

THE

CHOKER

ROD

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 59, Issue 5

MAFCA Certificate of Merit 2005 through 2010

May 2015

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Scott Williams

Swanton Pacific Railroad

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Upcoming Tours

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

Sunday, June 21 - Father's Day at St. Anne's Home - San Francisco

Sunday, June 28 - 45th Annual Pride Parade - San Francisco

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

President's Message

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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 have some interesting activities coming in May:

Mark May 7 - 10 on your calendar. On Mother's Day weekend the Experimental Airplane Association's Tri-Motor airplane will be in at the San Carlos airport. Some of our club members have volunteered to serve on the ground crew. Come down, bring the Model A, and enjoy a ride back in time. Scenic rides over the Bay Area are being offered at \$75 for adults and \$50 for children. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Join us for a trip back in time on one of the few remaining Ford Tri-Motors in the world. Get a picture of your car with the Ford Tri-Motor in the background.

The second event is the Memorial Day Celebration in the Presidio. The date is Monday May 25. This is the one opportunity we have each year to honor those service members who fought and died for this country. So we will meet at the Parade Ground in front of the newly remodeled Officers Club at 9 am for a running board breakfast. The Grand March will start at 10:30 am. Don't forget to put a few flags on the old buggy. Following the ceremony we will reassemble at the Presidio Golf Course Café for lunch at 1 pm.

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

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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*.

Father's Day at St. Anne's Home Saturday June 21 – 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 4th and 5th Avenues. The residents at St. Anne's Home are eagerly anticipating our arrival on June 21st. 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

45th Annual Pride Parade Sunday June 28

It is the 45th 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 or call 415-621-0500

Tour Leader: **Walter Caplan**



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 147th 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 415-621-0500

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Mel Patsel	May 1
Dan Sullivan	May 6
Jean Kling	May 7
Fred Grafelman	May 9
Victoria Amber Martinez	May 10
Maria Rosario Young	May 14
Maria Victoria Young	May 19
Leonard Paul Young	May 29

Refreshments
at the April meeting
were provided by
Bob Faber and Thema Chun

Jeanine Mahl
will provide refreshments
at the May meeting



Al Smith Day at the Swanton Pacific Railroad

Swanton Pacific Ranch is a 3,200-acre (13 km²) ranch in Santa Cruz County, California, outside the town of Davenport just off of Highway 1. The ranch is owned and operated by California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) for educational and research in sustainable agriculture. The ranch encompasses rangeland, livestock and forestry operations for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and comprises a significant part of the community of Swanton.

In 1978 Albert B. Smith, president of Orchard Supply Hardware, acquired Swanton Pacific Ranch. Al was a railroad enthusiast and began collecting the steam locomotives and equipment from the 1915 Pan Pacific International Exposition Overfair Railway. With the help of many volunteers, he built the Swanton Pacific Railroad on his ranch. Al earned degrees in Crop Science and Agriculture Education from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Following a long teaching career at Campbell High School, he succeeded his father as President of Orchard Supply Hardware. In 1993, he donated the ranch to Cal Poly saying:

“Swanton is an uncrowded, beautiful place. My goal in putting this acreage together is to preserve it as such and to share it now and in the future with people who will appreciate it and profit from the experience.” - Albert B. Smith

The Swanton Pacific Railroad Society operates the historic one-third scale, 19-inch gauge, railroad at Swanton Pacific Ranch, which is located 15 miles north of Santa Cruz. The mile-long railroad lies along the Ocean Shore Railway right-of-way that was to run from San Francisco to Santa Cruz. The scenic trip, through a valley in the coastal mountains, crosses Scott Creek on the Ed Carnegie Bridge, passes a Christmas tree farm, and ends at a wye where passengers can observe railroad operations that turn the locomotive.

Each spring the Swanton Pacific Railroad Society hosts Al Smith Day, and honors the founder with a catered barbeque, unlimited train rides, live music, and historic displays. Club member John Bettencourt was invited to attend, and was good enough to arrange for fellow members of the San Francisco Model A Club to join him at this event.

We met Sunday morning April 19 at 8 am at the small parking area adjacent to Crystal Springs Reservoir for a running board breakfast. From there John led us west on Highway 92 to Half Moon Bay, and then south on Highway 1 to Swanton. We stopped briefly when we turned off highway 1 to purchase fresh strawberries, and then followed John several miles to Swanton Ranch. There we parked, were given our name tags, and walked on to the ranch grounds, passing a round house, turntable, car barn, machine shop, workshop, and displays of railroad equipment.

The site itself consists of a great meadow, rail station, a large area of picnic tables, and a stage from which live music was performed.

We all spread out – some viewed equipment, some immediately rode the train, and others scoped out a great spot in the picnic area for our group. Over the next several hours we did it all, rode the railroad, were served barbequed hors d’oeuvres, enjoyed a great barbeque lunch, and basked in the wonderful spring sunshine.

As could be predicted, a great time was had by all.

Walter Caplan





The Ammeter

by Tom Endy

The ammeter in a Model A Ford can be a very useful tool in a variety of situations that will signal to the driver the car's electrical status.

Whenever you park a Model A and are about to exit the car, glance at the ammeter, the needle should be pointing to zero. If instead it is pointing slightly to the left it is telling you that somewhere within the car there is some unauthorized current flowing that is going to drain the battery if you leave it that way long enough.

The cause may be the headlight or dome light switch is turned on. It is also possible the contacts in the generator cutout switch have stuck closed. Another possibility is the brake light switch is closed due to a weak spring in the switch. What ever is the cause you will become aware of it and can immediately address the problem instead of returning to find a dead battery.

When you first climb into the car to go for a drive before starting the engine press your foot on the brake pedal while observing the ammeter. The needle should deflect to the left. This is telling you that your brake light switch works and at least one of the bulbs is not burned out.



When you start the engine and rev it up past idle the ammeter should deflect some distance to the right. This is telling you the generator has taken over the car's electrical load and is also supplying charging current to the battery. If the needle stays at zero or deflects to the left it is telling you the generator is not working.

The ammeter can also be used as a gauge to set the generator output. This is accomplished by moving the third brush in the generator. Moving the brush changes the generator output voltage level and will determine the amount of charging current that flows to the battery. The procedure is to have the engine running at an rpm higher than idle with everything except the ignition turned off. The generator is then adjusted for a nominal 8-amp output as registered on the right side of the ammeter. Eight amps is considered nominal, but you can set it for whatever value suits your driving needs.

In 1929 Ford moved the black primary wire that runs to the ignition coil from the passenger side terminal of the junction box on the firewall to the driver's side terminal (reference service bulletin page 390, November 1929). The purpose of this change is to have the ignition current pass through the ammeter to provide a diagnostic tool when starting the engine. If for some reason the car refuses to start while cranking it over, observe the ammeter. The needle should be alternately moving from left to right past the zero mark. This is being caused by the ignition points opening and closing and it is telling you the ignition primary circuit is working correctly and the problem is elsewhere.

If you have replaced the generator with a modern alternator, which has a regulator, the ammeter will tell you a number of things. When you first start the car up and are rolling down the road the ammeter will more than likely be far to the right side of the zero mark. This is telling you the regulator in the alternator has determined that the battery needs significant charging to replace the power that was used by the starter to start the engine. After some period of time the needle will pull back to zero as the battery regains its full charge. If the needle remains far to the right for an excessive period of time it may be telling you that you may have a defect in the battery, such as a dead cell.

On a long trip the ammeter needle should be sitting on zero indicating that the battery is fully charged. However, it may also be an indication that the alternator is not working. An easy check is to momentarily turn the headlights on. If the alternator is working properly it will immediately pick up the additional load. You may see the ammeter needle flicker slightly, but it should remain on zero. This tells you the alternator is working. If the needle deflects to the right significantly and stays there it is telling you the alternator is not working and the battery has picked up the additional load.

The ammeter is a great tool. The more you pay attention to it the more you can determine what is going on with the electrical system.



Steve Owsley



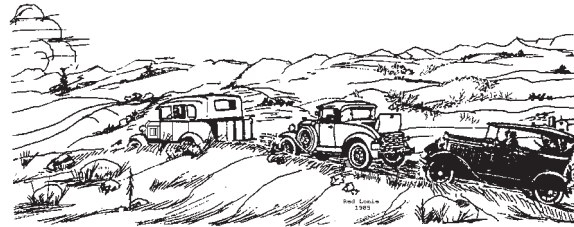
**FASHION SHOW WINNERS AT
1980 NATIONAL CONVENTION - RENO**

Here is a description of the winning era fashion outfits:

- BEST OF SHOW** Jennifer Jones (Children) - Pink party dress with matching coat and hat.
- CHILDREN** **First, Chris Franceschini** - Three-piece dark grey wool herringbone suit with matching cap.
Second, Walter Halstead - White linen play suit.
- TEENAGE** **First, Carrie Roos** - Lavender silk lace floor length prom dress.
Second, Melinda Meyers - Yellow georgette afternoon ensemble.
- FAMILY** **First, the Collins Family: Keith** - Dark blue pin stripe suit with fedora hat; **Barbara** - Embroidered flower dress with white hat; **Lisa** - Pink silk party dress; **Jason** - Light green era rompers.
Second, the Johnson Family: Glenn - White ice cream suit with straw boater; **Sharon** - Cream and light green dress with yellow and brown embroidered flowers and each wearing a straw hat; **Heather** - Pale green dress with handkerchief hem.

2015 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

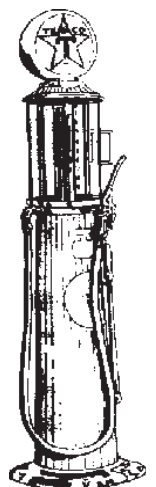


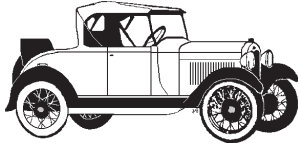
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	11	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
FEB	21 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	14 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
APRIL	19	JOHN BETTENCOURT	SWANTON PACIFIC RR TOUR - DAVENPORT, CA
APRIL	26	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	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 TH ANNUAL 28 TH 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 - 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
April 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by President Barry Kinney. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written. There was one guest, Jim Ryan, a friend of Gunard.

Reports of Officers

President: The Swanton Pacific Railroad Tour will be Sunday April 12. We will meet at 8 am at Highway 92 and Crystal Springs at the Park and Ride. There will be a running board breakfast. They will only let in 500 people, and the tour is sold out. This will be about a one hour drive to Davenport and Swanton. ♦ Memorial Day at the Presidio will be on Monday May 25. We will meet at the Parade Grounds. Later we will have lunch at the Presidio Golf Course Cafe.

Vice President: Gunard reported that on Saturday and Sunday May 9 and 10 there will be plane rides at San Carlos Airport.

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Jeanine gave the financial reports. ♦ Walter sent an e-mail to the Association of California Car Clubs, ACCC, asking them what happened to the \$100 check we sent them that has not been cashed. To date he has not had a reply. ♦ Walter will ask Scott to create a new club roster.

Editor: Walter reported that Barry took his Model A to Jukie Sunshine's 50th birthday party. Pictures were taken at an Art Deco ice cream parlor in Cole Valley which was brought into San Francisco and installed on Cole Street. The picture is on the cover of this month's Choke Rod.

Food and Beverage Chair: John Zuffi reported that we will have a dinner night at the Monte Cristo Club. It will be on a meeting night. It will be a BBQ on Thursday June 11 at 6 pm at the Monte Cristo Club

Tour Chair: No report

For The Good Of The Order: Charlie reported that he knows a guy with a '57 T-Bird for sale. ♦ Walter reported that the MAFCA Awards Dinner will be in southern Oregon on December 2-5 this year.

Barry still has the Bent Rod Award. You can receive it if you hold up the club for more than 10 minutes. Barry brought a DVD for us to watch after the meeting.

Bob Faber and Thema Chun brought refreshments. Jeanine Mahl will bring refreshments for the May meeting. We will watch a DVD on Highway Hangouts after the meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next monthly meeting will be Thursday May 14 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, May 14, 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



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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
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415-621-0500



Mother's Day Sunday May 10

MAY MEETING
Thursday May 14, 2015
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco



Memorial Day Monday May 25