

# HARBORLIGHT



## Harbor Area MARC / MAFCA

Torrance, California

### November 2008

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### Next Business Meeting:

• Friday, November 21st, 2008, at 7:30PM at the Walteria Clubhouse. Come early and visit with friends. 2009 Board elections. Be sure to come and vote for next year's Board.

##### Next Board Meeting:

• Tuesday, November 4th, 2008\_7:00PM at the home of Mirco and Elaine Pisu, 5520 Carmelyn Ave, Torrance, CA 90503. Ph: 310-793-1789.

Visit: [www.Harbor-MARC.org](http://www.Harbor-MARC.org)

##### Next Tours and Events:

• Saturday, November 1st. Progressive dinner. Details page 9.  
 • Saturday, November 8th. Mystery Tour led by the Pisu. Details on page 9.  
 • Monday, December 1st. Fourth annual, after dinner visit to Sam Fine's garage in Lomita to see the Christmas display. Dick Lusk to lead.  
 • Friday, December 12th. Annual Christmas light tour in Torrance after club business meeting. Gathering after at Pisu's.  
 • Sunday, December 14th. Christmas parades in El Segundo and Wilmington. More to follow.



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*Notes*  
*from the*  
*President*  
*By Steve Preston*



As I write this, the Frazier Park tour was just last weekend. What a PERFECT day! Beautiful weather and great HMARC friends enjoying a relatively easy drive up the mountain and back down. Of course the Pisus might not think it was such a great ride.

After all the work, their pickup still overheated. We have all been there: Frustration heaped on disappointment as dollars and hours mount up in the challenge to get Henry's Lady on the road with some degree of dependability. And then there are the 157,783,149 different opinions of the various A-ers as to what the problem is and how to solve it that we waded through to get this far.

I remember when we had the Cabriolet the crazy thing kept upchucking water. No matter what I did, it just wouldn't keep the water in the radiator. So, we kept on trying whatever the budget would allow and kept a jug of water on hand. We had little money, and the Model A was a key piece to the family "down time," so it was doubly frustrating that we couldn't enjoy the car more.

The problem was that I didn't even know about MARC or MAFCA then. I had learned mechanics from my Grandpa, and worked in a garage for an old fella that began with Ford as a mechanic in 1919 so I knew Model As pretty well. My Dad and I had built the Cabriolet from the frame up, after all. And I had built lots of other car engines and had patched more than a few old Ford trucks together. So mechanical knowledge and ability was not the problem.

But what I lacked was the expertise and camaraderie of a bunch of folks who love Model As, and who not only drive them on occasion but have learned their eccentricities and foibles. If I had a bunch of HMARC friends then, I would have soon learned that the problem was that we were overfilling the radiator! As I think back, I can remember the exact scenario and now recognize the problem thanks to some of you as you helped me with the same situation on the Tudor.

As I have said before, there is simply no substitute for the fun of a tour going just about anywhere when we can see teacup taillights ahead of us and eyebrow fenders behind. Especially when we know we get to hang out with our A-friends when we arrive at our destination. And there is nothing quite like a bunch of Model A friends getting together to help troubleshoot a friend's ailing A.

Hopefully, by the time these words are edited and hit the press, Mirco and Elaine will be enjoying their pickup, with whatever ails the cooling system fixed. But if not, we know that they can depend on their HMARC friends until it is repaired. And we know that every member of Harbor MARC/MAFCA has that same opportunity.

It begins with coming to the monthly meetings and getting acquainted. This coming meeting is our semi-annual potluck, and there is no better way to get to know a group of folks than over an overloaded Styrofoam plate of goodies. We will also be electing next year's officers. So, why not make it a point to come out and get acquainted? Who knows, you might need our friendship the next time your A is ailing.

Blessings!

## Member Update . . .



**Sammy**, the daughter of Dick Lusk and Ursi Schmidt, is recovering very well from her surgery. Thanks for all the thoughts sent her way.

**Jan Wyckoff** is looking forward to knee replacement surgery this month. She is tired of a gimpy knee and wants it fixed! This will be done by the same doctor that did **Daffy** and **Art's** surgeries. Small world, eh?

**Jeff Webb** is having a rough time. The doctors are still trying to figure things out. See the note below from Jeanne.

Dear Dick: Hope I'm not too late for the HarborLight. A BIG THANK YOU for all the phone calls, cards, thoughts and prayers, **Jeff** really needs them as he's not doing well. His doctor is still trying and we thank him for that. Love you all and miss you all very much.  
Love, Jeff and Jeanne

### Visitor:

At the September meeting, we were introduced to a visitor, **Jay Mason**. Jay is a photographer using only vintage cameras and vintage techniques. He is restoring a late 1931 Wide bed Pickup. Hope you join the club and we can assist you in your fine looking project!  
Welcome, Jay.



### Weekly Family Food Festivities:

Many of the Harbor members meet at the **Hot 'n Tot** restaurant each Monday 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.

### Editor's Corner: by Dick Wyckoff

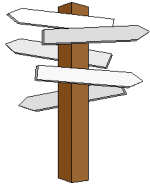
I don't have an email address for all in the club, so send it to me or let me know at janndick@earthlink.net or you can call me at 310-322-8863. I have added a lot of color to the HarborLight and it really looks neat. Instead of mailing, I will email it to you. Then just print your own copy or two and enjoy. Emailing the HarborLight instead of mailing saves the club more than \$12 a year per copy.

Check out the new web site [www.Harbor-MARC.org](http://www.Harbor-MARC.org).

If you need something or have items to sell, advertise them in the Wheels & Deals section. Email / call me / mail me with what you have. Thanks again and keep driving those As.

**NOTE:** If you have before and after 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. Thanks.





## Fundraiser Fun

By Dick Wyckoff



We just completed our annual garage sale on Saturday, October 4th. It was held again this year at the home of **Bill and Gloria Younkin**. Bill started collecting 'treasures' on Friday and by Saturday morning, we had a whole front yard full of things for sale. Buyers were showing up as early as 6:15AM to check out the goods even tho we didn't open the gates until 7AM! **Bobby and Lowane Younkin** and **Cliff and Donna Heise** were first team members there to



'The Girls' selling the 'treasures'.

help set up. Within the next hour, or so, we had the entire sales contingent present. This included **Drain and Doris Marshall**, **Jack and Joan Gordinier**, **Richard and Jeanne Parrish**, **Elaine and Mirco Pisu**, **Al Avoian**, **Rhoda and Paul Larquier**, **Ursi Schmidt**, **Dick and Jan Wyckoff**, and **Mike Wright**.

By 1:30PM, most of the 'good' stuff was gone so we started closing up shop. Mike gets rid of a lot of things by having an 'all you can put in the bag for a dollar' sale. This usually clears a

few more item from the tables.

It was a nice day and we did pretty well with our fundraiser.



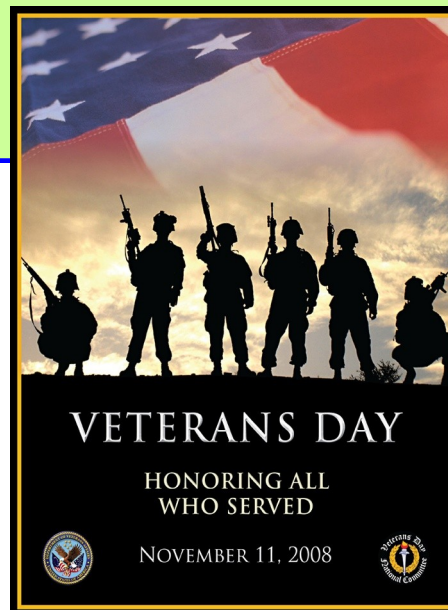
Overall picture of garage sale



Al, Bill, and Drain showing us how the couch works!

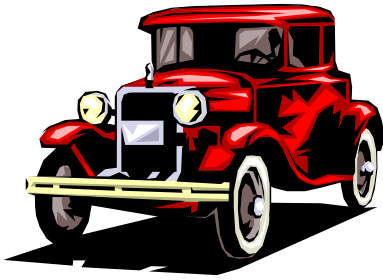


Happy Thanksgiving

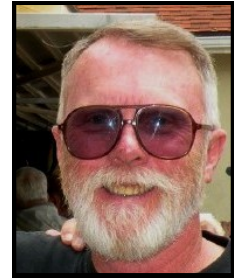


Don't forget to thank our veterans for their service. Remember: This is the land of the free because of the brave.





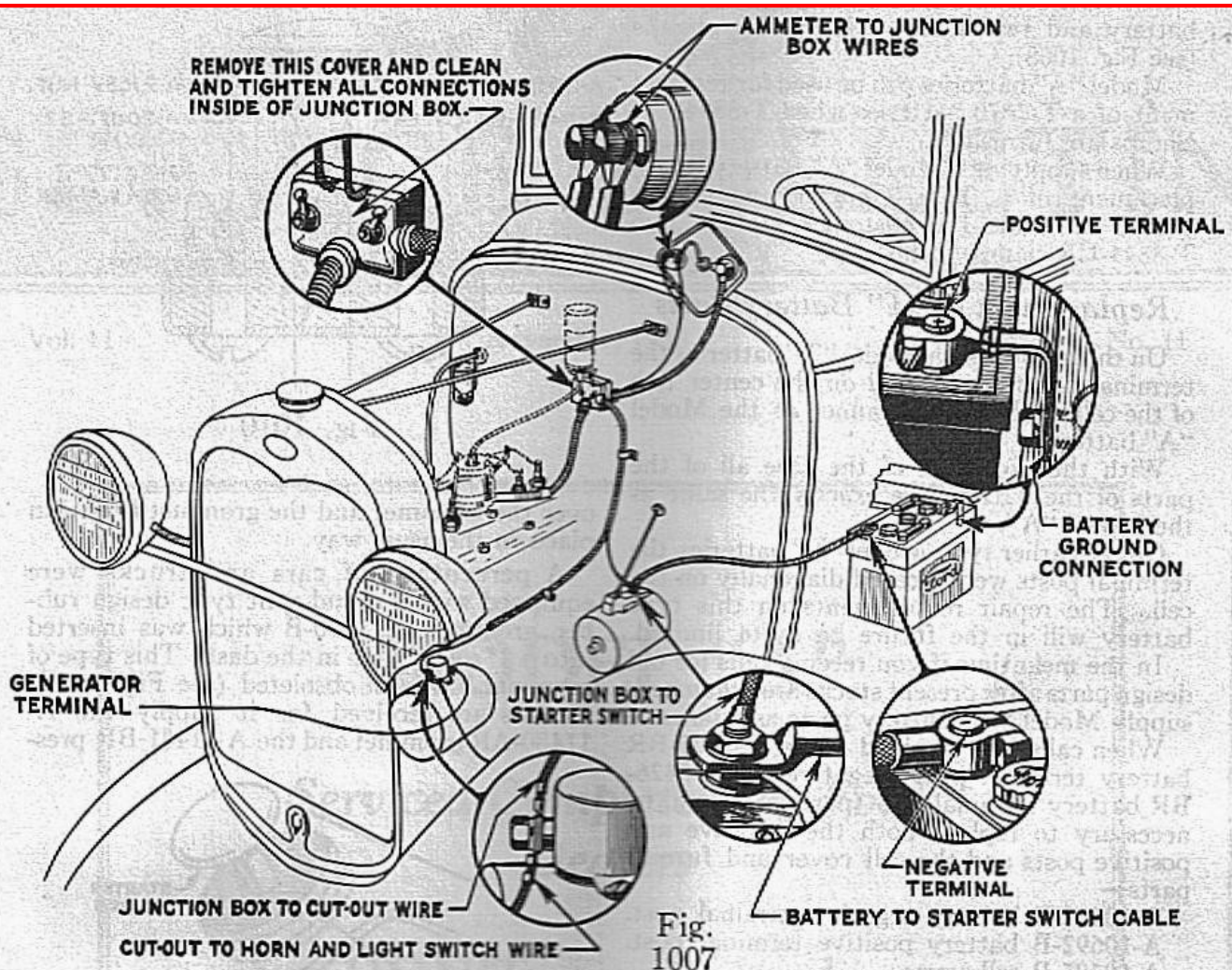
## Technical Talk with Bill Newell



### Model A Electrical Service Review

Even tho we live in a mild climate here in Southern California, it is important to take a few minutes each year to make sure the electrical system in our Model As is up to par. We have seen many problems traced back to corroded terminals or loose connections. Problems such as a lazy horn, hard starting, overcharging, dim lights, non-operational electric windshield wiper, etc. can be traced to poor connections.

Below is a page taken from the Ford Service Bulletins that covers all the basics for proper service of the electrical system. Take a few minutes and review your car's electrical health. Your Model A will be better for it.



*These connections must be kept clean and tight.*

# Ursi's Uptown Lowdown



By Ursula Schmidt  
Membership Chair



Now that the economy is sinking into the toilet, it is time to write about out houses. In the old days farms had all kinds of out-buildings that were called out houses. There were wood sheds, well houses, smoke houses, wash houses and many others. Nowadays when the talk goes back to the out house of times gone by, we think of the energy- and water-saving, smelly little huts behind the farm house. You know, the one with all the flies and spider webs. But this building wasn't called the out house, it was called "the privy". Some were fancy solid brick structures, decorated to match the main house while others were just simple wooden huts.

Did you know that the one for the ladies had a half moon carved into the door because the moon was considered female. The one for the men had a sun carved into the door because the sun was considered male.

Let's hope that the economy soon stops mooning us and that toilet paper doesn't become more valuable than paper money.



## Annual Dues Renewal Time

Please send your **\$58** dues for membership renewal for 2009 (\$20 for the Harbor MARC and \$38 for the National MARC ) and your entries to:  
Ursula Schmidt, 26419 Pineknoll Ave. Harbor City, CA 90710.

## 2008 Membership Roster info:

• Phonebooks/rosters are available and are available at all 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.



## A Visit with a Veteran

By Dick Wyckoff

About two weeks ago, Dick Lusk and I had a wonderful visit with a fellow veteran and Model A owner, Dave Pierson. A while back, Dave mentioned that he had a hangar in the Torrance airport with a vintage airplane he restored. With Veteran's Day this November 11th, I thought this would be a nice story.



Dave Pierson's T-34 with two Model As at Torrance Airport

On a beautiful morning, we all agreed to meet and take some pictures of our Model As and the vintage aircraft. We met at the hanger and when Dave opened the door, there sat a beautifully re-stored, yellow 1956



Dave Pierson and Dick Lusk

Beechcraft T-34 trainer. We rolled it out onto the runway and positioned Dick Lusk's '28 Phaeton and my '29 Roadster PU for pictures. Dave explained that his plane was the last of the prop driven trainers before the jet era began. He has owned it for 20 years. Dave has installed a new 300 HP engine that will let it cruise at 185 MPH!

I asked Dave how he got interested in planes. He said he always loved machinery and became a plane mechanic in 1943 in the Army Air Corps and eventually became a pilot. He flew 11 missions in fighter-bombers in the Pacific in WW2. Dave was called back to duty in Korea and flew 110 more missions there. He stayed in the reserves and eventually retired as a Major. During his time in the military, he also



Dave Pierson doing pre-flight

flew helicopters and a jet one time.

Dave and his wife Joy have four kids. He made a living for many years as a machine shop owner.

Back to the runway ..... I asked Dave how often he flew the plane. He said about once a week just to keep up his skills. He went on to say that at 85 years old, he had to keep his flying edge and if he felt he didn't have that edge, he would quit flying. You gotta love a guy that knows his limits!

He then asked if I would like to go for a ride. I was caught off guard, not expecting a plane flight. I immediately said YES. After a preflight inspection, we fitted our parachutes and strapped ourselves into the fore and aft seats. I flew in the rear, of course! A little discussion with the Torrance tower and away we went. What a ride! That plane is the smoothest, quickest, nicest small plane I have ever ridden in. Dave is a skilled, smooth, extremely competent pilot and has not lost his edge. We did 30 minutes of maneuvers and sight-seeing and landed smoothly back in Torrance. What a ride. Thanks, Dave, for all you've done for our country.



Dick Wyckoff, co-pilot

### November Anniversaries:

- 6 Bob & Phyllis DeCrescenzo
- 20 Blanca & Modesto Bolanos
- 21 Linda Freitag
- 25 Rhoda & Paul Larquier
- 28 Georgette & Al Avoian

### November Birthdays:

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 5 Paul Jamesson | 12 Steve Newton      |
| 6 Bob Younkin   | 13 Linda Firth       |
| 6 Bill Younkin  | 17 Wilber Richardson |
| 8 John Perruzza | 26 Pat Yacklon       |
| 10 Dick Lusk    | 28 Jan Wyckoff       |

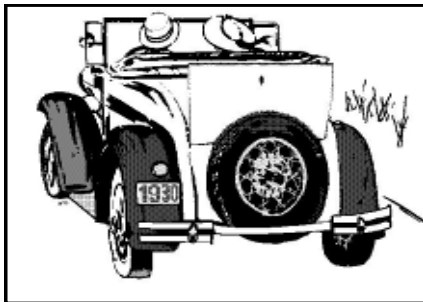
## Excerpts from Harbor Business and Board Meeting Minutes:

**September 26th, '08 Business meeting:** Monty Bates led us in the salute to the flag. The treasurer, **Cliff Heise**, reports we are healthy. **Gloria Younkin** mentioned the we are ready for the garage sale next Saturday. Historian **Sue Hankins** requests any club activity pictures be sent to her to be included in her year-end photo memory disk. **Ursi Schmidt** reminded us of yearly dues are due. **Dick Lusk** has done 36 safety checks on our As. Tour Director **Drain Marshall** had a poster board with pictures of the Quincy ranch weekend. He also mentioned Meza, AZ weekend and the progressive tour on the 1st of Nov and the mystery tour on the 8th. Technical guy, **Bill Newell**, reminded us of the steering gear seminar at Pat and Sue's on the 18th of October. **Bobby DeCrescenzo**, tool keeper for the club, mentioned new tools donated. Prez **Steve Preston** reminded us of the pot luck next meeting.

**October 7th, '08 Board meeting:** Thanks to **Doris** and **Drain Marshall** for hosting. President **Steve Preston** opened the meeting at 7PM. Treasurer **Cliff Heise** reports the income and expenses for the month. **Gloria Younkin** reported the garage sale was successful and turned over the proceeds to the treasurer. VP **Bill Younkin** mentioned that we hold our own on the meeting raffles. Membership reminder from **Ursi**—Dues of \$58 due. **Dick Lusk** has made arrangements with Sam Fine to visit his holiday decorated four car garage on Monday, 1 December after Hot 'n Tot. Sunshine chair, **Doris Marshall** kept us up to date with Jeff Webb. Tour Director **Drain Marshall** mentioned the upcoming parades and tours. We had 5 cars and 11 people at Frazier Park. **Mike Wright** gave us an update on the new web site. Don't forget the nominations for next year's officers and pot luck dinner at the October 24 meeting. Next meeting at **Pisus**. December meeting at **Wyckoffs**.

## News Flash! Hear ye, hear ye

**Mike Wright** and **Elaine Pisu** have gotten the new Harbor website up and running. It is in the beginning stages but looks great. Check it out. [www.Harbor-MARC.org](http://www.Harbor-MARC.org).



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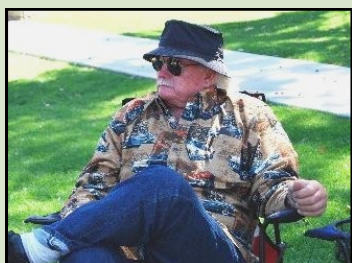
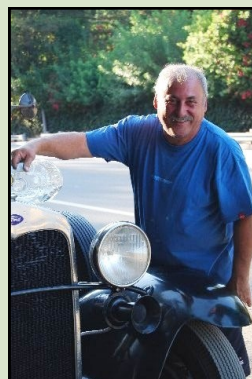
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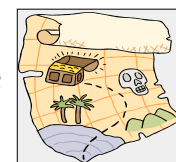
## Frazier Park Tour



Pictures by Elaine Pisu

## 2008 Treasure Hunter's Calendar

- **Saturday—Sunday, January 23-24.** Turlock Swap Meet at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock. Gates open at 7AM. See: [Turlockswap-meet.com](http://Turlockswap-meet.com).
- **Friday—Sunday**, last weekend in February, giant swap meet at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. Exact dates when available.



## Future Happenings and Events:

- **Planning Ahead:** Please consider being a member of next year's 2009 Board. Openings include: Treasurer (2 years), Secretary (1 year), Tour Director (1 year), and Technical Director (1 year). (The pay isn't great, but the rewards are plentiful!)

The nominations start at the October 24th meeting. Final elections at November 21st meeting.

- **Friday, October 24th**—Annual Fall Pot Luck business meeting. Also, nominations for next year's officers will open. Food at 6PM, meeting at 7:30PM.

- **Saturday, November 1st**—Annual Progressive food tour. Three secret stops with breakfast, lunch, and dessert. Cost: \$5/member. \$10/guest. Non-refundable. Meet at Mills (190th and Western) at 8:30AM. Drain Marshall to lead. This is always a fun day, so join us!

- **Saturday, November 8th**—Mystery Tour led by the mysterious Elaine Pisu. We will meet at Mills restaurant (190th & Western) at 8AM and proceed from there.

## **Wheels & Deals:**

### **For Sale:**

- Two complete '30-'31, single-bulb headlights in good condition. These are used on cars with cowl lights. \$75 each. Also, a 12-volt Ahooga horn \$40. Contact **Joe** at 310-831-6316.

### **Wanted:**

- Model A frame for speedster project. Willing to take the old one off your hands or negotiate a price. Contact **Bill Newell** at 310-328-5560.
- Staples and canned food for a Food Drive. Nothing too old please. All goes to a very good Christian Transitional Housing Organization in Hollywood. You'll be doing a very good thing! **Sandy Ragon** is collecting the food at the monthly meetings. Thanks so much. Sandy (310) 532-7553.
- Wanted: Good, reliable, hopefully inexpensive, used car (modern) for my 17 year old nephew, Call **Sue Hankins** 310-782-0082 before 7:30 pm.
- Used greeting cards (complete cards please). We will recycle them.  
**Ursi** (310) 539-5391 and **Doris** (310) 378-5061.



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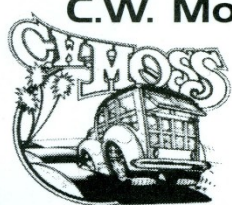
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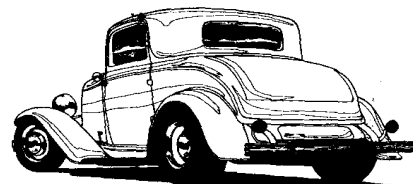
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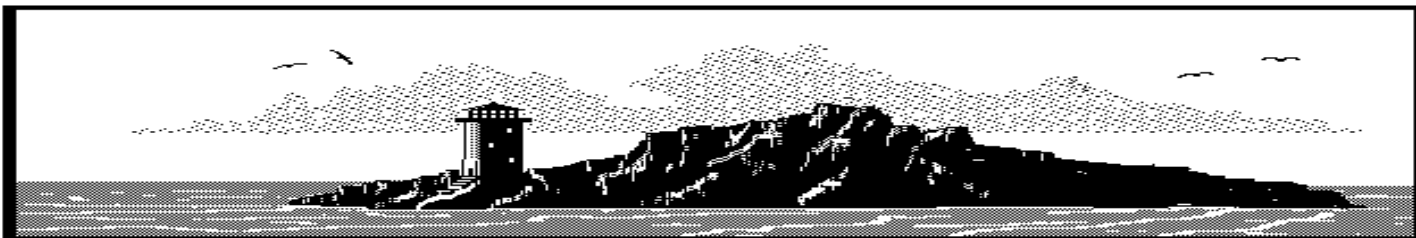


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The Harbor Area A's meet monthly on the last Friday of every month at the Walteria Park Clubhouse, located at 3855 W. 242nd St. in Torrance, California. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (The park is located about 1-1/2 blocks west of Hawthorne Blvd. and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

**Appointed Officers:**

**Membership:**

Ursula Schmidt (310) 539-5391

**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:**

Bob DeCrescenzo (310) 540-3690

**Sergeant-at-Arms:**

Monty Bates (310) 516-0468

**Webmaster:**

Mike Wright (310) 516-9309

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# THE HARBOR LIGHT

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*November 2008*

