

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 62, Issue 12

Celebrating the Model A for More Than Sixty Years

December 2018

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Ralph Hoffschildt

Veterans Day Parade

see page 6

Upcoming Tours

Saturday December 8 - Brave the Bay - Aquatic Park, San Francisco
Saturday December 8 - Christmas Banquet - Val's Restaurant, Daly City

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

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: sfmodelclub@icloud.com 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

This has been a good year for our Club. I have never belonged to a club with so many characters as this one nor have I been a member of a group whose company I enjoyed more. I think the character of the club and its members is reflected in our activities, most of which support other groups and those less fortunate. Some examples include a donation indirectly through the SFPD to the "Make A Wish" Foundation. We celebrate Fathers Day at St. Anne's Home. We are there for the veterans on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Our Crab Feed is a charitable event and benefits deaf children. We donate to Toys For Tots — don't forget to bring your donated toy to the Christmas Party on Saturday December 8 at Val's in Daly City. And, to finish up the year, we help Jill Schwab and Joan Peterson put together Christmas gift bags for the veterans at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospitals as well as homeless shelters.



We have a good Club made up of great people. I am proud to be the perpetual president of this organization and I want to thank everyone who agreed to serve along with me again in 2019.

See you at the Christmas Banquet, Saturday January 10.

Barry Kinney

The San Francisco Model "A" Ford Club encourages membership in MAFCA, the National Model "A" Ford Club. Benefits include an excellent bimonthly 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*.

Brave The Bay Saturday December 8 - Aquatic Park

On Saturday December 8 we will join Brave the Bay at Aquatic Park, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Club will be there to present our club donation to Make-A-Wish. Club members should bring their Model A's, breakfast at 8 am at the Buena Vista Cafe, and join the morning activities. www.bravethebay.com

Christmas Banquet Saturday December 8

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 8 at Val's Restaurant in Daly City.

See the inserts in the November **Choke Rod** for details.

2019 Club Officers

Elections for the 2019 officers were held at the November meeting. The officers for 2019 are:

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Donald Parsons	December 2
Melanie Marie Patsel	December 9
Steve Karr	December 14
Frank O'Brien	December 18
Bob Faber	December 24
Paul DeMartini	December 30
John FB Zuffi	December 31

Dave & Marilyn Chiotti	December 2
Steve Owsley & Jack Green	December 17

Senior Gift Bag Stuffing Thursday December 6

On Thursday December 6 our San Francisco Model A Club will participate in the annual "Senior Bag Stuffing" event. For the last 21 years our friend Jill Schwab has been organizing this event. All year long we collect toiletries from hotels, paperback books, and other odds and ends to put in the decorated bags. This year our group will gather at 8 am in the Boy Scout Office at 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The gift bags go to Meals On Wheels, the two Veterans Administration hospitals in the area, and a senior day care facility. Last year we gave out 940 gift bags. Our club had a great showing last year. Walter, Barry, Cynthia, Joan, John Bettencourt, and Jenny all attended. There will be lots of good food and fun and with many hands working we'll be fast and efficient.

If you are unable to come help and you have items to add to those we have already collected, please bring them to the November meeting and Joan will see that they are properly distributed.

And the Winner Is...



Photos by Joe Higgins

Walter Caplan became the proud winner of the Bent Rod Award after blowing out his Jaguar's master cylinder during the trip to Murphys for the Ironstone Concours. Congratulations Walter.

Refreshments at the November meeting were provided by **Jeanine Mahl and Barry Kinney**

The Club
will provide dessert
at the Christmas banquet



Save the Dates for...
**THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY
MILITARY CONVOY
CENTENNIAL TOUR**

August 31 - September 16, 2019



WASHINGTON DC TO SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Retrace the route taken by the army convoy that summer of 1919, including the feeder route from DC to Gettysburg, and the alternate roads of eastern Ohio. Open to all vehicles, from antique to contemporary. Car clubs and military vehicles are encouraged to participate. Registration begins January 2019.

For more information, contact tours@lhtp.com.

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA) is an International Organization founded in 1976 in the United States and is a 501(c) 3 non-profit. The MVPA are collectors and caretakers of all things military. We restore and collect these important artifacts to honor veterans, and preserve their legacy and history (or future generations through educational programs, parades, conventions, convoys and other activities throughout the United States and overseas.

Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of men and women of all ages and from many different backgrounds. There are over 10,000 active members in 100 affiliate groups in the United States along with membership overseas.

One of the major activities of the MVPA is convoys. In the past few years these convoys have been completed; 2017 Route 66 Convoy traveling 2,471 miles from Chicago, IL to Santa Monica, CA, 2015 Bankhead Convoy retracing the 1920 military convoy traveling 3,634 miles from Washington D.C. to San Diego, CA, 2012 Alaska Convoy over 4,500 miles celebrating the 70th anniversary of building the ALCAN in 1919, and the 2009 Transcontinental Convoy (TMC) to retrace the military convoy in 1909 from Washington D.C. to San Francisco, CA.

By way of introduction we are in the planning stages for the next convoy that will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the United States Army completing the Lincoln Highway Transcontinental Convoy in 1919 from Washington D.C. to San Francisco, CA. The convoy will start on Saturday, August 10, 2019 in York, PA and will end on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Lincoln Park, San Francisco, CA.

Dan was the convoy commander for the 29-day Route 66 Convoy last year and was actively involved and participated in the previous three convoys.

As recent new members of the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA), on TMC'19 we will be involved as the liaison between the LHA and the Convoy Teams. The teams will be responsible for planning the daily morning and afternoon breaks, meals and overnight lodging. We are part of the California team along with other teams who are MVPA Convoy members who have participated on previous convoys and who will

be contacting the LHA members and chapters in their respective states for assistance and support.

Reading the Summer 2018 issue of The Lincoln Highway Forum we see your organization is planning a Centennial Tour September 1-16, 2019 at a much faster pace than our military vehicles traveling at 35 mph and TMC'19 will take 37 days to complete.

We talked with Jay Lawrence, Editor and Jim Cassler, Publisher of the Lincoln Highway Forum magazine about having our Convoy Teams contact the LHA state chapters directly to ask for assistance and support while making arrangements for the MVPA TMC'19 Convoy and we appreciate your help.

The current TMC'19 regional sections are listed below and will be finalized in early 2019. In a future LHF magazine

article we will follow up with additional information about the TMC'19 Convoy to encourage your membership to join us at our daily morning, afternoon, meals or overnight stops and learn more about who we are.

The planned 'Regional Sections' are as follows:

- Regional Section 1, 550 miles from York, PA to Wooster, OH
- Regional Section 2, 420 miles from Wooster, OH to DuPage County Fairgrounds, IL
- Regional Section 3, 607 miles from DuPage County Fairgrounds, IL to Gretna, NE
- Regional Section 4, 587 miles from Gretna, NE to Laramie, WY
- Regional Section 5, 519 miles from Laramie, WY to Tooele, UT
- Regional Section 6, 562 miles from Tooele, UT to Fallon, NV
- Regional Section 7, 349 miles from Fallon, NV to San Francisco, CA

If this sounds like something you might be interested in doing we invite you to join the TMC'19 convoy by becoming a member of the MVPA. To learn more about the MVPA and the convoys please visit our website at: www.mvpa.org or contact MVPA Headquarters at 1.800.365.5798 or email at hq@mvpa.org

MVPA Lincoln Highway Convoy 2019

By Dan and Janine McCluskey



All hands on deck group photo

Veterans Day Parade

Veterans Day is no longer the grand celebration it was thirty years ago. Since the closing of the Alameda Naval Air Station, the Presidio of San Francisco, and the purging of ROTC programs from our schools interest in the Veterans Day Parade has almost disappeared.

Today the parade is relegated to four blocks on Jefferson Street in the heart of Fishermans Wharf. Gone are the days when Market Street was filled to capacity with Veterans groups and marching bands from all branches of the military. Now the number of participants is small and have little to do with Veterans. Most of the spectators are tourists and seem a little surprised by the parade. However, things are beginning to change. We noticed that there are more groups of veterans willing to participate and within a few more years, given the current political climate, the parade may increase in size and importance. However, until the politicians get on board and the public sentiment toward our military changes here in San Francisco, this parade will remain small and unappreciated. This aside, it didn't stop us from having a good time. Walter brought his Mustang. Charlie and Victoria came in the Skylark, Ralph in his Roadster, John Bettencourt and Carmella in his Red Rod, and Don in his Caddy. It was a small but impressive group. We were billed at the Grand Stand as the San Francisco Model A Ford Club. The announcer was a little confused and unsure because only one of the five cars was a Model A. Thanks to Ralph we retained a small amount of credibility. Following the parade we parked at no charge in an underground garage courtesy of Walter Caplan and the Red and White Fleet. We walked the short distance to Castagnolas for lunch.

It was a good day and a uniquely San Francisco experience.

Barry Kinney



First (Architect-designed) Drive-in Gas (Service) Station Opened 1913

by Brian Butko

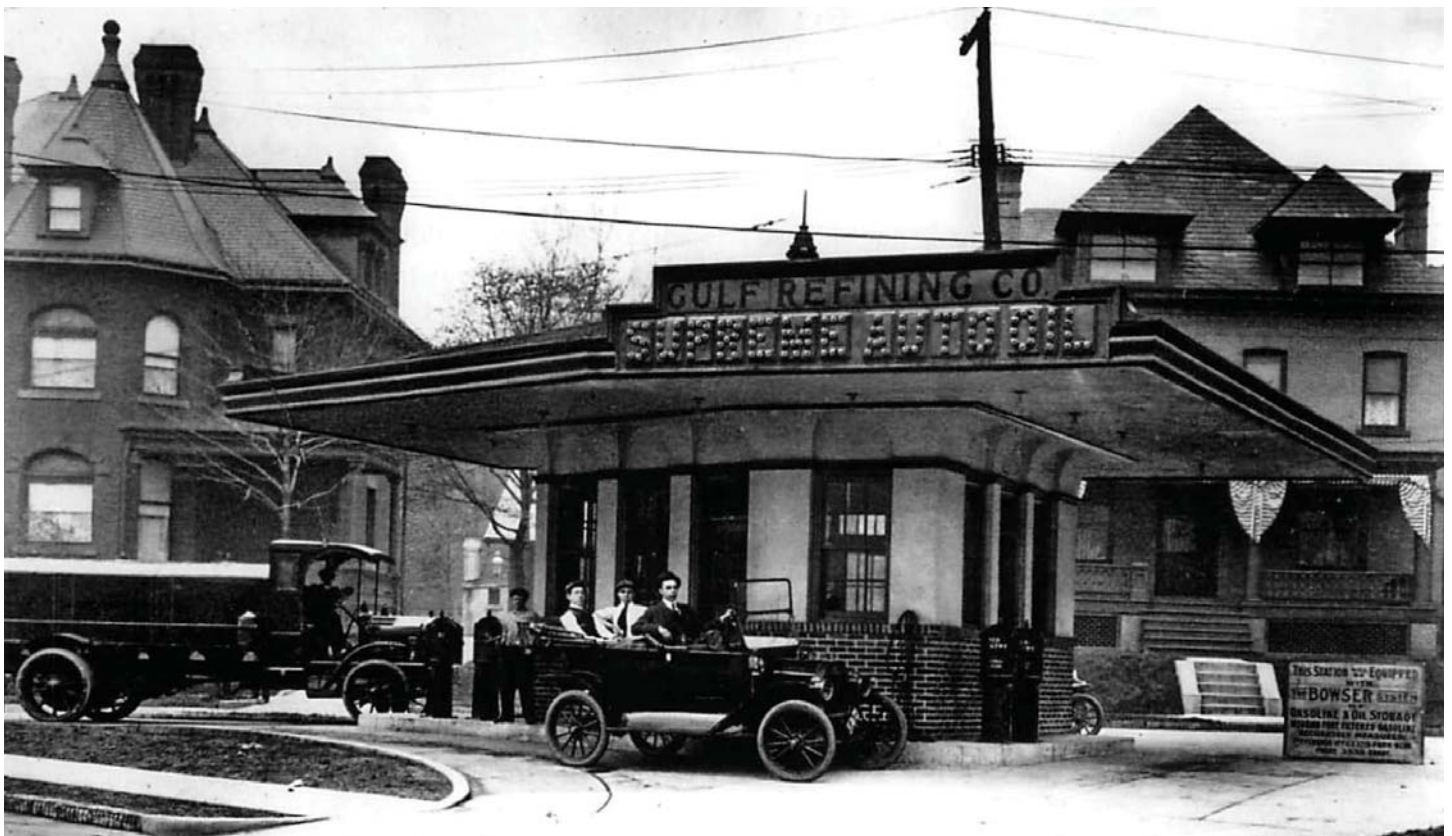
On December 1, 1913, the Lincoln Highway had celebrated its dedication just a month earlier when Gulf Oil opened a gas station along the new coast-to-coast road. Gulf's small hexagonal building on Baum Boulevard in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has long been called the "first drive-in filling station," but like any first, its story requires some explanation and qualification.

Gasoline had been sold for years out of barrels at hardware stores and other businesses serving the burgeoning auto industry. As early as 1905, oil companies began selling their own gas, but these informal stations still dispensed gasoline using a can or garden hose.

As auto sales skyrocketed (registrations rose from 8,000 in 1900 to 1.2 million in 1913), oil companies expanded their offerings to curbside pumps. Unlike all these non-uniform outlets, Gulf had an architect design its building to efficiently and elegantly pump gas plus provide services like checking fluids. In fact, by spring the station began giving away the first oil company road maps.

Gulf's station at 580 I Baum Boulevard was in a triangle where it met St. Clair Street. Baum was becoming the city's "automobile row," filling with garages, tire shops, and car dealers from Arlen to Winton. Even a new Ford plant had even just been approved a few blocks west on Baum to assemble Model T's. This was the primary path from downtown to the wealthy East End suburbs.

It was likewise a main route to points farther east: Greensburg, Ligonier, and over the Allegheny Mountains to Philadelphia-if one dared try. Auto businesses were quick to set up shop and serve the well-heeled local motorists.



Evening and Formal Wear

From the opera to the nightclubs, to the theater and country club, men, women and children all dressed in their finest. The latest of fashions were on display. Whether of wealth or modest means, when going out, the appropriate attire was worn.

There was a distinct difference in the fabric and accessories for the formal dress required for those occasions. It was the time to show off your best and don the new fashions as the seasons changed.

For the women, the style replicated what was seen during the day, but the fabrics were softer and lighter. The elegance of lace was fashioned into an exquisite gown. Beads and metallic threads were used to adorn the silks and velvets. The length of the skirts often skimmed the floor, with scallops and uneven hemlines. Shoes that peaked out from beneath the skirt were of elegantly trimmed materials. Wraps such as velvet opera coats and silk scarves with fringe were stylish. Fur trimmed the collars and sleeves and kept out the chill of a cool night. If a hat was worn it was fancy and stylish. If not, the hair was styled in the latest fashion, with hair adornments of rhinestones or beads.



A. This sleeveless dress has a princess silhouette with a tucked front bodice. The round neckline is accented with a white fur collar. c. 1931

B. A formal gown with full heavy bows at the bottom of the bare-back and at the sash. The front is plain with a high V-neckline and puff sleeves. C. 1931

Technical Q & A

Excerpts of question to and answers by MAFCA's Technical Director Les Andrews

Q: I am installing new king pins and bushings on my 1929 Model A. When I try to put the cup washer and felt in it's too thick to go in. What do I do? Will I have to grind on the cup washer? Thanks for your time.

Doug Hallmark Sr.

A: You will have to either grind down the sides on the cup or it is ok to eliminate the felt washer cup. The new steel cups are way too thick. The original steel cups were made of thinner material and shorter sides. If possible you should try to use the original cups. The felt washer is a dust seal and if necessary the felt can be installed without the steel cup.

Q: I have a 1930 Fordor Briggs body, three window and no cowl lights, The title has been issued a new VIN number. There are two plates on the firewall. The top plate I cannot read. The one under that has a #162-12142. I do not find a 162 body style in any of my books. Could you please tell me which body number it is and what does this number refer to?

Thomas Lopez

A: You have a Standard Fordor Sedan. The body tag has no definition. These bodies were made by both Briggs and Murray Manufacturing. The body number tags were put on by the manufacturer and significance of the number was never given to Ford, so no information has ever been available for those numbers. The body style would be a 165C if it is a Murray body and 165D if it is a Briggs built body.

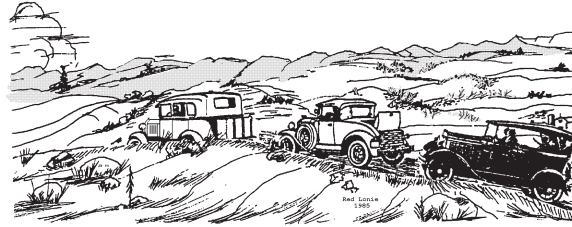
Q: Do you happen to know the name of the gizmo sold to put in the horn to boost the power? All my connections are good but when I need my horn I usually need my brakes and my b r a ke lights take power away from the horn. I guess an 8- volt battery would help, but my 6-volt is still quite good and I don't want to dump it.

John Mills

A: I don't know about the horn booster. You shouldn't need one. Take the rear cover off the horn and use a pencil eraser to clean the armature. With your hand, rotate the armature while cleaning each segment. Then use a little lacquer thinner on a rag to wipe the armature clean. If all connections are clean, you should have plenty of power to get a good sound out of your horn. Spray the horn motor brushes and felt bushings around the armature shaft with WD40 or other solvent to clean oil and dirt from the brushes. Apply a drop or two of light oil on the felt pads around the armature shaft. Most horn motor problems are caused from a dirty armature and brushes. Even with the brakes applied, the horn motor should spin rapidly. With the engine set a little above idle speed, use a digital volt meter to check the generator output voltage at the output of your generator until you read 7.2 to 7.3 volts. That will give you plenty of voltage for stoplights and horn operation while keeping the battery charged. Make sure you have a good ground connection between the frame and the engine block. Also, make sure both wire connections at the horn are clean and tight in the clips at the horn. I don't suggest installing an 8-volt battery. If you decide to, you must increase the generator output to 9.2 volts to keep the battery charged. That's pushing the generator battery connection on the starter post. It should measure 7.2 volts. If not, increase the output of your generator until you read 7.2 to 7.3 volts. That will give you plenty of voltage for stoplights and horn operation while keeping the battery charged. Make sure you have a good ground connection between the frame and the engine block. Also, make sure both wire connections at the horn are clean and tight in the clips at the horn. I don't suggest installing an 8-volt battery. If you decide to, you must increase the generator output to 9.2 volts to keep the battery charged. That's pushing the generator.

2018 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY — NOT THE DESTINATION

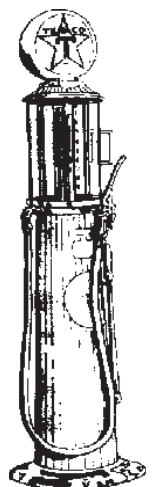


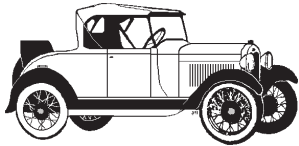
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	14	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - HALF MOON BAY
FEBRUARY	3 SATURDAY	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	CRAB FEED - MONTE CRISTO CLUB, SF
MARCH	17 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL - SF
APRIL	1	RALPH HOFFSCHILDT	EASTER PARADE - UNION STREET, SF
APRIL	28	KINNEY	F. A. S. T. SPRING HILLCLIMB - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	29	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	20	MPOT FORD CLUB	FRIENDSHIP DAY - REDWOOD SHORES
MAY	28 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	16 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE	24	CAPLAN	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
JULY	21 SATURDAY	KINNEY	RADIO DAY BY THE BAY - ALAMEDA
AUGUST	3 FRIDAY	KINNEY	BOCCE BALL - ORANGE PARK, SSF
SEPTEMBER	15 SATURDAY	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	21-23	CAPLAN / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
SEPTEMBER	22 SATURDAY	MAHL	43 RD ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
OCTOBER	7	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF
OCTOBER	20 SATURDAY	CAPLAN	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
November	11 SUNDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE - FISHERMAN'S WHARF
DECEMBER	8 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DECEMBER	8 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.

2018 Schedule of Events

Jan 14 SF Model A Club President's Brunch – Half Moon Bay
Jan 27-28 Turlock Swap Meet
Jun 24-29 2018 MAFCA National Convention – Sparks, NV
Hosted by the Northern California Regional Group - NCRG
www.ncrgmafca.com





San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
November 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Club President Barry Kinney. The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written. There were no guests.

Reports of Officers

President: We need to reserve rooms for the Ironstone Concours for next September. ♦ Veterans Day Parade will be Sunday November 1. We will be number 25 and have seven cars. It will start at 11 am. More to follow. ♦ Brave the Bay will be Saturday December 1. We will give Make-A -Wish our donation. Breakfast will be at The Buena Vista at 8 am. ♦ Senior Bag Stuffing will be Thursday December 6 at the Boy Scout Offices in Palo Alto. It is at 1305 Middlefield Road. We will start at 8 am. ♦ Saturday December 8 will be the Christmas party. It will be at Val's in Daly City. ♦ Walter received the Bent Rod Award. ♦ Barry talked about our planned trip to Sonora next April. More to come later.

Vice President: No report

Past President: No report

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Jeanine wrote a check to Dragon Printing for the newsletter printing and wrote a check for postage. ♦ We currently have 25 paid members.

Editor: Walter read a couple of letters he received.

Tour Chair: No report

Food and Beverage: No report

For The Good Of The Order: No report

There was no entertainment tonight.

Jeanine Mahl and Barry Kinney provided refreshments to the November meeting. The Club will provide refreshments for the January meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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, January 10, 2019

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 the 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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Inserts:

2019 Membership Renewal Form



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

JANUARY MEETING
Thursday January 10, 2019
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco

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?

