REFLECTOR

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President's Message

Rolling into May and without a clever quote, I wanted to do something about the flowers or bloom, May Day, but still struggling with a pun using the word spring while compressing my thoughts. I have stopped by the Carlsbad Flower Fields for the yearly bloom which I recommend to all of you to walk through. If you have not done this in the past, I visit every few years and appreciate that it is one of beautiful things that happens for only a few weeks during this time of year.

My balance of work and maintenance on the model A is not working as planned. Scheduling more time to climb into the electrical system is on the agenda. I have been noticing additional model A's in the Oceanside area, some traditional and some hot rods that I have not seen before and it's refreshing. I did a little research while reading up about May events with Ford history and came across a few items I thought were interesting. I am sure that many of you have already heard some of these, but I do enjoy looking for historical tidbits that tell the bigger story, starting with the May 1st 1926 announcement by Henry Ford introducing the 40-hour 5-day work week. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938,

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May Birthdays:

1 Erica Moyer 5/4
2 Greg Wilson 5/4
3 Chuck Grabowsky 5/5
4 Judy Burrell 5/8
5 Arlene Belt 5/10
6 Johannah Leffingwell 5/11
7 Karyn Frazee 5/15
8 Marsha Moraes 5/17
9 James Foster 5/21
10 Roseanne Furbush 5/22
11 Henry Rivera 5/28
12 Rick Spinello 5/30

Anniversaries

1 Steve & Irene DeAmbrogio 5/1
2 Bob & Sheila Saxman 5/11
3 Doug & Linda Dixon 5/29

the following year, and 40 by 1940, 14 years after Ford's announcement in May 1926. Another Historical fact I came across was the transition of the Model T to the Model A which came in a secretive telegram from Henry Ford to dealers on May 26,1927 that Ford was "starting early production on an entirely new Ford car" which was the end of production for the Model T and the beginning of the A. And something else I learned going down the rabbit hole of history on the month of May was that on May 31,1929 Ford signed an agreement with the Soviet Union (VSNH) to produce Model A cars and Model AA trucks, leading to the establishment of GAZ. In my search for various items to bring to our club it includes the statement I found on several websites about various clubs and enthusiasts who recognize May as "Model A Youth Month" to encourage educational programs and hands-on restoration experiences for high school students. I looked inside my circle of friends and neighbors to find a youthful interest in which to introduce the Model A hobby but have only found a single interest (more to come on that). But have we looked at family, friends and acquaintances or neighbors to help or take an interest? Maybe just for a ride to spark a conversation. Just a thought…but hopefully it will "spring you into action and provide a blooming resurgence in the club".

Happy May!

Bill Adams

MEETING MINUTES – April 1, 2026

The meeting of the Palomar A's was called to order by President Bill Adams at 7:10 PM with 26 in attendance with 2 guests.

The pledge of allegiance to the American Flag was led by Vietnam Vet Andy Yancey.

PREVIOUS MINUTES – A motion was made by Bruce Parker to approve the minutes of the March meeting as published in the Reflector and seconded by Roseanne Meyerhoff. Motion passed by those in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bruce Furbush reported submission of a bill from Costco by the Lugo's for supplies. Motion to approve the report and pay the bills was made by Mark Greenlee and seconded by David Frazee. Motion passed by those in attendance.

SUNSHINE AND SORROW – Karen Beel is still dealing with a case of shingles. Chuck Grabowski reported a pain in his jaw sent him to Scripps La Jolla. As a dentist he knew that a pain in the left jaw could be an indicator of a heart attack, and it was. Treated and released he was glad to be attending the meeting. David Frazee reported the passing of Club members. Charlie Tuck, an early President passed around Christmas

followed by Jim Norman a few months ago and Walt Hibbard last week.

Greg Wilson shared the passing of "Taco" a parrot that had been his companion for companion for 45 years. Howard Kruegel related another distinctive parrot story from many years ago involving a Model A trip back from Mexico and too many margaritas. Being illegal to transport parrots, Howard's passenger friend thought it would be funny to make bird sounds at the border crossing. They were immediately directed to an area where the 1931 Model A was completely torn apart looking for a non-existing bird.

Johannah and West Leffingwell welcomed another great grandchild on February 17.

MISCELLANEOUS –The 2 guests in attendance were Sheri and Dennis Danicek from Itaska, Illinois. Sheri and Donna Lugo are cousins. The Daniceks have been traveling the country by trailer and motorcycle and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1.

Ed Lopez inquired whether or not members had watched the Liftoff of Artemis II that afternoon for the trip around the moon. Most nodded yes and also remembered Armstrong stepping on the lunar surface for the first time decades ago. Our meeting place has large picture windows. As Ed was talking, the full Moon was rising in the dark night sky. It is also exciting that the Artemis II touchdown is scheduled for April 10, in the waters off San Diego.

BREAKFAST GET TOGETHER – Mark Greenlee reported a nice March gathering of Model A's at the Buccaneer Beach Café. This included the Palomar Club as well as fellows from the Temecula group. Check the Upcoming Events shown in the Reflector or Facebook for future breakfast locations and dates.

MEMBERSHIP – David Frazee asked for any updates or corrections prior to the printing of the 2026 Member Handbook.

SHORT TOURS – Bill Adams asked members to think about suggestions for upcoming tours. We're trying to get input regarding things like frequency, locations, traveling distances.

REFLECTOR REPORT – Barbara Kruegel indicated there would be inclusions in the Newsletter if anyone wanted to sell or might be looking for a particular item. She asked that any submissions be sent prior to the 15th of the month. Ed Simpson said he was quite pleased with the listing and ultimate sale of a short block motor.

HOSPITALITY - Donna & Anthony Lugo thanked those that donated to the goodie table. They asked to be contacted ahead for donations for the following month.

ENTERTAINMENT – David Frazee awarded the April birthday prize to Jerry Harder. The 50/50 was a different matter. Johannah Leffingwell had her numbers pulled 3 times She had received the 50/50 the previous month so kindly deferred to someone else. Barbara Kruegel was happy when her number was called.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by Karla Maxwell, Secretary

TECH REPORT - Hi Folks. With Spring just around the corner, it is time to think about getting the car ready for some tours. I've been known to put off some "small" things telling myself it is just a short tour around town (how do you spell procrastinate), and, if I broke down, there is AAA and their handy flatbed. Well, on tours it is a different story so I thought I would touch on a very important but often overlooked engine part, our fan belt. We all have heard a squealing belt. Sometimes it is caused by a generator or alternator throwing a full charge into a low battery or just a loose belt. One problem we have is that Model A's do not have a slotted strap on top to help hold belt tension. If you are using an alternator, 6 or 12 volts, Snyder's sells a bracket kit, unless you have access to your local wrecking yard where you can salvage one from a wrecked car. Mac's also has s simple bracket for generators and can be used for alternators also but isn't as good for a solid mount as the more expensive ones. That said, now to the good stuff – tension. Tension is most important in extending the life of any belt as it eliminates slippage. This is the leading cause of premature belt failure. Slipping belts are not very good at transmitting power, and with the friction generated by slipping, it will cause the belt to overheat which in turn causes the pulleys and shafts to run hotter than normal. That in turn causes the lube in the bearings to break down and cause a squeal of its own. Even worse, a loose belt can cause overheating at slow speeds as it is not turning the fan as it should. Gates Belt Co. says belt failure went up dramatically during the fourth year of service. However, we aren't using our A's as everyday drivers, but it would be prudent to check to see if the belt looks worn, frayed or glazed over and use it for a spare. Since 99% of us don't have a belt tension gauge, we will have to use the old rule of thumb. Push on the center of the belt between the crank pulley and fan pulley. Tighten the tension until it will deflect only ½". When installing a new belt, seat the tension, run for 5 minutes, then reset the tension again because after 5 minutes the new belt will have seated in. Hopefully this will have given you some insight into an often-overlooked item on our Model A's.
Till next month, Howard.

ORANGE COUNTY PANCAKE BREAKFAST REPORT – The weatherman was right! We really got rained on as was predicted but the spirit didn't seem to be dampened. Most everyone got to finish eating before the first downpour, then we sat in out cars until it let up then we all got to put all our "winning" raffle tickets in the containers under the plastic covers over all the prizes. Then off for cover again for the next downpour. Howard, Jim and I hung in there until most of the prizes were won but diehards stayed until the finish. Our club was represented by Bruce Howe, Joe Williams, The Lugo Family, Greg Wilson, David Frazee and the Kruegel's. Bruce and the Kruegel's drove their Model A's. Needless to say David was a big winner taking home several prizes, one of which was a 55' tv. Anthony and Donna Lugo's daughter's Danika and Dominique were there and Dominique won a new boys bike which one of her five sons got to enjoy in the park when it wasn't raining. Howard won a set of taillights, Barbara won a bird house made by a committee member and Bruce won a gift card. My "guesstimate" is there was about 40 cars displayed, including mostly A's, a few T's, some hot rods and moderns. It was a fun event despite the rain and the Orange County Model A Club did an outstanding job contending with the rain and improvising to make it happen. There was a special guest attending the event also. Chip Foose, who we know

from his wonderful television show, came despite the wet weather and stayed for a long time. He was most gracious to have his picture taken with Howard and Jim. Great pancakes too! Barbara



FYI – Greg Wilson sent information on an interesting exhibit at the Oceanside Museum of Art by San Diego Artist James Hubbell. There was a large article in the San Diego Tribune on April 12, 2026 that can be accessed online describing their history, and the picture of James and his brother Bert shows them in a 1928 or 29 Model A Roadster Pickup.

PHOTO CHALLENGE - We are looking to challenge our greatest photographer's in the club. We are looking for photo's related to the holiday of each month and it must include a Model A or A's. At the end of the year the members will vote on the best photo submission. There will be a prize awarded by the Reflector committee.

JOKALARITY – Volunteer wanted to submit a monthly joke, anecdote, story, poem or whatever to be published for our readers amusement.

UPCOMING EVENTS - **Save these dates!**

Wednesday, May 6th - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday. May 20th – Village Pie Shop 950 Tamarack Ave, Carlsbad
Friday, May 22nd-24th - NCRG Roundup in Sonora. NCRG is the oldest regional group starting in 1972 sponsored by the Northwest Regional Model A Group. Events are held at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds, 220 Southgate Drive, Sonora. Go to the Model A Group and MAFCA websites for registration and meet information.

Sunday, May 31st-June 7th - MAFCA National Convention in Pendleton, Oregon. Registration and meet information are found on the MAFCA website but hotel information will be sent out once they have received your registration. The hotels and events fill up fast so get your registration sent early. The website is www. 2026mafcanationalconvention.com.
Wednesday, June 3rd - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday, June 17th – Start Fresh Café, 1034 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside
Wednesday, July 1st - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday, August 5th - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday, September 2nd - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Saturday, September 19th, International Model A Day, Julian, CA 10:00-2:00.
Wednesday, October 7th - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday, November 4th - Business Meeting 7:00 PM, Clubhouse.
Wednesday, December 9th-13th – MAFCA National Awards Banquet in Cincinnati, Ohio. It will be held at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel, 35 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati. There is no information on the MAFCA website yet.
Saturday, December 12th – Palomar A Club annual Christmas Party at the Hunter Restaurant in Oceanside, 12:00 PM.

Other local events and breakfasts will be included in the calendar as they are scheduled. Meeting dates may be changed as needed if conflicts occur due to holidays or events.

April 15th our adventurous group met for breakfast at the Money Pit in San Marcos. They always have a great visit and the perfect way to start the day! Join us next time. Picture below.



Interesting

Under the Shade Tree: Why Participation (and Inclusion) Keeps Our Club Running

By Wade Ratalaff, President San Fernando Valley Model A Club

If you've ever stood under a shade tree staring at a Model A that ran fine last week, you already understand how our club works. These cars don't survive on polish alone—they survive because someone shows up, turns a wrench, offers advice, or at least holds the flashlight. Clubs work the same way.

Right now, our biggest challenge isn't parts, tours, or meeting space—it's participation. A club with great cars but quiet members is like a Model A with a full tank and no spark. It looks good, but it's not going anywhere.

Participation doesn't mean you have to be an expert. It doesn't mean you need a perfectly restored car, a trailer, or even a Model A that runs every time. It means showing up—to meetings, tours, breakfasts, tech days, car shows, or even just to say hello and ask a question. Every time you attend something, you're keeping the club alive.

Just as important is inclusion. This club is for everyone: long-time owners, brand-new members, spouses, kids, grandkids, folks with projects, folks with drivers, and yes—even folks who sometimes arrive in a modern car. We'd rather you come in something modern than not come at all. The more people feel welcome, the more likely they are to stay, learn, and eventually get their own Model A on the road.

When more people participate, more good things happen. Knowledge gets shared. Cars get fixed. Tours get bigger. Stories get better. And suddenly, that Model A that's been sitting quietly in the garage finds its way back onto the road—where it belongs.

This year, my goal is simple: more involvement, more smiles, and more miles. If you've been sitting on the sidelines, consider this your invitation. Come to a meeting. Join a tour. Bring a friend. Ask a question. Earn a button. Break down and earn a patch. Just be part of it. Because at the end of the day, this club isn't just about Model A Fords—it's about the people who keep them running.

See you under the shade tree.

— Wade Ratalaff