



# Rumbleseat Review



www.wichitaas.com

WICHITA A'S MODEL A FORD CLUB

Volume 41 Issue 5

P.O. Box 25, Wichita, KS

May 2026

## May 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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31						

## June 2026

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## July 2026

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

**May Refreshments Beverage & Ice**  
Marcia Kurtz

**Treats**  
Claudia Ellerman  
Tom Cornwell  
Brenda Broadhead

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## CLUB TOURS & MEETING SCHEDULE

### May 2026



- 18..... Club Meeting at Minisa Park 704 W. 13th..... 7:00PM
- 22-25..... Memorial Day on Route 66..... White
- 29-31..... "A" Drive On Route 66..... James

### June 2026



- 4..... Coffee & Donuts for Men..... Tom Ruggles
- 5..... Newsletter Deadline...sheorr@sbcglobal.net..... Sheila Orr
- 7..... "A" All Wheels Day Lake Afton.....
- 14..... "A" Ride on Jerry's Train..... Ottaway/Grabendike
- 20..... "A" Behind the Camera Look at KPTS Channel 8
- 22..... Club Meeting at Minisa Park 704 W. 13th..... 7:00PM

### July 2026



- 2..... Coffee & Donuts for Men..... Ruggles
- 4..... "A" Derby Parade..... Hezlep/Hileman
- 18..... Automobilia Moonlight Car Show.....
- 25..... "A Little Train in the Country..... Ottaway/Grabendike
- 27..... Club Meeting at Minisa Park 704 W. 13th..... 7:00PM

The Wichita A's meet on the 4th Monday of the month except December. We do not hold a meeting during the month of December. Other meeting changes will be published in the newsletter prior to the scheduled meeting. The meetings are held at Minisa Park, 704 W. 13th, Wichita, KS. Meeting time is 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.

## Wichita A's Model A Club Meeting–April 27, 2026

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE-** President **Mike James** called the meeting to order and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES MARCH 23, 2026 - Gary Hileman** motioned to accept the March minutes and **Alan Orr** seconded. Motion carried.

**NEW MEMBER/GUEST** – None

**SUNSHINE REPORT** – **Barb Phye** reported that **Judi and James Sharp** are doing well. **Don Waller** is in rehab. **John Stone** is home. **Frank Chenoweth** is having a valve replacement.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – In **Claudia's** absence, **Kathy James** gave the treasurer's report. We have enough money for another brick so if you have any suggestions for a nomination, place their name in the headlight.

**BREAKDOWN REPORT** – **Frank Chenoweth** and **Mike James** shared their recent break down experiences.

**MARC & MAFCA REPORT** - **Gina McNeal** asked if anyone was interested in participating in the mileage program? She is trying to figure out how that works. She will submit a report on the activities of our club for their next issue of the magazine.

**WICHITA AREA CAR CLUB COUNCIL** - **Stuart McNeal** announced that he has updated the car show notebook that is at the front table for your reference. The Lake Afton car show is coming up as well as a number of other shows in May and June.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - none

**PAST TOURS** –

*Straight from the Horse's Mouth Tour on 3/28.* **Frank Chenoweth** reported that there were 22 cars and 55 people. Tour brought out record numbers.

*Return to Carlton Tour on 4/18.* **Gil Adams** reported that there were 12 Model A's and 2 moderns. There were 24 club members and 30 people from Carlton who attended the tour.

**UPCOMING TOURS/EVENTS** –

*BKRT to Chanute and Humboldt is 5/1 -5/3.* Tour leads are **Mike & Kathy James**.

*MEMORIAL DAY ON ROUTE 66 on 5/22- 5/25.* Tour lead is **Steve White**.

*A DRIVE ON ROUTE 66 to Tulsa tour is 5/29 – 5/31.* Leads are **Mike and Kathy James** Sign-ups are being taken.

*MEN'S COFFEE* at **Tom Ruggles** will be Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8am - 10 am

**NEW BUSINESS** - **Ron Eyres** announced that he placed some CBs at the front table that are free to anyone who wants them. **Mike James** announced that there are tour guidelines at the front table for anyone interested in leading a tour. **Mike** also said that the upcoming car show at the Old Cowtown Museum on May 9<sup>th</sup> is an opportunity for us to participate and increase club visibility.

NOTE: The May meeting is on 5/18 due to Memorial Day holiday on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**REFRESHMENTS** – **Ray Harshfield, Melanie Adams, Blake Waller** and **Barb Phye** brought treats and drinks.

**PROGRAM** – Presentation by Jacky Goetzen from the Aviation Museum.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Kathy James, Secretary



## President's Message



MAY 26, 1927 MARKED A KEY DAY IN ALL OF OUR LIVES! WHAT HAPPENED? I'M GLAD YOU ASKED. THE END OF THE "FORD MODEL T " ERA OCCURRED ON THAT DATE AND A SIX MONTH FACTORY SHUTDOWN FOR RETOOLING THE FORD FACTORY FOR MODEL A PRODUCTION STARTED. ALL OF US ARE LIVING THE MODEL A DREAM TODAY FROM HENRY FORD'S DREAM 99 YEARS AGO!  
KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE.  
DRIVE YOUR MODEL A.

AHOOGA! MIKE JAMES

## Editor's Notes

Just got back from a Tour for The Big Kansas Road Trip! We had a great time-everyone welcomed us. For such small towns, they offered many things to do and see. Thank you Mike and Kathy for being tour leaders. Please come and join the group! Enjoy your Model A and the many friends you will meet.

**Reminder the meeting in May is early-May 18th at 7PM!**

Looking at the calendar for the next few months-there are many events going on. Plenty of chances to explore in your Model A!!

I am looking forward to sunshine and less wind!

See you at the meeting!!

Sheila Orr, Editor



Established on November 11, 1926, Route 66 spanned 2,448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA, and served as a major supply route during World War II. The highway was completely paved by 1938 and symbolized American mobility. In 1985, Route 66 was officially decommissioned with the opening of our interstate system.



**JUNE-  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Gil Adams
- 4 Glenda Sill
- 13 Helen Louise Beaver
- 17 Melanie Adams
- 18 Alan Orr
- 18 Barry Plunkett
- 18 Larry Plunkett
- 20 Trudee Harshfield
- 24 Sheryl Wilson
- 27 Judi Sharp
- 30 Ron Moore

# Announcements

## New Members

David & Tami Waller  
201 E. Waller St




# WANTED MODEL A TOUR GUIDES

Have you ever thought of planning a tour? Have you ever wondered how to go about organizing a tour? Have you ever imagined about going somewhere you have never gone and wondered if anyone else would like to go on a similar trip? In a Model A?

WELL – wonder no more! The Wichita A’s have revised “GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING WICHITA MODEL A CLUB TOURS”. The guidelines were revised May 14, 2025 and provide step-by-step instruction for developing a tour. Kathy James (club secretary) has printed copies available – no charge! **PICK UP YOUR COPY AT THE NEXT MODEL A MEETING**

**MAFFI BRICK COLLECTION**  
We had \$170.00 in the headlight after the March meeting. Amount collected in the April meeting was \$41.00. Balance is now \$211.00



Denny Ellerman

## 2026 Refreshments



May	June	July
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<p><b>Beverage</b> Marcia Kurtz</p> <p><b>Treats</b> Claudia Ellerman Tom Cornwell Brenda Broadhead</p>	<p><b>Beverage</b> Debbie Greiving</p> <p><b>Treats</b> Blake Waller Jeannie Speck Melanie Adams</p>	<p><b>Beverage</b> Claudia Ellerman</p> <p><b>Treats</b> Gina McNeal Kathy James Dawna Ruggles</p>
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**Newsletter  
Deadline**

Friday, June 5, 2026  
Sheila Orr  
sheorr@sbcglobal.net  
316-207-8878

## Tulsa's Capital Cruise- Route 66

# LAST CALL!

## Making History on May 30, 2026

**WHAT:** 2026 MARKS THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROUTE 66. TULSA, OKLAHOMA IS CELEBRATING BY HOSTING THE LARGEST CLASSIC CAR PARADE EVER ON SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026 AND HOPES TO SET A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR THE "LARGEST CLASSIC CAR PARADE EVER"!

**Objective:** 100 miles for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Route 66. We will drive to Tulsa, Oklahoma, participate in the parade and then drive on Route 66 back to SE Kansas (Galena, Riverton & Baxter Springs). WE WILL SPEND ONE NIGHT IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA AND A SECOND NIGHT IN Joplin, MO.

**Tour Leads:** Kathy James – and Mike James – call or text  
Email:

**Date:** May 29 – 31

**NOTE:** YOU must register for this event go to:  
<https://www.visittulsa.com/parade/>



**NOTE:** must have proof of insurance, car tag number, driver license available to register and bank account numbers available for payment.

### Hotel Information for Route 66 Capital Cruise

If you have signed up to attend the Route 66 Capital Cruise trip being led by Mike & Kathy James, please make hotel reservations as follows:

**Friday, May 29, 2026. One night only in Tulsa**

**AVID Hotel**

**1539 W. 80<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132**

**Ph. 918-779-4779**

**Contact: Bruno**

**Room Rate: \$118.00 which includes tax for a King single. Breakfast included.**

**Have reserved six (6) ROOMS. ADVISE WHEN YOU CALL YOU ARE WITH**

**“FORD MODEL A CLUB”**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026. One night only in**

**Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham**

**4101 Richard Joseph Blvd.**

**Joplin, Missouri 64804**

**Ph. 417-626-8282**

**Contact: Lalit**

**Room Rate: \$75.00 plus tax**

**Have reserved six (6) ROOMS. ADVISE WHEN YOU CALL YOU ARE WITH**

**“FORD MODEL A CLUB”**

**Note:** yes we are going to Joplin, Missouri. Remember the goal is to drive 100 miles on Route 66 and drive the 13.2 miles of Route 66 in Kansas. Galena, Kansas is the most eastern town in Kansas on Route 66. The other towns are Riverton and Baxter Springs. The hotel/motel choices at the other locations were not suitable. Hence, for a 7.4 mile drive from Galena to Joplin on Route 66 is a bonus! Staying in at a Route 66 location in Missouri is another bonus! And, the price was right! Win, win, win.

## Coffee & Donuts



Coffee & Donuts for Men will be held Thursday, June 4th, from 8 AM to 10AM at **Tom Ruggles** garage, .

**Tom Ruggles**



## “A” Ride on Jerry’s Train

### A” RIDE ON JERRY’S TRAIN

**SUNDAY JUNE 14 TH**

**ALL ABOARD!! THE TRAIN WILL BE LEAVING THE STATION BEHIND CAROUSEL SKATE CENTER, 312 N. WEST ST.**

Take your family for a ride on the little train to nowhere. Children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren are all welcome to go on this ride back into the past. We will smell the burning coal, hear the steam hissing and share stories of our youth and fun at Joyland.

Jerry Ottaway has made this generous offer so let’s not let him down. The more cars and kids, the better.

Meet me at the same location as last year. HM Dunn Aerosystems’s parking lot at **11:30** to get your train and lunch ticket. From there we will travel as a group to the train station and to lunch.

**HM Dunn Aerosystems, 1804 West Second St. (ten blocks west of Seneca)**

We need a head count for lunch so please sign up at the May meeting. The train station is located behind the Carousel Skate Center, 312 N. West St.

**Don Grabendike**



## “A” Derby 4th of July Parade



FYI– We are planning Derby 4th of July parade this year. Haven’t received a letter explaining details of the parade. We will inform you as we are informed.

Thank you,  
**Donna Hileman**



## Past Tours & Events

### “A” Return to Carlton

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the Wichita A’s made their 10<sup>th</sup> trip to Carlton Ks. The city of Carlton has been welcoming our club since 1987 when we made a detour through their fine town on the way to Manhattan. We saw a sign that said nothing happened here in Carlton. Since then, the club has made several tours back to Carlton and left our own sign saying something actually did happen is Carlton. The Wichita Model A’s club visited them. 24 people in 12 model A’s and 2 modern cars made the trip. The morning started out cool, but turned into a beautiful spring day. The town enthusiastically welcomed us with a printed poster featuring a model “A” with the slogan “They don’t build them like the used to”. The club provided lunch from Hog Wild BBQ and the Carlton community provided drinks, along with a koozie drink can holder featuring a model A, and a cookie desert. Lunch was held at the community center where their bulletin board displayed a photo of our past tour, a newspaper article that appeared in the April 23 issue of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicler documenting our visit, thank you notes from members on past tours and humorous wanted posters of town citizens and their fictitious relationships to model A’s. Carlton assured us they would welcome a return visit from the club anytime in the future.



The Model A Club putting a new sign in Carlton



The club has had a relationship with Carlton for many years!





We brought dinner to Carlton this time! Always a great time!



Carlton's wanted posters!



What happened Mike???????





You have to be a certain age to appreciate this.  
I can hear my mother now...

**THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:**

(if you don't know what clotheslines are, better skip this)

If you hung your clothes outside, here are some memories that will bring back the feel of cold fingers, deep snow banks under the clothesline and a host of other things, and of course, ironing, that long lost art of getting everything starched, ironed, and hung up!!! All of this leaves out the washing machine and those rinse tubs!!

1. You had to wash the clothesline before hanging any clothes. Walk the entire lengths of each line with a damp cloth around the lines...
2. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites" and hang them first.
3. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail. What would the neighbors think?
4. Wash day on a Monday! Never hang clothes on the weekend, or Sunday, for Heaven's Sake!
5. Hang the sheets and towels on the outside lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, ya know!).
6. It didn't matter if it was sub zero weather. Clothes would "freeze dry."
7. Always gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky!"
8. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothespins, but shared one of the clothespins with the next washed item.
9. Clothes off of the line before dinnertime, neatly folded in the clothesbasket, and ready to be ironed.
10. IRONED? Well, that's a whole other subject!

**National Model A Clubs**



The Wichita A's Model A Ford Club encourages members to join both National MARC and MAFCA Clubs.



**MAFCA**  
250 S. Cypress St.  
La Habra, CA 90631-5515  
[www.mafca.com](http://www.mafca.com)  
U.S. Membership Cost: \$50

For membership information you can check MAFCA and MARC web sites.

**MARC**  
6721 Merriman  
Garden City, MI 48315  
<http://modelarestorers.org>  
U.S. Membership Cost: \$50

## Tech Tip

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Dec, 2022

The Distributor

### **To Overdrive, or Not to Overdrive...*THAT* is the question?**

*By Eric Engle*

There seems to be a growing trend, for some **Model A** owners, to add an overdrive to their cars or trucks, and probably with good reasons. While some may think this to be a bit of an unnecessary expense, the benefits can be numerous.

It would seem that the most common misconception of having an overdrive is that they are **ONLY** used by those owners who are brave enough (foolish enough?) to venture onto the freeways. While it's true that it does make it nice to be able to cruise along at **55-60** miles per hour at times, the higher speeds are **NOT** the only reason for installing an overdrive into one's vehicle.

A bit over one year ago, I had my **Mitchell OD** installed because I did indeed wish to go on longer tours, which would certainly have meant going on the faster freeways and highways. And while it is **REALLY** nice for that, I have also found, through experience, that it's **NOT** the only reason to have one.

My very first experience with needing my overdrive was on the club's annual **Mount Baldy** tour. That is where my **26%** overdrive **REALLY** shined for the first time !!! Cruising up, or down, the mountain roads, second gear overdrive was a wonderful thing!! Yup...the **Mitchell** overdrive works in every gear...even reverse, if you're crazy enough to want to try that...but not me!!! But second gear in overdrive is just the right gearing for pulling most of those steep hills, or for holding the car from going too fast down hill. Saving one's brakes while going down hill is a **VERY** good thing!! Less worrying about overheating the brakes, which might lead to the dreaded brake fade.

The problem with going up a steep road is that, all too often, **2<sup>nd</sup>** gear is just too low, with the motor running at too high of **RPM's** ...But, **3<sup>rd</sup>** gear is too high and the motor simply can't sustain pulling in that gear... So the driver is having to constantly shift between **2<sup>nd</sup>** and **3<sup>rd</sup>** gears to drive up the mountain grades. That's where the **2<sup>nd</sup>** gear in overdrive really becomes a blessing!!

One more benefit to these overdrives...they are synchromeshed. In other words, they can be shifted in and out without double-clutch. Some owners use this as a means of shifting into first gear while at a complete stop. Leave the transmission in first gear, put the overdrive in neutral, then when the light goes green, simply push the clutch peddle in and shift the overdrive into direct drive. No first gear grinding! And with practice, the overdrive can also be used to downshift. Example: Driving in **3<sup>rd</sup>** gear and the driver needs to downshift to **2<sup>nd</sup>**...what to do?? The driver simply pushes the clutch peddle in, shifts the overdrive into neutral, waits for a moment for the engine's **RPM's** to come down to almost an idle, shift the transmission into **2<sup>nd</sup>**, and then the overdrive back into gear, and voila!!.....downshifting accomplished without needing to double clutch, **AND** without grinding. But it does take a bit of practice to put to memory the sequence.

While there are a number of manufacturers of overdrives, probably the most popular at this time are the **Mitchell** overdrives. Some of the other brands used are the **Ryan** overdrive, **Borg Warner**, and sometimes **Volvo**. But it would seem that, for the most part, the **Mitchell** is the "go-to" leader currently. Installation is basically a bolt in operation, with no special modifications necessary, other than making a hole in the floorboards for the extra shift lever.

These are only some personal observations of mine while using my overdrive. I am not recommending any particular brand, only bringing to attention the distinct advantages of having an overdrive unit in the car and how much nicer the driving experience becomes with one. And isn't that what it's all about....improving the experience of driving our fine old cars?!?!.....

# ERA Fashion

## FASHION FOR FUN



Evening bags with beads or metal mesh are the perfect accessory for the era fashion fun look.



**A BOOK OF FASHION FACTS  
PAGE 351**

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL CALENDARS

### 2026 SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW SCHEDULE

May 9, 2026.....	Cowtown Horsepower Showdown Car Show Event-10AM to 3PM.....	.....Wichita, KS
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### 2026-2027 FUTURE REGIONAL & NATIONAL MODEL A MEETS


May 31-June 7, 2026.....	2026 National Convention hosted by Blue Mountain A's.....	.....Pendleton, OR
May 11-14, 2026.....	2026 MARC National Tour.....	.....Finger Lakes, NY
July 12-16, 2026.....	2026 MARC National Meet.....	.....French Lick, IN
December 10-12, 2026....	National Award Banquet.....	.....Cincinnati, OH
June 13-18, 2027.....	2027 MAFCA National Tour.....	.....Durango, CO

**ERIC WENINGER**  
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332 Lulu  
Wichita, KS 67211

**Ed Giesen**  
Customer Service

Join the Wichita A's.  
We meet on the 4th Monday of each  
month except December

Minisa Park, 704 W. 13th Wichita,  
KS at 7 PM

*Mishelle Whitney*

mishelle@loracompany.com  
624 E. Harry Street  
Wichita, KS 67211

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Go To:

[Wichita A's Model A Ford Club  
\(wichitaas.com\)](http://wichitaas.com)

To download forms to join the Wichita  
A's Model A Ford Club, MAFCA,  
MARC or MAFFI .



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LUKE HEADLEY

 112 S. MAIN ST.  
P.O. BOX 11  
ARGONIA, KS 67004

(316) 249-1761 HEADLEYORGANCO@GMAIL.COM

Wichita A's Model A Ford Club  
P.O. Box 25  
Wichita, KS 67201



Address Service Requested

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### Wichita A's Model A Ford Club Contacts

If you chose to email one of the following contacts, go to our web page at [www.wichitaas.com](http://www.wichitaas.com) and click on contacts and send your email from there. Include the person you want to email in your message

- President**, Mike James  
..... (316)
- Vice President**, Stuart McNeal  
..... (316)
- Secretary**, Kathy James  
..... (316)
- Treasurer**, Claudia Ellerman  
..... (316)
- Tour Chairman**, Don Grabendike  
.....(316)
- Membership**, Linda Kibbe  
..... (316)
- Newsletter Editor**, Sheila Orr  
[sheorr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sheorr@sbcglobal.net)..... (316)
- Webmaster**, Darren Schuster

The Rumbleseat Review is the official publication of the Wichita A's Model A Ford Club, Inc., a local chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America and the Model A Restorers Club. It's purpose is to keep members informed of past, present and future events, activities, and club news. In addition, this newsletter includes articles and other information to aid in the restoration and enjoyment of the Model A Ford automobile.

This publication is mailed or emailed to members, prospective members and editors of similar publications prior to monthly meetings. Meetings are usually the fourth Monday of the month. Members may publish antique car related ads only for free of charge which includes items wanted, items for sale, or items for trade. We invite members to submit articles containing technical Model A information and other interesting tidbits for publication in this newsletter. Items to be published must be submitted to the newsletter editor by deadline shown in the calendar. Wichita A's membership dues are \$25.00, per year (October to September30). MAFCA dues are \$50.00 per year and MARC dues are \$50.00 per year. A business card advertisement in this newsletter is \$25.00 per year.