



# HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB

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

## APRIL 2024

2016-2022 MARC  
Award of Continuing Excellence  
for Harbor Light newsletter.  
2020 MAFCA  
Newsletter of Merit



# HARBOR LIGHT



CCRG  
2024

SIERRA  
CHAPTER



CCRG  
2024

SIERRA  
CHAPTER



Harbor Club group shot (L) and Raffle winners

### Technical Activities

Saturday mornings.  
We meet from about 9:30AM to noon to work on Model A projects. Bring your Model A by and we'll work on it.  
Al's Garage,  
907 Van Ness, Torrance CA  
(in the alley)



### Next Club Meetings:

The April meeting will be our regular date  
Friday, April 25th @7:30 PM

The May meeting will be  
Friday, May 31st

### Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be Saturday, April 13th at Al's garage, 9:30AM



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A Note from  
Harbor President  
Dennis Simpson



**The Second Gear Grind**

Three months into 2024 (so soon?) and we are already having all kinds of fun and new adventures. Numerous members attended the CCRG event in Clovis and I hear they had a great time. We also tried a new restaurant (to us) for Monday night dinner, Thai Dishes, great food and gracious owners.

I checked over the Town Sedan to ensure we would pass Cliff's Annual Safety Inspection so we would be ready for one of my favorite events, The Orange County Pancake Breakfast, but the Safety Meeting was postponed. Mother Nature once again decided to be cantankerous and 'rain on our parade'. We still have time to have our cars checked for road worthiness to ensure we don't have any unplanned "Roadside Seminars" for all the upcoming events the Activity Committee is dreaming up for us. If you missed the rescheduled Safety Check on March 16<sup>th</sup> (already past by the time you read this), you can still have your Model A checked at Al's Garage on most Saturdays. It should be an exciting and adventurous year.

Another of my favorite events is the 'Relay for Life' car show scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. This is a fun event for us and they have a variety of cars. Sign up if you wish to join us.

I would like to remind our members that the Business Meeting is once again a week earlier (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) due to Good Friday. We had a pretty good turnout at our last Business Meeting where our guest speaker, Bruno Schmidt (Ursi's son), gave us a great overview of modern gasoline and the good and bad things about modern gas in our Model A's. (Like trying to keep it in a vented gas tank!!). As the weather warms up, I would like to see more members attend meetings and get involved.

Until next time, remember to take the time to be kind. You can make all the difference in someone's day.

*Dennis*



**Editor's Corner**  
**By Dick Wyckoff**



Looking forward to the Orange County Pancake breakfast. Always a fun event. Hope to have several cars from Harbor attend. Dennis will lead us (again) on surface streets to the event. (You can go on the freeway if you want. We will meet you there).

Had a great time at the safety meeting/pot luck/board meeting. It's great to see how other maintain their cars and are always interested in safety upgrades. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.

Let's support the "Relay for Life of Torrance" car show on Sunday, July 21st. All the registration money goes to the cancer Society's "Fight Against Cancer". Check with Dennis for more details.

Keep driving those As. That's what this is all about!

*Dick*

## Harbor Area Model A Club on Tour

### CCRG-CLOVIS

By Pat Harrison

Hi ho, hi ho, it's off to Clovis we go. Thursday met at Wassabi for dinner—like herding cats. Those of us who made it enjoyed our meals being prepared on a grill at our table complete with a fire show, flying cooking utensils, and a beating heart. All of this including great food and cake (thanks Janet).

Friday we all headed to the rodeo grounds for registration, raffle tickets and socializing. Many of us headed out to explore ALL the antique stores and their treasures. Back to rodeo grounds for a fantastic BBQ and good entertainment. When we were leaving, we noticed all the water bottles were being thrown away. Being the good members, citizens, and scavengers we are, we collected as many as we could to bring home to recycle and add the money to the our club's account.

Saturday the Sierra Club squeezed a lot of good tours into a very busy day. The tour my group was on included: 1) a gas station and another building refurbished to their 1950's glory, 2) a home completely decorated in the 50's style including a tiki room (and the couple lives in it). 3) Hillcrest Tree Farm where we all got a ride on a miniature train with an explanation of the history and how it all came about. 4) Beekman Estate (honey and bee business) for a box lunch and to see the collection of cars and memorabilia.



And for the hardier members one more stop at Steve and Weeg's friends' goat farm. According to those who went a highlight with samples of the owners' varieties of goat cheese.

With little time to spare we all got ready for the banquet (many dressed in period attire). Another wonderful meal. Raffle winners: Gloria, Mickey & Bea, and Tim.

Steve was a big hit with his backdrop and camera. All the clubs and their members wanted pictures.

A great event! Everyone is already looking forward to next year's event in Visalia (with a side trip to Three Rivers).



Collecting plastic water bottles at the BBQ



Harbor crowd at the BBQ on Friday night



Dr. Steve at the CCRG on the Clovis rodeo grounds

### [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.



### [2024 Membership, Roster and Club Merchandise Items](#)

Jim Huizdos has 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 **2024 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 310-561-4895. 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*.



### ***Congratulations!***

Art and Daffy Wagner celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with members of the Harbor Model A Club at the March 22nd meeting.

Active members for many years, we congratulate them on their special day.

We love you!




## April's Happenings

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>APRIL 2024 HARBOR A HAPPENINGS</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6 <u>MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
7	8 <u>DINNER</u> 4:30 *Location TBD	9	10	11	12	13 <u>BOARD MEETING</u> Al's Garage 9:30 am  <u>MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
14 <u>ORANGE CO PANCAKE BREAKFAST</u> \$10 Harbor Freight 5:45am leave 7am 	15 <u>DINNER</u> 4:30 *Location TBD	16	17  <u>MTG—11 A.M.</u>	18	19	20 <u>MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
21	22 <u>DINNER</u> 4:30 *Location TBD	23 	24  <u>ADAMSON HOUSE &amp; GARDEN 57 R.</u>  L (to follow)	25	26 <u>MODEL A CLUB MEETING— Walteria Club House 7:30 pm</u> 	27 <u>MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
28	29 <u>DINNER</u> 4:30 *Location TBD	30				*Contact Jim Huizdos or Gloria Younkin for Monday night dinner location.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### APRIL

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, ORANGE COUNTY PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
Location: Hart Park, 701 S. Glassell Street, Orange, CA  
Time: 7:30am – 11:00am  
Cost: Breakfast – Adults \$10.00 / Children \$5.00 (Ages 2-10)  
For more information contact Aaron Magdaleno (714) 862-5773  
Meet @ Harbor Freight @ 6:45 leave at 7:00

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, ADAMSON HOUSE & GARDENS**  
Location:  way, Malibu, CA 90265  
Time: 8:00am  
Cost: \$7.00 (Please bring cash)  
Lunch following at Gladstone's

#### MAY

**(MODEL A YOUTH MONTH)**  
Stay tuned – we are working with SCROC for another event with our up and coming mechanics! Date and info to follow!

#### MAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> (MOTHERS DAY), JANET KLEIN AND HER PARLOR BOYS**  
Location: Old Town Music Hall, 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, 90245  
Time: 2:30pm  
Cost: \$25.00 per person

#### FRIDAY, MAY 31ST, WHITE ELEPHANT SALE (FUND-RAISER)

- This will be at our monthly meeting at the Walteria Club House
- Please bring your donations and label with minimum bid
- There will be a short meeting and then we will have fun bidding on the treasures that are being donated that evening.
- Anything that is left will be included in the Garage Sale the next day

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, GARAGE SALE

Location: TBD – If you would like to volunteer your home please contact anyone on the Activities Committee.

*Watch here for fun times ahead in your Model A*

A couple pictures from the  
Annual Safety Check.  
(Thanks, Gloria)



A's lined up ready for inspection



Gary's coupe

Many thanks to Jack & Joan Gordinier  
for hosting our annual  
Safety Inspection meeting



More cars ready for inspection



Dick checking tires on Mirco's truck

Good afternoon.

It is another beautiful day. So glad the weather was just as wonderful yesterday. I want to reach out to all of you and thank you for making yesterday such a success. You all jumped in and pulled everything together! And cleaned up too! Many hands make the work easy and dare I say fun! Thank you ☐

### A Thermostat Theory

by Tom Endy

The Model A Ford did not deliver with a thermostat installed in the water cooling system. A few years later thermostats became the norm in new cars. Today it is becoming common practice for Model A owners to install a thermostat in the water outlet hose of their Model A Ford. However, there may have been some engine block design changes made to accommodate the thermostat that does not exist in a Model A engine block.

Rick Hall, a Victoria Association member in Southern California, has come up with a theory about the use of a thermostat in a Model A Ford that may have some merit. Recently four of us in the same area, including Rick and myself, have had a recently rebuilt engine fail with dramatic consequences. The number four piston virtually melted, with the ones in front of it showing signs of overheating.

After much investigation and speculation we have come to the conclusion that the cause was due to the poor quality pistons that have recently been imported from Taiwan by two of the better perceived suppliers. However, there could be an additional factor involved.

In all four cases the failure modes were the same. The engines had a sufficient number of miles on them since rebuild; the cars were cruising along at 55-60 mph in 26% overdrive for about an hour or more with the ambient temperature at about 60 degrees. Each of the cars was equipped with a very efficient 4-tube radiator and with a 160 degree thermostat installed. Each had a temperature gauge that indicated that the water temperature was below 160 degree, which means the thermostat was closed blocking off the flow of water.

Rick's theory is that under these circumstances with the thermostat closed water is not circulating through the block normally. With the thermostat closed only a small amount of water is getting past the thermostat through the two small holes drilled into the mounting flange of the thermostat. The water pump is not causing water to flow through the block normally as when no thermostat is installed.

This may be causing the back end of the engine block to overheat due to the lack of proper water circulation. The temperature gauge may be showing a value of less than 160 degrees at the water outlet hose, but the water temperature around the number four piston where the water is stagnant may be sufficiently higher allowing the number four piston to overheat and fail.

It may be that engine block designers of later cars provided by-pass ports in the block to allow a continuous flow of water to all parts of the block when the thermostat was closed. The Model A engine block may not have this advantage.

This may not be a problem on a warm day or with a standard radiator that is partially blocked as the temperature will quickly rise above 160 degrees and the thermostat will open allowing the water pump to freely circulate water to all areas of the block as Henry designed.

It may be just a theory, but it may have some merit. After experiencing a costly engine failure I decided to remove the thermostat from my Victoria. I can't see where it can do any harm, after all Henry produced over five million Model A's that roamed the planet for decades without a thermostat.



An automotive thermostat modified for use with a Model A. Note the skirt welded to the base to prevent it from tumbling in the water outlet hose. Two small holes are drilled into the base for a small amount of water flow when the thermostat is closed.

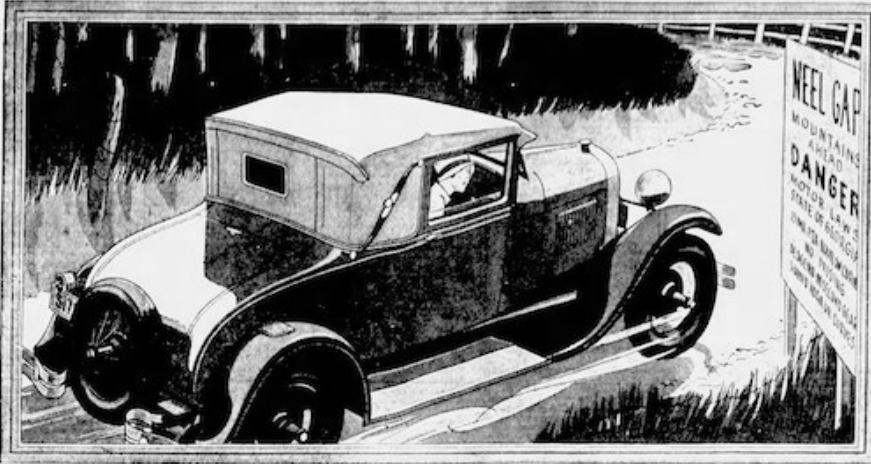
# A Little Ford History

SUNDAY

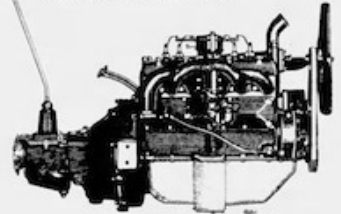
THE BROOKLYN DAILY TIMES

FEBRUARY 5, 1928

*All the features of the new Ford cars are brought to you in this new Sport Coupe . . . beautiful low body lines and choice of colors . . . Ford-Triplex shatter-proof glass windshield . . . 55 to 65 miles an hour . . . 40-horse-power engine . . . remarkable acceleration . . . 20 to 30 miles per gallon of gasoline . . . Houdaille hydraulic shock absorbers . . . four-wheel brakes . . . typical Ford reliability and long life . . . low first cost and low up-keep cost.*



*Make it a point to see and examine this new Ford engine. Many features of it are exclusive Ford developments.*



## The new Ford has a remarkable engine Development of 40 horse-power at only 2200 revolutions per minute an example of fine automobile engineering

The four-cylinder engine in the new Ford represents a new development in modern automobile engineering. It is unique in design and performance because it develops 40-horse-power at only 2200 revolutions per minute.

This means you can do 55 to 65 miles an hour in the new Ford and yet you do not have a high-speed motor.

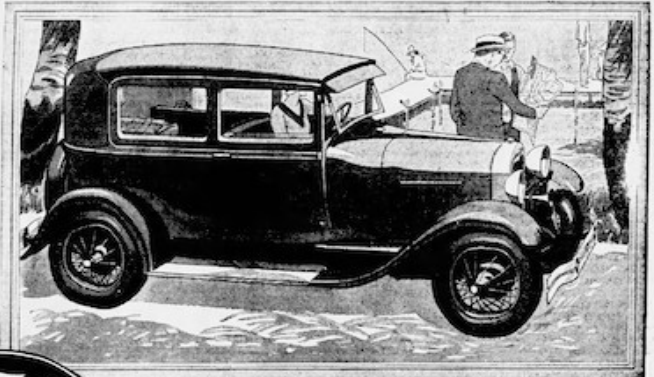
The low r.p.m., or revolution speed, also means greater efficiency and longer life because the lower the speed of your engine, the less the wear on its parts.

Some of the factors which have contributed to this power are the specially designed carburetor, the new hot spot manifold, larger valve diameter, the carbon chrome nickel alloy valves which resist the oxidizing and scaling effect of hot gases, the shape of the combustion chamber which helps to insure higher compression and

complete explosion of the gas, the aluminum pistons, the 63-pound fly-wheel, the heavy crankshaft which is statically and dynamically balanced, and built to withstand a twisting stress up to 60,000 inch-pounds, the five-bearing camshaft, and the newly designed exhaust system which minimizes back pressure.

The fine limits of measurement in the new Ford cars are shown in the diameter of the piston pin, which is held within three ten-thousandths of an inch (.0003). An even closer limit is maintained in the diameter of the hole into which the piston pin is fitted. Here the limit of tolerance is two ten-thousandths of an inch (.0002).

All of this may sound a bit technical, but there is nothing complicated about the engine in the new Ford. It has been designed for reliability and long life as well as speed and



power. There is, in fact, no automobile engine so simple in construction as the engine in the new Ford, yet so capable and efficient in operation. "Make it better—make it simpler" has always been the policy of the Ford Motor Company. This policy has been carried forward to new heights in this new car.

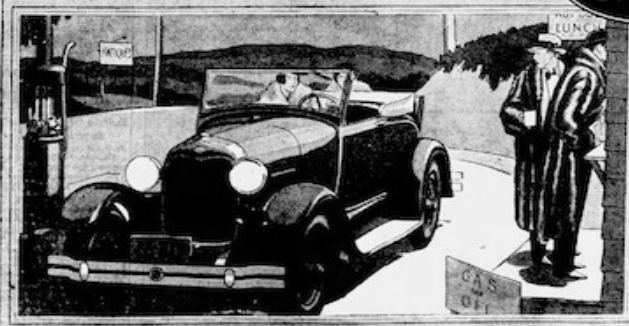
A further indication of the efficiency of the engine in the new Ford is shown in its smooth, quiet running at all speeds. It is practically vibrationless, because of its low r.p.m. and the many mechanical improvements that have been built into it. To insure quiet, the timing gears are made of bakelized fabric instead of metal and the cams on the camshaft are so designed that the valve push rods follow closely, preventing valve clacking.

*The new Ford Tudor Sedan is an exceptionally roomy car. Designed and built to accommodate five passengers in comfort. Your choice of a number of beautiful two-tone color harmonies.*

These are but a few of the many reasons for the speed and power of the new Ford—for its quick acceleration—for its reliability, low up-keep cost and long life—for its alert, capable performance under all conditions.

Arrange now to see this new Ford and know the thrill of driving it. You will know then that it is not just a new automobile—not just a new model—but the advanced expression of a wholly new idea in modern, economical transportation.

The Roadster sells for \$385; the Phaeton for \$395; the Coupe for \$495; the Tudor Sedan for \$495; the Sport Coupe for \$550; the Fordor Sedan for \$570. (Prices: F. O. B. Detroit.)



*The new Ford is the complete car, giving you everything you want or need in a modern automobile. Standard equipment includes five steel-spoke wheels, four 30 x 4.50 balloon tires, windshield wiper, speedometer, gasoline gage on instrument panel, dash light, mirror, combination stop and tail light, oil indicator rod, complete tool set, theft-proof coincidental lock, pressure grease gun lubrication, and Ford-Triplex shatter-proof glass windshield.*

**FORD MOTOR COMPANY**  
Detroit, Michigan

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## **HARBOR AREA MARC/MAFCA BUSINESS MEETING**

DATE: March 22, 2024 LOCATION: Walteria Park Club House

**PRESIDENT:** Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:34PM.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Weeg Thompson led the flag salute.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** Drain Marshall, Dick Wyckoff and Tim Harrison.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Elaine Pisu moved that the minutes be approved as printed in the Harbor Light, seconded by Richard Parrish. All were in favor.

**PRESIDENT:** Dennis Simpson thanked everyone for making the Safety Check and Potluck a big success. Dennis reported Walt Hibbard had a stroke and his daughter will keep the club informed. Walt's birthday is April 7, he will be 96, cards would be appreciated. Send to daughters address.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Tim Harrison reported batteries were donated to CCRG and Orange County Pancake Breakfast for their raffles. At the Safety Check Daffy won the 50-50 raffle, which was \$125.00.

**TREASURER:** Daffy Wagner reported a balance of \$9990.23, some bills are still outstanding.

**HARBOR LIGHT EDITOR:** Dick Wyckoff reported April issue is almost ready to be published. Thanked Gloria for pictures taken at the Safety Check. Send articles and pictures of club events.

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR:** Cliff LeFall reported 10 cars were checked at the Safety Check. Thanks to the Gordinier's for hosting the Safety Check. Garage will be closed March 23.

**TOUR DIRECTOR:** Open Position—Weeg Thompson and Pat Harrison reported for the activities committee.

April 14—Orange County Pancake Breakfast. Meet at Harbor Freight at 6:45AM, leave at 7AM.

April 24—Tour to Adamson House is canceled

May 12—Janet Klein and her Polar Boys Play at 2:30PM in El Segundo, \$25.00 per person.

June 15—Little Sisters of the Poor. More info later.

**TOOLS:** Bob DeCrescenzo --- Tools are available for club members.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Ursi Schmidt --- Reported Blanco and Modesto Bolanos have rejoined our club.

**SUNSHINE:** Theresa LeFall --- Reported several members have health issues recently. Walt Hibbard, Drain Marshall, Don Knott, Steve Adams, Ruxella Speights, Bill Kealey, Jeanne Parrish, Monty Bates and Pat Tucker.

**WEBMASTER:** Steve Thompson - Website calendar updated. Let Steve know if you don't want your picture on the website. Steve had his photo booth at CCRG.

**ADVERTISING:** Jim Huizdos --- No report.

**MERCHANDISE:** Jim Huizdos: New hats and other merchandise available. If you want the club logo on something, bring and Jim will have it done.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Weeg Thompson --- The Pisu's and Covarrubias's brought a cake, cookies and ice cream for Daffy and Art's 70th Anniversary.

**OLD/ON GOING BUSINESS:** Clock prize winner Richard Parrish, Men's drawing Nathan Sherry, Women's drawing not present, next month \$10.00.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Elaine asked about raffle prize for NCRG. Dennis said a donation will be made.

**NEXT BUSINESS MEETING:** April 26, 2024, Walteria Park Club House.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** April 13, 2024, Al's garage

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:20PM.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** *Gloria Younkin*, Secretary

## *April Birthdays*

- 3 John Hernandez
- 6 Mickey Fruchter
- 7 Walt Hibbard
- 12 Carol Olsen
- 14 Drain Marshall
- 17 Ottis Robinson
- 19 Kathy Valot

## *April Anniversaries*



### MAFFI Minute

Through the generosity of Donna Lewis, former MAFCA President and MAFFI Trustee, "Betsy", a 1930 Ford Model A has been donated to help raise funds for the expansion of the beloved Model A Ford Museum. The car remains in the same condition as restored by Red Grow in the 1950's. Enjoy driving "Betsy", your newest Model A, to your next cruise-in or car show. This is a truly historical vehicle, once owned by a MAFFI Hall of Fame inductee.

"Betsy", became famous as the best Model A in the world. The Ford Model A has gathered 32 top place trophies in the 34 shows which the car was entered. That includes two national shows in 1957 and 1962. Overall, the car won 39 trophies. It is said that Red Grow's car, "Betsy", was an inspiration at the time. It drove many people to do their best in restoring their own car. This urge to do the best restoration possible, developed the need for more information about how to a better job. As a result, the Judging Standards evolved. We can thank Red Grow and the MAFCA founders for their vision.

In 1967, Red sold "Betsy" to a Ford car dealer named Dave Grubbs for \$5,000, an unheard-of price in those days. As a result, Dave Grubb placed the car in a glass cage centered in his dealer showroom. Now, you have a chance to own "Betsy" by entering a Sweepstakes through our website, <https://www.maffi.org/index.htm>, or scan the QR code and receive 20% more tickets for your Donation, available at checkout!"

Happy Motoring,

*Cindy Ellenbecker, MAFFI Trustee-Secretary*



A note from our President:

Long time member, **Walt Hibbard**, has had some serious heart issues and is in the hospital with no release date yet. Please refrain from calling daughter Marla but well wishes are welcome. Please send cards to Walt at: 4721 Via del Rancho, Yorba Linda, CA 92886.

The **Harbor Light** is a monthly publication for the Harbor Area MARC/MAFCA. All articles or want ads must be received by the 15th of each month in order to appear in the following month's publication. Neither the **Harbor Light** and its staff, nor the Harbor Region of the Model A Restorer's Club Inc. and Model A Ford Club of America, Inc. will assume any liability for errors or omissions, or for any liability or resultant damages for products, opinions or services listed herein. Some information contained in our newsletter has been reprinted from other newsletters; we thank and acknowledge them. Editor



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 Torrance, California



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



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

The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Waleria 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.

2024 Board of Directors:

**President:**

Dennis Simpson (310) 343-8227  
Email: [OldFordor@gmail.com](mailto:OldFordor@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

Tim Harrison (310) 920-3319

**Treasurer:**

Daffy Wagner (310) 374-6113

**Secretary:**

Gloria Younkin (310) 316-8722

**Activities Committee:**

OPEN

**Technical Director/Safety:**

Cliff LeFall (323) 715-3153

Appointed Officers:

**Membership:**

Ursula Schmidt (310) 561-4895

**Historian:**

Janet Winter (310) 251-6673

**Sunshine Secretary:**

Theresa LeFall (323) 715-3153

**Advertising:**

Jim Huizdos (310) 375-2737

**Refreshments Coordinator:**

Weeg Thompson (310) 346-6409

**Regional Correspondent:**

Sue Hankins (310) 357-5233

**Web:** [HarborAreaModelAClub.com](http://HarborAreaModelAClub.com)

Appointed Officers:

**Tool Custodian:**

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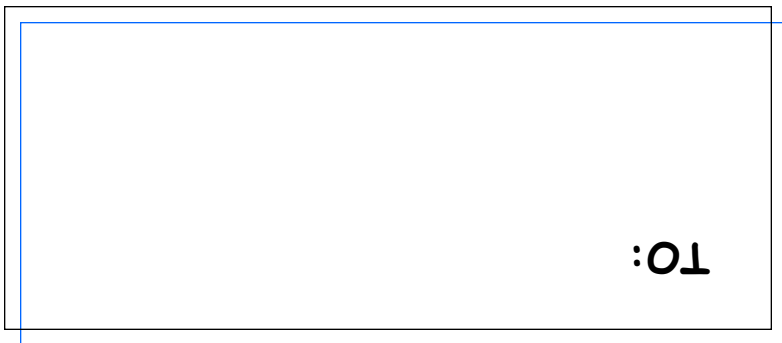
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