

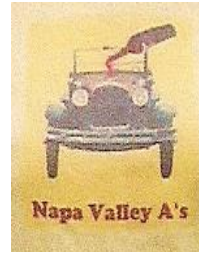


# WINE PRESS

Napa Valley A's

A Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America

MAY 2026



## 2026 Officers

**President**

Matt Pendergast

**Immediate Past President**

Jim Kanne

**Vice President**

Jim Mounter

**Secretary**

LeeAnn Pendergast

**Treasurer**

Skip Keyser

## Chairpeople

Editor/Historian – Jim Mounter

Hospitality – Sheila Kanne

Raffle – David LeCount

Sunshine – Barbara Fanucchi

The Wine Press is a publication of the Napa Valley A's, a chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. Permission to reproduce items published in the Wine Press is granted; however please give credit to the Wine Press when appropriate. The Wine Press welcomes any articles or suggestions that are of general interest to the Model A hobbyist. Please submit all such material to the editor by the end of the month preceding publication.

## A Look Back

### Napa Valley A's History for May

May 28, 2011: Sam Leach and Larry and Linda Dreyer attended the NCRG Roundup held at Dan Foley Park in Vallejo. After attending a couple of technical seminars, they left around 3:00 pm due to rain.

May 29, 2011: Sam and Marty Leach, Larry and Linda Dreyer, Jim and Nancy Mounter, and John and Chris Davis attended the Awards Dinner at the NCRG Roundup. After enjoying a glass of wine provided by Chris and John, everyone was seated at their tables while the fashion and car judging awards were announced.

May 12, 2016: The Ice Cream Social was held at Fosters Freeze.

May 14, 2016: The sixth annual Car Show and Festival was held at Shearer School in Napa. Before the car show, Skip Keyser swapped out some parts on his car. It was running well on the way to the show until it quit about a mile from home.

## A Look Forward

May 10: Cars n Coffee, 8:00 am at Brewed in the Napa Outlets, 865 Factory Stores Dr. in Napa.

May 16: Suisun Marina Car Show, Harbor Plaza, 520 Solano St. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

May 22-24: NCRG Roundup, Sonoma, CA

May 28: Napa Valley A's Meeting, 7:00 pm at Creekside Church, 1050 Hagen Rd. in Napa.

May 29: Ladies Luncheon, Il Posto, 4211 Solano Ave. 11:30 am

## Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Napa Valley A's will be on the fourth Thursday, May 28 at 7:00 pm at Creekside Church located at 1050 Hagen Rd. in Napa. There will be no refreshments as the club voted to discontinue the refreshments at the March meeting last year.

## Car Clinic

Matt Pendergast, Ken Midile, and Jim Mounter attended the second Car Clinic of the year on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We worked on Barbara's car, so Barbara was there to provide delicious sandwiches from Sourdough and Company. Matt and Ken had previously added shims to correct the bearing clearances, so we just had to install the rebuilt engine in her car.



It seemed like we spent most of the time looking for parts and lining up the holes in the bolts for the cotter pins, but at the end of the day, the engine was installed and running. Next time we will be installing new brake drums and adjusting the brakes at another car clinic.

## Cinco de Mayo Tour

May 2<sup>nd</sup> was the date of this tour, which was actually a surprise birthday party for Ken Midile. Martina had asked Ken to let her drive the sedan that afternoon. Although Ken didn't know it, Matt and LeeAnn Pendergast, Howdy and Gerri Rogers, Jim and Sheila Kanne, Joe Higgins, Jim Mounter, and Barbara Fanucchi were waiting in the parking lot at Silverado Middle School for them to drive by.

After surprising Ken, we drove to his home where we were joined by Virginia and neighbors Susan and Mike, Victoria, and Brian.



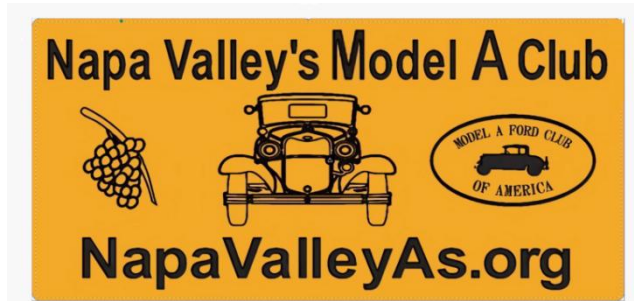


Time For Birthdays

Ken Midile May 3  
Skip Keyser May 19



Gerri and Howdy Rogers June 4



Check out our website, [napavalleyas.org](http://napavalleyas.org), for more club information and activities.



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Check out our posts on Facebook. Just use the Facebook search engine and look for Napa Valley A's.

## Who Invented the Ahooga Horn?

When Matt was giving us the demonstration on how the Model A horn worked he asked, "Who invented this thing? It is a question that deserves an answer.

The Klaxon horn was invented by **Miller Reese Hutchinson** in 1908. However it became more commonly known as the 'Ahooga' horn from the sound it generates. Hutchinson was concerned with increased automobile traffic in New York City. An early version of a vehicle speed alarm was not readily adopted. Warning devices at the time were either bells or horns essentially derived from musical instruments. He realized that a more obnoxious sound would serve as a better warning. He designed a steel diaphragm with a pin at its center, driving the pin with a cam through either a hand crank or electric batteries via a small motor. The "horn" part of the device made the sound directional, so a pedestrian would be more likely to look in the direction of the oncoming vehicle. He licensed the patents to Lovell-McConnell Manufacturing Company in early 1908, and it was marketed as the Klaxon horn. The name came from the Greek word *klaxo*, meaning "shriek", which described its sound.



An electric car horn manufactured by Lovell-McConnell Manufacturing Company.

According to the Judging Standards, the Model A came equipped with one of the following horn brands: Sparton, Ames, Stewart-Warner, E.A. Labs, or G.I.M. All were similar in appearance.



A Model A horn manufactured by the Sparks-Withington Corporation (Sparton).

Sparks-Withington was founded in 1900 by William Sparks, as a subsidiary of Withington-Cooley & Co. The small company would begin making auto-parts including their electric-car-horn in 1911; the product was named 'Sparton' a portmanteau of 'Sparks' and 'Withington'.

The Heinze Electric Company was located at 675 Lawrence St. in Lowell, Massachusetts. This company built spark coils for the automotive industry and produced electric horns under the Ames trade name.

The Stewart-Warner Speedometer Corporation based in Chicago, Illinois produced these horns also.

Emanuel Aufiero was born in Italy in 1882. In 1914, he and his brother Michael founded the E. A. Laboratories which produced these horns.

G.I.M. (General Industries Manufacturing) got into the horn business in 1924 with the purchase of the Klaxon Horn Company in Newark, New Jersey.



Dear Napa Valley A's,

The Sonora Model A Ford Club is excited to invite you to our 2026 Mini Round-Up to be held on May 22-24, 2026. "Get Your Kicks in '26" will take place in beautiful Gold Country at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Sonora, California.

The SonoraAs.com website has a link to the Mini Round-Up registration information, local hotel accommodations and more. You have the option of: (1) mailing your registration form along with the signed MAFCA waiver and your check made out to "The Sonora As RoundUp", to P.O. Box 1537, Twain Harte, CA. 95383; or (2) registering online and paying by credit card. You will sign the MAFCA waiver when arriving at the Mini Round-Up. If you would like a registration form mailed to you, please contact [mjdecasare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjdecasare@sbcglobal.net).

As part of the event, we will have the popular Pick-A-Prize room. If your club is able to contribute a prize item, we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

We hope to have you join us.

Sincerely yours,

Mike deCesare, Round-Up Treasurer

## Q & A Section

Q: Does anyone know how to get the hinge pin out of the door to install a side view mirror on a 1930 sport coupe? I tried to use a hammer it knock it straight up.

David Eppley

A: The problem is that if you just hit them and try to drive them out with a pin punch, they are able to absorb the initial shock and you end up just damaging the bottom of the pin. In the past I have had some that absolutely refused to budge, but then when something heavy is placed on top of the hinge, they tapped out quite easily. In my case, I get my wife to hold a 30-inch crescent wrench upright on top of the hinge with it open just enough to straddle the hinge pin.

Peter Elmore

A: Hinge pins can be a real ton of fun. If a punch and heavy hammer doesn't work when hitting the bottom of the pin, then you have to resort to heat and penetrating oil. If that still doesn't work, then they have to be drilled out. None are good options for a finished/painted car, but it is what it is.

Michael Figg

A: I have a hinge pin remover and it works on pins that haven't worn with little steps on the pin. I would never heat as that's not the problem: it's little grooves worn in the pin and you have to turn the pin by the head after you put flats on it until it's loose. Don't forget there's usually wood under most metal and can be set on fire. Also, mostly it's not rust as they still open and close in some way. You need at least a quarter turn of the pin.

Jim Palmer

Napa Valley A's  
General Meeting Minutes - April 23, 2026

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Roll Call: 10 people in attendance.

President's Report : Matt Pendergast

Matt talked about dusting off the Model A's and "Gopher" a ride.

Secretary's Report: LeeAnn Pendergast

Last meeting's March 2026 minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Skip Keyser

Skip shared current financials with attending members. Skip reports 14 families have paid 2026 dues. Budget remains unchanged. Jim Mounter submitted a receipt for ink and stamp expenses.

Media Committee: Jim Mounter, Ken Rands, and David LeCount.

David LeCount is waiting to hear back from Marketplace Magazine about ad costs. David also explained how Facebook ads work and that most people don't frequent Facebook. Jim Mounter requested club roster review for any updates needed. Members had a discussion about community exposure of cars. Many ideas from showing up early to Farmers Market and parking close by to engage any interest to parking in busy lots and answering questions if people engage in seeing the car.

Steering Committee: LeeAnn Pendergast, Jim Mounter

Save the date for a town tour and social on May 2nd. Meet up details to follow.

Ladies lunch is planned for May 29<sup>th</sup> at Il Posto, 4211 Solano Ave at 11:30 am.

Pete Smith recommends to call Bally Keals and set up date. They offer charcuterie boards as well as beverages. Car Museum with many other vehicles for viewing. Suggested dates were June 6<sup>th</sup> or June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Matt and Barbara discussed hearing from Susan Ingersoll at the Genealogy Society about July 4<sup>th</sup> Napa parade. Plans are being made to participate in Napa and Calistoga if folks are available. In Napa we will be transporting Genealogy members. John Davis will take the lead in Calistoga where cars can be filled with friends and family. Contact either Barbara, Matt, or John Davis for more details.

2026 Club Activities:

Recurring events: Coffee and Cars: Every month on the second Sunday 8:00 am to 10:00am @ Brewed 865 Factory Store Dr.

April 25<sup>th</sup> - Classic car show at Shearer School 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, 1590 Elm Street. A \$25 per car fee. Good exposure for club interest. Registration deadline has past though.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Cinco de Mayo ride. Save the date.

*Continued on Page 7*

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May 16<sup>th</sup> - Suisun Marina Car Show – flyer to come.

May 22-24<sup>th</sup> - NCRG ROUND UP info in January newsletter.

June – possibly Bally Keals Automotive Museum

July 4<sup>th</sup> - Napa and Calistoga parades.

July 25<sup>th</sup> - Pestoni tour with picnic, request confirmed.

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Home car show. Open to the public this year. Set up between 9:00 -10:00 am.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Jim Kanne is researching ideas for Eric Larson Brass Era private collection tour and Foster Big Horn in Rio Vista.

Sunshine Report and Celebrations:

Barbara states Jean and Lynn are under the weather tonight. Wishing them speedy recovery to feeling better. Happy Birthday to John Davis and Ken Midile this month! Happy Anniversary to Rich and Diane Mond. Barbara is planning to check on Howdy Rogers and Joe Higgins.

Shop Talk:

Car Clinic this Saturday to work on Barbara's car, 10:00 am start time. Lunch provided by Barbara.

Matt shared there's a delay on radiators from Brass Works if anyone is planning to need one.

Matt presented a demo and explanation on how ahoogha horns work and how to maintain them.

Quote of the Month: "You can do anything if you have enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is the yeast that makes your hopes rise to the stars."

~Henry Ford~

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

LeeAnn Pendergast



Golden Hills Mustang Club is hosting the 41st Annual Biggest Little Car Show on Saturday, May 16, at the Suisun Waterfront. This event is free to the public and fun for the whole family with beautiful cars, food, and music.

For those interested in participating in the Car Show, All Fords are welcome. The pre-registration cost is \$40 and day of registration cost is \$50. Proceeds will benefit SafeQuest Solano. Parking starts at 7am.

# Napa Valley A's 2026 Membership Application

\*\*\*\*\* Membership Application/2026 Annual Dues Renewal\*\*\*\*\*

NOTE: Annual dues for 2026 are \$40.00 per family

Make check payable to **Napa Valley A's** and mail to: **800 School Street, Suite D, Napa, CA 94559**

(Mail your annual Model A Ford Club of America dues directly to: MAFCA, 250 S. Cypress St, La Habra, CA 90631.)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

MAFCA Member? Y N      MAFCA Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

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Model A Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Restored? Y N    Need Help? Y N

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