

# Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

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

## October 2017



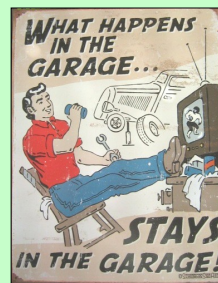
Harbor members at the 60th anniversary picnic

HARBORLIGHT



### Tours

The **BIG** event this past month was the club's **60th anniversary picnic** at Chevron Employees Park in El Segundo, **Sunday, September 17th**. Some pictures in this issue. If you have some good pics, send them to the editor. More pics next issue!



### Technical Activities

More work on Steve's Deluxe Phaeton. Engine in, wiring is next. Solved Al's ignition problem. AA runs great now. Come on by each Saturday morning 10-12 and check it out!

Al's Garage, 907 Van Ness, Torrance CA

### Upcoming Business Meetings

The September meeting will be **Friday, September 29th at the Waleria Park clubhouse**. Time: 7:30pm. Mark your calendars.

The **October** business meeting is **Friday, October 27th**. This is a pot luck meeting & Nominations for **2018 Board**. Come a little early and help set up. Meet and greet your Model A friends!



### Next Board Meeting

The **October** Board meeting is **Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017 at 7PM**. It will be at new location at Torrance Memorial Hospital, West wing.

We will be planning upcoming events. All are welcome.

Please visit our awesome website  
Check it out:

[www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com](http://www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com)



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



**We did it! 60 years and still going strong.**

The month of October has always been special in my family...my youngest sister's birthday falls on Halloween and we celebrated with great fun and plenty of candy. In those wonderful days we went out by ourselves or with our friends and didn't have to worry about anything bad happening...we ate popcorn balls, homemade treats and maybe the "rich folks" gave out Hersey's bars. One thing for sure is this year our club has plenty of candy.

Our 2017 candy stash is possible by the abundant candy left over from our fantastic 60th anniversary party/picnic. Special thanks to Weeg, Donnis, Daffy, Tim and all those volunteers that made all the hard work into a day to remember!!! We sure enjoyed seeing some former members, ate some great tri-tip, watched Hubley races and even managed to win a couple of goodies with the "opportunity drawing". I think we really outdid ourselves and from what everyone tells me the entire picnic was a total success...made possible by all of you...many, many thanks!!!!

We can now begin to plan our 2018 banquet...as I promised we will have a daytime party but the location is still up in the air...more to follow on that. Come on down to Ruby's every Friday afternoon and stop by Al's shop, Saturday mornings to see the progress on Steve's beautiful Deluxe Phaeton.

Be safe out there!

*Monty*



### **Model A Items for Sale:**

- Borg-Warner **Overdrive**, includes 6v and 12v solenoids. Complete drive shaft with switch and cable pull. \$350. Nice unit.
  - Model A **transmission**, new rebuilt: Sell for \$300
  - Sparton **horn**—Original horn with new brushes and wire leads. \$225
- Contact Joe Freitag: 310-377-0135 Palos Verdes CA

Note: Joe is bringing several items to the next meeting that are for sale. This includes gaskets, manuals, 1930 license plates, misc smaller items. All priced to sell!

### **For Sale:**

- Miller Syncrowave 180 SP **Heliarc Machine/Arc Welder**. Like New. Comes with full bottle of Argon. Only needs 50 amp service. Made for home use. 220volts. \$1200 obo.
- Keith Tucker: 310-508-2656 Carson CA



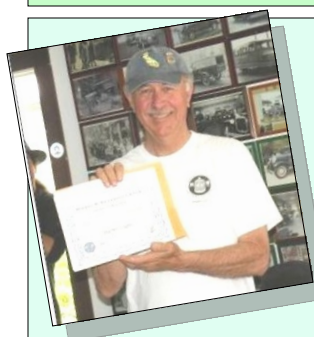
## October Birthdays

9 Julie Goldberg  
25 Tim Harrison



## October Anniversaries

1 Jim & Ruxella Speights  
3 Don & Amy Knott  
20 Jim & Elyse Beardsley



### Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

Lots of planning paid off on the 60th anniversary picnic. Weeg Thompson and her staff put on a great event. Everything went smoothly and we all had a great time. It was sure fun to see all the old-timers especially Margaret Gott (member #2). She is an original member from 60 years ago!

We had 39 cars show up and about 110 people. Everyone pitched in and made this a memorable event. Look for an article in the next Restorer magazine. I don't have a lot of pictures yet, but by next newsletter, there should be a bunch.

In order to get both my Model As to the picnic, I recruited Jan's son Don (a car guy) to drive the Cabriolet while I drove the Roadster Pick-up. He never drove a Model A before and absolutely loved it. We didn't have to drive far, but just enough to wet his appetite. Neat!

On a somber note, my wife Jan found out she has a small area of cancer in her colon. We are in the process of arranging medical attention and hopefully all will be well. Keep your fingers crossed.

**Dick**



Long time club member downsizing his inventory. Selling recently restored (2015) late '31 AA Stake Bed truck. Solid roof, indented firewall. Runs great. New tires. 4-speed trans. Lots of extra parts. 12 volts, LED taillights. Current registration.



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### 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.



### "Cruise at the Beach" Friday afternoon at Ruby's Diner

**Ruby's Diner** 245 N. Harbor Drive in Redondo Beach (by the pier) will host a weekly gathering of fun cars all summer long. This event brings many cars of all types. Classics, Concours, hot rods, antiques, sports cars, motorcycles, and Model As. Many Harbor Club members show their cars and enjoy a great meal in the diner. Check it out. Times are about **3:30 to 7:00 PM every Friday**. There is a nice drawing and trophies are awarded each week.

Parking is free to participating cars.

This event will continue all summer until October 27th, 2017  
Hope to see you there.



### 2017 Membership, Roster and Club Merchandise Items

Gloria and Jim have a selection of new **Club merchandise**. We have hats, shirts, patches, t-shirts and we have added 60th anniversary items. More to come.

The **2017 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** is 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 **HarborLight**.

### **OUR HEROS**

A big **THANK YOU** to Cliff LeFall, Jack Gordinier, and Dick Valot.

A couple of weeks ago, Cliff came to our home to put in a new battery for us. Last Saturday, the day before the club's 60th picnic, Cliff and Jack left a car project at Al's Garage to come over and put in a new alternator that Tim Harrison had pick up for us when he was at CW Moss. "Babe" was up and running again and sounding good, so after the guys left we drove over to get gas. At our corner when I slowed down, she stopped. I waited a little and she started up but I felt like she was going to kill again and she just didn't feel right. We made it to the gas station, filled her up, and then couldn't get her started again. After about 20 minutes of trying we called Dick Valot. He graciously came to our rescue, push us over to the side area and started checking and testing. Dick was puzzled because sometimes the light on the tester came on, then the next time it didn't. He adjusted the points and Babe started up. Thinking that might be the problem we tried to start it again and she still just ground away. Finally, after going over everything again, he found the problem. The fuse holder wasn't holding the fuse in properly and it kept popping up. He used a tie-wrap to hold it down until we could get another fuse holder. Dick followed us home to be sure we got there. Babe is running great now and we made it to the picnic. A big **THANK YOU** to all of you guys for helping us and taking care of 'Babe'. The friends we have made in this club is what it's all about.

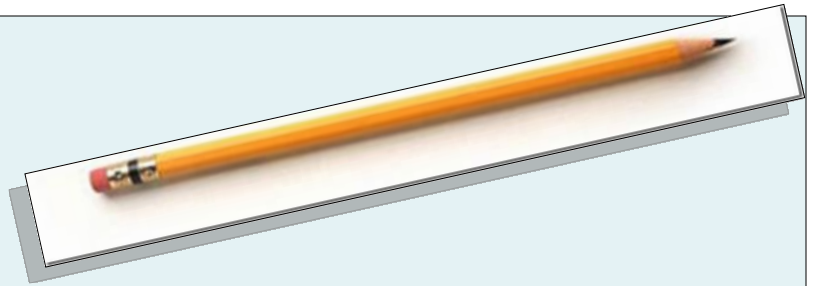
**Sue Hankins and Pat Yacklon**



## HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB MEETING

Date: 8/25/17

Location: WALTERIA Clubhouse



**President:** Monty Bates called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Monty shared the plaque the club received from the Wounded Warrior car show, and our club was the largest club in attendance at the Henry Ford Picnic.

**Salute to the flag:** Led by Jack Gordinier

**Recognition of Past Presidents:** Doris & Drain Marshall, Tim Harrison, and Dick Wyckoff

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** July minutes were approved as printed in the Harbor Light.

**Vice President:** Tim Harrison said we had lots of neat opportunity drawing prizes, step up and buy your tickets.

**Treasurer:** Daffy Wagner announced that all bills are paid. We owe money to the picnic caterers and we have 104 attendees signed up.

**HarborLight Editor:** Dick Wyckoff said we have had some fun tours, Northrup Grumman led by Joe Freitag, we had ten cars in the Wounded Warriors car show, and the El Segundo car show had four cars. He mentioned the car oil article that was in the Harbor Light, check it out! Dick showed the banner that will be hanging at the entrance of the Chevron refinery park for our 60th picnic. Joe Freitag sold his car and thanked all who helped him with his car. Joe is in the process of downsizing.

Don't forget the **60th anniversary picnic** on Sunday, September 17th at Chevron Park in El Segundo. Lots of fun.

**Historian:** Not present.

**Membership:** Ursi Schmidt said we had 42 attendees

**Membership Drawing:** Peggy Wishon won woman's \$5 prize and Al Avoian won the men's prize. He donated it back to the club. The clock prize was won by Jay Skinner.

**Technical & Safety:** Cliff not present

**Sergeant at Arms (badge money):** Jack Gordinier took in \$2.

**Sunshine:** Doris reported that Ed Firth and his wife are both doing better. Margaret Gott, senior member of the club is coming to our 60th picnic. Ron & Sandy Ragon's son is getting married. Dick Wenker fell and broke a couple of ribs. It was reported that Fran Earhart had a slight stroke but turns out not to be true, she's having hearing problems with one ear. Ruxella is getting better after knee surgery.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:** Birthdays: Rhoda Larquier, Dennis Simpson, Darlene Funk, Jim Beardsley, Bob Olsen, Ursula Schmidt, Ed Duenes, Cliff LaFall, Art Wagner, and Vince Migliazzo.

Anniversaries: Carla & Walt Hibbard, Michael & Teri Larquier, Dick & Gwen Valot.

**Tools Coordinator:** Bobby D. said we need to be more diligent about getting tools turned back in after five days.

**Tours:** A Northrup Grumman tour will take place in October, a signup sheet will be passed next month.

**Web Master:** Not present.

**Old Business:** More merchandise is on order to have available at our picnic. You can also buy a shirt and have it embroidered.

**New Business:** Jay Skinner has created a 12' selfie stick to take pictures at our picnic. We will have Hubley races at the picnic so bring your cars. Jack Goldberg's truck stopped on the way to the DMV, finally got it started and because he hadn't filed a non-operational status, he was charged \$720 to get it registered.

**Refreshments hosted by:** The Goldbergs

**Next General Meeting:** September 29, 2017

**Next Board Meeting:** September 5, 2017, last meeting at the Toyota facility, next board meetings will be at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted; Jan Wyckoff, Acting Secretary



### Massive Oil Leak

by Tom Endy

A fellow Model A owner recently sold his Model A to a person who knew nothing about Model A's. The Model A was a 1930 Tudor that I was very familiar with. It had belonged to a friend that lives down the street from me. We had both done a lot of work on this car, and we had it in excellent condition. The new owner had spotted the Model A sitting in my friend's driveway and decided he had to have it. He approached my friend and offered him an unusually high price that he could not refuse.

A few weeks later the new owner came driving up to my house with my friend in the passenger seat and with oil pouring out from underneath the car. Upon examination we discovered the oil was coming out through the cotter pin drain hole in the bottom of the flywheel housing. This was not just a little oil leak, it was massive; oil was pouring out the flywheel housing hole in a steady stream as long as the engine was running.

My friend and I both felt an obligation to determine the problem and correct it. My thinking was that the oil was coming out through the rear main bearing and into the flywheel housing. This had to be caused by one of several malfunctions. The oil pipe attached to the rear main bearing cap could be plugged with debris. The thrust washer could have broken off and fallen away. The babbitt in the rear main may have failed and fallen out. The engine had recently been overhauled and re-babbitted and only had a few hundred miles on it and it ran very well.

The decision was made to drop the pan and remove the rear main bearing cap for inspection. When the task was complete we could find nothing out of the ordinary. The thrust washer was intact, the bearing was intact, and the return pipe was not plugged. We were somewhat stymied. Oil had been pouring out over the rear main bearing labyrinth seal, but why?

We had no other choice but to put everything back together without doing anything to resolve the problem. When everything was back together I went about putting new oil into the engine.

I went to pull the cap off the end of the breather tube and the whole assembly came out from the engine block. A closer look revealed that the cap on the end of the breather tube was not original Model A. Instead it was round and highly polished chrome. It did not have any vent passages to allow venting of the crankcase. We tried blowing through the breather tube toward the cap, it was totally plugged off, and there was no venting.

We quizzed the owner and found that he had recently purchased the cap along with an abundance of other glitter accessories from a local Model A supplier and had installed it on the car a few days before. This day was the first time he had driven the car and the first time oil had poured out the rear main.

We had some difficulty removing the accessory breather tube cap, as it was jammed tight onto the end of the breather tube. When we finally got it off we discarded it and installed a proper Model A cap. We started the engine and there was no oil leak. I was astounded; I knew an engine crankcase had to be vented, but I had no idea how a completely plugging off the breather tube would have such a dramatic affect and cause such a massive oil leak.

Apparently a Model A engine can build up a tremendous amount of pressure inside the crankcase if the breather tube is plugged off. The pressure must be created by some amount of compression that sneaks past the piston rings and into the crankcase. This pressurization must be sufficient enough to cause oil from the rear main bearing to be forced out through the labyrinth rear oil seal.

This could have been a real disaster for the new owner if he had continued to drive the car and had not become aware of the oil leak. He would have soon starved the engine of oil and destroyed it.

The lesson learned here is that a blocked off Model A breather tube will cause excessive crankcase pressure that will force massive amounts of oil to pour out over the rear main bearing labyrinth seal.

This is something that should be considered by Model A owners when they get the ideal of jamming a roll of steel wool or a Brillo pad into the breather tube cap to provide filtering of the air.

## Touring with Elaine

By Elaine Pisu, Tour Director



### Our Fall Tours are Shaping Up!

For those that made the picnic happen a great big **THANK YOU!!** The past picnics have been in August and the Pisu's are usually in Italy for August so we have missed most picnics. By moving the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to September we were able to enjoy the festivities.

I am working on a **Feed the Firemen** date for October, one of my favorite events. We will be going to Fire Station 112 in the Port of Los Angeles and feeding the firemen. We will meet at the Welteria Park Club House at **10:30** and leave at 10:45. If we bring really good food and behave ourselves we will also get a boat ride so plan your best recipes and lets feed them well. Be sure and drive those A's.

I am planning on having a **progressive/poker** run on **November 11<sup>th</sup>**. For those new to this event it consists of a breakfast stop, a lunch stop and a dessert stop. I will also include two other stops for a total of 5 stops hence the poker hand will be complete. Each hand costs \$5.00 and at each stop you will get a card. The best hand will get  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the money collected. If you are willing to host one of the stops please let me know but don't tell the other members because I like to keep it a surprise. So save the date, **November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**. Meeting spot to be determined.

Keep **June 24<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup> of 2018** open. MAFCA is having it's **National Convention** in Reno. It's close enough to drive your modern, trailer your A, or drive the A, it is an event to remember. National conventions are a lot of fun and you get to meet lots of people.

Ciao! **Mama Pisu**

### **Sunshine Corner**

Long time member and great friend **Dick Lusk** has recently taken a turn for the worse as his body is slowly shutting down. He is currently in a care facility in Torrance. Ursi is doing her best to comfort him and trying to get him to eat. He needs our thoughts and prayers. Hang in there Dick. We're thinking of you, Ursi.

### New Member Welcome

The club welcomes new members #1064, **Dale and Karen Barry**. They live at 6901 S. Sepulveda Blvd, Westchester, CA 90245. Their home phone is 310-649-2796. They drive a late '31 Slant Window Fordor Sedan.

### Other Car Events of Interest for 2017

**Oct 1st (Sun) - Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance.** Louis Zamperini Field in Torrance CA.

**Oct 7th (Sat) - Swap Meet-** OC Model T Club. Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, Fullerton

**Oct 14th (Sat) - Redondo Union High School Car Show.** 9AM to 3PM. 1 Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach CA

**Oct 14th (Sat) - Torrance High School Car Show.** 10AM to 2PM. 2200 Carson St., Torrance CA

**April 8-10, 2018 - CCRG Cambria Pines** hosted by Cuesta Crankers, San Luis Obispo. Host hotel Cambria Pines Lodge. 805-927-4200

**June 24-28 (Sun-Thurs) - MAFCA National Convention,** Reno-Sparks, Nevada. More to come.



**MAFFI Newsletter Minute**  
**September 2017**



It will be a challenge to top this year's Model A Day! With over 120 Model A's attending we were grateful to be able to view a number of very rare and unique Model A's brought to our museum by hobbyists from many parts of the country. You know you are in special company when you are looking at "1 of only 2 existing in the world". But that's what Model A Day brings to our hobby...an opportunity to meet and exchange information with other hobbyists and to explore rare items and exhibits associated with the Model A.

Model A Day also offered us the opportunity to welcome Larry Wallace, Ross Milne and Tom Mack as new trustees carrying on our tradition of bringing in new talent each year to help us make MAFFI and our museum the best experience for our hobby. We also welcome Olle Bergstrom as our newly installed International Liaison who will help promote MAFFI in Europe as well as provide information about the European Model A and operations.

To all in attendance this year's Model A Day, we're glad you came and hope you really enjoyed this special weekend! If you weren't able to attend this year, join us in 2018. Yes it will be a challenge to top 2017, but we're working on something great for next year.

John Begg  
MAFFI President

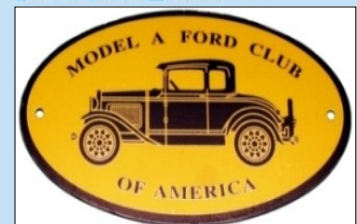
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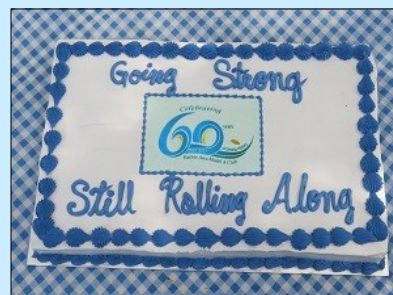
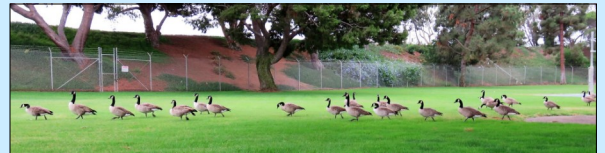
<http://www.ncrgmafca.com/2018MAFCAConvention/2018index.html>



## Some pictures from the 60th Anniversary Picnic



*Just some of the many pictures  
taken at the picnic.  
More to come*





## Happenings at Al's Garage



Six supervisors helping Cliff

The big project this month was installing Steve's new engine back into the Deluxe Phaeton. Lots of good help!



All hands effort installing engine



Steve with new engine



Phil and Dennis working the brakes on Gary's coupe



New shocks on Tim's Station Wagon



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For MARC info and membership, see  
[www.ModelARestorers.org](http://www.ModelARestorers.org)



For MAFCA info and membership, see  
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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 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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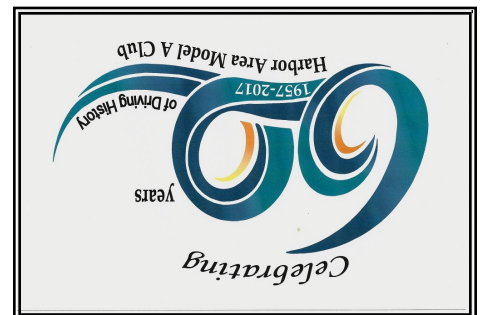
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October 2017

From:  
Harbor Area MARC/MAFCA  
Dick Wyckoff, Editor  
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The Harbor Light

