

Set on a lengthened Model AA truck chassis, the bus uses a regular Model A Ford engine but has a 5-speed transmission. The body was designed by the Lang Body Company, a coach builder out of Cleveland, Ohio. It has an enlarged radiator with a special shell stamped “Fordson,” a name generally used on Ford-built tractors. An odd feature of the Ford Bus is that the windshield is built in front of the gas filler cap, so refueling is done inside the vehicle. The bus has no windshield wiper, but that didn’t matter... there was no air travel when it rained so there was no need for one anyway

(yeah, right). It has six independent doors on the left side, one for the driver and front row, and a door each for the other rows.



*Photo courtesy of Mid America Flight Museum*



According to my rudimentary Internet research, this particular bus was purchased by Tom McDonald of Saginaw, MI after a fire at the Ford Greenfield Museum around 1970\*. Mr. McDonald reportedly drove it around for several years and then sold it to Ken Yurga, who may be a fellow MAFCA member. Mr. Yurga used it for show and tell until he sold it at an auction around 2012, where it was acquired by Greg Herrick, who owns

the Golden Wings Museum in Blaine, MN. Through a turn of events, the bus was then obtained by the Mid America Flight Museum owner Scott Glover sometime around 2021.

Mr. Glover then arranged to have the bus restored. During the restoration process, he was faced with the question of whether to restore the bus to its original form, or to retain a look of daily use. He compromised, and while he did have the bus restored from the ground up, the character and patina were preserved on the body.



\*Acquisition dates are highly speculative.

Sources: midamericaflymuseum.com; “Bambikes”, smokstak.com; goldenwingsmuseum.com; historicimages.com; thehenryford.org; startribune.com



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# Dash Lite

The Autumn Trails Model A Ford Club Newsletter • Winnsboro, Texas

**NEXT Meeting**  
**Sunday, October 8,**  
**Neon Moon**  
**4672 W State Hwy. 154**  
**Yantis. Lunch at 1:00,**  
**meeting to follow.**

*From Club President Errol Barber*

Well, believe it or not it's good to be home in TEXAS!

I know it's still in the 90's as I write this but those 30-degree mornings in Colorado were getting a little uncomfortable too.

Other than foot tall grass and a few dead trees, everything looks pretty good around here. Anyone need any free firewood?

I suppose y'all know what's coming soon in October? Lots of good stuff—starting with our monthly club meeting on the 8th at 1:00 to eat a bite at the Neon Moon on SH 154 in Yantis!



The main topic of discussion, other than Vicki's birthday, will be all the preparations for Autumn Trails activities starting with our setup on Thursday, Oct 26. Times and assignments will be discussed at the meeting but this year we are going to try to get the banquet hall set up and decorated as well on Thursday. Be thinking how you can help.

After the meeting, the next thing is the event downtown Mineola with the Tyler Club at the historic Select Theater on the 14th. The street will be closed off for Model A parking only in front of the Theater so visitors to town will see our event, ask questions and be envious.

Next is Autumn Trails weekend itself starting with the traditional stew Friday night, parade Saturday followed by the car show downtown and then a great tour of the area led by John and Rebekah.

Too much fun to think about. As you can see, we will all need to rest up in November and I'm tired right now just writing about it! See you all on Oct 8 to get us started.

Errol  
President



# Autumn Trails Model A Club Minutes of the September 10, 2023 Meeting

**Venue:** Oakridge Marina, Lake Fork with 13 members present

**Call to Order** was made by Vice President Tex Willis, at 1:43 pm

**Welcome** was made by Vice President Tex who was officiating as President Errol Barber [REDACTED]

President:	Errol Barber
Vice President:	Tex Willis
Treasurer:	Vicki Clark
Secretary:	Rebekah Yeager
Webmaster:	Chana Gail Willis
Newsletter:	John B. Yeager III
Illustrator:	Amy Yeager

[AutumnTrailsMAC@outlook.com](mailto:AutumnTrailsMAC@outlook.com)  
[autumntrailsmodelafordclub.com](http://autumntrailsmodelafordclub.com)

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:** [REDACTED]

**Sunshine Report:** [REDACTED]

**Treasurer's Report:** Vicki Clark reported [REDACTED] in the bank. So far, she has taken in [REDACTED] ticket money and [REDACTED] in flea market bookings



*Keepin' it cool in the shade... Gary Gray and John Yeager drove their A's to the meeting in September*

**Door Prizes** [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Old Business

- Autumn Trails
  - The BBQ is set at 125 plates. Jobs and tasks remain assigned as they were last month. Vicki still has to send the check to Gail for the stew. Remind all members that we will be marking out the flea market spots in the morning, followed by a break and pizza before setting up the hall ready for the banquet. These are two big jobs that are made easier by having as many members help as possible. If you are willing and available, please support your club and help out on that day. Vicki will bring the banners and Tex will bring the grill and Rebekah will bring the mums for the stage. Elaine confirmed that she will be helping out with the swap meet set up, and will be borrowing the metal detector
- Model A Day - September 16
  - There will be a prompt departure from Brookshires in Quitman at 9 am, pick up the Winnsboro group at the corner of Highway 37 and 515, and stopping at Kim's on the north loop of Pittsburg to add in any Tyler members. There will be a guided tour at the museum and then a stop for BBQ in Pittsburg before returning home. Interesting note, there is a Ford Edsel [Fordson] bus which is one of 6 and the only working model left in existence

## New Business

- Chana Gail reported that Autumn Trails has received grants from Wood Co EDC , Winnsboro EDC and the City of Winnsboro and we will be adding their logos onto forms etc. KMOO will be advertising the event and there will be a live feed of the car show
- John Icenhower asked Tex Willis about the plaques he was missing from his display boards
- October's Meeting will be held at the Neon Moon - Glen Clark will stop by and reserve us a place for it

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Gary Gray and it was seconded by Glen Clark and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 2:04 pm

Rebekah Yeager  
Secretary



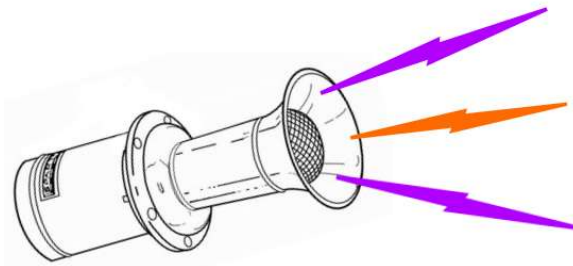


### October

#### BIRTHDAYS



#### ANNIVERSARIES



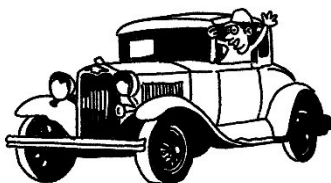
# Sunshine Report

by Jana Icenhower



Former member Bob Sudderth passed away late Thursday night. Please be in prayer for Barb and family.

Jana Icenhower  
903-243-1447



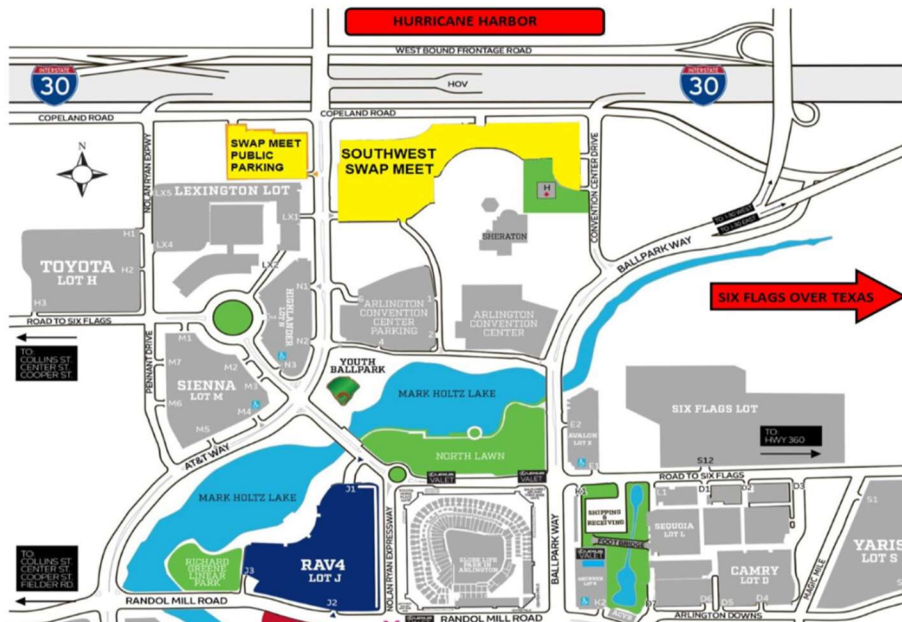


SAVE  
THE  
DATE

# Arlington, Texas November 2nd - 4th, 2023

Mark your calendars and reserve at spot TODAY!

Give us a call at 817-239-3990.



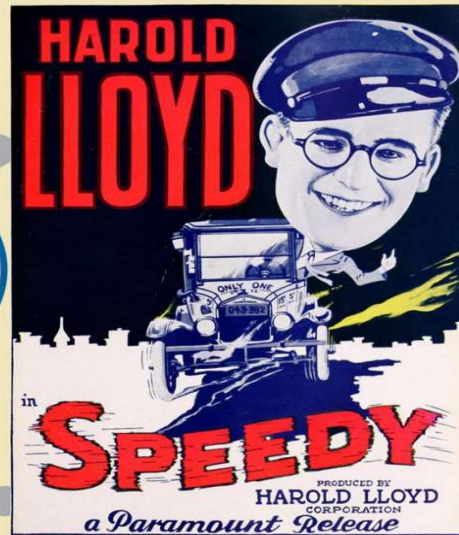
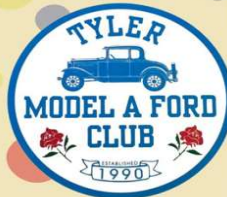


# HEY GANG!

*Gas up your Model A's and come to Mineola for a little Day Tour*

## The Tyler & Autumn Trails Model A Ford Clubs invite you!

Tour Historic Select Theater  
- Texas' oldest continuously-running theater -  
& showing of Harold Lloyd's  
1928 silent film *Speedy*



# October 14

Theater Tour at 1:30, Movie at 2:00

Tickets are FREE for Model A Ford Club members  
& ONLY \$5 for non-members!

LAKE COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE  
MINEOLA'S HISTORIC SELECT THEATER  
114 N JOHNSON ST · MINEOLA TX · 903-569-2300



Mark your calendar to attend the *Classics and Coffee Cruise-Ins* scheduled for the third Saturday monthly from March thru November. The *Cruise-Ins* are held on the square in Quitman and features free coffee, breakfast snacks, donuts, a 50/50 raffle and really great door prizes.

The time is from 8 until 10:30 am.

*We look forward to your attendance*

[www.lakecountryclassicscarclub.com](http://www.lakecountryclassicscarclub.com)

*Next Cruise-In is scheduled for October 21*



## Calendar of Events

*Autumn Trails A's Club Activities in Italics* All events subject to change

### 2023

- *October 8*      ***Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*** (Neon Moon, 1 pm lunch, followed by the meeting)
- *October 14*     *Mineola Historic Select Theater Day Tour*
- *October 21*     *Model A Workshop/Oil Change/Lube* (Quitman Pennzoil, 8 am)
- *October 21*     Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *October 27-29* *Autumn Trails Swap Meet*
- *October 27*     *Autumn Trails Stew*
- *October 28*     *Autumn Trails Antique Car Parade (ft. Model As)*
- *October 28*     *Autumn Trails Saturday Tour*
- *October 28*     *Autumn Trails BBQ*
- *October 29*     *Autumn Trails Sunday Tour*
- *November 12* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *November 18* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *December 10* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting/Christmas Party*

### 2024

- *January 14*     *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *February 11*   *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *March 10*      *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *March 16*      Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *April 14*      *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *April 20*      Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *May 12*       *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *May 18*       Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *June 9*        *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *June 13-16*   Texas Tour (Nacogdoches//Hosted by the Dallas Model A Ford Club)
- *June 15*       Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *June 23-29*   Southwest 'A'ventures, MAFCA 2024 National Convention (Ruidoso, NM)
- *July 14*        *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *July 20*       Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *August 11*     *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *August 17*     Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *September 8*   *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *September 14* International Model A Day
- *September 21* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman



Dash Lite welcomes all input to include corrections, letters, Model A "Tips and Tricks," original articles and classified ads (pictures accepted)

Send all correspondence to [AutumnTrailsMAC@outlook.com](mailto:AutumnTrailsMAC@outlook.com)

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# 65th Annual Winnsboro Autumn Trails Parade, Tour and Dinner October 26-29, 2023 Registration Form

**Please remit by October 6, 2023**

Please send this form along with your check payable to:

Autumn Trails Model A's  
Vicki Clark  
1310 CR 4186  
Quitman, Texas 75783  
[gvclark@peoplescom.net](mailto:gvclark@peoplescom.net)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Year/Make/Model of Car(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

	Registration Dates	Fee per Car	No of Cars	Total Car Fee
Car Registration	<b>Before October 3, 2022</b>	\$10.00	_____	_____
	<b>After October 3, 2022</b>	12.00	_____	_____

	No. Persons	Price per Person	Total for Dinners
Dinner	_____ Adults	\$20.00	_____
	_____ Children (under 12)	\$8.00	_____

**TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR CAR REGISTRATION AND DINNER** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner will consist of BBQ Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad, Tea and Dessert

**You may pick up your registration at the Stew on Friday night or at the door at the BBQ on Saturday. Please note: there will be no carry outs at the BBQ. No refunds after October 6, 2023.**

**AUTUMN TRAILS – WINNSBORO, TEXAS  
FLEA MARKET & TRADE DAYS SWAP MEET  
OCTOBER 26-29, 2023 CITY PARK**

**Space Limited – First Come First Served**

**Begin Set-up Thursday Oct 26 1:00 pm  
No electric hook-ups  
No Water Connections available  
Limit 4 Trade Days/Swap Meet  
& Food Vendors  
Swap meet—Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
RAIN OR SHINE! ☺**

**Make Checks Payable & Mail to:**

**Autumn Trails A's  
c/o Vicki Clark  
1310 CR 4186  
Quitman, TX 75783  
[gvclark@peoplescom.net](mailto:gvclark@peoplescom.net)  
903-967-3105**

**PLEASE MARK ALL CATEGORIES THAT APPLY:**

**( ) Flea Market      ( ) Antiques      ( ) Food/Beverage      ( ) Other**

**Three Days!! Hours: 8-5 Friday & Saturday & 9-4 Sunday.  
Row "B" is the first row and is a single row. No back-to-back on "B"  
Spaces are approximately 15'x 25'**

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Flea Market, Trades Day & Swap Meet Booth City Park

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Food Concession – no electric

**TOTAL Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Please enclose check or money order with reservation request.**

**Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_**

**Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_**

**City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_**

**Note:**

**\*No refunds due to weather  
\*No refunds after October 6, 2023**

**\*Guaranteed lots must be prepaid  
\*Spaces must be paid for before set up**



# More Pics from the Tour



*Makin' that patina POP!*



*Havin' a pit at the pit*



*I guess if we stare at it long enough, it will fix itself...*

