

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford for over 50 years
1956 - 2006

Volume 50, Issue 12

www.sfmodelaclub.org

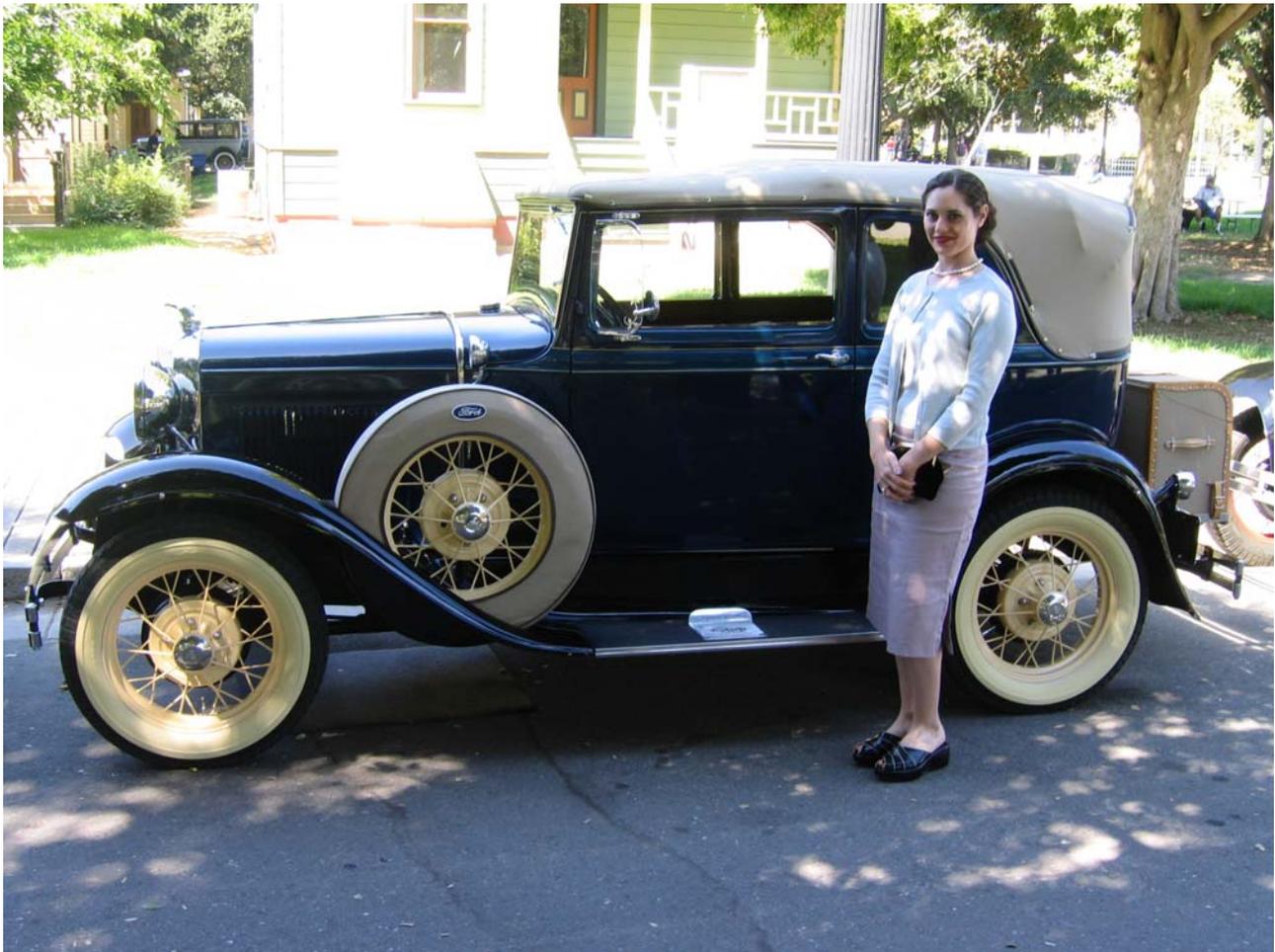
December 2006

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

Looking Back - Looking Ahead

by Rachelle Marquez - page 3



Saturday December 9th
Annual Christmas Banquet
Basque Cultural Center - South San Francisco

Upcoming Tours

January 28, 2007 - President's Brunch - Harding Park Golfcourse Clubhouse

February 16, 17, 18 - 2007 Classic Car Show - Fisherman's Wharf

March - Tech Seminar with the Bob Craigs

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Gary Barrango

VICE PRESIDENTS

Greg Martinez

Tom Escher

SECRETARY

Barry Kinney

TREASURER

Steve Owsley

PAST PRESIDENT

Franz von Uckermann

The Choke Rod is published once each month by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America. It is mailed free to each member in good standing and mailed to other antique car clubs in exchange for their publications. Ads are published at \$15.00 a year and run for 12 months. The Choke Rod takes no responsibility for the accuracy of materials, dates, places, prices, etc of its contents. Permission to reproduce is hereby granted provided credit is given to The Choke Rod. The Choke Rod welcomes articles, art work, ideas, suggestions, etc.

Please submit any and all material to the editor by the last Monday of each month. Articles and photos may be submitted to: sowsley@pacbell.net or mailed to Steve Owsley at 1350-d Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

PRESIDENT: Gary Barrango
VICE PRESIDENTS: Greg Martinez
Tom Escher
SECRETARY: Barry Kinney
TREASURER: Steve Owsley
TOUR CHAIR: Barry Kinney
EDITORS: Walter Caplan
Steve Owsley
FASHION EDITOR: Rachele Marquez
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan
PAST PRESIDENT: Franz von Uckermann

President's Message

Well, here it is - after 4 (or is it 5?) years of having to read my President's Letters - for now this is the last one! Greg Martinez has volunteered to become our Club's President. As many of you know, Greg is full of enthusiasm in everything he does. So I know he is going to be a great President. Our Club keeps growing with members and tours, and I'm sure Greg is going to make this even better.



As for me, I am going to stay as active as I've always been. The only thing that will be missing is the monthly phone calls from Walter asking where is my President's Letter. I think in a sick sort of way, I'm going to miss those calls!

We are getting into the final stages of our car show on Presidents Weekend in February. Many of you know what an undertaking this is. This year it is even larger - the show keeps growing and so does our need for volunteers to staff the show. Not only do we need help during the show, we also need help the week prior to the show to get the pier ready!

So that's it for me. The club is definitely on an upward swing. Greg and the rest of the board are full of excitement - and I'm out of words!

Hope to see many of you at the Christmas Banquet.
Thank you for all of your support over the years.

Gary Barrango

The San Francisco Model "A" Ford Club encourages membership in MAFCA, the National Model "A" Ford Club. Benefits include an excellent bi-monthly publication, *The Restorer*, providing technical information and free liability insurance when participating in Club Events.

MAFCA

Model A Ford Club of America, Inc.
250 South Cypress Street
La Habra CA 90631
www.mafca.com
562-697-2712



MAFCA dues are \$30 per year. Dues for new members may be paid at any time. Dues paid between November 1 and December 31 are valid for the remainder of the year paid plus the following year. Along with your check send in your name, spouse's name and complete address. An optional \$10 initiation fee includes a club pin, decal, badge, windshield card and a back issue of "The Restorer" magazine. If you use Mastercard or Visa, include the expiration date and your signature. Membership includes a subscription to *The Restorer*.

Looking Back - Looking Ahead

Remembrance and Appreciation

I have been a member of the San Francisco Model "A" Club for 25 years. I started when I was two, or shall I say I was enrolled by my parents. During this time I came to know many people in the club that became not only friends, but more and more like family. Traveling on the tours opened my experiences up to new places and all the history you could ask for. The younger I was the more boring the history. However, I have come to appreciate it as



time has passed. I have been able to experience the beauty of many places such as the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Hearst Castle which I would not have had the opportunity to if I was not part of this club. The traditions of the club that made it a fun social scene included the Halloween parties, the Christmas

banquets, the picnics, and garage sales. And of course who could forget about all the car shows, car shows, and car shows. This club has been a major part of my life and I have come to recognize it and the people who have made it happen. I have also had the privilege to take office as Secretary (1997) and President (1998) when I was 18 years old. What an experience that was! Being in charge of a club isn't as easy as some people make it look. I wouldn't have traded it in for anything! I now contribute fashion articles to **The Choke Rod** and try to stay involved by keeping my generation interested and informed. Not only am I learning about the past and the fashions of the time, but also how people lived in such simple times. Reinforcing some of these attitudes and "back to basic" ideas of cooking and purchasing items has grounded me a little more each day. There is so much to say about learning from your elders and their experiences in life. I am hoping I too can contribute my part.

With that said, I would like to take the time to show recognition to those people who have had a huge impact on my life. To the die hard members of the club like Barry Kinney, who gives more of himself than anyone could ever ask, Gary Barrango for not allowing the club to die down, and to Pauline Marquez for her years of commitment and hard work in editing **The Choke Rod** to perfection. To all the new members, such as Greg Martinez, Walter Caplan, Steve Owsley, and Jeanine and Gunard Mahl who are trying to carry on the traditions. To Janelle and Ryan Barrango, Brianna and Steve Wilkes, Stephanie Cocolos, Noah and Laura Grassi, and Jessica and Jenaca Bull for sharing in the experience of the tours as we grew older and making them that much more fun and memorable. To those who have passed on: Marshall Storz, Bill Venecia, Joan Avila, Joe Masachia, Alda Maxwell, and Jim Haight - just being able to know them is a privilege. Being able to remember them is an honor.

Thank you to all the members past and present for making this part of my life so wonderful !

Rachelle Marquez

Engine Overheating

by Barry Kinney

I read the article by Bill Lee in the October issue of **The Choke Rod** with interest. It was a great article full of good advice. I agree that in climates like we have in California, antifreeze is to be avoided and distilled water is always better than any other coolant you can use in the radiator.

I don't pretend to be an expert, but I have noticed that a cracked block is most often caused by overheating and that the nature of the water in the radiator, distilled or undistilled, matters very little.

Overheating is caused because the water in the system fails to adequately carry enough engine heat out of the engine or fails to cool it adequately when it passes through the radiator.

If the engine is overheating, first look at the radiator. If the radiator core is old, replace it. Keeping the old radiator just because it is an "original" can be a big mistake. Don't stop with the radiator. Rebuild the water pump and replace the two bladed fan with a four blade fan. If the car is a show car you can stick with the two blades but if the car is a touring car, it doesn't hurt to go to a four bladed plastic fan. Plastic is efficient, strong and light, and should a blade take a hike, it will not damage the hood or radiator.

There should never be a need to restrict water flow to or from the radiator with baffles or washers in the radiator hose. If all the above conditions are met and the car is still foaming and steaming, then the problem is most likely with the block. There may be an undetected crack or excessive rust and corrosion in the water jackets, or the head gasket may be the problem.

If the above conditions are met and the car is pumping water out of the radiator, the problem is not overheating but a missing baffle in the top tank of the radiator. A baffle is built into the top tank to prevent this problem from occurring.

In order to reduce corrosion, add a rust inhibitor/water pump lubricant to the radiator water. This item is available at most auto supply stores.

Bottom line: if the cooling system is clean from engine to radiator, the engine should not overheat regardless of the circumstances or driving conditions.

I've stuck my neck out a mile on this one. Am I wrong?

Editor's note: The author solicits responses to this article. Replies and comments will be published in future issues of **The Choke Rod**.

Salon Trousers

Decades of Style Pattern Company takes clothing designs from 1900 through 1959 (with a main focus on 1920 through 1959) and makes these patterns available again. Patterns can be viewed and ordered through their website: www.decadesofstyle.com. Below is their design for Salon Trousers, as shown on their website.

Women did not commonly wear trousers in 1930. There were some loopholes in this dress code in the form of lounge and beach pajamas. Ah, necessity, the mother of invention! This fabulous vintage pattern from 1930 is proof positive of the progressive spirit of fashion and we knew it would be a great addition to the Decades of Style catalogue.

The trousers have a wide leg that is delicately shaped and flared at the hemline. True to the 30's silhouette, the fit at the hips does not have that much ease, so choose your size based on your hip measurement. There are stitched down pleats in the front. These pleats can be released for a more relaxed fit at the hips.

The trousers have Front and Back Yokes with button closures at the side seams. A small belt and buckle at the back provide adjustable fit at the waist.



Christmas Holiday Banquet

6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.

Last minute changes and reservations can be made by calling Walter Caplan at (415) 753-3280 up to the day before the party. The address of the Basque Cultural Center is 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco 94080.

Directions:

Basque Cultural Center From Highway 280:

Take Highway 280 north to South San Francisco, and take the Avalon Drive Exit. Continue to go straight on Junipero Serra Blvd. Take a right on Westborough Blvd., and then a right on El Camino Real. Take a left on Orange Blvd, and right on Railroad Ave. Continue down to 599 and make a right into our parking lot. If your coming from the City take Highway 280 South. From Highway 280, take the Westborough Exit, and follow the same directions as above after Westborough Blvd.

Basque Cultural Center From Highway 101:

From the South, take Highway 101 north to South San Francisco, and take the Grand Avenue Exit. Right on East Grand Avenue, then Left on Grand Avenue. Take a left on Magnolia and drive two blocks and cross Railroad Ave, into our parking lot. If you're coming from the City, take Highway 101 South and take the Grand Avenue Exit in South San Francisco. Continue on Grand Avenue. Take a left on Magnolia and drive two blocks and cross Railroad Ave, into the Basque Cultural Center parking lot.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



December Birthdays

- December 14 Steve Karr
- December 19 Bill Tempone
- December 31 John Zuffi

December Anniversaries

- December 17 Steve Owsley / Jack Green

Buy - Swap - Sell

Wanted Dead or Alive - Any Model A sheet metal or bodies needed for restoration. Call Kerry 415-418-4415

2007 Classic Car Show

February 16-18, 2007

Registration forms will be available December 15th on our website: www.sfmodelaclub.org

Membership Dues

It's that time again !! Please send in your dues for 2007. Membership in the SF Bay Area Chapter of the Model A Club is still only \$25 per year. Deadline is January 31st.

Mail to:

SF Model A Club
PO Box 31387
San Francisco, CA 94131.



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Alliance
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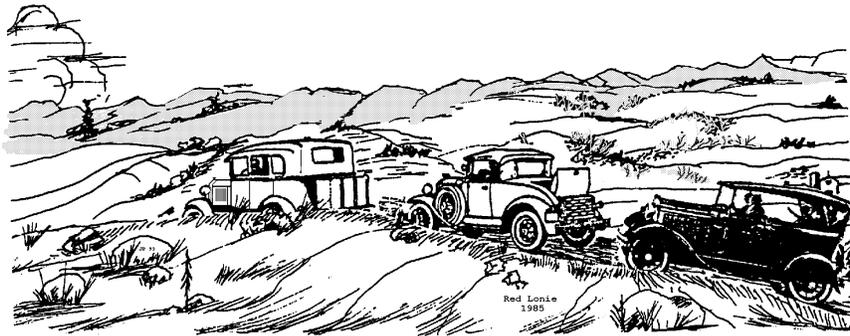
Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated 

**For any MAFCA members
or member referrals -
25% of my Century 21 Commission
will be donated to the
San Francisco Model A Ford Club**

Cell phone (415)350-5715
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2006 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

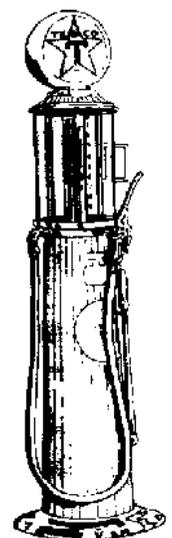


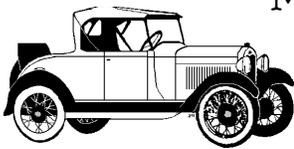
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	29	GARY BARRANGO	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - HARDING PARK
FEB	17,18,19	CLUB FUNDRAISER	ANNUAL CAR SHOW AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF
MAR	18	THE BOB CRAIGS	TECH SEMINAR - LUBRICATING THE "A"
APRIL	16	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	EASTER AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
MAY	21	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CANADA COLLEGE
JUNE	17	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	25	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE & PICNIC LUNCH AT CRISSYFIELD
JULY	8	GREG MARTINEZ	LAHONDA & TOUR OF ARIES LTD (MUFFLERS)
AUG	20	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	SAN FRANCISCO MYSTERY TOUR
AUG	27	GREG MARTINEZ	SWAP MEET AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
SEPT	10	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	22-24	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	15	GREG AND CASEY MARTINEZ	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV	12	KINNEY / CAPLAN	THE ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR
DEC	2	KINNEY	CHRISTMAS TREE TOUR W/ EL CAMINO A'S
DEC	9	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET

If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Jeanine Mahl 415-664-2056**

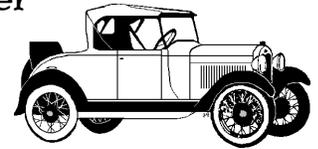
2007 Schedule of Events

January 27-28	Turlock Swap Meet (41st Annual): Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Sponsor: Modesto Area A's; Sat 7 am to 5 pm, Sun: 7 am to 3pm; \$5 admission
March	Model A Crab and Steak Feed, Livermore, Info: Bill Rose (925) 216-9920
April 27-29	CCRG Jamboree, Yosemite, CA, Host: Blossom Trail A's
April 29	Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay - 10 am - 4 pm
May 31-June 3	NCRG Roundup, Sacramento, Sponsored by Modesto Area A's Call Holiday Inn (Madison & I-80) 916-338-5800 for reservations
July 24-29	NWRG Round-up, Pendleton, OR. Host: Blue Mountain A's
Sept 30	Placerville Jazz Jubilee, Car Display
Dec 5-9	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting, Southern California. Host: SCRG





Minutes of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
November 9, 2006



The meeting was called to order by President Gary Barrango at 8:00 P.M.
Minutes of the October 12, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

President: Gary Barrango

It was suggested that the meeting time be changed from 7:30 pm. to 8 pm. to allow adequate time for completion of the pre-meeting dinner at *The Connecticut Yankee*. The Monte Cristo Club will open a few minutes prior to 8 pm to accommodate early arrivals. After some discussion, the consensus was that the meetings will start at 8 pm beginning January of 2007.

The new 2007 Board of Directors was elected by acclamation. Greg Martinez will assume the office of President. Jeanine Mahl will become the new Tour Chairperson. All other board positions remain the same: Tom Escher – Vice President, Barry Kinney – Secretary, Steve Owsley – Treasurer. Gary Barrango will become a Vice President.

Vice-president: Greg Martinez

Jimmy's Old Car Picnic was an old car extravaganza - a good time was had by all.

Secretary: Barry Kinney

Letters were sent to the Linden A's thanking them for their help with the Tour to Ironsone/Murphys. Lois Storz called to thank the Club and to say how much she and her family appreciated the honors given Marshall in the November **Choke Rod**, and she followed up with a lovely handwritten note to the Club.

Treasurer: Steve Owsley

The Club continues to maintain sufficient funds in all accounts to pay outstanding debts.

Editor: Walter Caplan

Over ninety newsletters are mailed each month to members, selected non-members, honorary Club members, and other Model A Ford Clubs. The Editor was asked to limit mailings to non-members.

Following the Editor's report, there was a lengthy discussion by Club members and Show Committee members regarding the planning for the 2007 Classic Car Show to be held February 16-18, 2007 at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by
Barry Kinney, Secretary

SF Model A Club Monthly Meetings: The meetings continue to be held monthly, the second Thursday of each month at 8 pm. The location is the Monte Cristo Club at 136 Missouri Street in San Francisco. The meeting place is located in safe neighborhood and parking is convenient. If you have questions or need directions, call Gary at (415) 821-2628 (daytime)

The next scheduled meeting will be at 8 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2007
A number of club members gather for dinner before the monthly meetings at 6 pm
Please feel free to join us -- January dinner location will be *The Connecticut Yankee*,
corner of 17th St. & Connecticut.



Art by Pauline Marquez



in this
Choke Rod

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Insert: Annual San Francisco City Tour
& 50th Anniversary Luncheon

The Choke Rod is online at
www.sfmodelaclub.org



www.sfmodelaclub.org

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
PO Box 31387
San Francisco, CA 94131-0387
415-621-0500

**CHRISTMAS BANQUET
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 2006
6 pm Cocktails - 7 pm Dinner
Basque Cultural Center
South San Francisco**



Annual San Francisco City Tour & 50th Anniversary Luncheon

The annual San Francisco City Tour began Sunday November 12th at Stonestown. Over a 30-minute period a large group of 1930's era cars assembled for the tour. As promised, the tour explored the western part of San Francisco. We proceeded around Lake Merced and then up the Great Highway past the San Francisco Zoo. As luck would have it, the weather was great. We enjoyed a clear sunny morning, and were able to see the sun glistening on the Pacific Ocean to our west. Our first stop was at the Beach Chalet, where we parked and inspected the building's beautifully restored interior wall murals and mosaics, as well as a large diorama of Golden Gate Park. When we left the Chalet and returned to our cars, a group



of Park visitors had assembled to view them and question us about their age and history.

Our caravan, now numbering ten or more, proceeded into the Park from its west end, past the Queen Wilhelmina Windmill, past the Bison Paddock, around Spreckels Lake, past the horse stables, and on to the Anglers Lodge. Here we made our second stop, exiting our cars to view the fly casting pools and the beautiful 1930's WPA knotty pine Anglers Lodge. Model A Club member Gunard Mahl, a past president of the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club, guided us around the clubhouse and the adjoining casting pools.

From there our caravan proceeded east on Kennedy Drive, past Marx Meadows and past Speedway Meadow, the large gathering spot where Jimmy's Annual Old Car Picnic is held each October. When we could drive no further east, we drove south on Transverse Drive, and over to Martin Luther King Drive, and on past the Polo Fields. Our beautiful parade of cars then continued south

on Sunset Boulevard to Sloat Boulevard, where we began our final procession towards our 50th anniversary luncheon spot at Lakeside Village. As a group we pulled into the city parking lot on Ocean Avenue at Junipero Serra, which was closed to the public and reserved solely for our use that Sunday morning.

Our club tour then arrived together at the restaurant Villa D'Este, where the maitre d' greeted us and escorted us to a long banquet table which had been specially set for our 50th anniversary luncheon.

President Gary Barrango welcomed us, and through the meal we heard from past presidents Barry Kinney, Rachelle Marquez, other members and guests.

As we entered the restaurant, we assembled for a group photo along with our Club banner, the very same one seen in the picture of the 25th anniversary picnic back in 1981.



As always, a good time was had by all.

