Orange County Model A Ford Club

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Established 1961

Volume 66 Issue 10 Oct. 2026 Editor Eric Engle

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LET'S GO TOURING...

Read All About it On Page 8

After Many Years of Expertly Repairing Model A's, Jim Nichols Has Closed His Shop. However, he *STILL* has lots of Parts and Equipment That He Needs To Sell.

Jim Will Be Holding an Open House / Garage Sale October 24th. Let's help Jim Unload His Shop.

See More information on Page 7.

News From the President

By Mike Edmonson

Greetings All,

I hope this edition of The Distributor finds you in great spirits. September was a fun month, and was capped off with a great breakfast at the Santa Ana Elks Club; be sure to thank Aaron "Mags" Magdaleno when you get a chance because it is with his membership we have been able to enjoy several breakfasts at this beautiful club. We had 20 club members attend and about nine cars, so a great turnout. More food is in store (and we all like food!) this coming Saturday for our monthly breakfast at Denny's on 17th Street in Santa Ana, so please come and enjoy great food and great company.

October and Autumn…crisp leaves, cool nights…and great driving weather awaits all who are prepared. Yes, preparation is key for a successful drive, just ask those of us that have received that coveted "Hard Luck Trophy" (yes, I can personally yuck that up). So one of the better ways to be prepared is to attend the upcoming Technical Seminar that will be led by Rick Hall. Rick is such a wealth of knowledge, so I know the upcoming seminar on October 10th will not disappoint. More to follow on this topic at our next membership meeting on the 8th.

Our tour this month will be on October 16-17 and will be an overnight trip as we meetup in Pasadena (or a hotel close by) and spend the day visiting a few sites and dinner. The next morning we will be up and ready to cruise down Route 66 (remember, we are still celebrating 100 years of this fabled historic highway) to Santa Monica and lunch on the pier. Both Kacie and Joni Terens have some great side trips planned; this should be a lot of fun as it has been several years since the last overnight tour when the club traveled to Temecula (and Dad/Grandpa Joe Goff led that tour). Kacie should be getting an announcement out very soon so hotel reservations can be made by all of those attending.

A reminder to all that we are still looking for members wanting to throw their name in the hat for President, Secretary, and Treasurer as we seek new board members. I'll be a straphanger as the Past President (yes Louise, there is light at the end of the tunnel… hahaha), but we really do need some fresh blood new perspective as we head into 2027 and beyond! And if you recall during the last several months that we have been in search of a new editor of The Distributor; Gary Livsey has stepped forward to take the reigns from Eric Engle. We can't thank Eric enough for all of the time, effort, and energy that he put into every edition. Gary, welcome aboard and enjoy the ride!

See I'll see you at the next turnaround!

Mike

2026 BOARD MEMBERS

President – Mike Edmonson
VP/Tours —Jennifer Ferrario
Secretary – Debbie Parrish
Treasurer – Joni Terens
Technical – David Knapp
Editor – Eric Engle
Immediate Past President – Louise Hall

COMMITTEES

Co-Editor/proofreader - Becky MacIntosh
ACCC Representative – David Knapp
Breakfast Committee – Aaron Magdaleno
Club Greeter – Linda Tom
Election Chairperson – Jennifer Ferrario
Historian & Librarian – Bruce MacIntosh
Merchandise Director – Perry Wilson
Pancake Breakfast Setup & Coordination - Aaron Magdaleno, Richard Bolls, Jennifer Ferrario, Kathy Glendinning, Steve Pavich
Raffle – Ed Cote
Refreshments – Gerry Reid
Regional Representative, SCRG - Jim Runyon
Era Fashions—Kaci Terens

Sunshine & Sorrow – Marilyn Hawkins
Webmaster – Bruce MacIntosh

We have removed all Committee members' emails and phone numbers in order to ensure their privacy. Members can find this info in your roster.

Please Note: Some information contained in our newsletter has been reprinted from other newsletters; we thank and acknowledge them.

Orange County Model A Ford Club
General Meeting Minutes on
Meeting held at First Christian Church in Orange, CA

Our President, Mike Edmonson opened the meeting, followed by the flag salute. Marilyn Singer-Hawkins told a joke.
MINUTES: The previous minutes were provided in the newsletter. A correction was made to change Progressive Brunch to correct date of 19th. Steve Pavich made a motion to accept and Ed Cote 2nd. All approved.
FINANCIAL: Joni Terens presented the financial report. Bev Marsh made a motion to accept and Brian Huffman 2nd. All approved. Total membership is 126.
ACTIVITIES: Watch upcoming events and tours. CCRG May 13-15, 2027. Halloween Parade 10/24/26. We are looking for a Christmas lighting tour organizer for Dec. Installation Banquet set for 1/10/27 at THE VILLA. Please contact Kaci Terens if you are interested in the tour Route 66 on Oct.16-17. We will drive to Pasadena, spend the night and continue to Santa Monica.
TECHNICAL: 10/10/26 at Rick Halls. Bring all your Model A tricks and tips and makeshift tools that have helped you along the way.
HARDLUCK: Mike Edmonson had a steering box issue. Carl Bonham ran out of gas on tour. Jennifer Ferrario had a speedometer cable problem. Drum roll please…..Jennifer took home the trophy.
SUNSHINE AND SORROW: Perry Wilson had a 5-way heart bypass and is home now. Diane Gaughn fell and broke hip and needed hip replacement. Dominic Cimarusti has Covid and some physical ailments. Ed Cote has been having some throat issues.
NEW BUSINESS: Bonnie Nardulli received her patch for This Lady Drives a Model A. November is board nominations. We are looking for our next President, Secretary, Editor and possible Treasurer
GUESTS: Gary Dial, Joshua Rapier, and Pat Williams Welcome to all!
RAFFLES: Linda Tom won ten dollars for the attendance raffle. Anthony and Sheila Chance won the membership raffle. But were not present to claim the $20 and will roll over for next month Will YOU be the lucky winner?
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Louise Hall, Brian Huffman and Don Ratzlaff all received the Birthday Song.
REFRESHMENTS: Thanks go to Patty Cote, Sherry Reid, Aaron Magdaleno, Bonnie Nardulli, Debbie and Steve Pavich, and Linda Tom for drinks.
The meeting adjourned at 830 pm with 40 members.
Submitted by Secretary Debbie Parrish awaiting approval.

Upcoming Tours and Activities Calendar

Oct. 3rd (Sat), Denny's BS Breakfast—8:00am. 2314 17th Street, Santa Ana., If you're not there, then you won't know the latest gossip and fabricated yarns...So be there…

Oct. 8th (Thur.), General Meeting 7:30pm, First Christian Church—1130 E. Walnut, Orange.

Oct. 10th (Sat), Technical Seminar. Subj: "Tips, Tricks, Tools" Coffee and Donuts will be served at precisely 8:30, with the seminar following at 9am. See more information on this page.

OCMAFC Route 66 Tour - Pasadena to Santa Monica

October 17th (Saturday)

Saturday, October 17 - Route 66 Tour.
This will be a tour of Route 66 from Pasadena to Santa Monica, with stops along the way to experience the history of travel on this pioneering highway. The tour will include a hotel stay Friday night in the Pasadena area.
Contact Kaci Terens for more information:
kaci.model.a@gmail.com

Technical" Seminar Saturday, October 10 at the home of Rick and Louise Hall.

"Tips, Tricks, and Tools"

This seminar will review many of the ways to make it easier to maintain, repair and upgrade your Model "A" to keep it safe and reliable.

We will also demonstrate some specialty tools and home-made tools. If you have one, bring it with you.

This seminar will be valuable especially for those new to the hobby and those who have not done much of their own maintenance or repair. Ladies are welcome!

Coffee and donuts 8:30 am, seminar 9:00am.

Bring your chair

The Celebration of Schools
Wednesday, October 14 - 4pm-6pm

El Modena High School
3920 East Spring St, Orange

The Celebration of Schools is a fundraiser put on by Orange Unified School District and the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation to highlight educational programs, resources and achievements within the Orange Unified School District.

Contact Ron Andrews for info.
wheelsguy@gmail.com
714-395-1132

Anaheim Halloween Parade

Sat. October 24th 2026

Downtown Anaheim, CA. FREE

Anaheim Fall Festival culminates with the much beloved Halloween Parade. Come deck out your cars and celebrate Halloween, Dia de Los Muertow, and the Harvest Season.

We still need someone to take over for Perry, as he is recuperating…

Swap Meets/Car Shows

Every Sat. morning 6-9am, 9015 Adams Avenue in Huntington Beach, 9015 Adams Avenue in Huntington Beach, come have a donut and a coffee from Adams Donut Shop (NOT free!) and enjoy walking around all the classics and hot rods.

Oct. 3, Patriots & Paws, Hometown Heros Car & Motorocycle Show, For more info:
https://patriotsandpawscarshow.com

Oct. 4, San Fernando Model A Ford Club 60th Annual Swap Meet. Nethercutt Museum, 15151 Bledsoe St, Sylmar, CA, JimClank@gmail.com

IF YOU LEARN OF OTHER SWAP MEETS, PLEASE SEND THE INFO TO OUR EDITOR SO THEY MAY BE INCLUDED HERE.

Highlights of the May Tech Seminar By David Knapp

Turn Signals Seminar….by Eric Engle

Our Technical Director, Dave Knapp, started this month's workshop, talking about the different options and methods members might use for their own turn signals system. The number of options leaves a good number of choices for the operators to choose from.

Dave first showed us what is probably the most commonly used steering column mounted turn signal switch. Easily mounted on the left side of the steering column, where most all other modern factory mounted turn switches are mounted. There are kits available though such outlets as Snyder's, C.W. Moss, etc. He then moved on to the modern, and very bright, LED tail lights that take the place of the original Model A's lens and incandescent bulbs. Boy, are they bright!!! VERY easily seen by vehicles following one's car! If you want your rear brake and turn lights to be easily seen. then these babies are for you!!

After a short bit, Dave passed the stage and podium (which was admittedly just a small fold up table in the middle of the garage floor) over to me, your humble newsletter Editor. My portion of the seminar covered a bit more about the different LED bulbs that are available for all sorts of projects and uses. And trust me, there are so many different options, that it's mostly up to the members imagination which to use, and how to use them. **LOVE** those LED bulbs!! With a little bit of digging on the internet, it's fairly easy to replace every single incandescent bulb in one's 6 or 12 volt vehicle. Use the number on the base of the bulb to find equivalent LED bulb.. My opinion is, it is a very worth while thing to do. They draw SSsoooo much less amperage than the original bulbs, and are MUCH brighter !! But one word of caution… Because the LED bulbs use MUCH less amperage, which the more common flasher units depend on to work, the flasher very well might not flash. So, be SURE to get flasher units that are specifically designed to be used with LED bulbs.

The last subject for this seminar was me presenting an electronics unit from S & W Electro-Tech, Inc., in Stacy, Michigan. These kits presently sell for about $170 with the module, wiring harness and double throw momentary toggle switch. By the way, this system does NOT need a flasher unit. That is part of the internal circuitry and works with either incandescent or LED bulbs. Cool !!

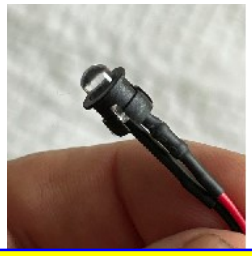
I mounted my module with some double sided tape behind my left side kick panel. The only thing that gives away the fact that I have a turn signal system at all are the two tiny LED bulbs (bought separately) protruding through the dashboard and a nub of the toggle switch protruding out from underneath the dashboard.

The system works great and is well hidden, which is exactly what I like! I love modernizing my 31 Delux Coupe, but keeping it as stock looking as possible.

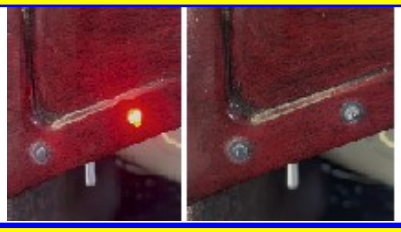
Happy motoring…

Example of column mount turn switch

Holder for mounting bulb



Bulb with holder installed



View of Toggle under dashboard and LED bulbs

S&W Elec.-Tech kit

Color of bag indicates bulb color

Progressive Lunch To Remember!...By Gary Livesey

With the heat wave behind us, we gathered together in model A form combining the club's two favorite activities; driving our Fords and feasting together.

Starting in Anaheim, Richard and Jeanne Parrish hosted starters for those who like to sneak-up on lunch. Some South County members skipped this part so as to shorten their drive; how unfortunate to miss such a fine spread.

However the group grew in numbers at Orchard Park in Irvine where Bruce and Becky MacIntosh provided sandwiches and Eric Engle made the potato and 3 Bean Salads. Thanks to Kaci Terens & Lori Golf for all their help at the park

A youth soccer game provided extra entertainment but fewer nearby parking spots.

After being so mindful of our health and wellness we braved the drive to The Grove in Irvine where Marilyn Singer provided an assortment of temptations fit for the most virtuous saint; cheese cake, pastries. Cookies. Cakes and pies in a most accommodating setting. Thanks to Kathie McCall and Carole Howard for holding down the fort for Marilyn.

We should all give a BIG appreciative "Thank You" to the following volunteers, who's work helped put the entire Progressive Lunch together:

Richard Parrish, Becky MacIntosh, Eric Engle, Marilyn Singer, Debbie Parrish, Kaci Terens, Teri Golf, Kathie McCall, Carole Howard

Thank you, one and all ...

Sunshine & Sorrow

By Marilyn Singer
jmsinger@pacbell.net

Sunshine: **Looking forward to cooler days now that we have entered the months of autumn.**

Sorrow: **Diane Gaughen forgot to share that she fell while walking in the park and broke her hip; had hip replacement surgery on August 17. Slow recovery but she made it to the Progressive Brunch with the help of her driver. Domonic Cimarusti has recovered from a bout of Covid last month. However, he is still in physical therapy for the legs after his stroke (March). What a shock to learn the Perry Wilson had a 5-bypass (Quintuple) heart surgery on September 10. He spent 10 days in the hospital between CCU (Cardiac Care Unit) and ICU and then the adjustment to new meds. Perry is home now under the loving care of Gina. You may not feel better tomorrow, next week, or next month, but you will feel better.**

When the witches go riding, and black cats are seen, the moon laughs and whispers "'tis near Halloween."

Happy Birthday – October

Karl Bonham Don Dormeyer Jim Glendinning Pam Kibby Bonnie Nardulli Anna Orozco Velma Riggs

MODEL 'A' SHOP CLOSING SALE AT JIM' AUTOMOTIVE, LOCATED AT 1366 LOGAN AVE, UNIT H, COSTA MESA, ON 24 OCT 2026 FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM.

LOTS OF PARTS, MOTORS, TRANSMISSIONS, AND BOXES OF SMALL PARTS. ALSO 1930 PROJECT COUPE FOR SALE.

CONTACT JIM NICHOLS AT 714-546-2969 FOR ADDITION INFORMATION.

The "A" Restaurant Celebrates with Model A's

by Becky MackIntosh

The "A" Restaurant (Newport Beach original "Arches Restaurant", CDM and Newport Coast) celebrated 100 years by inviting OCMAFC for a quick drive down PCH (also 100 years old) from the original "Arches" to the newer "A" in Newport Coast. This was the brainchild of Dennis Baker and Danielle Rivas of the Newport Beach Historical Society when brainstorming how to honor this 100 year achievement. The idea was "A's to the 'A'". Dennis was a member of OCMAFC in the past and still owns a Model A. He made the call to OCMAFC, wrote up the directions and led the tour.

We had 10 Model As that did a great job of staying together for the drive. We stopped at a Cars & Coffee event at Oasis Senior Center where they had saved us a complete row for parking our A's together. We enjoyed the people and abundance of vintage automobiles for 30 minutes before continuing our trip.

At Newport Coast, we parked in front of the restaurant for a photo op. The "A" Restaurant and staff surprised us by opening their doors for a champagne meet & greet. We enjoyed the appetizers with members of the Newport Beach Historical Society. Nice cap to a fun day. The trip was heavily documented from start to finish by the Newport Beach Daily Pilot.

Deadline for submissions for the next Distributor is 25th of each month

Submit all Articles and ads to eengle@socal.rr.com or mail to Eric Engle, 16732 Redwood St., Fountain Valley, Ca., 92708

MAFCA is accepting 2027 renewals. Call 866-379-3619 or visit

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES :

Oct. 3, Patriots & Paws, Hometown Heros Car & Motorocycle Show, For more info:
https://patriotsandpawscarshow.com

Oct. 4, San Fernando Model A Ford Club 60th Annual Swap Meet. Nethercutt Museum, 15151 Bledsoe St, Sylmar, CA,
JimClank@gmail.com

Dec. 11-12, 2026, MAFCA Nat. Awards Banquet, Cincinnati, Ohio,
www.mafca.com/event

Hello OC Model A Ford Club!

The Rotary Club of Laguna Beach invites you and your fellow Model A enthusiasts to be part of our Laguna Beach Classic Car Show & Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 4, in beautiful Laguna Beach.

Each year, the event welcomes approximately 1,200 visitors for a day of incredible classic cars, live music, great food, and Oktoberfest fun. We'd love to have members of your club showcase their vehicles and be part of one of Southern California's favorite coastal car shows.

Whether you're displaying a beautifully restored classic, a muscle car, a hot rod, or another special vehicle, we'd be honored to have you join us. It's a great opportunity to spend the day with fellow enthusiasts while sharing your passion with the community.

You can register your vehicle and learn more at lagunabeachcarshow.com.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 949-395-3383.

We hope to see you in Laguna Beach on October 4!

Thank you,

René Williams
Chair, Laguna Beach Classic Car Show & Oktoberfest
Rotary Club of Laguna Beach
949 395 3383

Automobile Turn Signals in the US

The Signal-Stat Corporation is as a pioneer in vehicle safety lighting. Founded in the 1930s in Brooklyn, New York, the company revolutionized the automotive aftermarket by commercializing one of the first reliable, electric turn signal kits for commercial vehicles.

The Safety Crisis of the 1930s

During the early 1930s, automotive turn signals, as we know them today, did not exist on standard assembly lines. Drivers relied entirely on manual hand signals. While this worked passably for open-air passenger cars, it presented a severe safety hazard for the rapidly expanding commercial trucking industry. Truck drivers operating large, enclosed cabs, or hauling massive trailers, had virtually no way to signal their intention to turn, especially at night or in heavy rain.

Seeing a massive gap in the safety market, Signal-Stat was established to provide an aftermarket solution. In 1936, the company introduced its groundbreaking directional signal kits specifically engineered for trucks and buses.

- ***The Mechanism:*** **The early Signal-Stat setups consisted of heavy-duty, clamp-on lamps outfitted with amber lenses (often made of early cellulose acetate sheet plastic or glass) and an external switch unit that strapped directly onto the steering column.**

* ***The Flasher Innovation:*** **Crucial to their 1930s success was the incorporation of early thermal flasher relays. Instead of a steady, easy-to-miss glow, Signal-Stat utilized a heated bimetallic strip that continuously connected and disconnected the circuit. This created the high-visibility blinking effect—and the distinct, rhythmic *click-clack* sound—that reliably captured the attention of surrounding motorists.**

As trucks became larger and longer, they became a real hazard for collisions and the industry acted by installing safety turn signals on these larger trucks. Various mechanical systems were developed but where not very successful due to their low visibility. Various lighted systems were developed, with the flashing light quickly becoming the obvious choice for high visibility.

Before automakers, like Buick, began introducing factory-installed flashing turn signals at the very end of the decade (1938–1939), Signal-Stat filled a massive regulatory and safety void. Their durable, weather-resistant assemblies quickly became the industry standard for truck fleet operators. A truck driver in 1937 could install a Signal-Stat kit and finally navigate intersections safely without having to roll down a window in a storm.

Today, Signal Stat is still a major supplier of lighting and safety items, particularly for the trucking industry.

Note that turn signals became federally *mandatory* on all new passenger cars in the United States *January 1, 1968*, following the implementation of federal motor vehicle safety standards under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966.

Thanks to Quality Plus Automotive, Car Talk, and Google for the above information.

And Then the War Came…by Diane Gaughen

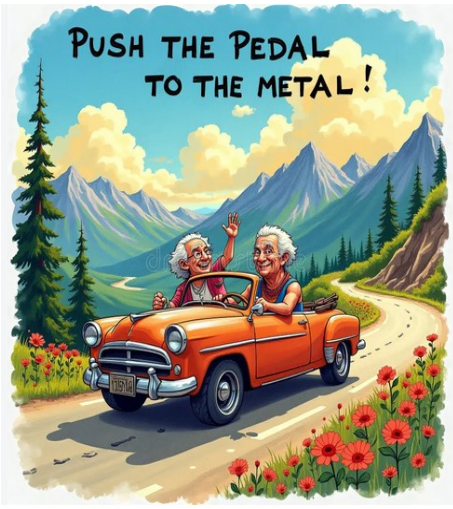
When World War II started for the United States in 1941, the whole country was thrown into turmoil and Route 66 was changed forever. Wartime brought rationing, a military buildup and many young men being sent overseas. Auto production ceased in 1942, gasoline was rationed and tires became scarce. Some of the locals said you could count more jackrabbits on the highway than cars!

The war caused population booms, not to mention economic booms in rural areas where the federal government decided to build military facilities. One local man who lived in the Ozarks remembered when an almost-deserted Route 66 became so heavily trafficked, you could hardly cross the road. The reason? Fort Leonard Wood was being built. Another area that boomed – Winslow and Holbrook Arizona.

But the war was a mixed blessing. It also brought rationing, which was deemed needlessly complex, especially for business owners selling to the local farmers and tourists. For instance, gas rationing cut into the tourist traffic, which was the lifeblood of many people in the local economy.

Military traffic, a lack of tourists and gasoline rationing made route 66 a far different highway than it had been before the war. The heavy military equipment tore up the pavement and it was obvious that when the war ended, major upgrades would be needed.

Just for Laughs



Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.

Return Address:
OCMAFC
P.O. Box 10595
Santa Ana, CA 92711

We are on the Web!
www.ocmafc.org

Dedicated to the History and Preservation of the Model A Ford

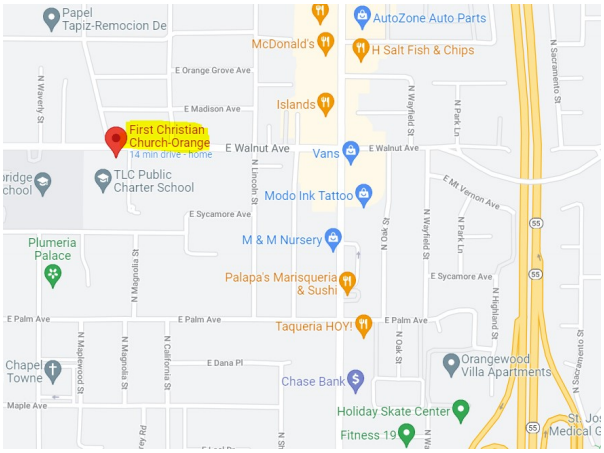
Next General Meeting

[Second Thursday of every month]

Next Meeting Oct. 8th, 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location:
First Christian Church of Orange
1130 E Walnut
Orange, CA
(Between Tustin & Cambridge)



Tustin Tiller Days Parade

Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

New OCMAFC members, Susan & Grahan Reid are involved with organizing this parade. The parade has been happening since 1957 and is followed by a weekend-long community fair and carnival.

For more info about the event.

https://www.tustinca.org/637/Tustin-Tiller-Days