

The Running Board



January 2026

Vol. 24 No. 1

President's Memo

MODEL A CLUB MEMBERS,

My thanks to each of you for selecting me as your president for the coming year.

I want to first acknowledge our sadness as we have lost three dear friends this past year. Bob Letchworth, Sandra Lee and Gerald Phariss will be missed. I know I speak for each of you in voicing our desire to help Jody, Bill, and Emma in any way we can as they grieve.

This past month we had a nice trip to Natchitoches, LA where we saw the Christmas lights, plantations, and the site of the film Steel Magnolias. We want to thank Nancy Cheshire for excellent planning of the entire trip. What a magnificent tour! This makes us all want to do more tours in the coming year.

Our thanks, as well, to the Cheshires for hosting our Christmas party at their home. Everyone had a good time as well as lots of good food.

I want to thank Spencer Pennington for serving as president during the past two years. We all appreciate what he has done to encourage the club.

New Year's resolutions are to increase our membership by at least two new members and to plan more car tours during 2026.

May each of you have a blessed New Year, Herman Dentler



Happy New Year
Everyone!

CLUB OFFICERS

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Mabank, Henderson Co., Texas

NAME AND PURPOSE

This club shall be known as the Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club, a non-profit organization, hereinafter referred to as the "Club."

The purpose shall be to maintain, preserve and restore the vehicle known as the Model A Ford (1928-1931) and all things pertaining to the Model A Ford, including literature, historical and technical information.

MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership shall be made in written form. Applications shall be filed with the Secretary and accompanied by dues for the current year.

RESTRICTIONS: All members of the Club shall be restricted to members of either the Model A Restorers Club or Model A Ford Club of America national clubs. Members may be accepted without ownership of a Model A Ford; however, no member shall be permitted to hold office unless said member has owned a Model A Ford within the six month period prior to the official election date.

DUES

The annual dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per year. Dues are for the calendar year. The annual dues shall include member and wife and shall be payable before February 1st. Any member may be suspended by the Treasurer for non-payment of dues at the expiration of thirty (30) days from February 1st.

MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the members of this Club shall be held on the first Tuesday of every month unless said day shall fall upon a legal holiday, in which case the meeting date shall be established by the Board of Directors.

CedarCreekAs.org

Website



MARC



A MAFCA Chapter



MAFFI

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The Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club (CCMAFC) was formed in 2002 in Henderson Co., Texas. The club's meetings are held at the Dairy Queen in Seven Points, Henderson Co., Texas near Cedar Creek Lake.

Charter Members:

John and Wanda Bell
 Jim Bellah – deceased
 Bill (deceased) and Sue Capps
 O. V. and Lorene Cliver – deceased
 S. D. "Shorty" Johnson – deceased
 Olin Lewis – deceased
 Ola Powell – deceased
 Gene Tregre – deceased



MEETING MINUTES

Cedar Creek Model A Ford Club Christmas Party/Monthly Meeting December 13, 2025

Spencer Pennington was in Mexico so Herman Dentler acted as president. He opened the meeting by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked Gary to lead us in prayer. We accepted last month's minutes with a motion from Carolyn Vick and Chuck Cheshire. Then the financial report was given and accepted.

The subject of next year's officers was our opening discussion. Herman Dentler was asked if he would serve as president and he said he would be willing to fill the post. He was accepted by a unanimous vote. We then asked if Chuck Cheshire would consider serving as vice president and he agreed. It was put to a vote and once again was unanimously accepted.

Lou Carpenter will remain as secretary and financial officer.

Harris Lege missed the party. His nephew Dale was visiting him. But as a very special attendee we had Bill Lee. So nice to have him join us. We also had Julia Waterman's grandson Samuel. It was great to have a young guest enjoy the party with us. Another welcome guest was Michael the Vick's son. Jody's daughter, Sara, also joined us. Always so glad to have guests join us!

NEW YEARS EVE: We will have our New Year's Celebration at Billito's in Gun Barrel City. It will be a late lunch-early dinner at 3PM.

Nancy Cheshire thanked us for sending her the plant as a thank you for her hard work in planning the Natchitoches trip.

THANK YOU: A great big thank you to Nancy and Chuck for inviting us into their home for the party. We really appreciate how much hard work it was. But everything was perfect and was especially enjoyed!

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Carpenter Secretary/Treasurer

TRIVIA

Radiators & Hardware

Model A radiators evolved from short/wide in '28-'29 to taller/narrower in '30-'31, featuring design changes like tube shapes (round to oval/flat), fin counts (6 to 10+ per inch for better cooling), and shell materials (steel with painted inserts), with aftermarket upgrades offering even more fins (4+ cores, 10+ fins/inch) for better heat dissipation than the original 3-core, 6-fin design, and owners often add iconic accessories like the Ford Quail cap.

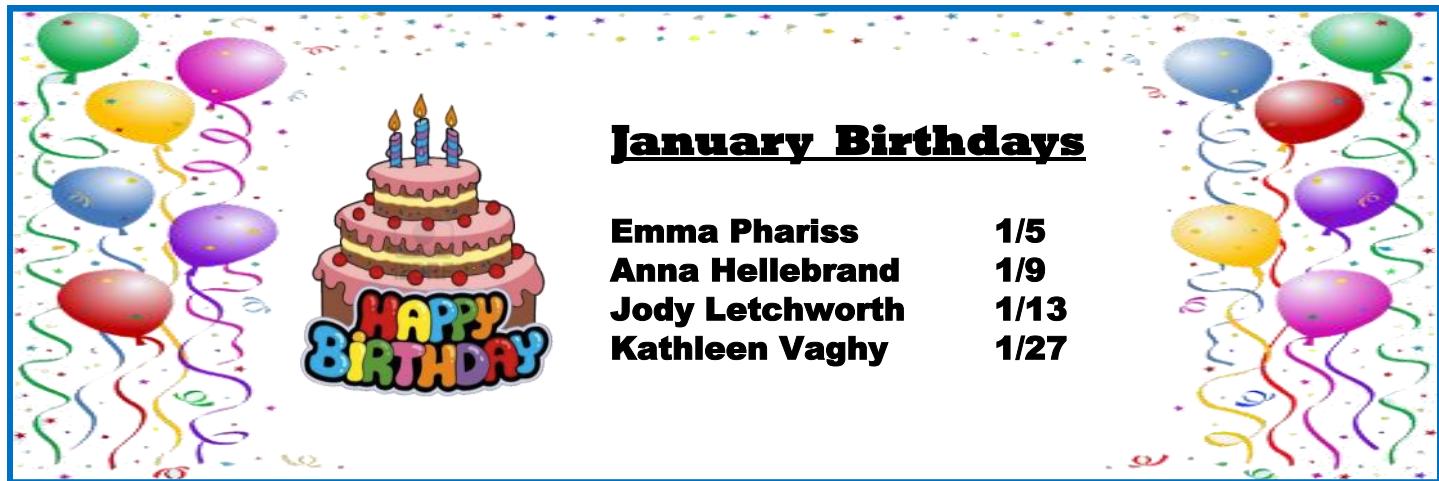
Radiator Shells: The iconic stainless steel shell got updates, including painted recesses and separate inserts in '30-'31 models, reflecting design changes for appearance and protection.



1929 copper and brass original radiator



Winter days are happy days for the woman who drives the new Ford



January Birthdays

Emma Phariss	1/5
Anna Hellebrand	1/9
Jody Letchworth	1/13
Kathleen Vaghy	1/27



Sunshine News

By Lou Carpenter

We were saddened to hear of the loss of our Gerald Phariss. Please remember the family in your prayers.

We hope everyone has a healthy 2026.

We Care!

From the Editor

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! May it be a good one for everyone.

Looking forward to more fellowship and tours with this group in 2026.



Nancy Cheshire

Happy New Year

2026

New Year's Eve countdowns are synonymous with Times Square and its famous annual ball drop. This year's ball is forging its own new tradition: It's debuting Waterford Crystals in circular shapes, which is a change from the triangles they've been using since 1999. In total, there are 5,280 crystals and LED light pucks on this year's ball, which makes it weigh in at 12,350 pounds.

And while the Times Square ball gets all the glory, it's not the only symbol counting down the seconds until the new year. Atlanta, GA has used a giant peach (which will now be a drone show instead of a traditional drop); Plymouth, Wisconsin lowers a big slice of cheese; Kennett Square, PA drops a sparkling mushroom; and Hackettstown, New Jersey drops a giant M&M.

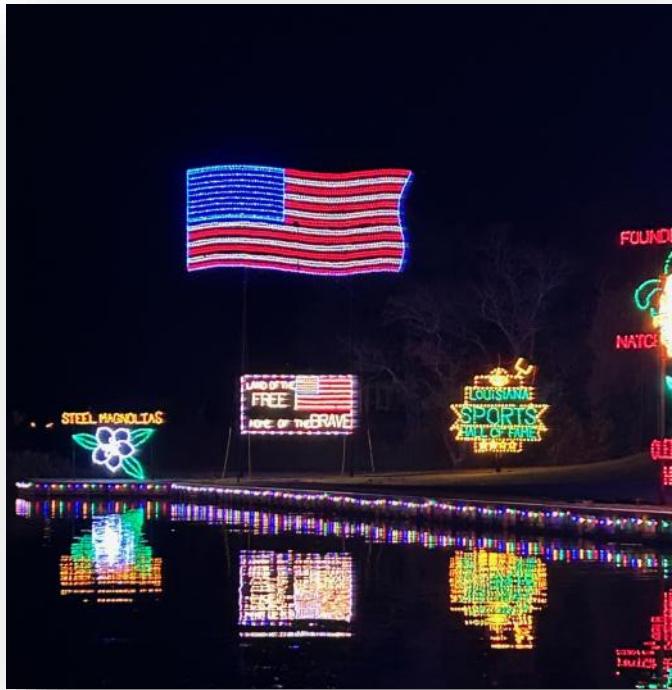
Now that's a sweet way to start a new year!



Natchitoches, LA Trip

Fourteen CCMAFC members traveled on Wednesday, Dec. 3 to Natchitoches, LA. After lunch at a wonderful Mexican Restaurant, sites connected to the movie, Steel Magnolias were visited. The group bundled up against the cold weather to ride the boat down the Cane River to see the Christmas Lights. Afterwards all had dinner at Trail Boss Steakhouse with a taste of Creole meat pies.







Carolyn Vick had a fall do to dizziness and needed a wheeled vehicle.

Herman Dentler to the rescue with a wheeled dolly!



On Thursday the group enjoyed a history lesson on Natchitoches at the Visitor's Center. Our speaker was wonderful. Due to the rain it wasn't possible to go on the walking tour, but all definitely enjoyed learning about the history of the Natchitoches area. Lunch was at Mayeaux's Deli with wonderful muffalettes and pizza.



Next the group drove down the Cane River Historic Trail to tour the Cane River Plantation, a National Historic Site. A little rain didn't stop us.

Next the group toured the Melrose Plantation a little farther down the trail. Some car trouble kept the group from touring the St. Augustine Church, but some were able to drive by it.





On Friday the group drove home with a short stop at Toledo Bend Travel Stop to learn a little history of the lake. Then lunch was in Alto, TX at Miss Mollie's Diner. From there everyone split up and headed to their respective homes.

It was a great time of fellowship and getting to know everyone better. The group was so glad to have the Vaghy's join us on this tour.

A little trouble with a trailer, two Model As that didn't like the cold and rain, and a horn that honked when you moved the steering wheel made for some interesting memories.

2025 Christmas Party

The 2025 CCMAFC Christmas Party was held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Cheshires' Home in Safari Waters Ranch. Eighteen club members and three guests attended the party. Such good food! Thank you to the Dentlers for providing the barbequed brisket and sausage. All the side dishes and desserts brought by members were delicious also. A fun time was had by all during the White Elephant Gift exchange. Julia Waterman and her grandson, Samuel, both went home with ducks. Those ducks may be seen again at a future party!



Historical Tidbit

Whether you like to be home and cozy or out partying when the clock strikes midnight, there's no right or wrong way to ring in the New Year. What's interesting, though, is the way some traditions have stood the test of time—dating back to ancient Babylon, some historians say—and how rituals vary from place to place. For example, many countries have a history of eating round foods on New Year's, since their coin-like shape symbolizes prosperity, but in one place that may mean eating black-eyed peas, while in another it looks like a buffet of round citrus fruits.

For those looking to explore new rituals with their families, here are some New Year's Eve traditions from around the world. Some date back hundreds if not thousands of years, while others are relatively new. There are plenty of ideas of good-luck foods to eat, or possibly smash, or hide under the pillow or bed, depending on the culture. There are a few that focus more on prognostication and looking for signs about the year to come, and there are more than one that involve pigs. (So many pigs.) Take your pick, and get ready for good things in the year to come!

Eat 12 Grapes



In Spain the tradition is to eat one grape at each stroke of midnight. (Hope everyone is quick to chew and swallow, since no one wants to start the New Year with the Heimlich Maneuver.)

Those who do it are promised good luck for the next year—if the rules are followed: "Eating one grape at each of midnight's 12 clock chimes guarantees you a lucky year—if and only if you simultaneously ruminate on their significance," *Atlas Obscura* reports. "If you fail to conscientiously finish your grapes by the time the clock stops chiming, you'll face misfortune in the new year."

Jump Seven Waves

Spending New Year's Eve on the beach sounds nice in and of itself, but in Brazil it's believed that your luck increases if you get in the surf and jump over seven waves—one for each of the divine spirits of the Umbanda religion. Revelers also get one wish for each wave, which is an added incentive to get in the water.



Dream of the Future

Most people may be familiar with mistletoe traditions associated with Christmas (and kissing). In Ireland, there are also rituals involving the plant on New Year's Eve, and they are no less romantic. According to custom, those who put mistletoe (or holly, or ivy) under their pillow before you go to bed on December 31 will have dreams of their future partner. It's one reason not to stay up all night.

Deck Out the Door

Everyone wants to invite growth and prosperity into their houses for the new year. How do the Greeks do it? They hang bundles of onions over the door, since onions have been known to sprout even when no one pays attention to them, which makes them good symbols of fertility and abundance.



Wear White

Millions of people gather along Brazil's beaches to celebrate the new year, and most of them are color-coordinated. There, it's a tradition to wear white, a color that symbolizes good luck and peace—and one that makes for great, matching photo ops!

Make Hoppin' John

The mix of black-eyed peas, pork and rice is delicious no matter when you eat it. But the dish carries extra significance if it's eaten on January 1, since many believe it'll bring luck, peace, and prosperity for the rest of the year.



According to History.com, "Hoppin' John was, and still is, often eaten with collard greens, which can resemble paper money, and 'golden' cornbread. The peas themselves represent coins. Some families boost the potential of their Hoppin' John by placing a penny underneath the dishes—or adding extra pork, which is thought to bring more luck."

Leap Into 2026



Celebrants can run into the new year. They can dance into the new year. Or, they can do what they do in Denmark, which is stand on a chair and "leap" into the new year as the clock strikes midnight. It's good luck if you do it—doubly so if you don't land on your face—and bad luck if you forget.

Make a Resolution

Historians believe that the idea of a New Year's resolutions, in one form of another, dates back more than 4,000 years. They say the Babylonians, one of the first cultures to actually celebrate the changing of the year, made promises to pay debts or return borrowed objects. If they could do it, so can you.



Plant a Smooch



Finding someone to kiss at midnight has been the inspiration for songs, rom-coms, and other New Year's tales. But just where did the idea come from? According to the Washington Post, the tradition finds its roots in English and German folklore, but it wasn't just about finding romance. It was believed that it's "the first person with whom a person came in contact that dictated the year's destiny," so don't plant your lips on any old so-and-so.

Eat Round Foods

There are so many New Year's Eve traditions around foods, and lots of cultures say that eating round foods—reminiscent of coins or money—will lead to prosperity. In Italy, lentils serve the same function as the black-eyed peas in Hoppin' John. And in the Philippines, it's customary to eat 12 round fruits, one for every month, to ensure a year of abundance. The fruits usually take center stage at the table for the media noche, or the midnight meal.



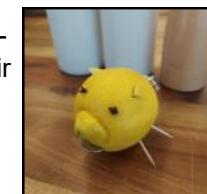
Dot It Up



It's not just what you eat on New Year's Eve that can attract prosperity—what you wear may play a role, too, at least according to tradition in the Philippines. There, people wear polka dots on December 31, since the pattern represents the same thing round fruits do. Throwing a few coins in the pockets doesn't hurt, either.

Turn Lemons Into Pigs

Not just limited to treats in Austria and Germany, pigs feature in many New Year Eve's traditions, typically because they're a symbol of prosperity. To invite that wealth into a home, some have transformed their lemons into piglets they can display on a table. It's usually done by using the nub at the end as a snout, adding cloves for the eyes, sticking toothpicks at the bottom for feet, and cutting slits into the peel to make ears and a mouth. For extra luck, a penny is placed in the mouth as well.



Pack Light



In fact, pack nothing at all. In Colombia, people take empty suitcases and run around the block as fast as they can, right foot first. It's supposed to guarantee a year filled with travel. One writer for the Tampa Bay Times tried it with her Colombian husband in her Florida neighborhood. "Upon seeing two silhouettes tearing down the street at midnight with backpacks in their arms, our neighbors who were outside to watch fireworks made a beeline to their front doors. We worried they were calling the police." The writer did, however, travel to Colombia that year. So hey, maybe it works!

Open the Windows and Doors

No one wants the old year, and all its baggage, hanging around. A common superstition says that keeping the windows and doors open will let the old year out so the new one can arrive in its place. Just makes sure you also have some cozy blankets to snuggle in while waiting for the exchange to happen.



Smash a Pomegranate



In Turkey, pomegranates are symbols of abundance. Eating them is great, sure—but those who really want a good 2026 will smash the fruit on their doorstep instead. The more pieces there are and the farther they spread, the more prosperous the year will be. For a little extra luck, a sprinkle of salt in front of the door is said to bring peace.

Hide a Surprise

In Greece, New Year's dessert isn't just a treat, it's a game of chance. Guests eat vasilopita, or a cake or sweet bread that has a coin baked into it. Whoever finds the coin will have good luck for the next year! In Scandinavian countries, they do something similar with rice pudding, served either at New Year's or Christmas. One portion will have a peeled almond in it, and whoever finds it in their bowl is assured of luck in the new year and might even win a prize.



Throw Water out the Window



Look out below! In Puerto Rico, they believe that dumping a bucket of water out the window drives away evil spirits. If that seems a little too unfair to the people who might be passing by, Puerto Ricans also sprinkle sugar outside their houses to invite the good luck in, which is a little sweeter (pun intended).

Eat Long Foods

In Japan, it's traditional to eat "toshikoshi soba," a dish with buckwheat noodles that's served hot or cold. The long noodles symbolize longevity, and the hearty buckwheat plant represents resilience.



Grab a Potato



In Colombia, it's possible to let potatoes predict the financial outlook of the next 12 months. The custom is to put three potatoes under each family member's bed: one peeled, one half-peeled, and one unpeeled. Each person has to grab one without looking, and that will determine if the year is a good one for money (the unpeeled potato), a bad one (the peeled one), or half-and-half (the half-peeled potato). At the very least, participants will have enough to make mashed potatoes.

Take a Dip

Since the early 1900s, it's been a tradition to start off January 1 by submerging in freezing cold water, a ritual known as a Polar Bear Plunge. Often, participants with a high tolerance for the cold use the chilly swim as an opportunity to raise money for local nonprofits, so all of that teeth-chattering goes for a good cause.



Technical Tips

TECHNICAL REPORT: Ron Peterson

When Was the Last Time You?



- Greased your throw-out bearing.** To do this job remove floor mats and floorboards and clutch inspection plate. Grease bearing through fitting on throw-out collar. Do not over-grease.
- Packed your wheel bearings.** Remove wheels and drums; wash the bearings and races thoroughly. Packing bearing with wheel bearing grease and reassemble. Do not forget the cotter pin.
- Flushed your crankcase.** Drain oil – refill with kerosene, or diesel oil or special flushing oil. Run engine twenty minutes or so, then drain and refill with clean fresh oil. Make sure drain plug is in tight.
- Greased your light switch shaft.** Remove light switch on bottom of steering column, remove fork and spring that operate light switch, pull shaft out or up as far as possible and clean grease off. Use light cup grease after you wiped shaft off. Reassemble unit.
- Greased your speedometer cable.** Remove dash panel and disconnect speedometer cable. Pull out the small inside cable and wash thoroughly. Pack with light cup grease and reinstall in the cawing. Wipe off excess grease and replace instrument panel.
- Oiled your gas pedal linkage.** There are three places to oil. Behind the engine on the shafts supports there are holes drilled for oiling. Also where the rod connects from the carburetor.
- Tighten your lug nuts.** Use firm even pressure on all lug nuts. Be sure to see whether nuts are pressing the wheel to the drum or just bottoming on the studs. A wheel that is not properly bolted to the drum can be ruined in very short order.
- Checked the oil in the transmission and rear end.** Keep level up to the filler plug, use 600W (SAE160) in both. This oil can be obtained at Sears Roebuck or any big truck stop. Be sure it is non-foam.
- Cleaned and flushed the cooling system.** The cheapest and best products for this is Arm & Hammer washing soda into radiator and fill with water, run hot for a half hour and then drain. Flush system out several times with clean water.
- Tightened the fan belt.** Loosen generator mounting bolt, move generator away from block until most of the slack is taken up in the belt. Tighten belt. Then check belt to see if adjustment has changed.
- Rotated your tires.** Spare to right front, right front to left rear, left rear to right rear, right rear to left front, left front to spare. Follow some pattern in each rotation.
- Checked your radiator hoses and clamps.** Feel hose, if soft and gummy, replace them. Same with split or rotten ones. Check for tightness and watch for broken ones.
- Had your front wheel aligned.** Should be done on special equipment. (See A cheap and cheerful approach in Echo April 1993 page 8)..
- Oiled your generator.** There should be two oil holes on the generator. The rear one is easy, the front one is protected by an "L" shaped clip that has to be removed to one side.
- Spent an hour tightening nuts and bolts all over the car.** Self-explanatory.
- Adjusted your point gap in the distributor.** Ford recommends a gap of .018, .022 check the gap at least every 500 miles.
- Check the air in the spare tire.** Self- explanatory.
- Checked out your emergency tool kit.** Including a jack. To each his own, should include points, condenser, plugs, wire, tools and a fire extinguisher.
- Adjusted your emergency brake.** Take up the slack with the clevises on the forward end of the emergency brake rods. When there is no more adjustment left reline the bands.
- Filled your shock absorbers.** On all original shocks, there is a filler plug located near the top of the unit. It has a 3/8 square nut on it, use only Houdaille, Ford or Delco shock absorber fluid or use glycerin.
- Cleaned and tightened your battery connections.** Most corrosion and sulfate deposits can be washed off in a solution of baking soda and then flushed with warm water. Pull cables off the terminals and clean the contact surfaces with rough sandpaper or file. Flush with warm water and reattach them. The use of Vaseline or light cup grease after assembly is recommended
- Polished headlight reflectors.** Use very soft cloth or cotton with silver polish, not chrome polish as it will scratch and dull the reflection. When polished, use new gaskets.
- Check out all your light bulbs.** Self-explanatory.

Reprinted from Hudson Valley Region Model A Club

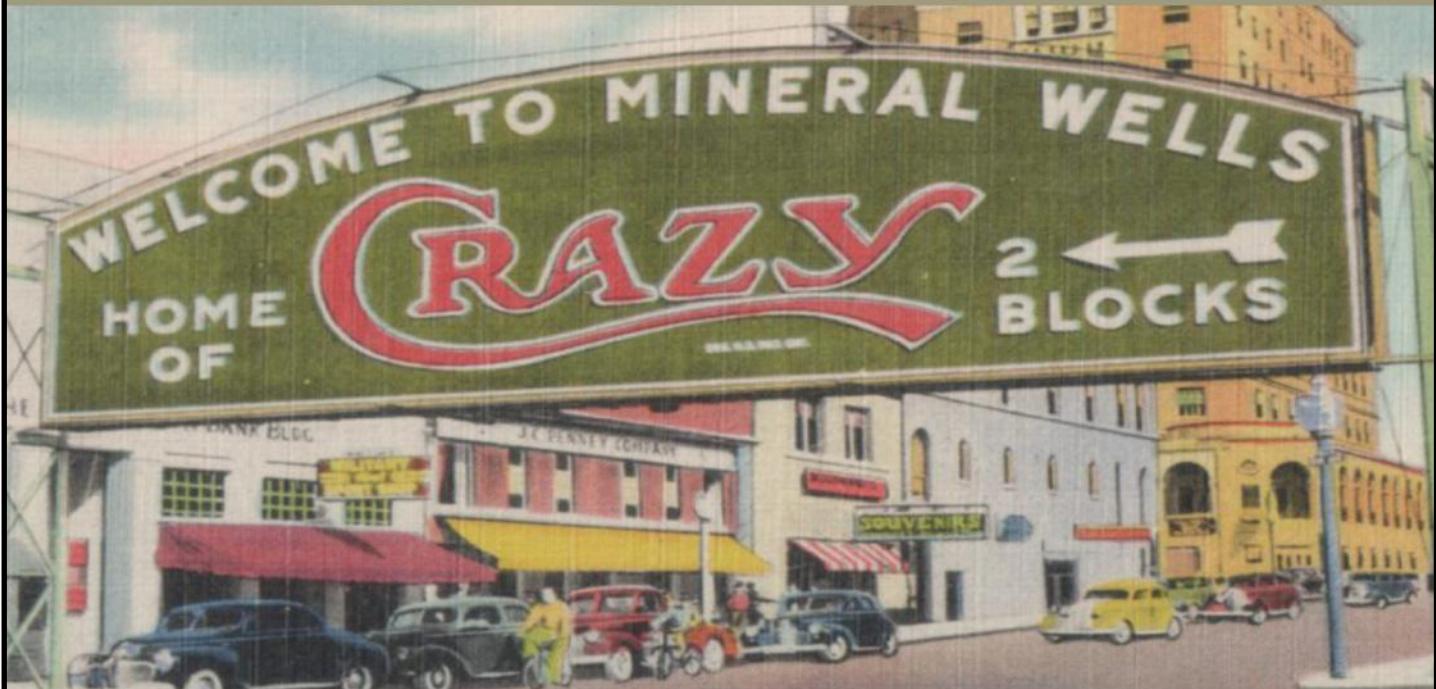
UPCOMING EVENTS

63rd MODEL "A" FORD TEXASTOUR



Hosted by the Fort Worth Model "A" Ford Club

June 11-14, 2026



Host hotel & event venue: 940-325-4605

THE CRAZY WATER HOTEL

Promo code: MODELA2026

- DBL QUEEN: \$170
- QUEEN SUITES: \$150 - \$180
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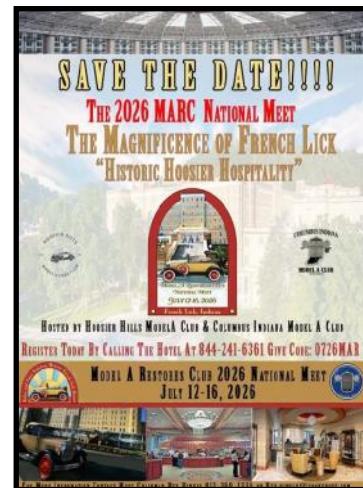
N E W S



Others renew at Mafca.com
and Maffi.org

Be sure to renew your
memberships to MAFCA,
MARC, and MAFFI for 2026.
You can renew all online.

MARC has a new website.
Check it out
modelarestorersclub.org



2026



Event Calendar

JAN 6, 2026 Meeting at 5:30 PM. Dairy Queen at Seven Points

JAN 20, 2026 Monthly Lunch

FEB 3, 2026 Meeting at 5:30 PM. Dairy Queen at Seven Points

FEB 17, 2026 Monthly Lunch

MAR 4, 2026 Meeting at 5:30 PM. Dairy Queen at Seven Points

MAR 17, 2026 Monthly Lunch

APR 7, 2026 Meeting at 5:30 PM. Dairy Queen at Seven Points

APR 21, 2026 Monthly Lunch



Why doesn't anyone listen to each other on New Year's Eve?

Because their words go in one year and out the other.

I always visit my local tire shop on New Years.

Then I will know it will be a Goodyear.

Why should you stand on just your left foot during the New Year's Eve countdown?
So you start the New Year on the right foot.

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