

Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

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

October 2018

2017 MARC
Award of Continuing Excellence
for Harbor Light newsletter



Harbor's A's at the Annual Picnic in Torrance CA

Upcoming Business Meetings



The **September** meeting is **Friday, September 28th.**
at Walteria clubhouse
Meeting starts at **7PM.**
Bring your treasures for
the White Elephant
auction!

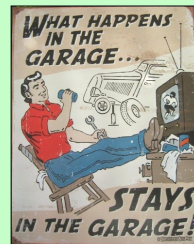
The **October** meeting is Friday, October
28th, 7:30pm
Come a little early and help set up
and meet your Model A friends.

Tours (More info page 7)



Harbor As at Nethercutt Museum

Technical Activities



We're back in business!
We meet from about 10am
to noon to work on Model A
projects. Bring you're Model
A by and we'll work on it.

Al's Garage, 907 Van Ness, Torrance CA

Next Board Meeting



It will be at Torrance
Memorial Hospital, West wing.
On **Tuesday, October 2nd** at
7pm. Exact room TBD.
We will be planning up-
coming events. All are welcome.

Please visit our awesome website
Check it out:

www.HarborAreaModelAClub.com



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



A View From the Slow Lane

The annual Harbor Area Picnic began at 8 a.m. with Bobby D. unloading and assembling the Hubley track. Tim and Pat Harrison got there at 8:30 bringing ice, bingo equipment and the banner. Cleanup and setup started as Steve and Weeg Thompson arrived with table decorations, drinks, and pop ups. Don and Amy Knott showed up to help with pop ups and table decorating.

Coffee and donuts were available as members arrived for a day of Hubley racing, car stories, socializing, and the ever-popular bingo. Jim Huizdos was in charge of lunch with sandwiches and salads prepared by Giuliano's Italian Deli. Dennis Simpson ran the Hubley races and designed and presented awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for both men's and women's categories.

Hubley Race Winners

Men

First: Jim Huizdos
Second: Art wagner
Third: Bruce Montgomery

Women

Daffy Wagner
Linda Simpson
Pat Harrison



Tim



New Cell Phone Number

Drain Marshall has a new phone and a new phone number. It is **310-570-5938**. Correct your roster.



Three Generations

Welcome to our New Members!

The club welcomes **Gary and Emma Gaffney**. They are looking for a Model A Roadster. Their address is 150 Promenade #201, Long Beach CA 90802. Their phone is 310-482-0406. Email: Garyogaffney@gmail.com

October Birthdays

9 Julie Goldberg
25 Tim Harrison
26 Bob Kushner



October Anniversaries

1 Jim & Ruxella Speights
20 Jim & Elyse Beardsley
31 Gary & Emma Gaffney



Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

A few phone calls before the weekly supper at Hof's Hut brought a nice showing of our Model As to the Labor Day feast. Seven nice cars made a great display for the patrons. Many nice comments!



Hof's Hut, Labor Day 2018

The very next event was our annual picnic where we had 16 Model As and 53 members and family enjoy a fun day at the park. Hubley races, good food, good friends. . . . Life is good. More pics and info on page 8.

It's been a long time since I visited the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar CA. Thanks to Elaine Pisu, the club was treated to a special tour last Saturday. I had forgotten how unique and special the car, clock and organ displays were. Many one-of-a-kind antique treasures are at the museum. Lots of walking, but worth every mile! The tour director, Kyle, was an amazing man. Clock maker, early organ and player piano restorer, and concert organist. Lots of details in his presentation.

With guidance from Jim Huizdos, we had a great Chinese luncheon afterwards. Great day! Thanks Elaine, thanks Jim and thanks Kyle!

Dick

Still plays with Cars



1929 Ford Woody Station Wagon

- LeBaron-Bonny windows and seats
- H & H inserted engine (~60 hp) with about 300 miles
- Rebuilt transmission
- Most of wood original (not kit wood)
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- Powder coated and balanced wheels
- Completely rebuilt brakes and front-end with new original spindles, bearings, ball joints
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- Completely rebuilt distributor, new electrical harness, rebuilt original horn
- Asking \$37,500 OBO. Contact Dan Fitzgerald (c) 310-344-2306
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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.



Ruby's "Cruise at the Beach"

Ruby's Diner 245 N. Harbor Drive in Redondo Beach (by the pier) is hosting 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 A's. Many Harbor Club members show their cars and enjoy a great meal in the diner. Check it out. There is a nice drawing and trophies are awarded each week.

Parking is free to participating cars. Only a few more weeks! Hope to see you there.



Monday Supper at Hof's Hut

We have been meeting for dinner on Mondays 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 4:30 PM.



2018 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 **2018 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** are available. 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**.

Sunshine Report by Theresa LeFall

Elaine's Mom had an emergency operation to install a pacemaker. She is doing better all the time. Super!

Price Reduced Again!



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.

Asking **\$17,500 OBO**. Located in Torrance, CA.

If interested, contact : Al Avoian at 310-328-3350



HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB MEETING

Walteria Park, Torrance CA August 31st, 2018

PRESIDENT: Tim Harrison--called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Monty Bates for Jack Gordinier--led the flag salute

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS: Dick Wyckoff, Doris & Drain Marshall, Monty Bates, Tim Harrison

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Weeg Thompson moved that the Minutes be approved as printed in the August Harbor Light. The motion was seconded by Jeanne Parrish. All in favor.

VICE PRESIDENT: Dennis Simpson--was thanked for conducting the July Club Meeting and doing a good job. Dennis thanked members the Earharts, Wayne Sterling, and Dick Wenker for their donations to the opportunity drawing.

TREASURER: Daffy Wagner--club account balance is fine. Total for recycling this year \$356.

HARBORLIGHT EDITOR: Dick Wyckoff--the August HarborLight newsletter has been sent. The El Segundo Car Show had lots of cars and people. Suggested that members drive their Model As to Hof's Hut on Labor Day. If you have anything for sale, let Dick know and he will put it in the HarborLight.

WEBMASTER: Sue Hankins--on the road again, Sue has updated web for September. Email her info you want on the web.

MEMBERSHIP: Ursi Schmidt--introduced Gary Gaffney who came to the meeting to check out the Club. He would like to buy a roadster or coupe. Rob Hernandez, a new member, was also re-introduced. Forty-five people attended the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING: Daffy Wagner (for July) and Gloria Younkin (for August) won the women's prize and Phil Bonneau (for July) and Al Avoian (for August) won the men's.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Cliff LeFall--shop is back open and the shop is back in business. Already a cut-off switch was put in Gary's car. This Saturday come to the shop and fine tune your Hubley. Tim thanked those who helped him get his engine out.

SERGEANT AT ARMS (badge money): Monty Bates for Jack Gordinier--collected \$5.07

SUNSHINE: Doris Marshall & Theresa LeFall--Doris thanked her lovely partner for the good job she does. Weeg & Steve's daughter was hospitalized and is receiving treatment for pancreatitis. Elaine's mother had emergency pacemaker surgery.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: BIRTHDAYS: Rhoda Larquier, 5 Dennis Simpson, 6 Darlene Funk, 6 Jim Beardsley, 8 Bob Olsen, 8 Rob Hernandez, 11 Ursula Schmidt, 13 Ed Duenes, 14 Cliff LeFall, 17 Art Wagner, 20 Vince Migliazzo

ANNIVERSARIES: Carla & Walt Hibbard, 11 Dale & Karen Barry, 15 Michael & Teri Larquier, 17 Dick & Gwen Valot

TOOLS COORDINATOR: Bobby DeCrescenzo--Absent but it was reported that the Club has 32 tools. Members can borrow with a \$20 deposit that is returned when tool is returned in good condition. Rob Hernandez donated an cooling system flush kit that he made.

REFRESHMENTS: Weeg Thompson--Wagners and LeFalls brought the refreshments this evening. Thank you!

Forms for ordering picnic lunch available and must be paid and returned tonight

CLOCK PRIZE: Joan Gordinier--winner of clock prize Art Wagner at 7:59

ADVERTISING: Jim Huizdos--everything is good

MERCHANDISE: Gloria Younkin--everything is good with merchandise too

TOURS: Elaine Pisu--absent, but asked Daffy to pass around a signup for the Nethercutt Museum tour on September 22 (more info to follow)

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS: Harbor Area Annual Picnic, Saturday, September 8, 10-3, Torrance Park, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue, Torrance, 90501. Sign up and pay for lunch (tonight is last night), Hubley races, bingo, prizes and good company. Hubley tune-up at shop on Saturday from 10-12.

NEW BUSINESS: White Elephant at our September 28 Club meeting starting early at 7:00 with short agenda--bring your treasures to be auctioned off. Proceeds support the Club.

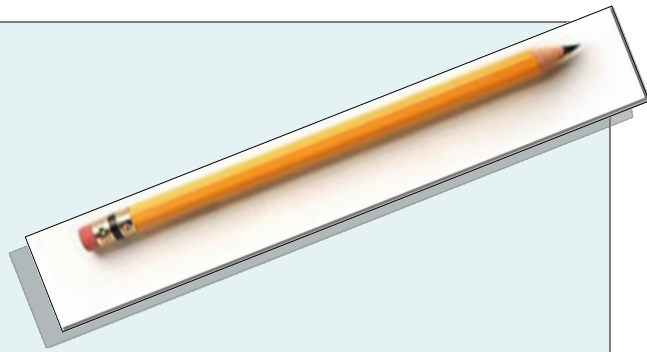
Potluck and 2019 officer nominations at our October 26 meeting (more info to follow)

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Friday, September 28, 2018, at Walteria Park (early start 7 p.m.)

NEXT BOARD MEETING: September 4, 2018, at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, West Tower 7 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Jim Huizdos moved that the meeting be adjourned it was seconded by Nathan Sherry. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted: Secretary, *Pat Harrison*



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 babbit 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

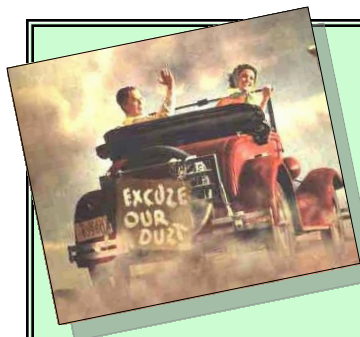
tube and the whole assembly came out from the engine block. A closer look revealed that the cap on the end of the breather tube was not original Model A. Instead it was round and highly polished chrome. It did not have any vent passages to allow venting of the crankcase. We tried blowing through the 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



Well September came and went in a flash!! We had a great time at the Nethercutt Museum where we not only visited the cars and the musical instruments but we had a private tour of the restoration shop. Lots of photos were taken for you to enjoy. If you missed it you missed a fun day. Jim Huizdos suggested a Chinese place for lunch that everyone really enjoyed.

The Torrance In-N-Out on the corner of Hawthorne and Del Amo has started having a Cruise Night on Thursdays from 6-9 PM. Let's see how many Model A's we can get there on 10/4/2018

On October 13th I'd like to see us get out and support Dennis Simpson and the Redondo Union High School PTSA car show. Registration is \$20, it's from 9AM - 3PM and is a great cause. I have registration forms available. We will set up a meet up time with the participants so that we can park together.

On October 20th at 11AM the Western Museum of Flight is hosting their Celebrity Lecture Series entitled *In the Line of Duty: Major Michael Adams and the X-15* by Author Michelle Evans. Meet time to be 9:45 leaving at 10AM at Harbor Freight.

SAVE THE DATE: I am trying to organize the Poker Run/Progressive for November 17th. Let me know if you would like to host a stop.

Elaine

The Model A Ford Club of America
2019 National Tour, October 7-11, 2019

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This hub & spoke tour will be based out of spectacular Kanab Utah in the center of Utah's stunning Red Rock Country. Daily drives to the Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce National Parks and other sites being planned. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see these sites from inside your Model A.

Watch for more information in The Restorer Magazine.

MARC
Discount
Membership Program
Has Been Extended!

Be a MARC Spark Plug!

Following the success of the 2017 MARC 1/2 price sale (\$22.50 for NEW members who also join a Region), the Board of Directors has voted to extend the program for 2018! This is great news for MARC, your Region, and NEW members!

Just \$22.50 buys a NEW member who also joins a Region a full year membership in the best Model "A" club on the planet.

Recruit now!

WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION
CLUB MEETING
September 28, 2018, 7:00 PM

Don't miss your chance to find or liquidate that "unique, rare treasure."

White Elephant Auction coming to our Club Meeting on Friday, September 28, at 7:00 pm. This event is a favorite!

(Short agenda meeting—no opportunity drawing)



Other Car Events of Interest for 2018

September 29-30 (Sat-Sun)— Paradise Valley MAC Swap Meet. Little League Headquarters, 6707 N. Little League Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92407. 10am-6pm. Free admission. Info: 909-262-9623

October 6 (Sat) - OC Model T Club Swap Meet. 2311 E. Chapman, Fullerton CA. 7am to 1pm

October 13 (Sat) - Redondo High Car Show. 1 Seahawk Way, RB 90277. 9am-3pm.

January 26, 2019 (Sat) - Henry's "T" party at the Auto Driving Museum. Open to all As and Ts. 10am-2pm.

January 26-27, 2019— Turlock Swap Meet. Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. 7am to 5pm

Harbor's Annual Picnic



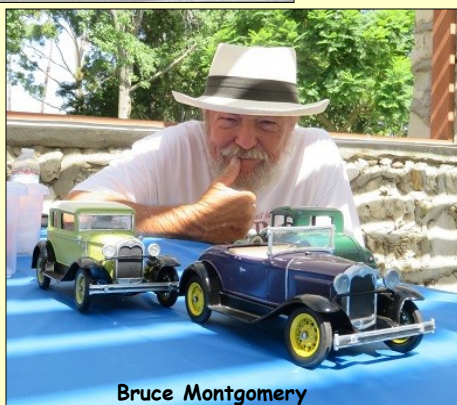
Harbor As lined up



Picnic in the park



Mike Plessner



Bruce Montgomery



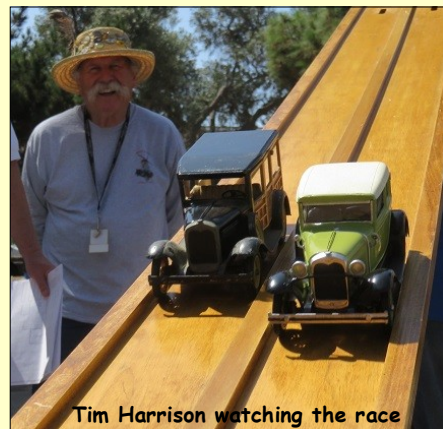
Cliff LeFall



Don Knott



Bobby DeCrescenzo
w/ Art and Daffy



Tim Harrison watching the race



Close race!



Crash landing



Don't leave me loose wheel



The race is on!



Men's and women's winners



Dennis, Monty, Art and Bobby

Reader Tip - Is it a Briggs or Murray Body?

By Rick Black,
Medford Oregon

Question:

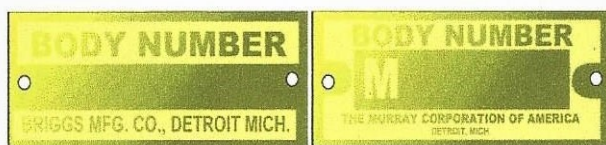
How can you tell a Briggs body from a Murray body?

Answer:

One of the easiest ways is to look at the door windows. Murray doors have a slight arch at the top of the window. Ford and Briggs bodies have windows that are straight across at the top. Click on the photo below to compare various Model A doors and windows.

There are exceptions. Slant Windshield Fordors made in 1931 had bodies made by Ford, Briggs, and Murray but the bodies were identical and had the arched windows typical of the earlier Murray Fordors.

Most Briggs and Murray bodies had a **body tag** on the firewall. Through the years, many of these are no longer in place. And, through the years, a replacement body tag could have been placed by an owner.



Finally, Murray bodies incorporate "caged" nuts where items are attached to the body (like the firewall) whereas Briggs used "D" nuts. Examples can be noticed in the engine compartment in case the body manufacturer's tag is missing or believed to be added.

Below is a photo showing many Model A Right-Front doors. Looking at the Briggs Fordor and Murray Fordor doors side-by-side, it's easier to see the differences. **Click on the photo for a larger view:**



While the doors of Coupe and Tudor/Pickup look alike, their widths are different.

Annual Picnic

A great turnout at the picnic. Weeg Thompson and company along with the Hubley crew put together a great event at the Torrance Park. The weather was great and we had lots to eat (of course). A total of 53 people and 16 cars were present. As usual, the Hubley races were the center of attraction with quite a large turnout of cars. A few last minute tune-ups and we were off to the races!

We had a men's class and a women's class with the winners racing each other. (The gal's won!)

The Hubley Race Winners! (Posing with race official, VP Dennis Simpson)



1st: Jim Huizdos' daughter for Jim



2nd: Art Wagner



3rd: Bruce Montgomery



1st: Daffy Wagner



2nd: Linda Simpson



3rd: Pat Harrison



1931 Model A Sport Coupe

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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.

2017 Board of Directors:

President:

Tim Harrison (310) 318-5920

Email: HarisonPat@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Dennis Simpson (310) 343-8227

Treasurer:

Daffy Wagner (310) 374-6113

Secretary:

Pat Harrison (310) 218-9014

Tour Director:

Elaine Pisu (310) 793-1789

Appointed Officers:

Technical Director/Safety:

Cliff LeFall (323) 715-3153

Membership:

Ursula Schmidt (310) 539-5391

Historian:

Sue Hankins (310) 782-0082

Sunshine Secretary:

Theresa LeFall (323) 715-3153

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Caught in the act at
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