

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 59, Issue 4

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

April 2015

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by ARKANSASSY CREATIVE STUDIO

## I Scream, You Scream, ...

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### Upcoming Tours

Sunday, April 12 - Swanton Railroad Tour - Davenport, CA

Sunday, April 26 - Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay, CA

Sunday, May 17 - Friendship Day - Redwood City, CA - CANCELLED

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day Observance - Presidio of San Francisco

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

## President's Message

### OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

Barry Kinney

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Gunard Mahl

Greg Martinez

#### SECRETARY

Joan Peterson

#### TREASURER

Jeanine Mahl

#### 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](mailto: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 missed a few activities around town last month. We let Saint Patrick's Day slip by without celebration. We were so focused on the Crab Feed in February that the month of March was not on the radar. Following the event we suffered a little post traumatic stress and a few strained muscles. Speaking for myself, a parade down Market Street was about as appealing as a climb up Sutro Tower. All that said, we are back on the road in April. John Bettencourt is leading a tour to the Swanton Pacific Railroad Park.



On April 12 the Park is celebrating, "Al Smith Day". Al donated the land and with the help of Cal Poly restored the trains that were built for the 1915 World's Fair and made them available to the public on 3200 acres of land near Davenport on Highway 1. The park has limited the number of entrants. Applications are on a first-come basis. Early applicants will be guaranteed entrance. John submitted the names of everyone who contacted him prior to April 23, 2013. If you did not contact Walter, Barry, or John prior to April 23, contact Walter for an application as soon as possible.

I had to abandon/postpone the tour to Los Angeles. The Peterson Museum tells me that remodeling will not be completed until December of this year or January of next year. I want to time this trip so that we can visit all of the major car museums and the Getty in one weekend. It looks like early March may be the best time to take the train to Los Angeles.

See you at the meeting.

*Barry Kinney*

The San Francisco Model "A" Ford Club encourages membership in MAFCA, the National Model "A" Ford Club. Benefits include an excellent bi-monthly publication, *The Restorer*, providing technical information and free liability insurance when participating in Club Events.

#### **MAFCA**

Model A Ford Club of America, Inc.  
250 South Cypress Street  
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*.

## Memorial Day Observance at historic San Francisco Presidio Monday, May 25

The Mayor's 2015 Memorial Day Citizen's Committee has invited the SF Model A Club to be part of the official City & County's 147<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day observance. The traditional event will be held at the Presidio National Cemetery. We have been asked to display our pre-WWII vehicles at the Main Post at 9 am. The Parade will begin at 10:30 am, followed by the Formal Ceremony from 11 am to 12 noon. **The committee has set aside a special location at the ceremony site to park and exhibit our cars.** We will assemble at the Presidio Main Post for a running board breakfast at 9 am.

We will gather after the ceremony for lunch at the Presidio Golf Course Cafe.

Tour Leaders: Barry Kinney, RSVP 415-282-2789  
Walter Caplan, RSVP 415-753-3280

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## Pacific Coast Dream Machines Half Moon Bay Sunday April 26

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.

## Swanton Railroad Tour Davenport CA Sunday, April 12

John Bettencourt has been invited to attend the "Al Smith Day" celebration at the beautiful 3200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz county. The ranch is located about fifty-five miles from San Francisco on Highway 1 near the town of Davenport.

John has arranged to bring a limited number of guests with him.

The day will include a ride on one or more of the one-third scale Pacific-type steam locomotives built for the 1915 World's Fair here in San Francisco. The trains are 100 years old and still steaming.

Al Smith was the owner of Orchard Supply Hardware and the Swanton Pacific Ranch. Al, in conjunction with Cal Poly University, salvaged and restored these trains to working order. The ranch now sports miles of track, turntables, repair and restoration shops, meeting rooms and three working locomotives.

The day will include free rides on any of the locomotives, lectures on the history of the Fair and the locomotives, demonstrations of the power of steam, and the restoration of steam trains. A BBQ lunch will be served at 1:30 pm.

THE PLAN: Attendance will be limited. If you have already registered, great. If not, you missed the deadline.

- We will meet on the west side of Highway 280 at Highway 92 at 8 am for a running board breakfast of juice, coffee, and pastries. There is a small parking area adjacent to Crystal Springs Reservoir.

- The Tour will take us west on Highway 92 to Highway 1, and then south to Davenport. From Davenport we will travel up Swanton Road to the ranch, 55 miles in all.

- Your old car will be given priority parking. However, you can come in a modern car.

If you have questions call Walter at 415-621-0500.

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## Friendship Day 2015 - Sunday May 17 Mid Peninsula Old Time Auto Club CANCELLED - Location Unavailable Look for the return of this event next year.

Refreshments  
at the March meeting  
were provided by **Gary Barrango**

**Bob Faber and Thema Chun**  
will provide refreshments  
at the April meeting



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



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



## 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:

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

*Steve Owsley*

Reprinted from <http://www.tulsamodelaclub.com/model-a-backfiring/>

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## ... We All Scream for Ice Cream

In early March the Club was contacted by Jukie Sunshine regarding the use of a Model A Ford for a photo backdrop. Jukie was planning a theme 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for her close friend Shelby. The theme years were the thirties. Party goers were encouraged to dress in clothing appropriate to the period. The plan was to take pictures of friends and relatives in, on, and around the Model A. The party would be from 8 to 10 pm at the Ice Cream Bar in Cole Valley.



On the designated night, headlamps burning brightly, I drove down to Cole Valley to meet Jukie and her friends. I arrived a few minutes late. A crowd of about twenty people were on the sidewalk awaiting my arrival. There was no parking. I double parked in the street, in the dark, lights out. Cars, busses, and street traffic moved cautiously around my little Ford. There was a red carpet that extended from the door of the Ice Cream Bar to the curb. I pulled up as close to the red carpet as possible. A group of people surrounded the car. Some had come for the birthday party, others were regulars at the bar, and some just happened to be in the neighborhood. It was easy to tell the difference. Those who came for the party were dressed in thirties costume: hats, ties, stockings, garters – all accessorized to the excess.

The Ice Cream Bar has a Deco look. The bar, counters, lights and metal ceiling had been removed from a creamery in the Midwest, moved to San Francisco, and re-installed at this location on Cole Street. The floors are done in the small black and white hex tile typical of many commercial establishments of the thirties.

From 8 to 10 pm everyone had an opportunity to have their picture taken with the Model A. By the end of the evening the photographer had taken several hundred pictures of individuals and groups who posed with the car. It was a festive occasion and a family affair. The only alcohol served may have been some rum in the ice cream.

At about 10 pm I said good-bye to Jukie and her friends and left the party for home glad that I had attended – and that a Model A Ford had contributed in a significant way to the party's success.



*Barry Kinney*



# 1931

## Part Four of a Four-Part Series Featuring Ladies Fashion in Review in the Model A Era

Sophisticated elegance depicts the 1931 evening gown. Lovely scooped backs and miles of swathy yardage enhance the detailed creations displayed. Satin, velvet and pure silk are shown in a most effective manner. Unencumbered necklines leave the more elegant detailing to the side and back of the gown. Simple jewelry is added only to complete the desired effect. The floor length influence has continued from the previous season and is well on the way to becoming a permanent trend.

The “dicky” has come into play and may be found, not only in the style shown but also from plain pointed collars to rounded set-in collars. This new accessory is the answer to a creative trim that may be used from one frock to another, thus giving the illusion of a large wardrobe.

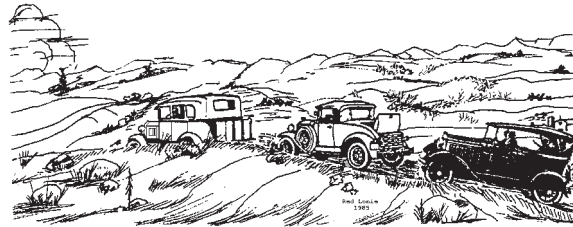
Two piece dresses have come into their own, with the belted waist over a straight skirt. Unusual trims give an interesting detailing effect and add much to an otherwise plain ensemble. Peplums are introduced into the fashion world this season, simple at first, later to be emphasized with a .much greater impact. Varied sleeve lines individualize a striking silhouette. The simple skirt falls fourteen inches from the floor.

A sport mood is offered with a varied picture of plaids mixed with solids; fur trimming on one coat while the other displays an interesting button detail accompanied by a leather belt. All the hats featured indicate a new trend which has come into vogue, small, off the face, many with a tiny brim.



## 2015 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

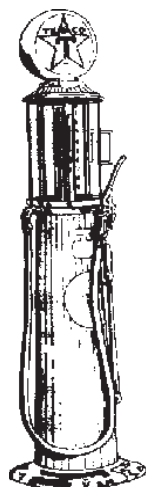


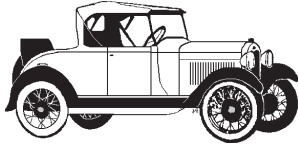
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	11	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
FEB	21 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	14 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
APRIL	19	JOHN BETTENCOURT	SWANTON PACIFIC RR TOUR - DAVENPORT, CA
APRIL	26	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	TBA	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
MAY	25 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	20 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE-JULY	27-8	KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY TOUR - DETROIT TO SF
JUNE	28	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
JULY	TBA	SF MODEL CLUB	MYSTERY TOUR - MYSTERY LOCATION
AUG	TBA	SF MODEL CLUB	MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR - MYSTERY LOCATION
SEPT	13	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	TBA	MAHL	39 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 28 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
SEPT	25-27	CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCT	11	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE
OCT	TBA SATURDAY	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
Nov	8	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE ON MARKET STREET
DEC	5 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DEC	12 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 - <a href="http://www.ncrgmafca.com">www.ncrgmafca.com</a>
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  
March 12, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Barry Kinney. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written. There were no guests.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** The Crab Feed was reviewed. Everything went well. There was some crab left, which was sold. This paid for the two dishwashers. Everyone had a nice time. Gary said it was a lot of work, but we will probably do it again next year. The raffle went well, we sold more tickets than last year. ♦ The train trip to Los Angeles has been postponed until January 28-31 of next year, due to the remodel of the Peterson Museum. ♦ We received a check of \$250 for our participation in the Columbus Day Parade.

**Vice President:** Gunard suggested that we have a dinner for our members.

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** Our club has one outstanding check written to the California Car Clubs. Jeanine also wrote out a check for the post office box rental. ♦ Jeanine has deposited the money from the crab feed and paid all the bills and reimbursements except one. We did well.

**Editor:** No report

**Tour Chair:** No report

**For The Good Of The Order:** There are still applications for the Easter Parade on March 5. ♦ Dream Machines is April 26. ♦ Memorial Day at the Presidio will be Monday May 25. We will meet at the Main Post at 9 am for a running board breakfast.

Gary Barrango brought refreshments. Bob Faber and Thema Chun will bring refreshments for the April meeting. We will watch a DVD on Highway Hangouts after the meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday April 9 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 9, 2015**

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



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

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

**APRIL MEETING**  
**Thursday April 9, 2015**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**

**RENEW NOW**

If you haven't already  
renewed, it's never too late.  
Do it now.