

Harbor Area MARC / MAFCA

Founded in Aug 1957. Torrance, California.
57 years of driving history!

March 2014

The HarborLight Newsletter
was awarded the **MARC**
Newsletter Award of Excellence
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012



Progress!

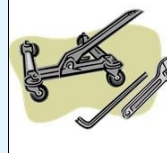
Al Avoian's AA truck is coming along. There is still a lot of work to be done but at least it looks like a truck now. This is a late, Sept? 1931 truck with indented firewall and solid metal top. We're working on the flatbed at this time. Engine sounds good, too!

Tours

Elaine is always looking for new ideas for tours. Give her a call with your thoughts. Some ideas: Museums, collections, scenic rides, car meets, weekend events, picnics, etc. Don't be afraid to drive your Model As. That's what this is about!



Technical Activities



We are still working on Al Avoian's AA truck (or any other projects) at Al's garage. The truck bed is coming along. Meet there at 10am on Thursdays and we'll work on whatever projects happen to show up. Let's get Al's truck on the road again. Stop by and join in.

Upcoming Business Meeting

The next business meeting will be **Friday, February 28th at 7:30PM** at the Waleria Clubhouse. New year, new members, new ideas The **March meeting is March 28th** Come by and join in the fun. Doors open at 7pm for set-up.

Next Board Meeting



The **February** board meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 4th** at 7PM at the Auto Driving Museum in El Segundo. All welcome.

Please visit our awesome website
Check in it at:

www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com

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Tim's Team Talk
A Note from our President
Tim Harrison



"A" View from the Slow Lane

As we begin 2014, I believe the strength of our club is in our membership. Our Monday night dinners at Hof's Hut always number 30 plus energetic people sharing ideas and stories of past Model "A" experiences and plain old socializing. (Gary usually tells a motorcycle story.)

Members are eager to meet at Al's garage on Thursdays to work on Al's "AA" truck and other projects as they come up. There is also renewed interest in Saturday seminars at Al's garage for the working (FEW) to garner help and expertise.

The coming of daylight savings will invite tour goers to spruce up their cars and do those much needed maintenance projects. Cliff LeFall will be organizing our annual safety check to help with any needs or concerns you might have about your "A".

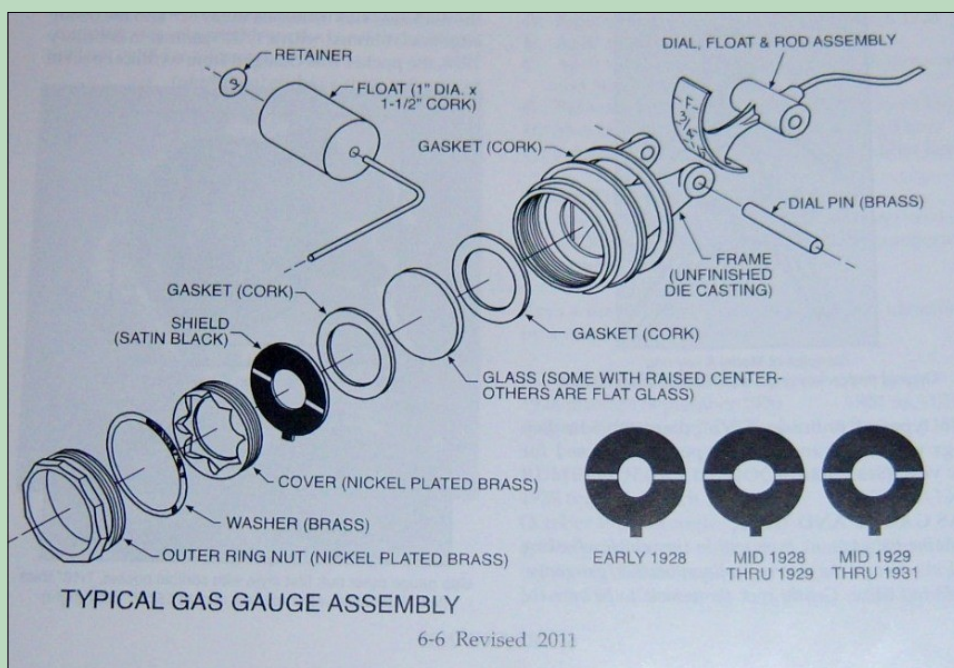
I know Elaine is looking forward to our March 15 trip to El Camino College for "Girls in the Garage" followed by a trip to the Western Museum of Flight. I am sure there will be a stop to eat somewhere in there to round out the day.

I would like to thank Elaine and Mirco for hosting the annual Super Bowl Party at their house with the record attendance of 30 plus people. It wasn't much of a game but the food and company were great. And we still haven't decided how Mirco won the pool.

I know Monty has been actively working to get ready for his first raffle of the year including a trip to C.W. Moss in Orange.

As I end, I would like to say as Monty would say, it is important to enjoy our cars, have fun, and enjoy each other.

Tim



Gas Gauge Assembly

At a recent gathering, the discussion was about the proper sequence to assemble the Model A gas gauge. This schematic was on Fordbarn.com recently and answers the question. The only update is to use the neoprene float available from vendors. This is because of the ethanol gas being used today damages the cork float.

March Birthdays

8 Richard Parrish
12 Margret Gott
17 Ellen Peterson
21 Bill Gaugler
24 Jay Skinner
25 Diana Murphy
25 Jack Goldberg
28 Jim Perreten
31 Al Avoian



March Anniversaries

7 Jan & Dick Wyckoff
7 Tim & Pat Harrison
10 Donnis & Monty Bates
20 Daffy & Art Wagner
24 Janice & Ted Dalton
31 Joy & Dave Pierson

Editor's Corner by Dick Wyckoff

I went over to Al Avoian's garage a couple weeks ago and helped a little with the AA truck project. Sure looking nice. I offered some suggestions and helped solve a couple problems. Maybe soon we'll see it driving around.

For those that like swap meets, if you didn't go to the one in San Diego on the 22nd, you missed a big one. There are always Model A parts for sale that you didn't know you needed. Lots of items move from one garage to another. . . .

Oh, don't forget Mondays, 5pm at Hof's Hut, 237th and Crenshaw in Torrance. Can't forget the food!

Changing the subject a little, we editors are always looking for articles of interest to put in the newsletters. There must be some interesting Model A stories waiting to be told. For instance: How long have you had your car? Was it your first car? Have you driven it on some great journeys? Was it a family car? Did you restore it yourself? Do you have before and after pictures? Did you take a neat picture at a club event? Email them to me, or if you have photos, I can scan them and put them in the newsletter. Either way, let me know.

I have been encouraging new members of the Harbor club to receive the HarborLight by **email**. I am also asking existing members to do the same. Just let me know your current email address. It's that simple. The club saves a little more than one dollar each month per email subscriber. I have an email distribution now of 43 people from the Harbor Club and 34 others. This is more than \$800 per year savings, **AND** it is **color**! You can print it out in B&W or color if you want, enlarge it, send it to your friends, or save it in your computer files. Again, just let me know your email address. If you want a sample email version, let me know also. I will send you one.

The newsletter is distributed to many other clubs locally and to other parts of the country. If you have an **item for sale**, let me know. I will put it in the **'Wheels and Deals'** section. Thanks



2014

MAFCA
National
Convention

"Model A Gallup
to Puyallup"

Puyallup,
Washington
July 14-18, 2014

Website:

2014mafanational.org



Harbor 'Sunshine Status' by Doris Marshall

Dan Fitzgerald - Dan is having surgery to help a pinched nerve in his back. It is scheduled for March 2nd. He will be in Torrance Memorial hospital. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Dan.

Dick Lusk - From Ursi ; Dick needs a new heart valve and possibly a bypass. Robotic surgery can not be done and he will need open heart surgery. More info: Dick's most recent appointment has been postponed. Instead, he is doing jury duty.

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, 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.

Come on by, have a cup of Starbucks, and get your weekend started in true So. California style.



Monday Supper at Hof's Hut

We have been meeting for dinner on Monday at Hof's Hut on 237th and Crenshaw for a while now. The food is good and Norma takes good care of us. Come on by and join in the festivities. Time: about 5PM.



2014 Membership, Roster and Club Items: by Ursula Schmidt

The **Harbor phonebooks/rosters** are available at all get-togethers. The first booklet is free to members. Additional copies are \$1.50 They are also available free of charge through e-mail. Club members that don't attend events can request a phonebook/roster by mail. Contact **Ursi Schmidt** at 310-539-5391.

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 HarborLight.

Jan Wyckoff and Jim Huizdos are working on new club golf shirts with collars and embroidered Harbor logo. She will be taking orders for shirts at the February meeting. Jan will also have sample sizes and colors. Estimated cost will be about \$20. Choice of colors will be grey and royal blue in both men's and women's sizes.



2014 Harbor As Annual Dues time:

Ursi Schmidt is collecting annual dues. She collects club dues, \$25, and national MARC dues, \$38, at the same time. She will mail in the MARC dues for you. If you are writing a check for the \$63, make it out to **HARBOR MARC**.

You can mail your check to Ursi at: 26419 Pineknoll Ave., Harbor City CA 90710.

Welcome our new members!

The club welcomes Rhoda Larquier's two sons,

#1046 **Paul Larquier**, 1034 N. Lincoln, Burbank CA 91506 and

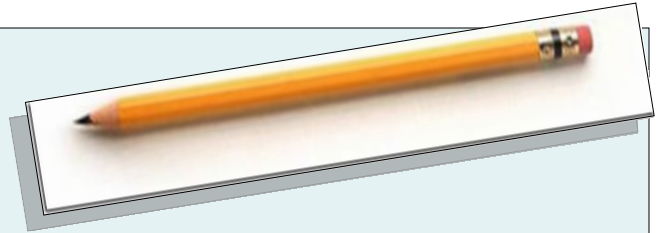
#1047 **Michael and Teri Larquier**, 3710 W. 172nd St., Torrance CA 90504.

Mike and Teri have a '30 Model A Coupe

Business Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18, 2014

Location: Proud Bird Restaurant



As is the tradition, the January business meeting is the Harbor Awards Banquet. Many people are acknowledged for their contributions to the club and the new and outgoing Boards are recognized. As previously published, our Man of the Year for 2013 is Art Wagner and our Woman of the Year is Donnis Bates.

The 2013 leadership did a great job and we know that the new Board will continue the tradition.

Elaine Pisu is continuing on as Tour Director. This is not an easy task and she would appreciate any suggestion and assistance from the members. There are some events that happen every year that we all look forward to and we will participate again this year. The Orange County Pancake Breakfast, the Henry Ford Picnic, Wings and Wheels, and International Model A Ford day. There are parades, car shows, museums, and swap meets thrown in for flavor in there too.



Our new Technical Director, Cliff LeFall, is looking for ideas for seminars. We know there are possibilities for things like seat belt installations, water pump rebuilding, wheel bearing inspections and packing, mechanical brake adjustments, engine tune ups, safety events, etc. Cliff would love to hear from you and maybe provide a location for an event. Talk to Cliff!

Monty Bates and Tim Harrison have traded jobs. Now it is VP Monty who will be looking for donations to the club raffle each month. Many of us have new Model A related items that will not be used that could be donated to the cause. The gals could contribute, too. Let Monty know.



Yellow Traffic Light

The light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.....dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious-looking police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up.

He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally....I assumed you had stolen the car."

Priceless

Technical Talk

Adjusting Mechanical Brakes

Mechanical brakes have sort of been a mystery in making them work properly. We follow the directions in all the publications and they never seem quite right. We then assume that that is the best they will be. Marco Tahtaras, one of the gurus of Model As, and others answered a question on Fordbarn.com recently that all of a sudden made sense. It seems most of us are working with worn parts to some degree or another while the Model A publications assume everything is new. Marco stepped back and modified the procedure to allow for some wear. This was done on Jan Wyckoff's Cabriolet and Steve Preston's pickup with great success.

The following three paragraphs answering the question were taken from the **Fordbarn.com** discussion:

The question posed was "Why didn't the brakes work when he followed the books to the letter. . ."

1. How did you set the levers at 15 degrees? If you did so with pills (push rod shims) then your shoes are FAR from centered. If you just leaned the levers forward by lengthening the rods then you have essentially deactivated the front brakes. There should be NO backlash at the levers. That means you push each lever rearward SOFTLY until it stops. Then set the length of the rod so the pin slips through with it in that position.

2. You mention adjusting with the wrench, which means you're turning the square headed do-hickey, that's the adjusting wedge. Keep adjusting that until the drum barely turns freely from the tight locked position. Work the actuating lever a few a times and readjust the wedge again until the drum barely contacts the brake shoes. You want the drum/wheel to turn freely. Then, leave it alone. Next look at the actuating lever, pull/push lightly toward the back of the vehicle to remove any slack. It should still be forward of vertical. Then pull on the brake rod, loosen the lock nut, and adjust the brake rod clevis until the clevis pin just fits into the clevis. That's it.

Take for a ride and see how it acts. If one wheel needs a little correcting, then I readjust the rod length, but, most give a wedge a click [tight wheel a click looser]. Overheated drums come from too much contact with the shoes.

3. With the brake rods disconnected, I adjust the front brakes until they lock, then back off until they just turn free. Pull the lever back by hand until free movement at the lever is removed. Adjust the clevis on the brake rod until the clevis pin will just enter the hole on the brake lever. This will have the brake shoes ready to expand when you push the pedal. If you are trying to adjust the brake rods to an exact length like a certain mechanics hand books say, that is your problem. All slack has to be removed at the brake rod connection or the brakes will be poor or NO brakes at all.

(A drop of oil on the clevis pins wouldn't hurt either).



Touring with Elaine
By Elaine Pisu, Tour Director



Getting' Started in 2014

We had a wonderful turnout for the Super Bowl Party at the Pisu's Palace. Mirco was the big winner in the pool. We had 40 people there and enough food for 75. Those of you that couldn't make it missed out on a fun afternoon in spite of the not so great football game.

Okay Harbor A's, it's time to start touring again and here we go.

On March 15th we will meet at 8:45 leave at 9:00 AM at Harbor Freight on the corner of Artesia and Hawthorne Blvd. We will then head to El Camino College where they are having an event called "Girls in the Garage" Workshop and Car Show, admission is free. They are asking that we wear something from the era of our cars so dig out those cool hats or whatever you have and let's support the local gals.

We will then head to the Western Museum of Flight to hear Tim Lynn a KTLA news helicopter pilot speak. His presentation is called "Eye in the Sky Reporter." There may be cockpit demonstrations of the Angel City Air Chopper depending on availability.

Last but not least we will end our outing by going out to lunch. Hope you can join us.

Super Bowl Sunday at the Pisu's



Wheels & Deals:

For Sale:

- A '32-34 Model B four cyl. **Exhaust manifold**. Show condition, no pits, great muffler flange. \$100
If interested, contact Dick at 310-322-8863. El Segundo CA
- A set of **21" wheels** and useable tires (50%). Also, a parade (exhaust whistle) horn.
If interested, contact Richard Thompson at 310-245-3343. Redondo Beach CA
- **19 inch whitewalls** , 4 of them, about 20% life left in them. Tires only, no rims, Great for a roll around project - 40 bucks for all four !!! Contact Bobby at 310-540-3690 Torrance CA

Wanted:

- **Used Christmas and greeting cards.** (Complete cards please). We will recycle them.
Ursi (310) 539-5391 and **Doris** (310) 378-5061.

Harbor Club Tool List by Bobby DeCrescenzo, Tool Custodian

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MEMBER _____ DATE _____

AMOUNT RECEIVED, CHECK OR CASH _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> RATCHET NUT WRENCH | 17. <input type="checkbox"/> VALVE GUIDE REMOVAL TOOL |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> FRAME SPREADER | 18. <input type="checkbox"/> GAS GAUGE REMOVAL TOOL |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> FRONT SPRING SPREADER | 19. <input type="checkbox"/> CLUTCH DISC ALIGN TOOL |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> REAR SPRING SPREADER | 20. <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTOR PULLER TOOL |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> SPREADER WRENCH | 21. <input type="checkbox"/> JUDGING STANDARDS BOOK |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINE LIFTING TOOL | 22. <input type="checkbox"/> STATIC WHEEL BALANCER |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> REAR AXEL HOUSING SEAL DRIVER | 23. <input type="checkbox"/> CHAIN FALL HOIST |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> PINION PULLER | 24. <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINE HOIST |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> (2) PINION NUT WRENCHES | 25. <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTOR BUSHING REAMER |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> SHIFT LEVER SPRING COMPRESSOR | 26. <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT SWITCH SPIDER INSTALL TOOL |
| 11. <input type="checkbox"/> STEERING WHEEL PULLER | 27. <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINE STUD REMOVAL KIT |
| 12. <input type="checkbox"/> CAM NUT WRENCH | 28. <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRIBUTOR TIMING "Z" WRENCH |
| 13. <input type="checkbox"/> REAR HUB PULLER | 29. <input type="checkbox"/> VOLTAGE TESTER |
| 14. <input type="checkbox"/> KINGPIN REAMER | 30. <input type="checkbox"/> IGNITION SPARK TESTER |
| 15. <input type="checkbox"/> BRAKE SHOE RIVETING TOOL | 31. <input type="checkbox"/> PILOT BEARING PULLER (2 PIECES) |
| 16. <input type="checkbox"/> BRAKE PEDAL ADJ. TOOL | 32. <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR HINGE PULLER |

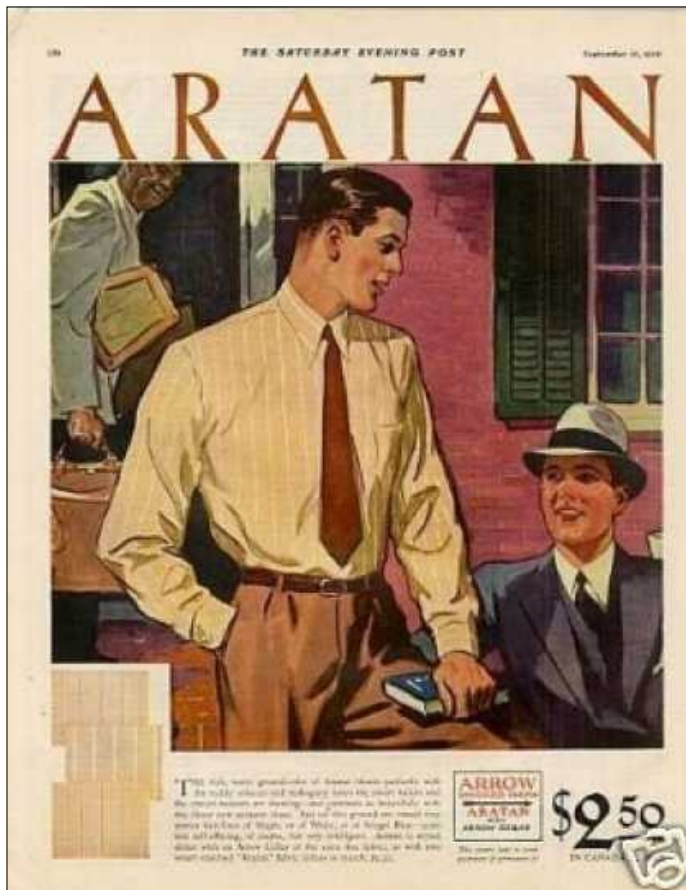
____ TOTAL NUMBER OF TOOLS CHECKED OUT

TOOLS RETURNED _____ DATE: _____ CONDITION: _____

DEPOSIT RETURNED _____ DATE: _____

Lots of Car Events of Interest for 2014

- March 27-30 (Thur-Sun) - The Laughlin Meet** sponsored by the Pomona Valley Model A Club. Held at the River side Hotel in Laughlin NV. Contact Barbara Branam at Barbara.branam@gmail.com.
- April 4-6th, 2014 (Fri-Sun) - CCRG** in Paso Robles CA. Host hotel is Holiday Inn. Info on MAFCA website.
- April 11-12, (Fri-Sat) - HCCA Swap Meet** in Bakersfield at the fair grounds. Ming off ramp of 99. one mi east
More info: 661-325-2840.
- April 27th, (Sun) - Orange County MAFC Annual Pancake Breakfast** at Hart Park in Orange CA
- May 23-26, 2014 (Fri-Mon) - NCRG** in Malpitas CA
- June 28th (Sat) - Orange County Model T Club swap meet.** El Dorado High School 1651 Valencia Ave, Placentia 92870. 6AM to 2PM
- June 29th (Sun) - Henry Ford Picnic** by the Downey MAFC, Diamond Tread Chapter. Santa Fe Springs
- June 29th (Sun) - 44th Antique Nationals** Auto Club Dragway 9300 Cherry Ave Fontana CA Info: 661-255-1931
- July 11-13, 2014 (Fri-Sun) - Wings and Wheels** in Solvang CA.
- July 14-18, 2014 - 2014 MAFCA National Convention.** Puyallup Washington. Website: 2014mafcannual.org
- July 26th (Sat) - Long Beach Model T Club 60th annual Swap Meet.** Los Alamitos Race Track. Free admission.
- Sept 13th (Sat) - Orange County MAFC** will host the **International Model A Day** event. More info when available.
- October 5th (Sun) - Frazier Park picnic** sponsored by the Bakersfield MAFC.





Tranny Troubles by Bobby DeCrescenzo

On Christmas morning I got a gift I REALLY DIDN'T WANT. On the way home from church, the transmission in our Tudor decided to give up by breaking two teeth off of the cluster gear! After limping home, I took the shifting cover off and there the two teeth were laying in the bottom of the case. I had to decide whether to pull the engine or pull out the rear end in order to drop the transmission out. It was decided to take the rear end out while the newly ordered parts were on their way. I bought all new gears, bearings, spacers, shafts and gaskets. I had a new clutch disk ready to go. With the tranny out, cleaned and inspected, it was a breeze to reassemble it with the help of Les Andrews Model A Mechanics Handbook. I had the car back together and running in a few days. I encountered a problem shifting it (the new gears were grinding badly). After a few clutch pedal adjustments, it was much, much better.

But there is one adjustment I did not know about until after I finished the job. I thought I would write this to let anyone who might do a transmission in the future and not check this adjustment. It is the "clutch pressure plate finger adjustment" that has a specific measurement and can be adjusted while the car is apart. Very simply --- with the new clutch disk in and the pressure plate bolted to the flywheel, you take a straight edge across the back of the pressure plate and then with a scale ruler measure from the bottom edge of the straight edge to the top of the fingers of the pressure plate. This measurement should be between 5/8" and 3/4" with 11/16" being the nominal distance (article by Tom Endy). You can adjust this space to 11/16's by loosening or tightening the six finger adjustment nuts. VERY IMPORTANT to remember to re-stake the nuts after this adjustment. Reference the Mechanics Handbook page 1-66 to see any of this information.

It was a great learning experience.

Happy Motoring



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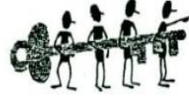


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For MARC info and membership, see
www.ModelARestorers.org



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 Walteria 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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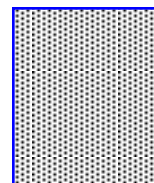
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The HarborLight



From:
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Dick Wyckoff, Editor
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El Segundo CA 90245

March 2014



Dave Pierson and Dick Lusk
with Dave's T-34 trainer
2008

TO: