

HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB

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

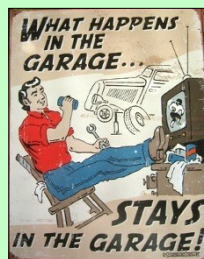
SEPTEMBER 2026



Harbor A's Annual Picnic at Lomita Park

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, September 25th
at 7:30PM
at the Walteria Clubhouse

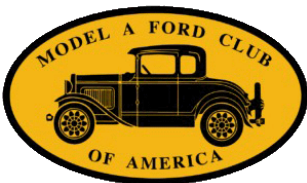
Next Board Meeting

September 12th
At "Al's garage"
9:30 AM



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HARBOR LIGHT



A Note from the
Harbor President
Dennis Simpson



The Second Gear Grind

John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club" Or something like that.

When members take an active role in decisions, tasks, or processes instead of being passive recipients, they feel happier, more valued, and more fulfilled with the final outcome. Active participation directly improves satisfaction by fostering a sense of control and ownership.

I would like to encourage our members to make suggestions to myself and the Board Members so we may better serve you. Board Meetings are always open to all members of the Harbor Area Model A Restorers Club.

Last month, July, at our Monthly Business Meeting, we had one of the largest turnouts we have had in recent months. Also, as I mentioned last month, we had 12 Model "A"s participate at the Relay for Life Car Show (which benefits the American Cancer Society). Quite an impressive lineup.



Next up, our 69th Annual Picnic.

Til next time, remember, "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Dennis



**Editors' Corner
By Weeg & Steve
Thompson**



We have had a lot of great events with fabulous friends, as usual. Our Activities Committee continues to bring us all together for some excellent outings. Special thanks this month to everyone for their help with the annual picnic. It was great to see folks we don't always see and to have some time to catch up. It was awesome that Gary got to come! Again, thanks to everyone for their continued support, providing articles, pictures, and, of course, your participation. We could not do the newsletter or have this much fun without you all.

As always, be safe.

Weeg & Steve

HARBOR MARC/MAFCA BUSINESS MEETING

DATE: July 31st, 2026 LOCATION: WALTERIA Park Club House

PRESIDENT: Dennis Simpson called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Jack Gordinier led the flag salute.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS: Dick Wyckoff, Dennis Simpson, Tim Harrison and Pat Yacklon.

PRESIDENT: Dennis asked for motion to approve minutes of previous business meeting, Linda made the motion, Jim H second the motion, all approved. Dennis reported eleven Model A's from our club attended the Relay for Life event. Ten club members had their Model A's at rock around the block. Dennis introduced visitor Diana Jenkins, who some met at relay for life, where she drove her Model A. Diana's father and grandfather were former members of our club. Dennis also recognized Alwyn Ina, a new member who is attending his first business meeting of our club. Dennis acknowledged August birthdays and anniversaries.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Nathan Sherry noted there is a good selection of raffle prizes tonight. Nathan reported he is getting ready for the picnic on August 16th, 2026. We will have several games for the club members to participate in.

TREASURER: Daffy Wagner reported a balance.

HARBOR LIGHT EDITOR'S: Steve and Weeg Thompson: Have been busy, the Harbor Light will be out tomorrow.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Cliff Le Fall- Absent. Jack said the garage will be open tomorrow and members will work on Hubby cars.

TOUR DIRECTOR: Open Position

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CAHIR PERSON: Donnis Bates was glad the club had good participation at Relay for Life and Rock Around the Block. Weeg encouraged members to get their Hubby cars ready for the races at the picnic. Have your picnic order form to Donnis by August 10th. The August Business meeting will be at the picnic. Pat Harrison reported that on December 6th the movie "It Happened on Fifth Avenue" is showing at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo. If you would like to attend the cost is twenty dollars, have the money to Pat by August 16th. We will have lunch before the movie at Richmond Bar and Grill. Donnis Bates, Pat and Weeg reported on upcoming events.

October 24th: Pumpkin Palooza at Jim Huizdos. Members will have an opportunity to "adopt" a homegrown pumpkin from Jim.

December 11th: Cookie Exchange at business meeting.

December 13th: Holiday Parade in El Segundo

Pat Harrison said she will be giving out bags for Food for Kids at the September meeting. Full bags will be collected at the October meeting.

HISTORIAN: Janet Winter, No report.

TOOLS: Bob DeCrescenzo reported all club tools available for club members to use.

MEMBERSHIP: Ursi Schmidt signed up new member tonight, Diana Jenkins.

SUNSHINE: Theresa LeFall- Absent. Weeg reported on a friend and Model A member of another club Tom Johnson. He has been having several health issues slowly improving. Glad to see Amy and Don Knott here tonight. Gloria reported Carlo Lomeli, former member and owner of Lomeli's restaurant in Gardena had passed recently. Carlo always donated to our banquet opportunity drawing.

WEBMASTER: Steve Thompson reported the newsletter will be on the website.

ADVERTISING: Jim Huizdos, everything is okay.

MERCHANDISE: Jim Huizdos, Merchandise available.

REFRESHMENT: Weeg Thompson thanked Donnis, Jack and Joan Gordinier for the pie and ice cream tonight.

OLD/ONGOING BUISNESS: none.

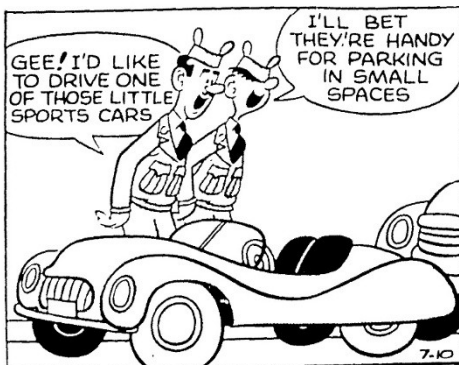
NEW BUISNESS: Pat and Sue need patterns for the side panels for their 1931 Coupe.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: August 16th, 2026, at 7:30 PM at the club picnic.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 15th, 2026, Al's Garage 9:30 A.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:19 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Gloria Younkin, Secretary



HARBOR AREA A's 69TH ANNUAL PICNIC

by Tim Harrison

We again selected Lomita Park for our annual picnic venue. Members showed up with 10 Model A's.

At 10:15 President Dennis Simpson, welcomed 51 members and guests for a day filled with stories, conversations, games, and a great boxed lunch.

Jack, Jim, Nathan and Pat Yacklon helped with the Hubley races: set up the tracks, weighed each car, and divided the cars into the men's and women's races. There were 11 women and 8 men who garnered everyone's attention with wheels coming off cars, cars jumping off the tracks and crashes in between lanes. (If you want more info on Hubley racing, contact Tim Harrison.)

RESULTS:	Women 1 st Place	Joan Gordinier
	2 nd Place	Patty Wagner
	3 rd Place	Gloria Younkin
	Men 1 st Place	Andy Soto
	2 nd Place	Alwyn Behmer
	3 rd Place	Jim Huizdos

Jack Gordinier brought his "World Famous" valve toss into a Model A oil pan game. This brought out many ingenious "how to techniques" from the various competitors. Jim Huizdos got 24 contestants to play. The winners were: Women-- Elaine Pisu and Men--John Zimmerman.

The hit of the day is always the "Left, Center, Right" game. Thirty-four wired up individuals gathered round the tables ready for the eager competition. After about a frenzied hour of back and forth, Dick Wyckoff ended up being the last man standing and won the pot.

The day finished with watermelon for all and helping each other clean up, take down popups, loading cars, and looking forward to our next event.

Next year will be our Club's 70th anniversary and the Board and the Activities group have put together an exploratory group to plan all the festivities for such a monumental accomplishment. We are looking for input and volunteers for this upcoming event.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who worked hard to make the day so special! It takes a village!



The Starting Point



Start of Meeting



Hubley Weigh-In



Ready—Set—Go!



Women Winners



Men Winners



Valve Toss



Left—Center—Right



Valve Winners



LCR Winner



The Finish Line



For Sale

1930 Model A Coupe with trunk. Four-year old blue paint job. Hydraulic brakes. Package tray removed to give extra leg room. Runs great. Asking price - \$15K. Call Ursi 310-561-4895



Wanted: Panels or the patterns for the rumble seat interior side kick panels for a 1931 Coupe. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks.

Contact Sue Hankins
Modelababe@dslextreme.com



NOW AVAILABLE
Harbor Area Model A Club
Lapel Pins/Tie Tacks ~1"x1½" in size \$5.00 each
See Dennis

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2026 HARBOR A HAPPENINGS		1	2	3	4	5 <u>MODEL A</u> <u>TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
6	7 <u>DINNER 4:30</u> *Location TBD  Labor Day	8	9 <u>ACTIVITY COMMITTEE</u> <u>MEETING</u> 1:00 pm 	10	11	12 <u>BOARD MEETING</u> — Al's Garage 9:30  <u>MODEL A</u> <u>TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
13	14 <u>DINNER 4:30</u> *Location TBD 	15	16	17	18	19 <u>INTERNATIONAL</u> <u>MODEL A FORD DAY</u> <u>PROGRESSIVE</u> <u>AND POKER RUN</u> 
20	21  <u>DINNER 4:30</u> *Location TBD	22  First Day of Autumn	23	24	25  <u>MODEL A CLUB</u> <u>MEETING</u> —Walteria <u>Club House 7:30 pm</u> (Food for Kids Bags Distributed)	26 <u>MODEL A</u> <u>TECHNICAL SUPPORT</u> Al's Garage 9:30-12
27 <u>LAPD CENTRAL</u> <u>TRAFFIC COPS 4 TOTS</u>  <u>CAR SHOW</u>	28 <u>DINNER 4:30</u> *Location TBD 	29	30			*Contact Jim Huizdos or Gloria Younkin for dinner location

TOURS & ACTIVITIES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

International Model A Ford Day Progressive and Poker Run

Date: Saturday, September 19th
Meeting Location: Spires, 1750 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance
Time: 8:30 am – 3 pm
Meeting Time: 8:30 am leave at 9 am
Costs: Optional donation at the stop with the collection. \$10 for Poker Run, if you choose to participate. Cost of your own lunch at our restaurant stop.

LAPD CENTRAL TRAFFIC COPS 4 TOTS CAR SHOW

Date: September 27th
Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm – Doors open at 7 am
Location: Los Angeles Police Academy, 1880 N. Academy Road
Meeting Location: Harbor Freight at 6:45 am leave at 7:00 am
Proceeds to benefit Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Registration Fee: \$30 by September 19th - \$40 Day-of-show
More Information: Dennis Simpson Oldfordor@gmail.com or Call LAPD at (213) 833-3745 or on line at SoCalCarCulture.com



Saturday, October 24th - Pumpkin Palooza
Saturday, November 14th - Trains, Planes & Automobiles
Sunday, December 6th - Holiday Movie & Lunch
Sunday, December 13th - El Segundo Christmas Parade

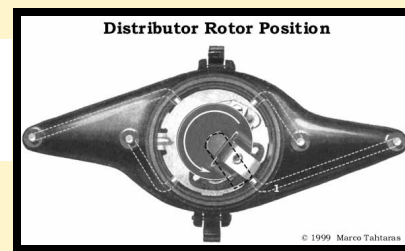
Check back here for more fun times ahead

Technical Talk

Model 'A' Ignition Timing – Making It Right

The rotor position shown at right is the proper position with the timing pin in the gear depression and piston #1 at TDC. The dashed line shows the position of the rotor when #1 fires with the spark lever fully advanced (down).

NOTE: This is for reference only and not a suitable method for final adjustment of the timing.



Introduction

Timing the Model 'A' Ford is a subject frequently covered over the years. Every version I've read is either more complex than necessary, or too inaccurate. The following method is not only quick and simple, but probably more accurate than Ford expected.

Preliminaries

Before adjusting the timing some basic distributor checks are in order. With everything assembled check the travel of the spark advance relative to the opening in the side of the distributor body. The protruding lever should be against one wall of the opening with the lever down and against the other wall with the lever up. Adjust or bend the linkages as required. This will insure full use of the advance for maximum performance.

Prepare to adjust the points by removing the distributor cap, body, and rotor. Grasp the distributor cam with your thumb and forefinger, and attempt to rock or move the shaft back and forth. There should be no discernible movement laterally. Any movement indicates worn bushings and/or shaft. The distributor will still function, but the point gap will vary by a corresponding amount. Keep in mind the recommended point gap is .018"-.022", not .013"-.027"!

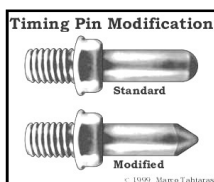
Perform a similar check of the upper "Breaker" plate. Grasp the plate by the protruding arm. Move the plate fore and aft. Again, the point gap will fluctuate by a corresponding amount. Add the two amounts together and see the potential problem! Any play can generally be corrected at this time without replacement of the breaker plate. See Rebuilding the Model 'A' Distributor

The last check is for cam uniformity. Turn the engine with the hand crank and position one of the cam lobes under the point rubbing block to open the points fully. Carefully measure the point gap and adjust to .020". Now rotate the engine 180° with the crank, rotating the cam to the next lobe. Carefully measure the point gap and note and variance from your original setting. Repeat the process twice more until all four lobes have been checked. They should all be identical but often vary. If they vary, readjust the points to average .020" until proper repairs can be made.

Be certain the point contacts are properly aligned and square. Remove the breaker plate and adjust if required.

Timing Pin and Timing Gear

one problem often encountered is difficulty locating TDC (top dead center) of piston number one by use of the timing pin. This is due to modern replacement timing gears having a small dimple unlike the one shown below. Any time prior to engine assembly this can be corrected carefully with a 1/4" twist drill. Drill just deep enough to enlarge the depression to 1/4" diameter.



Original timing gears had a deep depression which works well with the original timing pin. Modern replacements require either correction or creative modification of the timing pin to locate the timing mark.

If your engine rebuilder was too rushed to take care of this problem the timing pin can be modified. Assuming you don't have a lathe in your garage you can chuck the threaded end of the pin into a 3/8" drill. While running the drill, shape the end of the timing pin by lightly grinding with a running bench grinder. Position the drill so the rotation of the pin is approximately 90° to the rotation of the grinding wheel. Don't rush it or it will not retain it's center. The tip should not be so sharp as to scribe the timing gear while locating the mark.

Adjusting the breaker points

If you've followed the guidelines above you are ready to move on. If not, adjust the points now. The points must always be adjusted prior to the ignition timing! Reducing the point gap subsequent to timing adjustment (or any other time) retards the timing. Conversely, enlarging the gap will advance the timing.

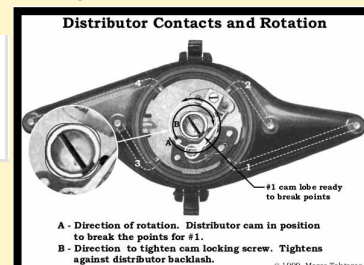
Setting the Timing

Finally to the heart of the matter!

1. Use the timing pin to locate TDC of number one. This is the only accurate method short of a long drawn out process with a dial indicator. Other methods will only get you within 5-10 degrees without some extra luck.
2. With the distributor body installed, raise or retard the spark lever on the steering column to the top of it's travel. This is done in case the distributor body limits the rotation of the breaker plate.
3. Loosen the cam screw and rotate the cam into position ready to open the points for #1 as shown in the following illustration. If the cam seems excessively sticky on the shaft then use the rotor to turn it.

This image shows the distributor cam in position ready for the points to break on #1. Tightening the screw to lock the cam removes the backlash in the gears and shafts, and prepares the cam to open or break the points at the slightest rotational move of the crankshaft.

4. Begin tightening the screw. This removes the backlash in the system and the cam should remain as close to touching the rubbing block on the points as possible without opening the points. This may require multiple efforts to get it ideally positioned.
5. The final check is to simply turn on the ignition switch. Using the screwdriver at the cam screw, turn it clockwise as if tightening the screw. The SLIGHTEST movement of the screwdriver and cam in the opposite (counter clockwise) direction should clearly spark the points. If the points won't spark the setting is too tight and too advanced and the points aren't closing. If there is any noticeable movement of the cam before the spark then the setting is too far retarded. Don't forget to turn off the ignition. Leaving it on with the points closed may result in a dead battery or burned out coil!



Continue page 8

September Birthdays

- 5 Dennis Simpson
- 6 Darlene Funk
- 6 Jim Beardsley
- 8 Rob Hernandez
- 11 Ursula Schmidt
- 14 Cliff LeFall

September Anniversaries

- 6 Danny & Nicole Schmitz
- 17 Dick & Gwen Valot



Continue from page 7

The actual timing sequence is short and simple. With a little practice the points can be changed and set, and the timing set accurately in two to five minutes.

Additional tips

1. If the car has been running, locate TDC with the timing pin before loosening the cam or removing the rotor. This will allow the use of the rotor to let you know you are approaching #1.
2. Eliminate the problem of cylinder compression turning the engine past the timing mark. As you feel the compression build while approaching #1, pause and let the pressure bleed out of the cylinder.
3. The installed total length of the spark control rod (linkage) is 17-7/16". With a two tooth Gemmer steering box you may need to adjust the linkage by loosening the lower column tube clamp and upper support clamp and twisting the column tube in the appropriate direction.
4. Get a large "stubby" screwdriver that fits snug in the cam screw. This will improve sensitivity for checking the motion and spark.
5. FORGET ABOUT DWELL. If your cam is bad enough that it won't provide adequate dwell, it will likely show problems in other areas such as different size lobes. You may have your distributor fine tuned in every other way and want to experiment. Try timing the car with the points set at .018". This will increase the dwell and coil saturation time. See if there is any noticeable difference at high speeds. It won't make any difference at low and moderate speeds. But remember you will need to check for wear on the point block more frequently!
6. once the timing is accurately set it doesn't need to be done again until the distributor is serviced and the cam removed such as required when changing original points.
7. Always oil the distributor when checking the points or performing any other service.

Reprint from MARC ©1999 Marco Tahtaras

2026 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 **2026 Harbor A's directory/roster** is available from Ursi Schmidt free of charge through e-mail. Club members who don't attend events can request a directory/roster by mail. Contact **Ursi** at 310-561-4895. Make sure Ursi has your latest information. **Just a note:** We regularly update the directory/roster. If you have any address changes, phone number changes or email changes, let Ursi know. Let Steve Thompson know, too. He'll put the information in the **Harbor Light**.

New Members

The Club **WELCOMES** new club members:
#1100 Janis Inouye and Tim Howard
 24734 Winlock Dr. Torrance, CA 90505
 Phone # 310-874-0648
 email: howardent@aol.com
 They have a 1930 Fordor and a 1931 AA Truck.
 Birthdays 2/16 and 1/7, Anniversary 5/21

Diana Jenkins
 1823 10th St. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
 Phone # 310-971-0958
 email: djenkins.office@gmail.com
 She has a 1928 Tudor Sedan.
 Birthday 9/12

New Address

Gary Guttormson
 1420 W 186th St. Gardena, CA 90248

Saturday Morning Coffee Gathering

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. Car enthusiasts of all car types meet to talk cars. The address is 17400 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, CA.

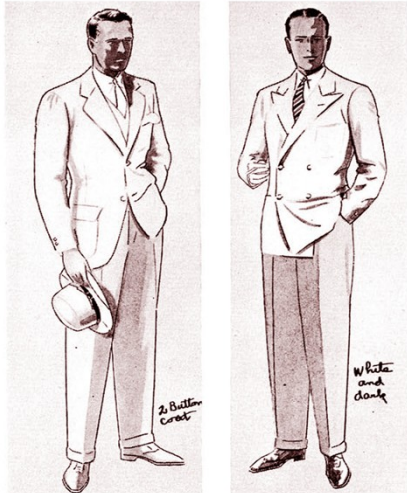
Come on by and get your weekend started in true Southern California style.



Fashion Corner

(Summer fashions from a 1932 Magazine Advertisement)

Suggestions for Vacation Days



New White Palm Beach Suit—in raised weave. Coat cut on smart “man-about-town” lines. Two-button, with well defined waistline.

To the right: White jacket and dark trouser ensemble. Coat of new white Palm Beach in a swagger double-breasted. Trousers, slack style—in blue gray.

● Yes, the white suit is here to stay. It's finding favor in town and country as well as leading surf resorts.

The New Palm Beach presents the authentic White Suit of summer. It offers, in fact, a combination of features that no other white suit can—It is really cool, not only in looks but in fact. It is slow to soil and better still—slow to wrinkle. It holds its shapely lines

OldMagazineArticles.com

Summer fashions

better than any washable white suit in the world.

It may be washed or dry cleaned again and again. It will never shrink or stretch; in fact, trips to the laundry actually seem to improve its good looks.

It is shown in a host of smart, swagger models. Double breasted—single breasted. Suits with vests and suits with knickers. Also extra plus-four knickers and tennis slacks.

The New Palm Beach is likewise shown in rich blues, handsome greys, field browns and ecru. Every style-shade of summer is represented in this famous warm weather cloth.

See your favorite clothier—and be sure to demand the New Palm Beach made by Goodall. The trade-marked label in the coat hanger assures you that it is the genuine. Always look for that label before you buy.

Goodall Co., 200 Fifth Ave., N.Y.



Tweedy knickers, made of the New Palm Beach. Full plus-four effect with pleats—cut along easy, generous lines. Comfortable seat; perfect drape. Much in favor with the sportsman and resort.

The New Palm Beach “Sand-bags”—latest innovation for the beach. Made with deep double pleats and side straps with belt of same material. Roomy, high-waisted—decidedly smart. In Butcher Blue, Russet, Canary and White.

OldMagazineArticles.com

For Sale

Several years ago, the club put in a rebuilt engine, worked on everything from the electric carburetor, alternator, etc., etc., The only issue I'm having now is tweaking the brakes.

Asking \$10,000 or best offer
Jack Goldberg 310-770-1267



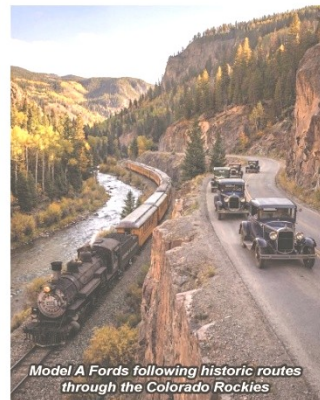
MARC
NATIONAL TOUR
&
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
★ MAY 17-20, 2027 ★

“A” GRAND TOUR IN GALENA

GALENA
ILLINOIS

FOLLOW THE TRACKS OF TIME

The 2027 MAFCA National Tour
Durango, Colorado
June 13-18, 2027



Model A Fords following historic routes through the Colorado Rockies

From ancient stone dwellings and narrow gauge rails to legendary mountain highways, the 2027 MAFCA National Tour traces America's story from the driver's seat of a Model A Ford.

Based in Durango, Colorado, this unforgettable journey blends historic landscapes, iconic roads, and the fellowship of those who believe the best way to experience history is to drive through it.

Some Stories Are Best Told At 45 MPH

Tour Highlights

- *Aztec Ruins National Monument Tour
- *Mesa Verde National Park Tour
- *Million Dollar Highway Tour
- *Pagosa Springs & Wolf Creek Pass Tour
- *Spend a Relaxing Day with breathtaking views on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

*Model A displays, car games & social events



Join us on the Road
Hosted by the Model A Ford Club of Colorado

Scan the QR Code to go to our website:
www.mafcc.org/2027-mafca-national-tour

Registration Opens August 1, 2026





HARBOR AREA MODEL A CLUB
Pumpkin Palooza

BBQ SLIDERS
 PUMPKIN PIE FUN HOT DOGS + FIXINGS
 FOOD FRIENDS

Saturday, October 24, 2026
4208 Via Pinzon
Palos Verdes Est., CA 90724
10 AM - 3 PM
Mark Your Calendars

Pumpkin Plant Adoption - \$20.00 each

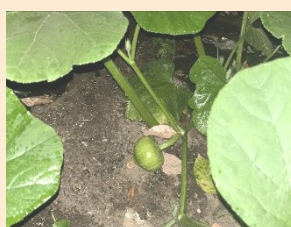
We are adding something new to our Pumpkin Palooza. Our own Farmer Jim and his green thumb are busy growing pumpkins for our upcoming Palooza. To raise funds for the club, he has created an opportunity for individuals or couples to adopt one of the "Max Pumpkin Plants" he's got growing. Cost of adoption is \$20 each. Each adopter gets the opportunity to select and gather one giant pumpkin from one of the six "Max Pumpkin Plants" he has (each of which will produce a number of pumpkins in the 40-90 pound range) plus one pumpkin from the "Wart Pumpkin Patch."



July 13th



July 20th



Aug 1st



Aug 3rd



Aug 9th



Aug 13th

Adopters will automatically be entered in the Morning Raffle Event. Your lucky drawing will determine your turn in selecting your pumpkins from the patch and secure your bragging rights. Join the fun and stay tuned for the growth progress in the next newsletter and on our website at: harborareamodelclub.com!



Showcase your business with an ad in this newsletter and on the web-site.
Contact our Merchandise Officer for pricing.

Amanda Shelden
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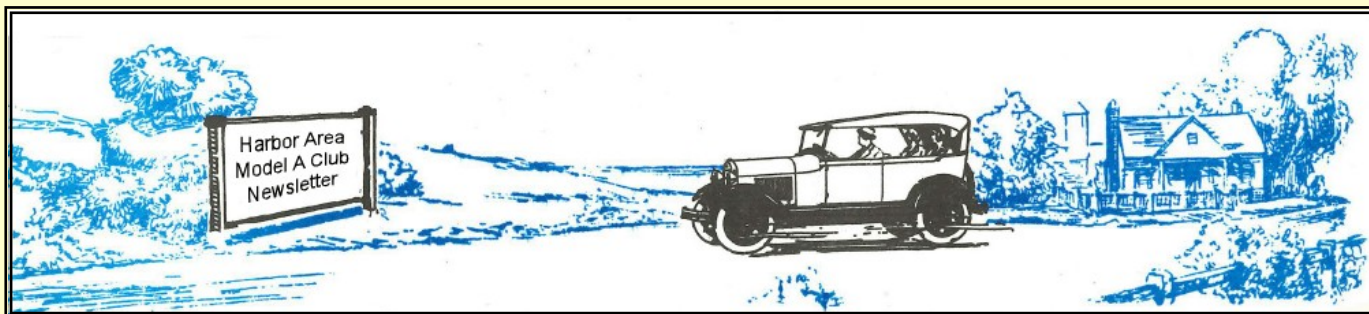
Aquarium of the Pacific

100 Aquarium Way
 Long Beach, CA 90802
 1-562-590-3100

Snyder's Antique Auto

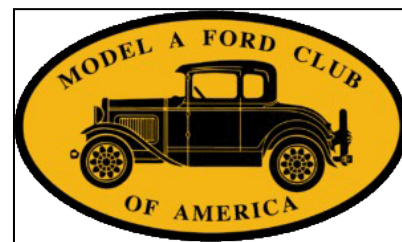
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For MARC info and membership,
see www.ModelARestorers.org



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

The Harbor Area A's meet monthly, generally 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.

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