

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 60, Issue 9

Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years

September 2016

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Barry Kinney

Barry's Magical Mystery Tour

page 5

Upcoming Tours

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

Sunday October 9 - Italian Heritage Parade - San Francisco

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

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

On Sunday August 14th we experienced the MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR. I think it was more of a surprise than a mystery. It was a good tour and we may do the second half in November after the kids are back in school and tourism is at a low on the peninsula.



I went to the "CAR CRAZY" show just off of Highway 92 at Alameda de las Pulgas. It is a great show. In addition the entry fee includes a BBQ lunch and plenty of parking in the shade. Visitor parking is inside and free. John Bettencourt introduced me to the organizer. He said that if we want to do the show as a Club he is willing to reserve space for us. I think we will place this show on our 2017 schedule.

IRONSTONE is our next adventure. Barry will lead the group up to Ironstone. We will meet in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center parking lot on Diamond Heights Boulevard at 9:30 am on Friday September 23rd. We will leave for Murphys at 10 am. Bring a picnic lunch and something to drink.

Saturday night we have reservations for dinner at the Old Murphys Hotel at 6 pm. We have room for 20 people. If you plan to attend please let me know. I don't want to end up with a lot of empty chairs.

If you plan to go to Ironstone be sure to attend the September meeting. We will go over all the details at the meeting on Thursday September 8th.

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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La Habra CA 90631
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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*.

Columbus Day Celebration 2016 Italian Heritage Parade Sunday October 9

San Francisco's 148th Annual Italian Heritage Parade on Sunday, October 9, as the City's oldest civic event and the nation's oldest Italian-American parade and community celebration, will wind its way from Fisherman's Wharf to North Beach. A San Francisco institution since it was established in 1868

Highlights include dozens of handcrafted parade floats featuring Bay Area businesses, community groups, and Italian organizations; local high school Italian clubs and marching bands; special appearances by "Christopher Columbus" and Queen Isabella and Her Court; festive open-air dining and Italian wine and food specials at North Beach restaurants lining the Parade route; performances by a variety of traditional Italian musicians and performance artists; and special appearances by Bay Area and Italian-American celebrities. The Columbus Day celebration is local, lots of fun, and puts a few dollars in our treasury. If you are interested in being part of our contingent, contact Gary Barrango at 650-572-1142 or 415-821-2628.

St. Anne of the Sunset Annual Parish Festival Car Show Saturday, October 29

The St. Anne Parish Festival will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday October 28, 29, 30. There will be Free Admission, Games, Raffle, Silent Auction, Entertainment, Food and Beverages. The festival will conclude with a pancake brunch on Sunday October 30.

Our own Casey Martinez is planning a car show to be held on Saturday October 29 - from 10 am until 2 pm. Cars will assemble on the south side of Irving Street between Fourteenth Avenue and Funston as early as 9 am. Casey says "I'm looking for nice cars - and I know you have one. Please come and show your car and help a good cause at the St. Anne's Parish Festival." Contact Casey directly if you are interested in displaying your nice car.

Tour Leader: Casey Martinez 415-725-2450

Refreshments at the August meeting were provided by **no one**

Jeanine Mahl

will provide refreshments at the September meeting



For Sale: 1929 Model A Sport Coupe

Owned for over 20 years – in excellent condition – believed to have original lacquer paint with some imperfections, especially on hood. Mechanically perfect, always garaged, maintained by Bob Craig Sr. Won Second Place at Silverado Country Club. Contact longtime club member Steve Karr directly at 415-244-2134.



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.

Barry will lead the group up to Ironstone. We will meet in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center Parking lot on Diamond Heights Blvd. at 9:30 A.M. on Friday the 23rd of September. We will leave for Murphys at 10 A.M. Bring a picnic lunch and something to drink.

Tour Leader: Barry Kinney 415-282-2789

See our website for an article in Hemmings about last year's Ironstone: <http://sfmodelaclub.org/the-choke-rod/2016/Sep/Hemmings-Sept-2016.pdf>



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Kevin Richardson	September 11
Judy O'Brien	September 13
Victoria Acosta	September 15
Vincent Ryan Frueh	September 15
Jenny Jump	September 16
Dan Bowermaster	September 17
Christina DeMartini Reyes	September 22
Ken Kling	September 22
James & Daisy Young	September 18
Robert & Nina Petersen	September 28

Model A Blast from the Past

Preserving and Restoring the Model A Ford Since 1956

Celebrating 60 Years

The Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. In 1956, a gallon of gasoline cost 22¢; the very first video tape recording was demonstrated by Ampex; the NBC peacock debuted on TV; the Summer Olympics were held in Melbourne, Australia; President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act that created the Interstate Highway System; the New York Yankees won the World Series; the DuMont Television Network went off the air for the last time; and Cecil B. DeMille's epic film *The Ten Commandments* is released.

Unlike today where everything posted on the Internet is out there forever, not all of the Club's history has survived. But the Club's archives contains these gems from the Club's earliest days.



First City Tour - Golden Gate Bridge - 1956



First City Tour - Pier 7 - 1956



First City Tour - Twin Peaks - 1956



First Sebastapol Tour - Gas Station - 1956



First City Tour - Golden Gate Park Wind Mill - 1956



First Mt. Diablo Tour - Lineup - 1956



First Mt. Diablo Tour - Picnic - 1956



First Sebastopol Tour - Lineup- 1956



Cambria Lodge - Members - 1956



Original Club Officers Berger Albin Osburn Swartz



Cambria Lodge - Members - 1956

Barry's Magical Mystery Tour

The Magic Mystery Tour – is to be continued. The August Tour fell short of expectations not because of content but because we failed to complete the tour as planned. The plan included three museums and a lunch stop. The Mystery Tour never went beyond the first museum, the San Mateo County History Museum. We found this museum to be so interesting that we put the remaining portions of the tour on “Hold” except, of course, for lunch at the Alpine Inn.

The San Mateo County Museum is an overlooked gem on the peninsula. We all drive by it every time we drive south on Highway 101 past Redwood City. The Museum is housed in the old San Mateo County Courthouse which was constructed in 1910. The building went through a complete and thorough restoration in 2006. The dome is seventy feet in height — it is the largest stained glass dome on the West coast.

The Museum depicts the history of the Peninsula - from the original native inhabitants to today. It places the local history in context with the outside world. The museum explores the county's residents, the great estates of the San Francisco Millionaires, the immigrants, the entrepreneurs, life on the peninsula through the decades including sports, transportation, and law enforcement, and even explores the Mavericks surfing spot off the coast of Pillar Point.

After our immersion in the light of the dome, and a group photo, we followed Joan Peterson up Alpine Road to another historic site, the Alpine Inn. The Alpine Inn is an old road house that now houses a beer garden. The place is old and rustic and home to the locals. It is the kind of place you can carve your initials in the table and no one cares.

Most of us had the Alpine Burger which comes with bacon and cheese for \$9. The beer was Blue Moon. I never saw so few people drink so much beer in such a short time. We spent most of the afternoon swapping stories about the important stuff, family, grand kids, baby pictures, politics, and of course our museum experience. It was a relaxing day shared with good food and good friends. The cast of characters included Jeanine and Gunard Mahl, Victoria Acosta and Charlie Kascal. Walter Caplan, Joan Peterson, Mike Cunneen, and me — the remainder of the tour has been continued to a yet to be determined future date.



Photo by Barry Kinney

Barry Kinney



Lace lends itself to many delightful possibilities as a base material for creating fashions, or as the decoration or trimming of frocks. It is suitable in some form for every age from the very young to the more mature figure. Lace is the fabric of romance, and the wearer consciously or unconsciously must respond.



There are many lace harmonies. Some of these are; black lace over black satin, black lace combined with black chiffon, ecru lace combined some times with ecru chiffon or thin crepe, ecru lace touched with gold embroidery over black satin, heavy ecru lace combined with finest linen over black satin, a shimmering web of white-and-silver lace banded with narrow silver galon, thinnest black lace combined with-plaited black mousseline with a transparent cape fashioned in the same manner, or light beige lace trimmed with gold galon, white blonde lace.

It is possible to dye lace in any shade so that desired color combinations can be easily obtained.

If one is fortunate enough to own a lace shawl, one has the base for a very lovely evening wrap. The shawl is often used as the decorative part of a gown. The image reminds us of "Carmen", (from the opera of the

same name) picturesque in her hat of lace with its filmy spray, breeze-tossed. An evening ensemble such as this is so flattering that the one who wears it must inevitably be seen as beautiful.

No matter how fashions may come or go, that which makes us beautiful is bound to remain forever and this is especially true of lace.

Tinkering with Our Toys (Part 1)

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.

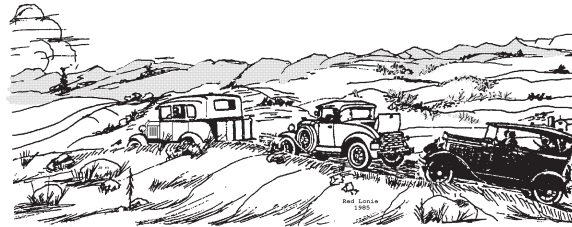
With 50 years of writings in this area by numerous authorities, it is not without some trepidation that there can be recall of some "old hat" and debatable ideas. An honest attempt has been made to avoid a major invasion in this area.

ENGINE

- Many poorly idling engines simply need a new intake-exhaust gasket set. Some current composition replacements split after a short period of use. Metal clad gaskets are best. Check compression and timing and don't be afraid to turn the idle jet down to its seat. Some "A" engines idle best at or near this setting.
- Wasps and similar insects love to crawl into dark hiding places especially crankcases of Model A Fords. The entry point is the oil filler tube during storage periods. The oil screen on the oil pump can grab these pests and they are not drained out with the oil. Solder a copper screen on bottom of filler cap or cover filler opening with a single layer of cheese cloth or similar.
- When removing engine head, first flush out any antifreeze with a couple of water changes before loosening head bolts. This will save cleanup of a disagreeable mess on parts, engine block and floor.
- When replacing front crankcase oil seal soak it overnight in STP (or equal parts STP and motor oil). This will help to avoid an excessive smokey burn-in and future oil leak.
- A $15/32$ drill will effectively clear rust and residue from the bolt holes in cylinder head. This avoids messing up gasket surfaces with sluff and allows easier installation.
- Ford put out a "high compression" head as a standard parts item. Part # A-6050-B with a compression ratio of around 5.5, about the same as the Model B. Fit all Model A's.
- A .125" overbore increases the displacement of a Model A about 13 cubic inches or about 6.5% over standard. This increases compression ratio about 5% with standard head.
- Some Model A owners obtain a bit more power from their engines by installing a Model B camshaft. This requires the Model B pushrods which are a fraction longer or adjustables. This seems to cause no side effects and will permit some improved "top-end" performance.
- The cylinder head makes an excellent guide for drilling the primary hole for Heli-Coil insert installation to repair stripped block threads.
- The removal of .065" from the surface of an original Model A cylinder head was a simple way to pick up a few "horses" for the high school crowd of the 30s. As long as at least .035" remained of the original recess in the cylinder head no identifiable problems came up since the head gasket added another .065" of clearance. Some rebuilds permit piston tops to rise a bit above the block and should be considered in any "shaving off."
- Headbolts and nuts with threads chased and oiled will provide an adequate gasket seal when finally torqued to 50-55 foot pounds on a warm engine. Strong arm tightening can cause gasket leakage by warping block. Any headbolts that are stretched (May Wasted) must be replaced.
- Castellated nuts do not always line up with the cotter pin hole in the bolt. Switch about the nuts if working on rod bearings or try another. A gentle facing on the flat side of a grinding wheel often works. Do not loosen or go grossly over the torque range to align.
- When inspecting a set of re-babbited rods, never swap or reverse the various caps. The babbit on some remakes is not centered nor are they sufficiently standardized from rod to rod to permit this.
- When installing crankshaft do not swap or reverse # 1 and #2 main bearing caps.
- Engines over bored in the range of .100-.125" may not accept some replacement head gaskets. Where the pistons have square shoulders, the upstroke position will place the piston in direct contact with the gasket resulting in an elusive, but positive, knock. Since pistons with beveled edges avoid this problem, cut a 45 degree bevel on top edges to a width of about .135". This knock has confused some of the best.
- Before installing cylinder head check each cylinder for small parts. This can avoid some unusual experiences.
- Some replacement front engine pulleys are off-center both at the packing seal surface and belt groove. A permanent oil leak and fanbelt whip results. A truing cut on a lathe up to .010-.015 (diameter reduction-new pulley) and a reasonable cut on pulley groove may salvage the pulley. It is best to identify the problem prior to original installation by chucking the unit in metal lathe to measure the run-out.
- New rear motor mount rubber cushions can cause a frustrating tight squeeze when installing an engine. Two 6" C clamps will usually draw the motor into place. Locate the clamps between the flywheel housing lug and frame motor mounts.
- Watch threads on replacement exhaust pipe clamp bolts. Some threads run out before clamp halves are in tightened position.
- Some adjustable pushrods (tappets) can be adjusted only in the up (toe of cam) position. Some extra trial and error is required but results are satisfactory.
- General Rule: Your engine will always keep its poise with a little valve noise or, "It's better to hear 'em than repair 'em." Never less than .010" on intake and .015" on exhaust. Err on the higher side; never adjust closer than specs to remove noise.

2016 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

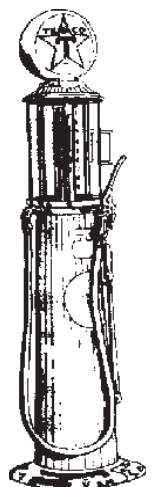


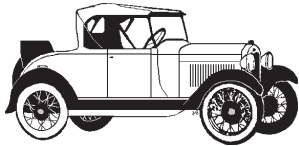
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JAN	31	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - BASQUE CULTURAL CTR.
FEB	20 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB
MARCH	12 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
MARCH	16-21	BARRY KINNEY	LOS ANGELES MUSEUM TOUR
APRIL	23	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - 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 ST ANNUAL 28 TH 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
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 - www.ncrgmafca.com
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
August 11, 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: The Ironstone Tour will be Friday - Sunday September 23 - 25. We will caravan up on Friday morning. Directions to come later. (See President's Message for details). We have 6 rooms reserved for the weekend. Ralph, Charlie, and Franz have reservations under Walter's name. Joan, Al, and Barry have reservations under Barry's name. All rooms have a two night minimum. Check in is at 2 pm. Dinner reservations for 20 have been made at the Old Murphys Hotel Saturday night. Dinner is at 6 pm. ♦ Barry's mystery tour is on Sunday August 14. We will meet in the parking lot of the Hiller Museum at the San Carlos Airport at 8:30 am. There will be a running board breakfast. We will leave at 9:15 am.

Vice President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Our bank balances show that we have money. A precedent was set by having the club buy the lunch at the Presidio on Memorial Day. There were a lot of people present. We should not pay for lunches in the future without prior approval. Expenses need to be discussed prior, and voted on by the club.

Editor: The September 2017 train tour will be discussed at length at the October meeting. ♦ Walter attended Chris Thompson's event. They met at Chris's shop, then went and toured the Red Oak Victory Ship, which is being restored in Richmond. ♦ Walter got a call from club member Steve Karr. Steve would like to sell his Model A. It is a 1929 Sport Coupe. It is in good shape.

Food and Beverage Chair: No report

Tour Chair: No report

For The Good Of The Order: Jeanine said that she was sorry for forgetting the refreshments this time, but will bring them next month. ♦ The Columbus Day Parade will be Sunday October 9. ♦ There is no date yet set for next year's crab feed.

no one provided refreshments for the meeting. Jeanine Mahl will provide refreshments for the next meeting. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 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, September 8, 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



in this Choke Rod

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www.sfmodelaclub.org

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING
Thursday September 8, 2016
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco