

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 51, Issue 11

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 - 2006 - 2007

November 2007

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

Fashionable Friends

by Rachelle Marquez ~ page 7



November Tour ~ Sunday November 11

Annual San Francisco City Tour ~ The Presidio of San Francisco

see page 3 for details

Upcoming Tours

Christmas Banquet at Sharp Park ~ Saturday December 8

President's Brunch ~ Sunday January 27

Classic Car Show ~ Fisherman's Wharf ~ February 15, 16, 17

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

President's Message

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Greg Martinez

VICE PRESIDENTS

Gary Barrango

Tom Escher

SECRETARY

Barry Kinney

TREASURER

Steve Owsley

PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Barrango

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. 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 before the 25th of the month for publication in the next month's issue of The Choke Rod. 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: Greg Martinez
VICE PRESIDENTS: Gary Barrango
Tom Escher
SECRETARY: Barry Kinney
TREASURER: Steve Owsley
TOUR CHAIR: Jeanine Mahl
EDITORS: Walter Caplan
Steve Owsley
FASHION EDITOR: Rachelle Marquez
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan
PAST PRESIDENT: Gary Barrango

The state of our Club is strong. As we near the end of our 51st year, our membership continues to climb. Our tours are exciting with increasing participation from Club members and their friends: our overnighter to Ironstone was again a success in spite of the clouds and rain, and all three October tours were well attended. SF Model A Club visibility at Jimmy's Picnic brought us a number of inquiries as well as several new members.

Speaking of tours, the November tour should be great - - our annual San Francisco City Tour - exploring The Presidio of San Francisco, followed by brunch at the Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse. If you were on the San Francisco City Tour that was held last November, you know what fun these tours are. If you weren't on last year's tour, plan on attending this year and you'll see what we mean. If you are coming, please RSVP Walter Caplan so he can have a head count for the after tour brunch.

Plans are in full swing for the annual February Car Show - it promises to be bigger and better than even last year's. If we have good weather we'll be more successful than ever before. We've planned great tours for Car Show participants, among them a Saturday Night Tour of Alcatraz, and a North Beach tour which includes an afternoon meal at Fior d'Italia, America's oldest Italian restaurant. Come January we'll be looking for club members to volunteer to assist in making our 2008 Car Show the best ever.

Our annual Christmas Banquet will be held on Saturday December 8th at the Sharp Park Restaurant in Pacifica, and should be well attended. Please get your reservations in early and ask your friends to join us so they can enjoy our club and its members. Information and reservation forms are included in this issue of the Choke Rod.

We just learned of Joe Hillman's passing away. We are truly saddened by this news. Joe was a wonderful man, and a vital part of this Club's history. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Jennie, and to his children Frank, Donald, Robert, and Nancy. Not only will he be missed by his family - - the club will miss him - - we will miss seeing him in his fashionable dress at club functions. He will always remain in our memories.

We'll see you all at the November meeting, Thursday the 8th.

the Editors

Ed's note: No President's Message was received by the deadline for publication.

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*.





BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



November Birthdays

Casey Martinez	November 1
Tim Taylor	November 2
Greg Martinez	November 5
Franz vonUckermann	November 6
Maria DeMartini	November 15
Joseph Martinez	November 18
Lois Storz	November 18
Nick Calabrese	November 26

Refreshments



at the October meeting were provided by **Walter Caplan**

Springer Teich will provide refreshments at the November meeting

Annual San Francisco City Tour & Presidio Cafe Brunch

The Presidio of San Francisco
Sunday November 11

We will assemble in the Stonestown parking lot near McDonalds at 9 am. At 9:30 am we will motor along Sunset Boulevard, across Golden Gate Park, through Lincoln Park to The Presidio. Entering through the 25th Avenue Gate, we will explore the west end of The Presidio, loop past Fort Point, Crissy Field, and the Main Post. Along the way we will see many different periods of military architecture and view the continuing restoration of some of The Presidio's unique residential neighborhoods.

At the end of our Tour, we will stop at The Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse (just inside the Arguello Gate) for Sunday Brunch.

Touring together with other Club members provides the perfect opportunity to stay in touch with your friends. We want to encourage our fellow members to get their Model A's out of their garages to be enjoyed and seen by others in the community.

Please make every effort to attend and **please RSVP to Walter Caplan** at 415-753-3280 **no later than Friday November 9.-- We need a head count for the Brunch.**



Presidents Day Weekend

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
February 15, 16 & 17

Pier 45

on Historic Fisherman's Wharf
a full weekend of activities



Christmas Banquet

Saturday December 8

Sharp Park Restaurant & Lounge
at Sharp Park Golf Course - Pacifica
5:30 pm Cocktails & Appetizers
7 pm Dinner

see Insert for Reservations
RSVP by November 29

Seat Belts and Installation

Reprinted from Dick and Sabrina Burton's website www.170amodela.com, "Safety First", written by John Young of San Antonio, Texas

I have tried to show you in the photos below how I installed front seat belts in my '30 Tudor. My objective was to have metal to metal attachments to the body only and no wood. You will note that my seats are mounted in a non-traditional fashion to give me room to work the controls. I am a big guy with long legs and even a Tudor was tight for me. Forget a coupe, roadster or pickup. I made those seat extensions so the seat would still fold forward and yet give me a good range of seat attachment using the standard pivot points. If any are interested I can share my pix of the parts I welded up.

Materials:

One set of front MOPAR 71" metal to metal buckle belts with bolt-in attachments. New belts off E-bay for about \$20/set. Any bolt-in belts will do and retractables are an option as well.

1 ½" wide X ¼" thick strap iron. Home Depot.

*2 ea about 9" pieces for the side rail attachments
measure your space under the rails

1 ea 21" piece for the center metal channel under the middle of the cabin floor, ½" hole in center for both buckle receptacle ends

3 ea 1 ½" X ½" – 16 grade 8 bolts, nuts, large grade 8 washers and lock washers

You see the materials are at a minimum. The long belts were attached at the floor side rails below the rear quarter windows. The 9" pieces of iron were fit into the channel above the splash rails. There is room to reach under there to thread and secure the nuts, etc. You will note the 9" pieces had the holes closer to one end than the other. This was to get the maximum length of metal and still have the belt attachment far enough to the rear to have a good angle on the front seat cushion. Obviously I drilled the holes first in the body and then drilled the reinforcement plates to match. The plates were cleaned, sand blasted lightly and coated using satin black POR 15. That's it, no rocket science. Do I believe the belts will save us in a crash like the Cooks? probably not. However, the stability you feel in the car with the belts makes a huge difference and I feel I have better feel and control of the car. My wife is quite crippled and you may see some handrails on the passenger side that help her a great

deal. However, without the belts the old rock and roll of the "A" was very hard for her to take. She is so much more comfortable with the belts. I hope this helps and please let me know if you would like any more detail on any of the above.



Recent Tours Recap

Jimmy's Old Car Picnic - October 14

Once again, the Club gathered for Jimmy's Picnic in Golden Gate Park at our usual spot. Steve Owsley and Walter Caplan organized the event for the Model A Club.

They arrived early and had the tables set when Tom and Terry Machado arrived from Stockton in their 1972 Cadillac Hearse, which was loaded to the brim with all the elements for a great barbecue. Tom stoked up the fire and Terry served up a fabulous feast of homemade fixin's. We enjoyed a great barbecue, watermelon freshly liberated from the fields, and numerous other delights. As the day progressed other Club members arrived bringing even more food and drink. We had a great day, we had a great tour, we enjoyed great food, and we had a great time visiting with other Club members and our Jimmy's Picnic friends. We'll see everyone here next year in our usual spot.



28th Avenue Block Party - October 7

The Mahls' Block Party was once again a fun event. Five or six Model A's were in attendance, and Springer was able to get a free oil change while attending the party. A good time was had by all.



Tip a Cop, Cable Car Pull & Bay Plunge - October 20

A group of Model A's met in front of City Hall and drove to the Hyde Street Pier where the SFPD Solo Motorcycle Unit was sponsoring an event to again raise funds for Special Olympics Athletes. We tipped the cops when they served us brunch at the Buena Vista Cafe, while displaying our cars prominently at the event site for all to see and enjoy. A special thanks to our Richard Webster, who was able to revive Bruce Baird's 1929 Lincoln Phaeton, and showcase it at the Pier (see accompanying photos). Following close behind the Lincoln in our caravan were Terence McGinnis and Sean Lial, driving Richard's Model A pick-up. The Mahls tastefully stood out in their bright orange Model A hot rod (cover photo), which was appropriately acknowledged by the adoring crowds.



Fashionable Friends

Growing up in the Bay Area Ford Model A Club, as it was known then, and much simpler at the time, I was introduced to not only antique automobiles, but antique clothing as well.

There were three people that made a fashionable impression on me in my early years. I would say they inspire me to this day. They were and are risk takers in the world of fashion. They dressed of the time, meaning of the era of the cars (1920's - 1930's). From what I know, as I do not get to see them often enough, they still do.

In today's world, as I have experienced myself, it is an adventure and a courageous battle to fight the status quo. Even as times are changing and the "abnormal" is becoming "normal", one will always turn heads when something different is put in front of them. As Edwin Denby, an American poet and dance critic stated, "Style can only be created at a risk, it is a form of courage, it is an exposed and often indefensible position." How true these words are!

As I roam the outside world in my jewel encrusted, black, three and a half-inch heels with my form fitted A-line skirt, my short-sleeved cropped trench coat with wrist length lace gloves and a crystal rose over five layers of pearls, I have become the stage performer. I walk down the street to jealous looks and fun smiles, but in the end I know I have placed something different in their minds: a way to be unique and glamorous all at the same time. The best part is feeling the power of being a woman, not just a woman, but a gorgeous lady who is empowered by the love of who she is. The one thing society looks down upon, difference, loving ourselves for who we are, and enjoying one's own life. What are we so afraid of?

There was a time when women would not leave the house without dressing to the nines. They cared; they cared about how they looked and who they were. As I look in restaurants, in stores, and at the movies, women everywhere have given up their skirts and nylons for sweats and t-shirts. Are we aware of what we are doing to ourselves and our health? We have the knowledge of the past and the technology of the future in the palm of our hands. Let's use it to love who we are by taking care of ourselves. Most people wouldn't think fashion has anything to do with our health, but we put on a costume everyday and which costume we choose affects our mood, stature, and mental awareness. What does your clothing say about you?

Bringing this back to my original point, the three people that have made me think about my costume on a daily basis are the Hillmans. They don't know how much their presence and fashionable attire has made an impact on my life. Not only am I more aware of fabric, but what it took to make the fabric and how rare and scarce it was at the time. I appreciate the era more now than ever and consider those who lived through it extremely lucky.

To the Hillmans: I would love to hear how you started your adventure through the times and why your costumes never changed.

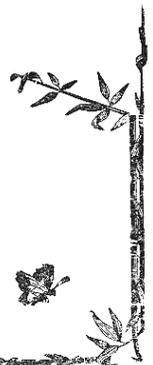
With all the respect and love I can give,

Rachelle Marquez



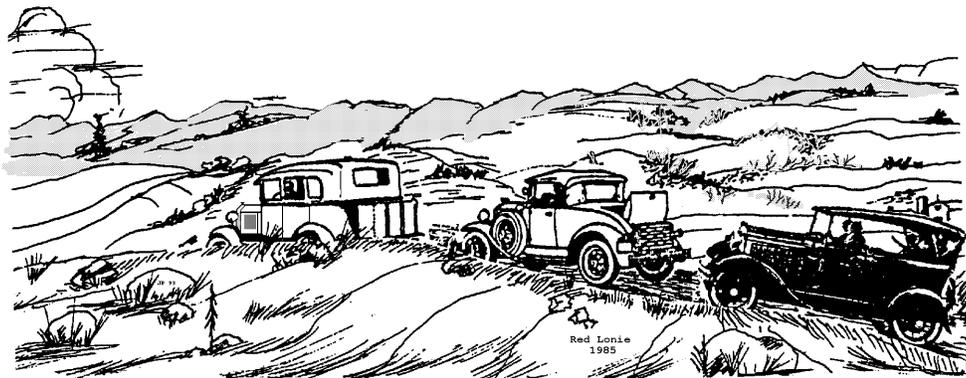
Joseph Hillman

Our friend Joe Hillman died late last month. Joe and his wife Jennie have been members of the San Francisco Model A Club for many years. Joe was a docent for the Hyde Street Pier and also a member of the Mid Peninsula Antique Car Club and the San Francisco Art Deco Society. A tribute to Joe will be in the December **Choke Rod**.



2007 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!



MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	28	GREG MARTINEZ	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - HARDING PARK
FEB	16,17,18	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CLASSIC CAR SHOW AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF
MAR	10	THE BOB CRAIGS	TECH SEMINAR AT CRAIG'S AUTO
MAR	17	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	BILL ROSE'S MODEL A CRAB & STEAK FEED
APRIL	8	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	EASTER AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
APRIL	29	BARRY KINNEY	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY AIRPORT
MAY	12	WALTER CAPLAN	CRUISE TO SANTA CRUZ
MAY	19	OWSLEY/CAPLAN	"A" DAY AT THE RANCH - CAMPO SECO, CA
MAY	20	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CANADA COLLEGE
JUNE	7	RICHARD C. WEBSTER	LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN
JUNE	16	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	24	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE & PICNIC LUNCH AT CRISSYFIELD
JULY	15 - 21	KINNEY	NO. CALIFORNIA / SOUTHERN OREGON TOUR
JULY	25	WEBSTER	LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION AT ATT PARK
AUG	12	GREG MARTINEZ	SWAP MEET AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
SEPT	9	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	21 - 23	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	7	THE MAHLS	28TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY - SAN FRANCISCO
OCT	14	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
OCT	20	WEBSTER / OWSLEY	A DAY ON THE BAY - BENEFITS SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NOV	11	KINNEY / CAPLAN	ANNUAL CITY TOUR -- THE PRESIDIO
DEC	8	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET

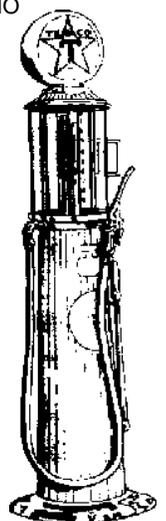
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Jeanine Mahl 415-664-2056**
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.

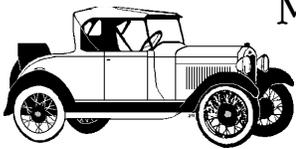
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

If you plan to attend a tour, please RSVP the tour leader.

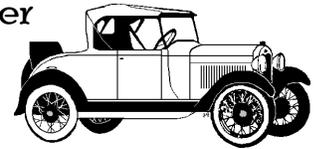
2007 Schedule of Events 2008

Sept 1-3	Stuck in Lodi, Labor Day 2007, Host - Tokay A's
Sept 30	Placerville Jazz Jubilee, Car Display
Oct 6	Lumberjack Day Parade - West Point (Calaveras County)
Dec 5-9	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting, Southern California, Host SCRG
June 22-27, 2008	3rd MARC / MAFCA World Modal 'A' Ford Meet, Addison TX, Host - Dallas Model A Ford Club
Aug 4-8, 2008	Northwest Regional Meet, Medford, Oregon, Host - Rogue Valley A's





Minutes of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
October 11, 2007



The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm by Vice President Gary Barrango (President Greg Martinez was away attending a car show in Hershey, PA). Minutes of the September 2007 meeting were approved as written.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Vice President Barrango: A committee has been formed to solicit sponsorships and advertisers for our annual February Classic Car Show. If you are interested in assisting with this project, contact Gary Barrango.

Secretary: The Secretary was out of the country, in Italy enjoying a long planned vacation. Before he left he informed the Club's officers that our officers and directors insurance is now in place.

Treasurer: The Club continues to maintain account balances adequate to pay outstanding debts.

Tour Chair: The Mahls' block party was once again a fun event. Five or six Model A's were in attendance, and Springer was able to get a free oil change while attending the party. Jimmy's Picnic is coming up on Sunday, and we will be in our usual spot. The Machados will be driving in from Stockton, and plan to barbecue.

The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday, December 8th, at the Sharp Park Restaurant, Sharp Park Golf Course, Pacifica. Complete information, including menu options, reservation forms, and self-addressed return envelopes will be mailed to members in the November **Choke Rod**.

Editor: The Editor encourages members to submit articles, photos, artwork, and/or other items of interest for publication in upcoming issues of the Choke Rod.

Mobsters Ball: Johnny spoke and told about the upcoming Mobsters Ball, urging our members to attend Saturday November 3rd. Detailed information can be found at info@sfmobsters.com. Entertainment will be provided by JP and the Rhythm Chasers.

Nomination of Officers for 2008: The following nominations were received:

President: Gary Barrango

Vice Presidents: Greg Martinez
Tom Escher

Secretary: Barry Kinney

Treasurer: Steve Owsley

Tour Chair: Jeanine Mahl

Editors: Walter Caplan
Steve Owsley

Fashion Editor: Rachelle Marquez

Additional nominations can be made at the November meeting.

Refreshments: Walter Caplan provided refreshments for the meeting. Springer Teich will bring refreshments to the November meeting.

For the Good of the Order: A brief and focused discussion ensued emphasizing the importance of maintaining decorum at our monthly meetings. It should always be remembered that the Club is for having fun.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Walter Caplan, acting 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, November 8 2007

A number of club members gather for dinner before the monthly meetings at 6 pm

Please feel free to join us -- November dinner location will be at Goat Hill Pizza at 18th & Connecticut.

in this

Choke Rod

President's Message (page 2)

Upcoming Tours (page 3)

Tech (page 4)

Recent Events Recap (pages 5, 6)

Fashionable Friends (page 7)

Schedule of Events (page 8)

Meeting Minutes (page 9)



Insert: Christmas Banquet

Information & Reservation Form

The Choke Rod, complete with inserts,
is available online
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

NOVEMBER MEETING
Election of 2008 Officers
Thursday November 8, 2007
8 PM - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco