

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 56, Issue 12

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

December 2012

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Happy Holidays

Upcoming Tours

Saturday December 8 - Christmas Banquet - Basque Cultural Center, SF

Sunday January 27 - President's Brunch - Harding Park Golf Course, SF

Saturday February 2 - Crab Feed - Monte Cristo Club, SF

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

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

TOUR CHAIR: Gary Barrango
EDITORS: Walter Caplan
Scott Williams
TECH EDITOR: Steve Owsley
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

President's Message

Thanks to Walter we had a President's Message in the Choke Rod last month. I was away in Oklahoma getting my Reservation Pass renewed. Thanks to Walter, Gary, and Jeanine and Gunard Mahl for filling in for me while I was away. I am sorry I missed so many great events in October.



Nothing much has changed over the month. Club officers and directors will remain the same for year 2013. The Crab Feed is "SOLD OUT" and has been for some time. The Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday December 8 and the SFPD Cable Car Challenge will be on Saturday December 1 at Aquatic Park.

I am thinking that March or April might be a good time for a Club sponsored picnic. These months can be a little cool and windy so we may want to consider a protected location. Bring your ideas about a location to the January meeting.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

See you at the Christmas party.

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.
250 South Cypress Street
La Habra CA 90631
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*.

President's Brunch

Sunday January 27, 2013

Our annual President's Brunch will be held Sunday January 27 at the Clubhouse of the Harding Park Golf Course, located at Lake Merced in San Francisco. Members who wish to tour with their Model A's will meet at 9:45 am at the Pacific Rod and Gun Club parking lot and will depart at 10:15 am. We will begin with a short yet interesting drive tour and then on to the Harding Park Clubhouse. **Brunch will be served at 11:30 am.**

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

Please RSVP Barry by Friday January 18 so we can have an accurate count for brunch.

Harding Park Golf Course
99 Harding Road
San Francisco, CA 94132

Christmas Banquet

Saturday December 8

Basque Cultural Center

6 PM Cocktails, 7 PM Dinner at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Last minute changes and reservations can be made by calling Walter Caplan at (415) 753-3280 up to the day before the party. The address of the Basque Cultural Center is 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco 94080.

Directions:

Basque Cultural Center From Highway 280:

Take Highway 280 north to South San Francisco, and take the Avalon Drive Exit. Continue to go straight on Junipero Serra Blvd. Take a right on Westborough Blvd., and then a right on El Camino Real. Take a left on Orange Blvd, and right on Railroad Ave. Continue down to 599 and make a right into our parking lot. If your coming from the City take Highway 280 South. From Highway 280, take the Westborough Exit, and follow the same directions as above after Westborough Blvd.

Basque Cultural Center From Highway 101:

From the South, take Highway 101 north to South San Francisco, and take the Grand Avenue Exit. Right on East Grand Avenue, then Left on Grand Avenue. Take a left on Magnolia and drive two blocks and cross Railroad Ave, into our parking lot. If you're coming from the City, take Highway 101 South and take the Grand Avenue Exit in South San Francisco. Continue on Grand Avenue. Take a left on Magnolia and drive two blocks and cross Railroad Ave, into the Basque Cultural Center parking lot.

Crab Feed

at the Monte Cristo Club

Saturday February 2, 2013

Doors open at 5 pm

Dinner Service begins 6:30 pm

Raffle - 50/50 Raffle - No Host Bar
antipasto, salad, pasta, crab,
French bread & butter, dessert
\$50 per person

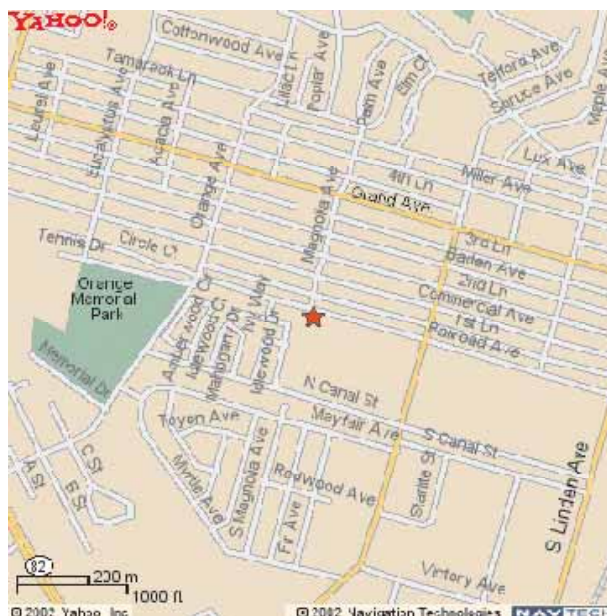


Birthdays & Anniversaries



Donald Parsons	December 2
David Berelson	December 6
Melanie Marie Patsel	December 9
Steve Karr	December 14
Frank Obrien	December 18
Bob Faber	December 24
Paul DeMartini	December 30
John FB Zuffi	December 31

Dave & Marilyn Chiotti	December 2
Steve Owsley & Jack Green	December 17



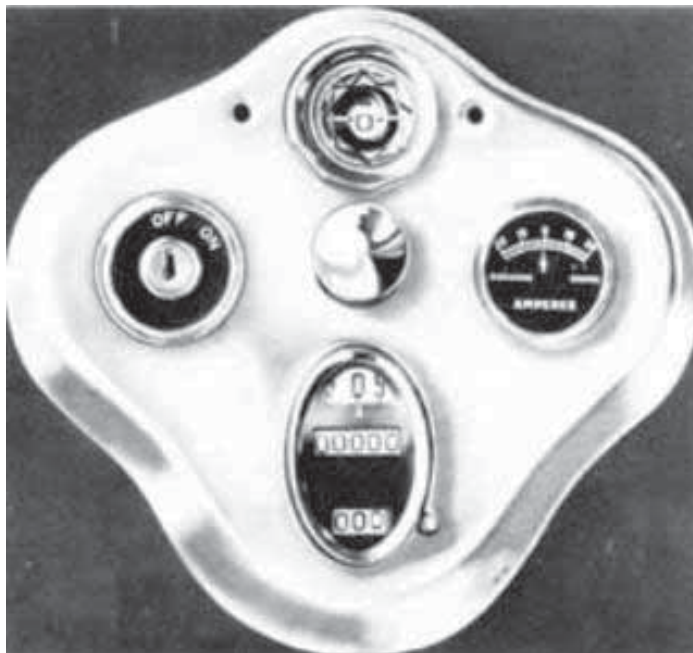
THE INSTRUMENT PANEL AND INSTRUMENTS

By Ed Francis and George DeAngelis

Photographs: Courtesy Ford Archives, Dearborn Michigan

Have you seen a Model "A" oval speedometer without the trip odometer? One was released in June 1929 and was used until June 1930. It was used with separate instrument panel which was minus the hole for the odometer trip setting lever.

By today's standards, the Model "A" instrument cluster was a very simple design. The instrument panel assembly contained a fuel gage, ammeter, speedometer, ignition switch and instrument lamp. All very easy to read.



The instrument panel was made of cold rolled steel and had a satin finish nickel plate. It contained openings for all the instruments mentioned above including the hole for the odometer trip-setting lever. This panel, designed to receive the oval Stewart-Warner or Waltham speedometer, was used until June of 1930.

In June 1929, Ford added the Northeast speedometer to its production. The Northeast had no trip setting odometer, so the instrument panel used with these units did not have the hole for the trip setting lever. Otherwise, the instrument panel was the same.

In March 1930, a new panel was designed. Its center was scored at 1/16 inch intervals and the top and bottom embossed panels were painted black. The unpainted metal was either bright nickel plate or butler finish. Because of some mounting hole changes, this new panel was not put in production until June 1930. Previous information indicating that this panel was put in use in November 1930 is in error.

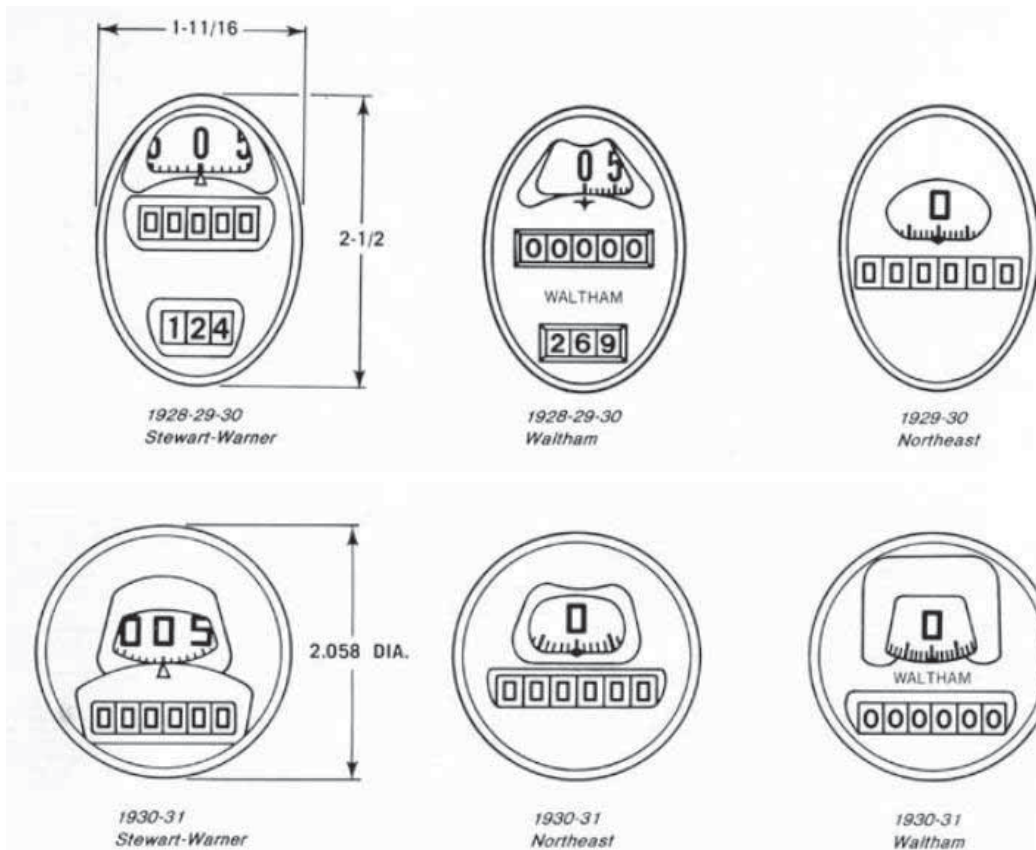
Five different gasoline gage assemblies were used during Model "A" production. The variation was either with the dial, float rod, gage frame or the finish treatment. The early 1929 dial was made of spring steel with a white matte chromium plate finish. The fractions 1/4,

1/2 and 3/4 were gloss black on a white background. The "zero" and "F" were brick red color. Size of the fraction numbers was 5/32 square while the "zero" and "F" were 7/32 square. The gage lens was made of molded glass with an elliptical convex boss on the front face. A nickel-plated steel shield held the glass in place. Its front face was finished eggshell gloss lithograph black with a 3/64 white nickel line across the center. Some of the changes were:

in February 1928, the lens opening was changed from a vertical ellipse to a horizontal; in May 1928, the dial was changed to aluminum die casting with the letters cast in. The letters were changed slightly in size and in June the brick red "zero" and "F" were changed to black; in April 1929 the glass boss was changed from elliptical to round and the boss was made flat instead of convex; and finally, in January 1930, with the introduction of the new models a change was made to the float rod attachment.

The ammeter assembly was basically the same for all years. The ammeter dial was made of aluminum with a black lithograph eggshell gloss finish and satin aluminum letters, numerals and scale divisions. In April 1929, zinc material became optional. In April 1930, the black lithograph finish was changed to black nickel plate. The ammeter rim was bright nickel finish.

The ignition switch plate was made of aluminum, finished with lithograph eggshell gloss black and the letters "ON" and "OFF" satin finish aluminum. The letters were removed in November 1928. In April 1929, zinc was used as an optional material. In May 1930, the black lithograph finish was changed to black nickel plate. The aluminum was replaced with cold rolled steel in June 1930 and was used to the end of Model "A" production. The ignition plate ring was made of brass and finished in bright nickel.



With the new instrument panel in June 1930, new round bezel speedometers were released. They were the Stewart-Warner and the Northeast. Both had black speedometer numbers from 0 to 80 but the Stewart-Warner had a white pointer as opposed to a red pointer on the Northeast. The odometer numbers on each were black except the tenths numbers that were red. The bezel on both was bright nickel.

The new round face Waltham was not used until August of 1930. Its finish was similar to the other two except the name "Waltham" in white was located on the face just below the red pointer.

The most variations on the instrument panel came with the speedometer head. The initial speedometer was designed by Stewart-Warner. Similar to the other instruments, it had a black lithograph eggshell finish face with a white pointer. In June 1928, it was changed to satin to improve appearance. The bezel holding the speedometer was bright nickel. The speedometer cup and odometer figures were black on a white background. The numbers were graduated from 0 to 75 miles per hour.

In March 1928, a second speedometer head was released, one designed by Waltham. It was similar to the Stewart-Warner except for the name "Waltham" located half way between the odometer and the trip odometer. Its pointer was in the shape of the fleur-de-lis. The black numbers on white background were graduated from 0 to 75 miles per hour.

As stated earlier, in June 1929, a third design was put in use, the Northeast. It did not have a trip odometer. The speedometer numbers ranged from 0 to 80 and were black on white. The odometer numbers were also black except the tenths numbers, which were red.

The only other item on the instrument panel was the lamp assembly located in the center. It was finished in bright nickel plate. It was only used with the oval speedometers. When the new panel was released in June 1930, the lamp was located above the panel, mounted behind the belt rail molding. Two lamp assemblies were used, differing only in the bracket for attachment. The smaller bracket was used on Roadsters, Phaetons and open cab bodies. The other design was used on all other models.

There was one other instrument panel variation used with the Model "A." The panel used on the 1929 Town car was finished in satin chrome plate. All other items on the panel which were finished in nickel for all other body styles were finished bright chrome on the Town car.

Note: The information for this article was obtained from either manufacturing letters at the Ford Archives or the old engineering releases.

Steve Owsley

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a day we honor our veterans for their sacrifice to our country. Our Club began participating on a regular basis when Greg Martinez was our president. Greg led this Club activity and inspired our participation. This year Walter Caplan led this event.

We were a small eclectic group. We taped large pictures of our logo to our car doors so all would know that we were the San Francisco Model A Club. However only two Model A Fords actually participated. The rest were later model collector cars. I don't think anyone in the crowd noticed the difference. In fact, I think the variety may have worked in our favor.

We were sandwiched in between about two hundred Vets on Harleys and the Studebaker Club. The Studebakers were impressive. They certainly outdid us for numbers and decoration. We will never beat their numbers but we can improve our decoration.

We were placed at the beginning of the Parade which made the drive a little easier on the brake and clutch. We were done in about twenty minutes not counting the wait in the staging area on Second Street.

Following the parade we continued up Market Street and over the hill to Pacifica to a "Mystery" undisclosed location for brunch. We drove to the Surf Spot, adjacent to Sea Bowl on Highway 1 in Pacifica. Brunch turned out to be surprisingly good. Try it sometime, you will not be disappointed: www.surfspot eats.com

Barry Kinney

Veterans Gift Bag Stuffing Thursday December 6

Help us remember Seniors and Veterans this time of year. Our annual Christmas bag stuffing event is near. We create the bags using white or colored handle bags, tissue paper, ribbon, Christmas cards, and stickers. Contents include hotel soaps, shampoos, lotions, dental hygiene and personal grooming products. Also paper back books and a variety of small useful and/or fun gift items. Use your imagination. Please bring any items you are interested in contributing. Bag stuffing day this year is Thursday Dec. 6th. in Foster City. All help is welcomed, either stuffing bags or delivering the finished ones. If interested in helping contact Joan Peterson at (650) 326-1013 or Jenny Jump at (650) 493-4344.

2013 Officers

Elections for the 2013 officers were held at the meeting on Thursday November 8.

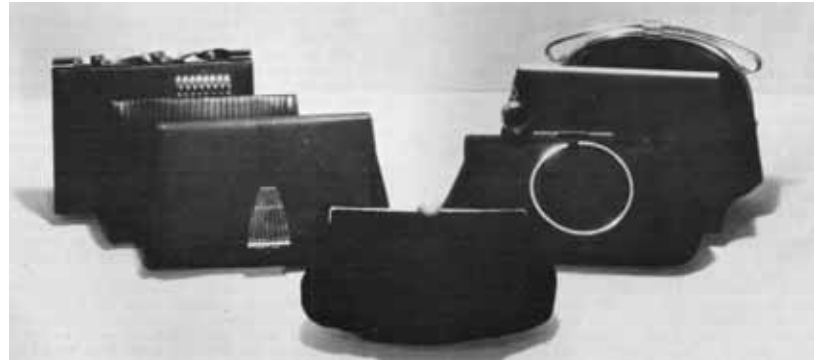
The officers for 2013 are unchanged from those of 2012:

President:	Barry Kinney
Vice Presidents:	Tom Escher Gunard Mahl Greg Martinez
Secretary:	Joan Peterson
Treasurer:	Jeanine Mahl
Tour Chair:	Gary Barrango
Editors:	Walter Caplan Scott Williams
Membership:	Walter Caplan

Refreshments at the November meeting were provided by
Walter Caplan

The club will provide cake for dessert at the Christmas Banquet





Many enthusiasts have inquired about the correct gloves, purse, and men's belt. These items are just as important to complete one's ensemble as the correct shoes or hat. There were a great variety of accessory items. We will touch on just a few in this issue and outline some basic rules.

A lady's purse is probably the most important accessory. Beginning with the delicate beaded model, we will stress the importance of the clasp and handle arrangement. Pull cords or chains are right for the earlier years, while metal frames with attached chains are correct for the beaded bag of the "A" era. These lovely creations came in many colors, shapes and designs. Beaded bags are carried with evening, and the more ornate afternoon frocks, while "tapestry" and leather purses (handbags) are always carried with daytime wear. The leather bag can be found in the envelope-style, as shown on the left of the illustration, as well as the handle type. These are found in various colors but the basic black and brown seem to be the most popular. Some are even outfitted with matching compacts, and coin purses as well as mirrors. If one will study the window display, many varieties are represented.

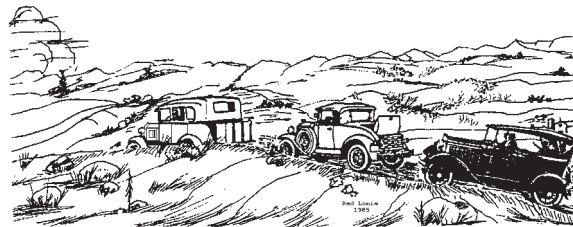
For the most part, evening gloves will be found in silk, rayon, and white leather. Elbow length, a most popular cloth model is found in many hues, along with the mid-forearm length. With the exception of formal weddings, net gloves are not a common evening accent. Day-time gloves may be leather, silk or cotton and are worn two inches above the wrist, with or without buttons, as there was a slight carryover from the earlier 20's but, generally speaking, the gloves for both men and women are the pull-over type. Stitching accented both silk and leather gloves while the cotton styles are usually quite plain.

Men's belts are often leather but may be found in a woven type mesh. Many times a gentleman wore a silver buckle to match his pocket knife found on a chain clipped to the belt. Oft-times these were detailed with his initials which also may have appeared on his cigarette case



2012 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

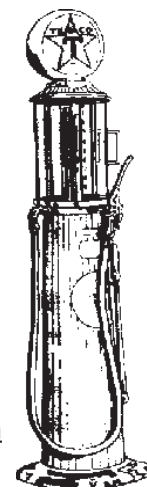


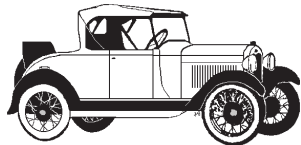
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	29	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH
MARCH	3 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	17 SATURDAY	THUNDERBIRD CLUBS	A DAY AT THE RACES
MARCH	24 SATURDAY	KINNEY	GREEK CULTURAL FESTIVAL
APRIL	27-29	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	28-29	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	19 SATURDAY	THUNDERBIRD CLUBS	ANNUAL T'BIRD MIGRATION - RICHMOND
MAY	20	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - CAÑADA COLLEGE
MAY	28 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	16 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	24	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
JULY	7 SATURDAY	KINNEY	CANCER AWARENESS SHOW, CAMPBELL, CA
AUG	7 TUESDAY	MID-PENINSULA OLD TIME AUTOS	EL CAMINO CENTENNIAL - SAN BRUNO
SEPT	9	KINNEY	ANTIQUÉ AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	15 SATURDAY	MARIN A'S	ANNUAL "OKTOBERFEST" CELEBRATION
SEPT	21-23	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
SEPT	29 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
OCT	7	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE
OCT	14	MAHL	37 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
NOV	11	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	1 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD ANNUAL CABLE CAR PULL - AQUATIC PARK
DEC	8 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A CLUB	CHRISTMAS BANQUET - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.

If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Gary Barrango** at **415-821-2628**
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

2012 Schedule of Events 2013

Dec 9-12, 2012	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet Charleston, SC - Host Palmetto A's
Jan 26-27	Turlock Swap Meet
Jan 27	SF Model A Club President's Brunch
Feb 2	SF Model A Club Annual Crab Feed
Mar 21-24	Model A's are to be Seen in 2013 - Laughlin NV, Pomona Valley Model A Club
Apr-May TBA	SF Model A Club Hosted Regional Picnic for area clubs
May 3-5	Lake County A's - "Back to our Teens in 2013" 19th Annual Spring Opener
May 24-27	NCRG Roundup hosted by the Acorn A's in Pleasanton - www.ncrgmafca.com
Sep 3-8	Northwest Regional Group Meet - Bend Oregon Idaho
Dec TBA	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet





**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
November 8, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Barry Kinney. Franz brought two guests from Germany, Gotz and Dagmar. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

President: The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday December 8th at the Basque Cultural Center. If you bring a child's toy we will deliver it to Toys-for-Tots. • Veteran's Day Parade is Sunday November 11th at 11 am. • Senior Bag Preparation Day will be Thursday December 6th. It will be held at 501 Coos Ct in Foster City. We will start at 10 am. See Joan and Jenny for any questions. • Officer elections were held, no one new stepped up so officers will remain the same in 2013. • We will not give gifts to the officers, instead we will buy another brick for the Ford Museum.

Vice President: No report

Treasurer: It was decided to keep the dues the same. • The checks for the Christmas Banquet should be in by December 4th at the latest. • Steve Owsley asked about setting up a pay pal account to pay dues and such. Walter will check with Scott.

Secretary: Reported on Senior Bag Day.

Editor: No report

Tour Chair: The Crab Feed will be Saturday February 2nd. • It was suggested we do a Christmas tree tour and have lunch at Sharps Park. A Barrango Tour was also suggested. Gary will check on the Barrango tour.

For The Good Of The Order: Dan is taking orders for the new 2013 Model A calendar.

Walter brought the refreshments and champagne. John Zuffi will bring them at our next meeting in January.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be Saturday December 8 during the Christmas Banquet at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco where we will install the Club officers for 2013.

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, January 10, 2013

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

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

The Choke Rod
is available online in color at
www.sfmodelaclub.org



in this

Choke Rod

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Inserts:

SF Model A Club Membership Renewal
2013 Annual Crab Feed
Christmas Banquet Information
Christmas Banquet Reservation Form



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

Crab Feed ~ Saturday February 2

Benefiting local charities

RENEW NOW

see Insert for
2013 Membership Form
Deadline: January 31

JANUARY MEETING
Thursday January 10, 2013
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco

Our website has been completely redesigned. We hope you like it's brand new look. Be sure to to check it out at www.sfmodelaclub.org