

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 59, Issue 6

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

June 2015

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Ralph Hoffschildt

## Memorial Day at the Presidio

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### Upcoming Tours

Thursday, June 11, 6 pm - Birthday BBQ Bash - Monte Cristo Club, San Francisco

Saturday, June 20 - Father's Day at St. Anne's Home - San Francisco

Sunday, June 28 - 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride 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](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

Last month the Club received an official announcement from our parent organization, MAFCA, recognizing the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter for reaching the age of fifty-five. We will celebrate our 55th birthday and our accomplishments as a club at our June meeting by sponsoring a BBQ dinner at the Monte Cristo Club. Everyone is invited.



I have been a member for about 30 years of the fifty-five and I know I would never have traveled the back roads to so many fascinating places or met so many wonderful people had it not been for the San Francisco Model A Club. We have had a lot of fun over the years and I think this is what holds us together.

Our club is relatively small but we have sponsored a number of outstanding events. Those events include a National Convention, four day car shows on Fisherman's Wharf, and very successful Crab Feed events at the Monte Cristo Club. We have made significant contributions to various charities and participated in more civic events, tours, and parades than I can remember.

Our most outstanding driving tours were to Canada, Death Valley, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Oregon Caves, and Mexico. Last year we did an outstanding Train Tour to Dearborn, the Henry Ford Museum and the National Model A Ford Museum on the grounds at Gilmore. These were ambitious tours that will forever remain in our memories.

We have done some wonderful things in the last 55 years and I know that the next 55 will be just as eventful and just as much fun as the previous 55.

See you at the BBQ.

*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*.

## Birthday BBQ Bash

Thursday, June 11 ~ 6 pm

Monte Cristo Club, San Francisco

Join us for a Birthday BBQ Bash as the San Francisco Model A Club celebrates it's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. The BBQ will be held at the Monte Cristo Club at 6 pm prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 7:30 pm.

If you plan to attend the Birthday BBQ Bash, you must RSVP Walter Caplan at 415.621.0500 no later than Monday June 8 so that we can ensure we have enough food for everyone who attends.

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## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Parade

Sunday June 28

It is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this distinctly San Francisco experience. Our contingent will be near the front of the parade and afterwards we will proceed UC Mission Bay for a picnic lunch provided by the club. If interested in driving your "A" in the Pride Parade, then contact Walter Caplan for more information at [whcaplan@comcast.net](mailto:whcaplan@comcast.net) or call 415-621-0500

Tour Leader: **Walter Caplan**

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## Overnighter to Murphys Ironstone Concours d'Elegance

Friday ~ Sunday, September 25 ~ 27

By popular demand, for a ninth year the Club is planning another fabulous 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**

## Father's Day at St. Anne's Home

Saturday June 20 ~ 2 pm

This year marks our thirteenth Annual Father's Day Gathering at St. Anne's Home with the Little Sisters of the Poor. Be a part of our celebration with the residents and staff of St. Anne's Home. Assemble at the Home at 1:30 pm for the event. Located at 300 Lake Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The residents at St. Anne's Home are eagerly anticipating our arrival on June 21<sup>st</sup>. It gives them great enjoyment to see and ride in our old cars. There will be an afternoon social with refreshments following the driving tours through the Presidio.

Tour Leader: **Barry Kinney**, RSVP 415-282-2789

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## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Walter Caplan	June 2
John Fioresi	June 7
Paul DeMartini Jr.	June 12
Marilyn Chiotti	June 18
Kenneth Wayne Patsel	June 19
Adam Rosenblat	June 26
Sean Sullivan	June 27
Rose Craig Jr.	June 29
Kevin Blaine Patsel	June 30

Adam & Colleen Rosenblat	June 2
Steve & Mary Karr	June 10
Greg & Casey Martinez	June 17
Daniel & Juanita Sullivan	June 19
Bob & Carol Costa	June 19
Paul & Maria DeMartini Jr.	June 25
Frank & Judy O'Brien	June 27
Donald & Linda Parsons	June 30

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Refreshments  
at the May meeting  
were provided by **Jeanine Mahl**

**The Club**  
will provide dessert  
at the June BBQ & meeting



# Memorial Day at the Presidio

Memorial Day honors those people who died while serving their country in the Armed Forces.

The first celebration of this type began in 1864 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The celebration in the Presidio is very much like the first one except that today we honor many more American heroes than were celebrated at Gettysburg.

The 2015 Memorial Day began at 9 am near the flagpole on the Parade Ground in front of the Presidio Officers Club. The flag is raised to full height and then lowered to rest at half mast.

The event begins with a Grand March from the Parade Ground into the National Cemetery. Marching units from local military schools, a Marine Corp Band, and veterans in full uniform, are formed into groups and are ushered into their place by parade organizers. By parade time there is a small gallery of onlookers, mostly veterans and their families. The band strikes up and we begin the short parade into the cemetery.

The cemetery is full of decoration. Flags of various sizes fly all 'round. We loop up through the cemetery and park our cars behind the spectator seating. Everyone seems to like the cars. We get a lot of thumbs-up gestures and photos. Old timers came by to swap stories about the fun they had riding in the rumble seat of the family Model A Ford or to ask "What year is it?"

The ceremony begins. Prayers are offered, there are patriotic songs and speeches honoring those who gave their lives for our country. The ceremony ends with a twenty-one gun salute and closing remarks. It was a wonderful day of remembrance. We were honored to play a part.

*Barry Kinney*



Photos by Ralph Hoffschild

# Happy Birthday to Us!

## Preserving the Model A for Fifty-Five Years



# Pacific Coast Dream Machines

From the sublime to the ridiculous, from beautifully restored and lovingly maintained classic cars to monster trucks jacked up so high that you can drain the oil pan without bending over, if it had an engine in it you could probably find it at Pacific Coast Dream Machines. The Half Moon Bay airport once again played host to the most eclectic collection vehicles you're ever likely to see. There was entertainment for everyone and every age: World War II era fighter planes performing flybys, biplane excursions, zip lining, monster truck rides, children in giant hamster balls, and of course cars and motorcycles of every vintage. Add in the obligatory food and drink vendors and there was definitely something for everyone.

*Scott Williams*





# Car Overheating or Pumping Water Out or Both?



By Roy Cail

Did you ever say the following: My engine continues to overheat. We have put on a new water pump, the radiator was “cleaned and soldered and filled”, but it still overheats. Not an abnormal thing, especially in the Oklahoma summers.

First lets define overheating. Is it steaming or just pumping water out the top? If its just pumping water out you may be over filling it — let the radiator find its own level. Each “A” seems to have its own level. As an example, in Kansas City I added water to our 1929 all the way to the top — I knew it was too full but it sure looked good!! When I started the car it promptly pumped out the excess water until it reached its normal operating level.

## **Suggestions:**

There are several things that can cause a Model A to overheat. The main cause is usually the radiator. First you can check to see if your radiator has 3 rows of tubes. Some of the older replacement radiators had only 2 rows. That will not provide sufficient cooling. If the radiator is old and has been in the car a long time, the fins of the radiator become loose and cannot dissipate the heat. Also, if the radiator is old and has been in the car a long time, calcium deposits in the radiator will reduce the cooling efficiency of the radiator.

Like many Model A owners we had to replace a radiator as once we got the car over 40 MPH it would get hot. The radiator had 3 tubes but only 6 fins per inch (normal) plus the flow rate was quite slow. The new core that was put on has 12 fins per inch plus they are crinkled to provide maximum cooling surface area. Replacing the radiator along with slowing the rate of flow (installed a Thermostat) stopped the overheating on our “A”.

Now let’s consider other potential causes of overheating. First make sure the timing is set correctly. Then make sure nothing is blocking the front of the radiator, like a license plate. If you have a new engine, it will sometimes run hot until it is broken in. There are several books and articles that have been written that will tell how to correctly set the timing. A blown head gasket can also cause overheating. Check for bubbles in the water at the filler neck. This may indicate a blown head gasket. Running your car too lean (Gas Adjustment Valve, GAV) can also contribute to your motor running hot. In this hot weather there can be many contributing factors.





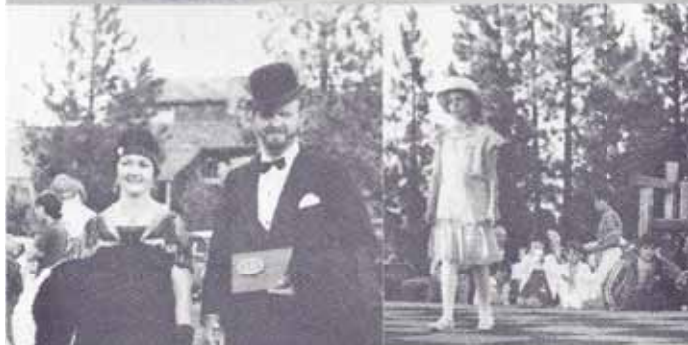
With the National Convention in Reno just around the corner, some of the active Junior and Senior Fashion Judges felt there needed to be some immediate changes and corrections in the current Judging Sheets that appear in the Fashion Standards available through National Headquarters.

The National Board gave their approval to have the original Fashion Committee proceed to evaluate the concerns. One of the main concerns was not having enough detailed information available for the contestant when the Judging Sheet is returned, to clarify the final scoring in each category. It is important that the contestants are informed of not only the final score but how it was determined, therefore, allowing them an opportunity to improve their outfit for the next show they enter.

It was also decided the number of points in the categories should be re-evaluated: The Major Garment carries a heavy point total and so does Overall Appearance, so, in order to balance these two important categories, it was decided to give them an equal point spread. Coordinated Apparel remained the same point allowance but greater explanation was included. This category has been one that has caused concern at several Meets in the past. Footwear is a category that needs definite and explicit interpretation because not only are shoes difficult to find, their condition is all important! Now that we have so many members interested in the area of Reproduction, it is important to include modern 'era' type shoes. Some members try desperately to always wear seamed silk hose (era) and it was felt they should be considered separately from the shoes in scoring. This category is now pretty well defined. Again, Head Gear was re-evaluated and the points split, giving extra consideration to contestants who have their hair in the era style, as well as wearing a hat. One instance where this is important is with evening wear. Since evening hats are next to impossible to find, the era hair style should receive more points than someone who does not attempt to complete their ensemble in this fashion. Under Accessories it is important the details be spelled out. It is not always the number of accessories worn, or carried, but are they appropriate and do they enhance the over-all appearance? This category needed further explanation.

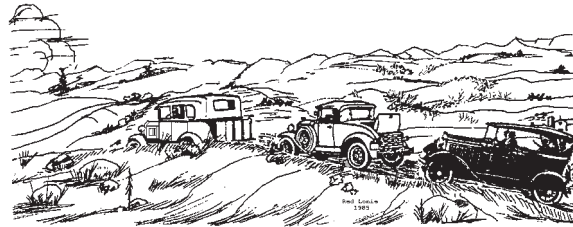
For all you members who are frantically getting your fashions together for the Convention, going over this 'Revised' Judging Sheet should help clarify some questions you may have, and assist in making your entry in the Fashion Show more fun; and after all that's what it's all about.

Reprinted from *The Restorer*, Mar-Apr 1979, Volume 24, Issue 6



## 2015 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

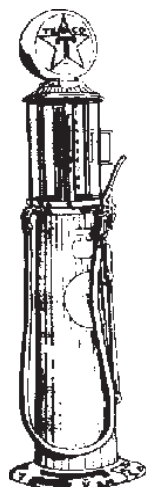


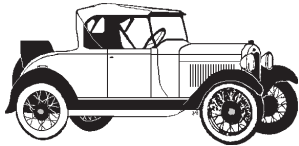
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	11	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
FEB	21 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	14 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
APRIL	19	JOHN BETTENCOURT	SWANTON PACIFIC RR TOUR - DAVENPORT, CA
APRIL	26	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	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  
May 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Barry Kinney. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written. There were no guests.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** The Swanton Railroad tour was enjoyed by all who went. We stopped and got fresh strawberries before the tour. The train ride was fun and there was an excellent BBQ afterwards. Ed Carnegie was annoyed that we did not bring any Model A's. ♦ The Memorial Day Parade at the Presidio will be Monday May 25th. We will meet near the flag at the main post at 9:30 am. The parade starts at 10:30 am. We will have lunch at the Presidio Golf Course Cafe afterwards. ♦ Friendship day has been cancelled this year.

**Vice President:** Gunard has been under the weather, but is feeling better now.

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** The \$100 check to the ACCC is still outstanding. They say they never got it and to resend it. Walter will void it and follow up on this. ♦ Jeanine wrote checks for Dragon Printing and some miscellaneous things. The club is solvent, and has no outstanding bills. ♦ The club has to decide what to give to charity this year. We will discuss at the next meeting. ♦ The club voted to become a lifetime member of the National Model A Museum. It will cost \$350. ♦ The club got a fancy certificate for being a member of MAFCA for 55 years.

**Editor:** Walter promises a new roster soon. ♦ Fathers Day at St. Anne's Home will be Saturday June 20th. Meet there at 1:30 pm. ♦ The Pride Parade will be Sunday June 28th. We are usually in the front of the parade. Meet South of Market at 9 am. We will have a catered lunch afterwards at Mission Bay.

**Food and Beverage Chair:** The club will host a BBQ at 6 pm Thursday June 11th at the Monte Cristo Club. We need volunteers for set-up and clean-up. You can bring your favorite beverage if you want.

**Tour Chair:** No report

**For The Good Of The Order:** The tri-motor airplane show at San Carlos Airport was a hit. The airplane rides were sold out. The Model A Club served as the ground crew. The El Camino A's brought cars for display. The Ford Motor Co. built tri-motors between 1927-1931. This was during the same time period that Ford built over 20 million Model A's.

Jeanine Mahl brought refreshments. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday June 11 at the Monte Cristo Club at 7:30 pm and will be preceded by the Club's Birthday BBQ Bash at 6 pm prior to the meeting. The Club will provide dessert for the BBQ

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, June 11, 2015**

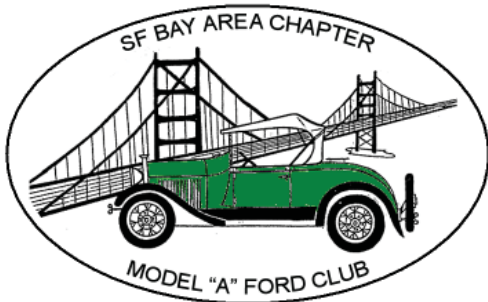
The Club will be celebrating it's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Birthday BBQ Bash at the Monte Cristo Club on Thursday, June 11 at 6 pm prior to the regular meeting.

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

**JUNE MEETING**  
**Thursday June 11, 2015**  
**Monte Cristo Club**  
**6 pm BBQ - 7:30 pm meeting**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**

**Birthday BBQ Bash**  
**Celebrate the Club's 55<sup>th</sup>**  
**birthday with a**  
**Birthday BBQ Bash.**  
**See page 3 for details.**