



Reflector

January 2026



Reflector Contact

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Palomar Model A Club

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President	Bill Adams
Secretary	Karla Maxwell
Treasurer	Bruce Furbush
Newsletter	Barbara Kruegel
Membership	David Frazee
Hospitality Chairs	Donna Lugo & Anthony Lugo
Breakfast Chr	Mark Greenlee
Publicity	Ed Simpson



Model A Ford Club

250 South Cypress
La Habra CA 90631
562-697-2712
www.mafca.com

President's Message

As someone who is new to this car club and new to owning a Model A, I am questioning my ability to provide a monthly insightful and meaningful message to this well-established and experienced group of Ford enthusiasts.

A little back story of my journey to this club:

I am a proud owner of a 1928 Phaeton which was previously well-cared for. In 2021, I purchased the vehicle from a multi-Model A car owner who had moved to Florida from Grants Pass, Oregon and could only keep one vehicle. The 1928 was in the temporary care of John Firth who was a long-standing member of the local chapter in Grants Pass. John and his wife, Nancy, welcomed me up to Grants Pass to look at the Phaeton at his home surrounded by trees with a large multi-car garage which had multiple Model A projects in progress, spare parts lining the interior and exterior building and a few parts spread out in sheds. I don't believe I would have purchased the Ford without John's support; His understanding and guidance was a reassuring factor in my investment and his honesty to what the reality of owning the 90-year-old vehicle would require.

After haggling a little with the owner on price and getting a shipping company to bring it down to Oceanside, I was recommended by John in Oregon to reach out to a local club for support and education and was told to call John Frazee in Carlsbad.

My First call to John in Carlsbad encouraged my attendance at the local club

Birthdays

Anthony Lugo	4 Jan
Christine Bartman	8 Jan
Norm Linek	9 Jan
Dave Jacobson	16 Jan
Kathy Horn	17 Jan
Mason Moyer	18 Jan
Gerrie Rivera	23 Jan
Sheila Saxman	28 Jan
Howard Kruegel	29 Jan

Anniversaries

Danny & Rio Montijo 2 Jan

meeting and answered several questions I had about my new hobby. The instant support and acceptance from John Frazee was my reason to grab my keys on a Wednesday afternoon and head to my first meeting.

My love of cars goes back to my childhood helping my father work on his 68 Ford truck.

In the 80's I was fortunate to work at the Long Beach Grand Prix Indy car race and had access to the trackside for a few years. This included when I was able to work the racing circuits in Del Mar and out at North Island. Much of my appreciation for the Model A's began when I started supporting the production for the historic car auctions in Pebble Beach, Florida and Scottsdale. The close proximity of the technicians starting, driving and adjusting Packards, Stutz, Duesenberg, Mercedes and others was the introduction to my interest in becoming an owner of something affordable.

I do have experience working as a board member and supporter of a not-for-profit organization, having 30+ years supporting Traditional Jazz in San Diego having served as a Vice president, President, Executive Director and Treasurer.

I look forward to this year and look forward to meeting more of the club members at each meeting. In this position, I offer my services to support and listen to the members of the club and to provide guidance and direction towards the organization's needs. I took a moment and reviewed the website for our purpose, and I think it's good we all take a read of this from time to time.

Bill Adams.

OUR PURPOSE:

We aim to foster a spirit of good fellowship and family participation through the use and enjoyment of the Model 'A'.

The Model A is a historic part of our American heritage and a landmark in the development of the American motor car. Our group provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas and is dedicated to the mutual assistance of its members in keeping our cars on the road. The love of the Model A brings us together and the resulting friendships and memories last a lifetime.

Meeting Minutes

As the club held its annual Christmas Party/Installation meeting at the Hunter Restaurant in Oceanside, no minutes were recorded. Thirty members enjoyed the company and showed appreciation for the work of the 2025 Board and the willingness of the 2026 Board to volunteer to keep the train on the tracks as it were. Special thanks were given to Greg Wilson, the 2025 Outstanding Volunteer of the club. His regular organizing of the monthly breakfasts, as well as scouting locations, making contact with the management, and preparing all for a successful get together, was something that provided consistency for members hungry to meet, whether to talk about their cars, or just to munch bacon and Juevos Rancheros.



Jim's Tech Tips

"Refueling With a Gas Can"

Sometimes I find it more convenient to go get 5 gallons of gas with a gas can for my Model A than it is to drive down to the gas station with the car to fuel it up.

But a 5-gallon can full of gas weighs over 30 pounds, and lifting it up to the gas cap on the Model A and controlling the can's spout as it enters the gas tank (without spilling gas all over the place!!!) can be a real challenge. Even with a helper to guide the spout into the tank as you go, it can be a mess.

My brother turned me on to this tip (thanks, Kevin!): For about \$20, you can purchase a small battery powered fuel transfer pump that will put the gas into your car in about a minute or two. This little thing is amazing!



You rest the gas can on the splash apron and fender (put a towel under it) and put the pump body into the gas can. Hold the pump outlet inside the gas tank filler opening with one hand and switch on the pump with the other hand. In no time at all the gas can is empty and you switch the pump off. Carefully remove the pump outlet from the tank and point it up to prevent fuel in the hose from dripping on your car. It's that easy, and a one-person operation.

On a car with side-mount spares, you can rest the gas can on the spare tire and hold it there, instead of resting on the splash apron and fender. It works just the same.

As an added bonus, you can quickly pump most of the old fuel OUT of a Model A gas tank with this pump, and into a 5-gallon gas can, if the need arises. I have done that, too.

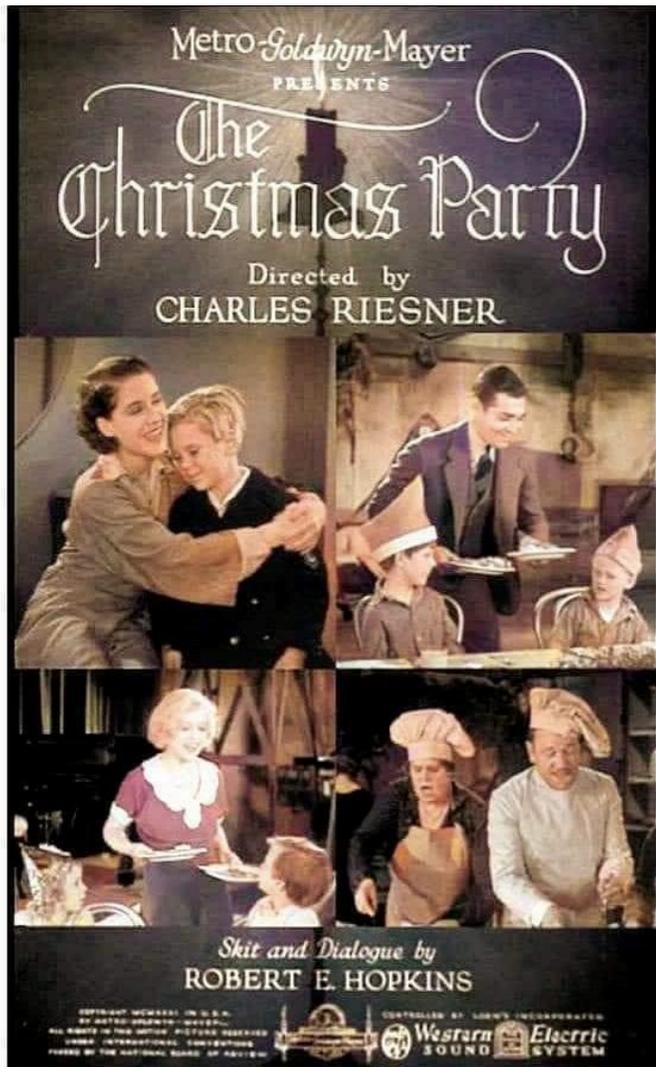
Until next time, *Have a Model A Day!*

Jim

Tours and Events

- January 7 First meeting of the year at Palomar Estates East Clubhouse, 650 S. Rancho Santa Fe, San Marcos at 7:00 PM.
- January 21 Swami's Cafe Vista 20 Main St #100, Vista, meet in parking lot at 8:45 for breakfast at 9:00.
- January 24-25 The Turlock Swap Meet : This 59th annual event will take place at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds 900 N Broadway, Turlock \$20 for a two day pass. \$35 for RV parking.
- February 4 Meeting at Palomar Estates East, 650 S. Rancho Santa Fe, San Marcos at 7:00 PM
- April 12 Orange County Pancake Breakfast : This 63rd annual event will take place at Hart Park, 701 S. Glassell Street, Orange, As it is tradition to spend Saturday Night at the Best Western Orange Plaza, consider making your reservations by calling (714) 633-7720
- May 1-3 CCRG Jamboree in Bakersfield : The first Jamboree was held in 1993 so this should be the 33rd annual in the minutes I see that the host hotel will be the Bakersfield Marriott at 801 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield. Amazingly, there has been no mention of the Jamboree in the club's minutes since August and there is no listing in the MAFCA Calendar.
- May 22 – 24 NCRG Roundup in Sonora : NCRG is the oldest regional group, apparently it was set up in order to host the annual Roundup back in 1972, so perhaps this would be the 54th annual. Plans are to hold is at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds 220 Southgate Dr, Sonora, although, there is no listing for the event on the fairground's calendar and no host hotel has been mentioned.
- May 31 – June 7 MAFCA National Convention in Pendleton, Oregon : This will be the 32nd event, because Ruidoso in 2024 was cancelled. David is booked with the MAFCA Board at the Oxford Suites, 2400 S.W. Court Place, however, word is that it is completely booked. You can try (541).276-6000, but most likely you'll need to look for another hotel as a group. Once you have paid for your registration, hotel information will be emailed to you. The Rough Rider Tour #4 on Friday is expected to be popular with a limited number of slots, so you may want to register early for that. www.2026mafcanationalconvention.com
- December 9 – 13 MAFCA National Awards Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio ; This will be the 57th event. It will be at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati. There is no posting in the MAFCA Calendar at this point.
- December 12 Annual Christmas Party at the Hunter Restaurant in Oceanside, 12:00 PM

Other local events and breakfasts will be included in the calendar at a later date. Business meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7 PM at Palomar Estates East Clubhouse 650 S Rancho Santa Fe Road, San Marcos as that day will not conflict with a holiday at any date during the year.



police. He is given a second chance at life by the Angel Gabriel played by Harvey Clark. Rodgers and Hammerstein used the plot for their 1945 musical *Carousel*, changing the lead's name to Billy Bigelow.

Lastly, not a *Wonderful Life* connection, but in the Laurel & Hardy movie *Big Business* 1929, a Model T has a prominent roll as they use this roadster pickup to haul Christmas trees. All three are available to watch on YouTube.



Christmas Movies

When I think of old Christmas movies, I think of *It's a Wonderful Life*, but it was made long after the Model A era in 1946. So, is there a connection between that movie and Model A Era Christmas movies? Many of the actors in *Wonderful Life* began their careers after the Model A Era, but H. B. Warner, who was the pharmacist, Mr. Gower, Frank Albertson who was George Bailey's buddy Sam, Ward Bond who was Bert the policeman, and Beulah Bondi, who was George's mother appeared in movies between 1927 and 1931.

The closest to era Christmas themed movies involving them has Warner play Jesus Christ in DeMill's *King of Kings* (1927), Albertson the playboy in several naughty comedies about promiscuous girls. Bond was a policeman or star athlete (typecast), and Bondi was an extra in 1931. Then, there was Lionel Barrymore, Mr. Potter, who has a cameo in Jackie Cooper's short *The Christmas Party*, in which Barrymore plays a waiter serving "hot rolls" to Cooper's football team friends. He challenges the boys when they complain that the rolls are too hot, and supposedly burns his fingers.

Then what about a Model A Era movie that has some of the same themes as *Wonderful Life*? There is the 1930 movie *Liliom* starring Charles Farrell, who is a merry-go-round barker, Liliom, who marries a servant girl named Julie played by Rose Hobart, then, out of money tries to rob a bank and commits suicide when surrounded by the

