

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 52, Issue 11

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 - 2006 - 2007 - 2008

November 2008

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

## Jimmy's Old Car Picnic



Photo by Kerry Fehlberg

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### Upcoming Tours

Sunday November 9 - Veteran's Day Parade on Market Street

Saturday December 13 - Christmas Banquet at Sharp Park

Sunday January 25 - President's Brunch

February - Crab Feed at the Monte Cristo Club

March - Tech Seminar at Craig Auto

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

## OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Gary Barrango

### VICE PRESIDENTS

Tom Escher

Greg Martinez

### SECRETARY

Barry Kinney

### TREASURER

Steve Owsley

### PAST PRESIDENT

Greg Martinez

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 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

TOUR CHAIR: Jeanine Mahl  
EDITORS: Walter Caplan  
Steve Owsley  
FASHION EDITOR: Rachelle Marquez  
PHOTO EDITOR: Kerry Fehlberg  
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

## President's Message

The fundamentals of the economy of our Club are strong. Our membership continues to grow. Our tours are well attended, full of excitement, and are attracting the participation of more and more friends and new members. Once again our overnigher to Ironstone was a sellout. The three tours in October were all a resounding success: Jimmy's Picnic, the Cable Car Pull, and Coit Tower's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Each event provided a continuing visibility of our Club, its members, and our cars.

Thanks to the efforts of Greg and Casey Martinez our Club will participate in the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>. We have pre-registered eight vehicles for the event. If you didn't pre-register perhaps you'll want to come down to Market Street and view our contingent among the many marching in the Parade.

At the November meeting on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> we will elect officers for the 2009 year. Please attend the meeting and consider becoming an officer of your club. We need the enthusiasm of "new blood". The future of our club depends on a continuing renewal of ideas and the appearance of fresh faces and new energy.

There will be no 2009 Car Show at Fisherman's Wharf because of unavailability of Pier 45 next February due to Port construction. However, the Club is planning to host a Crab Feed at the Monte Cristo Club in late February. We also plan to sponsor a one day Car Show and Barbeque sometime during the summer.

Our annual Christmas Banquet will be held on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> once again 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 the club and its members. Information and reservation forms are included in this issue of the **Choke Rod**.

We'll see you all at the November meeting, Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

*the Editors for Gary Barrango*

*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*.

## 2008 Veteran's Day Parade Sunday November 9

We have been invited to participate in The Mayor's 2008 Annual Rotary Club of San Francisco Centennial and Veterans' Day Parade on Sunday November 9 at 11 am.

The parade will start at 2nd and Market Streets and will proceed along the following route: west on Market Street to McAllister, right on McAllister to Polk and left on Polk passing the reviewing stand across from the City Hall main entrance, then proceeding to Grove where the parade disbands.

Several club members will participate. Club members and friends are urged to come down to Market Street and review our contingent among the many marching in the Parade.

Tour Leader: Greg Martinez, RSVP 415-731-6596

### Refreshments

at the October meeting  
were provided by  
**Gary Barrango**

### Joan Peterson

will provide refreshments  
at the November meeting.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Casey Martinez	November 1
Tim Taylor	November 2
Greg Martinez	November 5
Franz von Uckermann	November 6
Maria DeMartini	November 15
Juanita Tempone	November 17
Joseph Martinez	November 18
Lois Storz	November 18
Nick Calabrese	November 26

Terrence McGinnis & Sean Lail November 4

## Election of 2009 Officers November Meeting - November 13

President	Gary Barrango
Vice Presidents	Greg Martinez Tom Escher
Secretary	Barry Kinney
Treasurer	Steve Owsley
Tour Chair	Jeanine Mahl
Editors:	Walter Caplan Steve Owsley
Fasion Editor	Rachelle Marquez
Photo Editor	Kerry Fehlberg
Membership:	Walter Caplan

The election will be held at the General Meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Prior to the election, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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## Christmas Banquet Saturday - December 13 Sharp Park Restaurant at Sharp Park Golf Course - Pacifica

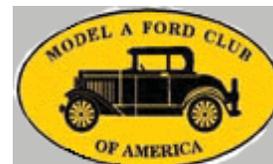
5:30 pm	Cocktails & Appetizers
7:00 pm	Dinner

See insert for reservations.  
RSVP by Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>

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## The Choke Rod Wins Once Again

The Choke Rod will again be given  
a Certificate of Merit Award  
by the Model A Ford Club of America  
at its December 2008 meeting.



## 1940's Cinema to the Rescue

During the 1940's cinema followed plots that emphasized sacrifice by illustrating the need for humans to give things up for duty and loyalty. These plots followed the theme of what society was encountering on a daily basis. The films *In Which We Serve*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, and *Brief Encounters* were emotionally powerful at the time. Between 1945 and 1950 twenty million people a week went to the cinema in Britain. Women's films offered classic yet dramatic opportunities for film stars Joan Crawford and Bette Davis in pictures such as *Mildred Pierce*, *The Women*, and *Old Acquaintance*. The middle- and upper-class settings gave the stars a chance to wear high-fashion clothing.

Tense plots were irresistible with the black and white scene creating heightened tension for the viewer. Milestone films of the era included *Citizen Kane*, *The Maltese Falcon*, *Casablanca*, and *Notorious* displaying their dramatic scenes unimaginable in color. The film noir of Hollywood became stylish from the early 1940s to the late 1950s. These films defined Hollywood's crime dramas, particularly those that emphasize moral ambiguity and sexual motivation. Thrillers such as *The Asphalt Jungle* and *Kiss Of Death* were included in this category by illustrating gloom-laden lighting and sinister camera angles. Following the war Italian neorealism evolved in films displaying a style characterized by stories set amongst the poor and working class, which was filmed on location, and frequently used nonprofessional actors. These films showed the difficult economic and moral conditions of post-World War II Italy and reflected the changes in the conditions of everyday life: poverty and desperation. These films included Rossellini's *Open City* and Vittorio De Sica's *Bicycle Thief*.

The war provided people with the experience of uniting as communities and gave women the strength to stand behind the men who were fighting. The upside of entertainment was the

fabulous musicals like *Cover Girl* with Rita Hayworth, and in the ballet *The Red Shoes*. The Cannes film Festival in France erected in 1947 and has continued to be a success since, as was recently viewed in the last season of "Entourage". Starlets strolled along La Croisette Boulevard hoping for a big break. It was a huge event where star spotters and paparazzi cruised along the beach in hope of a sighting.



**Film star Betty Grable**

Christian Berard, Rene Bouche and Eric were the famous image makers of the time with their refined drawings of women and their grace and nostalgic clothes from the 1930's. Dior started the "New Look" which featuring longer lengths and fuller skirts; a return to classic femininity with a nipped waist. Horst, Beaton, Blumenfeld, Parkinson and Hoyningen-Heune were photographers that most influenced the style of the age. They took models outside staging a less "occasional" theme and brought life and poetry to the new fashion that befitted the clothing. "Sweater Girls" and other "pin-ups" were a tonic for the troops that lasted beyond the war. They went to war with the boys wearing their serviceman's hats tipped over one eye. Movie star Bette Grable was the most popular of them all and proved it by insuring her legs for a million dollars. I think mine are worth at least that much! Cinema, photography, and models alike brought back some sense of fun and life during and following the war. An escape for a few hours offered some relief from the circumstances outside those theatre doors. In the end they provided a long lasting impression for movie goers and a history of how to get through some rough times. It is a lesson well worth looking at as we approach some major decisions in our own democracy.

**Rachelle Marquez**

## Jimmy's Old Car Picnic

The club gathered for Jimmy's Picnic once again in Golden Gate Park at our usual spot. Walter Caplan and Steve Owsley organized the event for the San Francisco Model A Club. The guys arrived in the dead of night and had the area secured, tent erected, and tables set when club members began arriving. We were soon joined by a contingent of Marin A's, who shared their hot coffee with us in the cold morning air. As the dawn broke vehicles began pouring into the meadow, and we were quickly joined by a whole bunch of club members, including Dr. Adam Rosenblatt, Mike Cuneen and Joan Peterson, Tom and Terry Machado, Tony Hobbs and his family, and Gunard Mahl. Tom and Terry Machado arrived from Stockton in their 1972 Cadillac Hearse, along with skeletal remains, pumpkins, and a delicious selection of picnic treats, including the most wonderful watermelon.



Gunard drove in the back way in this hot rod and delivered lots of chicken and potato salad, and others contributed numerous additional items of food and drink.

We all had a great day, a great tour, great food, great visits with Club members and all of our Jimmy's Picnic friends, and great views of great cars. Everyone had a GREAT time.

We'll see everyone here again next year in our usual Jimmy's Picnic spot.

**Walter Caplan**



# Coit Tower 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

It was one of those wonderful fall days, the old cars chugged down the crooked part of Lombard street brakes squealing and drivers struggling through tight turns heading for a rendezvous with destiny, the Coit Tower Diamond Jubilee.

We were greeted in Pioneer Park, home of the Coit Tower and a statue of Christopher Columbus, by an event organizer who hollered, "Put em over there". We moved into place between a group of mounted park police and the CBS News van. Richard Webster and I were the first to arrive followed by the Mahls, and Joan Peterson riding with Mike Cunneen, who were followed by John Zuffi riding with Gary and Cheryl Barrango. We had the required number of cars and after a little juggling we were all in place waiting for the ceremony to begin.

Coit Tower was built in 1933-34 with funds donated by Elizabeth (Lilly) Hitchcock Coit. The tower was designed by Arthur Brown Jr., who also designed the new San Francisco City Hall following the 1906 earthquake and fire. Brown, as is often claimed, did not model Coit Tower after a fire hose nozzle. True, Lilly was enamored with fire fighters. She had a special affinity for Knickerbocker Engine Company No 5. To show the boys how much she cared she had the number 5 embroidered on all her undergarments.

Of course, the tower was rumored to have several uses including the storage of tomato sauce that could be piped into North Beach restaurants as needed. Today, the tower is filled with murals by twenty six different artists and many contain "leftist" political and social themes warmly admired by many left leaning artists and leaders of the time.

The Celebration began with a ladder raising ceremony by the San Francisco Fire Department. Before ladders were mechanized they were raised by hand. A group of eight fire fighters raised and extended the ladder to six stories. One of their team ran up the fully extended ladder; hooked a leg through the top rung; held an American Flag at arms length and saluted while a small band played the National Anthem. It was impressive.

Following the ladder Raising Ceremony speakers included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi,

Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, and Mayor Newsom. Most spoke for much too long and somewhat off the subject. Finally at the end of the day Michael Coit, a direct descendent of Lilly Coit, talked about his famous predecessor.

The day concluded with live music, food, arts and crafts, special exhibits, and, last but not least, free elevator rides. A good time was had by all.

**Barry Kinney**



# Bonneville Reflections

Photo Credits: Kerry Fehlberg



The 60<sup>th</sup> Bonneville for me was a great event. We left San Francisco on Sunday morning driving up to Reno and picking up a rental. We arrived at Wendover late in the afternoon. Sunday had been a scrutinizing day, checking for safety and class requirement. That night and every night there was an outdoor party and car show out the front of the Casino --with all the salt rats turning up for the party.

Monday we got out to the salt early and as we left the bitumen, and hit the salt, we experienced the flattest and smoothest natural surface on earth with no water like last year at the entry to the salt, and as a result the start line had been moved closer to the freeway, and was operating 2 longs and 2 shorts with a special course over the back ---this was the best salt ever --- very smooth.

Monday morning was a drivers' briefing and then they all got in their push cars and drove the length of the track to get the layout. Then at 10 am the 60<sup>th</sup> Bonneville got under way and did what we had come to see. Lots of people on the start line made it real hard for pictures -- a movie crew from the Discovery Channel was on the start line with a boom and it was always in the way of a good shot. Thankfully they weren't there the next day.

I ended up on the short course as there were fewer people and I liked the starters better there. They allowed me to get in close and low for the good shots. It was a sight to behold looking at a car leave the start line, and disappearing over the curve of the earth following the black line to the finish.

Most of the cars use a push car to get them off the line as some only use the top gears of their trannies -- using low number gear sets can be hard on clutches, and a push car saves it all bogging down... The salt was perfect, the whole place had

been covered in water a week earlier, and it was all leveled out and smooth as.....this amazing surface resurfaces itself, year after year.

We followed Harold Johansen's '29 roadster each day and watched its progress, and it just performed flawlessly each day backing up each run with good times setting more records. It currently holds 7 SCTA class records at Bonneville and El Mirage. This is the car to beat and it runs in the 130's, in the Vintage banger 4 cyl class, on gasoline and fuel classes.

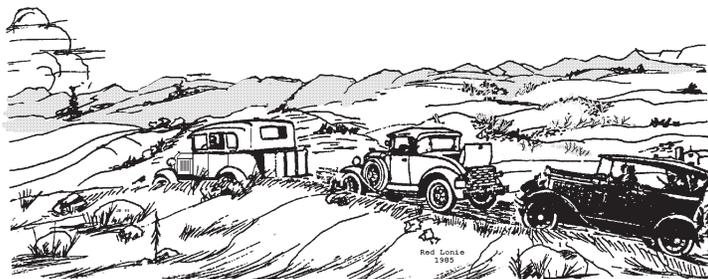
After working his butt off for days it was finally time for the new rookie to debut on his maiden run, after much huffing and puffing it was Greg's turn to take the wheel -- he had never driven this car on the salt, and as the car had already made 8 runs and was down on compression Harold was a little concerned about the motor and thus he put a 4000rpm limit on the run, so after I got him strapped into the 7 point safety harness, he was ready to go. The starter checked the harness for twists and tightness, his arms had to be strapped also to stop them flaying about in a rollover. We then pushed him up to the start -- once the track was clear from the previous run, the starter then gives the OK, and Greg is on his way pushed off the line by his own work truck -- this '29 roadster has no reverse or 1<sup>st</sup> gear in the Muncie transmission, so this ole girl needs a help off the line. This record braking Banger normally runs 5200rpm, so Greg had to limit his speed on this run proving to Harold that he could obey directions -- Harold didn't want his motor to grenade at this stage.

We picked Greg up out on the salt where he had peeled out off the track after doing his run, and pushed him all the way back to the pits. After he got out of the car and took his fire suit off it was time for a Rolling Rock to celebrate the day. Greg had made his maiden run in the world's fastest '29 Banger--what a fitting end for a guy who has bangeritis. I think I'll have to get him checked over for this problem.

**Kerry Fehlberg** (kerryandcarol@mac.com)

## 2008 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

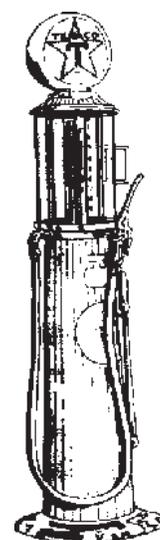
### IT'S THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

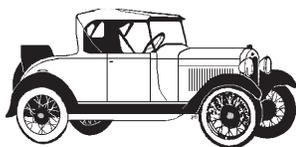


MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	13	GREG MARTINEZ	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - CAESAR'S
FEB	15,16,17	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CLASSIC CAR SHOW AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF
MAR	15	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	BILL ROSE'S MODEL A CRAB & STEAK FEED
MAR	22	THE BOB CRAIGS	TECH SEMINAR
MARCH	23	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	EASTER AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
APRIL	27	BOB MARQUEZ	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	18	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CAÑADA COLLEGE
MAY	26	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	14	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	29	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE & PICNIC LUNCH
JULY	27	PEDONE / PETERSON	TOUR OF SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA
AUG	24	BARRY KINNEY	CIRCLE THE CITY TOUR
SEPT	14	SPRINGER TEICH	GATSBY AFTERNOON - DUNSMUIR ESTATE OAKLAND
SEPT	14	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	26-28	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	12	CAPLAN/OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV	9	GREG MARTINEZ	VETERAN'S DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	13	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET - SHARP PARK CLUBHOUSE

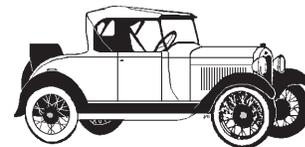
## 2008 Schedule of Events

<b>Jan 26-27</b>	Turlock Swap Meet - Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Sponsors Modesto A's. Sat 7am-5pm, Sun 7am-3pm, \$5 admission
<b>April 25-27</b>	CCRG Jamboree; Yosemite, CA - Host Blossom Trail A's
<b>May 2-4</b>	Lake County's Spring Opener - Lake County A's
<b>May 23-25</b>	NCRG Round-up - Hosts Auburn A's & Gra-Neva A's
<b>June 15-21 &amp; 28-July 5</b>	Model A Times Route 66 Summer Tour
<b>June 22-27</b>	3rd MARC / MAFCA World Model "A" Ford Meet
<b>Aug 4-8</b>	Northwest Regional Meet, Medford, OR, Host - Rogue Valley A's
<b>Sept 7-12</b>	Nevada Grand Tour II - Minden NV - Host Sagebrush Chapter





## Minutes of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Model A Ford Club of America October 9, 2008



The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by President Gary Barrango. Two guests were introduced: Darryl Coe of the El Camino Chapter, and Judy Thane of Melbourne, Australia, sister of member Kerry Fehlberg. Minutes of the September 2008 meeting were approved as written.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**President Barrango:** The Ironstone Tour was a great success, and the Car Show itself was very impressive. Jimmy's Picnic is coming up this Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend and gather at our usual spot. Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Coit Tower. The Recreation and Park Department has asked that we display a group of 1930's cars at the event. Contact Walter Caplan if you are interested. Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Veterans Day Parade on Market Street. Contact Casey Martinez if you plan to participate. The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> at Sharp Park, site of last year's event.

Election of club officers for 2009 will be held at the November meeting, Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>. We encourage members to step up and volunteer to take a more active role in planning club activities.

**Secretary:** The Secretary was out of the country, in Italy once again enjoying a long planned vacation. Before he left he informed the Club's officers that our officers and directors insurance has been renewed and remains in place.

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

**Tour Chair:** 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 bring lots of picnic goodies. The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 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**. The SF Model A Club has become a member of the Lake Merced Task Force, and we will be represented by Barry Kinney and alternate Walter Caplan.

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

**Nomination of Officers for 2009:** 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
Photo Editor:	Kerry Fehlberg

Additional nominations can be made at the November meeting.

**Refreshments:** Gary Barrango provided refreshments for the meeting. Joan Peterson will bring refreshments to the November meeting.

**For the Good of the Order:** Remember that the 2009 Car Show on Fisherman's Wharf has been canceled because of unavailability of Pier 45 next February. However, the Club plans to host a Crab Feed at the Monte Cristo Club in late February and also plans to sponsor a one day Car Show and Barbeque sometime during the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Monte Cristo Club at 7:30 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, November 13, 2008**

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

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



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Insert - Christmas Banquet  
Information & Reservation Form



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

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Model A Ford Club of America  
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415-621-0500

**NOVEMBER MEETING**  
**\*\*\*Election of 2009 Officers\*\*\***  
**Thursday November 13, 2008**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**