



HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB

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

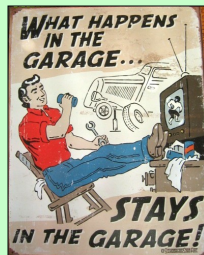
DECEMBER 2025



Editor with his Cabriolet
at the city's
Christmas tree in
El Segundo, CA
last year.
Lots of nice comments!

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 next club meeting will be
Friday, December 12th
Cookie and gift exchange

Enjoy the upcoming holidays!

Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting
will be Saturday,
December 6th
Al's garage, 9:30 AM



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A Note from the



The Second Gear Grind

It started out to be a somewhat busy November for your President, then it fizzled out rather quickly. The Ol' Girl and I were to join Steve, Weeg, Donnis and Tim for the trek out to Cypress for the Southern California Regional Group (SCRG) meeting and delicious BBQ along with meeting some new Model A friends from various other SoCal Model A Clubs. But, Mother Nature did not cooperate and the BBQ was cancelled due to rain. The next day the Club was invited to tour "Elwood's Shop & Garage". Larry Wood is a renowned Mattel Hot Wheels designer. But, that too was postponed to a more Model A friendly day due to rain. Hopefully the other event on my November Calendar will pan out. I will fill you in next month... And let us not forget, the November Business meeting we have voting for the '26-27 Board Members...

I hate to sound like a broken spoked wheel, but I received this e-mail from Medicare as I was writing this:

Scammers are extra busy this time of year. They may pretend to be from Medicare or an insurance company to try to steal your personal information — or even enroll you in a plan without your knowledge. Remember, legitimate agents and brokers who represent Medicare plans need your permission before contacting you. **If you get an unsolicited call, just hang up.** Uninvited emails or texts? You can ignore those, too.

Till next time, remember, "Keep your face to the sun and you will never see the shadows."

Dennis



Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff



A little off topic, but this last week the nation celebrated Veterans Day. As a 25 year Navy vet, I took a moment to thank all the vets I have known and said a prayer for those that gave all.

The Harbor Club is preparing for some events in the near future. I want to thank the committee and those that organize these events. They do an outstanding job and provide the glue that holds the club together. The other officers do an outstanding job also and together we have a great Harbor Area Model A Club. I am proud to be a member.

We have some fun events planned for the upcoming year. We take mini-tours to different locations and always end up at a restaurant somewhere. (Funny how that happens. .) It's always a fun journey.

As the editor, I appreciate any photos and write-ups that you send. I don't get to all the events, so the articles are really appreciated.

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. I am looking forward to the annual banquet.

Till next time

Dick

December 2025 Happenings

DECEMBER		HARBOR A HAPPENINGS				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 DINNER 4:30 *Location TBD 	2	3  ACTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING 1 pm	4	5	6 BOARD MEETING Al's Garage 9:30  MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT Al's Garage 9:30-12
7 OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL - Meet Me in St. Louis 	8  DINNER 4:30 *Location TBD	9	10	11	12 COOKIE & GIFT EXCHANGE Waleria Club House 7:30 pm 	13 MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT Al's Garage 9:30-12
14  EL SEGUNDO HOLIDAY PARADE Hanukkah Begins	15 DINNER 4:30 *Location TBD 	16	17	18	19	20 MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT Al's Garage 9:30-12
21 	22  DINNER 4:30 *Location TBD	23	24 Christmas Eve 	25  Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins 	27 MODEL A TECHNICAL SUPPORT Al's Garage 9:30-12
28	29 DINNER 4:30 *Location TBD 	30	31 			*Contact Jim Huizdos or Gloria Younkin for dinner location.
TOURS & ACTIVITIES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION						
OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL – Movie - Meet Me in St. Louis Date: Sunday, December 7 th Location: 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo Time: 2:30pm Lunch: 12:30 Richmond Grill, 145 Richmond Street, El Segundo EL SEGUNDO HOLIDAY PARADE – Theme: Santa's Workshop Date: Sunday, December 14 th Time: 1pm-3pm/ Line up at 12pm Location: Imperial Way East of Main Street. Contact Dick Wyckoff (310) 779-5772 or janndick@earthlink.net for more information.			COOKIE & GIFT EXCHANGE – and (a brief) Model A Business Meeting Date: Friday, December 12 th Location: Waleria Club House, 3855 W. 242 nd Street, Torrance Time: 7:30 Please bring cookies to share – a plate for the table & bagged cookies for the exchange. (We suggest 2 cookies per bag) Gift exchange (optional) – bring a wrapped gift (of approximately \$25 value) 33 rd Annual Fire Department's Spark of Love Toy Drive (also optional) – bring an unwrapped toy (Contact the Simpsons for age-appropriate suggestions)			
 Saturday, January 24, 2026 – Harbor Area Model A Club Banquet Check back here next month for great events that are in the works for the New Year						

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.



2025 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 **2025 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**.

Vintage car junk yard



HARBOR AREA MARC/MAFCA BUSINESS MEETING

DATE: October 17th, 2025 LOCATION: Walteria Park Club House

PRESIDENT: Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:43PM, after the potluck dinner. Dennis ask for a motion to approve previous Business meeting minutes as appeared in the Harbor Light; Steve Thompson made the motion and Nathan Sherry second the motion and all approved.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Lead by Jack Gordinier

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

PRESIDENT: Dennis Simpson reported Bratton's Antique Auto Parts will be closing their store, but the manufacturing will still be open. The club received a thank you letter from Esperance Center where the club donated in Bill Kealey's name. Also a thank you from Relay For Life for our club donation. Dennis recognized anniversaries and birthdays.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Tim Harrison - Reported activities committee is doing a great job. The Simpson's are helping with Banquet flyer and opportunity prizes. The Banquet will be at the Blue Water Grill on January 24rd 2026.

TREASURER: Daffy Wagner reported bank balance Tim contributed \$66.82 from recycling.

HARBOR LIGHT EDITOR: Dick Wyckoff - Send articles and pictures from events. Dec 14th is the El Segundo Christmas parade. More to come.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Cliff LeFall - No Report.

TOUR DIRECTOR: Open Position

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSON: Donnis Bates reported on upcoming events.

Oct 18th --- Progressive lunch tour and poker run.

Oct 25th --- Pumpkin carving and BBQ at Jim Huizdos at 10-3P, \$20 per person.

Nov 16th --- Tour to Larry Woods Hot Wheels Garage.

Dec 7th --- Movie "Meet Me in St. Louie" at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo. See Pat Harrison. Lunch before.

HISTORIAN: Janet Winter - Absent.

TOOLS: Bob DeCrescenzo --- Tools available.

MEMBERSHIP: Ursi Schmidt - Local and National club dues are due. Our local dues are \$40 and national dues are \$50. An additional \$20 if you want the Harbor Light mailed to you.

SUNSHINE: Theresa LeFall --- No update on Mirco Pisu. Dot Knott is doing okay.

WEBMASTER: Steve Thompson—Website updated.

ADVERTISING: Jim Huizdos--- No Report.

MERCHANDISE: Jim Huizdos—Merchandise available.

REFRESHMENTS: Weeg Thompson --- Mike Wright and the club furnished refreshments tonight.

OLD/ON GOING BUSINESS: Pat Harrison thanked members for bringing the Food For Kids bags and donations.

NEW BUSINESS: Dennis reported that we will have nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Technical Director. Nominations were made as follows

President - Dennis Simpson

Vice President - Nathan Sherry

Secretary - Gloria Younkin

Technical - Cliff LaFall

Nominations were closed and nominations will be opened again at the November Business meeting.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: November 21st 2025. Walteria Park Club House. Set up at 7:30PM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 8th 2025, 9:30AM at Al's Garage.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:37PM RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: *Gloria Younkin*, Secretary



Harbor Area Model A Restorers Club

2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET



IMAGE FROM OUR 50TH YEAR COOKBOOK COVER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 FROM 11:00AM-4:00PM

Bluewater Grill - 665 North Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

This year we will be enjoying a three-course meal (salad, entrée and dessert)
with the following entrée choices:

- Chicken Breast with Orange Thyme Beurre Blanc
- Norwegian Salmon with Dill Creme Fraiche
- Gemelli Pasta with Shrimp in Pesto Creme
- Vegetarian Entrée: Pasta with Marinara Sauce & Vegetables

Dessert: Creme Brulee Cheesecake

Non-alcoholic drinks (soft drinks, iced tea, lemonade and coffee) are included in the cost of your meal
and are available during social hour, as well as with your meal.

----- Order Form - Cut Here & return with check to Daffy Wagner -----

Name: _____	Entrée Selection _____	Price \$58.00*
Name: _____	Entrée Selection _____	Price \$58.00*

TOTAL: \$ _____

For additional orders, please use the back of the order form section. Make checks payable to: HARBOR AREA MODEL A CLUB and indicate your entrée selection on your check. Send checks to Daffy Wagner at 2705 Carnegie Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 by January 10th. ***Note: The club is paying \$15 per person. The actual cost for the meal is \$73 per person. In addition, your parking fee will be covered by the club. Take your ticket from the attendant and turn it in to Tim Harrison who will process and return to you.**

Model A Technical Info



FORD MODEL "A" MECHANICAL TIPS

How to Cure Backfiring & Overheating

(From the Tulsa, Oklahoma Chapter MAFCA)



How to Cure Backfiring

Back firing is usually caused by the condenser failing, or the points may not have sufficient gap. Make sure they are set at .018 to .020". Make sure they are not burnt.

Backfiring can be caused by intermittent firing of the ignition system or very lean fuel mixture. If the car has been setting for a while, the carburetor float valve may be sticking. Clean the float valve good and set the float level. Backfiring due to intermittent ignition can be caused by a frayed wire on the bottom side of the distributor plate . . or .. by intermittent connection of the ignition switch.

Potential Solutions:

Check point setting first.

Replace condenser next (unless you are using modern points). Make sure the condenser you buy is the right length, some are too short. Make sure that it is good quality.

Check that the carburetor float valve is operating correctly.

Sometimes the pop out type ignition switches get intermittent. As a last resort, replace the ignition switch/cable.

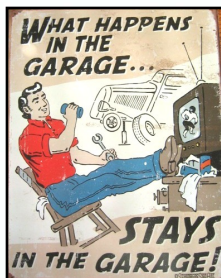
Check the GAV to make sure it is not set too lean

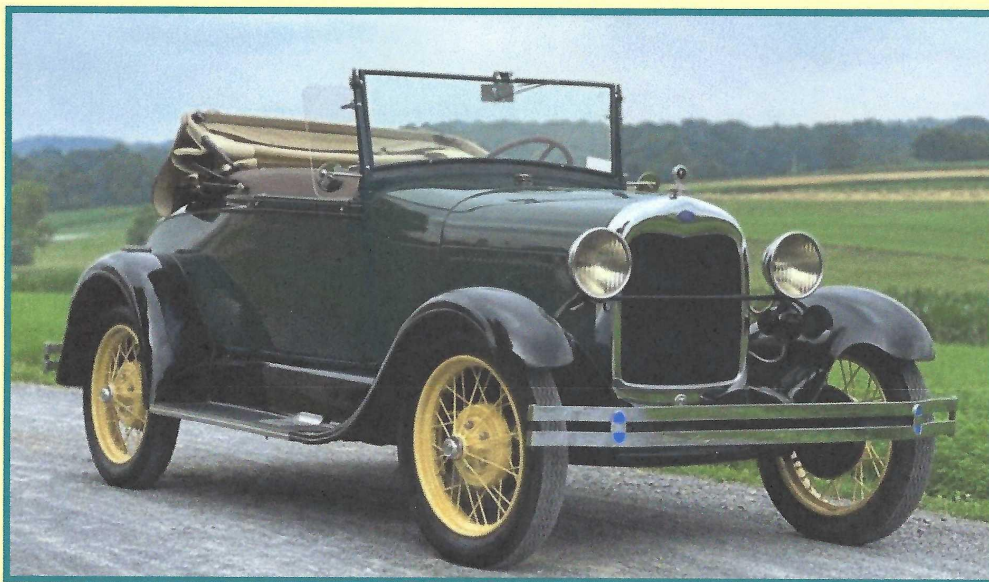
How to Deal with Model A Overheating

There are several 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 of the older 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 cannot dissipate the heat. Also, if the radiator is old calcium deposits in the radiator will reduce the cooling efficiency of the radiator.

Like many Model A owners we had to replace a radiator as once we got the car over 40 MPH it would get hot. The radiator had 3 tubes but only 6 fins per inch (normal) plus the flow rate was quite slow. The new core that was put on has 12 fins per inch plus they are crinkled to provide maximum cooling surface area. Replacing the radiator along with slowing the rate of flow (installed a Thermo-stat) stopped the overheating on our "A".

Other potential causes of overheating: First make sure the timing is set correctly. Then make sure nothing is blocking the front of the radiator, like a 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 may indicate a blown head gasket. Running your car too lean (Gas Adjustment Valve, GAV) can also contribute to your motor running hot. In hot weather there can be many contributing factors.





First Model "A" Fords Produced 98 Years Ago

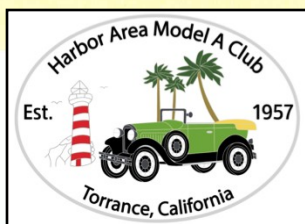
After nearly two decades of producing the iconic Model T, Henry Ford made a bold move in 1927 by shutting down his factory for seven months to prepare for a brand-new vehicle. The launch of the Ford Model A on December 2, 1927, was met with tremendous excitement. Although the first Model A rolled off the assembly line on October 20, 1927, it wasn't revealed to the public until December. The first units were produced slowly but the assembly line's pace quickened and serial production began in November 1927.

Unlike its predecessor, the Model A offered buyers more choices, with seven different body styles and four color options. Its engine was a robust L-head 4-cylinder, cast as a single block, featuring a 3-7/8" x 4-1/4" bore and stroke, and a displacement of 200.5 cubic inches. The car delivered 24.03 SAE horsepower and 40 brake horsepower at 2200 rpm. Fuel efficiency ranged from 20 to 30 miles per gallon, thanks to its Zenith one-barrel carburetor.

The Model A rode on a 103.5-inch wheelbase with 4.50 x 21-inch tires and a gear ratio of 3.77:1. It was equipped with a three-speed sliding gear transmission and a reverse gear. Safety and comfort were enhanced by four-wheel mechanical brakes, Houdaille double-action hydraulic shock absorbers, and semi-elliptic transverse springs at both the front and rear. The car could reach speeds of up to 65 mph.

Standard features included a starter, five steel-spoke wheels, dash light, mirror, windshield wiper, oil and gasoline gauges, rear and stop lights, speedometer, a set of tools, and a pressure grease gun for lubrication. Notably, bumpers were not part of the standard equipment.

Pricing for the Model A was competitive: the Tudor Sedan was \$495, the Fordor was \$570 (F.O.B. Detroit), the Roadster was \$385, and the Phaeton was \$395. The Coupe was priced at \$495, while the Sport Coupe, which featured a popular rumble seat, sold for \$550.



December Birthdays

- 1 Gary Guttormson
- 10 Anita Perreten
- 11 Sue Hankins
- 11 Dr. Joan Wright
- 13 Elyse Beardsley
- 17 Bob DeCrescenzo
- 20 Ruxella Speights
- 21 Greg Clayton
- 23 Jeanne Parrish
- 25 Jim Valet

December Anniversaries

- 1 Jack & Julie Goldberg



The Model A Restorers Club, Inc.

THE running BOARD REPORT

From Tom Hovetter, President and Jim Zimmer, Director of Regions

November 2025

Members had a great time at Hershey this year. The chili/hot dog lunch was a great success and raised over \$1,000 that will be donated to MAYRA. This year we opened the tent early on Monday afternoon to allow existing members a chance to renew and new members to join. Look for additional changes for next year!

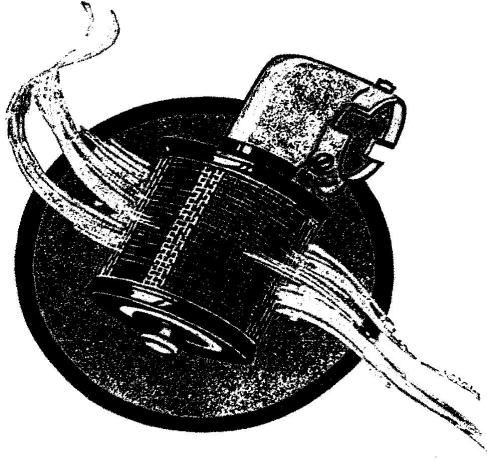
Also, the MARC National Meet for 2026 is just around the corner in July. Driver Class judging will be offered again this year. If you are proud of your Model A and would like to be recognized for the quality of work you have in your vehicle that has been modified from original to enhance your driving experience, please consider registering for French Lick next year. New improved judging standards will be published soon!

Remember that the 2026 Finger Lakes National Tour will be held in May of next year. This will be a very popular event based on the interest so far. Registrations will be limited due to the hotel and banquet capacity. The team is working hard to make this a memorable event for our members!

Certainly you read in last month's newsletter that Larry Shepard is compiling a list of Model A mechanical experts to assist members and potential new members with mechanical issues or restoration questions. I'm sure that every Region has at least one person that should qualify. If any of your members are willing to help, please contact Larry at marctech@modelarestorers.org and provide your name, contact information and area of expertise. One of the best parts of being a MARC member is being able to tap into the wealth of Model A knowledge this club has to offer.



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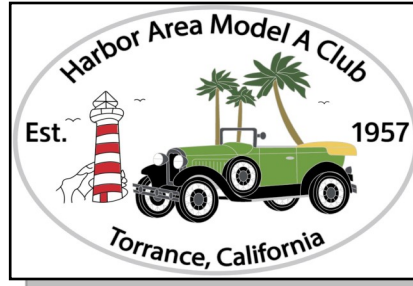
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It is a very profitable accessory, requiring only a small initial investment, and building for you a satisfied group of customers.

Write direct to us for literature and sales proposition.

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For MARC info and membership, see
www.ModelARestorers.org



For MAFCA info and membership, see
www.MAFCA.com

The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Waleria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 242nd 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.

2025 Board of Directors:

President:

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

Vice-President:

Tim Harrison (310) 920-3319

Treasurer:

Daffy Wagner (310) 374-6113

Secretary:

Gloria Younkin (310) 316-8722

Activities Committee:

Donnis Bates (310) 713-5830

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) 529-7515

Refreshments Coordinator:

Weeg Thompson (310) 346-6409

Regional Correspondent:

Sue Hankins (310) 357-5233

Web: HarborAreaModelAClub.com

Appointed Officers:

Tool Custodian:

Bob De Crescenzo (310) 540-3690

Merchandise:

Jim Huizdos (310) 529-7515

M/Sergeant-at-Arms:

Jack Gordinier (424) 263-2397

Webmaster:

Steve Thompson (310) 346-6143

Harbor Light editor:

Dick Wyckoff (310) 779-5772

E-mail: JannDick@earthlink.net

Happy Holidays



TO:

DECEMBER 2025

From:
Harbor Area Model A Club
Dick Wyckoff, Editor
337 Lomita St.
El Segundo CA 90245

The Harbor Light

