

# The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 60, Issue 11

Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years

November 2016

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Ralph Hoffschildt

## Columbus Day Parade

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### Upcoming Tours

Sunday November 13 - Veterans Day Parade - Fisherman's Wharf

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

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

Saturday February ??, 2017 - Annual Crab Feed - Monte Cristo Club, 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



Next year, 2017, will be my last year serving as President of our Club. This job is not a difficult one. The President is, for the most part, a coordinator. It is time for someone new to take the helm and do the coordinating. Gary Barrango and I have been the longest serving Presidents. Our terms combined total to twelve years. Can you remember who served before Gary, thirteen years ago?

I think we might get more people interested if we would guarantee that the commitment to serve is limited to one year. Of course, they could continue to serve for longer terms without restriction.

I want to thank the officers and tour leaders who served this year and will continue to serve next year. Special thanks to Scott and Walter who do the newsletter/ We need to think of ways to make their job a little easier. Reducing the mailing list, limiting the number of full issues and reducing the number of hard copies might be helpful.

Given what is going on nationally, running or holding an office on any level might be the last thing on your mind. But, this is a small club full of great people who pull together to support the President and get the job done.

See you at the meeting.

*Barry Kinney*

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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

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*.

## Mayor's Veterans Day Parade Friday November 11 Fisherman's Wharf

The club has been invited once again to participate in the traditional Veterans Day Parade being held this year on Friday November 11. The parade will start on the Embarcadero at North Point Street and proceed west along Jefferson Street, past the reviewing stand on Jefferson Street, near Leavenworth Street, and then disband.

The Veterans Day Parade traditionally honors and remembers the veterans of our armed forces. If you are interested in being part of our contingent, contact Barry Kinney at 415-282-2789..

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## 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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## 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 September meeting were provided by **Jeanine Mahl**

**Jenny Jump** will provide refreshments at the November meeting



## Election of 2017 Officers

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

To date the following nominations have been received:

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

Prior to voting in November, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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## Crab Feed

at the Monte Cristo Club  
Saturday February ??, 2017

Doors open at 5 pm  
Dinner Service begins 6:30 pm  
Raffle - 50/50 Raffle - No Host Bar  
antipasto, salad, pasta, crab,  
French bread & butter, dessert

Look for the reservation form  
in the December issue of the **Choke Rod**.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Casey Martinez	November 1
Greg Martinez	November 5
Franz von Uckermann	November 6
Maria DeMartini	November 15
Joseph Martinez	November 18
Lois Storz	November 18
Nick Calabrese	November 26
Irma Nicholson	November 27
Tom & Terry Machado	November 4



Early in the Thirties the white mess jacket appeared, copied after that worn by British officers on tropical duty. It was worn during the summer with black tie and a cummerbund of East Indian origin, and often took the place of the waistcoat.

Then came the dinner coat, either single or double breasted, also worn with a black tie. Black mohair trousers, trimmed with braid, accompany the white dress coat. The white shirt, with soft turned-down or fall collar and soft bosom of pique or linen, is usually worn with the summer dinner coat, either black or white. The introduction of summer evening clothes was due to the popularity of many semitropical summer resorts in the Bahamas, along the Mediterranean, and the coast of Florida.



Black or midnight blue continues, for evening clothes, but the classic dark blue business suit has been supplanted by the wearer's own choice of fabric or color. Woolen textiles for suits consist of tweeds, shetlands, serges, flannels, gabardines and worsteds in beautiful grayed color mixtures. After years and years of black, gray, brown and dark blue, we also had suits of French blue. Sports clothes had much liberty in the colors permitted. In patterns, there are diagonals, pin stripes and checks, herringbone, glen plaids, the pin dot and sharktooth patterns. The hand-stitched, instead of machine stitched, collar and lapel of the informal suit was a new feature which appeared in the 30's.

The Chesterfield coat seems to have established itself as the classic dress overcoat. In the list of overcoats, the huge raccoon coat for winter wear was the result of riding in the open car, and was considered the proper equipment for attending football games. In the late 20's its popularity was challenged by another coat of deep pile camel's hair. The dress shirt continues to be made of fine white cotton or linen with stiff or pleated bosom of linen or pique, while the formal white shirt is usually of cotton broadcloth, poplin or basketweave. Other fabrics are figured silks, plain, plaid, striped cotton, and flannels in all colors. An innovation in the 30's was a dark-colored shirt in navy, wine red or brown, with light colored coat and trousers. The backless, evening waistcoat of white pique, cooler for nightclub wear and dancing, had been popular for several years.

A detached soft collar, wrinkle-proof and requiring no starch, was introduced in the late 20's. Later on, the soft collar was improved still further by the use of rayon fabric in the lining, and the collar was permanently attached. Of the 20's and 30's is the pin collar, in which the turn-down collar points are held by a long gold pin passing under the tie knot.

The predominant note in neckwear for the period was the four-in-hand, with the occasional appearance of the bow tie. All fabrics, weaves, patterns and colors were used, with club and regimental stripes favored through the entire era.

The derby and the black or blue fedora or homburg vied with each other for day town wear and with the dinner jacket. The collapsible opera hat or black grosgrain silk accompanied full dress evening outfits, and the silk top hat was worn with the cutaway or formal day clothes.

The hard straw hat, sailor or boater, was still with us for wear in town in the 30's, although a lighter style of the homburg in coarsely-woven straw, jute, hemp or other exotic material was usurping its place. Panama hats in the hands of stylists, had taken on a more acceptable shape. The open air activities of men in the late 20's brought into existence a light-weight, paper thin felt hat which could be rolled up and packed in a suitcase. These caps became popular for use on the golf course, at the races, and for country wear. The cap, though still used for sports in England, gave way to the soft felt in the U.S. later in the 30's.

Sport shoes were fashioned of white buckskin or a combination of white buckskin and black or brown leather saddles. With the late 20's also came various styles of pigskin, followed by sandals of interlaced strips of colored leather. The black waxed calfskin oxford was worn with formal day clothes, and the black patent leather oxford was worn with tails or the dinner coat.

The walking stick, with gold or silver head, was often fashioned of rare and exotic woods. Gloves are made of white buck or kid for dress, and chamois, mocha or pigskin for informal wear. Another gadget of the late 30's was the tie clip of gold, holding the scarf or tie to the shirt when the vest was dispensed with. I

n the first third of the century, American designers of ready-made clothing for men endeavored to evolve a real American style, but with the exception of a few so-called "university" styles, the manufacturers were willing to follow the custom tailors who derived their ideas and designs from London.



## Tinkering with Our Toys (Part 3)

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.

### DRIVE LINE

- When you jack up one rear wheel for dry run testing in gear, remember that the raised wheel is turning twice as fast as indicated on speedometer. At 60 mph you are placing undue and unnecessary stress on drive parts. Jack up both wheels and keep speed moderate.
- The large speedometer gear located on the driveshaft, if installed in reverse position, will preclude any attempt to slide on the universal joint while installing motor-transmission assembly.

### SPEEDOMETER

- If you hold a constant speed between mile posts, measure the elapsed time in seconds and divide into 3600. This will show your actual miles per hour for speedometer calibration. This can be very accurate if done several times especially with a stop watch.

### CLUTCH

- Never install a clutch plate that does not feature a spring loaded hub. The clutch chatter can irritate the most calm personality. If caught without a clutch plate alignment tool it is possible to install transmission while pressure plate bolts are loose. Once transmission is in place gradually tighten pressure plate bolts through inspection hole in bell housing.

### FLYWHEEL

- The heavy flywheel will slide on and off easily if a headbolt stud is used as a guide by screwing it into crankshaft flange.
- Before having excess weight cut from standard flywheel, check with someone who has had it done. There may be some instant acceleration advantage but slow speed power pulses may show up as well as poor idling. Could be worth a check out.

### STEERING

- When replacing steering sector or worm, both units should be replaced if good adjustment is to be afforded.

- The steering column must line up with dashboard or tank bracket to avoid hard steering. If necessary, enlarge frame mounting holes slightly and add shims between gear box and frame to clean up side to side misalignment, if any. With a Model A you need all of the steering ease you can arrange.
- About 10% STP added to steering gear oil is said to improve steering ease.

### DIFFERENTIAL

- When inspecting the gears of a differential that has been in use, look very carefully at gear tooth bases for hairline fatigue cracks. These are not uncommon and can cause grief if car is driven hard. If in doubt, have it Magnafluxed.
- On new or rebuilt rear ends the use of 140 gear oil is OK. If new seals have not been installed, watch for leaks. Do not mix 600 and 140 gear oils.
- A 1½ ton hydraulic jack inserted in a disassembled rear end banjo can effectively push out the double cone bearing race. Place banjo in upright position with bearing surface down, use old bearings (or other spacer) for an alignment adapter and base of jack as pusher. Top of jack should be cushioned with a wood block. A steady easy action on the jack handle will do the trick.
- The cotter pin which retains the nut holding pinion on drive shaft can bind against the ring gear carrier. Dress the cotter pin on sides of nut rather than the usual over the end position. This binding, where it occurs, makes adjustments very difficult.
- Difficult to locate rear end noises can be due to a "warped" ring gear carrier. Broken gear teeth riding through a ring gear and pinion can "hairline" fracture the banjo as well as distort the carrier. Sprung ring gear carriers can be readily identified if mounted in a lathe on bearing surface and spun. Ring gear can be mounted on carrier for the most revealing test. Replacement of faulty unit is best course of action.

### BRAKES

- When installing rear brake backing plates, note carefully that they are not reversed from left to right. The error can be agonizingly realized when the backing plate brake rod clevis levers do not directly align with brake rod eyes.

# Service Stations of Yesteryear



## Columbus Day

Columbus Day Parade is a celebration of Italian Heritage here in San Francisco and around the country. Italian immigrants helped make San Francisco the great city that it is. A. P. Gianinni built a small loan company into Bank of America. Others pioneered chocolate factories and fisheries. Italians played a large role in the history of San Francisco and it is for them that we celebrate Columbus Day.

We assembled around 10 am for what amounts to a tailgate party. We begin with coffee and pastry and slowly transition into pizza, wine, grapes and cheese. We spend part of this time decorating our cars with the Italian colors, balloons, and flags in red, white, and green.

The parade begins around noon. We travel down Jefferson surrounded by crowds of people. We turn onto Columbus Street and travel up to Washington Square. The entire route is lined with hundreds of people waving their Italian flags and celebrating the day.

At Washington square the street narrows to one line. The street is filled to the center with tables of partygoers enjoying lunch with friends and family.

The parade slows to a crawl in front of the Italian Athletic Club. The Blue Angels fly overhead just as we pass before the reviewing stand in front of Saints Peter and Paul Church.

We hear the announcer call out the name of the Model A Club and give a little background/history of the Ford cars passing by. We get a thumbs up and a cheer or two from the crowd as we pass by.

It is a great day and one of the annual events we look forward to each year. Thanks to Gary and Cheryl Barrango for organizing this event and inviting the Club to participate. Thanks to everyone who participated. We will do it again next year.

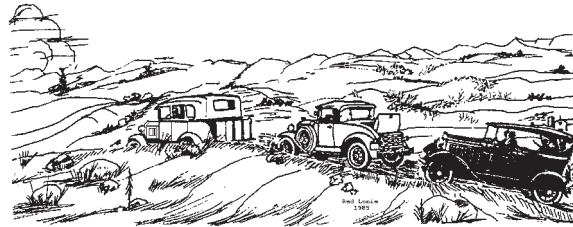
*Barry Kinney*



Photos by Ralph Hoffschildt

## 2016 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

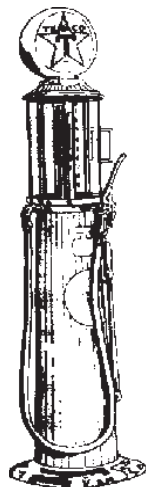


MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	31	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.
FEB	20 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	12 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
MARCH	16-21	BARRY KINNEY	LOS ANGELES MUSEUM TOUR
APRIL	23	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - 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

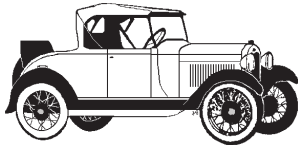
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Gary Barrango** at **415-821-2628**  
We encourage Club Members to plan additional *driving tours* throughout the year.  
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

## 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**  
**September 8, 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 but Kev Enderby made a surprise appearance at this month's meeting.

**Reports of Officers**

**President:** Reservations have been made at the Murphys Inn motel. Walter's are under the individual's names, the rest are under Barry's name. The group will leave Friday between 9:30 am and 10 am from Diamond Heights. We will have lunch at Knight's Ferry. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch with you. We will travel on Old Sonora Road to Highway 4. Friday's dinner will be on our own. Saturday we will have dinner at the Old Murphy's Hotel. Dinner will be at 6 pm. ♦ Barry has suggested that we do a By-Laws review. There is nothing in the current By-Laws about spending money without board authorization. This apparently got left out of the revisions awhile back. He said that we need to add this clause to the existing by-Laws. It was suggested that we provide funds available for discretionary items. We should vote if the item is over \$500. The decision would be up to the Board of Directors. Anyone who leads a tour should get funds for refreshments. Everyone should have a copy of the By-Laws. ♦ Gunard moved that the club not send paper Choke Rods to people who are not paid members, with an exception for other clubs. We would do e-mail only. We have 33 paid members and 6 lifetime members in the club.

**Vice President:** No report

**Secretary:** No report

**Treasurer:** Jeanine reported on our bank balance.

**Editor:** No report

**Food and Beverage Chair:** No report

**Tour Chair:** No report

**For The Good Of The Order:** Al reported on the trip to Bonneville. The event had been closed for two years. They had it this year. Greg Martinez qualified for 185 in the short coarse and from 157 to 163 mph on the long course. He broke both of his own records. He might race at El Mirage this coming weekend. He would like club members to come to help or just cheer him on. Casey Martinez is hosting a car show at St. Anne of the Sunset Church on Saturday October 29 from 9 am until 2 pm.

Jeanine Mahl provided refreshments for the meeting. Jenny Jump will provide refreshments for the next meeting. 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, November 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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### 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



### 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?



**NOVEMBER MEETING**  
**◆◆ ELECTION OF OFFICERS ◆◆**  
**Thursday November 10, 2016**  
**7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club**  
**136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)**  
**San Francisco**