



Club Calendar – 2026

Date	Model A Club Event
February 21	Tech Session at Clyde Melvin’s at 10:00am
February 24	Monthly Club Meeting at Hiawatha Community Center at 6:00pm – Note Time
March 3	BYOB Breakfast at Tommy’s (393 Edgewood Rd NW) at 9:30
March 24	Monthly Club Meeting at Hiawatha Community Center at 6:00pm – Note Time
April 25	Dust Off Drive – Place and Time TBD
April 26	Spring Banquet at Kava House (122 2 nd St SE, Swisher) at 4:30pm
April 28	Monthly Club Meeting at Hiawatha Community Center at 7:00pm
May 16	AACA Swap Meet at Hawkeye Downs

Club Mission

To encourage the preservation and restoration of the Model A Ford vehicle for the historic, educational and entertainment values including literature, technical and historical information and to promote the introduction of ideas and fellowship among its members.

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President’s Message

The end of January usually has some warm days that make me excited for nice days in February to be outdoors. So far all I want to do is say indoors except to get fireplace wood so I can get toasty warm and take an afternoon or early evening nap! February 11th will be a busy day for our club. The Iowa Model A Days (IMAD)committee meeting will be having their second planning meeting of the year.

The Tour Committee will be having the first organization meeting to plan 6 summer monthly tours. I’m aware that several past year’s tour leaders are unable to continue leading a tour for various valid personal reasons, therefore, please consider volunteering to join the committee to be a tour leader or assist another member with a tour. You will receive assistance in planning and conducting the tour from past tour leaders, members, and participants of past tours – you will not be alone.



Last, the Board of Directors will be meeting as required by our by-laws. We will review of our financials and approve a budget for 2026 based on input from members and committees.

As always, I look forward to what the committees plan for us during the year. Let's all do our part by participating in one of the best Model A clubs, in MARC and MAFCA in the United States of America. Here's hoping for a few nice days to get the A's out of storage.

Jim Smith

Meeting Snack Schedule

- February – Lee & Denise Votroubek
- March – Gary Sampson & Jan Wenger
- April – Paul & Kathy Svoboda
- May – The Ficks
- July – Calvin & Carolyn Reiling
- August – Larry & Dolores Schmitt
- September – Clyde, Sue and Sherry Melvin
- October – Deb Weisskopf & Sandy Fetzer
- November – David & Joanie Meyer

Thanks to those who provide our meeting snacks! Be sure to sign up to bring treats at the January meeting.



- Deborah Petersen – February 8
- Dorothy Ackerman – February 19
- Clyde Melvin – February 20
- Ron Albright – February 28

If you want to get your name on the birthday list send your date (no year) to Joanie Meyer at meyer784@msn.com.

Events

Tech Sessions

February 21, 2026 at 10:00am
At Clyde Melvin's Garage
Topic: Transmission Class



BYOB Breakfast



Join us on **March 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM**
Tommy's Restaurant. The address is 393 Edgewood Road NW.

For Questions call:
Ruth Smith at 319-393-3626
Jan Wenger 319-365-7044

Spring Banquet

When: Sunday April 26th
Where: Kava House
122 2nd St SE, Swisher Iowa
Time: 4:30pm
Cost: \$20.00 per person
Speaker: Linda will have history and a slideshow on the Swisher area,

I will be taking reservations at our February and March meetings.

Thank you for your interest and looking forward to sharing a late afternoon with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Denise Votroubek (319-551-3539)



Other Announcements

Reminder

We decided at the November meeting to move the rest of the winter meetings to 6:00pm. **Meetings in February and March will be held at the Hiawatha Community Center at 6:00pm**

Membership

We are still at 30 unpaid 2026 dues. Only one received since January meeting.

Jim Smith and Randy Stallman have assisted in making telephone contacts. Randy only had one decline out of twenty-four calls, so I am still optimistic.

March 1st is rapidly approaching, so don't delay! This is shaping up to be a fun year, so don't miss out. This is one of the finest groups to belong to.

Hope to see you at the February meeting!

Larry Schmitt
V.P./Membership Chairman

Message from your Newsletter Editor

Starting in March, Sandy Christensen will be taking over as our newsletter editor. I want to thank everyone for their encouraging comments over the last 5 years (yes it's been 5 years and it really flew by!) regarding the newsletter.

I also want to thank all the members that provide input for the newsletters. They made my job very easy.

Joanie Meyer

Contacts

Cards and Flowers – Ruth Smith at 319-393-3626

Send mass email to members –Milora Johanns at milora.johanns@gmail.com

Newsletter – submit articles to Sandy Christensen at schris10sen@gmail.com by the 10th of the month

Humor

From: jalopyjournal.com

Back in the 70's, my dad's brother (both car guys from way back) had a 59 chevy 4 door that he had picked up pretty cheap. Each of the five kids was given the car as their first car to learn how to drive, and then after THAT car, they'd get something a little more current. When the two youngest cousins had their turn with the car, and every time that we'd visit, we'd have a contest to see who could back the car down their 1/2 mile gravel lane the fastest... How we never wrecked that car I'll never know!!!

My uncle also used to have a big family reunion every year, and a few days after cussing out my brother and I for going off-roading and abusing an old 73 Plymouth Fury that we had originally bought as a "winter beater", we went to the reunion with my mom & dad. Later in the day as we walked up behind my dad, we got to hear the tail end of the story that he was telling my uncle "*Remember the time that we bought that Model A and were running from the cops and had to drive it through the woods all the way back to the house in the dark so that we didn't get caught...???* And remember that other time when....???" We stood there and took in two or three good stories and THEN let our Dad know that we were standing there listening. He got kind of a sheepish grin on his face and NEVER gave us a hard time for the stupid stuff that we did with our beater cars after that.



**HAWK A MODEL A FORD CLUB INC
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

For the first time in my tenor as Secretary, President Jim called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.....the Club's new winter months' start time. We had a really nice size group attend on this very below zero evening. There were no guests or visitors. However, President Jim announced the club has two new members - Tom Peet and Tim Klima. Both were at tonight's meeting. Welcome !!

MINUTES: The November minutes as published in the newsletter were approved by a show of hands after a motion by Randy and a second from Aaron.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Don's report was also approved by a show of hands after a motion by Jan and a second by Shareen.

MARC DRIVING AWARD PROGRAM: Don reported on this program. It's done yearly, from January thru December. It has one lifetime 'entry' fee of \$1.00. Rewards are given for miles driven starting with the first 2,000....then every additional 5,000. Currently the club has 7 participating members. Jan Wenger is up for a 30,000 mile reward this year. Some are heading into a 40,000 mile reward. If you're interested, talk to Don and get your paperwork filled out.

MAFCA also has a one year 'free' membership for NEW members who have never been a member before . Annual membership is \$50.00. Don has the information and paperwork on this as well.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMBERSHIP: Larry reported there are still 28 members who haven't paid their 2026 dues.

The club received the Preserver Newsletter from MAFFI as well as an invite letter to the newly redone museum in Gilmore.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

Dec 2nd – BYOB breakfast - Kirkwood

Dec 7th – Christmas party.....President Jim thanked Wayne/Brenda for their help setting up the tables and providing BINGO for entertainment.....and prizes for the winners.

Jan 6th – BYOB breakfast – Tommy's

Jan 14 – IMAD planning meeting

Jan 17 – Tech session..... Tom Peet and Tim Klima were 1st time attendees.

TREAT PROVIDERS: President Jim announced there were 6 unfilled months for 2026. Joanie had a paper to sign up – however, President Jim asked those present to step up and they did. The providers will be listed in the Newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities: April 26th is our 2026 Banquet. It's at the Kava House in Swisher – 4:00PM. Denise & Lee Votroubek are the planners and hosts for this spring banquet event.



Hawk A News



IMAD: Clyde announced one decision made at their last meeting was - there will be NO 2026 IMAD 'T'-shirt. However, they are asking members for input on getting a shirt with a 'catchy' phrase & our club logo....that could better engage conversation about the club. More on this to come.

Elaine spoke about the Women's Tea arrangements. They have a speaker.

Communication: nothing

Tech Session: Randy mentioned there were 19 people at the Jan 17th session. The next session is Feb. 21st at Clyde's. The subject is open as of tonight.

Newsletter: nothing

Clothing: nothing

Tour: Meeting at Ladd Library Feb 11th at 11:45. Joanie mentioned, in Brenda's absence, that she's hoping to set up electronics in order for those who are unable to attend in person – they can take part via zoom. Contact Brenda if you're interested in this.

BUSY DAY:... Feb 11th: IMAD meeting /8:30AM - BOARD meeting/11:00AM - TOUR meeting/11:45AM

AACA Swap Meet Information: May 16th - Aaron handed out flyers . President Jim mentioned they have offered our Club 'free' booth space and entries for 2 people. We are looking for a model A car to display.

BUY – SALE – TRADE: There were several items mentioned.....

NEWS from members: There was some weather related stories... President Jim reported flying from Az took 3 hrs...getting off the Cedar Rapids airport tarmac and home took 3 ½ hrs....

Dennis Zuber reported on a nice front page write up in the Allamakee Newspaper about the tour he & Elaine led last fall. The article has a photo of our club Model A's crossing the Blackhawk bridge one last time before it was torn down.

Jim Vavricka commented on a Model A article he found in a 1968 addition of Mechanics Illustrated Magazine. He's donating that book to the club or a member...if ya want to check it out.

Sherry Wilcox reported the wood carving event is March 7 & 8 at the Czech Museum

Members' health updates: President Jim responded to a question about Dean Kiefer. He's doing pretty good and thinks he'd appreciate a phone call now & then....or even a visit.

Treats: Provided by the Officers.....

Meeting Adjourned

Respectively submitted by:

Melanie Vislisl, Secretary



IMAD Corner

Mark your calendar – August 14-15

Remember, this year's **IMAD weekend is August 14th and 15th**, so plan on joining the Friday afternoon drive and welcome reception and of course Saturday with all of the Model A's and the Tea and Tech Session to enjoy.

The IMAD Committee met on January 14th for our first meeting of the new year. One of the first items accomplished was to finalize our speakers for the tea and tech session. Randy Stallman has agreed to again be the presenter at our Saturday tech session. Randy will announce his topic for this year at a later date. Meg Mercken will be the guest speaker at the tea with her topic ***"So, What Do You Do For A Living?" My Life as an Actor in Iowa.*** Meg is an accomplished actor living in the Amanas and will provide attendees an interesting and entertaining morning.

Last year's longer drive on Friday was well received, so we are again planning on a longer Friday drive this year. Dennis and Elaine have developed three potential routes, and the committee will choose a route at a later meeting.

A major discussion and decision were about the yearly IMAD shirt. Among topics discussed were:

- The vast majority of orders were from club members, and many never wore the shirt other than at IMAD
- The source of our shirts modified the minimum orders which would necessitate only having a single order prior to IMAD
- To maintain a reasonable cost, the shirt quality was discussed
- Would it be better to have a club shirt designed to be less about a specific event, but more general, possibly with some clever saying. The possibility of having a higher quality shirt, maybe even a polo shirt was discussed.

After a thorough discussion, the committee decided not to have a 2026 IMAD specific shirt, but work with the club on a more general shirt. This was presented at our January club meeting, but please share your thoughts with any of the committee members.

Jan Wenger
Bob Thorkildson
Sherry Melvin

Clyde & Sue Melvin
Dennis & Elaine Zuber
Don & Barb Fick

President Jim Smith



Tour Corner

Touring Destinations 2026

I hope you are thinking about touring with the club again this year. The touring committee recently met and has been planning some interesting trips, you will see more detail in each issue of the Newsletter. Here is a teaser of what is to come. All dates and destinations are still being worked out, subject to changes.

2026 Tour Dates and Destinations

April 25th: Dust Off location to be determined, Jan Wenger

May: TBD

June 25-26th: Kalona/Washington; Meyers and Thorkildson

July 25th: Oxford; Sue and Clyde Melvin

September: TBD

October: TBD

Thank you to the Touring Committee for your work and commitment to a great touring season. New ideas and tour leaders are still welcome, as you can see there are a couple of open months. Contact Brenda Van Gorp with your ideas and thoughts.

Submitted by Dennis Zuber: Thought this might be nostalgic photos for our winter newsletter reflecting on the fun summer tours. On this year's Lee/Miller Galena, WI tour, we drove past the New Diggings General Store and Inn. On the 2009 Fall Color Tour we were there also. Good memories with friends. The store sure hasn't changed much. Same 2009 Tour with another stop at Potosi for a beer....and a stop at a winery in a snow flurry. That tour proved very interesting....promise on many of the following tours there was always a blanket in the backseat 😊





Overview of Manifold Heaters for Model A

Tech Pages

Manifold heaters are used in Model A Fords to provide cabin heat during colder months. They connect to the exhaust manifold and utilize the heat generated by the engine.

Installation Process

Required Materials

- Manifold heater unit
- Rubber hose for connection
- Bailing wire or stainless steel zip ties (for securing the heater)
- Flared pipe (optional for connection)

Steps to Install

- Position the Heater: Place the manifold heater on the exhaust manifold. Ensure it fits snugly.
- Secure the Heater:
 - a. Use bailing wire or stainless steel zip ties to hold the heater in place.
 - b. If using bailing wire, double it for extra strength and tighten it securely.
- Connect the Hose: Attach the rubber hose to the heater valve on the firewall. This allows hot air to flow into the cabin.
- Check for Leaks: After installation, start the engine and check for any leaks around the connections.
- Seasonal Removal: Many owners remove the heater in summer to keep the engine cooler and prevent hot air from entering the cabin.

Performance and Considerations

- Heat Output: Manifold heaters can effectively warm the cabin, even in low temperatures.
- Summer Use: Consider removing the heater during warmer months to avoid excess heat in the engine compartment and cabin.

This installation will enhance your Model A's comfort during winter driving.

What are the benefits of using a manifold heater in a Model A vehicle?

A manifold heater in a Model A vehicle helps improve engine starting in cold weather by warming the intake air and fuel mixture, which can enhance combustion efficiency. It can also help prevent carburetor icing and improve overall engine performance during winter months.



Ladies' Corner

Keep Calm and Drive a Model A

Poets like Chaucer and, two centuries later, Shakespeare helped popularize Valentine's Day as a romantic holiday, and it stuck—though it began with relatively simple traditions compared to today.

Early on, people celebrated by penning and exchanging love letters on February 14. The oldest known Valentine's Day love letter was written in French in 1415 (after Chaucer, before Shakespeare). In that missive, Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was then a prisoner of war held in the Tower of London, wrote to his wife, Bonne of Armagnac.

The mid-19th century marked the beginning of many of our commercialized Valentine's Day traditions. Victorian men wooed women with flowers, and Richard Cadbury created the first heart-shaped box of chocolates in 1868.

Also around this time, the "Mother of the American Valentine" Esther Howland, only in her early 20s, popularized store-bought English-style valentines in America thanks to her assembly line process that made elaborate cards affordable. (Google some of Howland's creations—they will inspire you to DIY your own Valentine's Day cards!)

Taking a cue from the popularity of valentines, The New England Confectionery Company, or NECCO, began stamping out an early version of Conversation Hearts—though the sweet messages weren't heart-shaped until 1902.

By the early 1910s, an American company that would one day become Hallmark began distributing its more official "Valentine's Day cards." The rest, as they say, is history.

Calico Beans

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 medium onion, cut up | 1# hamburger |
| Brown together and drain fat off. | |
| Add: 2 cans red kidney beans | 2 cans lima beans |
| 1 large can baked beans - - draining some of the juice from the beans. | |
| Sauce: 1 T. Worcestershire sauce | 1 c. brown sugar |
| 4 T. vinegar | 1 c. catsup |
| 2 T. mustard | |
| Bake at 350 for 1½ hours. Serves 15-20. Can be cut in half for smaller group. | |
| Ruth Smith | |





Model A Ford Winter Driving

Feb 24, 2004 by Nancy Willett in The Softer Side

Back in the Day

All this cold weather that we've been having makes me very thankful for the winter clothing that we now have.

My grandmother told many stories of her driving adventures in the winter months. For some unknown reason my grandfather never got his driver's license until later in life. He was employed as a foreman for the Missisquoi Pulp Mill in Sheldon Springs Vermont, which was 8 miles from their home.

One particularly cold winter, much like we are experiencing this winter, my grandmother had the dubious job of driving him to work mornings. She had a 1928 Model A Ford Roadster, with no heat! Eight miles one way is a long ways to go with no heat in sub zero weather.

As you can imagine, the trip to Sheldon Springs was no piece of cake, and the return trip back was pure misery. Gram had on the standard mode of fashion for the day...dress, stockings, shoes stuffed in stadium boots, and a wool coat with fur collar and gloves. Wool coats were heavy, but didn't offer much warmth at times. Grandfather wore long-johns, wool pants, flannel shirt, wool socks, wool jacket, wool cap and gloves.

Fingers nearly frozen, it was impossible to grip the wheel, so she stuck her arms through the steering wheel to steer the car, managing to get home before she became a block of ice. Fashion be darned, that one experience was enough for Gram. She started wearing a pair of men's pants, socks, flannel shirt, and made a pair of three finger mittens from sheep's skin that would allow her to grip the wheel better.

That very next spring the Model A was traded for a closed car with a heater. If Gram was going to be on the road, she was going to be warm!

From Vermont Auto Enthusiasts: vauto.org/model-a-ford-winter-driving/

People born in the 40's have lived in eight decades, two centuries, two millenniums. We had the best music, fastest cars, drive-in theaters, soda fountains and happy days. And we are not even that old yet. We're just that cool.



Hawk A News



Hawk A Model A Ford Club Officers

Elected Officers

President	Jim Smith	319 213-1227
Vice President	Larry Schmitt	563 468-3166
Secretary	Melanni Vislisel	319 521-6191
Treasurer	Don Fick	563 299-0165

Standing Committees

Iowa Model A Day Committee	Clyde Melvin	319 361-9831
Communications Committee	Bob Thorkildson	319 721-9902
Activities Committee	Ruth Smith	319 393-3626
Tours Committee	Brenda Van Gorp	319 365-7044
Director, At-Large	David Meyer	319 432-8959

Sub-Committees

Club Library	Wayne Van Gorp	319 360-6898
Club Tools	Wayne Van Gorp	319 360-6898
Web Site	Bob Thorkildson	319 721-9902
Tech Sessions	Randy Stallman	319 453-2171
Email Coordinator	Milora Johanns	319 415-0356
Membership	Larry Schmitt	563 468-3166
Women's Interests		

The Club is affiliated with the following national organizations:

MARC – Model A Restorer's Club (The Model "A" News magazine is published bimonthly.)

Send to: Model A Restorer's Club
6721 Merriman Road
Garden City, MI 48135
734-427-9050

Applications available at www.modelarestorersclub.org



MAFCA – Model A Ford Club of America (The Restorer magazine is published bimonthly.)

Send to: Model A Ford Club of America, Inc.
250 S. Cypress Street
La Habra, CA 90631-5586
Phone: 562-697-2712

Applications available at www.mafca.com



The club's website is located at www.hawkamodelaclub.org

February 2026