

Harbor Area Model 'A' Club

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

January 2020

2017-2018 MARC
Award of Continuing Excellence
for Harbor Light newsletter



Harbor Club's
annual
'Cookie
Exchange'
at
Elaine and
Mirco's home.
A fun time was
had by all!

Upcoming Business Meetings

The December meeting was the dinner/cookie exchange on December 13th. It was a fun time and well attended.

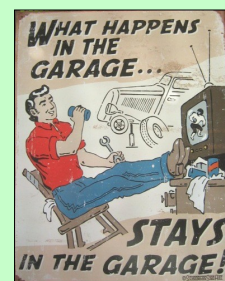
The **January** meeting will be the installation banquet at the Blue Water Grill by the pier in Redondo Beach on **January 25th**. Make sure you prepay to Daffy Wagner.



Technical Activities

Saturday mornings.
We meet from about 10am to noon to work on Model A projects. Bring your Model A by and we'll work on it.

Al's Garage, 907 Van Ness, Torrance CA (in the alley)



Model A Events & Local Shows

64th Annual Motor Excursion by the HCC of So Cal. **Sunday/Dec 29, 2019**. Arrive at 7:30. Loc'n: Arcadia Regional Park 405 S. Santa Anita Ave, Arcadia CA 91006. Lots of classic cars!

January 25th, 2020 Installation luncheon at Blue Water Grill, Redondo Beach. 11 to 4pm. Drive your A.

March 29th—Sun OC Pancake Breakfast.
More to come

Next Board Meeting

It will be at Torrance Memorial Hospital, West wing, on **Tuesday, January 7th, 2020** at 7pm. Exact room TBD. We will be planning upcoming 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

I want to thank the members of the Harbor Area Model "A" Club for the opportunity to serve as your vice president and president for the past eight years.

Your Board of Directors and appointed officers volunteered countless hours and dedication for all of the many activities and events in which our club was involved. Their professional and organizational skills are what made our members sign up and attend the many events we host and those put on by other MARC and MAFCA clubs.

The knowledge and expertise of our technical directors and other hands-on members helped sustain well-maintained members' cars thanks to the ongoing use of Al's garage.

Our updated tri-fold brochure and business cards has helped to grow our club along with our weekly advertisement in the *Saturday Daily Breeze*.

As I look forward to our upcoming recognition and installation banquet at the Bluewater Grill on January 25, I want to thank all the members for their hard work and continued support of our mission statement: Our Club is dedicated to the hobby of preserving, restoring, and enjoying the Model "A" Ford Automobile, engaging in local community projects, and socializing with friends with similar interests.

Tim

Pat and I were the only ones at the Wilmington Parade. It started out with some sunshine, then we got some rain about half way through. Luckily it didn't last long and wasn't too bad. The group that had signed up thought it was going to rain so they cancelled. But it was fun, with a lot of friendly waving people, and lots of kids.

After, Pat and I went to the Torrance Memorial Hospital's annual Christmas Tree event. We had our picture taken with Santa. It wasn't until Santa asked about our Model A that we realized Santa was Dr. Steve Thompson. We didn't recognize him, although his voice sounded familiar. So we did a stand up photo also.



2019 Christmas parades



El Segundo parade had a little rain but three of us made it. Jim Beardsley's grandkids decorated his car. Great job!



January Birthdays

- 2 Janet Blaschke
- 3 Darlene Duncan
- 5 Ted Dalton
- 11 Jerry Reine
- 12 Patti Migliazzo
- 15 Kewyn Cardenas
- 16 Anne Kealey
- 20 Robert Fugatt
- 25 Ed Firth



January Anniversaries

- 12 Daniel & Pamela Giagni
- 29 Gary Kuhlmann & Lynn Waters



Editor's Corner By Dick Wyckoff

December has been a busy, fun-filled month. Right off the bat, I attended the MAFCA Awards Banquet in Claremont CA. As soon as I got home, there were two Christmas parades, one in Wilmington and the other here in El Segundo. The Wilmington one got rained on and only one (Pat and Sue) car showed up. However, El Segundo fared better with only a little rain and we had three cars. Fun time, as always.

Our December meeting was food (of course) at Stone Fire Grill in Torrance followed by a great 'cookie exchange' at the home of Elaine and Mirco Pisu (see front page). The Pisu's sure know how to decorate and entertain! We had 40+ members participate AND Santa Claus visited. Lots of fun.

Just a side note, I was awarded Police Volunteer of the Year for 2019 and recognized by the El Segundo Police Dept and the El Segundo City Council. I am deeply honored. Thank you. . .

Dick



Passing of Jesse Dykes

Long time member, Jesse Dykes passed away peacefully early in December. He was an avid mechanic and loved to tinker with his Model As.

He didn't attend many meetings, but we did see him on occasion. Nice guy.

Services will be held at **Green Hills Cemetery in Rolling Hills on Friday, January 10th at 11AM**. Family would love to see a showing of Model As from the club.

Let's support the showing. . .



Let's Trade!

Have good pair
1930 CA plates.
Want to trade for good
1936 CA plates.
Interested?
Contact Nathan at
310-626-7799
(Recently acquired a '36 Ford)



Handmade Policeman accessory for your car. Attach to license plate holder. About 9" tall. When you brake, the arms swing out.

They are \$100 each.

Very popular. . .



Contact: Bobby "D"
@ 310 540-3690.
Torrance

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. (at Artesia Blvd.)

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



2020 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 still have 60th anniversary items for sale at a discount. More to come.

The **2020 Harbor phonebooks/rosters** will be available in March. The first booklet is free to members. Additional copies are \$1.75 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**.

Annual Dues are Due

Please send in your Harbor MARC membership dues for the year 2020.
Make the check out to " **Harbor M.A.R.C** " and send it to:

Ursula Schmidt
26419 Pineknoll Ave. Harbor City, CA 90710 .

The dues for Harbor M.A.R.C. are \$30 per year. **Just In!** The Board just voted this last meeting that if you have been a member of **Harbor MARC** for **50** years or more, your Harbor dues are free! You still have to pay National dues and if you want the **Harbor Light** newsletter mailed to you, it is \$10/year. (email is free)

If you would also like to pay the National **MARC** dues at the same time as club dues, add \$45 and make the check out for \$75. (I will then forward your \$45 to MARC).

If you are getting the Harbor Light newsletter by **regular mail**, please add **\$10 for printing and postage**.

Thank you for supporting your Model A Club!!

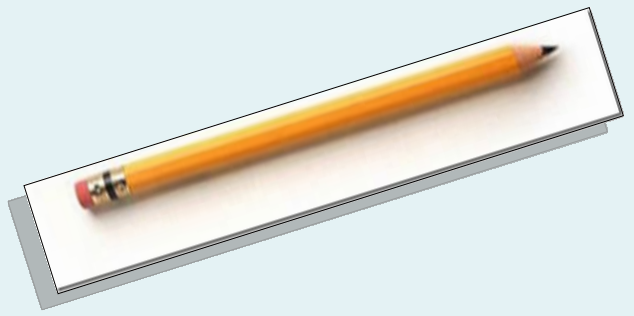
Ursula Schmidt, Membership

For Sale Contact **Walt Hibbard @ 310-371-3008**

Description	Price	Comments
Cowl Band 1931 small dents	\$10	Small dents
Stock Hood 30-31	\$250	
Running Boards (2) 30-31	\$170	
Steel Fenders (RF,RR,LF)	\$300	All Need Repair, LF Has well
Cowl Lights (2)	\$50	
Front Bumper 60"	\$100	
Transmission	\$500	Good Condition
4 Tires and wheels 19"	\$400	Tires White-wall, Wheels Black
Front Seat and Back Cushions	\$150	'31 S/W
Rear Seat and Back Cushions	\$150	'31 S/W
Windshield Frame S/W	\$150	
Fender Mount Spare Tire Carrier	\$25	
Good Engine and Trans together	\$2000	w/ sidebowl carb, starter
TOTAL	\$4255	
Good Deal Price for all	\$3500	

HARBOR AREA MODEL 'A' CLUB MEETING

November 22nd, 2019 WALTERIA CLUBHOUSE



PRESIDENT: Tim Harrison--called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: Jack Gordinier led the flag salute.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Elaine Pisu moved that the Minutes be approved as corrected (cars needed for filming November 13 not December 13). The motion was seconded by Dick Wyckoff. All in favor.

VICE PRESIDENT: Dennis Simpson—Last opportunity drawing for this year includes tools and Joan originals, and the last amo box donated by Dick Wenker. Business cards and trifolds are available for our members to hand out to anyone interested in our Club. Dennis made up a packet with applications and info about our club and meetings. Dennis and Linda are working hard on the opportunity drawing for the Banquet.

TREASURER: Daffy Wagner—reported the club account balance is fine. Money coming in with members paying their dues.

HARBORLIGHT EDITOR: Dick Wyckoff—Hope all got the newsletter, a lot of fun over at Janet's home getting her '29 going. December 8 is a busy day, two holiday parades one in El Segundo at 1:00 get there at noon. Unusual thing advertised for sale in the newsletter—a complete set of Jim Beam Decanters. Because Al Avoian has been such a contributor to our club the Board gave Liz Dye and David Dye free membership to the Harbor Club.

WEBMASTER: Sue Hankins— Absent

MEMBERSHIP: Ursi Schmidt— 24 have been paid their dues. MARC dues are \$45, Harbor Area \$30 = \$75. If you want the Harbor Light newsletter mailed rather than emailed it is an additional \$10. Those members with 50 years or more get their Harbor Area membership free.

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING: Jeanne Parrish won the women's prize of \$40. Phil Bonneau won the men's prize of \$20.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Cliff LeFall— Been busy last month with activity highlight was going mobile and going to Janet's garage. Thought there would just be a few adjustments, but car parts all over the place, got them put together one at a time, got it started, then had hot dogs, tried to start it again, it wouldn't, then it did and ran well. One more trip is needed to do brakes.

SERGEANT AT ARMS (badge money): Jack Gordinier collected \$8.

SUNSHINE: Doris Marshall & Theresa LeFall—Good turnout tonight. Good to see Walt and Carla, Wayne, and Doris. Donnis and Theresa came up with idea of line dancing class for women in club. Something we can all do. More to come.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: BIRTHDAYS: Gary Guttormson 1, Daniel Giagni 3, Wayne Sterling 4, Dick Wenker 7, Dan Fitzgerald 10, Anita Perreten 10, Sue Hankins 11, Mary Walker 15, Bob DeCrescenzo 17, Ruxella Speights 20, Greg Clayton 21, Jeanne Parrish 23, Jim Valot 25, Amy Knott 25, Gary Gaffney 29.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jack & Julie Goldberg 1.

TOOLS COORDINATOR: Bobby DeCrescenzo—Nothing to report--all tools in. A list of the tools the club has was sent to Sue so they could be added to our website.

REFRESHMENTS: Weeg Thompson— Good news Pisu's and DeCrescenzo's brought pies tonight.. Refreshment signup sheet for next year being passed around.

CLOCK PRIZE: Joan Gordinier— Wayne Sterling is the winner of the \$5 clock prize.

ADVERTISING: Jim Huizdos—Nothing new

MERCHANDISE: Gloria Younkin—New shirts available probably about \$40. Regular shirts and hats available.

TOURS: Elaine Pisu—Toy drive get toys to Elaine by 12/6. Signups for the Wilmington parade and December 13 dinner at 5 pm at Stonefire Grill. Wilmington Parade meet at clubhouse at 10 a.m., lunch to follow. Cookie exchange at Pisu's after dinner. Bring containers for exchange. A copy of the recipe would be good too. Fabulous Ford cancelled today not enough interest. Banquet January 25 at Bluewater Grill 11-4 and bring your cars. MAFCA awards banquet December 2-6 in Claremont.

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS: Donnis designed and prepared the wonderful flyer for our Banquet. January 25 is the date for our banquet at Bluewater Grill from 11-4, drive your car. Give checks with food selection to Daffy \$50 per person. Beautiful room and great opportunity drawing.

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations/Elections—President 2 yr -Wayne Sterling; Vice President—2 yr -Dennis Simpson; Secretary— 2 yr—Gloria Younkin; were nominated; Technical Director currently Cliff LeFall; Tour Director currently Elaine Pisu. Motion made to close nominations and accept 2020 officers as nominated--Jim Huizdos moved and Dennis Simpson seconded. All approved. Congratulations to the new Board!

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Friday, December 13, 2019, 5 pm at Stonefire Grill at 25352 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, for dinner followed by cookie exchange at Pisu's.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Monday, December 2, 2019, at Elephant Bar directly following dinner.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Dick Wyckoff moved that the meeting be adjourned and Walt Hibbard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm for the opportunity drawing and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted: Secretary, *Pat Harrison*



FROM THE BENCH

BY CHRIS WICKERSHAM

The Spark Lever and What to Do with It

We all know that it is necessary to move the spark lever all the way up to fully retard the ignition timing when starting the engine, and to advance the igniting timing by pulling the spark lever down when driving the car; but how far down should the lever be for optimum performance. If you read the Instruction Book (Owner's Manual), Henry says "For average driving the spark lever should be carried about half way down the quadrant". Now, if you have the timing adjusted correctly, the ignition should have 0 degrees of advance when the lever is all the way up and 40 degrees of advance when the lever is all the way down. So when Henry says to pull the lever about half way down for average driving. This would only be 20 degrees of advance.

From experience and actual tests we find that the Model A engine will produce maximum power between 2000 and 2250 RPM with a spark advance of 30-31 degrees. We also know the engine requires less timing at lower engine speeds. However, most owners just start the car, pull the spark lever down and drive off.

For those who like to work with the controls find the engine seems to perform better if you start the engine, pull the lever about half way down (20 degrees) for idle and slow speed around the neighborhood driving and increase the timing to three fourths the way down the quadrant (30 degrees) for highway driving. Operating the spark lever in this manner definitely improves engine performance below 2000 RPM, but by how much?

I recently found the answer to this question when I ran across an old Secrets of Speed Magazine from July of 1995. Ron Kelly had written an article about tests he conducted using a dynamometer to investigate how different modifications affected the performance of the Model A engine.

The first test was for base line purposes using a stock Model A Ford engine with the timing fixed at 30 degrees. This would simulate just leaving the spark lever in one position as the car was driven.

Test #2 used the same engine but the stock distributor was replaced with a Mallory distributor with centrifugal advance which would continuously adjust timing as the engine speed changed. The Mallory distributor was set up with 16 degrees of total centrifugal advance. The ignition timing was adjusted for 15 degrees of advance at 700 engine RPM and 31 degrees at 2,000 RPM.

These tests showed horsepower at 1,000 RPM increased from 14.7 HP with the timing fixed at 30 degrees to 21.9 HP when timing was automatically adjusted for engine speed. The 50% increase in power was the result of using the Mallory distributor which automatically adjusted

the timing to 19 degrees at 1,000 RPM. This advantage decreased as engine speed increased. At 2,000 RPM, when the Mallory distributor reached its maximum overall advance, power output was essentially the same because the total timing was essentially the same, 30 degrees for the stock distributor with fixed timing and 31 degrees for the Mallory.

In conclusion, if you are using a stock Model A distributor with manual spark control, you will experience better engine performance by manipulating the spark lever so the timing more closely follows what is required by the engine for optimum performance.

Tech Tip

Timing of the Model A Ford engine with a stock distributor is accomplished when the piston of #1 cylinder is at the top of its compression stroke. This occurs when the timing pin inserted into the front cover falls into a recess in the timing gear while the engine is being very slowly rotated. Sometimes the recess is very shallow and it is difficult to determine when the pin drops into the recess. A modification to the end of the pin will make it easier to find this recess and make it easier to check ignition timing.

Illustration below courtesy of Marco Tahtaras, at MarcoT@abarnyard.com.

Timing Pin Modification

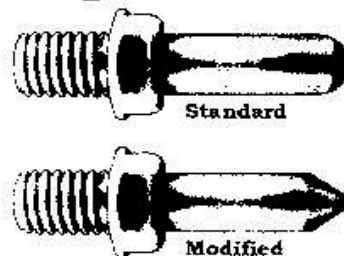
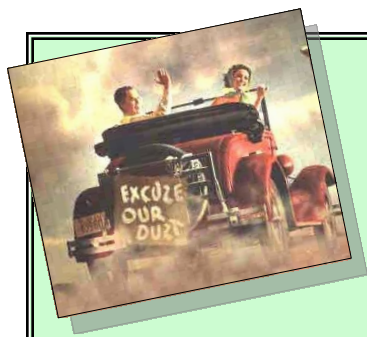


FIGURE 1: Marco Tahtaras



Touring with Elaine By Elaine Pisu, Tour Director



What's ahead for next year?

As mentioned at the last club meeting, It isn't easy putting tours together just by myself. I am asking for a little help with some ideas for next year. At the upcoming banquet, I will have a list of possible events that we could do. Anyway, give it some thought and let me know.

The 'Cookie Exchange' went over well. We had 42 members at Stone Fire Grill and the same number showed up at the Pisu residence afterwards. (Some pictures on the next page). I think the most fun is when Santa showed up and Ho-Ho-Ho'd the crowd. We had a special spot prepared for him and lots of fun pictures. At one point, I think "I saw Mommy kissing Santa Clause". . . . Weeg Thompson must know something. . . .

Don't forget the Awards banquet on January 25th, 2020. It is at the same place as last year. Drive your Model As. The restaurant reserved spots for us and we had 13 cars last year. Great picture taking opportunity.

Anyway, Have a wonderful Christmas and a safe New Year and I will see you all next year!

Elaine



Price Reduced!

1929 Ford Woody Station Wagon

- LeBaron-Bonny side curtains and seats
- Counterbalanced, inserted engine (~60 hp) with about 300 miles.

A great touring car!

- Rebuilt transmission
- Most of wood original (not kit wood)
- New heavy duty radiator, battery, tires (100 miles)
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- Completely rebuilt brakes and front-end with new original spindles, bearings, ball joints
- Completely rebuilt no-leak water pump.
- Gas tank flushed and cleaned
- Completely rebuilt distributor, new electrical harness, rebuilt original horn

• **Asking \$25,000 OBO.**

- Contact Dan Fitzgerald
- (c) 310-344-2306
- Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Downsizing is reason for sale.



**Dick Wyckoff's '29 Roadster Pickup
all spruced up for the season.**

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
from Dick and Jan.**



MAFFI Newsletter Minute December 2019

Thank you for your continued support of The Model A Foundation and of our museum, located on the grounds of The Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, MI. Through your membership and donations, we have been able to establish a world class museum exhibiting displays of vehicles, era fashions and memorabilia associated with the Ford Model A.

The Model A Foundation has built and up fitted the museum without incurring debt. Your donations and contributions have allowed us to manage the Foundation in this way. We have an Endowment Fund in which we have set a one-million-dollar goal with the interest to be used to cover annual museum operational expenses. We are about 93% of the way in achieving this goal. We ask that you consider giving a year-end gift to help us with our endowment objective and/or to help support our operations. Your gifts allow us to continue supporting our hobby with one of the best museums anywhere in the world. Donations can be sent to:

Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 28
Peotone, IL 60468-0028

Thank you again for your continued generous donations!

Benefits of National Club Memberships

Membership in MAFCA includes the following:

- A one year subscription to *The Restorer*, our award winning bi-monthly magazine including free classified ads.
- The right to register and participate in all National and Regional MAFCA meets
- Voting privileges in National elections of officers and by-laws revisions
- Free classified advertising on the MAFCA web site and posting of photo of your car in the Photo Album section
- Technical advice to help restore your Model A and keep it in top shape

National MARC Membership Includes:

- Six issues each calendar year of our award- winning, international, bi-monthly *Model 'A' News* magazine.
- Includes detailed technical and Era fashion articles, Model A historical articles, coverage of National Meets and Region News, classified ads, and vendor ads - a great source of information for parts and services.
- From 64 to 72 pages each issue. Excellent quality coated paper with color, and black and white photography.
- FREE 40 word Classified Ad in each issue for club members - buy and sell Model A parts and services to a target audience.

Year-end Meeting & Fun Event

Our Tour Director, Elaine Pisu finished out the year with a fun evening for the club. We had a great supper at the local Stone Fire Grill in Torrance and then went to the Pisu residence for our annual 'Cookie Exchange'.

Mirco and Elaine do a fantastic job of decorating their home for the holidays. They even arranged to have Santa stop by during his most busy season!



Stone Fire Grill



Xmas decorations



More decorations



Lots of cookies



Dick, Santa and Jan



Jim and Santa



Weeg and Santa



Weeg and Santa



Members enjoying the cookies

So... What did the Harbor Club do in 2019?



Santa and Al Avoian '18



Installation luncheon 2018



Safety check



Safety check at Club



Willie Duncan services



Torrance recognizes Al Avoian



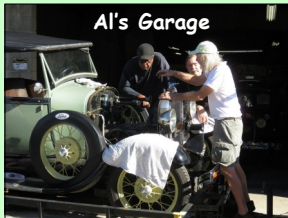
Orange County Pancake Breakfast



Flower tour
Palos Verdes



Flower tour



Al's Garage



Sam selling raffle tickets



Ruby's on Friday afternoon



Art and Daffy Wagner



Price Reduced Again!

Long time senior club member downsizing his inventory. Selling recently restored (2015) late '31 AA Stake Bed truck.

Solid roof, indented firewall. Runs great. 6 New tires. 4-speed trans. Lots of extra parts. 12 volts, LED taillights. Current registration. This is a nice truck!

Asking \$17,000 OBO. Located in Torrance, CA. If interested, contact Liz Dye at 310-968-0304



(Age and health is reason for sale)

Full Set of Model A Ford Jim Beam Decanters

\$1000.00 - perfect condition

9 Model A Decanters w/ liqueur + original boxes

1 Model A Decanter (special "Woodie" -

Jim Beam Delivery Wagon) w/liqueur - no box

Set includes:

1929 Model A "Woodie",

1929 Model A "Woodie - Jim Beam Delivery Wagon

1928 Model A Sport Coupe,

1929 Model A Phaeton

1929 Model A Fire Engine,

1929 Model A Fire Chief Car

1929 Model A Emergency Ambulance,

1929 Model A Pick Up Truck

1929 Model A Paddy Wagon,

1929 Model A Police Car

*Individual pictures available upon request

Contact:

Don Gott ph 760-519-2318.

Email: dgott@cox.net

Margaret Gott ph 760-310-2959



Some More Harbor Club 'Year in Review' !



Ruby's Diner anniversary celebration



Harbor members in Utah



Little Sisters of the Poor visit



Hubley races at the annual picnic



Celebrating Art Wagner's 90th birthday at Pisu's home



Pisu's on tour in Utah



Harbor club at Torrance celebration



Harbor club on tour in Solvang



Hubley Grand Champion, Duffy Wagner



Janet getting ready to start her pickup

The **Harbor Light** is a monthly publication for the Harbor Area MARC/MAFCA. All articles or want ads must be received by the 15th of each month in order to appear in the following month's publication. Neither the **Harbor Light** and its staff, nor the Harbor Region of the Model A Restorer's Club Inc. and Model A Ford Club of America, Inc. will assume any liability for errors or omissions, or for any liability or resultant damages for products, opinions or services listed herein. Some information contained in our newsletter has been reprinted from other newsletters; we thank and acknowledge them. Editor

Proud printer of the 'Harbor Light'



Edward Su

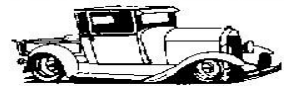
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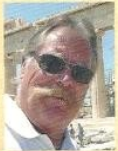
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Mike Butcher



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For MARC info and membership, see
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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. 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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Happy New Year



January 2020

From:
Harbor Area Model A Club
Dick Wyckoff, Editor
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The Harbor Light

