

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 51, Issue 9

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 & 2006

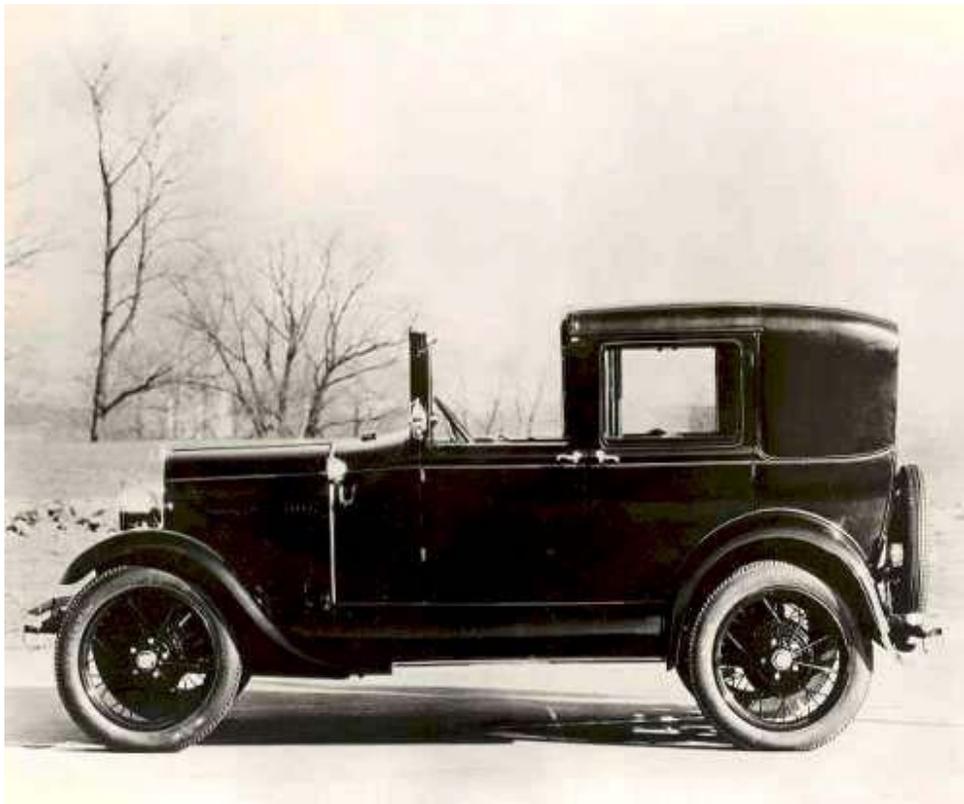
September 2007

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

Antique Autos in History Park - San Jose

Sunday September 9 - see page 3



Ironstone Concours d'Elegance

overnighter to Murphys in the Sierra Foothills

Friday thru Sunday, September 21 - 23 - see page 5

Upcoming Tours

Sunday, October 7 - 28th Avenue Block Party, San Francisco

Sunday, October 14 - Jimmy's Old Car Picnic, Golden Gate Park

November - Annual San Francisco City Tour

Saturday, December 8 - Christmas Banquet

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

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Greg Martinez

VICE PRESIDENTS

Gary Barrango

Tom Escher

SECRETARY

Barry Kinney

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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.

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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

President's Message

Hello Motoring Enthusiast,
We hope all of you had a wonderful month. We all have had a great many things to choose from to do with all the car shows, swap meets, tours and get togethers. This is one of the many things life is about: having fun and getting out and sharing our cars and life experiences with each other, not to mention the tall stories that goes with them. Summer is coming to an end, Fall is upon us, kids are back in school, but that doesn't mean that the fun stops yet.



We here in The City are coming to the best weather of the year! "Indian Summer" as we call it. So don't store those cars yet -- there are a few good months to go. Plus it's not good for either the cars or the owners to just sit stagnant, so "use 'em or lose 'em." Go out and take a kid for a ride or find some hottie to snuggle up to and grind gears with, but show people you're not afraid to drive that jalopy "A" bone. Oh, you might even get lucky and meet some new friends. Can't get enough of that good stuff. Remember to keep all 4 on the ground and you don't have to be faster to look good. You just have to smile back.

Greg Martinez

IMPORTANT MAFCA REMINDER

New Change in Voting and 2008 Membership Renewal Procedure
The 2008 Membership Renewal form as well as election materials for nominees for the MAFCA Board of Directors will be delivered to you inside the poly bag with your September/October issue of The Restorer. The multi-fold presentation will include Candidate Profiles, Election Ballots, and 2008 Membership Renewal, along with instructions to complete and return in the envelope provided. Please renew membership and mail in your ballots postmarked by October 15, 2007 in order to be counted.

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.

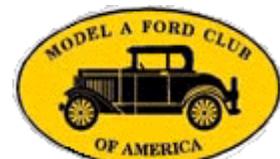
MAFCA

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*.



San Francisco Swap Meet

Sunday August 12, 2007

Sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America

The Second Annual San Francisco Swap Meet was a great success. Approximately forty vendors were on hand and several hundred buyers prowled the parking lot at the San Francisco Pacific Rod and Gun Club on Lake Merced.

This year the club made coffee and doughnuts available from 6:30 am until the close of the event around 1 pm. Jeanine and Gunard Mahl prepared hamburger lunches with all the trimmings, with the help of Rod and Gun Club members, and a good time was had by all.

Income from the event was sufficient to allow for a sizeable contribution to the San Francisco Special Olympics. In addition, feedback from vendors and others was encouraged so that the Club can improve on future swap meet events.

Unfortunately this year's swap meet was scheduled at the same time as Hot August Nights. We hope to schedule our future annual swap meets at a time that won't conflict with other car oriented events, possibly the first weekend in September following Labor Day weekend.

Congratulations to Joseph and Greg Martinez for their hard work organizing and working this event. Many thanks to those Club members who supported the event, including Walter Caplan, Kevin Enderby, Barry Kinney, Jeanine and Gunard Mahl, Mel Patsel, Kevin Richardson, and John Zuffi. -- contributed by **Barry Kinney**

Jimmy's 19th Annual Old Car Picnic

(it might be our last-so don't miss it)

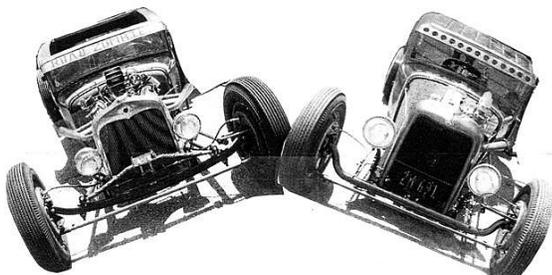
Where: Speedway Meadows/Golden Gate Park

When: Sunday, October 14th, 2007

What: Bring your own B.B. Que Supplies

Cost: \$20.00 to park your pre-1975 on the grass

Directions: Enter at 30th Ave. & Fulton Ave.



7th Annual Antique Autos in Kelley Park, San Jose Sunday, September 9th

This event features Antique Exhibits, a Dixieland Band, Food from Peggy Sue's, Antique Motorcycles, Glass Sculpturing, Ceramics, Quilting, Beading, Wood Carving, Fly Tying, a Working Blacksmith Shop, a Working Trolley and much more.

The event is free to all participants. To bring a vehicle on the grounds it must have been in use from 1945 and earlier.

Meet at The SF Rod & Gun Club on Lake Merced at 8 am. Depart at 8:30 am. We will stop again at the junction of 92 and 280 and again at Woodside Road to pick up anyone who lives South of SF and would like to join the tour.

Bring a picnic lunch. Food can be purchased from Peggy Sue's or O'Brien's Restaurants in the park. The South Bay Stompers Dixieland Band will be on hand to entertain. Hand crafts will be on display and demonstrated at various locations around the park.

**Confirm your participation, call the tour leader.
Tour Leader: Barry Kinney, RSVP 415-282-2789**

Lumberjack Day Parade West Point (Calaveras County) Saturday, October 6

An American Horseman sanctioned parade, "downtown" car show and lumberjack contests (such as bucking, cross cut sawing, tug-of-war).

This parade was started in the early 1970's by three West Point elementary school teachers, one of whom was our own Jeanine Mahl. It has grown every year since. Now it raises money for scholarships for local kids. It is lots of fun!

Jackson Rancheria Casino is about 10 miles away. Anyone who is interested should put this date on their calendar. For more information and registration form, go to the club website www.sfmodelaclub.org: Newsletters Page.

If you have questions, call **Jeanine Mahl**

History of Houdaille Shocks

Maurice Houdaille (1880 - 1953) invented the double-action rotary shock absorber that bears his name. Exactly when he began his experimental work is unclear, but we do know that he was far enough along in 1907 to patent the two-vane pressure-balanced rotor. (Possibly because of this patent, some competitive shocks used unbalanced rotors as illustrated here.)

The concentric fluid reservoir, sealed against working pressure by a check valve, was patented two years later. The last definitive patent was issued in 1914 for the striated plugs that vent the working chambers.

The remarkable thing is that the shocks employ no high pressure seals, either at the rotor/body interfaces or at rotor shaft. Sealing is a entirely a function of the precision of mechanical fit. In comparison, a piston-type pump represents a much easier sealing problem, since the piston can be fitted with expansion rings or, as in the case of diesel injection pumps and some model aircraft engines, lapped to fit. It is interesting that the modern Kayaba rotary shock, used on certain Suzuki motorcycles, seals the rotor with elastomer pads.

Designers of most pre-1914 passenger cars assumed that the friction between spring leaves gave adequate damping at the moderate speeds these vehicles were capable of. Sports and racing cars generally were fitted with friction shocks, such as the American Hartford. Frequent adjustments were required to compensate for pad wear and changing driving conditions. Once set, the amount of damping was constant, regardless of the rate of suspension acceleration.

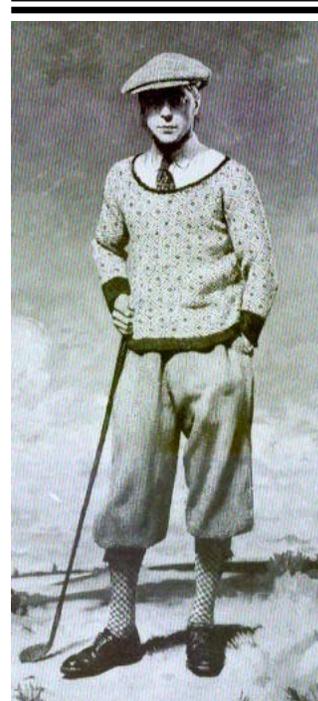


Hydraulic shocks appeared early and, according to one account, were fitted on the Mors car that was declared winner of the aborted 1903 Paris-Madrid race. Some form of sophisticated shock absorber would have been appropriate: the giant 10-liter machine average 65.3 mph for 342 miles before authorities intervened to halt the race. By then, more than a dozen spectators had been killed. In view of its late starting position and the frequent stops for tire changes, the Mors probably achieved burst speeds of 90 mph.

Factory racing teams were among the Houdaille's first customers. The Sunbeam that won the 1915 Isle of Man event and the Benz that took honors in the Paris-Moscow race helped to publicize the new dampers. The French army used them on ambulances and staff cars. By the late 1920's, Houdaille dominated the domestic market. Rolls Royce, which tested its vehicles on the excellent French road system, fitted the shocks on certain export models. A world-wide network of agents was established to serve the aftermarket. Even the lowly Model T could be retrofitted with the hydraulic shocks.

Today the automotive market has been lost, but Houdaille Lelaurin continues to manufacture rotary dampers for railcars, industrial washing machines and military applications. The Paris-based company also rebuilds shocks for vintage cars.

Reprinted from <http://www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Garage/1205/hoper.html>, where the full article may be read



Edward VIII wearing plus fours

Plus fours are loosely tailored slacks cut 4 inches below the knee (and thus four inches longer than traditional knickerbockers, hence the name). They have been traditionally associated with sporting attire from the 1860s and onward, and are particularly associated with golf.

Plus fours were introduced to America by Edward Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII of the United Kingdom) during a diplomatic trip in 1924. They are often seen on golf courses, and frequently worn with argyle socks, silk ties, and dress shirts/sweaters. Some plus fours even came as complete suits. The fictional comic book character Tintin was also usually seen wearing them.

-Wikipedia

Ironstone Concours d'Elegance Overnighter to Murphys Friday - Sunday, September 21 - 23



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



By popular demand, for a second year the Club is planning another weekend tour to the gold country with stops along the way, group dinners, and a fantastic car show on the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Ironstone Winery in Murphys.

The Concours will be featuring Franklin, Mitchell, and American Dream Convertibles; a remarkable gathering of over 300 examples of original and restored automobiles, motorcycles, commercial vehicles, and vintage house trailers.

**The show is open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm.
Admission \$20.**

Meet: 9 am at the SF Pacific Rod & Gun Club for coffee and doughnuts.

Depart: for Murphys at 9:30 am.

Rest Stops: Grant Line Road and Columbia State Park

Lunch Stop: Lunch will be at picnic area at Knight's Ferry around 12:30 pm. Pack a lunch.

If it is inconvenient for club members to meet in San Francisco, please join us for lunch at Knight's Ferry at noon. Then, tour to Murphys with the Club.

We will arrive at Murphys at 4pm. For those attending the Friday night reception at the Winery, the Pre-event Reception begins at 5:30 followed by the Dinner.

Note: Club members who did not register their cars should park in the parking lot and attend the show by purchasing a general admission ticket at the entrance. Club members who failed to reserve rooms through the Club are on their own for lodging.

Tour Leader: Barry Kinney, RSVP 415-282-2789

September Birthdays

Kevin Richardson	September 11
Judy O'Brien	September 13
Timothy Ryan	September 20
Ken Kling	September 22
Paul Engler	September 23
Robert Marquez	September 28

September Anniversaries

James & Daisy Young	September 18
Franz & Ingeburg von Uckermann	September 26

Refreshments



at the August meeting were provided by
John Zuffi

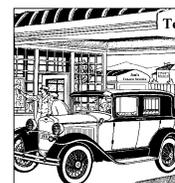
Jeanine Mahl
will provide refreshments
at the September meeting

Mali Rising Foundation Golf Tournament Almaden Country Club, San Jose September 24

A fundraiser organized by friends of Gunard and Jeanine Mahl.

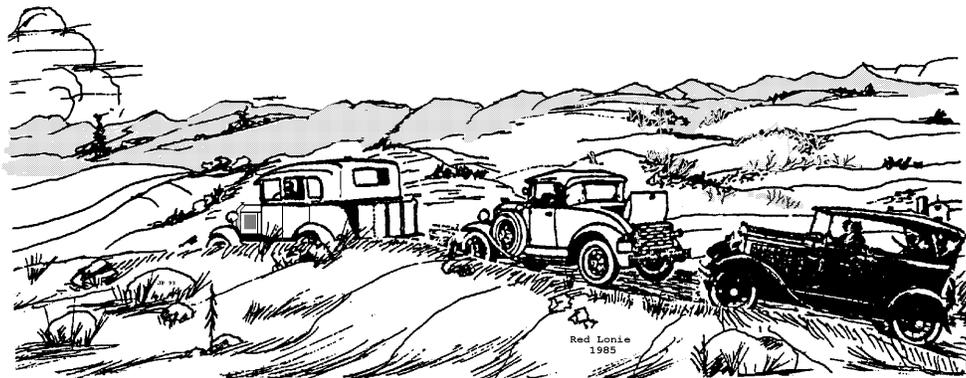
The Mali Rising Foundaton is a non-profit organization established to provide better access to education for millions of children around the world. The Foundation's goal is to increase significantly the literacy rate among individuals and communities in underdeveloped nations.

Application / Reservation form available at our website, www.sfmodelaclub.org on the Newsletters Page.



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-IRONSTONECONCOURS
OCT	7	THE MAHLS	28TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY - SAN FRANCISCO
OCT	14	WALTER CAPLAN	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV		KINNEY / CAPLAN	THE ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR
DEC	8	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET

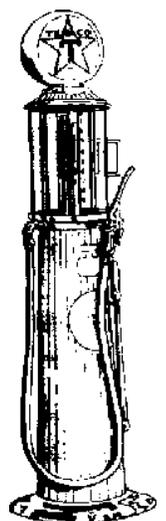
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Jeanine Mahl 415-664-2056**
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.

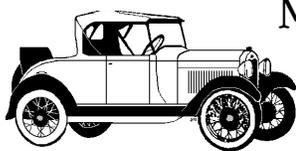
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

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

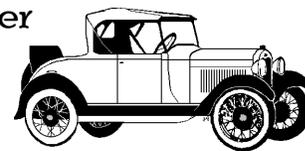
2007 Schedule of Events 2008

Sept 1-3	Stuck in Lodi, Labor Day 2007, Host Tokay A's
Sept 30	Placerville Jazz Jubilee, Car Display
October 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 Model A Ford Meet, Addison, TX Host: Dallas Model A Ford Club
August 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
August 9, 2007



The meeting was called to order by President, Greg Martinez at 8:00 P.M. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

President: Plans for the Club sponsored Swap Meet were reviewed.

Following a short discussion regarding the newsletter, a motion was made acknowledging the hard work and time devoted to the production of the newsletter by our Editors. In addition the Club wishes to compliment the Editors for consistently producing a quality product. The Club, where possible and at the Editors' discretion, has resolved to assist the Editors to reduce the time and effort needed to produce **The Choke Rod**.

Secretary: The Club has received correspondence from Allan Greenberg inviting the Club to participate in the "Antique Autos in History Park" event on September 9, 2007. Look for details in **The Choke Rod**.

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

Editor: In order to reduce the cost of printing and postage, the Editor will e-mail **The Choke Rod** to all members who do not request a hard copy. Club members who do not have a computer address will continue to receive hard copies by regular mail.

Tour Chair: The Club activity in October will be the Mahl's Block Party. Come around 10:00 am and bring a food item to share. Look for details in **The Choke Rod**.

ACCC Representative: Franz Von Uckerman made a motion requesting that the Club consider joining ACCC. The cost for the Club to join ACCC would be \$4.00/Club Member. Franz argues that he could be a more effective delegate to ACCC if the San Francisco Model A Club were a member. Most of the discussion was in favor of the motion. The motion was tabled and will be revisited at the September meeting.

For the Good of the Order: We thank John Zuffi for providing refreshments for the August meeting. Jeanine Mahl volunteered to bring refreshments for the September meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Following the meeting, Barry Kinney showed slides of the July 2007 Oregon Caves Tour.

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 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, September 13, 2007
A number of club members gather for dinner before the monthly meetings at 6 pm
Please feel free to join us -- September dinner location will be at Goat Hill Pizza at 18th & Connecticut.

The **Choke Rod** is available online
www.sfmodelaclub.org



Inserts are available online at
www.sfmodelaclub.org: Newsletters Page

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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



SEPTEMBER MEETING
Thursday September 13, 2007
8 PM - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco