

Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

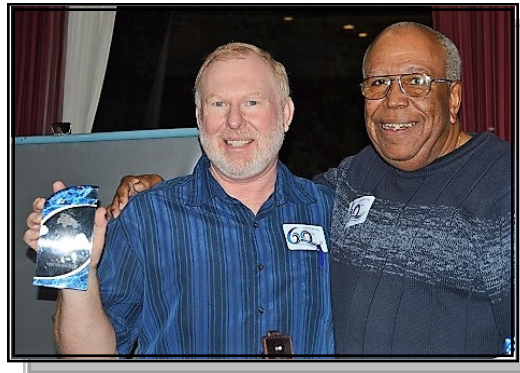
Dedicated to preserving and driving the Model 'A' Ford

Founded in 1957. Torrance, California.
Celebrating 60 years of driving history!

March 2017



Harbor's Woman of the Year Pat Harrison



Harbor's Man of the Year Phil Bonneau with last year's winner Cliff LeFall

HARBORLIGHT



Tours

Don't miss the big swap meet in San Diego on the 24th to the 26th of February at the Qualcomm Stadium. We purposely moved the club meeting to a week earlier so you could take this event in! Lots of great stuff you didn't know you needed.

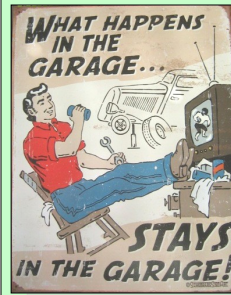
Upcoming Business Meetings

The February business meeting will be **Friday, February 17th, 2017**. (Note change of Fridays). We will meet at the Waleria Clubhouse at 7:30pm. Come a little early and help set up and chat with your Model A friends. The March meeting is Friday, March 31st at Waleria

Technical Activities

Al's Garage is open again every Saturday morning about 10am to about noon. Bring in your project and let the experts have a look at it.

Head gasket replacement was the last project. Bring it by. . . . Hope to see you there!



Next Board Meeting

The March Board meeting is **Tuesday, March 7th, 2017** at 7PM. It will be at the Toyota Auto Museum, 19600 Van Ness Ave., Torrance Ca We will be planning upcoming events. All are welcome.



Please visit our awesome website
Check it out:
www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com



inside...

- 2 Monty's Team Talk
- 3 Birthdays/Anniversaries-Editor's Corner
- 4 Club merchandise
- 4 Local car gatherings
- 5 Business meeting notes
- 6 Tech Talk — Thermostats
- 7 Local car events

- 7 Touring with Elaine
- 8 Wheels & Deals— Call for recipes
- 9 National news—MAFCA,MAFFI, MARC
- 10 Al's Garage
- 10-11 Our Advertising Friends
- 12 Officer List & Mailing Info



Monty's Team Talk
A Note from our President
Monty Bates



"A" View from the Running Board

"It was not a fit night out for man nor beast" much less sixty plus members of the Harbor A's...but that sure didn't stop us from a having a terrific night at our annual banquet!!!! Long Beach set a new record by receiving over four (4) inches of rain in a twenty four hour period...an experience none of us will soon forget. "The Reef" proved to be less than five (5) stars so I doubt they will be hosting another of our parties. At least we got to witness a very bad version of Harry Houdini, didn't we? My thanks to all those involved in making the very best of a bad situation. I propose a "day time" banquet for 2018, don't you agree?

Springtime will eventually arrive and with the improvements in our weather, we are getting ready to kick off some great new adventures!!! One of my favorites is the Antique Car Show and Swap Meet held at the Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego...so much to see and so many things I probably don't need but just must have! Lots of tours and outings even some overnights! Our great Tour Director is already routing "sign-up" sheets. It looks like we gaining another new member and two (2) cars while other members are adding to their personal collections. Stay in touch, be kind to one another and above all...

Be safe out there!

Monty



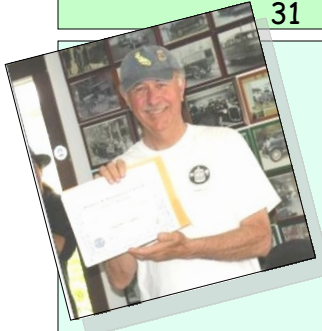
March Birthdays

- 3 Dianne Runyon
- 4 Mary Ann Friedrich
- 8 Richard Parrish
- 12 Margret Gott
- 24 Jay Skinner
- 25 Diana Murphy
- 25 Jack Goldberg
- 28 Jim Perreten
- 31 Al Avoian



March Anniversaries

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



Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

The weather hasn't been that wonderful here in So. Cal. With all the rain, we haven't driven the Model As that much. We still have our weekly gathering at Al's Garage. We got Drain Marshall's coupe going again with a new head gasket. Some of the members had never seen that done before so it was a good learning experience. Looking forward to some great swap meets coming up. The one closest to us is the San Diego meet the end of February. Another is April 6-8th in Bakersfield sponsored by the HCCA. Always a fun time checking out the treasures and swapping tales with old friends. Like I always say, "I didn't know I needed it until I saw it!"

Members are looking forward to the CCRG in Porterville CA in March. Hopefully, Jan and I can make it. As mentioned recently, she has had some health issues. The good thing lately is that she doesn't have to be on oxygen full time any more. That was a big change in the way we travel. We'll see. Keep your fingers crossed.

The Harbor Club is planning for a 60th anniversary party this fall. Lots of details to be worked out. Should be a fun affair.

Keep driving those As and watch out for old cars with old people driving 'em.

Dick



A little behind the scenes info and requests from the editor

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 about \$1.25 **each month** per email subscriber. I still have 38 snail mail subscribers with an email distribution now of 56 people from the Harbor Club and 34 others. This is more than \$950 per year savings, **AND** it is in **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



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 the staff takes good care of us. Come on by and join in the festivities. Time: about 5PM.



2017 Dues are due!

Ursi Schmidt is still collecting dues for 2017. Send your Harbor dues of \$30 to Ursi. Make check out to **Harbor MARC** and send to:
Ursula Schmidt
26419 Pineknoll Ave.
Harbor City, CA 90710
If you would also like to pay MARC national dues at the same time, add \$45 and make the check out for \$75. She will then forward your \$45 to MARC.



Looking for a set of good usable **Original 1931 Tudor sedan Rain Gutters**. Must be 65" Long. Not 1929 they are a little too short for the 1931. The 1929 used the drip rail corner / tip in the front corners. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you.

Justin 661 944 0356. Please leave a message if I'm not in.

2017 Membership, Roster and Club Items:

Thanks to **Gloria Younkin** for stepping up and working the club's merchandise effort. We have hats, shirts, patches, t-shirts and we will be adding 60th anniversary items soon. More to come.

The **2017 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** will be 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. Make sure Ursi has your latest info.

Just a note: We regularly update the roster. If you have any address changes, phone number changes or email changes, let Ursi know. Let Dick Wyckoff know, too. He'll put the info in the *Harbor-Light*.

Members and family will be missed

50 year member, **Bob Pahls**, passed away January 20, 2017. A WWII Navy vet was not active in recent years due to health reasons. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Laurie and family. RIP Bob. . .

Gloria Younkin's 94 YO mother passed away of natural causes last month. Her remains were cremated and returned to Iowa where she will be laid to rest. Our thoughts are with you also, Gloria.

Gary Gutormson's mother passed away of natural causes in January also. She had been in declining health for some time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you also, Gary.

HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB MEETING

Date: January 22, 2017 Location: The Reef - Long Beach

6:00 - 7:00: Members began to arrive and socialize. Opportunity drawing tickets were sold and the gift display was reviewed by all.

PRESIDENT: Monty Bates welcomed everyone to the banquet 7:00p.m. There was a delicious salad, dinner and desert.

We started our formal awards and installation activities at around 8:00p.m.

MYSTERY GUEST

Marty G - a local Magician entertained us for around 30 minutes

APPRECIATION AWARD - Presented by Tim Harrison & Monty Bates

Spark Plug Plaques & Certificates were awarded to Club Officers, Board of Directors and Appointed Officers

SPECIAL AWARD THIS YEAR - presented by Monty Bates

Volunteer of the Year - Jim Huizdos

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION: Ursula Schmidt (Is celebrating holding this position for 16 years)

77 current memberships (133 people)

Usually this is a fun job, but sometimes sad too. Members we lost this year

Barney Clayton, Georgette Avoian, Bill Knott

New membership

Richard Saliture, Warren Brayton

Longest history in MARC who was present at the banquet

54 years - Pat Tucker

Membership Anniversary Pin Awards

40 years - Leonard & Darlene Funk

40 years - Jay & Linda Skinner

20 years - Bob & Phyllis DeCrescenzo

20 years - Sue Hankins & Pat Yacklon

15 years - Richard & Jeanne Parrish

15 years - Art & Daffy Wagner

10 years - Steve & Weeg Thompson

Participation Patches - 32 events including Club Meetings & Tours

Bill Younkin Award for the Most Participation with 29

participations: Art & Daffy Wagner

SAFETY AWARDS: Cliff LeFall

The Safety Award Certificates were awarded to the following: Al Avoian, Monty & Donnis Bates, Phil & LeOra Bonneau, Bobby & Phyllis DeCrescenzo, Jack & Joan Gordinier, Don & Amy Knott, Cliff & Theresa LeFall, Drain & Doris Marshall, Mirco & Elaine Pisu, Ron & Sandy Ragon, Dennis & Linda Simpson, Dick & Jan Wyckoff, Dan & Liz Fitzgerald

We have had a fabulous year with no major problems

Al's garage every Saturday 10:00 - 12:00 - Has been great!

Our safety inspection will be at Pat & Keith's house - 'one more time'.

TOURS & MILEAGE AWARDS: Elaine Pisu

Our club accumulated 34,655 miles this year driving our Model A's

Members who have had their car safety checked and gone over 500 miles: Jack & Joan Gordinier, Tim & Pat Harrison, Jim Huizdos, Doris & Drain Marshall, Mirco & Elaine Pisu, Ron & Sandy Ragon, Steve & Weeg Thompson, Dick & Jan Wyckoff, Art & Daffy Wagner, Monty and Donnis Bates, Cliff & Theresa LeFall, Dot Knott and Don & Amy Knott.

Top Road Runner Participants

Local Tours

3rd Place - 1620 Miles - Steve & Weeg Thompson

2nd Place - 1640 Miles - Drain & Doris Marshall

1st Place - 1820 Miles - Mirco & Elaine Pisu

Long Distance Tours

3rd Place - 2610 Miles - Dick & Jan Wyckoff

2nd Place - 2610 Miles - Drain & Doris Marshall

1st Place - 4480 Miles - Jack & Joan Gordinier

Elaine invited everyone to their home for Super Bowl Sunday. February 5th. Bring your favorite dish to share. 1:30PM

Elaine & Mirco will be traveling this year and out of town, unable to lead our tours during the months of March & August. She asked for a volunteer to cover for her those two months. Please contact her if you are interested.

MAN OF THE YEAR 2016: Cliff LeFall presented the award to our 'Man of the Year' - **Phil Bonneau** - Congratulations Phil!

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2016: **Pat Harrison**, our 'Woman of the Year' was traveling and not present to receive the award in person. Ruxella Speights presented the award to her via a video prepared by Steve and Weeg Thompson. Excellent job to all & Congratulations Pat!

PRESENTATION OF INCOMING & OUTGOING OFFICERS: Monty Bates

All officers & elected positions remain the same

Treasurer - Daffy Wagner; Technical Director - Cliff LeFall; Tour Director - Elaine Pisu; Co-Tour Director Jim Huizdos

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: Monty Bates, Jack Gordinier, Jim Huizdos & Sammy

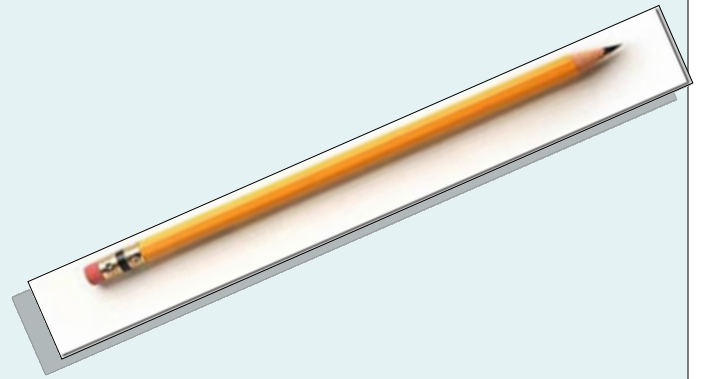
CLOSING REMARKS & CENTERPIECE DISTRIBUTION: Monty Bates

A Good Time Was Had By All - Safe Trip Home!

NEXT GENERAL/BUSINESS MEETING: February 17th, 2017 - 7:30PM - Location Walteria Club House

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday, February 7th, 2017 - 7:00PM - Location Toyota USA Car Museum

Respectfully submitted; Donnis Bates, Secretary



A Thermostat Theory

by Tom Endy

The Model A Ford did not deliver with a thermostat installed in the water cooling system. A few years later thermostats became the norm in new cars. Today it is becoming common practice for Model A owners to install a thermostat in the water outlet hose of their Model A Ford. However, there may have been some engine block design changes made to accommodate the thermostat that does not exist in a Model A engine block.

Rick Hall, a Victoria Association member in Southern California, has come up with a theory about the use of a thermostat in a Model A Ford that may have some merit. Recently four of us in the same area, including Rick and myself, have had a recently rebuilt engine fail with dramatic consequences. The number four piston virtually melted, with the ones in front of it showing signs of overheating.

After much investigation and speculation we have come to the conclusion that the cause was due to the poor quality pistons that have recently been imported from Taiwan by two of the better perceived suppliers. However, there could be an additional factor involved.

In all four cases the failure modes were the same. The engines had a sufficient number of miles on them since rebuild; the cars were cruising along at 55-60 mph in 26% overdrive for about an hour or more with the ambient temperature at about 60 degrees. Each of the cars was equipped with a very efficient 4-tube radiator and with a 160 degree thermostat installed. Each had a temperature gauge that indicated that the water temperature was below 160 degree, which means the thermostat was closed blocking off the flow of water.

Rick's theory is that under these circumstances with the thermostat closed water is not circulating through the block normally. With the thermostat closed only a small amount of water is getting past the thermostat through the two small holes drilled into the mounting flange of the thermostat. The water pump is not causing water to flow through the block normally as when no thermostat is installed.

This may be causing the back end of the engine block to overheat due to the lack of proper water circulation. The temperature gauge may be showing a value of less than 160 degrees at the water outlet hose, but the water temperature around the number four piston where the water is stagnant may be sufficiently higher allowing the number four piston to overheat and fail.

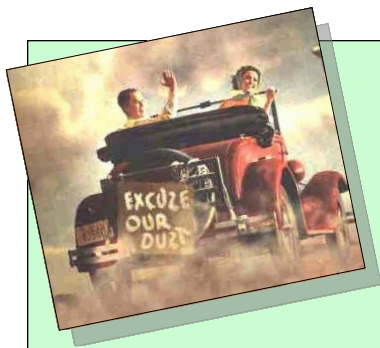
It may be that engine block designers of later cars provided by-pass ports in the block to allow a continuous flow of water to all parts of the block when the thermostat was closed. The Model A engine block may not have this advantage.

This may not be a problem on a warm day or with a standard radiator that is partially blocked as the temperature will quickly rise above 160 degrees and the thermostat will open allowing the water pump to freely circulate water to all areas of the block as Henry designed.

It may be just a theory, but it may have some merit. After experiencing a costly engine failure I decided to remove the thermostat from my Victoria. I can't see where it can do any harm, after all Henry produced over five million Model A's that roamed the planet for decades without a thermostat.



An automotive thermostat modified for use with a Model A. Note the skirt welded to the base to prevent it from tumbling in the water outlet hose. Two small holes are drilled into the base for a small amount of water flow when the thermostat is closed.



Touring with Elaine
By Elaine Pisu, Tour Director



We're Off and Running in 2017!

Fortunately we all made it safely to the annual Installation Banquet in Long Beach during the worst rain storm ever!! (Or so it seemed) Closed roads didn't stop us from getting together and having a great celebration. Thanks Monty, Donnis, Tim, Daffy, Ursi and Sammy for a great evening.

Our Super Bowl party was a big success and Pat and Tim were the Big Winners!! Other winners were Fran, LeOra and Gary. We had a great time and the game itself was very entertaining to say the least!!

February 24th we will be heading to San Diego for the Big 3 Auto Parts swap meet. Some of us are planning on staying overnight and making it an extra fun weekend. Let me know if you'd like to caravan with us on Friday morning.

The Orange County Pancake Breakfast is on **April 2nd**. We will meet at Harbor Freight (Hawthorne and Artesia) at **6:45 AM and leave at 7:00** and take the freeway to Hart Park in Orange. It is about a 45 minute drive. Some take the surface streets and it takes about an hour. This is always a GREAT event. We normally get around 275–350 old cars there. Most are Model As but some other vintage iron shows up also. Many of us will go to lunch at Watson's Drug Store in Orange before driving home. CW Moss is nearby if you need some Model A hardware.

April 22nd is Earth Day and we are going to celebrate by driving to Lancaster and see the California Poppy fields in full bloom. Because of all the rain they are predicting a record year so I hope we are timing it right.

Mark your calendars for 2017:

February 24, 25, & 26 - Big 3 Auto Parts Exchange at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

March 24-26 - CCRG in Porterville hosted by the Porterville Happy Honkers.

April 2 - Orange County Pancake Breakfast

May 16-20 - NCRG Hub Tour in Lodi, CA.

June 22-24 - Northwest Regional Meet in Coos Bay, Oregon

July 14-16 - Solvang Drive 'n Dine weekend. More info to come.

September 9 - Santa Maria All Ford Car Show and Swap Meet in Old Town Orcutt, CA

October 1-6 - MAFCA National Tour in Paso Robles, CA. This tour will go from Paso Robles to San Francisco and across the Golden Gate Bridge. Sounds like a lot of fun.

Ciao! **Mama Pisu**

Car Events of Interest for 2017

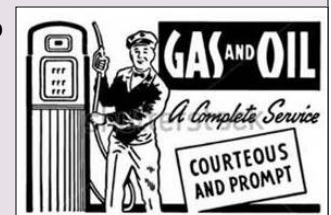
Feb 24–26 (Fri-Sun) - San Diego **Swap Meet** at Qualcomm Stadium. Biggest swap meet in this area all year. \$10 parking, free admission

Mar 23-26th–(Thu-Sun) CCRG Porterville CA. Always a fun event. More info to follow.

April 2–(Sun) - Orange County MAC **Pancake breakfast**. Always a fun event. More info to follow.

April 6-8 (Fri-Sun) - Bakersfield Swap meet. Fairgrounds off Ming and 99 fwy.

May 13–(Sat) - Antique Nationals at Auto Club Dragway, Fontana, CA Admission: Adults \$20. Gates open at 8AM.



MAFFI Newsletter Minute



Dear Model A'ers,

Please remember that MAFFI has 42 videos including a complete set of the Diablo A's Technical Seminars available for loan to MAFFI members and Model A Clubs that support the Museum with a financial gift. Any one of these videos would make a nice program for your club through the winter months while the weather keeps us inside. You can look over the titles at maffi.org (club programs) or on the back of the MAFFI newsletter, the A Preserver. If interested, please email secretary@maffi.org and Janice will take care of your request.

As always, 'thank you' for supporting MAFFI and the Model A Ford Museum. It is my hope that all Model A'ers will be able to make a visit to the museum.

Best regards,
Loukie Smith
MAFFI President

Model A Restorers Club membership drive

Model A Ford Club of America membership drive


2017 MARC Membership Program




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Everyone knows it takes healthy spark plugs to make an engine run at its best. Be a MARC Spark Plug and keep our club running at its best by recruiting NEW members in 2017! Every new MARC member who joins a Region during 2017 will receive his or her MARC membership for only \$22.50! Early memberships get a half year for FREE! You can help add members to your national organization while increasing your Region membership at the same time.

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<i>*Surcharge for membership outside of US is postage fee.</i>			
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Requirements For Free Membership

- Only families never having held membership in MAFCA may apply for free membership
- Free membership includes The Restorer magazine from the time the application is received by the office. Past issues may be purchased at the regular price depending on availability.

Return Free Membership Form To MAFCA 250 So. Cypress, La Habra, CA 90631-5515
Questions: 562-697-2712

2017 Awards Banquet Service Award Recipients



Another Saturday Morning at Al's Garage

Many of us gather at Al's Garage on Saturday mornings to exchange info on topics like war stories and Model As. This last week, Drain Marshall brought his coupe in because it had no power and was running poorly. He suspected a head gasket problem but wasn't sure. After doing a compression test, we

believed he was right and several of us pitched in to replace the head gasket. Several guys had never seen this operation before, so it was a great learning experience.



Checking compression



Compression low in #4



Removing the head



There's the problem



Drain with new gasket



Jim cleaning things up



It takes 9 guys to install cylinder head



Righty tighty, lefty loosy

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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. 1242nd 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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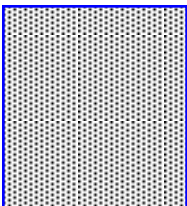
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