

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 61, Issue 1

Celebrating the Model A for Sixty Years

January 2017

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Scott Williams

Christmas Banquet

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Upcoming Tours

Sunday January 22 - President's Brunch - Redwood City

Saturday March 11 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - San Francisco

Sunday April 30 - Pacific Coast Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay

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 or mailed to Walter Caplan at 157 Warren Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131.

TOUR CHAIR: Gary Barrango
EDITORS: Walter Caplan
Scott Williams
MEMBERSHIP: Walter Caplan

President's Message

Another Year, 2017! Happy New Year to everyone. We have some great things planned for this year including our Once-In-A-Lifetime-Tour to Dearborn, Michigan and the midwest by train, plane and automobile.



The President's Brunch will be a little late this year. It is planned for Sunday January 22. This year we are going to Redwood City. See page three of the **Choke Rod** for specifics. In addition, we will send everyone an e-mail with tour details.

The Club Roster is coming together. It should be done, and delivered soon. It won't be fancy but it will be current and user friendly.

Don't forget to pay your 2017 membership dues.

See you at the meeting on Thursday January 12.

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
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*.

Crab Feed

CANCELLED

Sadly we will not be having a Crab Feed in 2017 due to scheduling difficulties – but don't despair, there will be an even bigger and better SF Model A Crab Feed in 2018. Stay tuned for details both on our club website www.sfmodelaclub.org and in upcoming issues of **The Choke Rod**.

President's Brunch Redwood City January 22

The Annual President's Brunch will be on Sunday January 22. We will meet at the Hiller Aviation Museum parking lot at 9:30 am for a very light running board breakfast. We will leave at 10 am and drive on to Angelica's in downtown Redwood City for a 10:30 am brunch.

Please confirm your attendance
RSVP Barry Kinney at 415-647-7077 or 415-282-2789.

27th Pacific Coast Dream Machines Half Moon Bay Sunday April 30

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.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday March 11

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.

2017 Midwest Train Tour Extravaganza of Museums and Sites of Interest Monday Sept 4 - Tuesday Sept 19

For details go to the Events page on our website:
<http://sfmodelaclub.org/events.html>

Register soon to assure your accommodations on this unforgettable tour

For additional information Contact Walter Caplan at whcaplan@comcast.net or 415.621.0500

Dessert for the Christmas Banquet was provided by
The Club

Walter Caplan
will provide refreshments at the January meeting



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Sabrina Mei Bowermaster	January 2
Janelle Barrango Frueh	January 5
Matthew Sullivan	January 7
Terrence McGinnis	January 9
Terry Machado	January 16
John Bettencourt	January 23
Bob Craig, Sr.	January 30
Coragene Savio	January 30
Gunard & Jeanine Mahl	January 24

Christmas Banquet

Christmas at Val's once again was our biggest Club meeting of the year in terms of attendance. It was also one of the warmest and most cheerful. Room and fabulous table decorations once again by Jenny and Joan brightened the room and set the tone.

Jenny and Joan amazingly came up with an array of great raffle prizes and individual gifts to club members. Our sincere thanks to Joan Peterson, Jenny Jump, Nel Richmond, and Al Thomas and John Bettencourt for their raffle and gift contributions. Needless to say, no one went home empty handed.

Our Santa, Victor Garcia in real life, neatly trimmed hand and foot in his traditional red suit, distributed the gifts with the help of his elves, Jenny and Joan. Santa's first gift presentations were to little Ethan Mahl, a charming two year old, and his little sister Eva our youngest Club members. Ethan and Eva are the son and daughter of Jonathan and Gabriella Mahl and grandson of Gunard and Jeanine Mahl.

Club member Nel Richmond is celebrating her ninetieth birthday, so we joyously acknowledged her long life and good health with song and birthday greetings prominently written on our holiday dessert cake.

The party concluded with the raffle and then we all headed home with family and friends, our gifts, and our memories of the 2016 Christmas Banquet at Val's. "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

Walter Caplan





Photos by Scott Williams

A Stunning Coat for Little Women

"Little women" could order this stunning coat from the 1927 Sears Roebuck catalog for only \$29.95. Quite the steal, don't you think?



17K3210
All Wool
DUVMERE
Suede
Satin de Chine
Lining
\$29.95
Manda.
Fur Collar

A Stunning Coat for Little Women

Tiered flounces lend a chic new note to this lovely coat, being featured on the skirt of the garment and topped with soft gathering at either side, effecting a charming, graceful all-house.

The coat is developed in All Wool Duvmere Suede—a high grade, winter weight fabric of dressy appearance. Observe the smartness of the sleeves, with their double cuffs—featuring strap and button trimming. The deep shawl collar is also fashion's latest, made in this case of selected grade Manda Fur in harmonising color with the coat.

In tailoring and every detail, this coat is all that can be desired, yet its price is incredibly modest—only \$29.95. It comes with warm interlining and has guaranteed Sain de Chine lining. Average length, about 43 inches.

Special Sizes for Little Women—34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. State size. See page 15 for measuring instructions. Shipping wt. 5½ lbs. \$29.95
17K3210—Medium Gray.

Brave the Bay Donation to Make-A-Wish



At the annual Brave the Bay event hosted by the San Francisco Police Department, John Bettencourt presented the club's \$500 donation to the Make-A-Wish foundation on December 3 at Aquatic Park.

Proposed By-Law Change

It has been brought to the attention of the Club Board of Directors that the Club on various occasions in the past has subsidized a number of Club activities without first gaining approval of the Club Board or the Executive Committee.

Those Club expenditures have had general approval of the Club and have been legitimate and transparent. However, Club members recognize that it is important that the Club approve expenditures with official actions and in accordance with the By-Laws.

However, the By-Laws are not specific with respect to who must approve Club expenditures. The By-Laws give the Treasurer the responsibility and prerogative to dispense Club money when necessary and without restriction. The Executive Committee serves as the Finance Committee but no specific language outlines the responsibility of the Finance Committee regarding expenditures.

To correct this discrepancy in the By-Laws the Board has proposed an addition to Section 7 of the By-Laws. The addition reads: All Club expenditures that are not of a routine nature or that exceed \$500 shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

If this addition is approved, Section 7 will read: 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 \$500 shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of the Club Officers, the Editor, and the Immediate Past President. A vote will be taken on this change to the By-Laws at the January 2017 meeting.

Tinkering with Our Toys (Part 5)

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.

OIL PUMP

- Starting in cold or freezing weather can bring on many strange noises as the oil pump gasps through thick oil, shrunken pistons rap and dry bearings clatter. Cavitation around the oil pump (air pocket) can set up an evil rattle for a few moments while the pump wobbles and pulses. Check oil before starting in freezing weather. The oil pump drive lug can be sheared off if the pump is sitting in a few inches of water leaked into the crankcase. Allow slow warm-up.
- Always replace coil spring on bottom of oil pump if weak or etched. A broken spring can allow the pump to drop enough to disengage the drive lug and create a disaster.
- Very few oil pumps need rebuilding but the procedure offers comfort to a rebuild. Be sure rebuilt fits fully and snugly into block. An etched or worn pump bottom plate can be reversed to provide a new surface. Be sure there is a gasket under the pump shroud cover to assist in cold oil flow and minimize pulling in of air. Crankcases are pumped nearly dry on cold starts and may show zero on oil gauges upon right turns until warm-up.
- If you have a doubt about oil pump operation, temporarily install a radiator stopcock in oil gallery access hole on side of block. A moment of opening will prove the point. A permanent oil gauge is best but remember, ½ to 1½ pounds of pressure on a hot engine is normal.
- Some new oil filler caps permit a complete close off of filler tube. Crankcase pressure will blow through back main bearing and other escape points. Either back off about ¼" on cap when installing or bend down the lugs already on some caps to keep it from closing off filler tube. This will save a lot of oil puddles on the garage floor.

CARBURETOR

- Do not turn on gas supply to a dry carburetor without immediately starting the engine. A puddle of gasoline can form up in a hurry under the carburetor just waiting to flame off. Engine vibration usually seats the float needle valve to set things back to normal.

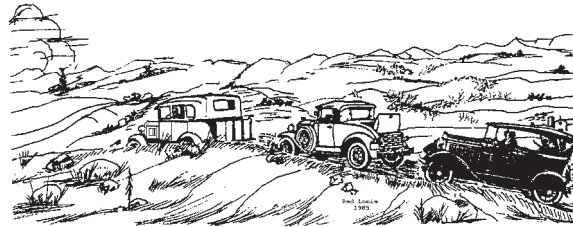
- Choke rods sometimes rub against the carburetor throttle rod setting up a noisy vibration. Slightly bend out the ball-tipped arm of the throttle plate just enough to clear the point of contact. Use two small wrenches so as to take the bending strain from throttle plate swedging.
- Don't toss out that Air Maze carburetor air cleaner. A clean and well oiled unit is better than nothing until you put on one of updates made for the purpose. Do check for high speed performance after the installation of any air cleaner; missing may occur.
- Reassembled carburetors sometimes display binding throttle and choke plates. Loosen the butterfly screws and "home" the plates to properly center in the openings.

FUEL SYSTEM

- Be careful when installing gas lines. Excessive extension of the tubing beyond the compression ferrule can block fuel flow. Never allow more than ¼ inch beyond ferrule.
- It is fairly easy to "calibrate" a gasoline gauge through filler by prudent bending of float wire. Most originals and replacements provide sufficient range so that gauge can be set to show somewhat past zero when cork is on bottom of tank and just full on the "F." The "past zero" setting assures some remaining gasoline if gauge is "floating."
- The original gasoline tank filler screen triggers the auto- shutoff on gas station hoses making a tank fillup a painfully slow procedure. Modern filter systems on gas station pumps tend to preclude any practical use of the screen. Ford omitted this screen on all T's, B's and V-8's. A number of Model A owners are removing this screen except for serious judging events.
- Pesky leaks in firewall mounted glass gasoline filter bowls are usually made worse by reefing up on securing bail nut. A neoprene gasket repair kit used on some tank type garden sprayer hand pumps (or cut from stock neoprene) to replace the cork gasket will stop the leaking problem if filter body has not been pulled out of shape.
- Some hard to find carburetor leaks are due to faulty gaskets under the jets, especially the main and cap jets. Leaky float needle valves and externally viewed gaskets are most obvious.

2017 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

It's THE JOURNEY! NOT THE DESTINATION!

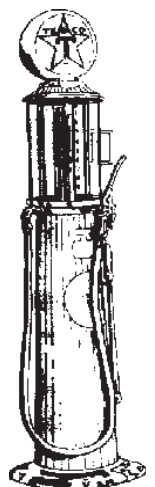


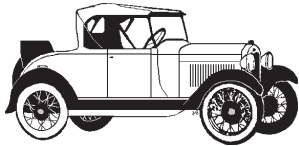
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	22	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - REDWOOD CITY
MARCH	11 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - SF
MARCH	TBA	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	SWANTON PACIFIC RR TOUR - DAVENPORT CA
APRIL	TBA	KINNEY	SPRING SPEED WEEKEND - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	30	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	29 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	17 SATURDAY	CAPLAN	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	25	CAPLAN	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
AUGUST	TBA	KINNEY	BARRY'S MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR
SEPTEMBER	TBA	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	TBA	MAHL	42 ND ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER	4-19	BARRY KINNEY	GREAT MICHIGAN/MIDWEST TRAIN TOUR
SEPTEMBER	22-24	CAPLAN / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCTOBER	8	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF
OCTOBER	TBA	CAPLAN	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
November	12 FRIDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE - FISHERMAN'S WHARF
DECEMBER	2 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DECEMBER	9 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.

2017 Schedule of Events

- Jan 22** SF Model A Club President's Brunch – Redwood City
- Jan 28-29** Turlock Swap Meet
- May 16-20** NCRG Roundup Modesto hosted by the Hub Tour – Lodi CA – www.ncrgmafca.com
- Oct 1-6** MAFCA National Tour – Pacific Coast Hwy – Paso Robles to Napa Valley
hosted by the Bakersfield Chapter
- Dec 5-8** MAFCA National Awards Banquet, Oklahoma City, OK
hosted by Sooner Model A Club of Oklahoma City





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

The December meeting was held at Val's Restaurant in Daly City. The meeting was called to order following the Club Annual Christmas Banquet on Saturday December 10 at 8 pm by Vice President Gunard Mahl, in the absence of President Barry Kinney.

Ceremonies following the Banquet included acknowledging Nel Richmond's ninetieth birthday, a visit by Santa Claus, and acknowledgment of the Board of Directors for the year 2016. Recognition of the dedication and good work of the 2016 Board, all of whom agreed to continue in office for the 2017 year, will occur at the President's Brunch on Sunday January 22, 2017 when our President Barry Kinney will preside and be appropriately honored for all his hard work sustaining our club over many years and decades. In addition, the Tour Leaders, Board Members, and The Choke Rod editors each will be acknowledged for their individual contributions during the past year. Additionally, a number of other club members will be recognized for their help in furthering the activities of the club and presented with a gift from the club.

Club members brought a large number of children's toys that the club transported to the San Francisco Fire Fighters Toy Program for distribution to disadvantaged children.

The Club again thanks John Bettencourt and Nell Richmond for recommending Val's for our Christmas Banquet, for Barry Kinney securing the date, and Jeanine Mahl for handling reservations.

Many thanks to Jenny Jump, Al Thomas, and Joan Peterson for all their hard work and for their considerable contributions, all of which resulted in the success of the event.

And a special thanks to Victor Garcia, aka Santa Claus, without whom our banquet would not have been complete. In fact, Santa had so much fun that he promises to be with us again for Christmas in the coming years.

For The Good Of The Order: The Club in year 2016 again increased in size, sponsored major annual events, contributed substantially to charity, and provided its members with enjoyable tours and monthly meetings. This could not have been possible without the dedication and support of all the members of the San Francisco Model A Club family.

Happy New Year!

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



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Insert:

2017 Membership Renewal Form



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



RENEW NOW

see Insert for
2017 Membership Form
Deadline: January 31

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