

April\May Flying Quail Chapter Coordinator Article  
2023 Chapter Coordinator – Will Langford

I attended my first Model “A” meeting in the summer of 2005. I had just purchased a 1931 Deluxe Coupe at an auction and I was looking for help with getting it back on the road. I remember that first meeting and how I was anxious about that first encounter with people I did not know. I know that experience is repeated many times across all of our chapters around the world. Fortunately I was greeted at the door with a friendly smile and a handshake and made to feel welcome. That first impression went a long way in making me an 18 year ambassador of this hobby.

For this article I would like to share some words from last year’s Chapter Coordinator, Robert Bullard and past President and Chapter Coordinator Doug Linden. These simple steps will help ensure your guests at their first meeting will feel welcome.

- Make sure the Chapter President or Membership Director introduces them to the entire club and encourages the new members/guests to say a few words about themselves, their car(s) and why Model A’s interest them.
- Encourage existing members to introduce themselves and interact with the new members/guests to make them feel wanted and included.
- Some Chapters have a “New Member” packet that contains amongst other items: copy of the Chapter by-laws, copy of a current Chapter roster, a current Chapter newsletter, information about MAFCA including a membership application and a list of upcoming Chapter meetings and tours. If you don’t have one you should consider creating one for the future.
- Many existing members will be wearing their Chapter nametags so provide a temporary name tag for the “newbies”. This will aid in preventing brain cramps and forgetting a name at the worst possible moment.

Your first impression is a valuable tool in attracting and retaining new members. We are all facing declining membership due to the aging of our hobby. Don’t waste an important opportunity to make a lifelong impression. That first meeting may be planting the seeds for a longtime and perhaps future officer of your local club.

Former webmaster Rick Black is looking for dimensions of the hubley tracks that have been built for races at regional and national events. If you can help Rick with the dimensions so he can build the track for their upcoming event give him a shout. Rickblack44@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you on the road,

Will Langford