

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 58, Issue 12

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

December 2014

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Dave & Marilyn Chiotti

Columbus Day Parade

see pages 4 - 6

Upcoming Tours

Saturday December 6 - Brave the Bay - Aquatic Park, San Francisco

Saturday December 13 - Christmas Banquet - Val's Restaurant, Daly City

Sunday January 11, 2015 - President's Brunch - San Francisco Presidio

Saturday February 21, 2015 - Annual Crab Feed - Monte Cristo Club, 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

We are at the end of another year. Looking back at the year, the high point had to be our tour by train and automobile to Dearborn and the Henry Ford. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Other tours, closer to home included the Walking Tour of China Town with Russell Lee, the Crab Feed and our 2013 Christmas Banquet. This year the Christmas Banquet will be just as grand so bring friends and family. I understand that Santa will make an appearance with gifts for one and all.



Our election went off without a hitch. Your board is a good one, hard working and dedicated to making our 2015 year just as wonderful as this year has been. Jeanine has put our books in good order, Gunard helps steer the ship, Joan crossed all the T's and dotted all the i's, Walter and Scott produce an award winning newsletter, and John and Gary cooked up another wonderful Crab Feed and the rest of us do our best to back them up. Thanks to everyone in our Model A Club family who worked to make this year successful.

The President's Brunch will be in January. I am making plans for a short guided historic tour of the Presidio followed by a brunch at the Presidio Officers Club (see page 3 for details). The date is Sunday January 11, 2015. Reserve the date. I will let you in on the details as soon as I can.

See you at the Christmas Banquet on Saturday December 13,

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*.

Brave The Bay Saturday December 6 Aquatic Park

On Saturday December 6 we will join Brave the Bay (formerly known as the SFPD Cable Car Pull) at Aquatic Park, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Jeanine Mahl will be there to present our club donation to Make-A-Wish. Club members should bring their Model A's, breakfast at the Buena Vista Cafe, and join the morning activities.

<http://sf.wish.org/news-and-events/calendar-of-events/internal-events/sfpd-challenge>

Crab Feed

at the Monte Cristo Club
Saturday February 21, 2015

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
\$55 per person

Look for the reservation form
in this issue of the **Choke Rod**.

Limited to the first 250 paid reservations - no exceptions



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Donald Parsons	December 2
David Berelson	December 6
Melanie Marie Patsel	December 9
Steve Karr	December 14
Frank O'Brien	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

Christmas Banquet

Our Christmas Banquet will be full of fun and excitement. There will be a gift exchange and a raffle you won't want to miss. Jenny promises to provide fancy table decorations as well as party favors. Along with your unwrapped children's gift for Toys for Tots, bring a fun, funky, or fabulous wrapped gift. Bring a gift to get a gift. Use your imagination: what kind of treasure can you find for \$10 or less?

The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday, December 13 at Val's Restaurant in Daly City.

For details see the insert in this month's **Choke Rod**.

President's Brunch

Sunday January 11, 2015

Tour of the Presidio

Meet at the main post parking area adjacent to the Presidio Officer's Club at 9:30 am. We will begin with a running board breakfast, followed at 10 am by a walking and drive tour of the Presidio. After our tour, we will explore the newly-restored Presidio Officer's Club, San Francisco's most historic building. And then to top it all off we will brunch at 12 noon at Arguello, the exciting new Mexican restaurant located in the Officer's Club (created by award-winning chef Traci Des Jardins).

Please RSVP to Barry Kinney (415) 282-2789.

Club Officers for 2015

Elections for the 2015 officers were held at the November Meeting on Thursday November 13.

The officers for 2015 are:

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 **Jeanine Mahl**



The SF Model A Club
will provide dessert
at the Christmas Banquet.

Columbus Day Parade

In 1934 President Roosevelt proposed that the second Monday in October be designated Christopher Columbus Day in honor of the man who discovered the New World. Congress enacted the proposal and in 1970 the second Monday in October was declared a National Holiday. Columbus deserves to be honored. He was the Neil Armstrong of his day. He was an outstanding Leader, mathematician, and navigator. He knew the odds; he had the skills; he took the risk; and he discovered America. Since 1934, Columbus Day has taken on several meanings. In San Francisco the day has been chosen to honor American citizens of Italian Heritage and to celebrate loyalty to a Nation and social progress.

This year, as in most years, Columbus Day is celebrated in conjunction with Fleet Week, the Blue Angels, and tours of the newest Navy ships. Why? Because the founding of the United States Navy was on October 13, 1775. So we get a two-for-one weekend.

The Columbus Day Parade is where we join in. Our Club helps promote the Young Men's Institute (YMI). The Young Men's Institute is a fraternal organization founded in 1883 at Saint Joseph's Hall near 10th and Howard Streets. Their mission is to promote mutual aid and loyalty to the country. There are thousands of members worldwide. Each year we field four to six Model A's and several additional Club cars. We start the celebration in the staging area with fresh foccacia, prosciutto and melon, and several great wines provided by Paula and Bob Fiorito. Bob and Paula are our sponsors. They secure our position in the parade and provide pre-parade food and wine. Each car is decorated with balloons in Italian colors (red, white, and green), Italian flags, and magnetic signs promoting YMI. We are happy and colorful.

The parade starts at noon and winds through Fisherman's Wharf and then up Columbus Street to Washington Square. A crowd of people line the sidewalks. Linen covered tables extend across the sidewalks and into the streets leaving one lane open for the parade to pass. The atmosphere is electric and all Italian. Some of the dignitaries present include Christopher Columbus, Emperor Norton, and I think I saw queen Isabella.



Food fills the tables and wine flows like water. One San Francisco Police officer commented as we drove by, "This is the only time and place that drinking and driving is permitted." The truth is that none of the drivers were drinkers and most of the glasses we held were for the cameras. I can't say as much for the passengers. Some in my car got a little sideways before the parade was over.

Since I spent some time discussing wine, it is appropriate that I finish with a toast. Here is to the people who made the day - the Angels overhead - Here is to the people who lined the route with flags of green and red - Here is to the old people who drive the cars and went home straight to bed!

It was a good time.

Barry Kinney



Photos by Dave and Marilyn Chiotti





Veterans Day Parade

Every year in November the San Francisco Model A Club joins the Veterans Day Parade. Every parade has a different personality. This one is respectful and patriotic. The day is designed to honor our veterans, living and dead, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. We all know that, right? What we tend to forget is that this day was originally set aside to celebrate the end of WWI, the war to end all wars. It was called Armistice Day and it was not a national holiday. Veterans Day is always celebrated on November 11. Why? Because WWI officially ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in the year 1918. It was not until May of 1954 that Republican President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill approved by both houses of Congress making Veterans Day a National Holiday.

Our contingent of three Model A Fords and one vintage Cadillac joined the parade just behind the KSFO Van and a group of about fifteen Studebakers. The day was sunny and bright; a perfect day for a stroll down Market Street. The crowd was light but enthusiastic. The Veterans Day Parade had a little more flair when the Army still ran the Presidio and the high schools had not ended their ROTC Programs. Still, it was a good day and we all enjoyed the parade. Following the parade we had lunch on West Portal at the Bulls Head Restaurant. We had a little lively conversation over beef and buffalo and then headed for home - a job well done.

Barry Kinney

The Weingarten Children's Center Gala Benefit Dinner

My wife and I were invited to attend the Weingarten Children's Center's Gala Benefit Dinner on Saturday November 15, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara. We attended on behalf of the Model A Ford Club. The event was to thank those groups and institutions who had contributed to the success of the Weingarten School for the Deaf this year. As you know, the San Francisco Model A Ford Club donated a portion of the funds raised from the Crab Feed to the school. The Benefit Gala is one of several yearly events designed to raise scholarship money for the Weingarten Children's Center.

The event was Black Tie. So, we put on our finest duds and joined the group at the Hyatt Regency. We were welcomed by Kathy Sussman, the executive director, and invited to sit with Board Member and supporter Jerry Nieto and his wife Andrea.

The school has transitioned from the Weingarten Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf to the Weingarten Children's Center (WCC). The new brand designed to keep "Children" as its center with a never wavering commitment to teach children who are deaf to listen with the newest hearing technology and to learn to speak for themselves and to support their families on the journey.

There is no greater gift for those who are deaf than the ability to hear. Without hearing there is no vocal communication. Without the ability to hear and speak success in life is limited. Hearing with the aid of a Cochlear implant will allow a deaf child to mainstream and opens the doors to successful lives and careers.

Our contribution, although relatively small, is treasured, appreciated, and not taken for granted. Our donation along others helps the WCC continue the tradition of never turning a deaf child away for lack of funding. We, the San Francisco Model A Club, can include ourselves in a growing family of proud supporters and donors.

For more information about the school or to inquire about sponsorships call the Weingarten Children's Center at (650) 365-7500.

Barry & Coragene





It seems appropriate to submit a follow-up column to the March-April '78 issue featuring "Reproductions". Many interested members have requested the patterns mentioned, and this has opened another door to the Model A fashion mood. The exchange and follow-through has been both fun and rewarding as well as introducing us to many new enthusiasts. A warm friendship has developed in our correspondence and one in particular has even gone to the extent of recording her adventure on film and is willing to share with all of you. This generous and delightful member is Mickie Parr of Maple Park, Illinois who gave many first

hand suggestions in the May June '78 issue. Sharing is nothing new in the Model A hobby as evidenced by the many parts that make the rounds in local chapters. In the same spirit, Mickie is contributing her adventure with "Reproductions." The following are her descriptions of the actual frock pictured:

Pattern #6123-1930. "I used a blue sheer print over blue solid, making it double weight, thus creating a self slip. However, an additional slip may be worn to give the complete ensemble a more finished look. The material is polyester with a silk chiffon texture. The waist is straight, with a loose fitting effect, but features a girdle in the back, complete with tie, which gives that close fit at the hip line. It also creates the blouse with fullness over the girdle top. The skirt is attached to the bottom of the girdle, cut on the bias, allowing a free flowing mood. My hat is a blue straw stroller worn with elbow length white gloves, white pearl type purse and white T-strap shoes. The clear crystal jewelry completes the outfit."



Pattern #6148-1930. "The major garment, coat and skirt are designed in linen like cotton with a smart brown fleck accented with brown buttons used in the front closure. Tan and brown printed polyester is featured in the blouse and coat lining. The cream felt hat picks up the brown fleck in the suit with a brown stitching, along with the brown leather envelope purse, brown shoes, brown parasol and beige cotton gloves. My pearl necklace and earrings present the finishing touches, along with the brown leather hat box to indicate my anticipated trip in our 1930 Model A Coupe."

Pattern #6405-1930. "This blue polyester/cotton blend has . a slight stripe to give it a similar look to the one shown in the picture on the pattern. The blue and white buttons have an older look which accompanies the pearl button on the self belt."

Mickie goes on to say, "In all of my reproductions, I sought to obtain not original, but original looking! I look for material that will be durable, washable, and perma-press so I can look forward to many wearings for years to come. I also get much satisfaction from finding right from the stores today for my reproductions, as much as the antique stores for my originals."

Model A Backfiring



Question:

My Model A is running a little rough with a lot of backfiring when you step on the accelerator. Can you give me some idea where to start looking?

Ever ask yourself this question? — I have!! Les Andrews provides some tips you may want to consider to eliminate this problem.

Answer:

Back firing is usually caused by the condenser failing, or the points may not have sufficient gap. Make sure they are set at .018 to .020". Make sure they are not burnt.

Backfiring can be caused by intermittent firing of the ignition system or very lean fuel mixture. If the car has been setting for a while, the carburetor float valve may be sticking. Clean the float valve good and set the float level. Backfiring due to intermittent ignition can be caused by a frayed wire on the bottom side of the distributor plate or by intermittent connection of the ignition switch.

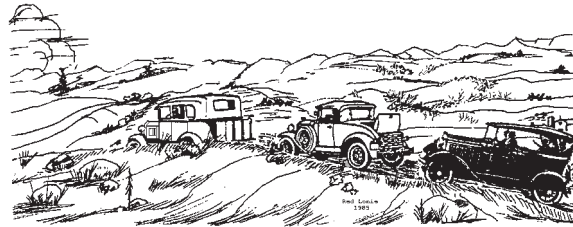
Potential Solutions:

1. Check point setting first.
2. Replace condenser next (unless you are using modern points). Make sure the condenser you buy is the right length (some are too short), and make sure that it is good quality.
3. Check that the carburetor float valve is operating correctly.
4. Sometimes the pop out type ignition switches get intermittent. As a last resort, replace the ignition switch/cable.
5. Check the GAV to make sure it is not set too lean

Steve Owsley

2014 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

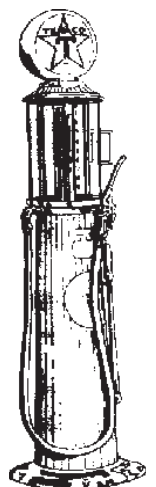


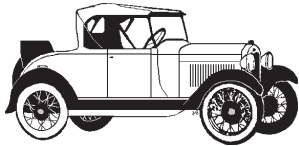
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	12	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH
FEB	8 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	15 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
APRIL	13	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	MYSTERY TOUR - MYSTERY LOCATION
APRIL	27	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	4-5	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
MAY	18	KINNEY	FRIENDSHIP DAY - REDWOOD CITY
MAY	26 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	14 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	17-21	KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY TOUR
JUNE	29	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
AUG - SEPT	30-7	KINNEY	GREAT MICHIGAN FORD TRAIN TOUR
SEPT	14	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	20 SATURDAY	MAHL	38 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
SEPT	26-28	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	12	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE
NOV	9	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	6 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DEC	13 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.

2015 Schedule of Events

Jan 11	SF Model A Club President's Brunch - San Francisco Presidio
Jan 24-25	Turlock Swap Meet
Feb 21	SF Model A Club Annual Crab Feed
May 22-25	NCRG Roundup Sacramento hosted by the Capitol A's - www.ncrgmafca.com
June 7-12	MAFCA National Tour, Lobsters and Lighthouses of Maine, host Pine Tree A's
June 19-24	MAFCA National Convention, Loveland, CO, hosted by Model A Ford Club of Colorado





**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
November 13, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Barry Kinney. We had one guest Ralph Hoffschmidt, a perspective member. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

President: Barry reported that we need to include a coat hanger in our tool box. ♦ The same officers as last year were voted in again. The list is on page 3 of the November Choke Rod. ♦ The dues for next year are \$35. You can add more if you wish to donate to MAFFI. ♦ We need donations for the Crab Feed raffle. ♦ The Christmas party will be Saturday December 13th at Val's in Daly City. ♦ Saturday December 6th is the breakfast at the Buena Vista Cafe. We will meet there at 9 am. This is for the Make-A-Wish event. We already gave them our donation. ♦ The President's Brunch will be Sunday January 11th. There will be a walking tour of the Presidio before the brunch. It was suggested that we try Arguello, the Mexican restaurant at the newly restored Presidio Officers Club. ♦ Barry brought CD's for us to watch after the meeting.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Our bank accounts are in good shape. ♦ We received a donation of \$50 from the Klings, as a thank you for the Model A we brought to the wedding.

Editor: We will be accepting toys for tots at the Christmas party. Bring an unwrapped gift. ♦ We had a good turnout for the Veterans Day Parade. We were near the front. ♦ Santa will be coming to the Christmas party. ♦ Walter is taking a survey as to what kind of Model A's people in our club own. ♦ Barry brought in the Bent Rod Award for people to look at, however he still is the custodian of it for now.

Tour Chair: No report

For The Good Of The Order: No report

Jeanine Mahl brought refreshments. The SF Model A Club will bring refreshments for the Christmas Banquet. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. We then watched a movie. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday January 8 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, January 8, 2014

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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Holiday Party
Along with your unwrapped children's gift,
bring a fun, funky or fabulous wrapped
gift. Bring a gift to get a gift. Use
your imagination! What kind of a
treasure can you find for \$10 or less?



Inserts:

- Christmas Banquet Information
- Christmas Banquet Reservation Form
- 2015 Membership Renewal Form
- 2015 Crab Feed Reservation Form



San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
PO Box 31387
San Francisco, CA 94131-0387
415-621-0500

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*



JANUARY MEETING
Thursday January 8, 2015
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco

RENEW NOW
see Insert for
2015 Membership Form
Deadline: January 31