

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 60, Issue 3

Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years

March 2016

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



## Gas from the Past

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### Upcoming Tours

Saturday March 12 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - San Francisco

March 16-21 - Los Angeles Museum Tour - Los Angeles

Sunday April 24 - Pacific Coast Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay, CA

Monday May 30 - Memorial Day Observance - San Francisco Presidio

Official Publication of the  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
MAFCA

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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.

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Scott Williams  
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MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

# President's Message

By the time you read this we will have celebrated another successful Crab Feed at the Monte Cristo Club. John Zuffi, Gary Barrango, and our dedicated club members make it happen. Thanks to everyone who participated.



We are postponing our tour to Dearborn and the Henry Ford Museum. We had planned this trip for September but, believe it or not, the trains are full. It seems we are not the only ones who have discovered the joys of train travel. We will plan for next year.

The LA tour is a go. We have eleven people traveling in modern cars. While it is wonderful to travel in the A, the T-Bird or the old Mustang, the distance and Los Angeles traffic make travel in the old car a little risky.

I will be in LA next week. This will give me a little time before our LA Tour to wrap up a few loose ends. I will have all the details including tickets, room reservations, route maps, and departing times and places for everyone at the March meeting.

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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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*.

## San Francisco St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday March 12

SF St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival is the Bay Area's fun and festive spin on the March holiday and has taken place since 1851. The parade – which normally starts at 2nd and Market Street – features youth organizations, schools, and labor unions from San Francisco's Irish community.

Following the parade, a festival is traditionally held at Civic Center Plaza in front of City Hall. The festival gives guests an opportunity to learn more about Irish culture and trade with exhibitions and business booths, but also provides plenty of fun with Irish dancing, beverages, and scrumptious grub.

The SF St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival is free to attend, but make sure to show up early if you want a spot along the parade route. The Civic Center Plaza and most locations on the parade route are accessible by rail, so no need to drive.

If interested in driving in the parade contact Barry Kinney at 415-647-7077 or 415-282-2789.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Al Thomas	March 5
Joan Peterson	March 7
Paula Escher	March 11
Allison Karr	March 14
Jennifer Grafelman	March 14
Tom Escher	March 15
Robert Peterson	March 16
Josie Calabrese	March 19
Heather Hart	March 25
Johanna Bettencourt	March 29
Barry Kinney	March 31
Nick & Josie Calabrese	March 25

Refreshments  
at the February meeting  
were provided by **Walter Caplan**

**Mike Cunneen**  
will provide refreshments  
at the March meeting



## Los Angeles Museum Tour Wednesday March 16 - Monday March 21

In March the Club will travel to Los Angeles to visit some of the best automobile museums in the World. Included in the Tour are the Nethercutt Collection, the Peterson Automobile Museum, the Automobile Driving Museum, the Getty Museum in Malibu, and the Murphy Museum in Oxnard.

For details see the February 2016 issue of the **Choke Rod**.

## Pacific Coast Dream Machines Half Moon Bay Sunday April 24

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.

## Memorial Day Observance at historic San Francisco Presidio Monday, May 30

The Mayor's 2016 Memorial Day Citizen's Committee has invited the SF Model A Club to be part of the official City & County's 148<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 415-621-0500  
whcaplan@comcast.net



In this column I'd like to continue a topic that was started in the May-June issue – intimate garments. Illustrated here are several undergarments typical of the times. The teddies were often worn under sportswear and daytime ensembles. Slips were the foundations of elegant evening gowns and dressy daytime frocks.

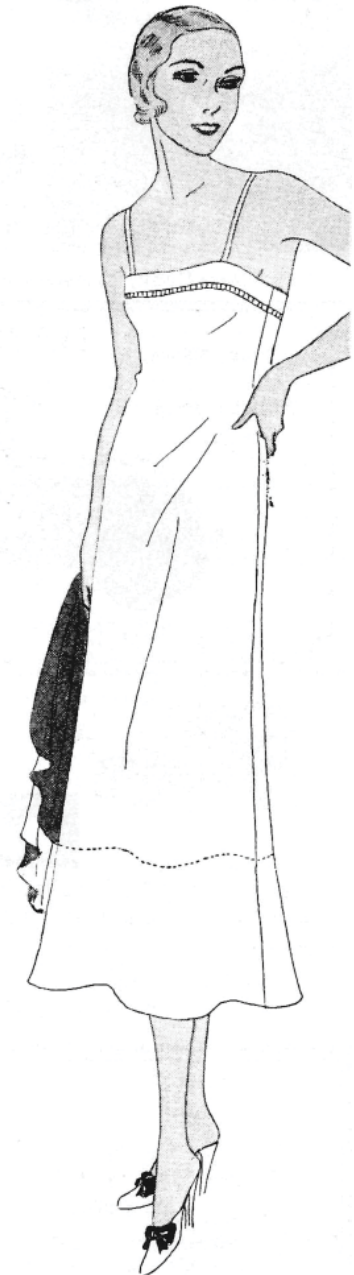
While the undergarments may seldom be judged, and certainly never seen by the audience in an Era Fashion show, they are essential to achieving the authentic line and appearance of winning outfits.



Teddies - one-piece undergarments, usually made of rayon or silk.



Slips - cut on the bias with a dropped waist insert and low neckline to accommodate those fragile evening gowns.



Slips – cut on princess lines, in two simple pieces, it is high and wide across the back to prevent wrinkles under closely fitted frocks.

# Electrical Safety in Your Model A - Part 2

by John McMillan

Most of the following are faults and/or safety hazards that I've encountered in Model A's and other less worthy vehicles. The cures are neither expensive nor technically difficult.

## CUTOUT

**Points Stuck Open:** This is the more common failure. Points won't close, battery won't charge, battery dies, and your generator fries because it's trying to charge the whole universe. Not a safety issue, but very unpleasant when it happens away from home. Short term fix is to install a jumper wire across the cutout terminals so that the generator works properly. Just remember to disconnect the wire when you shut off the engine. If you've installed a master cut off switch you can just shut the switch off.

**Points Stuck Closed:** This is another problem, less common, but a real hazard. When they stick closed, the generator functions normally when the engine is running, When the engine is shut off, the battery feeds the generator, which now thinks it is a starter motor and tries to turn the engine over, resulting in a burned out generator, a melted out charging wire, a dead battery or a burned out car. This is another garage fire potential. If you see a heavy discharge on the ammeter when the engine is off, look for this problem. Disconnect the wire from the "batt" side of the cutout. A fuse helps here because it will usually blow. Best solution is to install a diode kit in the cutout.

## AMMETER

**Cap Nuts:** Using plain nuts on the back of an ammeter is an invitation to a short circuit against the fuel tank. Use the plastic cap nuts that Ford designed for that use.

**Meter Shorts:** Check that there is no possibility of a short on the studs to the ammeter case back, especially on original meters. I had a near mint meter short out due to 70 year old insulation failure. This stuff does not last forever. The short melted the insulation from the wire that runs from the meter to the junction box. This is one part where a repop may well be better than the original.

## HEADLAMP

**Sockets:** Check that the spring- loaded contacts inside the bulb sockets do not contact the wall of the socket. Some reproduction sockets can be pretty sloppy in this area. Contact will result in a short circuit whenever the lights are turned on, either in one or both high and low beam settings.

**Connectors:** These are the little troublesome connectors at the base of the headlamp buckets. Probably the best solution is to hardwire the lamps thereby bypassing those little rubber gizzies.

## MISCELLANY

**Grommets:** If a wire is going to pass through sheet metal, always use a rubber grommet. If not, vibration will wear through the insulation and a short will result.

**Frayed Wires:** If the insulation is frayed, replace or tape the frayed area.

**Wire Routing:** If you are routing wires, use common sense. The worst example I have seen was a fuel pump wire strapped to a fuel line. The fuel line was leaky (Model A, big surprise), the fuel dissolved the wire insulation so that the wire became bare. Use your imagination as to what could happen if a spark occurred.

**Electric Fuel Pump:** If you add one, don't forget to add a regulator so that the pump pressure isn't so high that fuel comes out of the carburetor. Old carburetor fuel valves cannot handle the pressure of an unregulated pump. Although not an electrical item, I did see what happened when fuel from an unregulated pump met a stray spark from a magneto on a 1913 Mercer.

**Good Rule:** Always check the ammeter when you shut off your engine. Never walk away from a Model A that registers a heavy discharge. If you can't fix the problem, then disconnect the battery ground cable.

**Hint:** A light coating of dielectric grease on all electrical connections including light bulb bases will promote good electrical contact and inhibit corrosion. It is available at most electronic supply houses under various brand names and from your local auto parts house as Permatex #67V Dielectric Tune-Up Grease. If this grease is used on light bulbs, fuses, connectors etc., then removal is easy, without the usual sticking and subsequent breakage.

## GOOD ADDITIONS

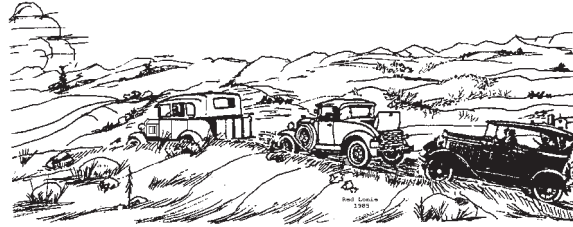
**Fuse Holder:** These are available from all Model A suppliers for a few dollars and are very easy to install. They provide a lot of protection from the bad results of electrical faults. Pulling the fuse when you park your car shuts off most everything and helps prevent theft as well.

**Master Cut-Off Switch:** Probably the best safety investment for an antique car. About \$25 to buy. Cuts off all power past the battery. An additional benefit is that the battery will maintain a charge longer if you make a habit of always turning the power off whenever you stop the car. Everything connected to a battery will draw small amounts of current even when "off" due to resistance at the connections. If the switch is off, the battery does not discharge. I would not have an old car in my garage that did not have a power cut off switch, unless the battery was disconnected.

**Fire Extinguisher:** When all else fails and fate is working overtime, an extinguisher is really nice to have. Lacking one, try to smother the flames with sand or a blanket, jacket or whatever. If you can't put out the fire, enjoy the spectacle, plan the restoration of your next vehicle, and figure out where you can put the hard luck trophy.

## 2016 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

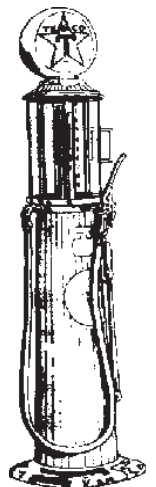


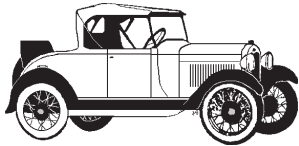
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	31	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.
FEB	20 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	12 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
MARCH	16-21	BARRY KINNEY	LOS ANGELES MUSEUM TOUR
APRIL	TBA	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	SWANTON PACIFIC RR TOUR - DAVENPORT, CA
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	TBA	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	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DEC	10	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  
February 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 - everything is moving ahead. Gary won't be there to help us on Friday. There will be no dance classes Friday, Saturday, or Sunday so the club will be available for our set-up and takedown. We will need help both on Friday and on Saturday. ♦ The September tour to Dearborn - Walter looked into taking the train from Seattle to Chicago, the Empire Builder, and it is possible. Unfortunately the reservations for the sleeping cars are almost sold out, as is the case with the California Zephyr train from San Francisco to Chicago. Amtrak is unable to add additional sleeper cars. Walter thinks we should delay our trip until next year, and make plans this fall. This would give us plenty of time to make plans and get reservations and accommodations that we desire. ♦ March tour to Los Angeles - Barry has the list - we will travel in four cars and drive all the way to LA in one day. We have tickets for the Getty and the Nethercutt. We still need tickets for the Peterson. Barry will take care of this. ♦ The Grand Island Mansion tour is this Sunday, Valentine's Day February 14. It has been planned and arranged by Bill Rose. Four people from the club are going from San Francisco, and two from Stockton.

**Vice President:** No report

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** The Crab Feed is sold out - we have 260 paid reservations. ♦ The treasurer issued checks for printing, postage reimbursement, and running board breakfasts. Crab feed reservation checks have been deposited.

**Editor:** Walter will report in April on the pros and cons of the club becoming a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

**Food and Beverage Chair:** John reported that more of the coast is open for crab fishing. The demand is decreasing and the supply is increasing, which is good for us cost wise. John has obtained some prices and they are cheaper than before.

**Tour Chair:** No report

**For The Good Of The Order:** No report

Walter Caplan scrounged up refreshments for the meeting. Mike Cunneen will provide refreshments for the next meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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, March 10, 2016**

A number of club members gather together for dinner before the monthly meeting at 6 pm.

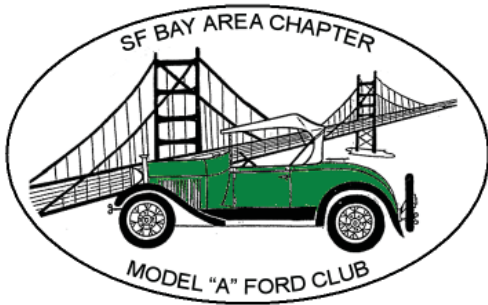
Please feel free to join us – dinner location will be at Goat Hill Pizza at 18th & Connecticut.

The Choke Rod  
is available online in color at  
[www.sfmodelaclub.org](http://www.sfmodelaclub.org)



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**MARCH MEETING**  
**Thursday March 10, 2016**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**