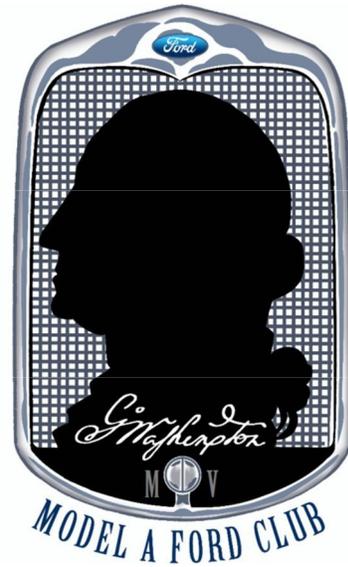


# The Ford Script



Vol. XLV

December 2024

No. 12

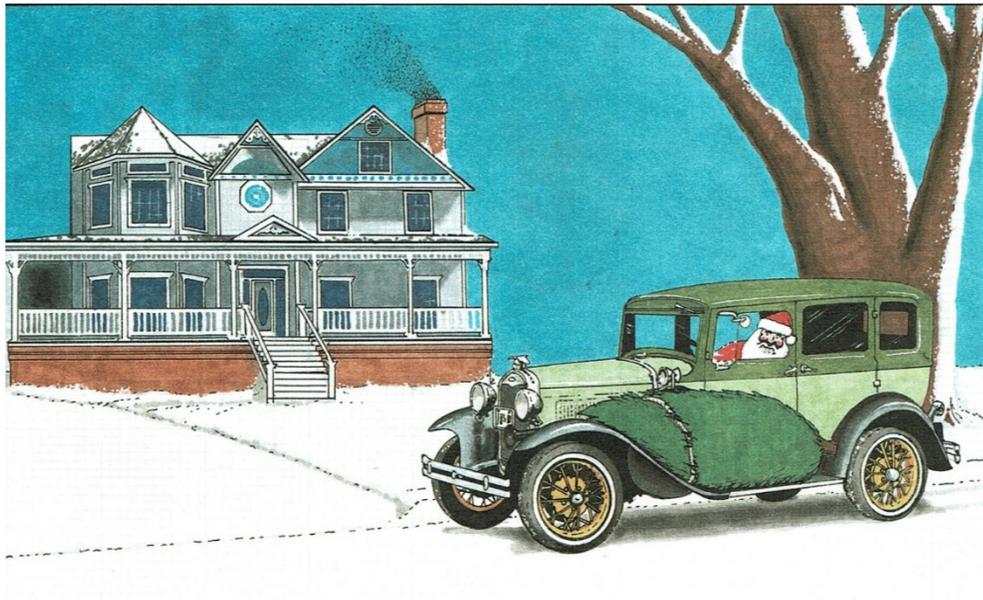


Illustration by Dennis Noblett



Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Fords  
61 Years 1963-2024

# The Ford Script



Official publication of:  
George Washington Chapter, Inc. of  
the Model A Ford Club of America and  
the George Washington Region of the  
Model A Restorers Club  
Post Office Box 971  
McLean, VA 22101

Chapter meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the American Legion Hall, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia. Social meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the business meeting starts at 7:45. Members and guests are invited and encouraged to drive their antique cars to the meetings.

Chapter members are encouraged to belong to both MAFCA and MARC national clubs and the Model A Ford Museum (MAFFI). The chapter Web page on the Internet may be accessed by:

[www.gwcmofa.org](http://www.gwcmofa.org)

Web Master: Greg Shepherd

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Technical Advisor	Tom Terko	240-463-6455

Copy for THE FORD SCRIPT should be e-mailed to the Editor at: [billhsims@gmail.com](mailto:billhsims@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: Monday, January 6**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



The months fly by. Every time I turn around, there is a new Script coming out and I need to put my thinking cap on.

December is the time to think about what transpired in the year that just passed and to look ahead to the new year. Two big events in December are the Christmas Party and the gift exchange at the December meeting, two fun events.

The temperature has dropped considerably and the thought of going out to the cold garage to work on cars is not very appealing. I have a lot to do, so I need to get over that reluctance. I have thought about putting a mini-split in my garage to keep in warmer in the winter and cooler and less humid in the summer. Dave Greenwood put one in his garage and he loves it. I think Jason Cunningham did something similar in his garage, so maybe I need to get on the stick and do mine. My garage is well insulated, so it is a good candidate for that upgrade.

I finally took the plunge and bought a Burtz block. I got a good deal on one through John Lampl. It had been sold and in a shop in Culpepper, but then wasn't going to get used and I decided to pick it up, whether I use it or not. I still need to get into my Town Sedan to see why I have low compression in two cylinders, so the engine may have a new home in that car depending upon what I discover. I have been working on the Town Sedan as it has been sitting with little use for too long and I'd like to see it in the operational fleet again.

Two awards the Club gives out, the Carl Patrick Award and Lifetime Membership, will be awarded at the Christmas party. Articles about the recipients of each are in this issue of the Script, so our congratulations to the awardees. Well deserved in each case.

The board continues mostly unchanged. Jim Gray is the new Sully Chair and Blaine Adcock is the new Youth Chairman. Dave Greenwood has agreed to manage the MARC Mileage Award program, taking over from Jim Cartmill, who ran the program for years. Thanks to Dave for taking on that responsibility.

As we look forward to the new year, there are two items I want to mention. One is programs for the meetings. If you have a topic you would like to present or suggest for a meeting, please let Don White know. We are always looking for good programs. Second is tours. I will take another shot at the Northern Neck tour, but we always need additional tours. They don't need to be long tours, but can be an afternoon drive or a one- or two-day adventure. There is so much to see and do in the area, there is no shortage of places to go. If you have an idea, let us know and we can plan something. We all need more excuses to get our cars out, so if you have a jaunt that we could take, put something together.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party and the gift exchange.

Milford

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

The Script deadline was extended this month so Jim Gray could write up about the Club's Christmas Party and the delivery of the Toys for Tots. I thought it was a very smoothly run program. Unfortunately, the awardees for our 2 most prestigious awards were not in attendance—Greg Shepherd, who won the Carl Patrick Award, and Jim and Edna Cross, who won the Lifetime Membership Award. However, your editor was present to receive the Newsletter of Merit Award from MAFCA on behalf of the Club. My name is on it, but I contribute little of what goes into it. It's the Club members who write the articles and submit their columns every month who win these awards for us. Thank you one and all. And Bruce Metcalf, who takes over every summer, whose name should also be on that award.

Bill Sims

## FROM THE ZOOM BOARD ROOM

Board Meeting  
December 4, 2024



Milford Sprecher called the GWC board meeting to order at 7:11 PM. Board members in attendance: Milford Sprecher, Don White, Doug Tomb, Jeff VanGorder, Valerie Faircloth, Bill Sims, Bruce Metcalf, James Kolody and Dave Greenwood.

Doug Tomb said he needs to set up a new email address to allow the GWC to use Zelle for online payments. That should happen soon. The Board then discussed also using PayPal and that it might help with the Sully registration. It was decided that we would put this as a topic for January when the 2025 Board is in place. This will allow us to discuss any other changes that may be planned for 2025.

Valerie Faircloth updated on the December 7 Christmas Party plans. So far, we have 47 registered. The GWC speaker system is no longer working, Val has planned to use the entertainer's system and Doug will bring a portable unit he has as a backup. One change to the prizes—we will limit each person to one gift, to allow more attendees to win prizes. If an attendee's tickets yield more than one prize, they can keep either their previous selection or return it and take the new one. The grand prize is excluded from this change; an attendee can get the Grand Prize and a regular prize.

Don White said the December 18 Members Meeting is the gift exchange, but Don will not be able to attend. Milford will lead the gift exchange, and Doug will be the back up to lead. Jeff will send out an email reminding members of the meeting along with the rules for the gift exchange. We have heard negative feedback about the quality of gifts. To solve that, Milford will obtain 3 gifts like a gift card to allow guests at the end to pick from those instead of a less-than-acceptable-quality gift. Doug will bring his portable PA system to aid at the meeting.

Don also said the January 15, 2025, program will be the annual indoor flea market.

Jeff VanGorder is currently collecting 2025 dues. He has received 33 payments so far; he expects it will go up quickly once the Zelle payment system is in place. He has also received notice that two members whose spouses have passed and have moved outside the area will not be renewed.

Dave Greenwood is now coordinating the MARC Mileage Program for the GWC and will publish an update in the January Newsletter.

There will be no December Board meeting, the next Board meeting will be in person meeting on January 22, 2025, at 6:00 PM at a local restaurant, details to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Dave Greenwood  
Secretary



## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER 25 YEARS AGO

How time flies. Editor Bill announced that December 1999 marked the 20th year of the Script's existence. He had whipped it up into its present form from an amateurish one-pager, and like the Energizer Bunny he just keeps going. Thanks, Bill, for another great year.

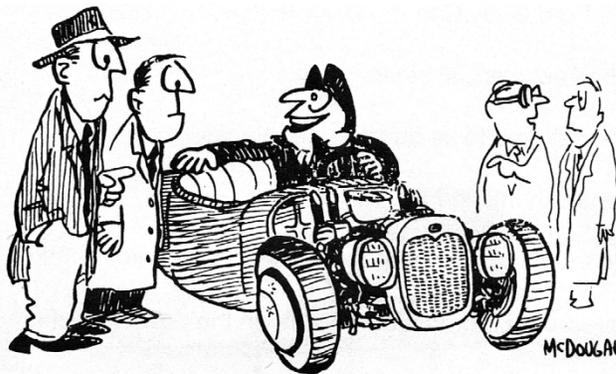


Clem was winding down his term as President. He thanked members for giving their support and encouragement. The Board got a special thanks, adding that our Club is in great shape with the treasury healthy and the membership is up. It had been a record year in quality programs and special outings. He said Sully caught a little rain and built some character, but next year will be a no-rain event. At the board meeting, Secretary Eric Rodgers reported that activities for 2000 were being mapped out—Small Parts Day at Walt Bratton's, Train Day at Clem's, and, of course, Sully 2000, for which Bill Worsham had planning underway. The Sully folks notified the Club that they hope to have an increased number of 1950's era automobiles in attendance for the Sully show to contribute to a 50's theme in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Long-time residents may remember the "Old Ford Factory," an Alexandria landmark on the waterfront, where it stood from 1932 until 1998. But the depth of the depression caused production of cars there to be stopped and the site to be used only as a sales office. FDR's emergency measures aided the economy enough that in April 1934 the branch became a parts, service and sales organization and continued in that capacity until 1941, when it was sold to the Navy. However, it wasn't the first Ford assembly plant in the area; an earlier one was located in Washington, D.C., on Pennsylvania Avenue beginning in 1917, where it was said the facility assembled 25 Model T's a day.

A full page of information by President Clem about the upcoming Brown Bag Gift Exchange gave a step-by-step explanation of how it worked. Clem said stories could be told too, and the truth was not necessary.

Now how about a cartoon?



"Save the fenders? Naw—we take 'em off with a cuttin' torch!"



## **ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING REPORT**

This month's presentation was on our experiences at the Hershey Show.

Vice President Don White called the meeting to order at 7:40 with the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 22 members and guests present and 6 online virtually attending.

Activities: Valerie Faircloth gave the group an update on the plans for the Christmas party, she is currently gathering door prizes. Future events:

- Save The Date; May 18, 2025, GWC Meet up at John Leyton's house on the Oak Hill Mansion property. Oak Hill is the Home of President James Monroe near Aldi, VA. This will be a BBQ and John is requesting that we drive as many Model A's as we can for a good showing while the property is still in Private hands. More details to follow.
- New Magnetic Signs for Parades: Val has finalized the design, and the Board approved the purchase of signs for use in parades. Members can also purchase their own signs for parade use. Look for future notices on purchasing a personal copy.
- Christmas party at the Fairfax American Legion Post #177 is reserved for December 7, set up at 3:00 PM Party at 4:30 PM

Programs: Don White said the December 18 program will be the Brown Bag gift exchange; look for details in an email.

Treasurer: Doug Tomb gave the current financials, the highlights are in the Script.

Membership: Jeff VanGorder said the 2025 dues are being collected and we are exploring a way to allow payment by Zelle, details to follow.

Sully: John Dougherty updated the members that Jim Gray will be the new Chair for the 50<sup>th</sup> show in 2025 and the next item to do is to finish the LOA in January.

2025 Officers: The members, via e mail votes and in person totaling 60 votes, exceeded the minimum 20% of the 164 members and unanimously approved the slate of officers for 2025. The 2025 Officers are: Milford Sprecher President, Don White Vice President and Program Chair, Activities Chair Val Faircloth, Editor Bill Sims, Assistant Editor Bruce Metcalf, Secretary Dave Greenwood, Membership Chair Jeff VanGorder, Treasurer Doug Tomb, Assistant Treasurer Bill Bass, Annual Meet Chair (Sully) Jim Gray, Club Property Manager Benny Leonard/ James Kolody, Youth Chair Blaine Adcock, National Club Liaison Doug Tomb.

Comments were opened to the Floor; Stan Johnson was spotted wearing his new pin provided to members of the Hall of Fame of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.



## ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING REPORT (Cont.)

Member Jerry Covell is looking for 21-inch wire wheels for a restoration project.

The Member's meeting was adjourned at 8:07 and the Program started after refreshments.

At the beginning of the program, John Dougherty auctioned off a set of original glass oil containers and carrying rack donated from the Bill Worsham collection. The funds were donated to the GWC Youth Scholarship Fund. The program was on experiences at the 2024 Hershey meet.



Doug Tomb found a rare Steam Automatic for his steam car. It is a regulator switch that automatically controls the boiler burner temperature. Doug also explained how he obtained his first steam car.

Doug Tomb found a rare Steam Automatic for his steam car. It is a regulator switch that automatically controls the boiler burner temperature. Doug also explained how he obtained his first steam car.

Jim Gray Sold at the flea market and had good sales. He purchased a rare Gray hub cap for his Gray automobile and also other parts. Jim also commented that the 1900 Knox that was formally owned by Reed Martin was for sale at Hershey.



Luke Chapman found a rare functioning Boyce Moto meter that fits onto the steering column of a Model A, it is complete in working order. A non-Model A voltage meter and a Spartan Bugle horn. Luke opened the compressor case of the Horn and explained how it works. He mentioned that he contacted a guy who repairs them and got replacement parts.

Dave Henderson recalled how Edgar Rohr found a \$1.50 Auburn part at Hershey, Dave bought it and later sold it for \$150.00 at an Auburn flea market. That was a lot of money back then, and that fueled Dave's hobby. Keep looking, deals are still out there.

Dave Greenwood talked about his first time experience at Hershey and passed around the program. Dave spent \$20 and obtained a 1928 correct jack, tire Iron, distributor cap and rotor along with a reproduction radiator cap and two upper parts of Zenith carburetors. Of course, walking 16 miles in the Flea market spaces and interaction with people were a bonus.

There were many discussions and favorite stories shared.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Dave Greenwood  
Secretary  
December 2024

**George Washington Chapter 2024 Approved Budget - AS OF 11/30/2024**  
**OPERATING BUDGET #2**

<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<b>Contact</b>	2023 Actual	2024 NOV	2024 ACTUAL
Membership	<b>VanGorder</b>	\$ 2,895.00	\$	\$ 2,227.00
Misc Income (Donations)	<b>Tomb</b>	\$ 65.00	\$	210.00
Programs & Technical Seminars	<b>White</b>	\$ 56.00	\$	\$ -
Club Tours & Activities	<b>Faircloth</b>	\$ 1,460.00	\$	\$ 510.00
Script Advertising	<b>Bass</b>	\$ 450.00	\$	\$ 650.00
Hands on Seminars, Repair	<b>Leonard</b>	\$ -	\$	\$ -
Sully Income	<b>Dougherty</b>	\$ 13,826.50	\$ -	\$12,839.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$18,752.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$16,436.00</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenses</b>				
Membership	<b>VanGorder</b>	\$ 868.07	\$ 6.00	\$ 1,027.38
Club Programs	<b>White</b>	\$ 1,650.34	\$ 15.99	\$ 52.73
Club Tours & Activities	<b>Faircloth</b>	\$ 5,701.44	\$204.75	\$ 2,122.50
Tool Shed / Tools	<b>Leonard</b>	\$ 308.63		\$ 428.52
Sully Car Show Expenses	<b>Dougherty</b>	\$ 4,445.04	\$ -	\$ 4,153.17
Web Hosting Expense	<b>Shepherd</b>	\$ 163.22	\$ -	\$ 165.22
Presidents Fund	<b>Sprecher</b>	\$ 943.63	\$ -	\$ 1,049.51
Secretary Supplies	<b>Greenwood</b>	\$ 157.40	\$ -	\$ -
Treasurer Supplies & Insurance	<b>Tomb</b>	\$ 552.46	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,802.70
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$14,790.23</b>	<b>\$301.74</b>	<b>\$11,801.73</b>
<b>UNDER/(OVER) Revenue</b>		<b>\$3,962.27</b>		<b>\$4,634.27</b>

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## THE MAFFI MINUTE

First, the Model A Ford Foundation's Trustees and Advisors wish everyone a wonderful holiday season! It's always a magical time of year, but especially this year with the museum expansion in progress!



Executive Director of MAFFI John Marshall and his team of elves have just finished decorating the museum for the holidays. The Parts Department in the museum is looking pretty festive. Meanwhile outdoors the trusses are up on the expansion. The walls for the expansion are expected to go up the week of November 18<sup>th</sup> --- so long as the weather cooperates. You can actually watch the construction if you go to [maffi.org](http://maffi.org) and click on the camera icon, and then click on Expansion.

And right around December 23, the back wall of the museum will need to be opened up to connect the existing building and the expansion. This means moving all the displays at the back of the museum and covering all the museum artifacts with plastic. During this phase of the construction, the museum will be closed for safety reasons. (The closure is just temporary, so call ahead if you plan to visit in December or January to be certain the museum is back open).

Give yourself and your car a gift this holiday season: Have your car's picture and your name engraved on a plaque that will be the archway from the existing museum to the expansion. Be a part of the history of the museum! Just contact Val Maron at 847-951-5858 or [TheMyAProgram@gmail.com](mailto:TheMyAProgram@gmail.com) For \$200, a donor will receive a plaque mounted on a museum wall segregated by year (1928, 1929, 1930, 1931) showing their vehicle, name, home area and vehicle body style.

Happy Holidays,

Cindy Ellenbecker  
MAFFI Trustee, Secretary



## **NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS: JIM AND EDNA CROSS**

The GWC bylaws have a provision for Lifetime memberships in the Club. The criteria are as follows:

By-laws

Article III, Section III

### **LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION APPLICATION**

(b). .... Any member may recommend a person for Lifetime Honorary membership. The recommendation will be supported with a written list of attributes associated with each of the rating criteria listed below. This recommendation will include the names of four other Club members who endorse the nomination....

President will present the names and all supporting documentation to the Board who will establish an evaluation committee. The committee appoints a chairman and will review and rate all applications and may select ONE name to be presented to the Board for approval. This evaluation and approval process will take no more than 90 days.

**CRITERIA FOR LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIP ARE BOTH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Outstanding and sustained service on behalf of the Club
2. Sustained excellence in researching, restoring and maintaining the Model A Ford
3. Outstanding and sustained contributions to the Model A hobby and to the Club
4. Conspicuous, valuable and sustained helpfulness to other members

The honorees for Lifetime Membership for 2024 are Jim and Edna Cross. The nomination form provided the following information demonstrating how the Crosses have met the criteria for Lifetime Membership in the GWC.

1. Outstanding and sustained service on behalf of the Club

Jim and Edna Cross have been active and enthusiastic members of the George Washington Model A Club for over a quarter of a century, beginning with their ownership of a 1928 76-A Open Cab Pickup in 1998. They have been active in supporting our tours to the western reaches of Virginia with fun picnicking and exceptional catered gatherings at their JEBRAA (named for their family of Jim, Edna, Beverley, Ray, Amy and Allison) farm in Leesburg that provided not only sustenance, but a warm inclusive gathering place with in-depth tours of their expansive farm and their extensive car collection. They have been active in our monthly meetings and our Sully show, and they have helped organize and run the Christmas party, where Edna and Jim greeted the partiers, and Edna offered grace before the meal. Jim created the most prized hand-made cedar bird houses, bat houses and bird feeders for our annual Brown Bag gift exchange. By hand made, understand that Jim does it all – from cutting the cedar trees on his property, sawing the logs in his vintage saw mill, and crafting the finished products. These hand-made cedar treasures—always the most sought-after brown bag gift—are

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## **NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS: JIM AND EDNA CROSS (Cont.)**

also the most often “stolen” gift at the exchange. In short, Jim and Edna’s enthusiastic active support and engagement in the GWC is truly legendary.

### 2. Sustained excellence in researching, restoring and maintaining the Model A Ford

Jim and Edna have 2 Model As in their large expansive collection of antique cars. They added their second—a 1931 180-A Deluxe Phaeton—to their collection as they became more active. The 1928 Pickup was Jim’s; the Phaeton was Edna’s. She drove her car to Sully for judging in 2017 and 2018, and took first place both years. Jim does most of his own work, not only on his Model As, but on all the many vehicles in his extensive collection. He has a well-equipped shop to perform most any restoration of and repair to his cars, including painting and fabricating parts. His knowledge of the fine art of automobile judging is extraordinary, and his sharing of that art created the foundation for the club’s expertise in old car judging, which is critically important to making Sully work each year.

### 3. Outstanding and sustained contributions to the Model A hobby and to the Club.

Jim brought his in-depth knowledge of antique auto judging (developed as a member of the Antique Automobile Association of America (AACA) to the GWC, and his guidance to our Club not only trained scores of Club judges, but helped shape our entire judging process for the large number and wide variety of cars we judge each year at Sully. He also applied that skill set personally as a judge for many years at Sully, where he was always consistently meticulous and even-handed. In addition to the support he has given our Club, Jim has contributed to the national Model A hobby, specifically to the Model A Restorer’s Club (MARC), presenting a well-received technical session on general maintenance issues for antique cars, at the annual national meet held in Hamilton, Ohio in early August 2023.

### 4. Conspicuous, valuable and sustained helpfulness to other members

Jim and Edna have always been willing to help other members of the Club. Jim has shared his extensive vehicle knowledge with other members of the Club, providing parts, advice and encouragement whenever needed. The admiration he received for his beautifully restored 1908 Buick Model 10 – a mainstay at our shows, and a feature of many Sully brochures—gave him the idea that we establish a separate “Century” class for 100-year-old cars at Sully. This addition, made in 2019, has been very well received, and attracts a wide variety of century-old vehicles from the Model T Ford Club of America (MTFCA), the Horseless Carriage Club of America (HCCA) and the AACA. Edna has assisted our Sully registration team for many years, and served on the Board of Directors as our Activities Chair in 2011 and 2012, and as Assistant Treasurer in 2022. Jim and Edna’s enthusiasm in developing and supporting Club activities—and Edna’s social nature—make them each and both invaluable members of our Club, as host, hostess, technical expert, team member, BOD member and Model A owners.



In recognition of the outstanding support of the Club by Jim and Edna, the Lifetime Membership is well-deserved.

Milford Sprecher  
President, GWC 2024

## 2024 GWC CARL PATRICK AWARD PRESENTED TO GREG SHEPHERD

The "Carl Patrick Award" is named after Carl Patrick, who was a member of the Club in the 1970s and '80s. During his time with the Club, Carl set the standard for helping fellow Club members in need and, as reported in the 50th Anniversary edition of the Script (November 2013), Carl's philosophy became the guiding principles for bestowing this award to other members, including that an awardee should:

- 1 - Believe in the restoration and preservation of the Model A Ford "as Henry built it"
- 2 - Be willing to share their knowledge of the Model A with fellow members
- 3 - Give unselfishly of their time to help others restore and preserve the Model A Ford
- 4 - Help promote the friendship and fellowship we all enjoy because of the Model A Ford

The recipient of the award this year is Greg Shepherd. Greg is the current Webmaster for the Club and served for many years as Membership Chair, one of the more demanding positions in the Club. He provided periodic group e-mails and announcements, assembled and printed the Club roster, distributed The Script, collected membership dues and provided an excellent web site for our Club. He and his wife, Laura, have managed the snow cone booth at Sully, one of the busier areas of the Sully show, particularly on hot days.

Greg inherited his grandfather's, later his father's, Model A and is the third generation to own that car. He has worked to keep it original and improve it, having the engine rebuilt and showing it at the Sully show this year.

Greg has served as GWC webmaster and also has served as webmaster for the Baltimore club and for MAFFI as well as serving as a MAFFI trustee. He has posted a lot of information to the Club's web site and performed other functions that help promote our Club and provide information in this digital era.

While Greg and his wife have moved back to Ohio, he continues to serve as Club Webmaster and provides support to the Club from afar. We are very pleased to present him the Carl Patrick Award for service to our chapter for many years.

Milford Sprecher  
GWC President 2024

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## WRIGHT BROTHERS

At the October GWC meeting, Club member and former Smithsonian Air and Space Museum head Dr. Peter Jakab provided the compelling story of how the Wright Brothers accomplished the first manned flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, on December 17, 1903.

As most people know, Wilbur and Orville, the Wright Brothers, were bicycle mechanics and manufacturers who had a shop in Dayton, Ohio. They were sons of a Brethren Church minister who moved often. Neither graduated from high school, but were avid readers from an intellectually curious family.

One of the brothers' first ventures was publishing a newspaper in Dayton and operating a commercial printing shop. The brothers developed an interest in flying when learning of experiments in flying by Samuel Langley of the Smithsonian and Otto Lillenthal of Germany. Lillenthal's death in one of his experimental glider's made a big impression on the Wright's. Wilbur wrote a letter to the Smithsonian in 1899 requesting information and publications on aeronautics.

The Wrights observed bird flight and decided that developing a system of control was key to achieving manned flight. The Wrights first experimented with kites and gliders and developed a wind tunnel to test their theories. They came across the idea of wing warping as the best way to control an aircraft.

The Wright's settled on the location of Kitty Hawk, NC, as the site for their experiments. It was fairly remote, but easily accessible from Dayton and had steady breezes to help provide lift for their crafts.

The Wrights flew gliders from 1900 - 1902 successfully and were ready to try powered flight. They looked for a commercial engine for their craft, but the only ones available were too heavy for their needs and they ended up making their own engine in their own shop. Their shop mechanic, Charles Taylor, made the engine from the Wright's own design. They also experimented with propeller design and made their own propellers, also developed using wind tunnel experiments.

In the winter of 1903, they took their Wright Flyer to Kitty Hawk. They had some mechanical problems and the plane suffered some damage, which they were able to repair. On December 17, they tried again, with Orville as pilot and made a successful flight of 120 feet. Three subsequent flights were made, the last was over 800 feet. At the end of that flight, a gust of wind caught the flyer, flipping it end over end, damaging it.

The first flight was captured on film by the Wright's camera and witnessed by the crew of the U.S. weather station at Kitty Hawk and a few local residents. The Wrights then returned to Dayton and made a second flyer, which they flew in a field outside of Dayton.

The Wrights contacted the U.S. Army, as it had funded earlier flying experiments, but was skeptical of a couple of bicycle mechanics from Dayton. Later demonstrations convinced the U.S. Army of the brothers' capabilities and they won a contract with the government for

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## WRIGHT BROTHERS (Cont.)

construction of a plane. They also had a contract to produce a plane for a syndicate in France. Wilbur thrilled the French with his successful flight while Orville flew a demonstration flight for the Army at Fort Myer in Virginia.

On his second flight at Fort Myer, Orville took a passenger, Lt. Thomas Selfridge. A propeller shattered during the flight and the plane crashed, injuring both Orville and Lt. Selfridge, who later died from his injuries, becoming the first fatality of a powered flight. Orville recovered from his injuries.

The Wrights repaired the original Wright Flyer and it ended up in a museum in London until it was returned to the U.S. and displayed at the Smithsonian. Peter oversaw the restoration of the original flyer during his tenure at the Air and Space Museum.

The story of the Wright Brothers is a fascinating one of persistence and ingenuity. There are a number of books on the Wright Brothers, including one co-authored by our presenter, *The Wright Brothers and the Invention of Aerial Age*, published by National Geographic, that go into much more detail on the Wrights' accomplishments, many of which are still used in the aviation industry to this day.

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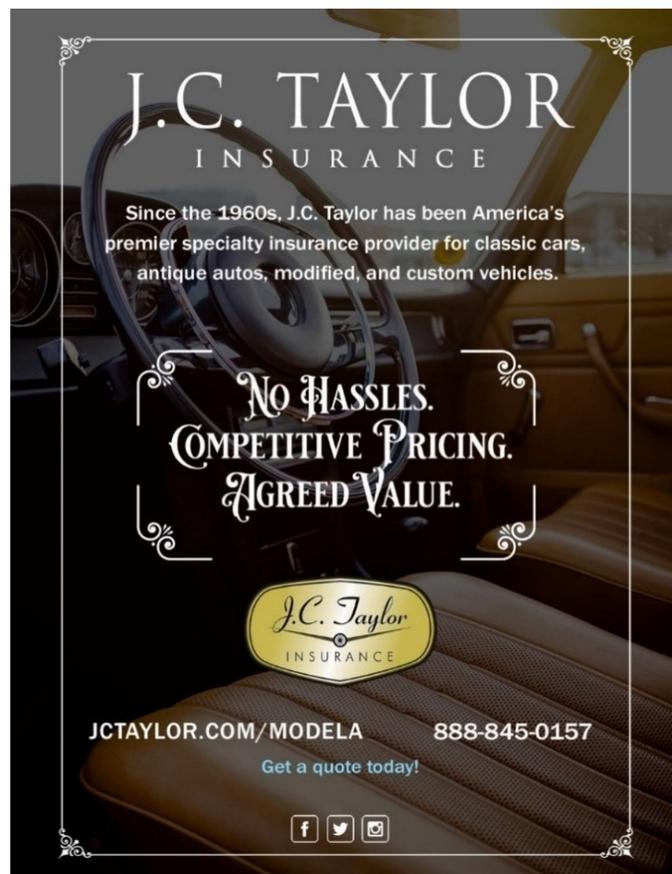
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f t i

**MARC 2024 NATIONAL MEET GWC AWARD WINNERS**

Touring Class judging



**William Bass - Washington D.C.  
1928 Open Cab Pickup – Award of Excellence**



**Joseph Candella - Odenton, MD  
1928 Tudor Sedan - P2 Award**



**Steve Van Pelt - Annapolis, MD  
1931 Fordor 2nd Place**

## HERSHEY 2024

The last meeting, which I was not able to attend in person, had a good collection of stories about Hershey. Always the highlight of the old car year, we were exceptionally lucky to have almost perfect weather this year with warm days. We also had the Northern Lights, which were visible from the golf course behind our hotel!



We arrived on Monday. I trailered my roadster because I was (foolishly) entering it in judging at the Friday car show thinking I might have a chance at getting a Senior award. I don't like driving the highways in my Model A and with the shorter days providing fewer daylight hours, I thought it prudent to trailer my car. I parked across from the Giant Center where the V8 club has camping, so I was able to park all week for the princely sum of \$10. A real bargain.

I took a few parts to sell and set up shop with Bill and Charlie Bass at their space in the Chocolate North field. That was a good spot to take a break and even try to sell a few (darned few) items I had.

I had a long list of items to look for and enough cash to make a few purchases, so I spent a good bit of time going through the different fields. I saw a few Club members at their stalls and I saw some other people I knew at their spaces and marveled at the great variety of parts and cars one could buy. I thought that there was a good selection of Model A parts to be had.

The gas cap on my 28 roadster has a vent hole drilled in the top of it, which is not correct. Bob Martino had some nice gas caps in his stall and I bought one from him to help make my car more correct for judging.

I saw Walter Higgins driving his 1910 Model T touring car around the flea market. He told me about a 1910 Model T windshield frame for sale in the Orange field and I went over and picked that up. He educated me on the fine points of original and reproduction windshield frames, so I was able to pick up something I need for my Model T at what seemed like a fair price.

Ken Ehrenhofer brought the Model A bus down from Gilmore to show in the flea market and in the car show on Friday. It was nice to see it again. I also attended the MARC chili lunch and took in a seminar at the MAFCA tent, so I was able to participate in activities of both of the clubs while at Hershey.

There was a nice unrestored original Model a Fordor in the car corral. It attracted a lot of attention, but no buyer from what I could see. I love seeing the nice unrestored cars. I usually have time to go through the whole car corral, but for some reason, I didn't get through it all this year.



Unrestored Model A Fordor.

>>>>>>

The V8 club organizes dinners for most of the nights at Hershey. A highlight is the Penn Hotel, a bit of a dive, but with pretty good food and the chance to catch up with follow old

## HERSHEY 2024 (Cont.)



Dinner at Penn Hotel

Ford aficionados.

I love the car show at Hershey and have taken my cars to show in the Model A classes and in Driver Participation. There are fewer Model As than in years past, so I like to take mine to help improve the showing.

I spent quite a few hours getting my car ready for judging at Hershey. I didn't have enough time to do everything the car needed, but it looked a lot better than it had and I took care of some items that had been on my to-do list to get it ready.

Unfortunately, there are just too many flaws for it to be a contender for a senior award. The judges were pretty strict and I was kidding myself to think that I could get a senior award. I did enjoy getting the car ready for judging. Spending hours cleaning the underside of your car is a good way to reacquaint yourself with your car. Unfortunately, the more I did, the more I found that I had to do.

Hershey continues to amaze me after all these years. It is still a must-attend event for me and you can always find something whether you need it or not.

Milford Sprecher



Wayne Parker's Model A pickup



We all need our carbs



Brad Minners booth at Hershey

## **WARNING ON LONG LIFE ANTIFREEZE**

(Article forwarded by Phil Roche, written by Dave Tulawitzky, first published in Jim Crane's Western Michigan Buick Chapter newsletter.)

Antifreeze manufacturers have reformulated their products for long life and the inhibitor attacks, among other things, silicone compounds—the most commonly used base for gasket sealants. It also attacks lead-based products (solder and Babbit), some yellow metals (cam bearings, radiators), and conventional gaskets and packing materials.

The warning here is to NOT use coolants with OAT inhibitors in your antique car. You need to read the product label and use only IAT (Inorganic Additive Technology) inhibited antifreeze.

OAT stands for “Organic Acid Technology” based corrosion inhibitors and they are designed to have longer service life than that of IAT coolants. Unfortunately, that feature comes with a bad side effect for older cars. One fellow decided to change antifreeze in his antique car. His regular brand was out of stock so he bought the “advanced” formula. Four weeks later he found pools of antifreeze under his car. The antifreeze had dissolved the old gaskets. It was formulated with OAT inhibitors.

Here are some tips for finding IAT coolants:

1. Prestone says that all of its current antifreezes are OAT formulas.
2. Peak says that their antifreeze and coolant is an IAT formula. The container is blue. It is important that it not say “long life.” Peak Sierra brand is propylene glycol for those who prefer that. It, too, uses an IAT formula.
3. Zerex says that Zerex Original Green is an IAT formula. It comes in a white container. Do not use their G-05 formula in the gold jug.

### Club comments:

I'm using Prime and Advanced Auto Parts antifreeze coolants. They say “Extended life.” Neither say OAT/IAT. They are both green. Clem

Try “Conventional GREEN Formula” “PEAK” Antifreeze & Coolant. It's good for “All Makes and Models: 1989 and earlier”-----says so on the gallon container!!!! I use it in my “A” and '59 Cad. I have articles written on it somewhere around here if you want me to find them and send to you. The newer stuff is not good for old cars! Rick Menz

It is true. Don't even use any modern antifreeze that says long lasting, or heavy duty. They are acid based and will erode the head gaskets and lead solder on the radiators. They are all made for the new aluminum core radiators. CARQUEST makes a house brand antifreeze for older vehicles (read ones with copper core/lead solder radiators). Doug Cox

This AACA link backs up Benny's thoughts about the newer, extended life anti-freeze <http://forums.aaca.org/f162/urgent-warning-extended-life-anti-freeze-292163.html> Bob Hartig



## GWC 2024 CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Photos by Jim Gray except for newsletter award photo by John Leydon)



We had an earlier start for our party this year at the Fairfax American Legion Hall on December 7. The doors opened at 4:30 p.m., and dinner service began at 5:30 p.m. The early start didn't reduce the number of toys donated to our Toys for Tots collection, though.

Activities Chair Valerie Faircloth organized the party and the hall set-up efforts with help from Larry and his mother, Virginia Faircloth, Barb Edwards, Kathie Gray (and me), Jeff VanGorder, Don White, Dave and Mary Greenwood, Jason Cunningham, Gene Rainville, Paul Bjarnason, Doug and Beverly Tomb, John Dougherty,



Dave and Mary Greenwood, and Bill Sims.

We each received 24 tickets for the door prize drawings – which took place in three sessions. At our winless table, Kathie remarked that “none of us could even win the RainX”. Sigh.

But two different lucky Club members won the 2 Biltmore wine baskets! And everyone at Laurel Gauthier's table won a nice door prize – so Santa was good once again.

President Milford recognized Greg Shepherd as this year's recipient of the Carl Patrick Award ... so Kathie took pictures of us all waving and sent them on to Shep. Here we all are, merged together:



Shep responded with his and Laura's greetings to us all, and noted that they had snow on the ground in Ohio. He was glad that he had gotten Old Henry out of his temporary storage a week ago and into their garage.

President Milford also recognized Jim and Edna Cross as our newest life members. Kathie shared our group pictures with them as well.

>>>>>>>

## GWC 2024 CHRISTMAS PARTY (Cont.)

A comprehensive summary of their significant work supporting our Club are in this month's Script. (See pp. 11-12.)

President Milford then presented Bill Sims with his MAFCA Certificate of Merit for consistently fine work on *The Ford Script*.



Valerie had gone to great lengths to create beautiful centerpieces for each of our tables... those of us tagged with a Santa sticker took home the pretty blue sand hour crystal element.



Our great background music was provided by Dave "Nick" Nichols. If you wish to have Dave provide music for a gathering, his number is: 703-507-8087.

The big door prize – A Jim Beam Model A Ford Woody decanter – was won by Mike Pangia.

As we finished up the party, a fine group of elves helped Kathie and me load the Toys for Tots into our Camry after the party. Elf Kathie and I delivered them in Ruby the sleigh to the Clifton Fire Station on Sunday.



The crew sent us a text that read, in part: "Thank you guys so much for stopping by... it was a well needed, fun addition to the day! We really appreciate your very generous donations and your visit put us all in the Christmas spirit 😊 Merry Christmas back to you all from fire station 16."

Santa Jim with First Elf Kathie Gray

**SEEN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
(Photos by John Leydon except for top right photo by Jim Gray)



## GIFT EXCHANGE GUIDELINES

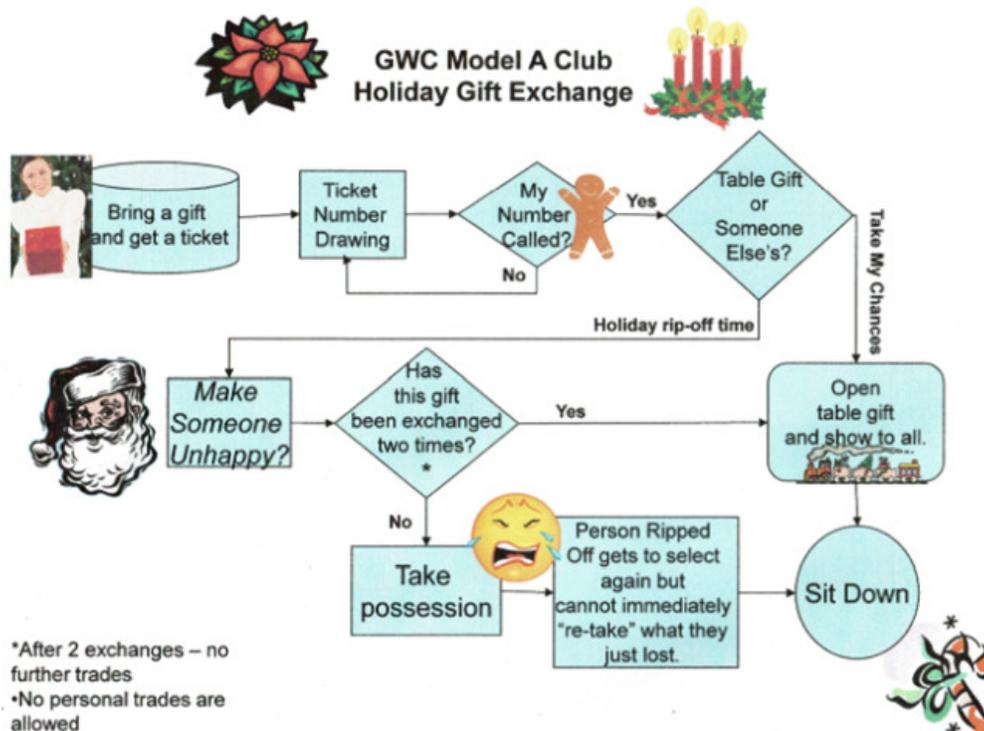
The most important thing everyone needs to remember with the brown bag gift exchange is that this is the Christmas Season and all Club members are our Model A family. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FAMILY!! This is no time for junk; this is no time for gags; this is no time to see if you can stick it to someone ... that simply is not in the spirit of this event. Before you pack up your selected gift and bring it to the meeting, ask yourself the question, "Would I be happy to come home with this?" If not, do not bring it! If you bring junk, the person who gets your junk just got cut out of the real fun of the game (which is the stealing and swapping part) and for the rest of the evening they just get to watch others having fun. We are suggesting a guideline of \$20 as an appropriate gift value.

Anyone expecting to participate in the exchange must bring one gift to put in the pile. Only one gift will be accepted per person. Members should not bring "extra" entries to cover someone else or "just in case."

If you start the game, you finish the game. The game isn't finished until everyone has picked, at which point all presents are "retired." The game will go for the duration of one of our typical full meetings and a big part of the fun is the swapping and "counter swapping" that goes on in the exchange. If you do not intend to remain for the full game, please do not start.

Now is the time to start thinking about December and what you might bring. Don't wait till last minute! Some of the members of our Club are real parts "nuts" and have all sorts of genuine goodies on hand; some members of the Club are not as mechanically inclined and do not have real good stuff readily available. So, plan ahead! There will be two different pools of gifts ... Model A-related items and General Christmas Cheer. Start thinking about it now. What do you want to bring to share with your Model "A" Family??

PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS HOLIDAY'S BROWN BAG FUN FOR EVERYONE BY ADHERING TO THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES.



## **THE 23D PSALM—A FORD OWNER'S PRAYER**

(Sent to Walt Bratton, who submitted it to the Script.)

The Ford is my Car,

I shall not want another.

It maketh me to lie down in wet places.

It spoileth my good clothes.

It leadeth me into deep mud holes for its name's sake.

It prepareth a breakdown for me in the presence of my  
enemies.

Yea, though I run through the valleys, I am towed up the  
hills.

I fear great evils while it is with me.

Its rods and its engines discomfort me.

It anointeth my head with oil.

Surely to goodness if this thing followeth me all the days  
of my Life,

I shall dwell in the house of the insane forever

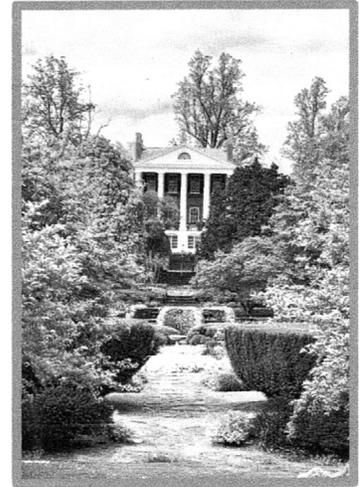
by Dean Kallander



Dave didn't mention this poem in his column, but it was run in the December 1999 Script. I thought it deserved to run again for a new generation of members to enjoy.

## OAK HILL FARM - MODEL 'A' REUNION

As many of you know, Oak Hill – the James Monroe Presidential Estate in Aldie, VA – is scheduled to transition to a Virginia State Park on 30 September, 2025. The current owners, Tom & Gayle DeLashmuth have kindly invited all of us (GWC, GBMAFC, Old Dominion and Skyline) to once again gather at the estate for a last hoorah while we have the grounds to ourselves. The date is **Sunday, May 18th** (the weekend between Mothers' Day and Memorial Day) ..... there will be much more to come, but **put that weekend on your calendar**. Each Activity Director will plan out Saturday and Sunday around the myriad things there are to do and experience in Virginia Horse and Wine Country and the surrounding greater NOVA area.



The last time we all got together at Oak Hill was in 2018 when we had 44 Model 'A's arrive and approximately 120 people on a gorgeous early summer day. Cross fingers for this time, as we are expecting 60-80 Model 'A's. **(There will be no rain date or repeat occasion – this is it!!)**

Features at the Sunday Party and choices over the weekend will include:

- The Robert Mabe Banjo Bluegrass and Jazz Quartet
- Hammerdown Bar-B-Q lunch
- Private Tours of the main Monroe Presidential Mansion and Formal Gardens
- Open House at the Cross Car Collection
- Planned rural tours of Virginia Horse Country
- Saturday tour of the Manassas Battlefield
- Multiple local attractions including the Morven Carriage Museum in Leesburg
- And again, a private tour of the Udvar-Hazy National Air & Space Museum

The host hotel will be the new Hilton Home2Suites in South Riding, VA (about 18-20 minutes from Oak Hill,) and our contact there is the Sales Manager, Danijela (703-253-3400). 20 rooms @ \$140 have been blocked out for GBMAFC and Old Dominion for the weekend (Friday & Saturday nights: 05/16 and 05/17.... plus Sunday 5/18 for those who would like to stay over) and the Reservation Code is **"Model A Ford Club – CODE 909"**. Hint to the wise: make reservations early (and let your Activities Director know) ..... that weekend is getting into wedding and horse show territory around Aldie/Middleburg.



**Again, more details to follow ..... but this is the heads-up !!!**

## COMING EVENTS

### December

**December 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall 7:45pm This is our annual Brown Bag event. (See p. 23 for information.)**

### January 2025

**January 8 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) – GWC & CDC Breakfast – Fair Oaks Silver Diner – 12251 Fair Lakes Parkway – 9:00am**

**January 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) – Monthly Membership Meeting – McLean American Legion Hall 7:00pm No meeting but our annual Flea Market.**

**January 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday) – Board Meeting/Transition Dinner with current, retiring, and new Board members.**

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