

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 52, Issue 2

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 - 2006 - 2007

February 2008

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Friday, Saturday, Sunday - February 15, 16, 17  
Presidents Day Weekend at Pier 45

see page 3 for details

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## Upcoming Tours

- March - Tech Seminar with the Bob Craigs
- March 15 - Bill Rose's Model A Crab & Steak Feed - Livermore
- March 23 - Easter at Pacific Rod & Gun Club

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

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Steve Owsley

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Greg Martinez

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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.

TOUR CHAIR: Jeanine Mahl  
EDITORS: Walter Caplan  
Steve Owsley  
FASHION EDITOR: Rachele Marquez  
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

## President's Message

It's only two months into my being President, and both months Walter has had to call me asking "Where's your President's letter?" Thank goodness for Walter's persistent ways, otherwise you would probably be reading my President's letter in Latin !



**Please be aware that our regular Monthly Meeting will be one week earlier in February because the 2nd Thursday this month is the day the Car Show begins.** We have had several Car Show Committee meetings, and plans are in full swing. We still have a serious need for volunteers to help staff the various events and positions at the Car Show. We need all our active members to take part in this event. The Car Show has grown to be a large show, an especially large undertaking for our small Club. However, with the help of our members we can still manage this event well.

**Come to the Monthly Meeting on Thursday February 7th at 7:30 pm - so we can fill in the blanks where we need help.**

I'm sorry I missed attending Greg's President's Brunch. I heard we had close to 30 people in attendance, and many cars as well. Thank You to the Martinez family for getting us off to a good start this year. Now that the ball is rolling for 2008, let's keep it going. Pick a month and lead a tour if you haven't done so as of yet -- please volunteer to lead a tour and enjoy the fun being a tour leader.

I'll do everybody a favor and not write too much this month so we can save our energy and put it towards the Car Show. With that I'll say goodbye and hope to see you at the February Monthly Meeting on Thursday February 7th at 7:30 pm.

*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



MAFCA dues are \$40 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*.

## 5th Annual Bill Rose Crab & Steak Feed Saturday March 15

Mark your calendar and save this date. On March 15, Bill Rose will host his famous Crab and Steak feed. There will be Steak, Crab, Prawns, Oysters, and all the trimmings, including homemade ice cream. The cost is \$40 per person. Make your check out to Bill Rose. Payment is due by March 1st. **See insert for details.**

You can book a room at the nearby La Quinta Inn, Livermore. 925-373-9600. Special room rates for Crab Feed Event \$69 until March 1st.

## 2008 Classic Car Show Pier 45 ~ Fisherman's Wharf

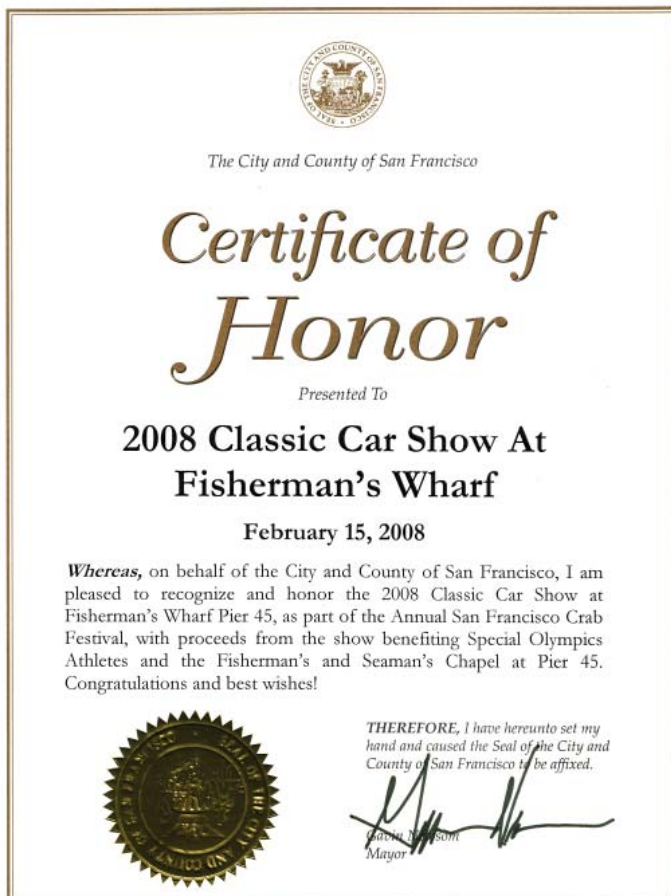
We have planned an exciting series of events throughout the 2008 Presidents Day weekend, beginning with a Welcoming Party on **Thursday, February 14th** from 5 to 7 pm at Castagnola's Restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf, to be hosted once again by the San Francisco Model A Club as our thank you for your participation.

On **Friday morning February 15th** we'll assemble for the Mayor's Parade at Pier 45, proceed to City Hall with a police escort, and then at noon begin the annual Mayor's Parade from City Hall through downtown and back to Pier 45. The Car Show will officially open at 2 pm and remain open until 6 pm. Our annual Banquet Dinner will be held that evening, beginning with cocktails at 6 pm, seating for dinner at 7 pm, once again at the Franciscan Restaurant.

On **Saturday morning February 16th** the Car Show opens at 10 am. We have arranged for a walking tour of San Francisco's North Beach. The walk begins at Sts. Peter & Paul Church on Washington Square, and covers the rich history of the neighborhood, significant buildings and characters, and includes a tour of a local ravioli factory. Following the walking tour we have arranged for a Northern Italian/Tuscan traditional mid-day meal at Fior d'Italia, America's oldest Italian restaurant. Later in the afternoon we'll gather for The Night Tour of Alcatraz, which has been voted "Best Tour of the Bay Area". The Car Show will remain open til 8 pm. We will once again have a reception for exhibitors and friends at our "Saturday Nite Social" at Boudin's Bistro, overlooking Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 45.

On **Sunday morning February 17th** we have arranged two Sunday tours: The first is the tour of the Academy of Art University's School of Industrial Design, to again be led by its Director Tom Matano. This will provide a unique opportunity to learn all about automotive design – as well as to view the School's classic car collection. The second is our Transportation Tour, traveling on historic streetcars, cable cars, and learning about the rich history of San Francisco's Municipal Railway. We will have an afternoon farewell gathering at Boudin's Bistro. The Car Show itself will end at 5 pm. After the close of the Car Show, you may wish to join us for a late nite supper at the Fior d'Italia.

For those participants who choose to remain through Sunday night, we have arranged a **Monday morning February 18th** Departing Brunch at the Tuscan Inn. This will allow a final visit with other Car Show participants, just prior to removing our cars from the secure and guarded Pier 45 for the trip home. If you're still with us Monday morning, you may wish to join with us for a final drive through the Presidio of San Francisco





# The Top Hat

There was a time when men wore distinguishable “daytime” and “evening” attire. The suave tailcoat, with a perfectly starched white shirt underneath, was regularly accompanied by a top hat and black patent leather shoes, and comprised of formal evening wear. This was a time when men always looked so debonair in these threads.

The top hat, one of the most distinguishable accessories of the outfit made its way into the fashion world by a haberdasher (retail salesman) named John Hetherington. He designed and constructed it and was the first person to wear it on the street. Hetherington used a variation of a contemporary riding hat and covered it with silk. It had a wider brim, a lower crown, and was made of beaver skin. As with most new products there was resistance to the top hat, especially from those who wanted to continue wearing the beaver hat. In 1850 the beaver hat worked its way out of American fashion when Prince Albert started wearing top hats that were made of “hatter’s plush” (a fine silk shag).

The top hat was worn by men with refined self-assurance, which is precisely the attitude the top hat was intended to convey. Among these men included Lord Ribblesdale, which was noted in the famous portrait by John Singer Sargent. Ribblesdale was the epitome of the Edwardian aristocrat; he was master of the backhands and lord-in-waiting to Queen Victoria. The hat that sat so perfectly on his head was the hat that dominated the nineteenth century. This is the hat, after all, that inspired the expression “high hat” as a designation of arrogance and snobbishness.

The nineteenth century was known as the Century of the Top Hat. Men wore top hats for business, pleasure and formal occasions in pearl gray for daytime, and black for day or night. The height and contour of the hat fluctuated

with the decades. In England, post-Brummel dandies went in for flared crowns and swooping brims. Their counterparts in France, known as the Incroyables, wore top hats of such outlandish dimensions that there was no room for them in overcrowded cloakrooms until Antoine Gibus, in 1823, invented the collapsible opera hat. Later on, the American financier J. P. Morgan approached the same problem from another angle; he ordered a limousine with an especially high roof so he could ride around without taking his hat off. A milestone of a different sort was achieved in 1814 by a French magician named Louis Comte; he became the first conjurer on record to pull a white rabbit out of a top hat. Come 1902, the top hat was nearing the end of its century-long primacy, soon to be replaced by the more compact homburg hat.

Today the top hat makes its appearance with a costume, or on the rare occasion for formal ceremonies. In the 1930s and 1940s some thought the top hat was making its way back



in American culture when Fred Astaire was seen wearing them in the movies. Astaire wore top hats in a dozen films (notably *Top Hat*, in 1935). Although the top hat has been out of the industry for some time and is now known as a historical venture in fashion there is always time to bring it back. However, there

is one thing to remember about the top hat; and that is the way a man should wear it, slightly tilted forward and to one side, no more than 10 degrees in either direction as Lord Ribblesdale and Fred Astaire stylishly carried it out.

Researched by: **Rachelle Marquez**

# Christmas Banquet - Sharp Park -



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### February Birthdays

February 3	Charles Neil Kascal
February 5	Elizabeth Storz
February 6	Loui John Young
February 14	Annalina Martinez
February 14	Daisy Young
February 16	Lisa Tempone
February 17	Mary Karr
February 23	Dominic Reyes
February 23	Matteo Reyes
February 24	Ben Rosenblatt
February 24	David Boragno
February 26	Jason Fioresi



### Refreshments

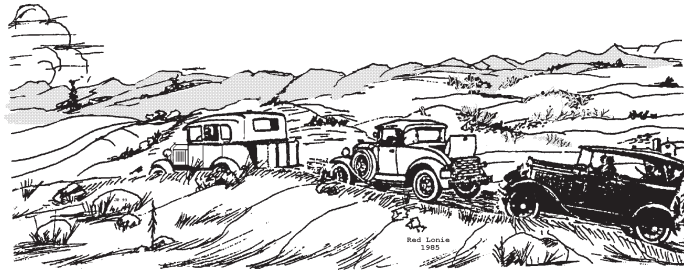


at the January meeting  
were provided by  
**Franz von Uckermann**

**Paul DeMartini**  
will provide refreshments  
at the February meeting

## 2008 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

### IT'S THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!



MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	13	GREG MARTINEZ	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - CESAR'S
FEB	15,16,17	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CLASSIC CAR SHOW AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF
MAR		THE BOB CRAIGS	TECH SEMINAR
MAR	15	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	BILL ROSE'S MODEL A CRAB & STEAK FEED
MARCH	23	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	EASTER AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
APRIL	27	BOB MARQUEZ	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY		KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CANADA COLLEGE
JUNE	14	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE		RICHARD C. WEBSTER	LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN
JUNE	29	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE & PICNIC LUNCH
JULY		<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
AUG		GREG MARTINEZ	SWAP MEET AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
SEPT	7	BRUCE BAIRD	GATSBY AFTERNOON - DUNSMUIR ESTATE OAKLAND
SEPT		KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	26-28	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT		CAPLAN/OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV		CAPLAN/OWSLEY	THE ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR
DEC		SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET

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

## 2008 Schedule of Events

**Jan 26-27**

Turlock Swap Meet - Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Sponsors Modesto A's. Sat 7am-5pm, Sun 7am-3pm, \$5 admission

**April 25-27**

CCRG Jamboree; Yosemite, CA - Host Blossom Trail A's

**May 23-25**

NCRG Round-up - Hosts Auburn A's & Gra-Neva A's

**June 15-21 & 28-July 5**

Model A Times Route 66 Summer Tour

**June 22-27**

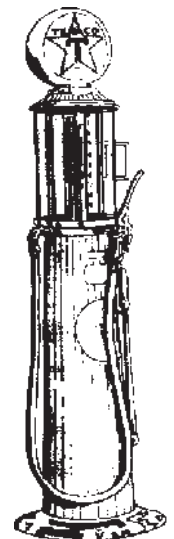
3rd MARC / MAFCA World Model "A" Ford Meet

**Aug 4-8**

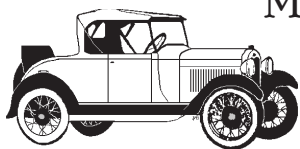
Northwest Regional Meet, Medford, OR, Host - Rogue Valley A's

**Sept 7-12**

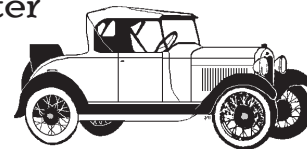
Nevada Grand Tour II - Minden NV - Host Sagebrush Chapter







Minutes of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America  
January 10, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:52 pm by President Gary Barrango. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as printed in *The Choke Rod*. New member John Bettencourt attended the meeting.

Reports of Officers

President: The Car Show Committee has been meeting and planning the best, most exciting, and event filled Car Show ever. The Night Tour of Alcatraz promises to be a big hit. We need more help than ever before in setting up the Show, and in staffing the Show throughout the Presidents Day weekend. Contact Barry Kinney to volunteer your time and services.

Note that the February Monthly Meeting will be on Thursday February 7th, the first Thursday in February.

The 2008 Classic Car Show will begin on Thursday February 14th, with the annual Welcoming Party at Castagnola's Restaurant.

Treasurer: Membership renewals for the 2008 calendar year have been coming in at a fast pace. Please renew your membership now if you haven't already done so.

Secretary: The Secretary reports that he has arranged for insurance coverage for the Car Show and related events, naming the Port of San Francisco as an additional insured, as required by the City.

Tour Chair: We're always encouraging Club members to lead tours. Contact Jeanine Mahl if you have any ideas for upcoming tours.

Editor: The Editors encourage Club members to submit photos and articles for publication in upcoming issues of *The Choke Rod*.

Refreshments: Thanks to Franz vonUckermann for bringing refreshments to the January meeting. Paul DeMartini will bring refreshments to the February meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 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 7:30 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 on Thursday, February 7, 2008**  
***A number of club members gather for dinner before the monthly meetings at 6 pm***  
***Please feel free to join us - February dinner location will be at Goat Hill Pizza at 18th & Connecticut.***



The Choke Rod  
is available online in color  
[www.sfmodelaclub.org](http://www.sfmodelaclub.org)



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## Choke Rod

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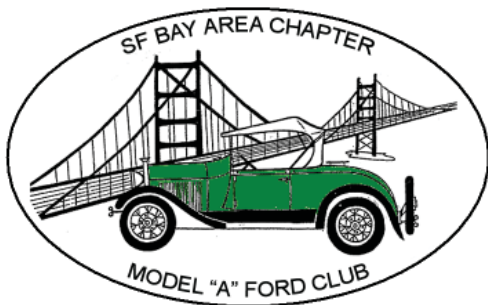
Fashion (page 5)

Tours & Schedule of Events (page 6)

Meeting Minutes (page 7)

Insert ~

Bill Rose Crab & Steak Feed



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

**FEBRUARY MEETING**  
**Thursday February 7, 2008**  
**7:30 PM - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**