

The Oil Leak

SEPTEMBER 2005

Volume 43 Issue 9

2005 Officers

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Programs	Doug Linden

The Prez Speaks....

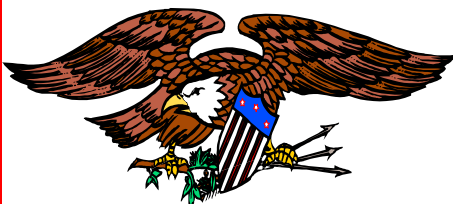
The Passport

Thirteen Model A Ford automobiles, their drivers and passengers recently returned from a 2100 mile trip to the Canadian Maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick by way of down east Maine. The fact that we had no major breakdowns during the trip is a testament to the machines themselves and the individuals that maintain and care for them. Even when someone did have a minor problem, we all pitched in and helped replace a fan belt or do a brake adjustment. That's how it goes on *all* of our tours and no club tours more than The Minuteman Model A Ford Club!

It was amazing how many people seemed to be sitting on their front porches or standing in groups at the end of driveways waving at us and encouraging us to honk our horns as we passed them by. I didn't "get it" until later when we were in New Brunswick. We had eaten lunch at *Patti's Place* in the small town of Hillsborough, NB when we backtracked a bit to go to a museum and antique store. On the way out of town, I decided to pull into a driveway in front of a restored 1950s filling station with a gas pump out front for a little photo opportunity. The building looked closed but it was "too cool" to pass up. Almost immediately after stopping the car and taking a picture a family approached from the porch of an adjoining house to say "hello" and greet us. In no time we were best friends with the patriarch of the family and he invited us inside the garage to a wonderful collection of antique cars, restored gas pumps, air pumps, signs and a 1950s Coke machine! The garage office was even setup just like an old service station office. The owner said that he had received a telephone call from a relative "up the road a bit" telling them to watch out for some old cars that were buzzing around town.

continued on page 4

LABOR DAY



Minuteman Model "A" Club Membership Meeting

August 2, 2005

Held at the home of Bill and Eileen Sutcliffe
540 Stow Road, Boxboro, MA

(43 members and guests were in attendance)



The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by the President, Bruce Marshall. The President thanked Bill and Eileen Sutcliffe for opening their home to the Club and to Tom and Barbara Geagan for helping the Sutcliffe's in preparing the food, etc.

The Vice President, Tom Zappala, asked for motions to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's report as printed in the *Oil Leak*. The reports were accepted as printed.

The President reported on the Super Tour. Bruce thanked Dick O'Brien for leading 13 cars on a 2,100 mile tour. You can read about the Super Tour on our Web Page.

Board Meeting: Thursday, September 15th to be held at Bob and Janice Wright's home at 84 Church Street (Rte. 62), Wilmington at 6:00 PM. Supper will be served at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM.

MAFCA: Brochures from the candidates for the Executive Board are on the desk for anyone to view.

Vintage Ford Days to be held at the Museum of Transportation in Brookline on August 28th.

The President introduced Pat McMillan who invited the Club to the National Heritage Museum in Lexington for Family Day on Saturday, September 10th. Exhibits will be: History of laundry, WWII photos, 1930 teenagers, a Fraternal exhibit and the history of Lexington and Concord.

The President, in the absence of Helen Johnson, reported that Jack Stokinger's mother had passed away. Our sympathy to Jack and Jo and his family. Skip Hurst is recovering from an operation and Harold Samuels' wife is recuperating from a knee operation.

Membership: Nan Linden reported that there are a total of 170 members. Dave Vitori is our newest member. Name tags will be available for all members in September.

Oil Leak: Doug Linden asked that he must receive all Tour Reports, etc. by August 24th. You can always e-mail him or call with any information you want printed..

Tom Zappala is compiling a list of video tapes for the membership to be printed in the *Oil Leak* He will have some tapes available at the September meeting for your use.

continued on next page

Shopkeeper: Harold Samuels has hats, navy and tan, for sale. The navy shirts originally ordered have been discontinued. However, another supplier of navy shirts is being arranged.

New England Meet to be held in Long Island, NY on September 22 – 25, 2005. There was discussion as to which ferry we would be taking over to NY.

Club's Annual Picnic: Bob Wright thanked everyone for their help. He announced that we have been invited back to the Sullivan's Shamrock Hill Farm next year. Bruce thanked Terry and Pat Sullivan for hosting the event and Bob and Janice for coordinating the affair.

Tour to Winnepesaukee: Janice Wright announced that if we have an "overflow" at the Center Harbor Inn we will look for additional rooms in Meredith, NH. Sixteen couples are now going on October 14th thru the 16th.

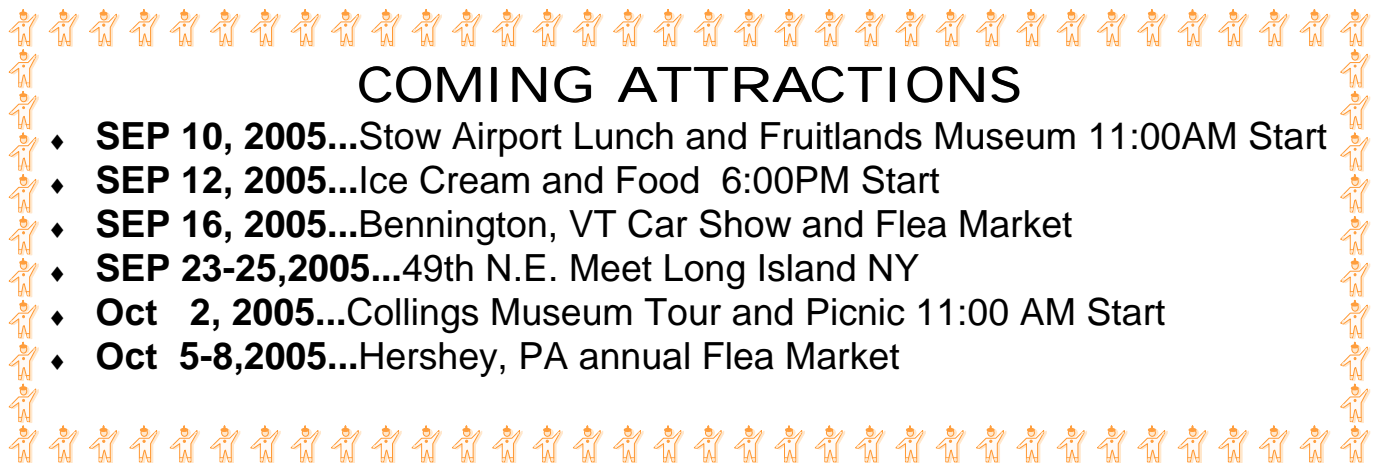
Past President, Jim True, reminded us that Henry Ford's Birthday was this month in the year 1863.

Rob McNeece of Boxboro has a 1931 Sedan at the Cape. He is seeking advice as how to proceed with the renovation. He would appreciate your input.

Web Master: Bruce asked for any digital photos of the Super Tour to be e-mailed to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Wright
Secretary



COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ◆ **SEP 10, 2005**...Stow Airport Lunch and Fruitlands Museum 11:00AM Start
- ◆ **SEP 12, 2005**...Ice Cream and Food 6:00PM Start
- ◆ **SEP 16, 2005**...Bennington, VT Car Show and Flea Market
- ◆ **SEP 23-25, 2005**...49th N.E. Meet Long Island NY
- ◆ **Oct 2, 2005**...Collings Museum Tour and Picnic 11:00 AM Start
- ◆ **Oct 5-8, 2005**...Hershey, PA annual Flea Market

Editor's Note:

I inadvertently forgot to give credit to the source of the of the Fountain Pen article to Donna May Bewley and obtained from the MAFCA Website under Era Fashions.

Treasurer's Report....

July 16 - August 15, 2005

Income

Parade (Sudbury)	\$300.00
Parade (Wellesley College)	200.00
Parade (Town of Wellesley)	<u>220.00</u>
Total Income	\$720.00

Expense

Oil Leak Printing	\$122.12
Graphics for Hats	<u>94.50</u>
Total Expense	\$206.60

Net Income \$513.40



continued from page 1

Well, that's it of course...someone is cutting their lawn or checking their roadside mailbox when we whiz by. Next thing you know people a few miles ahead are in groups waving to us!

A couple of days later we were at the Roosevelt summer "cottage" on Campobello Island and we thought it would be a nice idea to drive the cars inside the gate and around the circular drive in front of the home. The park rangers at the front desk called the administrator to get permission and they agreed to the idea. Do you think you could have pulled a tour bus in front of the home for a photo? No chance. How about thirteen cute cars and passengers? Yes!

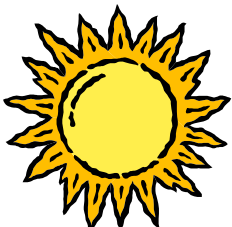
Our Model As can be that something that gives one the right or privilege of passage, entry, or acceptance into a place or situation that might otherwise be missed. New friends and acquaintances are made merely because our cars are that simple connection that attracts people and puts smiles on the faces of people who might otherwise be just strangers. Finally, last Sunday we were at the Plum Island Airport and there was a beautiful 1940 Waco biplane parked out on the field. Using our "passport" we were able to drive the cars out on the airfield and take some nice pictures next to the old *aero plane*. When you're out in your Model A, don't ever miss an opportunity to use your passport.

Bruce

Service Department

Harold Legge swapped the engine in his Coupe just before the Super Tour. He took the engine out of his Roadster PU and put in the Coupe. The Coupe engine was bought to the rebuilder. That engine was picked up recently and put back in the Coupe. Harold reports the swap back was a complete success and the new engine is performing. The Roadster PU is back on the road too.

SUNSHINE REPORT



EVERYONE MUST BE STAYING HEALTHY ON VACATIONS AS NO CARDS WERE SENT THIS MONTH.
IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE THAT NEEDS A CARD FOR ANY REASON PLEASE CONTACT ME.

HELEN JOHNSON----"SUNSHINE"

FROM THE ARCHIVES
(Submitted by Roy Johnson - Historian)

35 YEARS AGO---SEPT. 1970 -- Oil Leak missing

25 YEARS AGO---SEPT. 1980

20 Members attended the September meeting back at the Grange after enjoying summer meetings at members houses (Bud Hicks, Ed Wedge and Bob Noyes).

Treasury Balance---\$544.10

Due to horrible weather conditions, the only club tours in the last month were the weekend tour to Ogunquit, Maine and the day trip to Salem. Both tours enjoyed good weather.

Upcoming tours: our annual rally Sept. 19 & the Foliage tour Oct. 19.

Next month: our annual Auction

15 YEARS AGO ---SEPT. 1990

Our Guest speaker this month was none other than our own Bucky Silvestrone who did an admirable job of fielding the whole range of Model A questions thrown at him.

Treasury Balance ---#13,375.17

Tour Report; on Aug. 12, we enjoyed miniature golf at Tasty Treat in Ashland.

Later that month, having returned from the MAFCA National Convention in San Diego, Doug Linden & John Jacobson proceeded to lead us on a "Ice Cream tour from Hell", travelling through six towns, many detours & wrong turns to finally arrive at Bubbling Brook after dark with no place to park.

Upcoming Tours: Kennebunk weekend; apple picking & picnic Sept. 23; our annual auction Nov. 6.

MAFCA Election

Members of MAFCA will be receiving ballots for voting for new directors. MAFCA is an international Model A Ford club and it's directors should be representative of this diverse population. As a voting member, you should consider the capabilities of each candidate AND how they can represent you on the board - from a geographical standpoint. Please vote. **ALSO, see the important information on page 7**

New Club Apparel

At the next meeting, samples of new apparel will be on display. A new navy shirt will be available to replace the one discontinued, as well as a ladies shirt. A new Jacket and long sleeve shirt will also be there to look at.

TOUR REPORTS

July 30th - Blueberry Picking: The weather was great and according to Dave and MaryAnn the blueberries were plentiful. The Model A's and a 1941 Cadillac looked great parked on the side yard. The owners had already grabbed their buckets and were under the nets gathering the cherished fruit. Before long the buckets were full and we regrouped at the house. We chatted awhile and then it was off to Riley's for some lunch.

August 4th - Ice Cream Tour: The Wlodyka's lead a nice group of Model A'ers on a nice ride to Westborough to Uhlman's Ice Cream. The Model A's sort of took over the parking lot, but we managed to find room for everyone. It was a warm night and the ice cream was terrific. Ed gathered up the gang as he had a surprise for us, we were off to visit a private collection just down the road. When we arrived at the owners home, part of the collection was arranged on the side yard. Everything from a 1919 Packard to a variety of muscle cars was on display. It was quite a sight. Another half dozen or so cars were still in the garages, so not everything was there. It was a great night, thanks Ed.

August 7th - Biplane Tour: The destination today was the Plum Island Airfield near Newburyport for a ride in an antique bi-plane. Two groups would be attending, the northern group and the Sudbury group. The Sudbury group left on time and we proceeded to take secondary roads all the way to Plum Island. The northern group was arrived much earlier than we did...and informed us of a slight change in plans...the bi-plane was no longer flying. It moved to the Hampton airport. A few still took scenic rides in a more modern Cessna plane, while others checked out the 1940 Waco bi-plane that did happen to come in for a visit. We then loaded up the Model A's and headed to Skip's Dinner in Methuen for a late lunch. It was classic 60's style dining.

Aug 9th Food and Ice Cream: The Piccadilly Pub in Marlborough was the destination for this evening's tour. Showers had been predicted, which probably kept a few away, but they were wrong...it was a beautiful evening.

Five A's were at the Grange parking lot including Bill & Irene, Wayne & Sue, Harold & Sally, Dick & Barbara, and the tour leaders for the evening, Dick & Mazie. Doug & Nan, Terry & Pat and Jack drove directly to the Pub. Good food and conversation was experienced by all.

Aug 17th Wayside Inn: This is always a good event for the club, Ice Cream sundaes accompanied by Fife & Drum music of the Subury Malitia band. The turnout was excellent, in fact, Don Folks, who we haven't seen for quite awhile, was in attendance. The warm weather made the sundaes more enjoyable and the Model As added a bit of nostalgia for the other guests, who really seemed to enjoy looking them over. The music was very entertaining. The group started to head for home after 8:30...it was dark and the mosquitoes were starting to "attack."

Aug 25th Kimball's Cruise-In: Holy Cow, what a night. The show put on at Kimball's Farm was spectacular, I heard over 400 cars were on display. That included 12 cars (22 people) from the Minuteman club. Parking spots were at a premium, but we all found one and then managed to find the food tent. Food and ice cream were available at the tent and the Pulled Pork was a spectator favorite, and the Jr. make your own sundae was huge, how can you beat that! There was a live band playing 50's music that added to the atmosphere. As far as I know, no one from the club won any of the raffle prizes. Oh well, maybe next year.

Subject: 2005 MAFCA Election Ballots

After the problems we had with last year's election ballots, your Board of Directors took steps to prevent the mis-mailing from happening again by sending our printer/mailer detailed instructions on how to process our ballots.

So much for planning - we just found out that there was an error sending out this year's ballots. Some members won't get one at all - some will probably find more than the right number of ballots in their envelope. The printer has apologized profusely, admitting the error, and has pledged to send out new ballots and renewal notices at their expense.

The Board apologizes for this mix-up; please watch for the new renewal notices and ballots in color that you should receive around the beginning of September. Check back later this week for any updates on the situation.

Please tell your MAFCA friends without computer access **not to send back their ballots until they receive further instructions.** The ballots will be reprinted in a different color (we'll let you know later this month) so that MAFCA will be able to ignore the original group. If you have already sent in your membership renewal, thank you. You should ignore the second dues renewal slip that you'll get with the new ballots.



Super Tour Update

In the words of Paul Harvey...here's "the rest of the story!" Bruce got all gussied up for our final night on the tour. The heavens came alive when he donned this outfit. OK, so it wasn't his, it was Jan Wright's. The ladies worked hard during the tour knitting scarves. A few stops for yarn was all it took.

Bruce took it well.

Bruce Tries a New Look

More Super Tour Stuff

The Super Tour started in three groups, two to leave on Saturday and one on Sunday. The Sunday group (O'Brien, Linden, Silvestrone) left at 7:00AM and headed directly to Bar Harbor. That seems like a long ride, but we stayed on the highway until Brunswick, Maine. We cruised around 50/55 and had no troubles. In fact on toll booth operator didn't charge us a toll...nice guys he was. Route we found to be more of a hassle than the highway, but we managed to make a few pit stops and arrived in Bar Harbor just after the "Sons of the Pioneers" group. As Bruce mentioned in his message, Model A's are more than capable of being good reliable transportation for long journeys.

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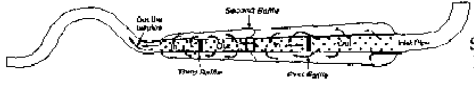
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Tech Tip

(Brake Light Switch)

Recently, a few of the guys had the opportunity to help Bucky replace the Clutch, Pressure Plate and Flywheel on his 1930 Coupe. The job was straight forward, with all going well, no parts left over. That is until Bucky went for a test drive. The cute little coupe died just down the road. Towing it back to the garage, we found a blown fuse. Before replacing the fuse, we check for shorts, and found a short when the brake was pushed. We figured a new brake switch would solve the problem...NOPE. A check of it showed it also shorted out when the plunger was pushed. We did some checking and found that the

replacement switch was manufactured poorly. The insulator hold the two screws for the electrical wires were shorted where they went through the metal housing. We had to "adjust" the fit here by using a small hammer and punch to physically move the whole insulator assembly. We found a point where there was no short when the switch was actuated. This cured the shorting out problem in the Coupe and Buckeye was on the road again. **CAUTION** - - If you purchase a new brake light switch, check it for shorts before installing it...this will save you from having to do the job twice.

President's Tour to Fenway Park



The weather could not have been better for our trip to the Back Bay of Boston and environs. It was an absolutely beautiful morning with bright blue skies, low humidity and temperatures in the 70s. We were on a strict schedule, so the main tour group left the Grange parking lot at 10 AM headed for route 9 and Boston. On the way they picked up four Model As in Wellesley and two in Chestnut Hill making a total of twelve (12) As and one modern.

Although there were many traffic lights to deal with along the way, the group made it into Brookline Village by 10:45 AM and made the left hand turn onto Brookline Avenue. We chugged by the Dana Farber building, the Beth Israel Hospital and the old Sears building and then passed the ballpark on the starboard side. We then turned down Landsdown Street hard against the famous left field wall and we parked in an enclosed garage right behind the centerfield bleachers.

The group was then instructed (!) by the tour leader that they were to be in the souvenir shop across the street from Fenway Park by 1 PM for the 1:30 PM tour. Until then, everyone was "on their own" for lunch and shopping. Some ate at the Red Sox cafe on Brookline Avenue called "Game On" while others had lunch at The Boston Beer Works, Uno's or another of the many eateries that are near Fenway.

Fortunately our group of twenty-seven adults and four children was a "private" tour because it was apparent that the regular tours had upwards of one hundred people participating! At 1:30 PM we met our tour guide Bob who explained that he had been a Red Sox fan since his first trip to Fenway Park in 1947. Bob has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to the Sox and the ballpark. We visited the press box first and we got an explanation on just how the electronic scoreboard is controlled and how the writers and reporters watch a game and file their stories. From the press area we moved on to the 406 club and got an even better view than we had from the press box area! All along the way our guide Bob told us all kinds of stories, anecdotes and answered our questions about the ballclub and the ballpark. We then went up to the top of the left field wall and got a chance to sit in the so-called Monster Seats for what many call the best seat in major league baseball. The view from up there was spectacular being 37 feet off the ground (we learned that) with great sight lines to the rest of the park.

The last part of the tour took us down to the front row along the third base line where our guide wrapped up the tour telling us about the field itself, the manual scoreboard in the wall and lots of other interesting trivia. Time seemed to fly by with the tour lasting over an hour!

As we made our way back to the parking garage, some of the children got autographs from some of the players arriving early for the game. Most of the Minuteman tourers left for home by 3:30 PM but a few of us made our way over to the Maparium at the Mary Baker Eddy Museum for a quick tour there.

No breakdowns (of course) and nothing but a fun day.

Bruce Marshall

(Editor's Note: David Ortiz hit a home run in Saturday night's game and it landed on the Monster Seats right where we had been sitting only hours before)

What's New for the Model "A"

(From the Ford Service Bulletins)

September 1928

Major changes to the carburetor took place this month. The double venturi was replaced by a longer single venturi. Other changes consisted of the addition of a new secondary well in the lower housing from which the idle jet derives its supply. The sizes of the other jets we also changed. The steering sector housing got a new grease fitting to lubricate the shaft. It should be lubricated every 2K mile. The Toe-in adjustment was changed from 3/16" to 1/16" plus or minus 1/32". On the starter, the Abell type drive has been obsoleted and replaced by the Bendix type drive. For the Coupe and Roadsters without rumble seats, a new deck support is now standard. The new support folds at the center.

September 1929


New radiator bolts were issued. These had smaller threaded area so you can't over tighten the nut and spring. There were three types of rear hubs being used. The Shoulder, the Grooved and the Tapered designed. From this point on only the tapered hub will be used and supplied to dealers. A new Spindle locking pin (A-3122C) and bolt (3115-16C) will be used. This new pin holds the spindle bolt more securely. A new gasket is being used in the tank gas cap. The old composition gasket is being replaced by leather. The Water Pump got new split ring packing material, replacing the metallic string. And lastly the price of the Cigar Lighter was reduced from \$1.75 to \$1.25.

September 1930

This month, the bulletins covered the five dump bodies for the AA chassis. Details are given on how to mount the bodies, which included the Heavy Duty Hydraulic; the Light Duty Hydraulic; the Mechanical Rotating Power Hoist; the Gravity Dump and the Hand Hoist dump Body.


September 1931

The retail price of the Ford battery was reduced to \$6.90 with the owners old battery. A new front hub bearing retainer washer was introduced. This washer accommodated the new front hub cap. New hubs are threaded about 3/8" to accept this cap (A-1139). This change was to lessen the possibility lubricant working out around the wheel hub caps. The washers can be used with the old hubs. New brake rod springs are being used. The new round design replaces the flat spring. The new design improves the spring action and increases the strength of the spring.



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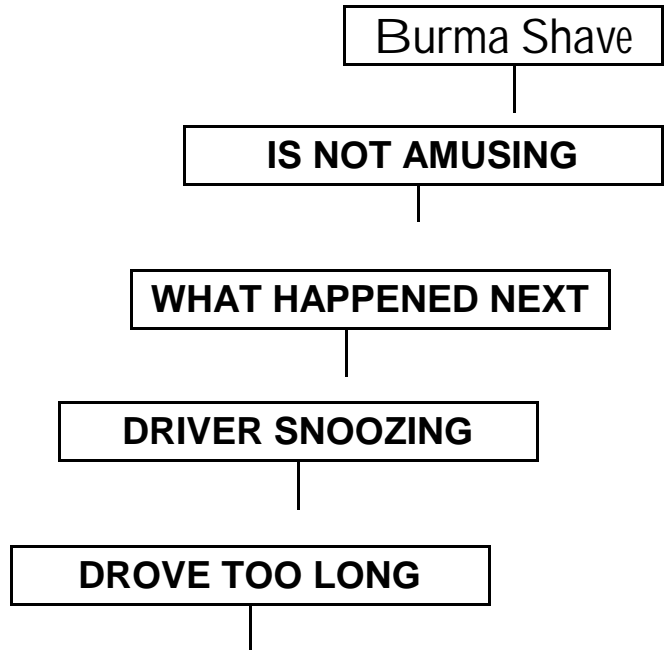


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- ◆ **For Sale:** 1931 S/W Town Sedan. Excellent condition, Maroon and Black. Whitewall tires. Runs Great. \$16,000 or B/O
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**Minuteman Model "A" Ford Club
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SEPTEMBER 2005

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REMINDER

September is here, so it's back to our regular meeting place at the Memorial Congregational Church. Tire kicking starts at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7:30PM

