

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 57, Issue 4

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

April 2013

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



The Lincoln Highway Centennial Tour

SF Model Club 'a la carte' tour June 22-24:

San Francisco to Auburn - see details in this month's Insert

Upcoming Tours

Saturday April 6 - NIKE Missile Site - coastal hills of Marin County

Sunday April 7 - Greek Cultural Parade & Festival - Civic Center, SF

Saturday-Sunday April 27-28 - Pacific Coast Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay

Monday May 27 - Memorial Day Observance at San Francisco Presidio

Saturday June 15 - Father's Day at St. Anne's Home - San Francisco

Saturday -Sunday June 22-30 - Lincoln Highway Centennial Tour - SF to Kearney, NE

Sunday June 30 - Pride Parade & Picnic - San Francisco

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

President's Message

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Barry Kinney

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Joan Peterson

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PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Barrango

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

To the point, we just had the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. In April the Nike Site Tour and the Greek Parade are on our schedule, Saturday and Sunday April 6 and 7. The Weingarten School Tour is on Monday May 13, 2013. Make a note of the date. This is our first and probably our last Tour on a Monday. The School is closed on weekends. The Speed Weekend in on May 4 and 5 in Auburn.



The Lincoln Highway Tour comes up (for our Club) on Sunday and Monday June 23 and 24, 2013. We will be doing the short two day version. We will join the Tour in Lincoln Park here in San Francisco and travel to Sacramento for the first night. There are some events planned in Sacramento and then the Tour travels on to Reno. We will not go that far. Our tour will end in Sacramento. We will return home on Monday.

If you plan to go, it will cost you \$120. You will need to fill out an application. You can find it online on the Lincoln Highway Tour web site:

http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/tour/2013/register/2013_lh_auto_tours_registration.pdf

We will need to arrange accommodations for our group. So let me know if you plan to join us. Otherwise you are on your own for accommodations on Sunday night in Sacramento.

We recieved a note from the Marin A's. They are not doing an Oktoberfest this year. Maybe it is our turn. Let's see what we can put together in September. We could do this one at the Pacific Rod and Gun Club. We can rent the Clubhouse and do a BBQ using their kitchen. Give me some feedback on this one.

Lots to plan. Look for additional information on each of these tours in the May and June **Choke Rod**.

I will miss the April meeting but I will see you at the May 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

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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*.

Greek Cultural Parade & Festival 2013 Civic Center, San Francisco Sunday April 7

The Hellenic Cultural Parade celebrates a long history: the 192th anniversary of Greek independence, dating to when rebels began their fight for independence after centuries of occupation by the Ottoman Empire.

Sunday April 7 – Parade and Festival in Civic Center Plaza - includes great Greek food and dance

Contact: Walter Caplan - 415.621.0500 and/or whcaplan@comcast.net

They want our cars - hopefully six or more - we will be near the front of Parade and there will be a display area at the festival site for us to display our vehicles after the Parade

Model A Ford Museum Grand Opening Hickory Corners, Michigan Saturday, May 18

The Grand Opening of the Model A Ford Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan will be on Saturday May 18.

The ribbon cutting will be performed by Edsel Ford II and our very own fashion contributor Edie Jones, who with her husband Bill was an early member of the SF Bay Area Chapter and whose fashion articles are reprinted monthly in the **Choke Rod**. Edie was the founding president of the MAFFI Foundation.

A group from northern California and Oregon are traveling by train to the dedication. If anyone is interested in joining the group, contact Walter Caplan at 415.621.0500.

<http://blog.hemmings.com/index.php/2012/06/08/model-a-ford-museum-construction-underway-grand-opening-scheduled-for-may-2013/>



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Steve Owsley	April 11
Jeanine Mahl	April 13
Kevin Enderby	April 15
Paul Storz	April 30

Refreshments
at the March meeting
were provided by **Mike Cuneen**

Gary Barrango
will provide refreshments
for the April meeting



NIKE Missile Site SF88L Coastal Hills of Marin County Saturday April 6

We will visit the only NIKE missile battery in the country preserved in its historic appearance, an educational Cold War museum in the heart of Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

During the tense years from 1953 to 1979, the United States Army built and operated a total of 280 Nike missile firing batteries in the United States. These missile sites were emplaced as the last line of defense against Soviet bombers. Today, a dedicated group of volunteers works in partnership with the GGNRA on the continuous task of restoration at site SF-88, which has been turned into a museum. This valuable historical resource is the only restored Nike missile site in the entire country. It's a great chance for us to see the tools of the Cold War up close.

The guided walk begins from the Testing and Assembly Building: on the guided walk we will be able to see the tools of the Cold War up close, and it includes an amazing trip down the missile elevator into the underground storage area. On Saturday April 6 the Park Rangers will hold a private open house for our group at 11 am, where docents – some of them Nike veterans – tell stories about real life experience at Nike missile sites, and we will tour the RADAR vans, the fueling area and the missile magazine.

During the Saturday tour and open house volunteers and Nike Veterans will interpret each of the areas on the base. There are even protection dog demonstrations during some open houses.

We will meet at the Pacific Rod & Gun Club at 9:30 am for a running board breakfast, and leave shortly after 10 am for our drive to the Nike Missile Site in the Marin Headlands.

After our tour of the Nike Missile Battery we will drive on to Sausalito for a midday meal.

Tour Leader: Walter Caplan 415.621.0500 and/or whcaplan@comcast.net

Please RSVP for this tour so we can make all the necessary and appropriate arrangements.

Pacific Coast Dream Machines Half Moon Bay Saturday-Sunday April 27-28

It's the world's largest and most whimsical gathering of motorized marvels from throughout the twentieth century...a remarkable exhibit of 2000 driving, flying, and working machines, running the gamut of exotic automobiles, US Army tanks, and antique motorcycles to restored military aircraft, Model T fire engines, massive steam tractors, and tons more. Live music, kids amusements and food booths run by local non-profits round out the festivities.

The New Guy



I was fortunate enough to be born into a family of car lovers. Our great-grandpa was a service manager at a Chevy dealer, and after World War II, grandpa drove logging trucks and worked as a heavy-duty truck mechanic. Grandpa also had a few Model Ts (in parts) and a 1923 Chevrolet Touring Car.

Our dad bought his 1930 Ford Model A pickup from the original owner in 1973 – a house painter in Placerville who used the truck for his painting business. Dad did a frame-on restoration in our garage in 1974 and finished right before I was born. My brother, sister, and I each came home from the hospital as newborns in the Model A. Safety laws for kids in cars have definitely changed.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Mom and Dad were active members of Model A Clubs in the Sacramento and Eureka areas. My siblings and I have many fond memories of club activities, especially the food and great people. Mom and Dad's truck was a driver – we used it in club events, parades, birthday parties, or just errands around town. Once my siblings and I entered high school, the Model A-related activities tapered off, but it still got driven, including to senior prom.

Fast forward to November 2010. I purchased the Model A from my folks who were downsizing after purchasing a 1939 Buick Special. I hope to give the Model A a good home and create new memories as they did. I immediately joined the San Francisco Model A Club and am now doing some tinkering on the Model A. This column will follow life with the Model A.

Times change and I sold the Model A in the summer of 2012. It's not easy to get Model As out of your system, so you're stuck with me writing about Model As and related stuff until Walter takes away my computer.

Well folks, since the birth of our baby girl in January, new priorities obviously have emerged, so I haven't finished up that VW speedometer clock that we looked at a few months back. However, this month's column will focus again on Model As, specifically my 1930 pickup which as you may remember sold to a kind buyer in Hilo, Hawaii in mid-2012. It turns out that my parents already had a trip to the Big Island scheduled for February 2013, and when the buyer of the truck mentioned wanting to meet the truck's previous owners one day, I was able to say something along the lines of, "well as much as I want to come visit, I don't have any plans to come to Hawaii any time soon, however my folks are coming over to the Big Island in February. Maybe you all could meet up for coffee."

Fast forward to January of this year and the connections were made again. The new buyer, Travis Werner and his



wife Jackie graciously hosted my parents for lunch at their home outside of Hilo, Hawaii on the big island. Travis and Jackie even picked up my parents in the Model A pickup and took them back to their home. It was quite a treat for everyone to meet each other, talk about Model As, and the Model A pickup truck's new life.

Travis uses the truck daily in his solar energy business – Affordable Solar Solutions. He goes to customers' homes and writes estimates for potential solar systems for their home. You can learn more about his company here: www.affordablesolarsolutions.co (note: no 'm' at the end). As



you can see by the pictures, the closed-cab pickup is no trailer queen; it's a work truck. Travis named the truck "Mr. Lightning" and had his business info hand painted on the doors. I think it came out pretty cool. Travis also installed a dry box in the bed for his tools and other equipment, by



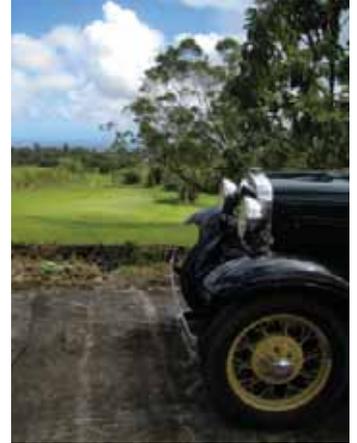
re-purposing an old ice chest – clever solution as you may know it rains 126 inches per year in Hilo on the Big Island. I am still learning about Hawaiian microclimates, but all I can say so far is that they vary immensely based on where you are at on the island. Yes, that is more than 10 feet of rain.



Travis drives the Model A all over the Big Island doing house calls for customers, even up and over Saddle Road – State Highway 200, at elevations from sea level to 4,000 feet. Not surprisingly, the Model A makes friends wherever it goes on the Big Island. Kids love it. People smile and wave. It makes me quite happy to know the Model A has found a new home, one where it's used and enjoyed daily.

If you really want rain, head to the island of Kauai. "Mt. Waialeale on Kauai gets the prize for being the 2nd wettest spot on earth, receiving more than 460 inches of rain per year." (Source: <http://www.hawaiigaga.com/WeatherGuide.aspx>).

Dan Bowermaster



Era Fashions



CHILDREN

1st Place: DAVID A. PETERSON, Dallas, Texas, wearing a brown tweed knicker suit with vest. The suit is fully lined and came with two pair of knickers. The two buttons below the knee allow for leg growth. He is wearing an original snap brimmed cap, bow tie, knee hose with clocks, and as the Sears' catalog puts it, barnyard proof high top brown shoes. In his back pocket is his slingshot.



MEN ORIGINAL

1st Place: DOC INGWERSEN (Group of 4 Firemen). Queen Mary and Diamond Tread Chapters, California, representing the fashions of those wonderful heros who wore red suspenders and carried ladies down ladders from their second story bedrooms. They all have badges that read Hose Co mp. No. 31, MAFCA Fire Dept. to match their big red Fire Truck.

First we have a fireman in dress pants, turn out coat and leather helmet of the late 20's. The leather helmet is still worn in the city of San Francisco and some areas of the Eastern Seaboard. When he removes his turnout coat we can see his white suspenders which have springs instead of elastic.

Next in the group we see the fireman's working uniform for fighting fires. It is a turnout coat and pants complete with rubber boots and helmet. The term "turnout" comes from the way the fireman leave their pants by the side of their beds at night. The pants are rolled down inside out with the boots already in the pants leg, so that when they answer a call at night they can jump right in to their boots, pull up their pants and they are ready to leave the station.

Our next fireman is the officer of the group. This can be told by the over hand black tie, the stripes on the sleeve, the lapel badges, the white cap cover with silver braid. The pants are authentic having been found in the storage attic of the Long Beach, Calif. Fire Station No. 1. The pants button down the fly front. The sleeves of his shirt are reinforced and have beautiful pearl buttons. Officers also wear turnout coats and helmets when on fire call.

(4th fireman came on stage putting on his uniform)

The Lincoln Highway Part 4 - The End of Named Highways

In ten years, between 1915 and 1925, the United States went from having one named highway to having an unorganized and confusing system of named highways. They were primarily marked by painted colored bands on telephone poles. Sometimes, where several named highways shared a route, almost an entire pole would be striped in various colors. It was time for an organized national system of highways to be formed. A system of numbered highways.

The Lincoln Highway Association was all for a numbered highway system, as long as one number corresponded to the Lincoln Highway and the names stayed with the roads. It didn't want to see its highway chopped up into little numbered bits. In March 1925, the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) started planning a federal highway system. All named roads were ignored in their planning. That November, the secretary of agriculture approved AASHO's plan, which set up the now-familiar U.S. highway system.



Major east-west routes would be numbered in multiples of ten, from U.S. 10 across the north to U.S. 90 across the south. Major north-south routes would end in 1 or 5, from U.S. 1 between Maine and Florida to U.S. 101 between Washington and California. The Lincoln Highway was broken up into U.S. 1, U.S. 30 (including U.S. 30N and U.S. 30S), U.S. 530, U.S. 40, and U.S. 50. Nearly two-thirds of the Lincoln's length was designated U.S. 30, which began in Atlantic City, New Jersey and ended in Astoria, Oregon. The AASHO also adopted a standard set of road signs and markers, and to avoid confusion, all markers of all named roads would have to be taken down.

Interest in the Lincoln Highway dropped considerably. The association ceased activity at the end of 1927. Its last major activity was to mark the highway



not as a route from one destination to another, but as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. On September 1, 1928, thousands of Boy Scouts fanned out along the highway. At an average of about one per mile, they installed small concrete markers with a small bust of Lincoln and the inscription, "This highway dedicated to Abraham Lincoln."

While the other named highways were quickly forgotten, the Lincoln Highway was not. A whole generation of Americans, exposed to the well-organized publicity of the Lincoln Highway Association, kept the Lincoln Highway alive long after its official significance was gone. It was the backdrop for an NBC radio show on Saturday mornings. Airing for two seasons in the 1940s, it had an audience of 8 million listeners.

By the late 1940s, the Lincoln Highway started to fade away. A new generation of Americans were born, one which had grown up with paved roads and a numbered highway system. Most Baby Boomers, and even more of their children, have never heard of the Lincoln Highway.

However, not everyone has forgotten. The Lincoln Highway Association was reactivated in 1992,

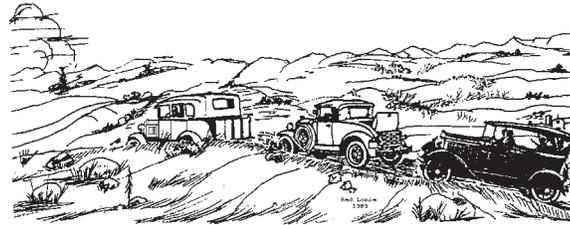


dedicated to preserving the highway. With the help of the association, the Lincoln Highway will always stay alive.

Steve Owsley

2013 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

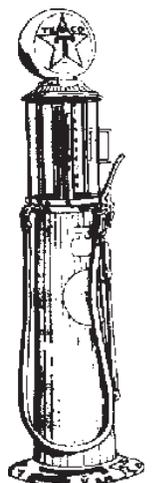


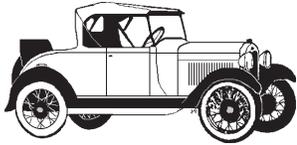
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	27	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH
FEBRUARY	2 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
APRIL	6 SATURDAY	CAPLAN	NIKE MISSILE SITE - MARIN COUNTY
APRIL	7	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	GREEK CULTURAL & FESTIVAL - CIVIC CTR, SF
APRIL	27-28	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	3-5	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
MAY	13 MONDAY	KINNEY	WEINGARTEN SCHOOL TOUR - REDWOOD CITY
MAY	19	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - REDWOOD CITY
MAY	27 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	15 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	23-24	KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY CENTENNIAL TOUR
JUNE	30	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
JULY	TBA	TBA	TBA
AUG	TBA	TBA	TBA
SEPT	8	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	27-29	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
SEPT	TBA	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
OCT	13	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE
OCT	TBA	MAHL	38 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
NOV	11	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	TBA	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD ANNUAL CABLE CAR PULL - AQUATIC PARK
DEC	14 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.

Schedule of Events 2013

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
March 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Barry Kinney. Mike brought his friend Terry to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

President: The Lincoln Highway Tour starts Sunday June 23rd and Monday June 24th. The fee is \$120.00. The registration form is on the Lincoln Highway Association website. The tour starts in Lincoln Park in San Francisco. The first night stop will be in Sacramento and the second night in Auburn. It was suggested that our club could do two nights. Walter will put the information in **the Choke Rod**. • The Palo Alto Concours is June 30th, which is the same day as the Pride Parade. • The C.T.C.I. Regional Convention ('55-'57 T- Birds) will be held at the San Jose Airport Hotel July 31st-August 3rd. • Barry is working on a tour of Jean Weingarten School for the Deaf. It is in Redwood City and would include lunch. He is thinking Monday May 13th. He has confirmed with the school. • The Irish Parade will be Saturday March 16th at 11:30 am. They need cars. • The Greek parade will be Sunday April 7th at the Civic Center. Walter will have more information in April's **Choke Rod**. • Saturday April 6th will be the tour of the Nike missile site. The tour will be in the morning, then lunch later.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: No report

Editor: There was an article in the March **Choke Rod** about longtime member Lester Kling. Barry read a card that his widow Jean sent us.

Tour Chair: John reported that he is looking for ways to streamline the crab feed. Registration needs names of all guests. Lots of help on Friday and Saturday make a difference. The feed went well and the raffle was a success.

For The Good Of The Order: No report

Mike Cuneen provided refreshments for the meeting. Gary Barrango will bring refreshments for the April meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be Thursday April 11 at the Monte Cristo Club at 7:30 pm.

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, April 11, 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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Insert:

Lincoln Highway Centennial Tour



www.sfmodelaclub.org

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
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415-621-0500

APRIL MEETING
Thursday April 11, 2013
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco