

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 60, Issue 6

*Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years*

June 2016

*San Francisco Bay Area Chapter*

*Model A Ford Club of America*



Photo by Becky Farina

**Join us for Father's Day at St. Anne's Home**  
details on page 3

---

## Upcoming Tours

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

Sunday June 26 - Pride Parade - San Francisco

Friday-Sunday, September 23-25 - Ironstone Concours d'Elegance - Murphys CA

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

Family birthdays take precedence over Model A Club meetings. So I missed the May meeting. However I understand that our Vice-President, Treasurer, and Editor also missed the meeting. Where was everyone? Small numbers make for short meetings and this one may have been the shortest on record. Fortunately, we had very little business on the agenda. This meeting, of course, was unusual. Our Club meetings are always well attended. Thanks to our hard working secretary Joan Peterson for filling in for those of us who could not be there.



We have a number of activities coming up:

One of the most appreciated is our annual Fathers Day event. The residents at St. Anne's Home look forward to our visit each year. Mark the date and bring a car - Saturday June 18. Bring the Model A, your early Bird, or the 32 Roadster. The folks at St. Anne's will enjoy the ride.

Only eight days later on Sunday June 26 the club will join the Pride Parade, driving up Market Street right up there at the front of the parade. Once we reach City Hall we will then proceed down Eighth Street to UCSF Mission Bay for our annual picnic lunch to be catered by Mollie Stone's.

I will see you at the June 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*.

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Parade Sunday June 26

It is the 46<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**



## Overnighter to Murphys Ironstone Concours d'Elegance Friday - Sunday, September 23 - 25

By popular demand, for a tenth 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 fourteenth 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



## 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

Refreshments at the May meeting were provided by **The Monte Cristo Club**



**Gary Barrango** will provide refreshments at the June meeting



Gloves are an important accessory in the fashion world, yet little is written regarding all the many styles, types of fabrics, and appropriate lengths for certain occasions.

There are five classes of gloves:

**Daytime Formal (for afternoon):** gloves of soft suede or glace kid. The style is a pull-on, varying in length, worn wrinkled at the wrist, casually covering the bracelets. Sometimes, according to the year's "fashion decree", an expanse of arm shows between the glove and short sleeve of a formal, daytime frock.

**Daytime Informal:** gloves of heavy suede or kid, doeskin, mocha or chamois for summer; in style, plain pull-on. There may be insets of contrasting colors, stitchings, pipings, cuffs and what-not, dictated by fashion (or a craze) but they were never in perfect taste.

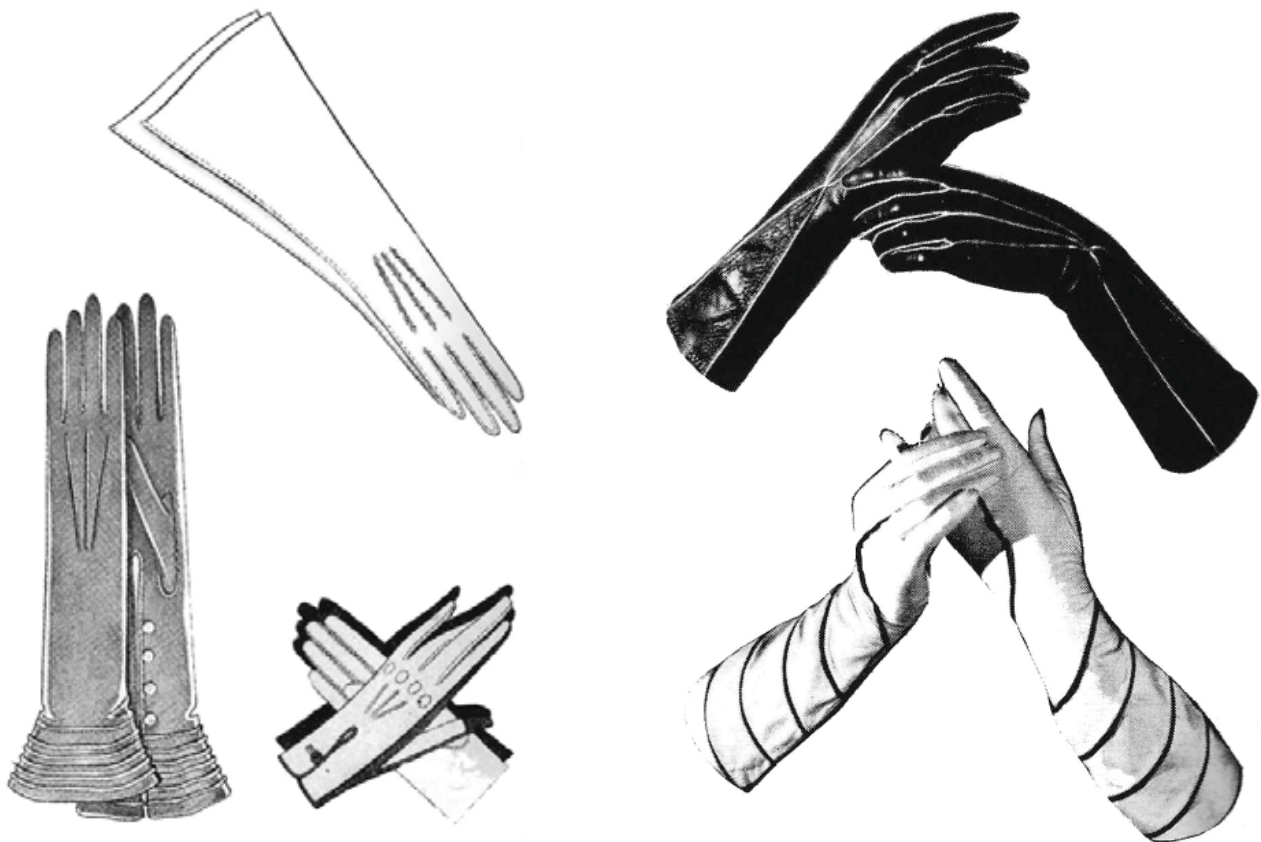
Colors chosen should harmonize with the ensemble's color plan; grays, browns, tans, some white and some black; darker tones for fall and winter.

**Informal:** Heavy doeskin, antelope, yellow or white chamois, pigskin. The style was pull-on or one button, open seams, hand stitched, loose and swaggery.

**Evening Informal:** Glace kid, suede; style - pull-on or mousequetaire.

**Evening Formal:** Suede; style - mousequetaire, long and wrinkly. Colors - white with a tinge of color, pastel tones and black.

·Pull-on evening gloves without buttons are not so popular as the ones with buttons which are more easily removed. Quite naturally, one removes the gloves when she is dining and puts them on when she goes to the theater. Some wear them while dancing; others do not. One glove may be removed, which depends on whether you are right or left handed.



## Put a Cork in it, Doc

Humor by Rich Golding

I'm gennin' along in my Model A one glorious, typical Anchorage winter's day, not very long ago. The sun is out and it's 65 degrees. I'm smiling, waving at the people along the way, as they stroll the local mean streets in their sunglasses, Bermuda shorts and tank tops. I'm minding my own business, when all of a sudden my eyes glance across the dash towards the gas gauge. My heart stops! I'm not only low on fuel, I'm completely out of gas. —And so is the car!

Now you've got to understand Model A gas gauges to fully appreciate the situation I have found myself in. First of all, they aren't really gas gauges, at least not in the same sense as the one in your modern car. They don't light up. There are no digital numbers or an LED bar that acts like an electronic thermometer, reading the volume of fuel currently residing in your tank. Nor are there any warning systems of red flashing signals or buzzers or electric shocks to your adjustable lumbar region. Nope, you don't get any of those with a Model A. The rear of our gas tank is part of our dashboard. It sits directly in front of the driver and his or her passenger. An arrangement deemed quite reasonable, as per Calvin Coolidge era automotive safety standards.

The gas gauge in the Model A was nothing more than a hole, about the size of a quarter, bored through the center of said dashboard into the gas tank. That hole is covered with a small glass lens, behind which bobs a cork attached to a floating lever that indicates the amount of fuel remaining. High-tech stuff.

This was actually a great system in its day, as the ability to actually see your gasoline helped eliminate several possible problems common to that era. Such as bad gas. Specifically if your gas was spiked by some disreputable garage with, say, something that might have come out of the mechanic's horse ... you could easily and effectively detect such a sham simply by scrutinizing the color of your petrol as it sloshed back and forth behind that little glass lens. This could however have a detrimental effect, especially on those that are easily affected by seasickness.

But I digress.

You might recall, several paragraphs ago, that I was shocked to find out I was completely out of gas. At least that's what the little bobbing gauge indicated. Yet I distinctly remembered filling up the car only that morning. As my addled brain began reasoning the problem out, I could not help but notice that there was fuel still sloshing back and forth behind the aforementioned glass lens. While reaching for my onboard supply of Dramamine, I quickly surmised that something was not quite right here. Further forensic examination through the looking glass revealed the floating lever thingy was lying lifeless and still on the bottom of the tank.

Back in my garage a couple of hours later, following a thorough examination with a flashlight through the gas cap aperture on top of the tank, I realized that the cork that is normally attached to the floating lever was now lying precariously on the bottom of the tank. It didn't take a rocket scientist. Somehow said cork had obviously given up the ghost and had joined the choir invisible.

Like most other Model A owners, I immediately turned to my vast and extensive library of manuals, how-to books and pamphlets for advice. After leafing through several, I found precisely the one I needed — it had lots of pictures in it.

The malady associated with the demise of the fuel system's floating cork is apparently not all that uncommon to us Model A'ers. The book explained that it was a "normal physiological function of the aging process." I winced as I read those words, as honestly, I always imagined this happened only to others. I never thought it would someday apply to me!

The fix, although it appears simple enough, requires dislodging and detaching the glass lens and for lack of any better descriptor, catheterizing, removing and replacing the dearly departed cork.

I shall not bore you, my dear reader, with the dreary details of this operation. Rather shall I be content instead to continue boring you with this narrative alone.

I got on the phone with a Model A parts catalog guy somewhere in Georgia or Alabama. I explained my situation, he was very helpful.

"Well, you're in luck! We have those corks in stock. They're fifty cents each. I can ship one out to you today. Where did you say you were located?"

"Anchorage, Alaska."

"Wow! That's gonna cost you fifty dollars to ship it there! We have to charge extra to ship to foreign countries ... blah blah blah," (you know the drill). "But hey, we've also got a new high-tech neoprene cork that is an exact replacement for the older cork model. It will last you a hundred years. It costs seventy-five cents."

His words rang in my ears. "The original cork lasted eighty-eight years," I said, "I don't think I'm going to live another hundred years, so the neoprene won't be necessary. Given the shipping costs, I think I've got a better solution in mind. Thanks for the help, though. I'll call you again when I need another part," were my words, though I was really thinking "yah, right ... don't hold your breath."

"Okay," came his response. "Say, how's that winter weather up there in Alaska?"

I told him it was sunny and in the 60's.

"Huh?" he shrieked. "It just snowed here, right after our hurricane and the flood."

But he digressed.

That night I took my wife out shopping. Not for clothes or food or jewelry. Nope, we went to the wine store. I searched and scoured the shelves, up and down every aisle.

"What exactly is it you are looking for?" she queried. "Aren't we just going to buy our usual four dollar bottle of West Virginian Chardonnay?"

My search stopped abruptly mid- aisle and I let loose with an very loud "AHA, I've found it!" My Wife's eyes grew so large that I thought they were going to pop out of her head.

"But this bottle costs FIFTY DOLLARS!" she screamed.

"Fifty dollars and fifty cents, to be exact." I replied. "It's perfect!"

That night we enjoyed one of the best bottles of wine we have ever had. And my Model A's gas tank gauge is back together and functioning just like old times, with a replacement cork good for at least another eighty years or so.

I'd give anything to see the look on the face of the car's future owner/ caretaker, sometime around the turn of the next century, removing an expired cork from the same gas tank as I did, holding it up to the light and scratching his head whilst reading "Chateau Baron de Rothschild" on it.

Reprinted from Antique Auto Musers of Alaska **Tinkering Times**, May 4, 2016, Volume 56, Number 5.

*Dave Chiotti*

## Ford Engineering Laboratory



◀ In March of 1923 ground was broken for the FEL building. The building was built on the land that was previously occupied by Ford's Dearborn Tractor factory. The Ford Engineering Laboratory was completed and ready for occupancy in December of 1924. It was an industrial marvel; as it was one of the largest open office spaces of its time. The building was designed and built by local architect Albert Kahn.



◀ Ford Rotunda Building designed by Albert Kahn for Ford. This building was a huge attraction for families during the holiday season. It burned in the early 60s.

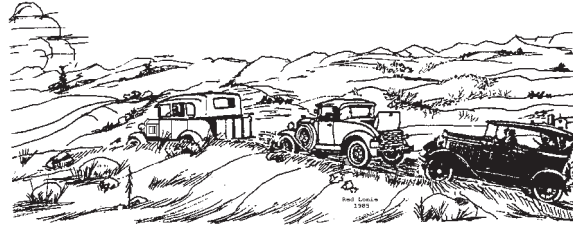
▶ A photo from the original construction of the building. The exterior beauty of the building is attributed to the materials used for construction. The facing material is Bedford Limestone from Indiana and the roof has a very distinctive look with red clay shingles.





## 2016 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

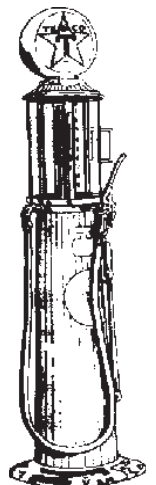


MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	31	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.
FEB	20 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	12 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
MARCH	16-21	BARRY KINNEY	LOS ANGELES MUSEUM TOUR
APRIL	23	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - 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	TBA	TBA	BARRY'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
SEPT	11 SUNDAY	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPT	17	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	TBA	CAPLAN / OWSLEY	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
Nov	13	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

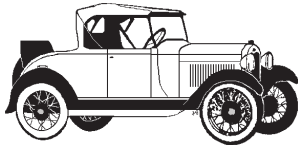
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Gary Barrango** at **415-821-2628**  
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.  
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

## 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**  
**May 12, 2016**

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

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** . Memorial Day Celebration will be Monday May 30. We need to be at the Main Post Parade Grounds by 9 am. The parade will start at 10:30 am. There will be a designated area for our cars. There will be a running board breakfast in the parking area adjacent to the Officers Club at 9 am. We need a head count for lunch at the Presidio Golf Course clubhouse. ♦ Saturday June 18 is Father's Day at St. Anne's Home. ♦ Sunday June 26 is the Pride Parade, followed by a catered picnic lunch at UCSF Mission Bay. ♦ The train trip to Dearborn in September 2017 will be discussed at the June meeting.

**Vice President:** No report

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** No report

**Editor:** No report

**Food and Beverage Chair:** No report

**Tour Chair:**

**For The Good Of The Order:** Friendship Day is Sunday May 15, near Oracle and the Hotel Sofitel. ♦ Sunnyview Car Show is Saturday May 21. Talk to Al if interested.

The Bent Rod Award will pass from Barry to Walter. More information to come next month.

The Monte Cristo Club provided refreshments for the meeting. Gary Barrango will provide refreshments for the next meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 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, June 9, 2016**

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)



## in this Choke Rod

President's Message .....	page 2
Club News .....	page 3
Fashion .....	page 4
Tech .....	pages 5-6
Ford Engineering Laboratory .....	pages 6-7
Tours & Schedule of Events .....	page 8
Meeting Minutes.....	page 9



[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

**JUNE MEETING**  
**Thursday June 9, 2016**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**