



December 2021



Spoken Wheels

THE NEXT MEETING

General Meeting

The December meeting has been canceled because the government doesn't like old cars

Program

The program will be "How to return Christmas Presents" without great pain.

NEWS BITS

2022 Club Membership Dues

Our club membership was dues free in 2021, but not 2022; don't let your membership expire.

At the recent board meeting the decision was made to reinstate the annual dues. The annual dues are \$30 and are payable by December 31, 2021.

Last year the SAA's board decided not to charge members dues for the calendar year 2021. This decision was made because the Covid crisis had prevented the club from holding meetings and scheduling tours and events.

Preparation of the SAA's 2022 membership roster will begin in January. **Members who have not paid their dues by January 30 will not be included in the 2022 roster.**

Prepare a \$30 check payable to the Santa Anita A's and mail it to: Santa Anita A's, PO Box 660904, Arcadia, CA 91066.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOB HARBICHT

Those of you who attended the Santa Anita A's Christmas Party and Installation of Officers were treated to a great dinner and great party. The Shakespeare Club was beautiful. Jim Kroeger had formulated a special drink for the party and dinner was great. In charge of planning the party was Janet Beggs, who always does a superb job. We all owe Janet a very big "thank you." I, for one, really appreciate her hard work on the Christmas party and the memorable "Cocktails & Quails" party she put on last summer for our club.



DUES ARE DUE! Your family membership is only \$30, a real bargain! Please send them in now so you will continue to receive this outstanding newsletter and all the other benefits of membership.

Jim Kroeger, Chris Wickersham, Joe Wilson and I met recently to plan tours for the coming year. The results of our meeting are reported upon in another section of this newsletter. I think we've come up with a pretty good slate of tours and hope you will all take advantage of these opportunities to get out in your Model A and get reacquainted with your Model A friends. I know Patsy and I are looking forward to touring with all of you.

We are planning to start our regular membership meetings in January. I informed the Church of the Good Shepherd of our intentions and got sort of a strange response. The pastor will be taking our request to the church board of governors. I don't see any reason why we wouldn't receive approval, but this puts things a little bit up in the air. For now, plan on coming to our meeting on January 28. If anything changes, we'll let you know.

I am, quite frankly, happy to put 2021 behind us. A year ago, I was happy to put 2020 behind us and was looking forward to the new year. Well, we all know how that worked out. But, ever the optimist, I'm looking forward to the new year of 2022. I'm hopeful we'll get our club (and the world) back to some sense of normalcy and start enjoying our favorite cars and all that goes with them. Happy New Year!!

CALENDAR OF TOURS & EVENTS

December

31- General meeting - Canceled

January

8 - Nethercutt Museum Tour, See page 3

10 - Ladies Brunch, Annia's, 11:00 AM, San Gabriel Valley Airport

20 - Men's Breakfast, 9:00 AM Annia's, San Gabriel Valley Airport

February

5 - Chino Air Museum, See page 3

March

6 - Lanterman House Tour in La Canada, Details TBA

April

? - Mystery Tour, The Date, Departure Place & Time TBA

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January Birthdays

2 - Leslie Pam
5 - Rob Barrosa
11 - Olive Moore
11 - Dino Falabrino
12 - Steve Kurtz
13- Jamie Frick
15 - Sally Baquet
17 - Brad Balmot
18 - Bob Travis

January Birthdays -Cont.

18 -Joann Formia
19 - Cheryl Manifor
20 - Jim Kroeger
29 - Tom Johnson
30 - Chris Wickersham

January Anniversaries

22 - Jerry & Patty Lampassi
31 - John & Marianne Spielmann

NEWS BITS - MORE

Club Meetings to Restart

Great news! President Bob Harbicht has announced that our monthly SAA's meetings will restart in January 2022. We will return to the Church of the Good Shepherd where we met before being shut down by the Covid virus. As before, meetings will start at 7:00 PM. The church is still located at 400 W. Duarte Road, Arcadia. Masks and vaccination papers will be required

CARS OF INTEREST



This is a good example of a modified Model A . This was an earlier restoration project.

2021 OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

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Bob Harbicht 626-484-4214

Vice President:

Jim Kroeger 626-710-6592

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Elaine Perry 626-443-0638

Treasurer:

Chuck Davies 323-786-4778

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Marlin Perry 626-443-0638

Janet Beggs 626-773-2806

Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141

Joe Wilson 818-730-0842

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Advertising:

Vacant

Fashion: Coordinator:

Susan Homet 909-360-3030

Ladies' Day:

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Low End Boys:

Mickey Fruchter 626-797-2048

Chuck Davies 323-788-4778

Membership:

Randy Harper 626-357-6442

Merchandise:

Joe Wilson 818-730-0842

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Raffle – Ladies':

Bea Fruchter 818-807-7143

Raffle – Men's:

Mickey Fruchter 818-512-2556

Raffle - 50-25-25

Nancy Sharpe 626-359-1751

Refreshment Host:

Vacant

Refreshment Sign-ups:

Vacant

Restorer Articles:

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Roster:

Joe Wilson 818-730-0842

Seminars:

Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141

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Sue Chandler 626-898-3142

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Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141

TourMeister:

Vacant

Webmaster:

Eric Sandberg 818-330-9311

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sunshine Lady - Sue Chandler, Miss Sunbeam

Get well cards were sent to Andrea Plessner & Joann Smith

Cookie Bringers - The Cookies crumbled

Photo Donors - Olive Moore, Nancy Stancil, Bob Moore, Janet Beggs, Jim Kroeger, Chris Wickersham, etc.

NEW MEMBERS



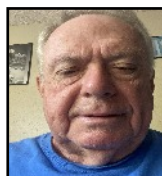
Al Backes

909-816-5055 cell

1093 N. Gordon St., Pomona, CA 91768

pomomaglass@gmail.com

Joined July 2021



Gary Larson

909-861-4151 714-496-2031 Cell

22517- Eddridge Dr. Diamond Bar CA. 91765

fordhuckster@icloud.com

Joined August 2021 29 Roadster, 30 Huckster



John & Cheryl Manifor

562 697-2075 562-665-0381 Cell

1643 Agave Ave, La Habra Hts., CA 90631

MANIFOR@AOL.com

Joined August 2021 28 Roadster, 31 Town Sedan

COMING TOURS & EVENTS

Nethercutt Tour

Saturday, January 8th.

By Jim Kroeger

Please join us for our first tour of the year as we head out to the Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar on Saturday, January 8th.



The Nethercutt features more than 130 of the world's greatest antique and vintage automobiles. A 1937 Canadian Pacific Royal Locomotive and a 1912 Pullman private car, owned by the late Anita Baldwin, accompany the exhibit.



We will gather at the McDonald's in La Canada, located at 449 Foothill Blvd, at 9:45 am for a 10 am departure. This will be a surface-street only tour. You must show proof of vaccination or a negative covid test within 72 hours. Masks are required and there is no cost to enter.

Following the museum tour we will travel a short distance to the Bear Pit Bar-B-Q for lunch. Since there is no sign-up sheet and the restaurant needs a head count, we are requiring interested members to call in with a reservation. You can reach Jim Kroeger at 626-710-6592. Hope to see you on tour.

Yes, it is important that you make a reservation for the tour with Jim Kroeger. (Editor's note)

"Planes of Fame" Airplane Museum

Sunday, February 5

by Jim Kroeger

The "Planes of Fame" Museum's Chino location is home to nearly 100 aircraft, many of them restored to flying condition. The collection spans the earliest days of aviation, including the First World War, the 1920s and 1930s, World War II, and Korea and Vietnam.



Detail of this tour will be announced in the next newsletter.

Lanternman House Tour

Sunday, March 6

by Bob Harbicht

The historical Lanternman House is a house museum with a comprehensive collection of varied arts and crafts elements. Located centrally in La Canada Flintridge, California, its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is a rare bungalow-style house museum. The hand-painted ornamentation and the original vintage furnishing and interiors on the first story are stellar.



Well worth a visit to learn the history of the area. Details of the tour will be announced in the next newsletter.

Mystery Tour

April Sometime

by Anonymous

You probably haven't been there before. But it is a really nice place to visit. Although the destination is a secret, we can say that the tour involves a nice drive to a nice destination and a nice lunch. Further details will be shared with you in the next newsletter as they are discovered.



PAST TOURS & EVENTS

Christmas Party / Installation Banquet

Saturday, December 11

Janet Beggs

Fifty-four Santa Anita A's returned to the Shakespeare Club for the 2021 Christmas/Installation banquet. Janet Beggs greeted arriving guests at the holiday punch bowl and Jim Kroeger manned a hosted bar with wine and his famous holiday Christmas Cosmo.



The gentlemen of the Board selected the menu for a well-proportioned turkey dinner with a chocolate Tiramisu rum cake for dessert. The quails from this summer's "Cocktail & Quails" party reappeared wearing holiday ribbons as the table décor. Pianist Jay Munns returned and provided holiday music during the opening social hour and background music during dinner.



Dinner was followed by President Bob Harbicht calling the members of the 2022 Board forward and "roasting" them with a series of jokes.

Judge Bob Moore then appeared in robe and proceeded to re-install the new 2022 Officers and Board members. They were asked to raise their right hands and swear their allegiance to the club and promise to perform



the tasks of their office. They did so with some difficulty, not being able to remember what words to repeat.

The club owes a big thank you to each of the Officers and Board members who agreed (or were cajoled into) to remain in place on the Board for one more year.



Officers and Board Members Installed for 2022

OFFICERS

President: Bob Harbicht
Vice President: Jim Kroeger
Secretary: Elaine Perry
Treasurer: Chuck Davies

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marlin Perry
Janet Beggs
Chris Wickersham
Joe Wilson

PAST TOURS & EVENTS

Holiday Motor Excursion

Sunday, December 26

by Joe Wilson

The Horseless Carriage Club of Southern California presented its 65th Holiday Motor Excursion at the Arcadia Community Regional Park on Sunday, December 26. It was a cool but sunny day which brought out a variety of cars despite the fact rain was expected the day before and after the event.



The traditional driving tour which is restricted to all cars that were manufactured in 1932 and before, started at 10:00 AM. The destination was Clearman's with a short rest stop on the way.



SAA's members participating in the event were:

Jim Kroeger, Janet Beggs, Randy Harper, Mickey Fruchter, Bob & Patsy Harbicht, Chris Wickersham, Warren Record, Brad Balmot, Jim Constantine, John Emanuelli, Nancy Stencil, Joe Principe, Carl & Sue Rogers, Chuck Davies, Gary Hunter



An Electric Car - Diamond Lane OK



A BIT OF HISTORY

The Fordson Coal Company at Nuttallburg, WV

By Stan Johnson

In 1919, Henry Ford turned his attention toward controlling another key resource needed for his manufacturing enterprise - Coal. Naturally, he began looking in West Virginia and particularly the New River Gorge area. Ford decided to purchase the Nuttallburg Mine which had tapped into the 3 1/2 foot thick "Sewall Seam" of highcarbon coal and had mined it for nearly 50 years. Ford bought the operation in 1919 and began its revitalization. He renamed it the Fordson Coal Company. As he usually did in these ventures, Ford visited the site, and formed a bond with the local community and made further investments in coming years.

The community of Nuttallburg began when enterprising John Nuttall moved from Pennsylvania and began a successful mining operation in the early 1870s. The town grew alongside a branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad which hauled the coal away from the site. The rail line was built into the area in 1873 long before Ford's ownership in fact. Nuttallburg was the second town in the gorge to ship bituminous coal by rail.

In 1890, Nuttallburg had 342 residents in 110 company owned houses stretching a half mile along the New River and up the sides of the gorge. In 1900, it had a doctor, a blacksmith and a company store, plus clubs and athletic teams.

There's not much in Nuttallburg today: park service kiosks, parking for eight vehicles, a restroom, interpretive signs and three hiking trails: the 0.6mile Tipple Trail, the 1.3mile Town Loop Trail and the rugged 3.0mile Copveyor Trail, an uphill climb to the top of the conveyor and the mine opening. But it can provide an awesome educational experience to the visitor.

A majority of the equipment used to extract "black gold" from the ground during the Ford era and beyond is still there. The interesting thing about Nuttallburg is that there is a complete mining colliery remaining on the site, including the mine portal, tracks, a conveyor, the tipple and other portions of equipment. The equipment remaining at the old Nuttallburg Mine provides a traceable path of the coal from the mine all the way to the railroad car.

Ford made improvements to the site and the mine doubled production. It was part of Ford's goal of creating "vertical integration" or controlling all aspects of production. However Ford sold the plant after 10 years of ownership because he could not control the railroad that transported his coal. He sold his interests in the Nuttallburg mines in 1928. The post office closed in 1955 and the rail depot on the railline was shut down in 1962.

Once the coal came out of the mine it had to be processed and then shipped to Michigan. As it happened, the mine entrance was high above the railroad tracks and the fast flowing New River far below.

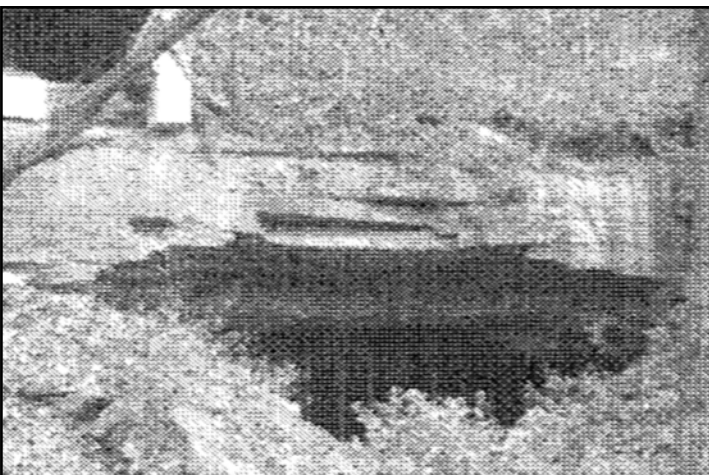
Therefore, the coal was transported downhill by a gravity conveyor known as a "button line". The coal was sorted in the tall "tipple house" and then turned into coke in a line of ovens. By heating the coal in the absence of oxygen, the coal turned into highcarbon coke, which created intense heat when placed in Ford's iron ore blast furnaces in Michigan.

In the photo at the left, the coal was mined at the top of the hill, then transported down the conveyors and into the large dark building at the bottom. There the coal was sorted and non-coal rock thrown out before the pure coal was put into the coking ovens.



In the picture above, an abandoned coke oven, partially choked with forest debris, waits patiently for the park service to restore it so that visitors can understand the coking process.

In Pennsylvania there are stories about the young boys who worked all day long in the tipple houses grabbing at sharp impure rocks and throwing them aside. Their hands would be bloody by the end of the day. It is very likely that the same scenario played out in this setting.



The holy grail of coal mine hunters, the elusive mine mouth.

A BIT OF HISTORY - MORE

Coal -Continued from page 6

Soon tourists may be able to view this relic of that era. It is in fact, a Ghost Mine; everything is there except the miners. The Nuttallburg property, was acquired by the park service in 1998. Because of its unusual status as a totally complete example of mining a century ago, it is being slowly stabilized by the US Park Service. It is now included in the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration work got underway in 2006.

A plan is being slowly implemented to preserve the remaining resources of the historic Nuttallburg mine and at the same time preserve the history of another of Henry Ford's many ventures which were designed to improve the efficiency of his manufacturing process.

Information for this article was obtained from the following sources: Pittsburgh Post Gazette; October 6, 2013. Beckley Register Herald, January 22, 2006 <http://www.coalcampusa.com/soww/river/nuttaiburg/>

Around the World in a Model A Ford

by Jim Thomas, MAFFI Trustee

MAFFI has confirmed the addition of the Bob Meyer "Around the World" 1930 Coupe as an upcoming addition to the Model A Ford Museum. Plans call for the car to be on loan to the Museum beginning in early July and to be a featured attraction at this year's Model A Day celebration in September. We're also planning to have a presentation of the Around the World Trip in Model A Fords as the Friday night seminar at the Model A Day event.

In 1982, Bob and Dottie Meyer joined with three other couples to drive their Model A's on an amazing over 4 1/2 month trip around the world. The Model A's involved in this recordbreaking trip were:

Bob and Dottie Meyer, Cincinnati, Ohio, driving a 1930 Coupe.

Bruce and Diane Davis, Walnut Creek, California, driving a 1931 A400 Convertible Sedan.

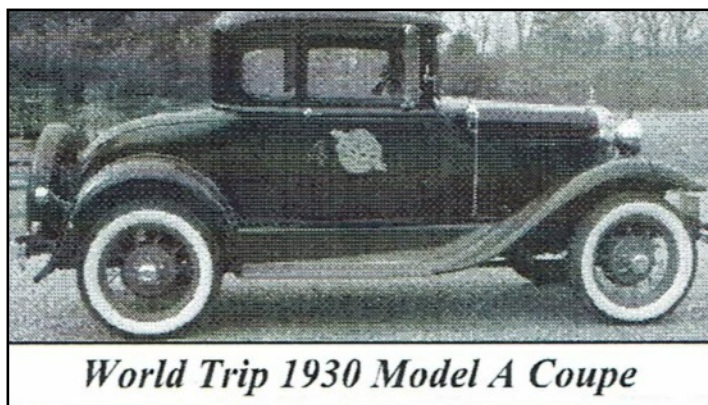
William ("Doc") and Darlene Ingwersen, Downey, California, driving a 1931 Victoria.

Kurt Petersen and Judy McMillan, Seattle, Washington, driving a 1931 Special Delivery.



Their around the world adventure highlights:

- Started with a list of over 125 interested Model A participants but dwindled to a final group of only 8 individuals and 4 Model A's to attempt the trip.
- Required over 3 years in the planning stages and almost 5 months to complete (114 days, 9 hours and 4 minutes).
- Spanned 6 continents, 3 oceans, 7 seas, 24 countries and 15 States and crossing the Equator twice.
- Bridged all 4 seasons, with temperatures ranging from 20 to 105 degrees F with drought, rain and snow conditions.
- Required (in addition to car mileage) travel on 7 airlines, 4 ferries, a cruise ship and freighter plus numerous trains, busses and taxicabs.
- Involved travel through hundreds of large cities, towns and small villages with many taxing border crossings and complicated car transport logistics.
- Required the unescorted negotiation of innumerable highways, city streets, poorly paved roads, bridges, tunnels, deserts and mountain passes.
- Involved a total of over 16,600 Model A road miles and a grand total of over 37,000 total land, air and sea miles.
- And all of this was accomplished with only two minor breakdowns among the four Model A's a flat tire and a broken axel. This trip was a real tribute to the durability of the Model A Ford and the stamina of the eight Model A world explorers!



Make plans to see the Bob and Dottie Meyer Model A Coupe and related memorabilia from their fascinating around the world trip at the Museum later this year.



Looking to the Future

It was about 5 years ago that I was asked to take on the position of Technical Director of the Santa Anita A's. The Technical Director has to have a good working knowledge of the Model A, the skills necessary to communicate clearly with our members, the ability to help with seminars and also be able to write articles for our newsletter on a regular basis. Having purchased my first Model A about 65 years ago and running a small Model A repair business while I was in college, I felt I knew a little about Model A's but it was the communication part of this position that I knew would challenge my abilities. Knowing a little something about a subject is one thing but being able to effectively share that knowledge with others is another.

Well here I am, more than 4 years later and I am writing another "From the Bench" article for our newsletter. In the past, I have tried to present subjects that are relevant and of interest to most of our readers. I have tried to not present a subject that is so technical in nature or so obscure that only a very few may find interesting. I try to write about subjects that relate to the owner with a basically "stock" Model A. These subjects will help with maintaining their car so it is always ready for a tour or outing. I like to keep things simple, just like the little cars we all enjoy. Keeping things simple is also the philosophy I have with my own Model A's. Henry did a fine job engineering a car that was rugged, reliable and simple to operate and repair. These cars were well constructed using quality materials and provided many miles and years of reliable service. Today, a Model A can still continue to provide good reliable service and offer a lot of fun and enjoyment.

In order to have a Model A that is reliable and safe, it is first necessary to have a Model A that is in good condition. We always have to keep in mind that these cars are now more than 90 years old and often they have been poorly maintained or incorrectly restored by previous owners. A Model A that is tired and all worn out is not going to offer the positive experience we all look forward to when we take our cars out for a drive. Owners who have the time, knowledge, and a good well equipped shop can completely restore a Model A to closely represent the car as it would have rolled off the assembly line. However, not every Model A owner is in this situation. Most owners have a Model A that has previously had extensive restoration work or one that is just a good old original, reasonably well maintained car. In any case, in order to expect your Model A to be reliable and ready to drive, it is necessary to insure it is properly maintained. My goal is for future "From the Bench" articles is to continue to provide information that will help the owner with maintenance and repairs.

Future articles will include an evaluation of the second generation LED headlight bulbs. I had previously written about the "new" LED headlight bulbs that became available and discussed the pros and cons. They definitely took less power and made more light but because they could not be focused correctly, they proved to be less than satisfactory. Purportedly, a second generation LED bulb has been developed that overcomes the focusing problem. I will be doing an evaluation and will bring you the results in the next few months.



Another topic I want to write about is the "New" Model A Engine. More than 14 years ago, Terry Burtz started a project to design and manufacture improved Model A engine components. These components, which include the cylinder block, crank shaft, connecting rods and flywheel, are now finally available. The block is designed to have the same external appearance as the original Model A engine and will accept all the other original Model A engine components. Once installed, this new Terry Burtz engine will be hard to detect from original.

The availability of this "new" engine will be a great improvement over having to try to save an old 90+ year old block that probably has already been rebuilt several times and may have old cracks or other faults that would have to be repaired. I currently have 2 of these engines in the shop and will be scheduling a seminar in the near future when one is completed and running.

I want to continue to provide information that is helpful and of interest to all Model A enthusiasts and am always looking for new topics. If you have a suggestion for a future article, please let me know. In the mean time, keep warm, stay dry and drive your Model A often.



Burtz Engine Block, Rod & Crank Assembly

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Ladies December Brunch



The ladies were at it again with their December 13 brunch. Attendees were:
 Carol Emanuelli
 Bea Fruchter
 Patty Lutz
 Sue Rogers
 Nancy Stancil

You ladies that haven't yet participated are invited. Bea Fruchter continues to organize this event; give her a call if you wish to attend (818-807-7143).

LOW END BOYS

BY MICKEY FRUCHTER

Things have been very slow for the "Low End Boys"... We had a couple of calls, BUT no work was requested. Bob Harbicht had an engine problem and he found that the end of the wire from the coil to the distributor had slipped out of the coil. He fixed the problem himself.

FOR SALE

Portable Body Heater For Your A by Bob Harbicht

The club's gift presented to our hard-working officers and directors at this year's Installation/ Christmas party was a car blanket with the Santa Anita A's logo on it. It unrolls into a nice lap robe, perfect for those who might be riding in a Model A with no heater, and possibly, no windows.

We have a limited number of these car blankets available for \$20. They were offered for sale at the installation/ Christmas party last Saturday and seven were sold.

If you'd like to purchase one of these blankets, contact Bob Harbicht. pbharbicht@gmail.com



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MAFFI Sells Memorial Bricks

It's time for you to "Give a Brick".

In 2011 MAFFI began selling memorial bricks to raise money for the Model A Museum. Please consider purchasing a brick for a Model A fan. This is a great way to honor your favorite Model A'ers or recognize your Model A Club. The cost of a brick is \$150.00.



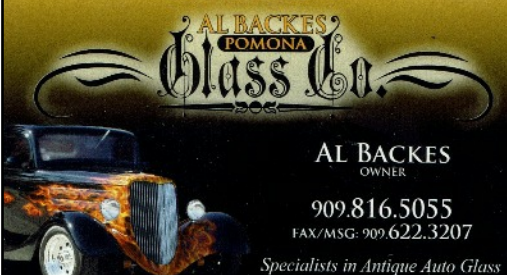
To order a brick, complete the order form and return it to MAFFI with your check. All bricks will be installed on the drives in front of the Model A Ford Museum for everyone to see.

To purchase a brick go to this website and complete the form. <https://www.maffi.org/WSContent/Download/BuyABrickDonation>

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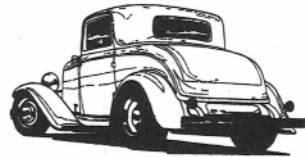
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Spoken Wheels is the monthly publication of the Santa Anita A's based in Arcadia, California. The organization is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and enjoyment of the Model A Ford. It is a chapter of the national organization, MAFCA (Model A Ford Club of America). Meetings are held on the last Friday of most months at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, California. Address: PO Box 660904, Arcadia., CA 91066. Website: www.santaanitaas.org



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Model A Ford Club of America

Santa Anita A's is a chartered member of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA). It is a California not-for-profit corporation and a national historical society dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Model A Ford vehicles as manufactured from 1928 through 1931. We encourage our SAA members to also participate in the MAFCA organization. Check out their website. It contains a wide variety of information about the organization, activities, technical references and instructions on how to join the organization. (www.mafca.com)



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