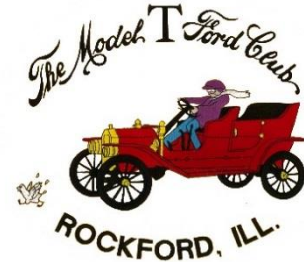


Rockford Model T Ford Club Newsletter

June 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> |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Monday May 29 8:30 a.m. | Memorial Day Parade | Downtown Rockford (See details on Page 5) | |
| Sunday June 4 8:00 a.m. | Model A Day | Clinton, WI (See details on Page 6) | |
| Wednesday June 7 7:00 p.m. | Monthly Meeting | United Lutheran Church 3630 N. Rockton Ave. | |

OTHER LOCAL SHOWS AND EVENTS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| June 10 | Tin Butcher's Scrap Drive | Boone County 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

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Mary Sheley | 6/2 |
| Tim Wanfalt | 6/7 |
| Craig Sheridan | 6/7 |
| Len Belpedio | 6/8 |
| Rosie Sheridan | 6/13 |
| Cindy Kindell | 6/13 |
| Jay Larson | 6/27 |
| Deb Werner | 6/29 |



Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Scott and Sheryl Stier | 6/10 |
| Tim and Lisa Dickson | 6/17 |

Rockford Model T Club Board/General Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2023

Club president Aaron Crandall welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at United Lutheran Church, Rockford. Officers, Board and club members present included: Aaron Crandall, Jay Larson, Deb Werner, Steve Kindell, Dave Lantz, Bill Werner, Craig Sheridan, Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Scott and Sheryl Stier, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Wayne Henson, Bill Duffee, Brian Fradkin, Dean Wanfalt, Tim Wanfalt, and Gene and Betty Clifton.

Secretary Deb Werner read the minutes of the April 2023 meeting. Jay Larson moved to approve, seconded by Kurt Duesterhoeft, approved.

Treasurer Jay Larson read the treasurer's report. Craig Sheridan moved to approve, seconded by Wayne Henson, approved.

Old Business: Discussion and feedback took place regarding the Little Hershey.

New Business: Kurt Duesterhoeft stated he put the tour sign-up info for the club's tours in the April club newsletter and Kurt went through the list and requested club members sign up to host tours. Club members signed up to host some of those tours including Model A Days – Dean Wanfalt; 4th of July to Kirkland for the parade – Dave Lantz; Aug. 10-13 Sycamore Steam Show – Tim Wanfalt will host the tour on Sat. Aug. 12; Sun. Sept. 17 Beloit AutoRama – Kurt Duesterhoeft; Sept. 26-27 Overnight Tour – Joe Maurer (with Model A Club) touring to Blue Mounds; October Fall Tour – Gene and Betty Clifton; Christmas Party – Sheryl Stier (potluck supper at United Lutheran Church, Rockford).

Little Hershey – Dave Lantz talked about the signage at Little Hershey and also discussed about putting signage up stating the local charities we donate to. Dave talked about the difficulty in getting food vendors to return calls but stated a Puerto Rican food truck vendor and a kettle corn vendor have said Yes and will be at Little Hershey this year. Discussion also took place about where to set up the engines demo display – near the car show or near the Main Gate along the fence. Dave noted some indoor vendor spots have

sold but not many. Dave said Little Hershey fliers will be handed out and Little Hershey signs will be displayed at the May 6 Cars and Coffee event. It was also approved that five \$10 gift cards from an auto store and Little Hershey free passes will be in the giveaway at Cars and Coffee. Little Hershey set-up is Thursday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m. at Boone County Fairgrounds.

Past Club Events – Sheryl Stier talked about the club’s annual banquet on April 23 at Thunder Bay Restaurant. Sheryl stated 27 people attended and also stated the fun raffle of white-elephant gifts made \$90. Sheryl also asked Aaron Crandall to talk about the sweaters he donated. Aaron said Mary Sheley knitted the sweaters and stated the sweaters were part of his family’s treasures. Sheryl also said a Thank You to Thunder Bay Restaurant banquet manager Caitlin (Dean Wanfalt’s granddaughter) for all her hard work!

Future Club Events – Sat. May 6 at 9:00 a.m. – Cars & Coffee – Katie’s Cup, 7th St., Rockford; Mon. May 29 – Memorial Day Parade – the sign-up sheet was passed around at the club meeting; Sunday, June 4 – Model A Days - ****new location**** in Clinton, Wisc. July 16 begins the International. Aug. 26 – Marengo Car Show. Bill Werner stated he spoke with Tim Dickson who stated the club can hold a meeting at his shop if he has approx. one month advance notice.

Illnesses –Duane Bunton is slowly healing after recently falling and breaking his ribs and will be having a procedure to kill the nerves in his knees to alleviate the pain.

Craig Sheridan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Wayne Henson seconded; approved

Next Club Meeting – Wed, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. – United Lutheran Church, Rockford.

Annual Club Banquet – April 23, 2023

Scott and Sheryl Stier hosted a brunch buffet at Thunder Bay Grill in Rockford. In attendance were Duane and Cathy Bunton, Bill and Deb Werner, Mary Sheley and her daughter, Lilia Stull, Jay Larson and his guest, Mary Pat, Chuck and Betty Lesnewski (planning to join the club), Wayne and Phyllis Orrison, Brian and Cam Fradkin, Aaron Crandall, Wayne Henson, Joe and Bean Maurer, Jim Martin and Alice, Yvonne Wilson, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Steve and Cindy Kindell, and Dave and Deena Lantz. Each table had a centerpiece that was given away with cookies at every place setting. Everyone brought something for the raffle which raised \$130 for the club. There were some great automotive items, household knick-knacks, and some amazing Model T sweaters hand-crafted by Mary Sheley and donated by Aaron Crandall. Bill and Deb Werner were treated with a mini wedding cake in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary. Everyone had a chance to sign a card for Helen Anglemire’s upcoming 100th birthday. What a special milestone! Hats off to Scott and Sheryl for putting together a great banquet.

Cars and Coffee, May 6, 2023

A cool, cloudy, and damp morning didn’t deter folks from coming out to the first Cars and Coffee of the season (the April event was cancelled due to weather). Over 300 cars and one monster truck were on display in downtown Rockford, including Model T’s brought by Steve and Cindy Kindell, Bill Werner, Kurt Duesterhoeft, Gene and Betty Clifton, Aaron Crandall, and Roland Crandall. Dean and Tim Wanfalt were also in attendance. Aaron brought an early 1909 Touring (one of the first 2500 Model T’s made). This car is quite unique with its two-pedal, two-lever controls. Very early Model T’s had the reverse band actuated by a hand lever, not a foot pedal. The car also featured an engine with exposed valves, an especially low

head, and a 5-ball Kingston carburetor. Aaron acquired the car from the Henry Ford museum in Dearborn a number of years ago. What a treat to see this historic T up close and in person! The club promoted Little Hershey by giving away \$10 Auto Zone gift cards and some free admission passes to the swap meet. Steve and Cindy's grandsons also handed out flyers. Thanks to everyone who came out on a not-so-pleasant day to help promote the club, our cars, and Little Hershey.



Model T's were given prime parking at Cars and Coffee.

Aaron Crandall stands beside his early 1909 Touring.

Dean and Tim Wanfalt check out Aaron's car. Note the Reverse pedal is "missing" and has been replaced by an extra lever by the parking brake. The car also has a brass quadrant, a brass steering spider, and a Stewart speedometer mounted on the right side of the dash.



Photos courtesy of Steve Kindell.

Rockford's Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will take place Monday May 29th. We are in Division #3. Enter from 6th Street at 6th Avenue. We will assemble at 8:30 a.m. with a step off time of 9:00 a.m. The parade route is the traditional



route. This is a solemn occasion so we won't be throwing candy or honking horns. Let's not forget those who gave so much to protect and defend our freedoms. After the parade we'll head to Stockholm Inn for late breakfast/early lunch, around 11 a.m. Contact [Steve Kindell](mailto:Steve.Kitell@rockfordchamber.com) (815/721-4700) if you are planning to attend.

Here's a list of the remaining planned club activities for 2023.

| Date | Event | Host/Chair | Event Location or Meeting Place |
|--|---|-------------------|--|
| Monday May 29th | Memorial Day Parade | Steve Kindell | Downtown Rockford |
| Sunday June 4th | Model A Day | Dean Wanfalt | Clinton, WI |
| Tuesday July 4th | Kirkland 4th of July Parade | Dave Lantz | Baumann Park Cherry Valley |
| Sunday July 16th - Saturday 22nd | International Tour Devil's Head Resort | | Merrimac, WI (608) 493-2204 |
| Saturday August 5th | Tipsy History | Kurt Duesterhoeft | Midway Village Musuem, Rockford |
| Saturday August 12th | Sycamore Steam Show | Tim Wanfalt | 27707 Lukens Road Sycamore, IL |
| Sunday September 17th | Beloit Autorama Car Show | Kurt Duesterhoeft | Preservation Park Beloit, WI |
| Tuesday September 26th - Wednesday 27th | Overnight Tour | Joe Maurer | Cave of the Mounds Blue Mounds, WI |
| October | Fall Tour | Gene Clifton | To Be Determined |
| TBD | Potluck Christmas Party | Sheryl Stier | United Lutheran Church |

The Rock-Ford Model A's invite us to join them for Model A Day in Clinton on Sunday June 4th. Dean Wanfalt will lead a tour from Rockford to Clinton. Profits from the event will support the food pantries in Clinton. Let Dean know if you'll be attending (815/222-2117). Plan to meet at Farm and Fleet on Riverside at 8 a.m.

CLINTON'S TRAFFIC JAMS
PRESENTS

ROARING
20's 30's

**WE WELCOME
ROCK-FORD CHAPTER
MODEL A DAYS**

SUNDAY
4TH
JUNE

9-2PM

**DOWNTOWN
CLINTON, WI**

**26TH ANNUAL
MODEL A DAYS**

THIS YEAR WILL BE HELD IN HISTORIC
DOWNTOWN CLINTON, WISCONSIN, 53585

**MODEL A'S • REENACTORS • MUSIC • GREAT FOOD
TIME ERA FASHION SHOW • VENDORS • CRAFTERS • MUCH MORE...**

Rockford's Model T Connection – Part VI

In this series of articles we've been looking at the influence the Rockford manufacturing sector had on the early automotive industry, and the Model T in particular. This month we'll look at the Excelsior Leather Washer Manufacturing Company.



The company was founded in 1916 by J. Al Johnson and occupied a factory on Green Street on Rockford's west side. They produced leather washers and gaskets, and somewhat surprisingly, spark plugs. The exact dates of spark plug manufacturing are unknown, but it appears very few were produced. An internet search for these spark plugs or related advertisements turned up almost nothing. No one at the company today was able to shed any light on their production either. But Gene Clifton has some of these rare spark plugs in his collection! The company marketed these plugs under the name **XL Electric Disk**.



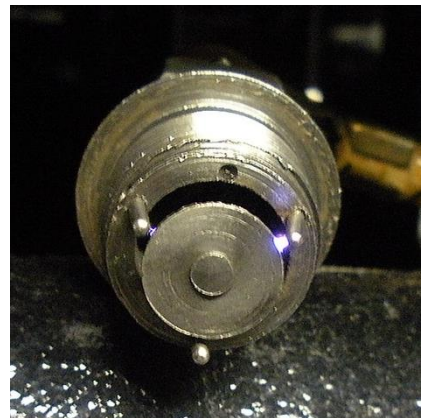
Like the Fyrac spark plugs, the XL Electric Disk plug had a very unusual electrode design. The electrode was composed of a center disk surrounded by three evenly spaced prongs. In theory, this would allow three sparks instead of just one. It also meant there were three gaps to adjust. In reality, electric current takes the path of least



resistance. So once an arc established on one electrode, it is now the path of least resistance making it unlikely for an arc to establish on either of the other two electrodes. The practicality of this design seems questionable, but it certainly was novel. The particular plug shown in the photos does not have the correct threads to fit a stock Model T head. The threads are a finer pitch and the plug has a shallower reach. But it does appear to have the right dimensions for a Model A. Does anyone know if these plugs were available for a Model T? Do you have one in your collection? Although the XL Electric Disk spark plug apparently wasn't made for long, the Excelsior Company is still in business today making gaskets and other products and is located on 27th Avenue behind the main Post Office.

In this time-lapse "live fire" photo using a Model T coil, you can see a strong, repeated arc on the upper right electrode, a very weak arc on the upper left electrode, and no arc at all on the bottom electrode.

A special thanks to Gene and Betty Clifton for their contributions to this article



Hydraulic Packings and MECHANICAL LEATHERS



Pitcher Spout Cup Leather



Upper Plunger Leather



XL
Brand
MECHANICAL
LEATHERS



Lower Valve Leather



Send us Specifications or Samples
for Prices

Nothing takes the place of *Leather!*



Gaskets



Cup Leather



Flange Leather



"U" Leather



"V" Leather

EXCELSIOR LEATHER WASHER MFG. CO.
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

ROCKFORD CITY DIRECTORY



Leather Washers

For All Manufacturing Purposes

We are specialists in this line and are prepared to fill your order for any quantity.

X-L Brand

excels all others. Our motto is Prompt Service and Good Quality. Estimates cheerfully furnished on any kind of Leather Speciality Work.

TRY US

Excelsior Leather Washer Mfg. Co.
323-29 Cedar Street
ROCKFORD - ILLINOIS



From these vintage advertisements we can see the company re-located several times, occupying factories on Cedar Street and Chestnut Street.


1916 FIFTY YEARS 1966

GASKETS AND WASHERS

... cut from all types of non-metallic materials, such as: **Leather** • **Accopac** • **Asbestos** • **Rubber** • **Silicone** • **Nylon** • **Fibreglass** • **Felt** • **Fibre** • **Cork** • **Vinylite** • **Teflon** • **Viton "A"** • **Mylar, etc.**



EXCELSIOR LEATHER WASHER MFG. CO.
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS (Established 1916)





23760

720 Chestnut St.

Phone 815/968-2203