

Founding of MARC & MAFCA and Their Relationship

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The Founding and Evolution of MARC and MAFCA: Origins, Missions, and Interactions of America's Premier Model A Ford Clubs

Introduction

I have done my best to research this accurately. Any errors or omissions may be brought to my attention and will be corrected. The Ford Model A, produced from 1928 to 1931, occupies a unique place in American automotive history. Its enduring popularity has inspired generations of enthusiasts to restore, preserve, and celebrate these vehicles. Central to this movement are two national organizations: the Model A Restorers Club (MARC) and the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). Both clubs have played pivotal roles in shaping the Model A hobby, yet their origins, missions, and trajectories reveal both shared values and distinct identities. This report provides a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the founding, development, and contemporary relationship between MARC and MAFCA. It explores their historical contexts, key figures, organizational structures, publications, judging standards, and collaborative efforts, culminating in a comparative analysis that illuminates their similarities, differences, and ongoing interactions.

Historical Context: The Model A Ford and the Rise of Single-Marque Clubs

The Ford Model A was introduced in December 1927 as the successor to the legendary Model T. Its modern engineering, affordability, and adaptability made it a mainstay of American roads through the Great Depression and beyond. By the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Model A was no longer a common sight, but it had not yet achieved the status of a true antique. National organizations such as the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) focused on older vehicles, often excluding the Model A from their events and recognition.

This exclusion, coupled with the Model A's robust community of owners and the car's mechanical simplicity, set the stage for the formation of dedicated clubs. The postwar era saw a surge in automotive nostalgia and the birth of single-marque clubs, but the Model A movement was among the first to organize around a single model, rather than a brand or era. This context is crucial for understanding the motivations and dynamics that led to the founding of MARC and, later, MAFCA.

The Founding of MARC: Origins, Key Figures, and Early Development

Origins and Founding Date

The Model A Restorers Club (MARC) traces its origins to the fall of 1952. William E. Hall, a Model A enthusiast from West Hartford, Connecticut, attended an antique car meet where Model As were relegated to the status of "just cars," excluded from the ranks of true antiques. Frustrated by this marginalization, Hall recognized the need for a club dedicated solely to the Model A Ford. He invited five like-minded enthusiasts to his home, and together they founded MARC.

The club's first informal meeting took place in January 1953, and the inaugural newsletter was published in May 1953. MARC was legally incorporated in early 1954, is widely regarded as the first American car club devoted to a single make and model¹.

Key Figures in MARC's Founding and Early Leadership

- **William E. Hall:** The principal founder and first president (1954-1959), Hall's vision and organizational skills were instrumental in establishing MARC's structure and ethos. He edited the first newsletters and guided the club through its formative years.
- **Robert Carini:** Served as the first vice president, contributing to the club's early expansion.
- **William Schaminsky:** The first secretary, responsible for administrative organization.
- **Merle Fogg:** The first treasurer, overseeing the club's finances.

These individuals, along with other early members, set the tone for MARC's focus on restoration, technical knowledge, and camaraderie.

Early Growth and Activities

MARC's initial meetings centered on parts swapping and information exchange. The club's mission was to help Model A owners connect, share resources, and preserve the legacy of the car. By its first anniversary in April 1954, MARC boasted members in 44 states and several foreign countries—a testament to the widespread appeal of the Model A and the effectiveness of the club's outreach.

The first MARC National Convention was held in Dearborn, Michigan, in 1955, further cementing the club's national stature. By 1955, newsletter circulation exceeded 600, and the publication was renamed "MARC NEWS." Ford Motor Company began referring Model A correspondence to MARC, recognizing its authority in the field.

Headquarters and Geographic Base

MARC's headquarters initially operated out of Hall's home in West Hartford, Connecticut. In 1957, following Hall's relocation, the headquarters moved to Glendale, California. The following year, it shifted to Zanesville, Ohio, and by 1962 began transitioning to Dearborn, Michigan, which became the permanent home office in December 1963. In 2004, MARC purchased its own office building in Garden City, Michigan, where it remains today.

Legal Status and Incorporation

MARC was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1954. Its current legal status is as a nonprofit corporation under Michigan law, conforming to the Nonprofit Corporation Act 162; 1982¹.

The Founding of MAFCA: Origins, Key Figures, and Early Development

Origins and Founding Date

The Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) originated from a regional chapter of MARC in Southern California. In October 1955, a group of 15 Model A owners, many of whom were also MARC members, met at Red Grow's Auto Sales lot in Glendale, California, and decided to form the Model A Restorers Club of Southern California².

The club's first annual business meeting was held in February 1956, with Art Miller elected as the first president. In May 1956, the club launched its publication, "The Restorer," which quickly gained national attention due to its high-quality technical content and broad appeal. By late 1956, the Southern California club had grown rapidly, attracting members and newsletter subscribers from across the country².

The pivotal moment came in 1957. After the MARC National Convention, the Southern California region reorganized and, on September 23, 1957, officially founded the Model A Ford Club of

America (MAFCA) in Glendale. The club was incorporated on October 21, 1957, and immediately began positioning itself as a national organization, inviting other Model A clubs to join as affiliated chapters³.

Key Figures in MAFCA's Founding and Early Leadership

- **Art Miller:** First president and later editor of *The Restorer*, Miller was a driving force behind the club's organization and national expansion².
- **Red Grow:** Instrumental in the club's early activities and national outreach.
- **Lloyd Fulford, Charles Gutshall, Hans Ortlieb, Walt Joyce, Fred Smith, Ethredge Bleyloch, Bob White, Sam Gates, Jack and Vivian Payton:** These individuals, pictured in early club records, were among the founding members and early leaders².

Early Growth and Activities

The *Restorer* magazine, first published in May 1956, was central to MAFCA's rapid growth. Its technical articles, restoration tips, and coverage of club activities attracted a national audience. By the end of 1957, MAFCA had more than 700 members and was receiving inquiries about forming chapters across the country. The club's aggressive recruitment and inclusive approach set it apart from its predecessor and helped it become, as MAFCA describes itself as the world's largest car club dedicated to a single automobile make².

Headquarters and Geographic Base

MAFCA's headquarters have always been based in Southern California. The current office is located at 250 South Cypress Street, La Habra, California. MAFCA's Southern California origins have influenced many of its activities, though its reach is now national and international.

Legal Status and Incorporation

MAFCA was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in California on October 21, 1957. It operates as a 501(c)(7) nonprofit social club, with a mission focused on the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of the Model A Ford².

The 1957 Split: Causes and Immediate Consequences

Background to the Split

By the mid-1950s, MARC had grown into a national organization, but its structure was relatively centralized, with limited autonomy for regional chapters. The Southern California region, energized by its own leadership and the success of *The Restorer* magazine, began to chafe under the constraints of the parent club. *The Restorer*, initially a regional newsletter, quickly attracted national attention and subscriptions, creating both logistical and philosophical tensions².

Key Issues Leading to the Split

- **Control Over Publications:** The Southern California group wanted greater control over The Restorer's content, finances, and editorial direction. MARC's leadership was reluctant to cede this authority, leading to frustration among the California members.
- **Financial Autonomy:** The success of The Restorer generated significant revenue, and the Southern California group sought more direct control over these funds.
- **Organizational Philosophy:** The Southern California region favored a more decentralized, chapter-based structure, while MARC maintained a more centralized approach.

The Split and Formation of MAFCA

After the 1957 MARC National Convention, the Southern California region formally broke away, reorganizing as the Model A Ford Club of America. The Restorer became the official publication of the new club, and all nationwide subscribers were granted free membership in MAFCA along with their subscriptions. The new club quickly introduced its own logo and began chartering chapters across the country².

Immediate Consequences

The split resulted in two national Model A clubs, each with its own publication, leadership, and organizational philosophy. While some viewed this as a divisive development, others saw it as an opportunity for greater diversity and innovation within the Model A hobby. Both clubs continued to grow, often attracting overlapping memberships and collaborating on key initiatives.

Publications: MARC News/Model A News and The Restorer

MARC Publications History

- **Early Newsletters:** The first MARC newsletter, simply titled "MARC," was published in May 1953. It served as a medium for information exchange, technical tips, and club news.
- **MARC NEWS:** In 1955, the newsletter was renamed "MARC NEWS," reflecting its growing scope and circulation.
- **Model A News:** In 1965, the publication was renamed "MARC Model 'A' News," later shortened to "Model A News." The magazine expanded in size and content, becoming a bi-monthly publication by 1962 and growing from three pages in 1953 to twelve pages by 1958⁴.
- **Content and Impact:** Model A News has consistently featured technical articles, restoration guides, event coverage, and historical research. It is widely regarded as an authoritative source for Model A enthusiasts.

MAFCA Publication History

- **The Restorer:** Launched in May 1956 as the newsletter of the Southern California region, The Restorer quickly became a national publication. By the third issue, it was offered to all MARC members at a subscription rate of \$3 per year.
- **National Reach:** The Restorer's technical content, high production values, and inclusive approach attracted a national audience. After the 1957 split, it became the official magazine of MAFCA, with all subscribers granted club membership.

- **Evolution:** The Restorer has grown into a bi-monthly, full-color magazine featuring technical articles, restoration stories, event reports, and historical features. It remains a cornerstone of MAFCA's member benefits².

Comparative Analysis

Both publications have played crucial roles in shaping the Model A hobby. While Model A News has traditionally emphasized restoration and technical accuracy, The Restorer is often praised for its accessibility and support for newcomers. Many enthusiasts subscribe to both magazines, recognizing their complementary strengths.

Missions and Stated Objectives: A Comparative Overview

MARC Mission

MARC's mission is "to encourage its members to acquire, restore, preserve, exhibit, and make use of the Ford Model 'A' vehicle, model years 1928 through 1931, and all things pertaining to the Ford Model 'A', and to promote the introduction of ideas and fellowship among MARC members"¹.

Key elements include:

- Restoration and preservation of Model A Fords
- Technical support and information sharing
- Fellowship and camaraderie among members
- National and regional events, including meets and tours
- Youth programs and fashion committees

MAFCA Mission

MAFCA's mission is "committed to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of the Ford Model A." Membership is open to anyone with a genuine interest in these objectives. The club emphasizes:

- Restoration and preservation of Model A Fords
- Enjoyment and use of the vehicles
- National and international chapters
- Technical support and education
- Family-friendly events and activities⁵.

Table 1: Comparative Summary of Missions

Aspect	MARC Mission Statement	MAFCA Mission Statement
Restoration	Encourage members to acquire, restore, preserve, exhibit, and use Model A Fords	Committed to restoration and preservation of Model A Fords
Preservation	Emphasizes preservation and exhibition	Emphasizes preservation
Enjoyment	“Make use of” and enjoy fellowship	“Enjoyment” of the Model A
Technical Support	Provides technical information, Q&A, and resources	Provides technical support and education
Fellowship	Promotes fellowship among members	Promotes camaraderie and family fun
Events	National meets, tours, and seminars	National meets, tours, and family activities
Youth and Fashion	Youth programs, fashion committee	Era fashions, youth programs

Both clubs share a core commitment to restoration, preservation, and community, but MAFCA places a slightly greater emphasis on enjoyment and family activities, while MARC is often seen as more restoration-focused².

Membership Size, Chapters, and Geographic Distribution

MARC Membership and Chapters

- **Membership Size:** MARC’s membership has fluctuated over the decades, with estimates ranging from 7,000 to 10,000 members in recent years.
- **Chapters (Regions):** MARC operates through “regions,” each of which is an independent organization chartered by the national club. There are over 150 MARC regions across the United States and internationally, with a concentration in the Midwest and East Coast¹.
- **Geographic Distribution:** MARC’s events and chapters are historically has having strong roots in the Midwest and Eastern United States, though there are regions in other parts of the country and abroad.

MAFCA Membership and Chapters

- **Membership Size:** MAFCA is the world's largest single-marque car club, with over 10,000 members as of 2026⁵.
- **Chapters:** MAFCA has chartered over 250 chapters worldwide, including in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and other regions.
- **Geographic Distribution:** While headquartered in California, MAFCA's chapters are spread across the country and internationally. The club has a strong presence on the West Coast but holds events and supports chapters nationwide⁵.

Table 2: Membership and Chapters Comparison

Aspect	MARC	MAFCA
Estimated Membership	7,000-10,000	10,000+
Number of Chapters	150+ regions	250+ chapters
Geographic Focus	Midwest, East Coast, some international	West Coast, national, international
International Reach	Yes (smaller scale)	Yes (significant presence)
Headquarters	Garden City, Michigan	La Habra, California

Analysis

Both clubs have robust memberships and extensive chapter networks. MAFCA's larger size and broader international reach reflect its aggressive chapter chartering and inclusive philosophy. MARC's strength lies in its deep roots in the Midwest and East, with a strong tradition of technical expertise and restoration excellence.

Organizational Structure and Governance

MARC Structure

MARC is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, elected by the general membership. The board includes the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Membership and Public Relations, Director of Regions, and Director of Publications and Library. Directors serve two-year terms, with staggered elections to ensure continuity¹.

Key features:

- Board of Directors oversees all club operations
- National office in Garden City, Michigan
- Regions (chapters) operate independently but must adhere to MARC policies
- Committees for technical, fashion, youth, and touring class programs

MAFCA Structure

MAFCA is governed by a Board of Directors, typically consisting of seven to nine members elected by the membership. The board oversees all aspects of club operations, including publications, events, technical programs, and chapter relations. MAFCA's structure emphasizes chapter autonomy and encourages local innovation².

Key features:

- Board of Directors with staggered terms
- National headquarters in La Habra, California
- Chapters operate with significant autonomy
- Committees for technical, fashion, youth, and judging standards

Table 3: Organizational Structure Comparison

Aspect	MARC	MAFCA
Governing Body	7-member Board of Directors	7-9-member Board of Directors
Election Process	Elected by general membership	Elected by general membership
Headquarters	Garden City, Michigan	La Habra, California
Chapter Structure	Regions (independent, chartered)	Chapters (autonomous, chartered)
Key Committees	Technical, Fashion, Youth, Touring Class	Technical, Fashion, Youth, Judging

Analysis

Both clubs are member-driven, with elected boards and active committees. MARC's structure is slightly more centralized, with a focus on regional representation, while MAFCA emphasizes chapter autonomy and innovation. Both models have proven effective in sustaining vibrant, engaged memberships².

Judging Standards: History, Development, and Collaboration

MARC Judging Standards

MARC has long prioritized restoration accuracy and technical excellence. In 1959, it formed a Technical Committee to produce technical articles and answer member questions. By 1965, the National Judging Standards Committee was established, with the publication of judging standards as a top priority. The goal was to encourage proper restoration and preservation of the Model A Ford¹.

MARC's judging system includes:

- Fine Point Judging: For vehicles restored to factory-original specifications
- Touring Class Judging: For authentic-appearing, well-maintained Model As that are regularly driven
- Fashion Judging: For era-correct clothing and accessories

The Touring Class, introduced in 1994, uses objective criteria and emphasizes participation and enjoyment, while maintaining high standards for authenticity⁶.

MAFCA Judging Standards

MAFCA's Judging Standards Committee was the first committee formed by the national board. Recognizing the need for consistent judging, the club developed a one-page judging sheet in 1961. In 1974, a coordinated effort with MARC produced the first joint pamphlet, "Model 'A' Ford Judging Standards." This collaboration has continued, with major revisions published in 1981, 1989, 2011, 2016, and the forthcoming 2026 edition⁷.

MAFCA's judging classes include:

- Restored Class (Blue Ribbon): Factory-original restorations
- Original Class (White Ribbon): Unrestored, authentic vehicles
- Touring Class (Red Ribbon): Restored vehicles with limited modifications for driving comfort and safety
- Modified Class (Green Ribbon): Vehicles with significant modifications for safety, comfort, or performance⁸.

Joint Judging Standards

Since the 1970s, MARC and MAFCA have jointly published the "Model A Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards." The latest revision, scheduled for release in 2026, is a 590-page volume featuring expert-verified details, color images, and authoritative research from the Ford Archive. The joint Judging Standards Committee ensures consistency and accuracy across both clubs, fostering collaboration and mutual respect⁹¹⁰.

Table 4: Judging Standards Comparison

Aspect	MARC	MAFCA	Joint Efforts
Technical Committee	Since 1959	Since 1956	Joint Judging Standards Committee
First Judging Guide	1965	1961	1974 joint pamphlet
Major Revisions	1981, 1989, 2011, 2016, 2026	1981, 1989, 2011, 2016, 2026	1981, 1989, 2011, 2016, 2026
Judging Classes	Fine Point, Touring, Fashion	Restored, Original, Touring, Modified	Joint standards for all classes
Collaboration	Yes	Yes	Yes

Analysis

The joint development and publication of judging standards is a hallmark of MARC and MAFCA's collaborative spirit. This partnership ensures that Model A restorers across the country adhere to consistent, authoritative guidelines, preserving the integrity and authenticity of the hobby⁷.

Programs: Youth, Fashions, and Technical Committees

Youth Programs

Both MARC and MAFCA recognize the importance of engaging younger generations. MARC established the position of Youth Coordinator in 2001, with programs designed to encourage youth participation in restoration, driving, and club activities. Several youth members have achieved high honors in Touring Class Judging.

MAFCA offers youth restoration awards, scholarships, and special interest groups focused on young enthusiasts. The "A World" youth newsletter and dedicated youth events at national meets foster a welcoming environment for families and young members¹¹.

Fashion Committees

MARC's Fashion Committee was formally established in 1991, though fashion activities date back to the 1950s. The committee researches era-correct clothing, organizes fashion shows, and publishes articles in Model A News. The MARC Fashion Standards, published in 2011, provide detailed guidelines for fashion judging and reproduction garments¹².

MAFCA has a long tradition of fashion judging, with awards for best-dressed participants and detailed fashion guidelines. The club's Era Fashion Committee produces educational materials and organizes seminars at national events².

Technical Committees

Both clubs maintain active technical committees, producing articles, answering member questions, and supporting restoration projects. These committees are central to the clubs' missions and are highly valued by members for their expertise and accessibility².

Events: National Conventions, Tours, and Regional Meets

MARC Events

MARC hosts annual National Meets, which include car shows, technical seminars, tours, swap meets, and social activities. The club also organizes regional meets and special events, often in collaboration with local regions. The 2026 MARC National Meet is scheduled for French Lick, Indiana, reflecting the club's Midwest and East Coast orientation¹³.

MAFCA Events

MAFCA holds biennial National Conventions, alternating with National Tours and Awards Banquets. These events feature vehicle judging, technical seminars, fashion shows, youth activities, and extensive touring opportunities. The 2026 National Convention will be held in Pendleton, Oregon, hosted by the Blue Mountain A's¹³.

Joint and Overlapping Events

While each club maintains its own calendar, there is significant overlap in event participation. Many local events are co-sponsored by MARC and MAFCA chapters, and members often attend both clubs' national meets. The clubs have also co-hosted World Model A Meets, bringing together enthusiasts from around the globe¹³.

Table 5: Events Comparison

Aspect	MARC	MAFCA	Joint Events
National Meets	Annual	Biennial (conventions, tours, banquets)	World Model A Meets
Regional Events	Yes	Yes	Yes
Event Locations	Midwest, East Coast focus	West Coast, national, international	Rotating locations
Collaboration	Frequent co-sponsored events	Frequent co-sponsored events	Yes

Analysis

Both clubs offer rich calendars of events, fostering community, education, and enjoyment. The overlap in participation and frequent collaboration reflect the shared passion and mutual respect that define the Model A hobby¹³.

Museums, Archives, and Research Resources

Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI)

In December 1986, MAFCA board members formed the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI) to preserve the history of Model A cars and related artifacts. MAFFI was approved as a California organization in February 1987 and received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in June 1987. The foundation sponsors research, archiving, and operates the Model A Ford Museum at the Gilmore Car Museum campus in Michigan, which opened in May 2013¹⁴.

MAFFI's activities include:

- Research into Model A parts, upholstery, factory photos, and advertisements
- Operation of the Model A Ford Museum, housing vehicles, memorabilia, and exhibits
- Annual Model A Day celebration at the museum
- Collaboration with both MARC and MAFCA members

Club Archives and Libraries

Both MARC and MAFCA maintain extensive archives of newsletters, technical articles, judging standards, and historical documents. These resources are invaluable for restorers, researchers, and historians. The clubs also support research at the Benson Ford Research Center and other institutions.

Publications and Technical Resources

The joint “Model A Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards,” club magazines, and technical manuals are widely regarded as authoritative references. Both clubs offer back issues, digital archives, and online resources for members¹¹.

Awards, Judging Classes, and Restoration Guidelines

MARC Awards and Judging Classes

MARC offers a range of awards recognizing excellence in restoration, authenticity, and participation. Judging classes include:

- Fine Point Judging: For vehicles restored to factory specifications
- Touring Class Judging: For authentic, well-maintained, regularly driven vehicles
- Fashion Judging: For era-correct clothing and accessories

The Touring Class Awards of Excellence recognize vehicles that meet high standards of authenticity and maintenance, with points awarded based on objective criteria⁶.

MAFCA Awards and Judging Classes

MAFCA’s judging classes include:

- Restored Class (Blue Ribbon): Factory-original restorations
- Original Class (White Ribbon): Unrestored, authentic vehicles
- Touring Class (Red Ribbon): Restored vehicles with limited modifications
- Modified Class (Green Ribbon): Vehicles with significant modifications

Awards are presented for excellence in each class, as well as for fashion, youth participation, and chapter achievements¹¹.

Restoration Guidelines

The joint “Model A Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards” is the definitive reference for restoration and judging. The latest revision, scheduled for release in 2026, incorporates new research, color images, and supplements for specific body styles¹⁰.

Collaborations and Joint Projects: Historical and Contemporary

Joint Judging Standards

The most significant collaboration between MARC and MAFCA is the joint development and publication of the “Model A Restoration Guidelines & Judging Standards.” This partnership ensures consistency and accuracy in restoration and judging across both clubs, benefiting the entire Model A community⁹¹⁰.

World Model A Meets

The clubs have co-hosted World Model A Meets, bringing together enthusiasts from around the world for joint events, seminars, and judging. These gatherings foster international camaraderie and showcase the global appeal of the Model A Ford¹³.

Museum and Research Support

Both clubs support MAFFI and the Model A Ford Museum, contributing resources, expertise, and volunteers. The museum serves as a hub for research, education, and preservation, reflecting the shared values of MARC and MAFCA¹⁴.

Local and Regional Collaboration

At the local level, many events are co-sponsored by MARC and MAFCA chapters. Members often belong to both clubs, and regional meets frequently feature joint activities, technical seminars, and tours¹³.

Contemporary Relationship and Interactions (2020s)

Overlapping Membership and Mutual Respect

In the 2020s, the relationship between MARC and MAFCA is characterized by overlapping memberships, mutual respect, and frequent collaboration. Many enthusiasts belong to both clubs, participate in both sets of events, and subscribe to both magazines. The clubs' leaderships maintain open lines of communication, particularly regarding judging standards and national events.

Event Coordination and Geographic Balance

While MARC remains more active in the Midwest and East, and MAFCA retains a strong West Coast presence, both clubs strive to balance event locations and ensure national accessibility. Recent national meets and tours have been held in diverse regions, reflecting the clubs' commitment to inclusivity¹⁵¹³.

Ongoing Collaboration

The joint Judging Standards Committee continues to update and refine the restoration guidelines, incorporating new research and member feedback. Both clubs support MAFFI and the Model A Ford Museum, and local chapters frequently collaborate on events and educational programs⁹¹⁶¹⁴.

Distinct Identities and Friendly Rivalry

Despite their collaboration, MARC and MAFCA maintain distinct identities. MARC is often seen as more restoration-focused, with a strong technical orientation and emphasis on authenticity. MAFCA is praised for its accessibility, family-friendly events, and support for newcomers. This friendly rivalry enriches the Model A hobby, offering something for everyone and ensuring a vibrant, dynamic community.

Comparative Analysis: Similarities and Differences

Table 6: MARC vs. MAFCA - Key Similarities and Differences

Aspect	MARC	MAFCA	Shared Features
Founding Date	1952 (inc. 1954)	1957 (inc. 1957)	Both founded in 1950s
Headquarters	Garden City, Michigan	La Habra, California	National offices, permanent staff
Membership Size	7,000-10,000	10,000+	Large, active memberships
Chapters/Regions	150+ regions	250+ chapters	National and international reach
Geographic Focus	Midwest, East Coast	West Coast, national, international	Events across the U.S.
Publications	Model A News	The Restorer	Bi-monthly, high-quality magazines
Judging Standards	Joint with MAFCA	Joint with MARC	Collaborative guidelines
Judging Classes	Fine Point, Touring, Fashion	Restored, Original, Touring, Modified	Multiple classes, awards
Technical Support	Strong technical committee	Strong technical committee	Extensive resources
Youth Programs	Youth Coordinator, awards	Youth awards, scholarships, SIGs	Family and youth engagement
Fashion Committees	Formal since 1991, Fashion Standards	Era Fashion Committee, guidelines	Fashion judging, seminars
Museum Support	Supports MAFFI and Model A Museum	Supports MAFFI and Model A Museum	Joint support for preservation
Collaboration	Joint judging, events, museum	Joint judging, events, museum	Frequent collaboration
Distinctives	Restoration focus, technical depth	Accessibility, family orientation	Friendly rivalry, mutual respect

Analysis

The similarities between MARC and MAFCA far outweigh their differences. Both clubs are dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. Their collaborative efforts, particularly in judging standards and museum support, have set a standard for cooperation in the hobbyist community. At the same time, their distinct identities-MARC's technical rigor and MAFCA's inclusive, family-friendly approach-offer members a rich array of experiences and resources.

Primary Sources and Oral Histories

Primary Documentation

- **MARC News and Model A News:** Early newsletters and magazines provide firsthand accounts of the clubs' founding, growth, and key events⁴.
- **The Restorer:** MAFCA's magazine documents the club's history, leadership, and activities².
- **Incorporation Records:** Legal documents confirm founding dates, nonprofit status, and organizational structures¹.
- **MAFFI Archives:** The Model A Ford Museum and MAFFI maintain extensive archives of club records, technical documents, and historical artifacts¹⁴.

Oral Histories and Interviews

- **Frank Pollack (MARC):** Early history excerpts and reminiscences provide insight into the club's founding ethos.
- **Edwina McCoy Barnes (MAFCA/Bakersfield Chapter):** Personal recollections of the early days of the Bakersfield chapter and the formation of MAFCA highlight the grassroots nature of the movement³.
- **Forum Discussions:** Online forums such as Ford Barn feature discussions, comparisons, and personal experiences from members of both clubs, offering valuable perspectives on their evolution and relationship.

Conclusion

The Model A Restorers Club (MARC) and the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) stand as pillars of the Model A Ford hobby. Born from a shared passion for the iconic car and a desire for community, both clubs have navigated challenges, embraced innovation, and fostered a spirit of collaboration that benefits enthusiasts worldwide. Their origins-rooted in the exclusion of Model As from broader antique car circles-reflect a determination to preserve and celebrate a unique chapter of automotive history.

Over the decades, MARC and MAFCA have developed distinct identities, yet their missions, activities, and values remain closely aligned. Their joint efforts in judging standards, museum support, and event coordination exemplify the best of the hobbyist tradition. The friendly rivalry and mutual respect between the clubs enrich the Model A community, ensuring that the legacy of the Ford Model A will endure for generations to come.

As the clubs look to the future, their commitment to restoration, preservation, education, and fellowship remains unwavering. Whether through the pages of Model A News and The Restorer, the halls of the Model A Ford Museum, or the camaraderie of national meets and local tours, MARC and MAFCA continue to inspire, educate, and unite Model A enthusiasts around the world.

Appendix: Key Milestones Timeline

Year	MARC Milestone	MAFCA Milestone
1952	MARC founded in West Hartford, CT	
1953	First MARC newsletter published	
1954	MARC incorporated; first officers elected	
1955	First MARC National Convention (Dearborn, MI)	Southern California group forms regional club
1956		First Annual Business Meeting; Art Miller president
1956		First issue of The Restorer published
1957	Headquarters moves to Glendale, CA	MAFCA founded in Glendale, CA (Sept 23)
1957	Southern California region breaks away	MAFCA incorporated (Oct 21)
1958	Headquarters moves to Zanesville, OH	First chapters chartered (Bakersfield, Edwards AFB)
1962	Office moves to Dearborn, MI	
1963	Dearborn becomes permanent home office	
1965	Judging Standards Committee established	
1974	First joint judging standards pamphlet published	First joint judging standards pamphlet published
1986	MAFFI formed by MAFCA board members	MAFFI formed by MAFCA board members
2013	Model A Ford Museum opens at Gilmore Car Museum	Model A Ford Museum opens at Gilmore Car Museum
2026	Latest revision of joint judging standards	Latest revision of joint judging standards

This report integrates primary sources, oral histories, and contemporary analyses to provide a thorough, nuanced understanding of the founding, evolution, and ongoing relationship between MARC and MAFCA. It is intended as a comprehensive reference resource for historians, enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the rich legacy of the Model A Ford and its dedicated community.

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