

# The Choke Rod

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

Volume 50, Issue 7

[www.sfmodelaclub.org](http://www.sfmodelaclub.org)

July 2006

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

LaHonda & Tour of Aries Ltd Mufflers  
Saturday, July 8 ~ meet at 9am ~ see page 5

## TOURS! - TOURS! - TOURS!



**Law Enforcement Torch Run**  
June 8th

**Father's Day**  
**St. Annes Home**  
June 17th



**Pride Parade & Crissy Field Picnic**  
June 25th



## Upcoming Tours

Sunday, **August 27** ~ Swap Meet at The Pacific Rod & Gun Club

Sunday, **September 10** ~ 6th Annual Antique Autos in History Park (Kelley Park) in San Jose

**September 22 - 24** ~ Overnighter to Murphys for Ironstone Concours d'Elegance ~ see page 6

**October 15** ~ Jimmy's Car Show & Picnic in Golden Gate Park

**November** (TBA) ~ Annual San Francisco City Tour

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

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VICE PRESIDENTS

Greg Martinez

Tom Escher

SECRETARY

Barry Kinney

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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](mailto:sowsley@pacbell.net) or mailed to Steve Owsley at 1350-d Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

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

## President's Message

I'm actually rather disappointed with myself - Our Club had two great tours this month and unfortunately I missed them both. The Father's Day tour to St. Anne's Home was well attended as well as the Pride Parade and picnic. From all reports it sounded like both tours were fantastic. In the past I've been able to attend these events, so I know what I missed. Oh well, there's always next year!



Plans for the 2007 Car Show are moving ahead and we have some planning meetings scheduled. So if you would like to help plan or take part, please plan on attending these meetings, call Barry or myself to get the schedule.

Off on a different subject for now. As many of you know, my daughter Janelle is getting married to a great guy on October 7th. But prior to this, we have six weddings to attend in 7 weekends. So if you end up reading my President's Letters in Latin, that just means things were too hectic to get out my President's Letters. So I want to apologize to you in advance for this. And thank you Steve and Walter for not only doing a fantastic job on The Choke Rod, but also writing my letters if it comes down to that!

Our regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 13th, and I hope to see all of you there. Hope you have a safe and happy 4th of July.

Sincerely,

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](http://www.mafca.com) 562-697-2712



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. 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*.

# Vintage License Plates

## What You Can and Cannot Do In California

A vintage license plate can be the crowning touch of authenticity on a Model A. But few owners are lucky enough to have the original plates on their car. Whether you find a set of well-worn old plates for cheap at a parts swap meet or purchase a pristine restored pair for serious money, the real challenge can be dealing with your state DMV office and getting permission to legally mount them on your car.

### California – Land of the Disgruntled DMV Employee

No need to mince words: the California DMV is not the most public-spirited bureaucracy on the planet. It can be a trying experience attempting to convince the clerk behind the counter that the law does allow vintage license plate use in certain specific circumstances under the “Year of Manufacture” (YOM) statute, **Section 5004.1 of the California Motor Vehicle Code**. I have had DMV employees tell me that there is no such law, and that what I am trying to do is impossible. So take a printout of that webpage with you! And for S.F. Bay Area residents, here’s a tip: the Santa Clara DMV is much more hip to the YOM rules than some other DMV offices. They even have a huge display on the wall of every CA plate style since they first started issuing them in 1914, which is interesting from a historical point of view.

California law allows owners of 1962 model year cars or older to use vintage plates issued in the same year on their car if the plates are legible and “clear”, meaning not currently in use. Since each plate number is unique, and you have to bring into the DMV a matched pair of plates, that should prove they are not in use, but it’s not always that simple. Errors in the DMV records may show they are in use when they are clearly not (assuming your vintage plates are legitimate and not modern copies!). Note that the law does not require that the vintage plates be the same as those originally issued with the car. Kit cars of vintage automobiles do not qualify for YOM plates.

Up until 1952, CA plate styles for almost all years showed a year number stamped into the plate, or a

metal tab showing the year was attached to the plate.

Application requirements are as follows:

1. Complete the Application for YOM License Plates (REG. 352). This form may also be used for YOM plate retention.
2. Submit YOM plates for authentication by DMV employee.
3. Fees
  - a. Registration fee
  - b. Vehicle License fee and weight fee (if any)
  - c. \$35 YOM plate fee
  - d. Other fees may be due
4. Surrender current plates

Once a YOM application is completed, a special black metal sticker will be mailed from headquarters for displaying expiration sticker. A PFR sticker, which shows both the month and year of expiration, will accompany the sticker well bolts either above or below the YOM plate. The sticker well along with your new registration will be mailed out in approximately 30 days.

DMV Special Plates Unit, Sacramento, CA (916) 657-7606

### California Vehicle Code

#### Model Year Date License Plates

**5004.1. (a) An owner of any vehicle that is a 1962 or older model year vehicle may, after the requirements for the registration of the vehicle have been complied with and with the approval of the department, utilize license plates of this state with the date of year corresponding to the model year date when the vehicle was manufactured, if the model year date license plate is legible and serviceable, as determined by the department, in lieu of the license plates otherwise required by this code. The department may consult with an organization of old car hobbyists in determining whether the date of year of the license plate to be used corresponds to the model year date when the vehicle was manufactured.**

**(b) A fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35) shall be**

**License Plates - continued from page 3**

charged for the application for use of the special plates.

(c) In addition to the regular renewal fee for the vehicle for which the plates are authorized, the applicant for a renewal of the plates shall be charged an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10). When payment of a regular vehicle renewal fee is not required by this code, the holder of any license plates with a date corresponding to the model year may retain the plates upon payment of an annual fee of twenty dollars (\$20), which shall be due at the expiration of the registration year of the vehicle to which the plate was last assigned under this section.

(d) Whenever any person who has been authorized to utilize the special license plates applies to the department for transfer of the plates to another vehicle, a transfer fee of twelve dollars (\$12) shall be charged in addition to all other appropriate fees.

Amended Ch. 1292, Stats. 1993. Effective January 1, 1994.

Text adapted from article written by Barry Lee Brisco. Entire article may be viewed on the (Porsche) 356 Registry website [www.356registry.org/Tech/vintage\\_plate\\_rules\\_ca.html](http://www.356registry.org/Tech/vintage_plate_rules_ca.html)  
Additional information from Dave Hindman's

website [www.davesclip.com](http://www.davesclip.com). Dave is a California License plates Reseller and Collector. He purchases and sells California license plates that can be registered to your vehicle as Year of manufacture.

Dave Hindman  
Phone: (707) 448-8942  
E-mail: [Davesclip@aol.com](mailto:Davesclip@aol.com)



1927 Maroon background and white numerals



1928 Blue background and yellow numerals



1929 Black background and orange numerals




1930 Orange background and black numerals



1931 Black background and orange numerals

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[daisy@century21alliance.com](mailto:daisy@century21alliance.com)

Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

For any MAFCA members  
or member referrals -  
25% of my Century 21 Commission  
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San Francisco Model A Ford Club

Cell phone (415)350-5715  
email: [dvyoung@flash.net](mailto:dvyoung@flash.net)



ca. mid-1930s

During the 1930's, promoting men's clothing for its 'snob appeal' was begun. Clothing manufacturers have always known that if changes are continuously made to clothing so that it goes out of fashion quickly, more sales will be made as women rush out to refurbish their closets. This had not been applied to men's clothing though until the 1930s. During the 1930s men also began to discard their undershirts supposedly because Clark Gable took off his shirt in a movie and only his bare chest was visible. Warm shirts in large plaids, and early in the 30s the single breasted jacket was the male look. Later in the decade, double breasted jackets became popular yet again and the front of the man's jacket was higher.

([www.vintageblues.com/history3.htm](http://www.vintageblues.com/history3.htm))

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### 1930-1939

FACTS about this decade.

Population: 123,188,000 in 48 states

Life Expectancy: Male, 58.1; Female, 61.6

Average salary: \$1,368

Unemployment rises to 25%

Huey Long proposes a guaranteed annual income of \$2,500

Car Sales: 2,787,400

Food Prices: Milk, 14 cents a qt.; Bread, 9 cents a loaf;  
Round Steak, 42 cents a pound

Lynchings: 21

## Aries Limited Muffler Factory Tour

Since 1983, Aries Limited has been producing tapered mufflers for the Model A Ford, built exactly to the original Ford design with correct gauge metal and original baffling system. From their website ([www.amuffler.com](http://www.amuffler.com)), Aries Limited's shop now offers complete restorations, body work, electrical and mechanical work on all the classics. They specialize in Lincolns and Fords, with experience with cars from 1909 to 1939. This should be a very interesting tour for anyone. Greg Martinez has been gracious enough to arrange a tour of their facilities by our club.

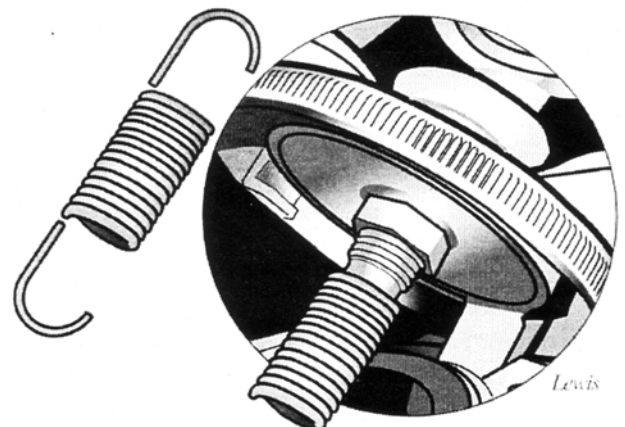
Meet 9:00am at Stonestown near McDonald's for "Running Board" coffee and pastries. Greg will lead us down to LaHonda for lunch and a tour of the Aries facility. If you don't show at McDonald's, we will look for you at the junction of HWY 280 and 92. We have invited the Santa Clara A's to participate - the more the merrier. For more information, contact Greg at 415-725-2449.

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### Tech Tip

#### Moto Meter sensor extension

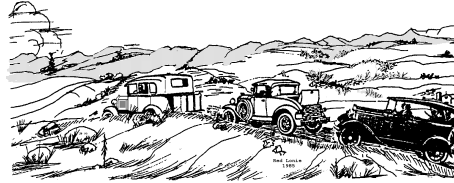
If your radiator cap has a moto meter with the wings option, you'll find the sensor is raised approximately 1/2" above the normal level and you may not get an accurate reading. To overcome this, cut the extension hooks off a Model A brake shoe spring and use just the spring part to screw over the moto meter sensor (The diameter is close enough to fit snugly without any additional work.) This will act as a heat sink and conduct the heat via conduction to the thermometer.



Reprinted from OVR's THE AAAOOOGAH! via The Sparton (Hangtown A's)

## 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	9	CAPLAN / KINNEY	NILES CANYON
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	27	GREG MARTINEZ	SWAP MEET AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
SEPT	22-24	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONECONCOURS
OCT	15	GREG AND CASEY MARTINEZ	JIMMY'S PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV		KINNEY / CAPLAN	THE ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR
DEC	9	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET

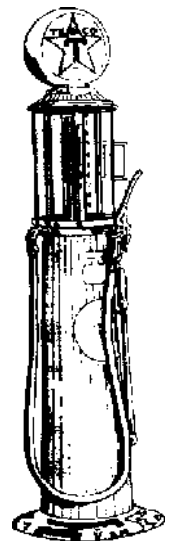
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Barry Kinney**. (415) 282-2789.

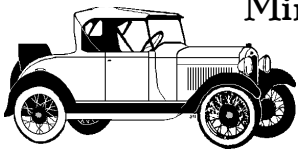
### Overnighter to Murphys for Ironstone Concours d'Elegance September Tour -- Friday thru Sunday Sept 22 thru 24

Our hosts will be Tom and Terry Machado. Plan to attend the pre-event buffet dinner on Friday, September 22. We will visit the Ironstone Concours d'Elegance at Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys as well as travel to other wineries and neighboring towns, including Columbia, Sonora and Angels Camp. For hotel reservations and tour details, contact Barry Kinney at 415-282-2789. Motel Rooms in the area are scarce, so if you plan to attend, you should make reservations NOW.

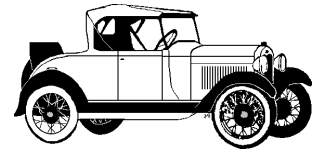
### 2006 Schedule of Events

<b>January 28-29</b>	Turlock Swap Meet: Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Sponsors: Modesto Area A's; Sat 7 am to 5 pm, Sun: 7 am to 3pm; \$5 admission
<b>March 18</b>	Model A Crab and Steak Feed, Livermore, Info: Bill Rose (925) 216-9920
<b>March 31-Apr 2</b>	CCRG Meeting, Paso Robles, Paso Robles Oak A's
<b>April 30</b>	Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay - 10 am - 4 pm
<b>May 5-7</b>	Lake County A's Spring Opener at Konocti Vista Casino in Lakeport
<b>May 7</b>	Car Parts Exchange Meet; Tulare, Charter Oaks A's
<b>May 14</b>	Capitol A's Swap Meet. Consumnes River College
<b>June 1-4</b>	NCRG Roundup, Turlock Fairgrounds, Sponsored by Modesto Area A's
<b>July 16-20</b>	NWRG Round-up, Kennewick, WA: Columbia Basin Chapter
<b>July 16-22</b>	MAFCA National Convention, Mansfield, MA
<b>July 16-20</b>	Northwest Regional Meet, Tri-Cities, Washington, sponsored by Columbia Basin A's
<b>Sept 1-4</b>	Apple Hill Meet: Host - Hangtown A's
<b>Sept 8-9</b>	Feather River A's 2nd Annual Get Together.
<b>Oct 1</b>	Placerville Jazz Jubilee, Car Display





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



The June meeting was called to order at 7:55 P.M. The minutes of the May 11, 2006, meeting were approved at written.

**Reports of Officers:**

**President:** The president recommended that the Show Committee begin meeting on a regular basis. Unless notified otherwise, the Show Committee will meet on Monday, July 10, 2006, at 6:30 P.M. at the Monte Cristo Club. Interested Club members are invited to attend.

**Vice-president:** Greg Martinez reported that the July Tour to the Aries Ltd. Muffler Factory is on track. Look for details in the July Choke Rod.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer presented an earnings report for the 2006 Classic Car Show. The Club continues to maintain sufficient funds in the bank accounts to pay outstanding debts. The Treasurer moved that the Club donate \$50.00 to the Model A Ford Foundation. The motion was approved.

**Secretary:** The Club has been invited to attend the 6th Annual Antique Autos in History Park (Kelley Park) in San Jose. Last year 110 cars attended. The Secretary will add this event to our Tour Schedule for September.

**Editor:** The Editor reported that all is well with The Choke Rod and that some future issues would include a color picture insert.

**Tour Chairman:** The Tour Chairman will send in a separate mailing, details on upcoming tours. Tours in June will include Saint Anne's Father's Day Event and the Pride Parade.

**Refreshments:** Barry Kinney will bring refreshments and some never before seen slides of the MAFCA meeting in Portland Oregon.

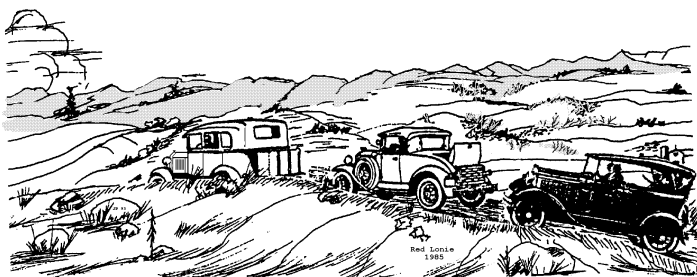
**The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 13, at the Monte Cristo Club at 136 Missouri St. in San Francisco.**

**Minutes 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 7:30 P.M. 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 7:30 PM on Thursday, July 13, 2006**

**A number of club members gather for dinner before the monthly meetings at 6 pm at Cafe Cozzolino, 300 Precita Avenue at Folsom, Bernal Heights (across from Precita Park). Please feel free to join us.**



*in this*  
**Choke Rod**

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Insert - Photos and Tour Information



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415-621-0500

**JULY MEETING**  
**Thursday July 13, 2006**  
**7:30 PM - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**