



## Welcome Members to 2023

→

Hello members, and yes, we are back on track sending out our Rotunda Times Newsletter. I Jim Crawford will be taking over as editor of the newsletter which will be a whole new learning experience for me so, please bear with me. But with the help of past editors, club members we'll see how it goes. As you can see from our swap meet flyer, we have a new location and date for our event. We were not able to lock in a date at Wayne County Fairgrounds, so we had to make a move. Greg Petrovich and Jack Vongerichten have already laid out the field for vendors and are already selling swap spaces. So, with the earlier date in May we need to get flyers out as soon as possible. We will have them at our meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Livonia Senior Civic Center. Or you can go to our website at [www.fmrcoa.org](http://www.fmrcoa.org) and download and print a copy.

### FORD MERCURY RESTORERS CLUB OF AMERICA SWAP MEET & CAR CORRAL

SATURDAY – MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

"Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds"

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734-743-5808ONE DAY ONLY – SATURDAY – MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

WASHTENAW FARM COUNCIL GROUNDS

ANN ARBOR – SALINE RD EXIT 175 – OFF I-94

#### SWAP MEET EVENT INFORMATION

- Site Opens at 7:00am
- All Outside Spaces are 15'x30' On Grass
- Friday Setup For Vendors
- 24-Hour Security
- \$10.00 Daily Admission
- 16 and Under are Free

#### "CAR CORRAL" SALES LOT

- \$20.00 per Vehicle-Includes 1 Adult Admission
- For information, call Rob Martola at 734-837-1891

#### Location

Washtenaw Farm Council  
Grounds  
5055 Ann-Arbor – Saline  
Rd. Ann Arbor, Mi. 48103  
Exit #175 off I-94, then  
South 3 Miles.



**LIABILITY:** The FMRCOA assumes no responsibility for any damage or loss by fire, theft, or any other cause whatsoever. Vendors and spectators use the facilities at their own risk and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the FMRCOA its agents, officers, and club members from any loss or liability, including but not limited to, costs of defense arising from participants in events conducted by the FMRCOA and held at the WASHTENAW FARM COUNCIL GROUNDS. Participant agrees to be responsible for and reimburse the WASHTENAW FARM COUNCIL GROUNDS if any property is damaged by accident or negligence of the participant.

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1 Space \$35.00 \* 2 Spaces \$65.00

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After May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, all spaces are \$45.00 eachSorry, No refunds after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Vendors may NOT sell Food or Beverages

# The Rotunda Times



## The Rotunda Times

Published by:

Ford and Mercury Restorers Club of America

P.O. Box 2938 • Dearborn, MI 48123 • [www.fmrcoa.org](http://www.fmrcoa.org)

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### Attention All Members

When you hear of a member/spouse's death, please get all the information such as the funeral home and address, viewing times and dates, and the service time and date.

### CONTACT:

**Jim Crawford**

313.467.7789 or [jimdem22@gmail.com](mailto:jimdem22@gmail.com)

We will ensure that the membership at large knows of the death.

### FACEBOOK SEARCH



Ford and Mercury Restorers Club of America  
to post your photos and comments.  
Network fellow club members and invite your friends  
to share on Facebook.



## THE FORD AND MERCURY RESTORERS CLUB OF AMERICA

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The Ford & Mercury Restorers Club is a hobby organization  
whose purpose is to foster and promote the acquisition,  
preservation and use of all Ford vehicles.

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### President's Message

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Our first meeting for 2023 will be on February 1st, 2023, at the Livonia Senior Civic Center at 6:30. We will have our swap meet flyers to hand out. Hopefully, we will have our sign-up sheets for our swap meet which will be on May 20<sup>th</sup> this year.

Charter member Roy Stull will be showing vintage FMRCOA video from the early days of our club. If you haven't sent in, your club membership for 2023 please send to FMRCOA Membership Secretary P.O. Box 2938 Dearborn, Mi.48123. We have a full Board of Directors with Rob Martoia filling the Vice- president position.

Stan Miller  
President

### Board Meeting Minutes 01/17/2023

- We decided to renew the website with the 2023 Swap Flyer, and Membership form. Also, will add a sponsorship form.
- The Board also decided to go with a full page ad in Crus'n media.
- We currently have 12 sponsors for our swap meet @ \$250 each. They receive an ad in the newsletter, on our t-shirts & on the web page.
- Discussion on the t-shirts, Logo and how many of each size to order.
- Will finalize that at the next board meeting.
- A post was put on the Face book page about needing new members, in hopes of getting some younger members.

Terry Worful  
Secretary

### Minutes from the December meeting Dec 7, 2022

- There were no New members in attendance.
- Stan Announced that he will Take on the position of President for 23, There were no objections from members in attendance. Rob Martoia Will be Vice president, Again no objections from the members in attendance. The rest of the board remains the same.
- This year we sent a check to Toys for Tots Of \$200. and \$300 To Mott Children's Hospital
- There will be no January Meeting next meeting is **February 1st**.
- Jim Crawford will be the new newsletter editor.
- We had 19 renewals. Board is to talk about offering a gift card for renewals.
- Club discussed Ideas for more outings. Suggestions are Monroe Drive in to see American Graffiti & Hollywood nights, Roy Stull is going to bring in some old club movies in February.
- 50/50 First Place was Darrell Harding, 2nd Greg Petrovich, 3rd was Gary Rellox.
- Car talk Pete Morris is selling 4 or 5 cars \$20,000 each
- Bob Haas Watched a YOUTUBE video that had his 54 Ranchero in it. Ford is talking about bringing back the Ranchero.

Terry Worful Secretary



***"JUST FOR THE HUMOR OF IT"***

**Good Men  
Do Exist.  
We're Just  
Building cars, buying cars,  
thinking about buying cars,  
buying parts to fix cars,  
talking about cars &  
going to car events..**



**Mother-in-law came for dinner and said, "Why does the dog keep looking at me?" I said, "Because you're using his plate!"**

**Me: Please bring me a  
screwdriver.  
Wife: Flat head, Phillips, or  
Vodka?  
And that was when I knew  
she was the one.**

A former Sergeant in the Marine Corps took a new job as a high school teacher.

Just before the school year started, he injured his back. He was required to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. Fortunately, the cast fit under his shirt and wasn't noticeable.

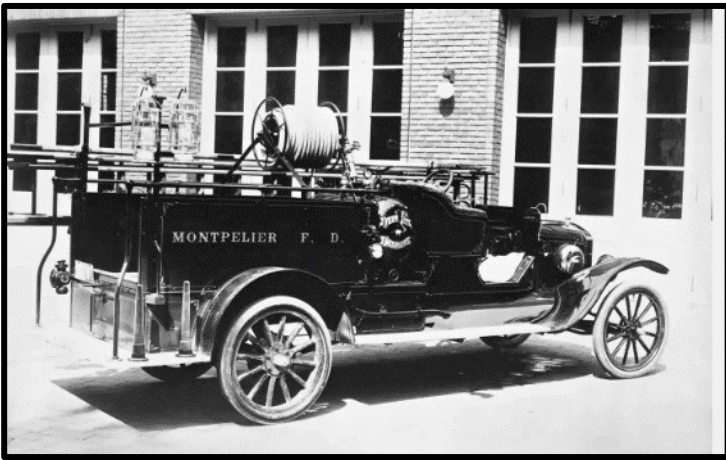
On the first day of class, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in the school. The smart punks, having already heard the new teacher was a former Marine, were leery of him and he knew they would be testing his discipline in the classroom.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the new teacher opened the window wide and sat down at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he picked up a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Dead silence...

The rest of the year went very smoothly.

## *Ford Plants Seeds of Truck Leadership with Model TT*



The Model TT came at a time when the nation's road system was being expanded, thanks in part to the success of the Model T, and businesses were looking for heavier, stronger, and more economical vehicle options for their shipping operations. Aftermarket manufacturers had already been busy adapting the Model T – which accounted for half of all vehicles on American roads by 1917 – with truck body frames before Henry Ford seized on the newfound demand.

The Model T was Introduced during a flurry of Ford production, spurred by the United States' entry into World War I, which set records in the U.S. and Canada. The truck retained the cab and engine of its predecessor but also included a heavier-duty frame capable of carrying a payload of up to one ton. The Model TT added 2 feet to the Model T's 100-inch wheelbase and had a stiffer rear suspension. The truck also featured a more durable worm-drive rear axle already used in many aftermarket conversions, artillery-style wooden wheels and solid rubber rear tires.

The \$600 truck chassis could be customized with aftermarket beds and cargo areas, befitting the line of work where they were needed. Sales mirrored that of the Model T, as Ford sold just over 200 of the Model TTs in the first year and led all manufacturers in truck sales by the end of the 1920s. During that time, the company's truck production had grown to more than 260,000 units in 1925. Sales eventually totaled 1.3 million by 1928 when the Model TT was replaced by the Model AA, a 1.5-ton chassis.

The Model TT paved the way for Ford's first dedicated pickup, the Model T Runabout with Pickup Body, which came in 1925, and the many others that followed, including the Ford F-Series in 1948.



## Lou Ironside

*The newsletter will look a little different from now on it will be missing the Roving Reporter and Post Cards from the Past.*

*Lou Ironside has been a member in this club since the early days. He has been a contributor to the newsletter for many years. Lou has decided to hang up his writing pen. We would like to thank Lou for his many many years contributing to this club and newsletter. We will surely miss Lou and his articles that's for sure.*

---

### HENRY FORD CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY WITH U.S. NAVY



Henry Ford spent his 80th birthday with the U.S. Navy at the Rouge plant.

Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford celebrated his 80th birthday on July 30, 1943. He spent the occasion with the U.S. Naval Training School at the Ford Rouge plant.

The day included a cake modeled after the naval school building, time spent with the trainees and teachers and Ford being gifted a military drill by the servicemen.

Two years earlier, the Naval Training School recognized Ford's patriotic contribution during World War II, which included the creation of the Naval Training School, gifting Ford a trophy for his birthday.

## Looking Back at Ford's Role in NASA's Last Moon Landing



Humankind's first steps on the moon have been well-documented, but it's been a long time since an astronaut has set foot on the lunar surface. In fact, it's the 50th anniversary of that accomplishment – and Ford's former subsidiary, [Philco-Ford, helped enable Apollo 17](#), which NASA called “the last, longest and most successful of seven manned lunar landing missions.”

Apollo 17 launched in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1972, with the support of Philco-Ford, which was also known as a global producer of household appliances and electronics such as TVs, radios and refrigerators. The company was NASA's prime contractor for the design, implementation and operation of the Mission Control Center in Houston beginning in the 1960s. The Ford subsidiary was also responsible for updating the facility to meet the changing requirements for each subsequent mission, which it did concurrently with Apollo 17 in preparation for the earth-oriented Skylab project that would follow the Apollo flights.

Apollo 17 astronauts Gene Cernan – the final person to step foot on the moon's surface – Ron Evans and Jack Schmitt were supported in the mission by the services, systems and products of Philco-Ford's Aerospace and Defense Systems Operations. The Ford subsidiary also provided radiation detection units for the mission. The telescope-like device, called the Nuclear Particle Detection System, measured radiation levels inside the spacecraft and reported data back to Mission Control. The cigar box-sized electronics also measured radiation from solar flares, gaseous eruptions from the sun.

The Philco-Ford-built communications and tracking technology that helped the company “maintain the fragile link between earth and spacecraft” reportedly relayed one of the most important messages of the voyage. A [course correction was needed to ensure the crew a proper reentry angle](#) into the earth's atmosphere upon their Dec. 19 return. A miscalculation could have been fatal.


Philco-Ford ran a full-page ad celebrating the astronauts' safe return and reminding the public that the company's work in space travel would pay off in the consumer products. Continued page 8

The company was also responsible for what viewers saw from the mission, though public interest had significantly waned since the days of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Apollo 11. Despite the lukewarm reception, Philco-Ford technology was involved in nearly every step of relaying TV footage from the moon to viewers' homes.

Previous Philco-Ford contributions to the Apollo missions, such as magnetometers placed on the moon's surface, continued to measure and transmit data on variances in the moon's magnetic fields long after NASA's astronauts had returned to earth. Scientists used that information to determine the internal composition and origin of the moon.

While Apollo 17 didn't get the same kind of attention as its predecessors – it might be best known for producing the [“Blue Marble” image of the Earth](#). More recently, [NASA scientists unsealed a soil sample collected during the trip](#) for analysis using modern-day technology.

Philco-Ford, renamed Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation in 1976, remained involved with Mission Control through NASA's Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz and Space Shuttle missions.

Ford Motor Company ultimately exited the aerospace industry, though, as the company focused on its automotive and finance businesses 

in 1990. NASA, meanwhile, is planning humankind's return to the moon in 2025. Last month, it launched the uncrewed Artemis I as a precursor to human exploration.

Just as an added note Buzz Aldrin was married this weekend. He is 93 years old.





## Calendar of Events

January Meeting	Canceled
February Meeting	February 1 <sup>st</sup>
February 4 <sup>th</sup> 2023	KAARC Winter Auto Swap Meet
February 24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	70 <sup>th</sup> Annual Autorama
February 29 <sup>th</sup> 2023	40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Model A R restorers Club Swap Meet Saginaw, Mi.
March 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Hot Rod & Manufacturing & Industry Expo Suburban Show place

**We will keep this page open for all upcoming events. If you have any information on events, please send them to me at [jimdem22@gmail.com](mailto:jimdem22@gmail.com). They will also be added to our webpage in the events section.**

• A D S •

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**Classified ads are free to all current FMRCOA members.**

**\$20 to nonmembers to run an ad.**  
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of the month to be included in the next newsletter.**  
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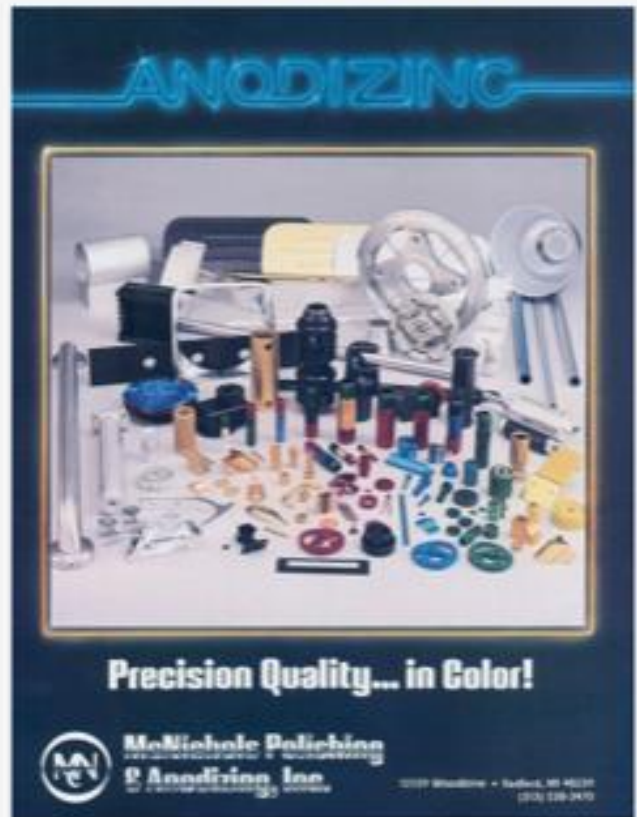
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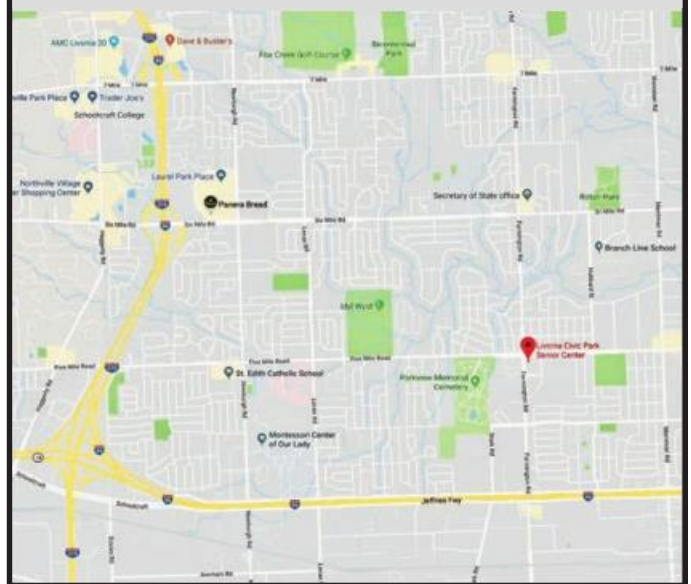
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## FMRCOAMONTHLY CLUB MEETING LOCATION

Meeting Location pending during pandemic  
Please check with the club to  
confirm meeting location

Our monthly club meetings are held at  
**Livonia Senior Center**  
15218 Farmington Road • Livonia, MI  
Between I-96 Service Drive & 5 Mile Road

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each  
month and begins at 6:30pm with a snack.  
do bring a friend!



**WANTED**

The Rotunda Times would like to feature  
your old car or truck in an upcoming issue.  
We are interested in how you came about  
finding your vehicle of choice, and what you  
have done to enhance its beauty, and/or  
mechanical condition.

Simply email us your article  
accompanied with a photo to:  
**Jim at: jimdem22@gmail.com**