

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 60, Issue 12

Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years

December 2016

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



## Veterans Day Parade

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### Upcoming Tours

Saturday December 3 - Brave the Bay - Aquatic Park, SF

Saturday December 10 - Christmas Banquet - Val's Restaurant, Daly City

January 2017 - President's Brunch - Date and Time to be Announced

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

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Barry Kinney

VICE PRESIDENTS

Tom Escher

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

## President's Message

It is now December and the Club is heading into a new year that will feature a Midwest Tour to Dearborn and numerous other places of interest, as well as a number of tours, local parades, and activities.

The Club worked hard this year and we celebrated a number of very successful events, we contributed significantly to our charities, and we honored our veterans, our community, and first responders.

However, several projects remain undone. We have yet to complete a new Club Roster. It will be a priority early next year and with your help I think we can get it done by April.

The second task is a restatement of our bylaws, which should include an amendment to more clearly define how we spend Club funds. In addition, there are several sections of the bylaws that appear to be in need of revision.

The third item is our budget. We should look more closely at our sources of income and our expenses, as well as our charitable contributions.

Of course, if all this can be accomplished, then the job of the new 2018 club president will be that much easier.

Brave the Bay, the SFPD fund raiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation, is on Saturday December 3 at the Buena Vista Cafe near Aquatic Park. Come early. Get there before 7:30 am. Any later and it will be crowded and a seat for breakfast in the Buena Vista will be hard to find.

I don't have a date set in January for the President's Brunch but I will announce the time and place at the Christmas Party. Those who don't attend the party will get an e-mail or an invitation in the mail.

See you at the Christmas party on Saturday December 10 at Val's in Daly City.



*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*.

## Brave The Bay Saturday December 3 Aquatic Park

On Saturday December 3 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>

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## President's Brunch January 2017

Club perpetual president Barry Kinney is planning a tour to go along with our annual President's Brunch in January. The tour plans are not yet finalized. Information as to the date, time, and complete tour details will be published in the January Choke Rod. Additionally club members will be notified by e-mail.

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## 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 10** at Val's Restaurant in Daly City.  
For details see the insert in this month's **Choke Rod**.

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Refreshments at the November meeting were provided by **Jenny Jump**

**The Club** will provide dessert at the Christmas Banquet



## Election of 2017 Officers

Elections for the 2017 officers were held at the November Meeting on Thursday November 10.

The officers for 2017 are:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| President:       | Barry Kinney                               |
| Vice Presidents: | Tom Escher<br>Gunard Mahl<br>Greg Martinez |
| Secretary:       | Joan Peterson                              |
| Treasurer:       | Jeanine Mahl                               |
| Tour Chair:      | Gary Barrango                              |
| Editors:         | Walter Caplan<br>Scott Williams            |
| Membership:      | Walter Caplan                              |



## 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 |

## Veterans Day Parade

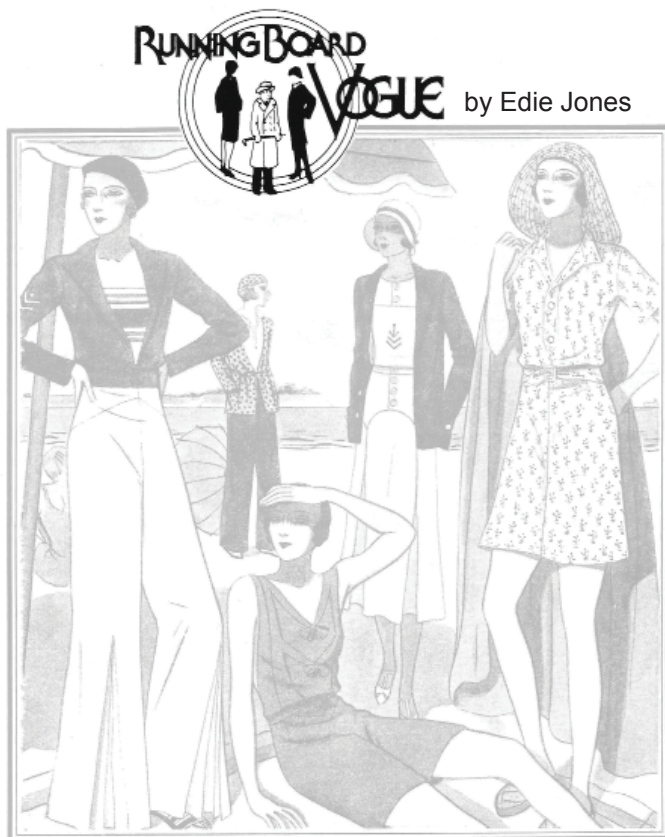
This year Veterans Day was celebrated with a parade down Jefferson Street through the heart of Fisherman's Wharf. The San Francisco Model A Ford Club fielded four cars decorated with the red white and blue. John Zuffi brought his Polaris. Charlie and Victoria came in their Skylark. John Bettencourt and Nel Richmond came in John's red Roadster. Ralph and Barry rode in Ralph's Roadster, the only Model A in the parade. Before the parade began, Ralph handed out badges he had personally made to commemorate the event.

The parade featured a number of Veterans groups and marching bands. The parade itself was short. It began on North Point Street, joined Jefferson Street near Pier 39, and ended at Aquatic Park. However, the crowd, mostly tourists, was enthusiastic. Who doesn't enjoy a parade?

There was a time not long ago when our proud Veterans paraded down Market Street to the delight of much larger crowds than we see today. Of course, in days gone by, the Bay Area hosted at least four active military bases that included Hamilton, Alameda, Moffett, and the Presidio. In addition, in recent years San Francisco has done its best to marginalize the military. The ROTC programs are no longer welcomed in public schools and the battleships Iowa and Missouri were sent to museums in other cities and the Presidio has become a "Recreation Area" with a muted military significance.

Veterans Day parades, although not as large, will continue and the San Francisco Model A Club will be there for all of them.

*Barry Kinney*



Femininity may sway the mode in general but beach fashions are distinctly masculine. A marked change has occurred in beach attire, for smart women are forsaking fancy pajama suits for long, wide, sailor-like trousers of linen, shantung, or jersey. These are slipped over a bathing suit or completed by a polo shirt of matching material. In their smartest version these trousers feature a fullness set in at the knee, as shown in the pajama of shantung above. The top and trousers are joined at the waist. The other pajama, features linen trousers with a polka-dotted linen coat and beret to match.

Shorts are another form of beach attire much in favor, as shown in the model of printed silk at right above. These would be equally appropriate for tennis, or completed by a matching skirt, could be used for golf.

The stitched, wide-brimmed hat of matching material, turned up sharply off the face, as illustrated, is a popular selection. The two-pieced zephyr-knit bathing suit is a comfortable well styled affair.

For the lady who prefers skirts at all times, is the sleeveless dress of white pique embroidered with nautical insignia and completed by a pique jacket.

## Tinkering with Our Toys (Part 4)

by Arnold "Bud" Dodge — Yakima, Washington

*Very often a simple hint or procedure can save considerable disappointment and frustration. Many of us working on the mechanics of our Model As have become experts "after-the-fact." The following is a personal on-the-job compilation of brief and to-the-point suggestions. These might be helpful in an endeavor to become a "before-the-fact" expert.*

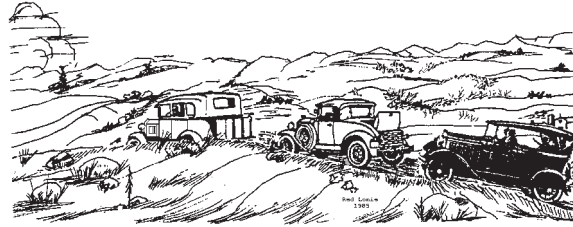
*With 50 years of writings in this area by numerous authorities, it is not without some trepidation that there can be recall of some "old hat" and debatable ideas. An honest attempt has been made to avoid a major invasion in this area.*

### **ELECTRICAL**

- A mysterious and elusive electrical short can be located if you have just installed a black junction box on firewall. The long screws on some replacements extend far enough to the rear of the box to make contact with the metal firewall resulting in a dead short.
- Most replacement battery cables will require some size adjustment. The positive ground system is in conflict with pole size and cable clamp size of modern cables.
- Keep the generator charging rate at 2 or 3 amperes while on extended trips especially on warm days. The ammeter should just register at road speeds. Burning up an armature or boiling a battery dry is completely avoidable. Daylight local driving seldom needs more than 10 amperes to hold a good battery. 5 to 8 is better.
- Never allow a battery cable to run loose. The generator can climb right up to high voltages and burn out any bulbs which may be on and can seriously damage the ignition system.
- Since the battery is out of sight it is best to use anti-corrosion pads under the battery connections. Split the pads if too thick. They really work.
- A double ended (hole on each end) ground strap about 12 inches long installed from bell housing to right frame member will sometimes put new life in the starter motor. Most frames have a hole already punched in the area.
- Most new wiring looms have swedged-on or solderless connectors. A moment spent soldering these connections can spare you some mysterious electrical problems. Do this before installation if possible.
- Some replacement steering column light switches are just no good. Some crimping and beefing up with epoxy may help but failure of headlights is imminent with these poor reproductions. A cleaned up original or a quality replacement is a must if original switching system is to be retained. It is rare that there isn't a spot or two of drips under a Model A. The old rule "If it ain't drippin' something needs fillin'" should apply to your pet "A." Doesn't take much time to be sure. Always note if water has raised your oil level in crankcase.
- As often repeated in Model A articles, "save all old parts" until you are absolutely sure that they are not better than replacements or at least a source of comparison measurements.
- Remember that the two most important gadgets on a Model A are a motor temperature measuring device and an oil pressure gauge. Neither of these were on the original.
- Prepare for the heartbreak when the old Model A junker down the street outruns your new rebuild and sprays oil particles on your windshield. There will come a day. Some replacement breaker points not only quickly oxidize and develop a high resistance but the rubbing block wears so rapidly that the point gap is reduced to near zero. Genuine Ford points are available on order from your Ford dealer "Motorcraft Model A Points DP-104."
- A frequent cause of intermittent distributor failure is the wire below the moveable breaker plate. This wire should be of a highly flexible multistrand construction and be installed to permit free travel for breaker plate advance and retard movements. Some replacements have stiff wire which shorts when insulation rubs off on distributor body or internal strands break lowering current carrying capacity or complete off and on operation.
- Some older "universal" replacement coils were marked "Bat" and "Dist." Most were for negative ground systems. If installed as marked, there can be up to 40% loss of spark intensity at higher speeds. Reverse the coil if you have a problem; worth a try. Coils marked positive and negative should be installed where the positive (red wire) goes to the distributor via the ignition switch and the negative is connected to the battery (black wire) via the ammeter.
- Note fit of plastic distributor body on distributor. Some replacements fit so poorly that the rotor rubs on the lugs leading to the plugs. An unusual noise is usually evident and some side to side movement of plastic body may be noticed. Do not attempt to salvage.
- A pipe thread tap screwed part way into distributor sleeve bearings permits easy driving out of bearing.
- The condenser is an important unit running in a very hot environment. Carry a spare. A good one will check out at about .25 microfarads and should take a 400 volt leakage test. If caught in an emergency, remove it and install a modern pigtail type between red coil wire and ground (fire-wall). It should get you home.
- The steering wheel spark lever should permit a full span of the gap on side of distributor body with no play in linkage. On two-toothed steering systems, the column shell clamp can be loosened and rotated a bit to allow proper action for full retard and advance of spark. Adjustment can be made by a small bend of spark control lever on lower steering column if needed in addition to shell movement.
- Replacement distributor cams should be checked out by measuring any change in point gap on the various lobes. The old one may give better performance if the new one is off more than 2 or 3 thousandths.
- Increases in dwell angle, up to a practical cut-off (point-arc), is supposed to increase spark intensity and, hence, better top speed performance. The dwell is increased by dual breaker points, distributor cam design, closer point spacing and the equivalent in modern electronics. Try the .018" setting on points once they are worn-in. A "B" distributor cam (ocean wave profile) offers a bit more dwell if you like to experiment.
- Use that spark lever to improve driving pleasure. Full retard on idle, partial retard while on warm-up and heavy pull such as hills and smooth going in parades and full advance while tooling down the highway. Experiment with settings and enjoy full performance.
- When replacing intermediate distributor shafts a bit of filing will assure an effective fit. Save the old shaft for measurements. This applies to rebuilt distributors and oil pumps. The lugs and slots must permit easy fits and allow the shafts to home-in.

## 2016 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

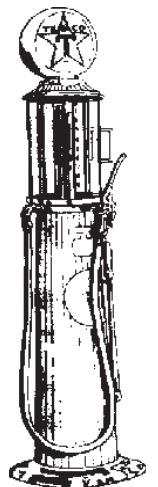


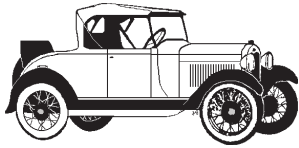
| MONTH | DAY         | TOUR LEADER               | TOUR  |
|-------|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| JAN   | 31          | BARRY KINNEY              | PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.                   |
| FEB   | 20 SATURDAY | SF MODEL A FORD CLUB      | CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB                               |
| MARCH | 12 SATURDAY | BARRY KINNEY              | ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF                               |
| MARCH | 16-21       | BARRY KINNEY              | LOS ANGELES MUSEUM TOUR                                     |
| APRIL | 23          | KINNEY                    | SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA                           |
| APRIL | 24          | SF MODEL A FORD CLUB      | DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY                              |
| MAY   | 30 MONDAY   | CAPLAN                    | MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO                          |
| JUNE  | 18 SATURDAY | CAPLAN / OWSLEY           | ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND                      |
| JUNE  | 26          | CAPLAN / OWSLEY           | PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO                                |
| AUG   | 14          | KINNEY                    | BARRY'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR                                |
| SEPT  | 11 SUNDAY   | KINNEY                    | ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE                       |
| SEPT  | 17 SATURDAY | MAHL                      | 41 <sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL 28 <sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BLOCK PARTY |
| SEPT  | 23-25       | CAPLAN / OWSLEY / MACHADO | OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS                      |
| OCT   | 9           | BARRANGO                  | COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF                       |
| OCT   | 15 SATURDAY | CAPLAN / OWSLEY           | SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK                        |
| OCT   | 29 SATURDAY | MARTINEZ                  | ST. ANNE'S PARISH FESTIVAL CAR SHOW, SF                     |
| Nov   | 11 FRIDAY   | CAPLAN / KINNEY           | VETERANS DAY PARADE - FISHERMAN'S WHARF                     |
| DEC   | 3 SATURDAY  | CAPLAN / KINNEY           | SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK                           |
| DEC   | 10 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.

## 2016 Schedule of Events

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Jan 30     | Turlock Swap Meet   |
| Feb 20     | SF Model A Club Annual Crab Feed  |
| May 27-29  | NCRG Roundup Modesto hosted by the Modesto A's - <a href="http://www.ncrgmafca.com">www.ncrgmafca.com</a> |
| June 19-24 | MAFCA National Convention, Loveland, CO, hosted by Model A Ford Club of Colorado                          |
| Dec 5-8    | MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Reno NV, hosted by the Sagebrush Chapter                                   |





**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
Model A Ford Club of America  
November 10, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Barry Kinney. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written. There were no guests.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** There is still no date yet set for the 2017 crab feed. ♦ The Veterans Day Parade will be Sunday November 13th. We will meet at 10 am on North Point at Stockton Street. ♦ Ralph and Barry went to the St. Anne of the Sunset Annual Parish Festival car show. ♦ The Christmas Party will be Saturday December 10th at Val's in Daly City. There will be a raffle. ♦ Gary reported on the Columbus Day Parade. Our club had a good turn-out. Our group took first place. We will be receiving a check from them. ♦ A vote on bylaw amendments will be at the January meeting. The Club in November modified the previous statements regarding changes in the Bi-Laws designed to define the responsibility of the Board of Directors, the treasurer, and the membership at large regarding the expenditure of Club money. Section 7 of the bylaws currently reads: The Executive Committee shall act as the finance committee of the club. The proposed amendment to Section 7 of the bylaws would read: Section 7. The Executive Committee shall act as the Finance Committee of the Club. All Club expenditures that are not of a routine nature or that exceed \$250 shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of all elected officers, the Past President, and the Editor. Routine expenses would be defined as those expenditures that are recurring on a monthly or yearly basis.

**Vice President:** No report

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** No report

**Editor:** No report

**Food and Beverage Chair:** No report

**Tour Chair:** No report

**For The Good Of The Order:** Barry will pick up a small gift card for Franz who has been very ill.

Jenny Jump provided refreshments for the meeting. The Club will provide dessert for the Christmas Banquet. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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 12, 2017**

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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### Inserts:

- Christmas Banquet Information
- Christmas Banquet Reservation Form
- 2017 Membership Renewal Form



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

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

**JANUARY MEETING**  
**Thursday January 12, 2017**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**

### **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?

