



Vol. 44 No. 2 • February 2026 • MAFCA • Autumn Trails Chapter

Dash Lite

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

From Club President Tex Willis

Greetings and Salutations fellow Masters of Model A Mechanics and Damsels of Fashion and Design!

Wow! What a January! I hope everybody made it through the ice storm! Maybe that will be past us for the rest of the Winter. We'll see what the Groundhog says on February 2nd!



The Ark-La-Tex A's are taking a day trip to Jefferson on February 14th (that's right, Valentine's Day). They are meeting up at 10:00 At the T.C. Lindsay store in Scottsville (near Marshall) then on to Jefferson. So far, Chana Gail and I will be meeting up with Lanny Buck and going. Let me know if you want to go and I'll let Schelley from the Ark-La-Tex club know how many of us to expect for the 12:30 lunchtime time.



I took my '29 pickup out in the ice and got stuck in the pasture when I hit a gopher hole. I couldn't get out, and realized I was running racing slicks on the back. I have two new tires ordered and will have them in a few days. I am also rebuilding my canopy over the back of the bed. I hope to have this all done by February 14th!

I plan on having this done before the February meeting, but if you have any rebuilds or projects on your Model A, let's turn it into a workshop!

Keep your grease fittings lubed, air in your tires, and by all means, remember to turn your gas valve on before you pull out of the gas station!



Autumn Trails Model A Club Minutes of the January 11, 2026 Meeting

Venue Oak Ridge Marina

Call to Order was at 1:25 PM. There were 15 members present, and President Tex Willis was presiding

Birthdays and Anniversaries Birthday greeting were given this month to Dan Parrish, Ben Hunziker, and Cassie Buck

President: Tex Willis
Vice President: Gary Gray
Treasurer: Vicki Clark
Secretary: Rebekah Yeager
Webmaster: ChanaGail Willis
Newsletter: John B. Yeager III
AutumnTrailsMAC@outlook.com
autumntrailsmodelafordclub.com

Sunshine Report Jana Icenhower started the Sunshine report by welcoming the Blacks back after several months' absence. ██████ reported that despite health issues things were looking up. ██████ was currently in rehab and hoping to come home soon however there were still many hurdles to overcome. She appreciates hearing from people and her and ██████ ask for continued prayers as they move forward on a slow recovery. ██████ reported that she was awaiting test results on a rare infection and was waiting to see if the drugs that are very expensive were approved

Treasurer's Report Vicki Clark reported that we have ██████ in the account. The scholarship monies and Gail's donation was paid out in the last month



Door Prizes \$10 to [redacted] and \$5 each to [redacted]

Old Business

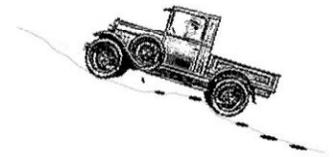
- Vicki Clark reminds members that if they have not yet paid their dues they need to

New Business

- Tex Willis asked who was planning on attending the Model A tour in Mineral Wells. There are other events going on and the hotel rooms are going fast so if you are considering going you should get booking as soon as possible
- The Ark-La-Tex A's are planning a Valentine's Day ride from Waskom to Jefferson with a lunch in Jefferson. If members are interested, they should let Tex know. He is planning on attending. The event will be on Saturday, February 14th. They will be meeting at Lindy's store in Waskom and departing at 10 am, although our members could just head for Jefferson and meet up for lunch
- Lanny Buck is looking for another Model A movie theater visit tie-in for the second Saturday in September (International Model A Day)
- Ben Hunziker reported on a mechanical problem that he has encountered and he will be reporting back next month on if it is what he suspects it is or if another approach needs to be taken

The meeting was closed by general consensus at 1:47pm

Rebekah Yeager,
Secretary



Area availability of Ethanol-Free gas

Duko Oil Co.	950 E Lennon Dr, Emory
Kim's Convenience	1020 E Lennon Dr, Emory
Beckat Oil & Fuel	115 W Front St, Mineola
Murphy USA (Walmart)	131 NE Loop 564, Mineola
Young Oil (Chevron)	116 N Newsom, Mineola
Jackson Oil Company	310 W 15 th St, Mount Pleasant
The Minnow Bucket	3035 Hwy 154, Quitman
Lake Quitman Marina	1450 CR 1416, Quitman
Fisherman's 1 Stop	7933 W FM 515, Quitman
Murphy USA (Walmart)	1760 S Broadway, Sulphur Springs
Winkle Oil Co.	301 W Carnegie St, Winnsboro

Ethanol: In modern cars, it's fine. But in your Model A, it's terrible.

Howard Eckstein, *The Restorer*

Find more ethanol-free gas stations at www.pure-gas.org



February

BIRTHDAYS

■ Sherri Harding
 ■ Neal Sanders
 ■ ChanaGail Willis

ANNIVERSARIES

■ Gary & Debbie Gray

Sunshine Report

by Jana Icenhower



■ is back home again after another short hospital stay due to complications with her peg tube. However, she reports that she is getting a little better each day, but she still can't swallow and everything goes through the tube.

■ is relying on neighbors to help feed the cows and do the chores. She says that ■ has been fantastic. Please keep your prayers coming.

■ lost one of their rental houses to a fire during the ice storm.

Jana Icenhower
 903-243-1447
janaicenhower@yahoo.com

From the editor:

Following is the second part of a four-part series about a Model A (um, the “A-Model”) that my grandfather had when my dad and aunt were kids. Enjoy!

OUR FAMILY MODEL A (Part II)

It seems strange to me that I don't remember any of my family's friends who drove A-Model Fords, but at the same time, I don't recall it as being unusual that we owned one. We didn't make long trips, and it performed quite well for the regular road excursions we made maybe twice a year, that is, visiting the Taylors in Grant Parish and seeing my oldest brother who lived in Rayne, Louisiana. One of my favorite Model A stories and probably the most often retold in our family involved these trips; below I share the first of two that continue to make me smile and step back into another time.

In addition to being one of Mama's milk, butter and egg customers, Doss Taylor worked with Daddy on the Missouri Pacific Railroad as an engineer. He held an extra special spot in our family as the benefactor enabling us to obtain the house on the hill; his framed photo hung above our living room mantel from the day we moved into that house until Daddy's death in 1965. The Taylors had no children, at least none I ever knew of—and they seemed to be a rung or two above us on the ladder of success. On occasion,

they visited our house, drank coffee, played the fiddle and discussed current events—usually politics. However, it is the visits we made to their Grant Parish home every summer that stand out in my memory today. As the crow flies, they lived about an hour northeast of us. Still, it often took us two hours or more and the pictures in my mind remains crystal clear—well, *crystal clear* with a little help from my brother, John.

“Mama, do you think they'll have a black diamond ready for us?” I asked before we even got into the car.

“I don't know for sure, but I expect so.”

Daddy interrupted, “Do not ask for anything not offered. Understand?”

“Yes, sir.” I certainly hoped they had one because I could already taste that watermelon!

On the Friday before such an adventure, Mama prepared some food to take with us to add to whatever Mrs. Taylor had prepared. My favorite menu included a pot of chicken and dumplings, a container of fried chicken or rice pudding. Once the mouth-watering goodies were decreased to good smells floating in

the air and were prepared for the transport, Mama would walk down to Mrs. Curry's for a cup of coffee and a chat. As always, I followed along behind her and took a seat at the table as if I had been invited.

"Is it too late in the day for a cup of coffee?" Mrs. Curry asked.

"Never too late." Mama laughed. "And I might need it more today than usual. Tomorrow is our trip to the Taylors and just riding in the car can be a challenge and test my blood pressure medication."

"Whaddaya mean?"

"Well, you know, John doesn't always realize he is not the engineer on a train when he is behind the wheel of car. If he looks to the right, he turns to the right; same thing if he looks left and there are no rails to help him stay in a straight line. Of course, top speed is the only way to go." They both laughed as Mrs. Curry put on a pot of coffee and they sat down for their regular chit-chat.

I don't remember anything else about that conversation as my mind had already moved on in anticipation of our holiday-like excitement the next day. From the time we climbed into the car until we crawled out at night, the entire atmosphere approached that of a fantasyland. Before dawn Saturday morning, Daddy sat at the wheel of our Model A, and we were loaded up, three in the backseat and two in the front. Once we kids had our assigned spots—Hannah in the middle and

John and I each at a window, Mama would hand out some snacks.

"Okay, kids. It'll take a while to get there. Here's your treat bags. Make them last."

These bags typically contained a piece of fruit, a sweet of some sort and a small fruit jar of water or Kool-Aid. John and I immediately began negotiations.

"Johnny, can I have your lifesavers?"

"Why?" he replied. "You have some."

"But yours are butterscotch, and I like them best."

"I like butterscotch too."

Hannah usually stepped in to solve the problem; thus, her seat in the middle. "Okay, Olevia, I'm putting all three lifesaver rolls in this bag. We have butterscotch, wild cherry and pineapple. Do you both agree to keep the one you choose?"

We nodded simultaneously.

"Who goes first?"

I raised my hand as if at school in class. "Me! Me! Me!"

"Is that okay with you, John?"

He nodded again. Problem solved and we settled in for long drive in our A-Model Ford, no seatbelts, or—to the best of my memory—no locks on the doors. Passenger safety equipment didn't appear high on the manufacturer's goals. I'm guessing the powers that be did not take into consideration drivers such as my dad.

I cannot remember exactly where the Taylors lived within the

area of Montgomery, a town located about forty miles or so straight up Highway 71. My best guess is the road conditions set the travel time, rather than speed limits or Daddy's driving. About five miles of gravel road separated our house from Highway 71 and included some curves. The first of these, and the tightest, came less than two miles from the end of our driveway. Daddy approached the curve at about twenty miles-an-hour and, compatible with his normal driving approach, he did not look or turn in the direction of the curve until he completed his comments about the McMenam property located on the other side of road.

As soon as he realized we were at the curve, he made a sharp turn in the direction of the curve, only to realize another sharp turn was required to avoid landing in the ditch. The three of us in the backseat were thrown about, but Mama held on fast to the passenger door as he righted the car. She let go and it appeared we would survive, unharmed, the first thrill incident of the day... but the that curve still a couple more tricks in its bag. Although Daddy had now slowed our



A-Model to something he could control, he hit a chuckhole that bounced the vehicle off toward the right-side ditch. The passenger door opened, and Mama reached to grab it at the same time Daddy again corrected the direction with a quick turn to the left.

We all observed Mama fly out of the car, though later we all thought we saw something a little different. I believed Mama leaned out too far trying to close the door. Hannah settled on Daddy's lousy driving bumped her from the car. Johnny offered no opinion; his concern was Mama's condition. Daddy's unique

reaction caught us by surprise and Mama's response allowed this story to become a favorite to be told many times over. The brakes squealed, almost throwing the backseat

occupants into the front seat. We weren't settled back in our seats yet when Daddy reversed directions and stopped on a dime, had there been one there. He did not get out of the car but leaned toward the open door to yell.

"Mary, what'd you get out for?"

"I don't know, John," she replied in a tone that didn't imply she

had crawled out of ditch. Mama stood, dusting herself off and looking no worse for the wear.

“Well, you’d better get back in, or we’re going to be late getting up to Doss’. I’d like to be there by ten.”

Mama climbed up the slope. She straightened her dress and returned to the front seat. “I’m ready. When we get on the highway, John, remember the speed limit is fifty.”

“Don’t worry, Mary.” He chuckled. “I’ll do my best make it.”

At the time, it didn’t seem strange how amazingly calm Mama remained. In retrospect, I’m impressed with her unwillingness to ruin a special day for all of us to focus on herself. We kids remained quiet in hopes of preserving the party atmosphere. The festive mood quickly returned, and Daddy continued to drive with abandon and made every

effort to avoid being passed by anyone or anything.

This two-hour trip could be made today in less than an hour but would not be nearly as interesting or as fun as one made in an A-Model Ford driven by my dad.

Ann Mullen-Martin
September 30, 2025

Ann loves storytelling, and writing has been an escape and a hobby of hers for as long as she can remember. She has written four full-length books and participated in one Christmas Anthology.

Writing does not make Ann’s living, but it does make her living more pleasant.

<https://www.annmuma-publishing.com>
annmullen1943@gmail.com
<https://www.amazon.com/author/annumllen>



Let’s Go on a Tour!

...to Jefferson (and a few places in between) for Valentine’s Day
Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Contact Tex Willis if you are interested for details and arrangements.



FOR SALE: 1929 FORD MODEL A SPORT COUPE

Sold new in San Antonio, TX. NO RUST. Freshly restored. Many upgrades with reliability and touring being the goal.

Engine: Built by Ron Kelly. Inserted and balanced 1931 block "Float A" motor mounts, new intake and exhaust manifolds, FS ignition zipper distributor, solid state with centrifugal advance, flame thrower coil, six blade fan, leakless water pump, Brassworks heavy duty radiator with recovery tank, six volt positive ground, Nu-Rex alternator, optimum closed cell battery, rebuilt starter with new type Bendix. Added oil pressure, temp gauges and 30-amp meter; stainless exhaust muffler.

Transmission and drivetrain: Built by Van Pelt, 1936 Ford synchromesh with clings adaptor, V8 diaphragm clutch, rebuilt differential, all new USA bearings, pinion and ring gear, 3:54 ratio.

Brakes: New rods and clevises. New iron drums, shoes, floaters, LED brake lights.

Wheels and tires: Five new firestone whitewall tires, two new 21" rims, three reconditioned, all powdered coated.

Frame: Body off restoration, sandblasted and powder coated, new covered springs, king pins, steering linkage, with F-100 steering box, tube type Monroe shocks.

Body: Stripped, etched and repainted with PPG products, new wood frame top kit, sanded and varnished.

Top and Upholstery: New by Lee Chatterton, Hot Springs, AR, carpeted trunk, no rumble seat. All brightwork replated. Window vent wings with sideview mirrors.

Wiring and lights: New wiring harness. Quartz halogen headlights. Cowl lights act as running lights and turn signals.

Approx. 1300 miles since completed. Car is fully documented with a complete set of pictures and receipts, upon request.

Spares and tools available.

READY TO TOUR

Phone: 903-569-1716, Cell: 208-659-5501, carolid2016@gmail.com

\$31,500



MAFFI Minute

January 2026



Happy New Year, Model A'ers!

As we roll into another year, we find ourselves one step closer to our beloved cars turning 100 years old, which is pretty incredible to think about. The Board met in January to begin planning for the year ahead, including early discussions around Model A Days, along with ideas for upcoming exhibit changes and continued growth of the museum.

While things may seem quieter during the winter months, the museum remains very active behind the scenes. Winter is an important time for maintenance, organization, and preparing exhibits and vehicles for the year ahead. The volunteers of the Grape Country Model A's have been instrumental in this work, generously donating their time and skills. Leader of Fleet Maintenance Dan Cargo and Museum Manager Jerry Dennany, in particular, continue to provide invaluable leadership and hands-on support throughout the off-season.

Keep on motoring!

John Grosheim
Trustee and Secretary of MAFFI

Calendar of Events

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

2026

- **February 8** *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting* (Oak Ridge, 1 pm lunch, followed by meeting)
- *March 8* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *March 21* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *April 12* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *April 18* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *May 10* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *May 23* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *June 11-14* 63rd Model A Ford Texas Tour (Hosted by Ft. Worth, Mineral Wells)
- *June 14* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *June 21* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *July 12* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *July 18* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *August 9* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *September 12* International Model A Day
- *September 13* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *September 19* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *October 11* *Autumn Trails A's Club Meeting*
- *October 17* Classics and Coffee Cruise-In, 8-10:30 am, Quitman
- *October 22* *Autumn Trails Weekend Setup*
- *October 23-25* *Autumn Trails Swap Meet*
- *October 23* *Autumn Trails Stew*
- *October 24* *Autumn Trails Antique Car Parade (ft. Model As)*
- *October 24* *Autumn Trails BBQ/Banquet*
- *October 25* *Autumn Trails Sunday Tour*



2026 Texas Tour

If you have not yet registered for the 2026 Texas Tour in Mineral Wells, you may now do so online by visiting: <https://2026texasmodelatour.org>. Online prices are adjusted for credit card fees; however, by using Zelle (instead of a credit card) you can use code "zelle3" at checkout for a 3% discount to waive the fee.

Attached to this email is the updated registration form packet to include online registration information and vegetarian meal options. The registration fee includes all meals and activities listed on the form. *Form and more tour information on the following pages.*

The Red Lion Inn still has rooms available under our block. Please make your reservations ASAP if you have not yet done so. There are also several bed and breakfast options, such as the Magpie Inn, or AirBnBs within a short distance of The Crazy Water Hotel.

63rd Model "A" Ford Texas Tour

JUNE 11-14, 2026

MINERAL WELLS, TX



HOSTED AT THE
HISTORIC CRAZY
WATER HOTEL

REGISTER NOW!

Online or mail in registration available
<https://2026texasmodelatour.org>



THE CRAZY WATER HOTEL



BLUE OVAL CAR BARN



back



crew &
v-neck

EVENT T-SHIRT

JOIN US

Hosted by the Fort Worth Model "A" Ford Club, the 63rd Texas Tour offers a variety of activities highlighting the historic charm of Mineral Wells, Texas. The host hotel and event venue is the fully restored Crazy Water Hotel.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome and farewell banquets
- Planned early bird activities
- Multiple mini tour options
- Era Fashions
- Blue Oval Car Barn
- Grand Tour with catered lunch
- Game night with ice cream
- Within walking distance of the historic Baker Hotel

Hotel Information: mention "Texas Tour" when booking for block discount

The Crazy Water Hotel: (940) 325-4605

Red Lion Inn: (940) 325-7829



REGISTRATION FORM

**63rd Model "A" Ford Texas Tour
June 11-14, 2026
Mineral Wells, Texas**

Hosted by the Fort Worth Model "A" Ford Club

Please print all information on form:

Last Name	First Name	Spouse/Guest
Local Club Affiliation(s)	Phone (including area code)	Alternate phone
Address	Email	
City/State/Zip	Any food concerns?	
Children Attending (First and Last Names and Ages) _____		

Will you drive your Model A to the meet? YES NO Will you be trailering your A? YES NO

Year _____ Body Style _____ 2nd "A" Year _____ Body Style _____

Will you be participating in the **Era Fashion Photo Shoot**? YES NO

Registration will include 1 patch and 1 radiator badge. Additional patches and badges may be purchased separately. Registration Confirmation will be sent by Email.

Note: Registrations must be received by May 31, 2026 with a \$40 late fee after May 15, 2026. Due to prior payment for facilities, food, and service, refunds cannot be given after May 31, 2026.

I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless from any and all liability whatsoever due to my attendance and participation at the 2026 Model "A" Ford Texas Tour, any and all of the following: Model A Ford Club of America Inc., and their Officers and Directors, Model A Restorers Club Inc., and their Officers and Directors, the 63rd Texas Tour committee, their facilities, and the Fort Worth Model A Ford Club, and their Officers and Directors. Submission of this Registration form whether signed or unsigned, constitutes acceptance of this release by all attendees/participants.

Signed _____ Date _____

Register online at: <https://2026texasmodelatour.org>

or Make checks payable to Texas Tour 2026

**Mail to: Andrea Douglass, Registrar
2319 Warner Rd
Fort Worth, TX 76110
817-907-1418
Email: texastour2026@gmail.com**

For Registrar use only:
 Check # _____
 Amount \$ _____
 Date Received _____

2026 TEXAS TOUR REGISTRATION

Wednesday, June 10, 2026		Times	How Many?	
Early Registration & Self-Guided Tours - The Crazy Water Hotel		2:00pm-5:00pm		
Thursday, June 11, 2026				
Registration/ Hospitality/ Raffles - The Crazy Water Hotel		10:30am-5:00pm	_____	
Repair Tent		2:00pm-5:00pm	_____	
Early Bird Self-Guided Tours - Scavenger Hunt and/or Ghost Tour		all day		
Early Bird Guided Tour - Possum Kingdom Lake		11:00am-3:00pm		
Welcome Dinner - The Crazy Water Hotel		6:00pm-8:30pm		
How many of each?: _____ Chicken Fajitas & fixins _____ Veg. (roasted mushroom & peppers)			_____	
Kids (under 13) _____ Chicken Fajitas & fixins _____ Veg. (roasted mushroom & peppers)			_____	
Friday, June 12, 2026				
Registration/ Repair Tent/ Hospitality/ Raffles		10:00am-5:00pm	_____	
Era Fashions Photo Shoot - The Crazy Water Hotel		9:00am-10:30am		
Guided Tour - Weatherford Downtown Square and Farmers Market		9:00am-1:00pm		
Self-Guided Tours - Scavenger Hunt and/or Ghost Tour		all day		
Blue Oval Car Barn: <i>Ford Mustang collection</i>		2:00pm-4:30pm		
Ice Cream Sundaes & Game Night - The Crazy Water Hotel		6:00-8:30pm		
Saturday, June 13, 2026				
Grand Tour - Thurber Museum & Lunch		8:30am - 3:00pm		
Lunch - How many of each?: _____ Pulled Pork _____ Sliced Turkey _____ Veg. (salad)			_____	
Kids lunch (under 13) - _____ Pulled Pork _____ Sliced Turkey _____ Veg. (salad)			_____	
Repair Tent/ Hospitality/ Raffles		2:00pm-5:00pm	_____	
Presidents' Meeting of TX club presidents - The Crazy Water Hotel		5:00pm-5:30pm		
Farewell Dinner - The Crazy Water Hotel		6:00pm-9:00pm		
How many of each?: _____ Chicken Fried Steak & fixins _____ Veg. (cauliflower steak)			_____	
Kids Meal (under 13) _____ Chicken Fried Steak & fixins _____ Veg. (cauliflower steak)			_____	
Era Fashions Gallery Walk (how many?) _____				
Registration Fees				
<i>Registration fees include all meals and activities listed on this form</i>		FIRST ADULT	1	\$150.00
		OTHER ADULT(S)		\$140.00
		KIDS (under 13)		\$100.00
Late Registration Fee <u>after</u> May 15, 2026				\$40.00
TOTAL EVENT PRICE				
T-SHIRTS - see intro page for pictures of the shirts available				
T-Shirts (how many?), Navy S _____, M _____ crew neck (men's)		\$25.00		
T-Shirts (how many?), Navy L _____, XL _____ crew neck (men's)		\$25.00		
T-Shirts (how many?), Navy 2XL _____, 3XL _____ crew neck (men's)		\$27.00		
T-Shirts (how many?), Navy S _____, M _____ v-neck (ladies')		\$25.00		
T-Shirts (how many?), Navy L _____, XL _____, v-neck (ladies')		\$25.00		
T-Shirts (how many?) Navy 2XL _____, 3XL _____, v-neck (ladies')		\$27.00		
Extra Patches (1 included with registration)	How Many? _____		\$5.00	
Extra Radiator Badges (1 included with registration)	How Many? _____		\$5.00	
TOTAL MERCHANDISE PRICE - tax included with all merchandise				
TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED				