



February 2025

# Spoken Wheels

## General Meeting

General Meeting –Saturday, February 22<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am  
Church of the Good Sheperd  
400 W. Duarte Road Arcadia, CA

An annual Auto Inspection Day is being organized.  
Stay tuned for more information about this.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS – MEN

JOHN EMANUELLI – 1  
SCOTT G. NIELSEN – 3  
JIM CONSTANTIAN – 4  
FRED WEIDEMAN – 14  
RANDY HARPER – 19  
WARREN RECORD – 20  
LARRY METZ – 22  
DICK CANZONERI – 24  
WARWICK NETHERCOAT – 27  
STEVE CONCIDINE – 31

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS – WOMEN

JOSIE BYRD – 3  
CAROLYN McBRIDE – 3  
RUTH HARPER – 5  
MITSUKO HAYS – 8  
LYLA EDDINGTON – 18  
NANCY STANCIL – 24  
JENNIFER SANDBERG - 28



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow members,  
What started out as our hopes of a great New Year, with our attention focused on our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration, has been horribly detoured by the destructive wildfires.



**Dino Falabrino**

27 of our members call Altadena and surrounding areas home and while some

residents lost their lives, the club was spared that horrible statistic. We did have friends of members perish in the fire and a member lose his home and grandfather's Model A. Many classic cars were lost in the Eaton fires. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all suffering from this disaster.

We now have 2 Men's Breakfast get togethers and I attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday breakfast in January. I was delighted to see 25 members and 10 Model A's there considering all that's going on. It was also fun to talk and cajole with each other. I feel it's good for the club to come together at a time like this.

At our January monthly meeting we had 36 members, 2 who are new members, 3 visitors and 9 cars. Our speaker was fellow member Mark Henzel. He spoke of his 35 plus years serving as a Rose Parade member. Mark's excellent speaking skills kept us amazed at the history of the parade and Tournament House. He answered all our questions and we had a lot. Thank you again Mark. We appreciate your efforts and membership.

Hopefully February we all will have better news. We will pull through this together.

As always, Dino Falabrino

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

LARRY & MAY PARE – 3  
LARRY & SUZANNE RUMMENS – 10  
JIM & JAMIE FRICK – 12  
RICHARD & AMY TOMPKINS - 22

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

- 8 – **Heritage Home & Museum Tour** – See page 4
- 10 – **Ladies' Brunch** – 11:00am San Gabriel
- 13– **Board meeting** – 7pm Church of the Good Shepherd
- 18 – **San Antonio Winery Tour** – see page 4
- 20 – **Men's Breakfast** – 9:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 22 – **General Meeting** – Church of the Good Shepherd
- 22 – **Temple City Camellia festival parade** - TBA
- Ladies Driving Day** – to be announced

### March

- 3-5 **Visalia, CA- CCRG Jamboree** – All info was emailed.
- 6 – **Men's Breakfast** – 9:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 13– **Board meeting** – 7pm Church of the Good Shepherd
- 10 – **Ladies' Brunch** – 11:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 20 – **Men's Breakfast** – 9:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 23 – **OCMAFC Pancake Breakfast** – See page 9
- 29 – **General Meeting** – Church of the Good Shepherd

### April

- 6 – **Men's Breakfast** – 9:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 13– **Board meeting** – 7pm Church of the Good Shepherd
- 10 – **Ladies' Brunch** – 11:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 20 – **Men's Breakfast** – 9:00am San Gabriel Airport
- 26 – **General Meeting** – Church of the Good Shepherd

## FASHION 1928 - 1931

Then there was that time around 1930 where the men decided to go topless to the swimming pool! I'm sure the wives put them all in horizontal stripes to make a bold statement.

Are we sure that there's not someone in the club who would like to write a little fashion piece every month?



## 2024 OFFICERS, BOARD & CHAIRS

### OFFICERS

**President:**  
Dino Falabrino 626-664-6065

**Vice President:**  
Mickey Fruchter 818-512-2556

**Secretary:**  
Warwick Nethercoat 818-979-1296

**Treasurer:**  
Nancy Sharpe 626-359-1751

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Carl Rogers 626-827-5984  
Les Eddington 626-961-8209  
Scott Doudrick 626-437-0947  
Richard Anderson 909-923-4522  
Dennis Chapman 909-762-5654

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Activities:**  
Janet Beggs 626-773-2806

**Advertising:**  
Carol Emanuelli 626-286- 5267

**Ladies' Day:**  
Vicky Balmot

**Low End Boys:**  
Mickey Fruchter 626-797-2048  
Chuck Davies 323-788-4778

**Membership:**  
Randy Harper 626-357-6442

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS continued

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**Money Raffle:**  
Bea Fruchter 818-807-7143

**Drive A, Clothing, Badge awards:**  
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**Refreshment Host:**  
Dino & Gina Falabrino 626-664-6065

**Restorer Articles:**  
Dennis Chapman 909-762-5654

**Roster:**  
Randy Harper 626-357-6442

**Seminars:**  
Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141

**Southern CA MAFCA Rep. (SCRG):**  
Bob Moore 626-305-2427

**Spoken Wheels:**  
Editor-Dennis Chapman 909-762-5654  
Proofer- Olive Moore 909-456-6935

**Sunshine Lady:**  
Gina Falabrino 626-445-6951

**Technical Director:**  
Chris Wickersham 626-639-3141

**TourMeister:**  
Bob Harbicht 626-484-4214

**Webmaster:**  
Eric Sandberg 818-330-9311

## PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Sunshine Report** – Cards were sent out to Bob Travis and Scott & Kieran Doudrick .

**Cookie Bringers** -Dino and Gina Falabrino provided the coffee and donuts this month. Volunteers needed.

**Photos and articles provided by** Nancy Stancil, Janet Beggs, John Emanuelli, Bob Moore, Brad Balmot and others.

## MANEUVERING OUR 50TH

As we enjoy our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club, we are showing historic club slide shows during our monthly meetings. If you have relevant pictures, videos, audios, etc. please contact Scott Doudrick at 626-437-0947 or email to [1939mars@gmail.com](mailto:1939mars@gmail.com)

Depending on what kind of response he gets he will put together some interesting programs.

## COMMITTEE LEADERS

Do you have what it takes to be on a committee and help shape our club in the future? We have spots to be filled and we've dropped spots that we couldn't find people to take. Hoping there's someone to come up with a fun plan to add to the rest of the fun this club has. Here's some openings.

**TOUR COMMITTEE** – We want someone who can organize a tour for us to go on a regular basis.

Not the same place every month but new places to go or places we used to go that we haven't been in a while. And we have annual places we go.

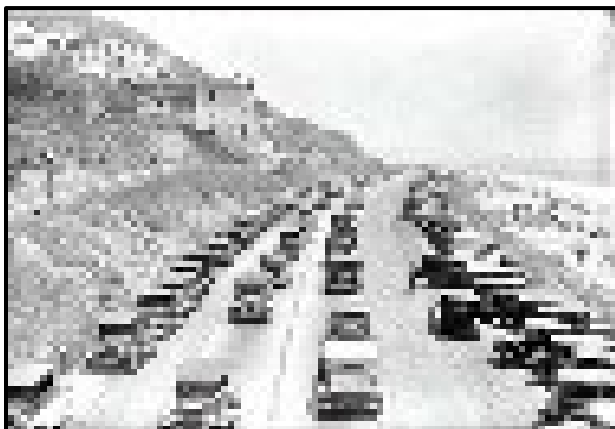
**FASHION** – Would you like to write an article monthly about the fashion of the late 20's and early 30's? We used to have someone who did that and are looking for someone who might enjoy doing that again. It could be fun researching and sharing some of the things you find.

**LOW END BOYS** – Our Low End Boys are always looking for people to help them out with their purpose. And their purpose is to help other members get their cars started and running.

It's as simple as that!

## HAVE TOUR IDEAS?

The club is always looking to expand our tours. Do you have an idea for a tour? Is there somewhere you've been and would like to go back to? Maybe you like short local runs or enjoy getting out of town. Sound off to us.



## HAVE A QUESTION?

Have a question about a problem you're having with your machine? Ask us!!

. They could even have several answers.

Send your questions to Dennis at [dennisofdb@verizon.net](mailto:dennisofdb@verizon.net) and I'll publish them and see what expert advice might come your way.

## LAST MONTH'S QUESTION?

A reader writes, "I have an adjustable valve upgrade on my 31 coupe. What I'd like to know is does the intake and exhaust need to be removed to adjust valves or just the valve cover? Also do I need to replace the valve cover gasket?"

If you have an answer for this question please send it to [dennisofdb@verizon.net](mailto:dennisofdb@verizon.net)

## QUESTION ANSWERS

No, you do not have to remove the intake or exhaust adjust the valves. I would change the gasket and if the old one looks good keep it as a backup spare.

## THE LATEST QUESTION?

I have a squeak issue. It seems to be coming from the motor compartment. When I start the engine there's a squeak like a loose fan belt.

I've checked the belt tension, lubed the generator bearings front and back, water pump (it's the new sealed type), front motor mounts, springs, nuts and bolts.

When I'm looking at the engine and leaning heavy on the left side fender the squeak stops or if I stand on the left running board it stops. If I sit behind the wheel or push in on the clutch sometimes it stops. When driving the car a while, it stops and doesn't come back until the next time I drive it.

## **HERITAGE MUSEUM TOUR**

The Heritage Museum Tour hasn't been done in decades so it's time we did it again. The tour date is 2/8/2025. It will be a nice leisurely route along Huntington Drive starting at Clearman's Northwoods Inn on Rosemead Blvd, and just over 11 miles.

We will gather at 9:30am and depart at 10:00am. The tour starts at 11:00am of the museum homes and buildings and will last less than an hour.

Cost is \$18 per person. Call/text Jim Frick at 626-733-0369 by 1/8/2025. Paying at the museum is accepted.

We will stop for lunch on the way back at the Colonial Kitchen on Huntington Drive.

## **SAN ANTONIO WINERY TOUR**

The MARC club has invited us to join them for a San Antonio Winery tour on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>.

They will meet across the street from the Colonial Kitchen at 1110 Huntington Drive in San Marino at 10am and depart for the winery at 10:15.

Lunch will be at the Winery.

## **VISALIA, CA 3/3 - 3/5 2025**

The Central California Regional Group Jamboree, hosted by the Charter Oaks Model A Club, is coming up before long. Bob Moore has all the information on this not to be missed extravaganza.

Tours, seminars, BBQ's, raffles, and a great banquet are in store. Some are leaving early to not miss any of the fun and turn the drive into an adventure in itself.

## **LOVELY NEWS BITS**

### **LADIES' BRUNCH 11am**

Every second Monday of the month the ladies gather at Annia's Kitchen, 4233 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte, CA.

The ladies are being very secretive about their gathering to the men. I wonder what's going on?

When this group says "What is said at brunch stays at brunch", they ain't fooling. No photo last month.

## **NOT SO LOVELY NEWS BITS**

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST 9am**

What a treat at the Men's Breakfast! Mr. Sullivan brought his AA truck out again! We filled several tables and had 9 Model A's.

Tire kicking starts around 8:30am and food at 9:00am every month on the first and third Thursday.

San Gabriel Airport's Annia's Kitchen, 4233 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte, CA.





## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at Church of The Good Shepherd, United Methodist Church, Arcadia, CA.

Dino Falabrino brought the meeting to order at 10:05am. He asked Jim Frick to lead the salute to the flag.

New and Old Business:

The minutes from the November general meeting were approved.

There were 3 new club members in attendance, Nelson Van Wagoner from Arcadia who has a 1930 Coupe, Issac Ramos who has a 1929 Phaeton and is from Monrovia and Todd Dirks. Richard Anderson has been providing a little TLC to both Isaac & Todd's cars.

Dino wished Olive Moore a belated happy birthday as Olive and himself as well as Carroll Shelby share the same birthday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Dino also reminded the members present that club members Scott Doudrick and Beth Powers had lost their house and cars and almost everything else in the recent wildfires. He also said that they were not able to attend today's meeting as they were getting married. In all, 27 members of the club were affected in some way or another by the fires. Chris Wickersham was also unable to attend the meeting as the Montecedro Retirement Community was still evacuated to the Pacifica Palms Resort in City of Industry.

Dino said that today was the deadline for club members to pay their annual dues and that Randy Harper was in attendance to accept those payments.

He announced that the Transmission Technical Seminar that was to be conducted by Tom Endy at Chris Wickersham's shop on the 18<sup>th</sup> was being postponed to late February. Further information will be provided in an email.

The tour to the Heritage Square Museum would take place as planned on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Jim Frick asked the participants to arrive with exact change of \$18.00 for the admission fee.

Dino also said that the January meeting of Carcadia was cancelled, and that we had 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary pins for sale on a table at the back of the hall. Also, on a table at the back of the hall was a sign-up sheet for donut bringers for the general meetings. Members who participate will be reimbursed for the cost of the donuts.

The next Ladies' Brunch is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be provided in the newsletter.

Caroline, the church secretary was on hand to help with setting up the AV for today's program, and Dino also remarked on the new gates installed by the church to increase security.

Dino reminded the members that the club's annual auction would take place at the next general meeting in February, and that the auction items were not limited to car parts.

The meetings program was a presentation by club member Mark Hanzel, who is a long-time member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association. He provided us with a history of the parade and the Tournament House, the former family home of the Wrigley's.

Drawing & Raffle

Conducted by Carol Emmanuelli

Arrived in a Model A – Randy Harper

Club Clothing – Richard Ware

Name Badge – Martha Utter

Bob Moore, Todd Dirks, Gina Falabrino

Susanne Rummens and Vicky Bartlett were envelope money winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Warwick Nethercoat, Secretary

## CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION

Our club fund raising auction is coming to the monthly meeting for February. Please bring nice things to raffle off and make money for the club. Please no junk. This is one time a year where we try to sell nice things at a good price to help support our club. We have a lot of things we'd like to do as a club so raising money is important. Bid high and bid often.

## **SOME CLUB HISTORY**

*The story below was written by Brad Balmot as he was retiring from his second term as club president. It appeared in the May 1978 issue of the Spoken Wheels. It is a report on the formation of the Santa Anita A's and its first three years of operation. You will find it interesting reading.*

### **Brad's Farewell Address May 1978**

It seems like it was only a month or two ago that we started our chapter. I can remember talking to Reese King in Yuma in 1975 about the possibility of his being a charter member. And then there were others who came to help: Marlin Perry, Tom Wellnitz, Erv Sly, Doc Kleckner, Gene Reinhardt, Gordon Johnson, and Erin Wirtz. With these people, on May 23, 1975, we met and drew up a document to petition the National for recognition as a chapter.

I remember how difficult it was to select a name. There were suggestions like "Baldwin's Lucky A's" and "Henry Ford's A's". There was even the suggestion of naming our club "The Brass Nuts of Arcadia". I still have that T-shirt in my closet that has "The Brass Nuts of Arcadia" silk screened on the back of it. We finally agreed that the club should be called the "Santa Anita A's" and the first club crisis was over.

Our first election was very basic. After the officers were elected, (more like injected) the first five hands up were chosen to make up the Board of Directors. Those who didn't get their hands up fast enough ended up with jobs like Tour Director, Raffle Chairman and Hostess. Our first paper was called "The Bulletin" and Marlin and Elaine Perry were the club's first editors.

We got better organized and started to grow. We all got out and brought in new members. There was a rumor in the club at that time that if you were a board member and didn't bring in at least one member each month you would get one of the windows in your A broken. We got a lot of members. There were no broken windows.

We finally got enough members to need jackets and patches so that we could be identified as a group; another crisis. After much discussion we decided on the gold jackets we have now. The next problem came in trying to get them from Penney's. They never did have enough of the small size. The club patch was designed by Tom Grabowski. We shopped around until we found someone who could produce the patch at a price we could afford. One interesting note is that on the original design by Tom, the patch had a peacock on top of the car because the bird is the symbol of Arcadia. The club felt the bird looked too much like a turkey so it had to go. The patch was finalized and we had the best looking emblem in the area thanks to Tom.

We supported the club by individual donations during the first months of operation. Tom and Claudia Wellnitz donated the money for the club's post office box for the first year. Boy it was hard to get a post office box in Arcadia. I donated the club's gavel. Marlin financed the first issues of the Bulletin. We had an auction to raise money where we all donated parts and then bought them back. I remember Reese King buying over \$150 worth of parts. Then there were the weddings and football games. One of our sayings was "We do weddings...or marry her and we'll deliver".

Little by little the treasury grew. We had raffles and we had raffles! Eleanor Lasecki made a beautiful bi-centennial Afghan and donated it to the club to raffle off. Of course when the lucky ticket was drawn, she'd won her own Afghan. Pat and I were very proud when she presented it to us. The original dues paid by the members were placed in a savings account and have been there ever since.

The original Tour Directors were Marlin Perry and Tom Grabowski. One of our first big tours was to Solvang. I broke down about three times. If it hadn't been for Herb Cuckler, I would still be in Solvang. It seemed that during our first year as a club I had a lot of trouble with my car.

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

During our first year we were incorporated as a non-profit organization, established by-laws, and did what every newly formed Model A club has to do which included filing income tax statements.

The second year of our club was as productive as the first. With the new officers leading the club, new ideas and promotions helped generate interest in our young club. It was at this time that the club had a contest to change the name of our paper. The prize was \$25 or a skate board. Jim Graham was the winner with our present name, "Spoken Wheels". It was during this time that several articles of the by-laws were changed because of the club's growth.

In August of 1976, we ran a concession stand at the George Cross/Roger Wilson Swap Meet. Marlin Perry was in charge of the concession stand which netted the club a bundle. During our second year of operation, Erv Sly was the editor of the Spoken Wheels and each month he gave us his "Forty Honks". Our Tour Director for that year was Doc Kleckner. We had joint tours with Pomona and Diamond Tread, bi-centennial tours and progressive dinners. My favorite was the tour to Capistrano. Besides not breaking down, I enjoyed the peaceful and easygoing tour that it was.

Too soon the second year of our club was over. With the beginning of our third year, I became president again. Like every newly elected officer, I had high goals and a lot of dreams. Among some of my goals that never got off the ground was the idea of having the 1980 National Meet in Pasadena. However, we did get a Southern California Regional together and we do have a calendar of events of all chapters' events for the rest of the year.

A difference of opinion that started in our second year caused a minor split in the club. This split caused a crisis early in the third year, with the efforts of the Board of Directors and concerned members, it was resolved. However, as a result of this, two board members became inactive. It was

through the efforts of the membership and the Board of Directors that we pulled together. The split was healed and the club was even stronger than before.

Board members worked overtime and Reese King took over the job as Tour Director and planned some interesting and enjoyable tours. My most memorable tour was the progressive dinner with the Bingo game after it. I never did get that N-43, or as Reese would say it, "Nellie-43". Ted Lodge was a strong Vice-President. He was always there when I needed help or advice. He did a great job in working for the club. Then we needed an editor. Lodi Galassi agreed to type and print our paper. Bill Pupo volunteered his services to make Xeroxes and Phil Allin helped with the articles. Dale Weller worked hard to line up Technical Seminars, entertaining programs for our meetings, and great technical articles for our paper. Doc Kleckner counted money, which turned out to be a major task. My wife, Pat, took the notes at the meetings and gave me much advice and support. Other members were also ready to help when we needed them. This is what made our first Swap Meet such a tremendous success. However, it is the committee heads that deserve special recognition. Marlin was in charge of the concession stand, Reese King handled the seller's gate, Rich Fischbach was in charge of the buyer's gate and Gordon Johnson helped organize and set up the meet. The club gained financially, but more important than money, our club worked as a team to put on a well-organized event.

In reflection, it is you, the membership that has made our chapter the great chapter it is. You are the ones that have participated in our events and have represented our club in other club's events. I am fortunate to have had an important part in the club and have had many good memories because of it. I am proud to have been your president and to each of you, my thanks for your help and support which you have given me.

For the Chapter, Brad



## ***NEW MEMBERS***

One of our newest members, Nelson VanWagoner, of Arcadia brought his sweet coupe to the monthly meeting in January. What a really nice car and driver. If you see Nelson at a meeting or event, say hello.

We look forward to getting to meet his other half, Shinngara Choi



## ***NEW MEMBERS***

Another new member at the monthly meeting was Todd Dirks, below from Monrovia.

Watch for more on Todd and Dawn coming in the Member's Spotlight as soon as we get a member to volunteer to write the New Member's Spotlight for the newsletter.



And greet Isaac and Kerri Ramos to the club. Also from Monrovia they joined in October of last year but were never listed in the Spoken Wheels. Sorry, I'll make it up.





## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### MITCHELL MANUFACTURING

In 1978 Mitchell Manufacturing began with the production of an overdrive for full size vehicles such as pickups and motorhomes. Designed by owner Glenn Mitchell, this product was well received. It quickly gained popularity for its performance and superior quality.

After 12 years of success, it appeared that smaller vehicles could use the special gearing. The Model 1000 was born and within a few years had proven itself to be a usable tool in the auto industry.

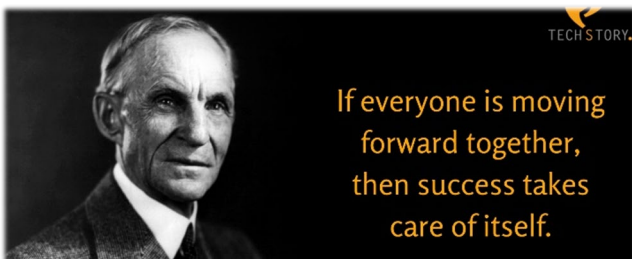
One day, a couple of Model A enthusiasts passing by noticed our sign in the front of the shop. After seeing the Model 1000, they decided it needed to be converted to use on the Model A and the Mitchell Model A Overdrive was born.

A few more years of success with the Model A overdrive, they began to offer it to the V-8 crowd. This was accomplished with very few adjustments to the overdrive.

In 2000 Glenn with the help of his son, Steve, decided to fit original transmissions with new gears and synchronizers for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. No more double clutching!

Located in Colusa, CA, it's still a family run business. In 2007 Glenn passed away and wife Sue assumed the duties of keeping the company going strong along with the help from son Steve and daughter in law Cyndi.

Each overdrive and synchronized transmission is built personally by a Mitchell.



## FOR SALE

Mitchell Overdrives and transmissions, New and fully synchronized with a shorter shift. Mitchell Overdrives are on backorder but a few are available. If interested call Richard Anderson at 909-215-6398

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

### Free

#### Model A Torque Tubes & Drive Shafts

Tom Endy has accumulated a large quantity of torque tubes & drive shafts as a result of his overdrive installations.

They are rapidly multiplying on their own and must go.  
Contact Tom Endy 714-943-4555



### OCMAFC - 62nd Annual Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, March 23, 2025**  
Hart Park, 701 S. Glassell St, Orange, California  
7:30am-11am  
Large Raffle Selection

Adults \$10 /  
Children \$5 (Ages 2-10)

- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Eggs
- Juice
- Hot Cocoa
- Hot Coffee



For more info contact:  
Mike Edmonson  
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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](http://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's 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](http://www.mafca.com))



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