

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 57, Issue 9

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

September 2013

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Scott Williams

## Ironstone Friday-Sunday September 27-29

### Upcoming Tours

Sunday September 8 - Antique Autos - History Park, San Jose

Friday-Sunday September 27-29 - Ironstone Concours d'Elegance - Murphys, CA

Sunday October 13 - Columbus Day Parade - San Francisco

Sunday November 10 - Veterans Day Parade - San Francisco

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

## President's Message

### OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

Barry Kinney

#### VICE PRESIDENTS

Tom Escher

Gunard Mahl

Greg Martinez

#### SECRETARY

Joan Peterson

#### TREASURER

Jeanine Mahl

#### PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Barrango

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

This year our Christmas Banquet will be at Val's Restaurant and Lounge. Val's is in a convenient location in Daly City on Junipero Serra Boulevard with plenty of parking just off Highway 280. We will give more specific directions when we send out invitations for the event. The Party is on Saturday December 14, 2103. Activities start around 6 pm and go until we have had enough.



For most of us this means around 10 pm. I remember a time when we would adjourn around one in the morning.

Ironstone is on the horizon September 27-29. Remember, we leave on Friday and come home on Sunday. Saturday night we have our Club Get Together and dinner. It will probably be at the same country club location as last year. We still need to nail a few things down. All of our rooms are spoken for. So, if you didn't get a call confirming your reservation please call Walter or your hard working president.

Stuart Fong is working with the Cow Palace and the San Francisco Bulls Hockey team to have a joint hockey/car show on Sunday, March 20, 2014. If Stuart is able to pull it off it will be an interesting day. We struck out on our Giants Baseball Tour in August. I still find it hard to believe that we had so little interest. But, put a car show together with a sporting event and we could have a winner.

See you at the September 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*.



## Overnighter to Murphys Ironstone Concours d'Elegance

Friday - Sunday, September 27 - 29

By popular demand, for a seventh 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. If you reserve one of the Club rooms, you will be obligated for two nights. No exceptions.

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

**Tour Leader: Barry Kinney**

## Columbus Day Celebration 2013 Italian Heritage Parade Sunday October 13

San Francisco's 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Italian Heritage Parade on Sunday, October 13, as the City's oldest civic event and the nation's oldest Italian-American parade and community celebration, will wind its way from Fisherman's Wharf to North Beach. A San Francisco institution since it was established in 1868, the 2013 Parade is promising to be bigger, better, and more colorful than ever.

Highlights include dozens of handcrafted parade floats featuring Bay Area businesses, community groups, and Italian organizations; local high school Italian clubs and marching bands; special appearances by "Christopher Columbus" and Queen Isabella and Her Court; festive open-air dining and Italian wine and food specials at North Beach restaurants lining the Parade route; performances by a variety of traditional Italian musicians and performance artists; and special appearances by Bay Area and Italian-American celebrities. The Columbus Day celebration is local, lots of fun, and puts a few dollars in our treasury. If you are interested in being part of our contingent, contact Gary Barrango at 650-572-1142 or 415-821-2628.

Refreshments at the August meeting were provided by **Barry Kinney**

**John Bettencourt**  
will provide refreshments  
for the September meeting



## Lincoln Highway/Southwest US Tour September/October 2014

A Lincoln Highway/Southwest US tour is being planned for late September and early October of 2014. The Plan is to follow the Lincoln Highway as far as Kearney Nebraska and then turn South on I-35 through Kansas and Oklahoma and then West through Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Most of our tour will follow Highways 80, 8 and 10 but much of the tour will be on back roads through parts of the country you would never normally see or visit. The tour will take about two weeks and cover about three thousand miles. So, if you decide to come along, bring the most reliable vehicle you have and leave the Model A behind.

Like the Lincoln Highway Tour we did this year, you are welcome to do the entire tour or just the part that appeals to you. Highlights will include: Middlegate Station NV, Stokes Castle in Austin NV, Keyhole Bar in Eureka NV, Ibapah Trading Post in Ibapah UT, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, Virginian Hotel in Medicine Bow, Lincoln Theater and Plains Hotel in Cheyenne, Guthrie National Historic Site, Western Heritage Museum in OKC, Chickasaw Cultural Center, International UFO Research Center in Roswell NM, Historic Mesilla NM, War Eagles Air Museum NM and Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

The entire list of sites and stops is at least twice as long. Barry will be driving this route in October this year and he will have a detailed schedule prepared in time for our December meeting. An alternative route would be to turn West in Oklahoma City and come home over old Route 66. This would shorten the trip by about two days and 500 miles. If you are interested, call Barry at (415) 282-2789 and let him know which route you like best. He is open to suggestions.

**Tour Leader: Barry Kinney**



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



Kevin Richardson	September 11
Judy Obrien	September 13
Victoria A. Costa	September 15
Vincent Ryan Frueh	September 15
Jenny Jump	September 16
Dan Bowermaster	September 17
Christina DeMartini Reyes	September 22
Ken Kling	September 22

James & Daisy Young	September 18
Robert & Nina Petersen	September 28



The question has been asked many times. "Where can one find these wonderful Model A Era Fashions"? For the most part, they are found at local swap meets, antique shops, thrift shops, friends' and relatives' attics, basements, and occasionally from a want ad in the newspaper. To be more specific some swap meets are overrun with fashions, while others will only produce one or two items. The name of the game is persistence.

Prices vary from one dealer to another following a trend similar to those selling the car parts. A good rule of thumb for dresses, for instance, is daytime dresses of the light chiffon type usually should not be more than \$20. This sometimes may include a matching jacket. Evening gowns are more elegant, have a greater attraction, and therefore can demand a larger price. Try to stay within the \$25 to \$45 bracket unless it is very unusual design or material. Daytime coats of a basic straight cut will probably be in the neighborhood of \$20 to \$35 depending upon condition and trim. If there is a fur trim you can expect to pay up to \$50 and \$60, especially if the fur is fox or monkey. Evening capes on the other hand, depend more on the length. For instance a floor length velvet cape without a fur collar may be found for \$25 to \$35, in good condition. While any kind of fur calls for a price up to \$50, short evening capes, usually velvet, can be purchased for as little as \$20 to \$25, in a variety of colors. Sport clothes are the most difficult fashion to locate, mainly because they were worn often and deteriorated quickly. It is difficult to set a price on this type of item because so much depends upon condition at time of purchase. Let your check book be your guide.

As many of you may attest, shoes are one of the most difficult items to find. Especially for the "big of foot". Why did every lady in our era have such tiny feet? Here again, condition and fit will dictate price. A good rule to depend on is: shoes in first rate condition will cost between \$12.50 and \$15. This applies to daytime as well as evening footwear.

Accessories are a whole department of their own. Beaded purses have gone completely out of sight. Anything under \$20 in good condition is unheard of. Grab it, if you find any in this price bracket. Don't worry about the color, someday you'll find a dress or ensemble to go with that particular purse. As far as other jewelry and accessory items are concerned, they vary greatly in price, therefore it wouldn't be fair to give estimates. Again, it's what you desire and what you are willing to pay.

Men's clothing is in a completely different category. For instance, tuxedos can run from \$15 to \$50 depending on not only condition, but whether they are the single breasted variety or the more formal tails, including matching vest. Here again it's only what the "traffic will bear". Be sure the suit fits; it will be worth the money,

whatever the price. When you wear such an outfit to a banquet and sit for several hours, the worst thing in the world is to be poured into a very uncomfortable coat, vest and trousers-not to mention the ever present "stiff wing collar". Heaven forbid. Shop wisely! A conventional business suit with or without a vest can run from \$18 to \$30, again depending on condition. As for shoes they will vary from \$10 to \$25 for the harder to find two-toned sport styles.

Hats can be a bigger expense. Silk top hats run up to \$75 while the straw boaters worn by many are generally around \$25. Bowlers (Derby) vary from \$20 to \$35. Accessories for men are still quite easily found starting from \$1 to \$10 depending on the item and rarity. Keep your eyes open at the thrift shops.

Back to the sources of these much desired items. In most large cities there is an organization known as Junior Women's League. Their thrift shops are listed in the telephone book. They keep our special needs in the "back room" but don't be afraid to ask for them. You'll find the ladies most cordial and helpful. Seek out the lady in charge for the day (manager) and ask for the 20's and 30's clothes. You may go so far as to say "flapper", only to identify the era. If the lady is knowledgeable she will know what you are talking about. In fact it might be a good idea to take some pictures along, from the magazines and newspapers of the era. Don't depend on them remembering the era themselves because this organization only allows membership through age 35. So unless they are up on their fashions they will only know our era by "flapper", which, as we all know, is too early. However, this may be a necessary term for educational purposes only.

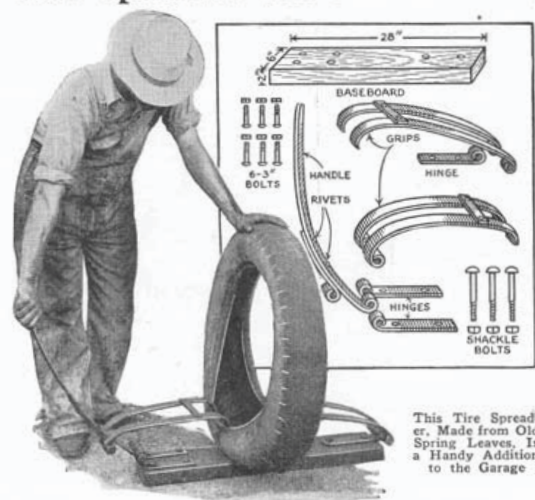
Once you have located a good source, regardless of location, keep the "door open". Check with the manager or owner often. New shipments arrive periodically. Once you establish your willingness to pay the going price and show you are genuinely interested, they will call you first before displaying the items. Sometimes it is necessary to buy a large bulk allotment in order to retrieve a few choice garments. Believe me, this is well worth the extra effort because you are building rapport with your contact. You can always sell the unwanted items at the next swap meet. This is also a marvelous way to up-grade your present wardrobe.

Long gone are the days when one could stroll into a "Ladies Ready to Wear" shop and select any of the lovely creations pictured in our illustration. This may be helpful, however, to identify that special little something for the next fashion show. Study the picture carefully. Good Luck and Happy Hunting!



# How They Got The Job Done In The "Old Days" Automotive tips from Popular Mechanics Shop Notes 1930

## Tire Spreader for Small Garage Is Portable



This Tire Spreader, Made from Old Spring Leaves, Is a Handy Addition to the Garage

Made from the leaves of an old car spring, this portable tire spreader will be found useful in the small garage. Four

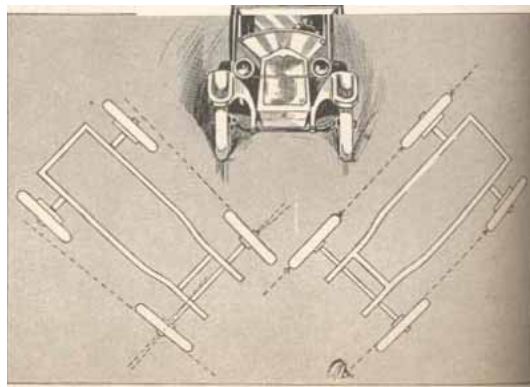
of the leaves are formed to make two grips, an eye being bent on one end of each leaf to take a shackle bolt, which serves as a hinge pin, while the other end is bent to form a hook. One of the grips is hinged to one end of a suitable baseboard by means of a short leaf, and the other grip is hinged to a handle, also made from one of the longer spring leaves, which is in turn hinged to the base between two shorter leaves, as indicated. In use, the tire is set on the baseboard, and the grips hooked over the beads. By pushing down on the handle, the tire is opened with little effort. If desired, the spreader may be mounted on a bench, or it can be carried about.—Archie S. Welch, Springfield, Ohio.

## C-Clamps Speed Tire Mounting

When mounting a tire on a drop-center rim, a C-clamp will be found useful for squeezing one side of the tire so that it slips freely into the center of the rim. This method of mounting is especially helpful with new tires, or with tires of the larger sizes.

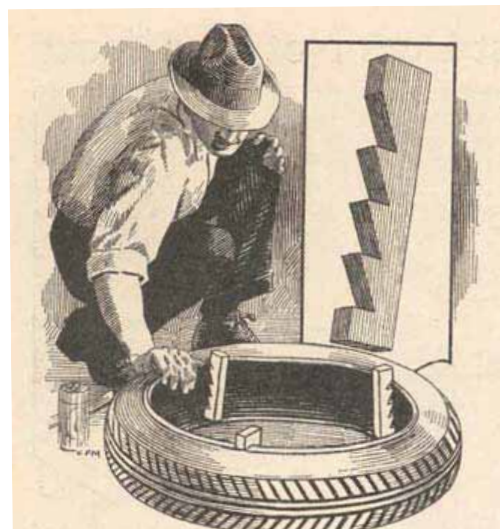


Thousands of cars are losing from 5 to 20 per cent of their efficiency because the front wheels are not in alignment, and this condition also causes excessive wear on the tires. Trouble also is experienced from too much "camber," a term which indicates that the front wheels are leaning out at the top. This has the effect of reducing the strain on the "stub," or steering, axles in a vertical direction, and in the direction of thrust. When the axles are cambered in this way, they would, if unrestricted, run in circles. With the usual 3 to 5° of camber, the circles would be large, but circles none the less. You can picture the circle if you imagine the axle continued down to the ground in a case of excessive camber. If you care to make a simple experiment you can demonstrate this readily. Stick a long axle through a wheel, and try to roll it along on a straight line while leaning it over to one side. You will find that you can only do this by dragging it sideways unless you set the axle at an angle to the line you wish to roll it, which is not the 90° angle of a vertical wheel. This experiment shows that as the wheels are cambered in opposite directions, the angles of the wheels will also be opposite, and the result will be that they will be "toed in." Although this condition is necessary, you cannot be generous by giving more, to get better results. That would be as bad an error as too little. Wheels should be toed in not more than 3/4 in. each for best results. In a test, an electric car would make 82 miles on a freshly charged battery, the result being accurately checked on meters, while a maximum of only 62 miles could be obtained if the front wheels were set perfectly parallel instead of toeing them in. If you suspect a wobble in a wheel, jack it up and spin it around, using a piece



If the Front Wheels of Your Car Are Not "Toed In" Properly, Loss of Power and Excessive Tire Wear Will Result

of chalk to mark the high spots. The detail at the left side of the drawing shows the front wheels toed in about three times the normal distance. The left side of the right-hand detail shows the front wheel lined up true with the rear wheel, and the right side the correct angle of toeing in the front wheel. The dotted line passing along the inside edge of the front wheel and ending at the center point of the rear wheel. Sighting along the wheels can be resorted to if a straightedge is not available.—R. W. Youngash, Vancouver, Canada



Spaced at Equal Intervals, Three Wooden Blocks Hold Auto Casing Open When Examining Inside for Tacks

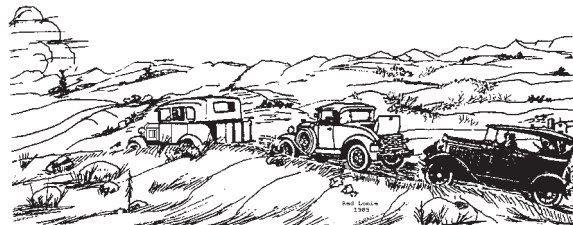
## Notched Blocks for Holding Casing Open for Inspection

When inspecting the inside of an auto casing for tacks or other sharp objects, three wooden blocks, notched as shown, will be found useful in holding the casing open. In use, the blocks are set against one edge of the casing while the other edge is held in the notches.

*Peter Crosby*

## 2013 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

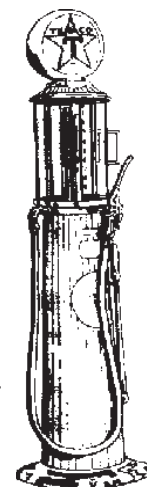


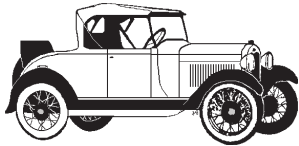
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	27	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH
FEBRUARY	2 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
APRIL	6 SATURDAY	CAPLAN	NIKE MISSILE SITE - MARIN COUNTY
APRIL	7	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	GREEK CULTURAL & FESTIVAL - CIVIC CTR, SF
APRIL	27-28	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM 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
SEPT	8	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	27-29	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
SEPT	29	MAHL	38 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 28 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
OCT	13	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE
OCT	19 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC IN GOLDEN GATE PARK
NOV	10	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 - VAL'S - DALY CITY

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
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 - <a href="http://www.ncrgmafca.com">www.ncrgmafca.com</a>
Sep 3-8	Northwest Regional Group Meet - Bend Oregon
Dec 4-8	MAFCA Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet, San Antonio, Texas





**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America  
August 8, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Barry Kinney. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** Ray Zahand has a Model A for sale. The car is apart. See the August **Choke Rod** for details. • There are no rooms left for the Murphys Motel. Rooms have been reserved for Caplan, Kinney, Chiotti, Kascal, Fong, and Calabrese. There is one room reserved in Angel's Camp for Chris Thompson. • The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday December 14th at Val's Restaurant and Lounge on Junipero Serra Boulevard in Daly City, just off I-280. • Stuart Fong is working on a car show/hockey game at the Cow Palace with the San Francisco Bulls Hockey team on Sunday, March 20, 2014. • Barry passed out information on the Lincoln Highway Tour he has proposed for next year. • The 28th Avenue Block Party will be September 29th.

**Vice President:** No report

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** Jeanine gave Val's a \$200 deposit for the Christmas Banquet. • She also paid some bills and had expenses for office supplies. • Gunard moved and Barry seconded the motion that we transfer \$1,000 from the Crab Feed Account to the General Account. The motion passed and Jeanine will transfer the money. • We have about 42 paid members. Barry will try to collect one of the outstanding balances.

**Editor:** The Pride Parade was well attended and the picnic was fun.

**Tour Chair:** The Columbus Day Parade will be Sunday October 13th.

**For The Good Of The Order:** No report.

Barry brought his oil company patch collection for the club to look at.

Barry Kinney brought refreshments. John Bettencourt will bring refreshments for the September meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday September 12 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, September 12, 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.



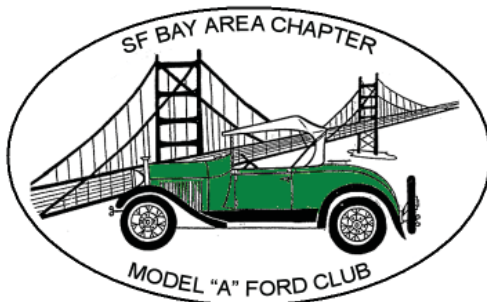
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[www.sfmodelaclub.org](http://www.sfmodelaclub.org)

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Model A Ford Club of America  
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415-621-0500

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
**Thursday September 12, 2013**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**