# Harbor Area MARC / MAFCA

Torrance, California

# July 2008

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# Next Business Meeting:

•Friday, July 25th, 2008, at 7:30PM at the Walteria Clubhouse. Come early and visit with friends. Swap/sell Model A car parts at our table-top swap meet.

## Next Board Meeting:

•Tuesday, July 8th, 2008 7:00PM at the home of Drain and Doris Marshall. Their address is: 5153 Willow Wood Rd., Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274. Ph: 310-378-5061.

## Next Tours and Events:

•June 22-27, 2008. MARC/ MAFCA World Meet, Dallas, TX.

- Saturday, July 5th. Local Tour.
   MacArthur Park Museum, San
   Pedro. Maybe the Lane Victory,
   too. Lunch nearby.
- •Friday-Sunday, July 11-13. Solvang 'Wings and Wheels'.
- Saturday, July 26th. National Model A Ford Day. Special tour to Oxnard car museum

## Next Technical Seminar:

None scheduled right now.



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Notes
from the
President
By Steve Preston



Some days are so perfect that the only conceivable way to meet them is with a great big ol' smile! Memorial Day was like that. It began with putting out the flag and remembering the sacrifice of all of you men and women who served so faithfully and valiantly so that we can be free. And remembering that so many laid down their lives for us.

Then, with absolutely PERFECT weather we met at the parade assembly area to join in the Redondo Beach Memorial Day parade. WOW!! With the beauty of the day, the incredible views of the ocean along the right side of the parade route and all the red, white and blue reminding us what the day was about, well a smile was the only appropriate response. Unless your A overheated (ask Art and Daffy about that).

If all that wasn't enough, Mirco and Elaine Pisu hosted a BBQ for all who participated in the parade and a few who couldn't. I can't remember a better time at a "picnic." We hung out there so long that we actually had TWO servings of burgers and sausages (thanks Mirco for firing up the grill twice!!). We just sat around yakking, munching, deciding just how Mirco's new engine should be machined and put back together and, well just generally enjoying hanging out together. It was enough to make one of those Easter Island statues smile!! Now, THAT'S why Becky and I enjoy being part of this great club.

Somewhere in this issue, you will see an article about making a list of all the folks that are related to this club and who are serving in and around Iraq. Make sure to get your info to us as we want to make sure each one of them know that they are loved and appreciated as they fight so we can have the freedom to parade around in 80 year old Fords!!!

The Board met a couple of nights ago to lay out plans for...the FALL!!! We set dates for the Garage sale and Progressive brunch/dinner and discussed just how much the meals should cost. Make sure to keep looking for the details in upcoming issues of the HarborLight. And make sure to mark July 5 on your calendar. We have a GREAT Tour planned to the San Pedro area, ending with lunch at one of my favorite places, Acapulco Restaurant in Ports 'o Call. Should be a day to make an A driver smile!!!

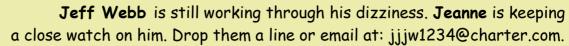
#### Editor's Corner: by Dick Wyckoff

My effort to send the newsletter to you by email is showing signs of success. As of right now, 24 people have signed up to get their HarborLight this way. At roughly \$1.00 per copy including postage, that works out to an annual savings to the club of close to \$300! Don't be shy and let me know if this works for you. I don't have email addresses for all in the club, so send it to me or let me know at janndick@earthlink.net or call me at 310-322-8863. I have added a lot of color and it really looks neat. Print your own copy.

If you have items to sell in the <u>Wheels & Deals</u> section, email / call me / mail me with what you have. Thanks again and keep driving those As.

**NOTE:** If you have <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> pictures of your Model A project, find a way to get them to me. I would like to have a section in the HarborLight to show off your efforts and accomplishments. Email or snail mail some pictures with a little info and I will publish them. I will return them to you.

# Member's Update . . .



'Hot truck' **Art Wagner** is working out the details for a hip replacement. August sometime is on the calendar. Go for it. Art!

Rod Gott seems to be doing better. Rod is a Harbor 'founding father', you know, and lives in Vista. Jack Gordinier keeps in touch.

Don Miller still needs a back pack. It has an oxygen bottle inside. The doctor thinks a little supercharging will help the breathing. Hope it works out well, Don.

Our thoughts are with **Becky Preston**. She is checking with her doctors for further evaluations. Hugs to you, Becky.

# International Model 'A' Day

A number of Model 'A' Ford owners around the world have come together and proclaimed Saturday, July 26, 2008 as International Model 'A' Day. This first year is coincidental with the 80th year of the Model 'A' Ford's first model in 1928.

To celebrate the day, and their car's 80th birthday, thousands of Model 'A' Ford restorers and preservers will be taking their cars out for a drive, and to socialize with other Model 'A' enthusiasts. The specific activities will be determined by each local group found in all 50 states and about 30 other countries. Some groups will be driving to picnics; others will participate in 'car games', car shows and contests to help celebrate the day.

Our president, Steve Preston, is working on a great tour on Saturday, July 26th, to help celebrate the birthday event. We will be going to Murphy's Classic Car Museum in Oxnard. It will be a leisurely coastal tour of about 60 miles. Looking forward to this one!

<u>Weekly Summer Car Gathering</u>: If you are looking for some place to go during the summer months on <u>Fridays</u> between 4 and 8PM, you might check out **Ruby's Restaurant in Redondo Beach** near the pier and lagoon. Anywhere from 50 to 150 cars of all types congregate and enjoy the beach weather. Several Harbor club members visit regularly, have a bite to eat and look at the hot rods, classics, and antique vehicles. Stop by and say hello.

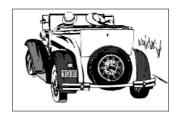
## Weekly Family Food Festivities:

Many of the Harbor members meet at the **Hot 'n Tot** restaurant each <u>Monday</u> at about 5PM for dinner. Drain Marshall likes to call it 'Spaghetti Night' because the Monday night dinner special is all you can eat spaghetti with a salad at \$5.75. Join us for dinner. The Hot 'n Tot is located at 2347 Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita, CA. It's about a half mile east of Crenshaw Blvd., north side.



# Terrific Tours!

By Elaine Pisu



On Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> the Harbor A's toured to the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar. If you have never been you must make the time to enjoy this wonderful place. When we met at Mills I asked if we wanted to take the freeway or surface streets. Nita immediately said, "definitely surface streets." We had a reservation at 10 AM so off we went to find Sepulveda Blvd and head north. Mirco and I had scouted the route the prior weekend and had found out that Sepulveda goes over the hill and into the valley. Well taking surface streets took a little longer to get there but we arrived in time for our tour. When we got there, Toad asked why we took surface streets and I told him his wife requested it. His reply was. "Why'd ya listen to her we would have been fine."

There are 2 parts to the Nethercutt Museum, one area that is open to the public and a 3-story building that you have to have a reservation for. We first took the private tour, which included a palace with African marble pillars that were about 25 feet tall, marble floors and huge crystal chandeliers as the show room for some of the fabulous car collection. 15 full time employees maintain the collection, and it shows. The cars were absolutely glowing with perfection. One was more fabulous than the next but all were in perfect shape. I am trying to convince Mirco to put marble on the floor in the garage so maybe the truck will look better??

On the stairway to the second floor was a player grand piano that played for us as we climbed the stairs. The second floor was half the size of the building and had a great view overlooking the car palace below. It had a collection of every hood ornament you could imagine. They also had a marble collection as well as some wonderful antique desks.

The grand finale was the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor that had antique musical instruments. One was a player banjo inside a case that played for us. Another interesting one had four violins above a piano that all played for us automatically, what an invention. Another grand piano played Gershwin for us as a stunned guest sat at the keyboard, she didn't know she had it in her but she took a bow just the same. To end the tour we listened to Phantom of the Opera on the pipe organ that left us speechless.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor theatre area has a monthly concert series and sometimes a silent movie with an organ concert all for free. But as Drain pointed out maybe at \$5 per gallon for gas it's not completely free, but well worth it just the same.

After finishing the tour we wandered across the street for a tailgate party on the Pisu's suburban and then headed into the other building full of cars. Some of the ladies wandered over to the Merle Norman counter and had our makeup done. Once we were all dolled up we had our dates take us closer to the studios in Burbank hoping we might be discovered. We landed at the Bob's Big Boy in Burbank. I didn't see Jay Leno nor were any of us discovered but our makeup looked great and we enjoyed our burgers and malts. Come join us next time.



Elaine Pisu's favorite 1913 Rolls Royce



Drain Marshall will take two of these 1909 Gabron-Brilles



# Technical Talk with Bill Newell

# Model A Gas Gauge

The Model A Ford was a little short on instruments and gauges. With only an ammeter and a gas gauge, little is known about the health of the running engine. Sometimes the gas gauge fails and needs help.

Fortunately, the principle of operation was very simple. With the gas tank mounted basically in the driver's lap, all Henry had to do was put a cork on a wire with a clever little swivel mechanism and mount it where the driver could see it, at the top of the dash panel. Actually, this has worked very well for many, many years except for one thing. The cork sank after all this time! No surprise there but with the addition of ethanol and other 'green' components in today's gas, the problem happens more often. One of the solutions is to replace the 'cork' with a new neoprene float available from our many Model A suppliers. Some clever mechanics have actually soldered carb floats to the wire and achieved the same results. Anyway, replacing the float and the gaskets to the tank with the latest materials solves the problem. The simple job requires simple specialized tools available from the club's tool collection. (Check with Bob De Crescenzo).

Note: Per the Feb 1928 Service Bulletin, 'Always disconnect the battery cable before removing the gas gauge' and per the June 1928 Service Bulletin, 'To prevent spillage, gas tank should not be more than half full when replacing gauge'.

The **technical seminar** on replacing the head gasket on Monty Bates' car went well. With about 12 supervisors and a couple workers, the process went off without a hitch. With Monty supplying the refreshments and Bill Newell supplying the garage, all the basics were covered. Some in attendance were relatively new to the Model A world and got to see the inside of a Model A engine for the first time. Simplicity in design has made it last this long. At last report, the engine and owner are doing well.



Our hosts, Ellen and Bill



Jack inspecting the process



Supervisors meeting



Bill actually working!

Headgasket seminar at the home of Bill Newell and Ellen Peterson, May 24th.



Art holding class on headgasket theory

# Ursi's Uptown Lowdown



By Ursula Schmidt

# Classic or Clunker?

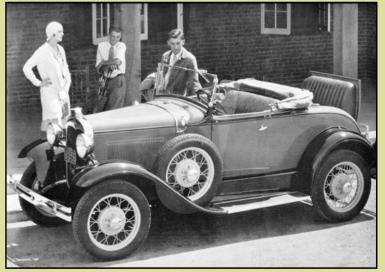
To get back to the question whether the Model A should be considered a "Classic" or a "Clunker", I am inclined to call it a real "Working Man's Classic". And I venture to predict that it would be recognized as such, once it becomes a little rarer as time goes on. Well over five million Model A's were built, and as both a car and a memory, this rascal dies hard.

One of the surest signs of the Model A's progress towards its enshrinement as a Classic is the fact that these cars are becoming more costly to buy. (No matter what condition they are in). With each passing year, it is nicer to own a car that appreciates rather than depreciates in value. A 1930 Model A Town Sedan sold for \$640 new. The fact that Model A's now qualify as antique, may also mean that you save on insurance costs in addition to the savings on fuel. If you have a do-it-yourself attitude towards servicing the car, you can enjoy yourself without being a contortionist or owning a set of wrenches that were specifically designed by a drunken pretzel bender.

The styling of a Model A is about as functionally honest as you can find. It has fun touches too, such as the fold-down windshield and rumble seat for lovers of the wind-blown look. It has little steps on the rear fenders and rear bumpers, guiding the passenger up to the rumble seat. Many a shapely leg

was admired in the process. It has the spare tire between the bumpers which was the forerunner of today's Continental Kit.

How about the unique underneath styling, which gives you a fat nine inches of road clearance? Does the Model A have the dignity that a "Classic" requires? That depends on where you sit, high up in the driver's seat looking down on modern cars, or in the passenger's seats, waving and smiling like the queen. And then of course, there is the air-conditioned rumble seat. I say it has sufficient dignity, but you be the judge, "Classic" or "Clunker".



# New 2008 Membership Roster info:

The new phonebooks/rosters are available and will be distributed at future get-togethers. The first booklet is free, additional copies are \$2. They are also available free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail. Please call Ursula at (310) 539-5391 to place the order.

<u>A Request from Ursi</u>: Please give her your email address. We can use this for fast notification of event changes and possible future mailings of the HarborLight <u>in color!</u>

# Bits and Pieces, Odds and Ends













Ron and Sandy Ragon at Pisu BBQ on Memorial Day



Becky Preston and Elaine Pisu at Pisu's BBQ 2008



Master Chef Mirco Pisu cookin' the chow on Memorial Day 2008

# July Birthdays:

- 1 Doris Marshall
- 1 Steven Thompson
- 8 John Exline
- 8 Loralyn Thompson
- 10 Mike Wright
- 11 Dave Pierson
- 13 Mirco Pisu
- 18 Donnis Bates
- 20 Joe Freitag
- 25 Cliff Heise



# July Anniversaries:

- 2 Beverly & Vince Migliazzo\*\*
- 3 Elaine & Mirco Pisu
- 9 Sandy & Ron Ragon
- 23 Carol & Bob Olsen

\*\*58 years for Migliazzo in 2008



# Excerpts from Harbor Board and Business Meeting Minutes:

Service Project Proposal—June Board meeting

At the June 2008 Board meeting, Mike Wright proposed a new service project for the Harbor As. Quoting from the minutes of that meeting "Mike showed us a list in the newspaper of 492 people in California who have died in the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. He shared with us that we could donate calling cards to a friend of his who is serving in the Middle East. If the friend has more than he can use, he can distribute them to others in his unit. If you would like to donate cards to Mike Wright, he will get them to his friend. We will publish the information in the HarborLight."

"The editor will request in the HarborLight newsletter names of friends and relatives serving in the military overseas. When we complete the list, we will then generate a list of things that can be donated to these people. We will have a letter writing campaign for service men and women before the holidays."

In the <u>Old Business</u> section: It was brought up by the president that we should have a permanent storage area for all our club's documents and history. "We need a place to display our trophies and a place to store our records."

Also in <u>Old Business</u>: Mike Wright is collecting pictures for a new web site. He will get the web site organized and set up beginning in July.

New Business: Projector: We need a video projector so that we can see pictures each month. Could we buy one? They cost \$700—\$800. A screen is about \$200. If we see a deal, could we pick one up? We would also need amplifier and speakers.







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# Tours and Things:

- •Saturday, July 5th. Local Tour. <u>MacArthur Park Museum</u>, San Pedro. Marine Mammal Rescue Center. SS Lane Victory Memorial Museum (time permitting). Lunch at Acapulco Restaurant, Ports of Call.
- •Friday Sunday, July 11-13. Solvang 'Wings and Wheels'. This is a fun event. About a 140 mile drive along the coast. Great tour of Solvang area.
- •Saturday, July 26th. National Model A Ford Day. Tour to Murphy's Classic Car Museum, Oxnard. The lead will be the Prestons. Sign-up sheet available.

# 2008 Treasure Hunter's Calendar



Saturday, June 28th 3rd Annual Model A & T parts exchange and car show. This is located at the El Dorado High School, 1651 Valencia Ave, Placentia, CA. Further info from Larry McKinney — 714-963-2724. Open from 6AM to 2PM. Friday—Saturday, July 25 -26th. Long Beach Model T Swap Meet. Veterans Memorial Stadium, Long Beach. More info to come.

**Sunday**, **August 24th**. San Fernando Swap Meet. Rancho San Antonio, 21000 Plummer, Chatsworth. \$2 admission. Info: Dave at 818-347-3202.

Sunday, September 28th. Paradise Valley Swap Meet. Loc'n: Western Little League Head-quarters, 6707 N. Little League Dr., San Bernardino, Ca.

# Other Future Happenings and Events:

- June 22-27 MAFCA/MARC <u>Joint World Meet</u>. This is only the 3rd time there has been a dual meet like this. It is being held in Addison, Texas, near Dallas. Lots of information in the *Model A News* or *The Restorer*. Early estimates of 1200 or more Model As to be there.
- •Saturday, August 23rd- Picnic and car show in El Segundo. A park near the Wyckoff's has been reserved for a picnic from 10AM to 2PM. Lots of easy access parking. The Police Officers Association is sponsoring a car show in downtown El Segundo the same day. Free!
- •September 4—7 <u>Labor Day 4th Annual Rally</u> in Quincy, CA. Gold Country festivities NE of Sacramento, CA. Rustic, cowboy-like outing with BBQ and campfires. Feather River As hosting.
- Saturday, October 4th—Annual <u>Garage Sale</u> to be held at the garage of Bill and Gloria Younkin in Torrance. Start saving your treasures now. Great money maker for the club.
- •Friday, October 24th—Annual Fall Pot Luck business meeting. Also, nominations for next year's officers will be open. Food at 6PM, meeting at 7:30PM.
- Saturday, November 1st—Annual <u>Progressive dinner</u>. Three secret stops with breakfast, lunch, and dessert. Cost: \$5/member. \$10/quest. Non-refundable.

9

# Wheels & Deals:

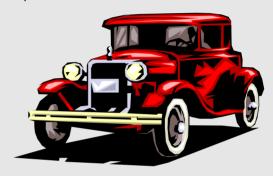
#### For Sale:

- \* <u>CD</u> with great quality images taken at <u>Anniversary Picnic</u> for you to enlarge and print yourself. <u>Absolutely</u> <u>free!!</u> DVD slideshow taken at Picnic for sale. Each has about 213 photos with music. \$5. each. Sue: (310) 782-0082 (before 7:00 pm on workdays). You can email me: modelababe@dslextreme.com
- \* Harbor Model A Club 50th Anniversary pins. Reduced price! \$3 each or 4 for \$10. Dick: (310) 322-8863.
- \* Model A parts for sale: Panel Delivery doors, original. Each measures 21 1/2 X 48 1/2 x 1—\$450 Pr. 1 set original 30-31 side splash aprons—\$135 Pr. 1ea. 30-31 Radiator clean and rodded out \$275. 1 ea. Sedan rear floor pan—\$125. 1 ea. 29 Windshield frame, no rust-\$225. 1ea. 30-31 Gas tank, \$245. 1 ea. RF Slant windshield door, \$225. Contact Frank at 310-463-3239.
- \* Model A parts: '28-'29 Headlight bar. Chrome plated. Good condition. \$25 Dick: 310-322-8863

#### Wanted:

- \* Model A ahooga horn. Contact Monty at 310-516-0468.
- \* Used greeting cards (complete cards please). We will recycle them.

Ursi (310) 539-5391 and Doris (310) 378-5061







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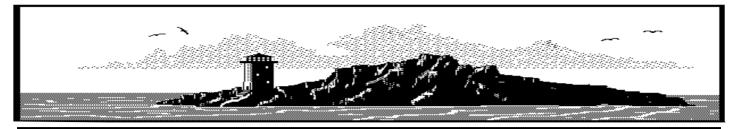
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The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Walteria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 242nd St. in Torrance, California. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and 1 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's and have fun while doing it.

#### **Board of Directors:**

#### President:

Steve Preston (310) 669-9902

Email: Steve@Preston53.com

#### Vice-President:

Bill Younkin (310) 316-8722

#### Secretary:

Donna Heise (310) 323-2186

#### Treasurer:

Cliff Heise (310) 323-2186

#### Tour Director:

Drain Marshall (310) 378-5061

#### Technical Director:

Bill Newell (310) 328-5560

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#### Historian:

Sue Hankins (310) 782-0082

#### Sunshine Secretary:

Doris Marshall (310) 378-5061

#### Advertising:

Drain Marshall (310) 378-5061

#### Safety:

Dick Lusk (310) 539-5391

#### Refreshments:

Elaine Pisu (310) 793-1789

#### Appointed Officers:

#### Tools:

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# THE HARBOR LIGHT

Harbor Area MARC/MAFCA 19009 S. Laurel Park Rd. Sp.#330 Dominguez Hills, CA 90220-6058



Fly the flag on July 4th!

