

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 54, Issue 8 MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 - 2006 - 2007 - 2008 - 2009

August 2010

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Scott Williams

## San Francisco Old Firehouse Tour

see pages 6 & 7

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### Upcoming Tours

Saturday September 11 - Octoberfest with the Marin A's - San Rafael

Sunday September 12 - Antique Autos History Park - San Jose

Friday-Sunday September 24-26 - Ironstone Concours Overnighter - Murphys

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

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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: modela@pacbell.net or mailed to Walter Caplan at 157 Warren Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131.

TOUR CHAIR: Steve Pedone

EDITORS: Walter Caplan

Scott Williams

FASHION EDITOR: Rachele Marquez

TECH EDITOR: Steve Owsley

MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

# President's Message

We had an interesting July meeting. Our meetings are preceded by an informal dinner at Goat Hill Pizza. You don't need to reserve a place at the table, just come in around 6 pm. We have a table at the back of the dining room. It is a short five minute walk from Goat Hill to the Monte Cristo Club. Everyone is welcome.



John Bettencourt started the meeting with a discussion and short history of San Francisco Fire Houses, their location, their function, their architecture and current status. Following John we had a short quiz on identification of miscellaneous Model A parts. Our last speaker, Gunard Mahl, gave a very interesting talk on glider aircraft.

I mentioned in my last message that I intended to bring a newly restored front axle and discuss some of the techniques and tool needed to restore kingpins, etc. Well, I had trouble lifting it off the bench and into my truck. I was just too heavy – I know my limitations. However, we will have another short talk at our next meeting by one of our members on another lighter topic of interest.

Also on the August agenda will be a discussion of the September Tour to Murphys/Ironstone. We have reserved a limited number of rooms and will need to determine how many people plan to attend. We take a break in August. There will be no tour this month.

See you at the meeting.

*Barry Kinney*

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.

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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*.

## Marin A's Octoberfest Saturday September 11

### Marin Rod & Gun Club - San Rafael

The Marin A's have invited the Napa A's, the Sonoma A's, and the SF Bay Area Chapter to their 2010 Octoberfest to be held on Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11 am at the Marin Rod and Gun Club in San Rafael.

The Marin A's request you bring your Model A (if possible), hat, sunscreen, sweater (could be warm, could be foggy), camera, and any adult drinks you may want.

Food and drink (water and soda) provided by the Marin A's. There is no cost - we are guests of the Marin A's.

See the green insert in the August **Choke Rod** for more information.

**Please RSVP Walter Caplan at 415-753-3280 or [whcaplan@comcast.net](mailto:whcaplan@comcast.net) by Friday August 27<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend .**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Autos in Kelley Park, San Jose Sunday September 12

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 Pacific Rod & Gun Club at 7:30 am. Leave at 8 am. We will stop again at the junction of 92 and 280 and again at Woodside Road at 8:30 to pick up anyone who lives south of SF and would like to join the tour.

**Tour Leader: Barry Kinney**



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Gunard Mahl	August 2
Gary Barrango	August 4
Nick Craig	August 7
Howard Teich	August 7
Bob Craig, Jr.	August 8
Marika Yuhas	August 13
Jack Hart	August 14
Maria Asuncion Young	August 15
Bev Kling	August 16
Colleen Rosenblatt	August 16
Zach Rosenblatt	August 24
Jack Green	August 31
Barry Kinney & Coragine Savio	August 9
Gary & Cheryl Barrango	August 26

## Overnighter to Murphys Ironstone Concours d'Elegance Friday - Sunday, September 24 - 26

By popular demand, for a fourth 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. A limited number of hotel rooms have been reserved by Barry Kinney for club members.

Accommodations are limited and will be on a "first come - first served" basis. Call Barry at 415-282-2789 to reserve a room.

See insert for Concours information and registration form.  
**Tour Leader: Barry Kinney**

## Thank You for your Thank You

Following our very successful and wildly popular San Francisco Old Firehouse Tour, Dave and Marilyn Chiotti wrote the Club this very nice thank you note:

*Dear Barry,  
Just a little note to Thank  
you and the Club for the wonderful  
Tour of the San Francisco Fire  
Houses - it was Great! A  
Special thanks to John Bettencourt,  
Gunard & Jeanine and Walter.  
Hope to see the club very  
soon.  
Sincerely,  
Dave and Marilyn Chiotti*

Thank you, Dave and Marilyn.  
We're glad you enjoyed it.

### Refreshments

at the July meeting  
were provided by  
**Victoria Acosta**

**John Zuffi** will provide  
refreshments  
at the August meeting.



# Mary Peters

Tokyo, 1964; Mexico City, 1968; Munich, 1972  
Great Britain

Mary Peters began her Olympic career in the five event pentathlon at the Tokyo 1964 Olympics, where she finished fourth. The pentathlon, five events, considered a mini-decathlon, is contested over two days. The events test the women's ability to run, jump and throw. Points are earned for individual performance in each of the events, and the woman with the most total points at the end of the competition is the winner. Hypothetically, the gold medal can be won by a woman who has not won any of the individual tests but has been consistently high in all five events.

In her second Olympics in Mexico City, 29 year old Mary Peters captained the women's team but her career appeared to over when she finished ninth. "When the 1972 Munich Games approached I knew this would be my last chance at winning a medal," said Peters. "I was 33 years old and time was running out."



The 100 meter hurdles was the first event and Peters finished second. In the shot-put, the second event, Mary got off a tremendous toss to win, and by doing so led the competition overall. The high jump was the final event of the first day and Peters was again superb. She won and increased her leading margin. "I knew that I had to make the most of my first three events," recalled Peters, "because the long jump and 200 meters on the second day were not my best events."

In the first event of the second day Heide Rosendahl of West Germany, the world record holder in the long jump, had a tremendous victory, leaping almost three feet farther than Peters. Peters still lead but Burglinde Pollack of East Germany, the pentathlon world record holder, and Rosendahl both were now within striking



distance as they prepared for the 200 meters- the final event. Both Pollack and Rosendahl were expected to beat Peters, but if Mary could stay close enough at the finish, she would earn enough points to win the gold medal.

As expected, Rosendahl and Pollack finished ahead of Peters. Now there was a dramatic delay as the finishing times were converted into points. Finally the scoreboard flashed the news. Peters had won the gold medal, finishing ten points in front Rosendahl and 33 points ahead of Pollack.

In her third Olympics and after seventeen years of competition "the old woman" had finally reached the top step of the victory podium and became "an overnight success."



*Rachelle Marquez*

# Real Henry Ford Plastic



Some of you Fordophiles already know about the Soybean Ford of 1941, but for those who think I'm joking, here's the skinny: In 1941 Henry Ford was looking for alternatives to steel for car bodies, which was getting on shorter supply as the war in Europe was heating up. He also understood that plastics could be more energy absorbing than metal, rust free, and weighed 30% less, so there was an aspect of additional safety, practicality, and fuel economy. Probably the largest factor in Henry's pursuit of soybean plastics was his desire to marry agriculture and industry together- He thought of supporting farmers (who bought his Fordson tractors) as them being able to 'grow' the materials for his cars.

The design was first handed to the great E.T. Gregorie, but soon switched hands to the Soybean Laboratory in Greenfield Village and Lowell E. Overly, a tool and die designer, not an automotive stylist, was put in charge. (This explains the dumpy looking results, and after the war the rumor goes that Gregorie himself destroyed the Soybean car so no one would attribute it to him.) The plastic body was mounted on a tubular steel chassis, and even featured soy-based seat covers and paint.

When the US entered World War II at the end of 1941, the government suspended all private use auto production, and therefore the plastic car experiment was shelved. A second car was actually in the works at the time the war broke out, but the project was abandoned as well. By the end of the war, the idea of a plastic car had lost its momentum, and the focus to get back to civilian automobiles required all of Ford's efforts. Henry would pass away less than two years later, killing any chance of the Soybean car getting on the road.



In the Collections of The Henry Ford  
The famous picture of Henry Ford helping a car with an axle is not a picture of the soybean car. It was actually Ford's personal car with a plastic rear deck for the 1941. He had to persuade the strength of the plastic, and the axle was used by Ford in the 1940s, about 18 ft. in rubber bush was placed on the axle and into the axle.

In the Collections of The Henry Ford  
It Boyer and Henry Ford with the Soybean Car.

In the Collections of The Henry Ford  
Soybean Car.

In the Collections of The Henry Ford  
Soybean Car assembly image showing steel frame.

In the Collections of The Henry Ford  
Soybean Car assembly image showing production of plastic panels.

# San Francisco Old Firehouse Tour

John Bettencourt knows how to lead a tour. With his caution light flashing John led us on a visit to at least 15 old firehouses in widely diverse neighborhoods in San Francisco. We started with a wonderful "Running Board Breakfast" prepared by Walter Caplan. During breakfast John gave short talk on the history of the Engine Companies, their location, architecture, specialty and history.



Did you know that all the old firehouses were built at the top of hills? In the old day fire engines were powered by horses. Horses travel faster to the fire when running downhill. The Dalmatian was chosen as the official fire house mascot because they bond well with horses; they don't form strong attachments to the firemen and they are low maintenance. John described the art and science of fire fighting this way, "Firefighting is not rocket science you put the wet stuff on the red stuff".



Our first stop was Engine Company No 33. It is privately owned by Robert and Marilyn Katzman who have turned their firehouse into a "living museum of San Francisco History".



From this point we wandered through the Mission and Noe Valley into downtown San Francisco, through Pacific Heights making short stops for photos at the most colorful firehouses.

Our last stop before the Firefighter Pioneer Museum was Engine Company No 23, Governor Jerry Brown's old home.



Our visit to the Museum was unlike that of the average tourist. We were allowed to climb into the antique fire engines to take pictures. This is normally not permitted. We were treated like VIP's and allowed to break a few rules. Actually, we had been breaking a few rules all day. We ran a few stop signs; double parked; blocked driveways and made some questionable U-turns. We were living dangerously.





Photo by Scott Williams

Following our museum tour we returned to the Rod and Gun Club for an Old Fashioned Fire House BBQ. John pre-cooked most everything. Jeanine prepared three outstanding cheese cakes and Club members warmed things up; prepared the salads and served the food buffet style to more than forty friends and Club members.

John deserves a big "Shout Out" from the Club for doing an over-the-top job with his first tour. John has promised another fire house tour next year. This will be one to look forward to.

*Barry Kinney*

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## Tour To Crater Lake National Monument June 11 - 19, 2011

Time is right for another long tour to an out-of-state destination. The Tour will go up the coast through the Redwood National Park, and Oregon Caves National Monument to Crater Lake National Monument. After visiting Crater Lake the tour will turn south to Lava Beds National Park.

Our first day will take us to Mendocino and Fort Bragg. We will spend the night in Fort Bragg and visit local sites including the Skunk Train Depot and the unique town of Mendocino.

Day two will take us through the redwoods, down the Avenue of the Giants, and finally into Eureka where we will spend the night. We will visit Old Town Eureka and supper at the Samoa Cook House and finish off the night at the Lost Coast Brewery.

Day three will take us up the coast to Crescent City by way of Trinidad where we will visit the Pacific Coast Marine Research Station and Marine World.

Day four will take us through the Six Rivers National Forest and up the Smith River George to the Great Cat Preserve and Oregon Caves National Monument.

Day five is a day of rest. Time to visit the caves, tune-up and clean-out the car and relax in the lodge.

Day six we travel on the Crater Lakes National Park through Grants Pass and if time allows we will visit the Bob Drake Factory. We will travel on up Hwy. 62 past the Lost Creek Res. At this point we will need to call Crater Lake Information to find out which roads up to the lake are open and snow free.

Day seven we drive the Lake Rim Road and then travel on to Klamath Falls for the night.

Day eight will find us at Tulelake and then in the Lava Beds National Monument and then on to Redding for the night.

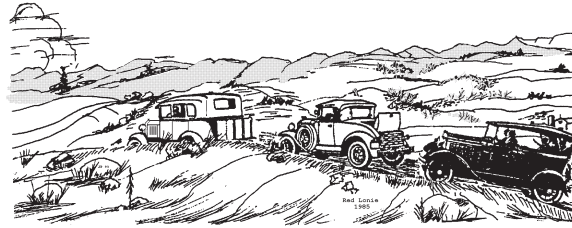
After breakfast and a look at Sundial Bridge we will race home down I-5 with a stop in Colusa to visit the Mitchell Manufacturing Plant. For those of us who are not in a hurry to get home, Colusa may be an extra night on the road. For those of us who need to get home on Sunday, Colusa may be a lunch stop before heading on home. We will play-it-by-ear.

**Please let me know if you would like to come on this one by September 20, 2010. This will be a hard and fast deadline.** Reservations for the park lodges need to be made six to eight months prior to the tour and I will need to know your accommodation preferences. I estimate the cost/car or/couple to be about \$1,500.00. Some of our accommodations will require a cash deposit. I will let you know when I need your money. **Call me at 415-282-2789 if you're interested.**

*Barry Kinney*

## 2010 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

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

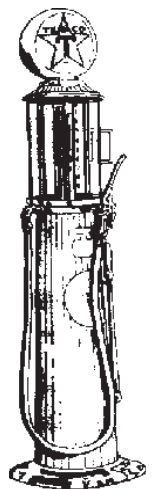


MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	31	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH
FEB	20	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	14	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	BILL ROSE'S MODEL A CRAB & STEAK FEED
APRIL	4	JEANINE & GUNARD MAHL	EASTER AT PACIFIC ROD & GUN CLUB
APRIL	10	KINNEY	GREEK CULTURAL PARADE & CELEBRATION
APRIL	25	BOB MARQUEZ	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
APRIL-MAY	30-2	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
MAY	16	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CAÑADA COLLEGE
MAY	31	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	19	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	27	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE & PICNIC LUNCH
JUNE	27	PEDONE / PETERSON	PALO ALTO CONCOURS AT STANFORD
JULY	18	BETTENCOURT	FIREHOUSE TOUR - SAN FRANCISCO
SEPT	11 (SATURDAY)	MARIN A'S	OCTOBERFEST AT MARIN ROD & GUN CLUB
SEPT	12	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	24-26	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER-MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	TBA	CAPLAN/OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV	7	GREG MARTINEZ	VETERAN'S DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	12 (SUNDAY)	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.

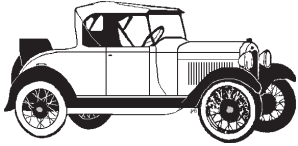
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Steve Pedone** at **408-749-0469**  
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.  
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

## 2010 Schedule of Events

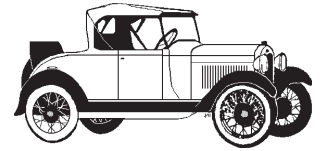
Jan 30-31	Turlock Swap Meet
May 2	Santa Clara Valley Chapter's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary "A Golden Day for our Model A's"
May 21-23	NCRG Round-Up in Jackson, CA <a href="http://www.ncrgmafca.com">www.ncrgmafca.com</a>
Aug 1-6	MAFCA National Convention, Vancouver British Columbia, International Meet
Sep 20-26	Silicon Valley MARC-MAFCA Hub Tour - Santa Cruz - <a href="http://www.svmarc.com">www.svmarc.com</a>
Dec 8-11	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO







**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America  
July 8, 2010**



The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by President Barry Kinney. There were no guests. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** Barry Kinney reported on the Concours at Stanford. He displayed his Model A in the Corral. Don Barnes had two cars in the show. Both had a nice time.

Barry talked about a tour to Crater Lake in 2011. It will be June 11-19th. More information to follow.

Barry also reported on the event at St. Anne's. It was a good tour with a nice buffet. All who went had a good time.

John Bettencourt reported on his firehouse tour on July 18th.

**Vice President:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Walter reported that we have over 40 paid members in the club. He also said that on August 21st the El Camino A's are going to the Disney Museum.

**Secretary:** No report.

**Editor:** Walter reported that there will be a tribute to Kerry Fehlberg in the August or September **Choke Rod**.

Walter is also looking for a new editor for the **Choke Rod**.

In September the Feather River A's are doing a show in Placerville. Walter will put the information in the newsletter.

The Sonoma A's annual meet will be in December.

**Tour Chair:** The tour at the Hayes Mansion was cancelled. There is no tour scheduled for August. No one is sure whether Jimmy's picnic is on or not. The block party on Jeanine and Gunard's street will be in October.

**Entertainment:** No report.

**For the Good of the Order:** There are extra T-shirts, sweatshirts and bags leftover.

Barry had a display case full of Model A parts on display. He passed out a quiz to see who could get the most right.

Gunard Mahl gave a talk on his glider plane. It is a high performance plane called the Phoenix. It is 90' wide and can go up to 100mph. It was manufactured in Germany. The talk was very interesting.

Victoria Acosta brought the refreshments this month. And John Zuffi will bring them next month.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

*Joan Peterson, 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 a 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, August 12, 2010**

A number of club members gather together for dinner before the monthly meeting at 6 pm.

Please feel free to join us -- August 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)



Photo by Kerry Fehlberg

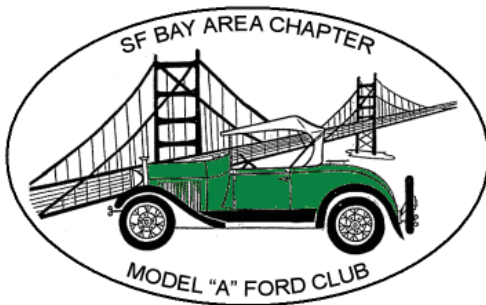


## in this Choke Rod

President's Message (page 2)  
Club News (pages 3)  
Fashion (page 4)  
Ford Plastic (page 5)  
SF Old Firehouse Tour (pages 6-7)  
Crater Lake Tour (page 7)  
Tours & Schedule of Events (page 8)  
Meeting Minutes (page 9)

### Inserts:

Marin A's Oktoberfest - September 11, San Rafael  
Ironstone Concours - September 25, Murphys CA



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

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America  
PO Box 31387  
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415-621-0500

**AUGUST MEETING**  
Thursday August 12, 2010  
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club  
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)  
San Francisco