

# Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

Dedicated to preserving and driving the 1928-1931 Model 'A' Ford since 1957  
Torrance, California

## December 2021

2016-2020 MARC  
Award of Continuing Excellence  
for Harbor Light newsletter.  
2020 MAFCA  
Newsletter of Merit



### Banjo Buddies

performing for the Harbor Club at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo.

Mickey Fruchter (lower left) is Harbor Club member.

(See article page 7)

### Monthly Club Meeting and Banquet

**Note:** Donnis has arranged with Torrance to allow us to have a 'regular' meeting this **Friday, November 19th**. Setup at 6:30PM, meeting at 7:30. Wear your Covid mask.

The **December** meeting will be at the Torrance rec hall, too, on **Friday, December 17th**. Same times and rules. See you there.

We are still planning our annual banquet for **Saturday, January 29, 2022**, so stay tuned. More to come.

### Model A Tours & Local Show

Two Christmas season parades on the same day.

**Sunday, December 12th, 2021**

\***El Segundo** 1PM to 3PM. Dick Wyckoff, contact.

\***Wilmington's Harbor**. We will leave Clubhouse at 10:15AM. Elaine Pisu, contact.

### Technical Activities

**We have started up again!  
Come on by.**

Saturday mornings. We meet from about 9:30AM to noon to work on Model A projects.

Bring you're Model A by and we'll work on it. **Al's Garage, 907 Van Ness, Torrance CA** (in the alley)



### Next Board Meeting

Meetings will be the Club's regular meeting. Election of officers is on the agenda. Be there!



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# HARBOR LIGHT



inside



Wayne's Words of Wisdom  
A Note from our  
President  
Wayne Sterling



Are things opening up?

**IMPORTANT:** As you know, we elect officers each year. Opening up for 2022 are the elected officers President, Vice President, Secretary, Technical Director and Tour Director. Please contact Wayne if you are interested in any of these positions.

A committee was formed to remind folks of upcoming events. We are also working on finalizing plans at Blue Water Grill for our banquet Saturday, January 29th, 2022.

The city officially moved our meeting from November 26th to November 19th. Same time as always. We have access to set up at 6:30PM and the meeting will start at the regular time, 7:30. There is a committee that is calling all the members to confirm the meeting and hopefully to generate some interest in the Board positions that are available. Drain is also calling the members to remind them a couple days before the meeting.

The meeting for December has been moved with the city from the 31st to the 17th.

**Wayne Sterling**



## December Birthdays

1	Gary Guttormson	17	Bob DeCrescenzo
4	Wayne Sterling	20	Ruxella Speights
7	Dick Wenker	21	Greg Clayton
10	Anita Perreten	23	Jeanne Parrish
11	Sue Hankins	25	Jim Valot
13	Elyse Beardsley	25	Amy Knott
15	Mary Walker	29	Gary Gaffney

## December Anniversaries

1 Jack & Julie Goldberg



### Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

It has been a tough couple years for everyone with this virus thing. It has affected businesses, but it has had its affect on clubs, churches, and any situation where people gather. Hopefully it is on its way out enough to start living again! As mentioned in Wayne's Words, Donniss has finally worked her magic with the City of Torrance to allow us to start meeting at the clubhouse again. Great work, Donniss!

We thank the Avoian family for letting us continue using Al's garage for our Saturday workshop. We have gotten several Model As back on the road because of the garage's availability.

Looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season parades. This gives me a chance to decorate the '29 Pickup and get it going. It doesn't get much use. I still drive it once in a while. I've had it since 1960 in high school. First car!

Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. Stay safe.

**Dick**



### **Veteran's Day tribute.**

Dennis Simpson and Mirco & Elaine Pisu drove their Model As to the home of 95 year old WWII Veteran, Gosie Leto to thank him for his service. The local Police and Fire joined in the tribute. Thanks for your service!



### **Saturday Morning Coffee Gathering is Alive and Well!**

If you are looking for a little tire-kicking adventure on **Saturday** mornings between 7 and 9AM, check out the Caffeine Cruisers at the corner of Artesia Blvd. and Hawthorne, in Torrance, CA. Several of the Harbor Model A club members and other car enthusiasts of all car types meet to talk cars. There are some very nice autos and some nice people there, too!

The address is 17400 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance CA. (at Artesia Blvd.)

Come on by and get your weekend started in true So. California style.



### **2021 Membership, Roster and Club Merchandise Items**

Ruxella and Jim have a selection of new **Club merchandise**. We have hats, shirts, patches, t-shirts and we still have 60th anniversary items for sale at a discount. More to come. The updated **2022 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** are available from Ursi free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail. Contact **Ursi Schmidt** at 310-539-5391. Make sure Ursi has your latest info.

**Just a note:** We regularly update the roster. If you have any address changes, phone number changes or email changes, let Ursi know. Let Dick Wyckoff know, too. He'll put the info in the *Harbor Light*.



**Lead in Halloween Parade in El Segundo this year**

## Technical Talk

### A Little History of the Quail Radiator Cap

*Re-print from Harbor Light " 1970*

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING - February 1970

This month, I thought I'd be a little different and give a brief summary as to why and how Henry decided to use the quail as the Ford mascot.

From the twenties until World War II, mascots had their day. Some symbolized the car name or outstanding feature. Some were just plain pieces of real art that was complimentary to the car. Ford's Flying Quail was advertised as symbolizing the quick get-away of the Model A.

Ford's Flying Quail was like the car itself: It was mass produced from relatively cheap materials (it cost then less than \$1 to make) and thus, couldn't qualify for class distinction that some of the more elaborate and expensive car mascots enjoyed. But, just as the Model A on which it sat, it was a classic in itself. It did what it was meant to do and looked good doing it.

Although it looked delicate, it was sturdy. It kept water in and dirt out and was almost theft-proof. It was complimentary to the design of the car. The fact that a quail - a delicate, yet rugged creature, able to survive in the roughest environment, beautifully feathered, small in size and fast in flight - was chosen to symbolize the Model A was indeed a clever choice.

The quail mascot was decided upon by Henry himself. Irving R. Bacon, an artist in Henry's employ originated the pose and made the first clay model. An actual quail that had been stuffed and mounted was used as a model. The first model designed had wings tipped down and fastened to the sides of the radiator. Another was designed with a motormeter enclosed under the wings.

They were placed on six cars for Edsel Ford to pass judgment, but he wasn't very enthusiastic about them. But in 1 year, 240,000 were sold, netting the company \$240,000 profit.

The Flying Quail was not produced by the Ford Motor Company. The final designing, modeling an acceptable prototype, tooling and producing the finished product was sub-contracted to the Stant Mfg. Co., located in Connersville, Ind. The Stant Mfg. Co. was known for their radiator cap business before tackling the Ford's Flying Quail. But in all their previous experience and all their experience since, the Flying Quail was an ordeal like they had ever encountered. Old timers still reminice, like comrades do about campaign battles, about the "battle of the birds."

With only Henry's idea and Irving Bacon's clay model, the Stant Mfg. people set about their task of finalizing the design.

First, they acquired a covey of live quail for study. The birds were placed in specially constructed cages. The cages were set up in the middle of the Engineering Dept. Drawing tables and desks were rearranged to make room for a staff of artists, photographers, and draftsmen and engineers assigned to learn all about how an Indiana Bob White looked.

Three maddening days passed while the Engineering Dept. resembled something from a Mack Sennett comedy, while photographers shoved cameras around, artists shoved easels around, draftsmen shoved drawing boards around and engineers shoved everybody

Continued on next page

## Quail History Continued from page 5

around - trying to get the frantically flapping, screeching quail to pose.

The Engineering Dept. had the atmosphere, including smell and sound effects, of an aviary invaded by cats.

In spite of the turmoil, the job got done. The quail were photographed and sketched in hundreds of poses.

The artists were supplied with stills from the photographers for more careful detail, then the artists supplied the engineers with the most attractive poses. The engineers then selected the ones most suitable for die-casting and finally, the best of these were submitted to Henry for his selection and final approval.

Of all the more than 5,000 parts that were required to make a Model A, Henry seemed to take more direct, personal interest in the accessory cap. Every step of the project from first design to drawing to first article produced required his personal approval, and he was a hard man to please. Stant representatives wore a path between Connersville and Dearborn, trying to satisfy the Boss.

Henry finally chose the pose we all recognize today. One closely resembling the original one Mr. Bacon suggested.

Then the master model was constructed from clay in all complete detail, feathers and all, then was dusted with aluminum powder for realism and submitted to Henry for comment. His suggestions smoothed out most of the detail and unnecessary lines for ease of plating and polishing.

Then a plaster mold was made from the clay model and a hard wax model was cast and smoothed even more and a few more changes made to sharpen the remaining details. This model was used to cast the brass master model. The master model was approved without alteration. The steel production die was made and the Stant Mfg. Co. had a run of Flying Quails that extended beyond production of the Model A by several years and totaled several thousand units.

The Flying Quail originally retailed through Ford dealers for \$3.00 each. The dealers cost was \$2.50 for 1930-31 version and only \$1.75 for 1928-29 version. Can you vision buying an original quail for \$3.00?

Since it is roughly estimated that there are still a half-million Model A's on the road and probably less than 5% carry genuine Flying Quails and since more than a quarter-million Quails were built, a logical conclusion might be that restorers have yet to uncover all those precious birds that must still be roosting in secluded sanctuaries.

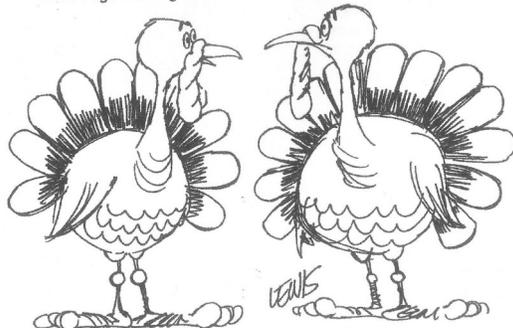
It is of interest to know that a blue-print of the Flying Quail in a longer and lower, more streamlined pose mounted on a lid type cap was dated June 17, 1932. Perhaps Henry had considered one for the new 1932 Ford and then changed his mind. Doesn't that make you wonder?

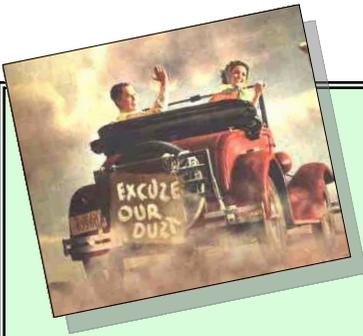
(The above article was condensed by Mrs. Technical Director from an article published in an earlier edition of the Restorer.)

Respectfully  
Kenny Tucker, Technical Director

(Editors Note: The above article was not only researched by Mrs. Technical Director, but, also typed by her. Thank you Pat.)

Could be worse. What if we were Flying Quails and had to spend our lives on top of a hot Model A radiator with bugs hitting us in the face?





## Touring with Elaine

And Elaine's Little Helpers



### *Working on future plans.*

We would like to implement something new. Elaine has suggested previously that we pass a sign-up sheet around (Like we do for refreshments) each month one member (or a group) will sign up to plan and execute a tour for that month. It could be something you are interested in and could share it with the rest of us. We are not only a car club, but also a social club. We miss seeing everyone. We are not having meetings, due to COVID and the City of Torrance has not opened the facilities yet, we have formed a small group of helpers to reach out to all of you. Please put on your thinking caps and see if there is any local event you would like to share with the other members of our club! With everyone's help we can make 2022 a fun and exciting new year! Calls will be forthcoming, please offer to sign up to lead one of our monthly outings.

Elaine

## **BANJO BUDDIES CONCERT**

**Old Town Music Hall**

**Home of the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ**

What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. It was so much fun. Who would think 10 Banjos, a Tuba, Piano, Harmonica, Washboard and Spoons, could create such a rousing, enjoyable event? To top it off, one of our own members was the leader of the band! The one & only Mr. Mickey Fruchter, what a talent! All of the band members were so talented. Several of the band members sang and also played multiple instruments. It was amazing how everyone in the audience become part of the show, including a rousing "Happy Birthday" to Linda Simpson. We all sang, clapped along and lost ourselves in the music and songs of yesterday. My personal favorite was the lady who played the banjo, washboard and sang. She was so animated.

The band was just as happy to be there as we were. We were their first performance since the pandemic began. It was somewhat of a surprise but a delightful afternoon with laughter, songs and great friends. Please see the pictures, they are not the best, but Steve Thompson was able to capture these stills from the videos I took during the performance.

In addition, we were treated to a special preview performance by Janet Klein. A wonderful performer singing songs that were popular when our Model A's were new! And of course some amazing tunes on the Mighty Wurlitzer, played by Randy Woltz!

Hope to see you all at our next event!

**Donnis Bates**

## More Technical Talk

### OVERHEATING

#### **Question:**

My father and I are restoring a 1930 model A...the engine continues to over heat. We have put on a re-built water pump, the radiator was soldered and filled, but we think the timing may be off. Please give us some suggestions and possible solutions.

#### **Answer:**

There are many things that can cause a Model A to overheat. The main cause is usually the radiator. First you can check to see if your radiator has 3 rows of tubes. Some replacement radiators had only 2 rows. That will not provide sufficient cooling. If the radiator is old and has been in the car a long time, the fins of the radiator become loose and can not dissipate the heat. Also, if the radiator is old and has been in the car a long time, calcium deposits in the radiator will reduce the cooling efficiency of the radiator.

Now lets look at other causes of overheating. First make sure the timing is set correctly. Then make sure nothing is blocking the front of the radiator, like the license plate. If you have a new engine, it will sometimes run hot until it is broken in. There are several books and articles that have been written that will tell how to correctly set the timing. A blown head gasket can also cause overheating. Check for bubbles in the water at the filler neck. This would indicate a blown head gasket.

#### **Question:**

I am working on a 1930 model A coupe. I am having problems with it overheating. I have put on a new water pump and had the radiator redone. The water seems to be circulating through the motor just fine. I have replaced the points, plugs, condenser and timed it. I don't know what else to do. Have any suggestions?

#### **Answer:**

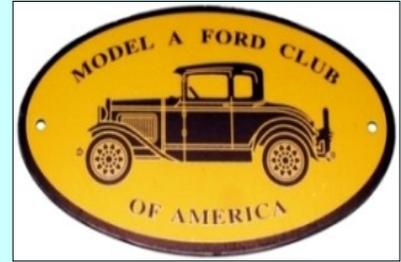
First lets define overheating.....is it steaming or just pump water out the top.... If it just pumping water out you may be over filling it....let the radiator find its own level...mine runs best with the water level just below the top of the core....to most this would look like the radiator needs water.

If you are steaming and you have done all the above...check your fuel mixture..you maybe running too rich. If that is ok...check your compression, you may have a head gasket leak... Keep in touch and let me know how the above checks out. -- **Lyle Meek**, 1997 Technical Director

## Benefits of National Club Memberships

Membership in **MAFCA** includes the following:

- A one year subscription to *The Restorer*, our award winning bi-monthly magazine including free classified ads.
- The right to register and participate in all National and Regional MAFCA meets
- Voting privileges in National elections of officers and by-laws revisions
- Free classified advertising on the MAFCA web site and posting of photo of your car in the Photo Album section
- Technical advice to help restore your Model A and keep it in top shape



National **MARC** Membership Includes:

- Six issues each calendar year of our award-winning, international, bi-monthly Model 'A' News magazine.
- Includes detailed technical and Era fashion articles, Model A historical articles, coverage of National Meets and Region News, classified ads, and vendor ads - a great source of information for parts and services.
- From 64 to 72 pages each issue. Excellent quality coated paper with color, and black and white photography.
- FREE 40 word Classified Ad in each issue for club members - buy and sell Model A parts and services to a target audience.



As you know, the last two years have been difficult for us all. It has very much affected our club activities and memberships. I am trying to get an earlier start on collecting the \$30 dues for 2022 for our Harbor Area MARC.

MARC has informed us that for 2022 their dues will be increasing to \$50 annually.

Please send in your Harbor MARC membership dues earlier for the year 2022.

Make the check out to "Harbor M.A.R.C." and send it to me:

**Ursula Schmidt**  
26419 Pineknoll Ave.,  
Harbor City, CA 90710.

The dues for Harbor M.A.R.C. are \$30.

If you would also like to pay the national MARC dues at the same time, add \$50 and make the check out for \$ 80.

(I will then forward your \$50 to MARC).

Postage stayed the same; Add \$10 if you are still getting the Harborlight by regular mail.

Thank you for supporting your Harbor Area MARC!



### **Sad News report:**

This last month members of the club have lost loved ones. Sadly, **Monty Bates** lost his sister, **Barbara**, age 71. She had some health issues that finally took its toll. Our thoughts are with you, Monty. May she rest in peace.

Two weeks ago, **Jan Wyckoff's** son, **Doug Feil**, age 65, passed away in his sleep. He has had some heart issues for the last couple years. He was a kind, generous, religious man called our a "Gentle giant", (he was 6'6", 275 lbs.). The family is deeply saddened by his early departure from this world. He's in God's hands now. RIP ol' pal. . . .

Some local info about the new Burtz Model A engine from Jay Skinner:

Jay notified the editor that he has ordered one of the new Burtz engines. Because of the delays in the shipping into Long Beach (the engines are cast in China) Jay has directed the engine be routed thru Kentucky and shipped overland to his home in Long Beach. He expects the order will arrive late this month or early in December. When it does, he is going to have a "show and tell" for the club. Stay tuned. . . .



Sep 23, 2021 · Re-Engineering the Model A Engine. Long time MAFCFA member Terry Burtz of Campbell California has long been working on a project to have a **new Model A engine block**, crankshaft and connecting rods manufactured. The engine will be identical to the original Model A engine on the outside but will have 5 main bearings, a balanced crankshaft, and full pressurized oil system

### **Our Advertising Friends**

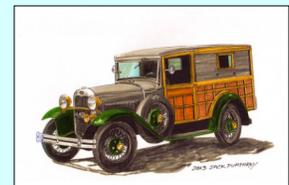
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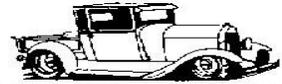
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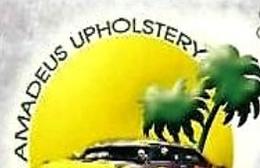
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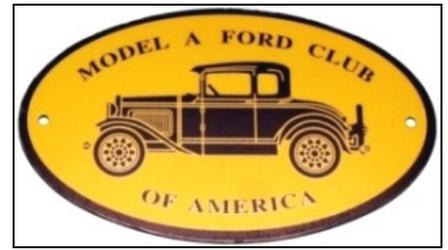
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For MARC info and membership, see [www.ModelARestorers.org](http://www.ModelARestorers.org)



For MAFA info and membership, see [www.MAFCA.com](http://www.MAFCA.com)

The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Walteria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 1242nd St. in Torrance, California. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and one block south of Pacific Coast Hwy.) We'd like to invite all interested parties, even if they don't own a Model A Ford, to come and join us. Our goal is to educate the public about Model A Fords and have fun while doing it.

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Email: [W Sterling@Sterling-Agency.com](mailto:W Sterling@Sterling-Agency.com)

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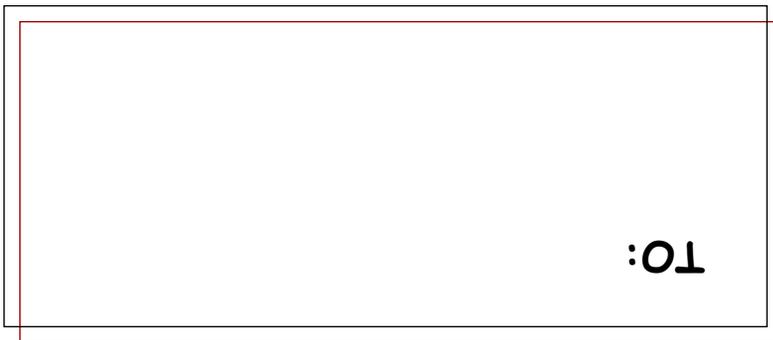
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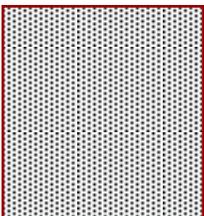
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Tan and Dick Wyckoff in last years Christmas parade



December 2021

From:  
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The Harbor Light

