

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 63, Issue 4

MAFCA 2018 Certificate of Merit

April 2019

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Samuel Granger

Happy Easter

Upcoming Tours

Friday - Sunday April 12-14 - Overnighter to the Gold Country

Saturday April 27 - F.A.S.T. Spring Hill Climb - Auburn, CA

Sunday April 28 - Pacific Coast Dream Machines - Half Moon Bay, CA

Sunday May 12 - Military Antiques & Museum Tour - Petaluma, CA

Monday May 27 - Memorial Day Observance - San Francisco Presidio

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

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Please submit any and all material to the editor by the last Monday of each month. Articles and photos may be submitted to: 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

The weather is improving and we are heading into spring. This is the time of year when we dust off the old A and hit the road. Unfortunately we didn't dust it off in time to make the St. Patrick's Day Parade or the Easter Parade. However, the Club did enjoy a drive down the coast for a tour of Pigeon Point Lighthouse Station and to Pescadero for lunch at Duarte's Tavern.



John Bettencourt brought a CD to our March meeting that featured the history and architecture of Lighthouse Stations up and down the coast of California. We view the portion that took us from Oregon to the Monterey peninsula. We will cover the second half of the state at the April meeting.

Our April tour to the Gold Country is on track. Eighteen people have signed up for tickets to the musical review **Route 66** at the Fallon theater in historic Columbia State Park. We are leaving on Friday morning April 12. We will meet in Castro Valley at a place and time yet to be decided. Details are on page 3 of this **Choke Rod**.

See you at the meeting on Thursday, April 11.

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

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MAFCA dues are \$50 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 \$11 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*.

Gold Country Tour Overnighter to Historic Sonora

Friday - Sunday April 12 - 14

Overnighter to the historic town of Columbia for a '50s musical revue and side tours to local places of interest. We will be staying at the Gunn House Hotel in historic Sonora.

Ride the SMART Train to Petaluma Military Antiques and Museum Tour Sunday, May 12

Dr. Barry, our perpetual president, thought it might be nice to take a short train ride up to Petaluma, so he made a plan:

The date will be Sunday May 12, and we will ride the SMART Train – Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit - to Petaluma.

We will leave San Francisco at 8:30 am on Sunday morning and travel up Highway 101 to San Rafael. We will park our cars in the C-Street Parking Garage (\$10 / Day) and walk two short blocks to Teresa and Johnny's Comfort Food on 4th Street for breakfast at 9:30 am. Then at 11 am we will walk two short blocks to the train depot in downtown San Rafael.

We will catch the 11:52 am SMART train to Petaluma, and arrive at the Petaluma Station by noon. Barry hasn't yet figured out how we will get from the station to the Military Antiques and Museum, but he has arranged for a docent led tour of the Museum.

The Antiques Museum is quite a place, focused on the human side of war, and well worth the visit. Located in the basement of an antique store, it has an amazing collection of war related items.

The shop downstairs is full of interesting militaria, and the actual museum portion of the building is chill-inducing. We will spend about 90 minutes there and then move onto lunch and then catch the train back to San Rafael. We might Uber or Lyft to the museum and lunch and back to the station. Barry will work out the details when he gets back from Oklahoma. Stay tuned for the update.

29th Pacific Coast Dream Machines

Half Moon Bay

Sunday April 28

It's the world's largest and most whimsical gathering of motorized marvels from throughout the twentieth century – a remarkable exhibit of 2000 driving, flying, and working machines, running the gamut of exotic automobiles, US Army tanks, and antique motorcycles to restored military aircraft, Model T fire engines, massive steam tractors, and tons more. Live music, kids amusements and food booths run by local non-profits round out the festivities.

Memorial Day Observance at historic San Francisco Presidio Monday, May 28

The Mayor's 2019 Memorial Day Citizen's Committee has invited the SF Model A Club to be part of the official City & County's 151th Memorial Day observance. The traditional event will be held at the Presidio National Cemetery. We have been asked to display our pre-WWII vehicles at the Main Post at 9 am. The Parade will begin at 10:30 am, followed by the Formal Ceremony from 11 am to 12 noon. **The committee has set aside a special location at the ceremony site to park and exhibit our cars.** We will assemble at the Presidio Main Post for a running board breakfast at 9 am.

We will gather after the ceremony for lunch at the Presidio Golf Course Cafe. If you plan to join us for lunch, you must RSVP Walter so that there's seating for all.

Tour Leaders: Walter Caplan, RSVP 415-621-0500
whcaplan@comcast.net
Barry Kinney, RSVP 415-282-2789



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Steve Owsley
Jeanine Mahl
Kevin Enderby

April 11
April 13
April 15

Refreshments at the March meeting were provided by
Gary Barrango

John Zuffi
will provide refreshments
at the April meeting



Felt Hats

The fur felting process has an interesting history. As it goes, St. Clement made the first fur felt from the skin of a rabbit which he trod upon to ease his travel sore feet. For many years, he was the patron saint of milliners, the same role played by St. Catherine for midinettes, or Parisian shopgirls.

Rabbit remains the most popular of felts, as it was in feudal times. All furs require hours of meticulous work before the felt can be blocked and put to use by a milliner.

In the first stage of the process the fur is sheared from the skin, then chemically treated to raise the fibers or barbs that twist together into felt. It is then graded by hand into various strengths, bagged, and sent to the manufacturer. There, it undergoes mixing and refining processes before it can be shaped. Shaping the felt is time consuming. Each pelt, now loose without its skin is placed into a forming machine. It is rotated and steamed to shrink the fibers evenly. Using hot water and rollers, the large and loose pelt is felted or matted down until it takes its final size as a hat form. Most felting work is still done by hand; little has changed since the feudal days except back then, wool felt was pressed by hand after having been processed in mercury. The poisonous effects of the fumes led to delirium and hallucinations hence the term "mad as a hatter".



- A. Smooth suede-like French felt fashions this hat. There is an off-the-face brim plaited at the side of silk faille. c. 1928-1929
- B. A simple and pliable felt hat with a ribbon accent. c. 1928-1929

Service Hints - Part 1

Improvements for the Touring Model A Ford by MAFCA's Technical Director Les Andrews

Many modifications are available for the Model A today. These changes and modifications range from the simple addition of a fuse, to overhead valve conversion, electronic ignition, high compression heads, 5-speed transmissions, overdrives, hydraulic brakes, and some 30 or 40 other aftermarket additions and modifications that are available for the Model A. This can be a very controversial area, but the question many ask is:

"What additions or modifications are needed for safety, dependability, reliability, and added power that would allow for safer and dependable driving (Model A Touring) on today's modern roads and highways?"

Most want to maintain the 'feel' of driving the original Model A and yet have the added safety and dependability for touring on today's highways. Most of the aftermarket modifications can be categorized as adding safety, adding reliability, or adding performance to the Model A. The following is a list and description of some of the modifications that will provide safety, increase dependability, and added performance for modern day touring, while maintaining the appearance of a stock Model A. A stock, unchanged and restored Model A can be nostalgic, dependable, and fun to drive, but may not be able to merge safely with today's busy traffic. The addition of these modifications should be considered carefully by the Model A owner and modifications made based on individual requirements. It is not the intent of this article to describe how to build a souped-up and modified Model A, but to add safety and dependability for touring on today's modern roads and highways and in busy traffic. These modifications are described in three categories: Added Safety, Added Dependability, and Added Performance.

Added Safety Items

The installation of a **fuse block** will protect the electrical wiring in case of a short circuit. These fuse blocks are easily installed and mount on the starter motor. A short circuit in the electrical wiring can quickly start a fire and destroy your Model A before the battery can be disconnected.

New **cast iron drums** are a must for most Model A's to provide good braking. Most drums are worn far beyond safe specification. According to most state regulations, brake drums can not be turned beyond .060" wear. A great number of Model A drums are worn as much as .100". The original Model A drums are made of pressed steel and do not dissipate heat well from the applied brakes and will cause the brakes to fade. The new cast iron brake drums dissipate the heat created while braking much better, eliminating fading, are made well and bring added safety to the Model A brake system.

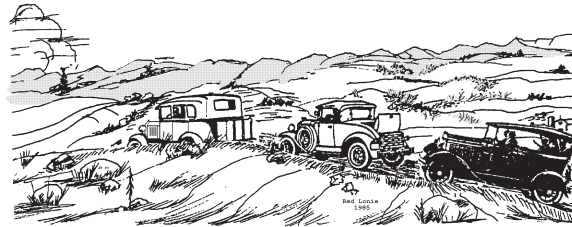
Seat belts can save• your life and the life of your passengers, and have proven to have done so in Model A accidents. Refer to The Restorer article, May/June 1993 issue, for installation of seat belts.

Turn signal kits are available for installation on the Model A. The turn signal lights can be hidden between the bumper rails, or cowl lights and tail lights can be wired for turn signals. Turn signals add safety when changing lanes in today's traffic. Many of the Fordor Sedans also have blind spots and make it difficult to see approaching cars when changing lanes. The turn signals add needed safety when driving in today's busy traffic.

Halogen or seal beam headlights can provide improved lighting for night driving. Kits are available that will allow the seal beam lights to be mounted and hidden behind the original Model A headlight lens. Kits are also available for installation of Halogen bulbs. Another reason for installing the modern lights is the positive blade type connector at the headlight bulb. Many reproduction headlight reflectors will not hold the bulb correctly, causing intermittent connection of the bulb in the reflector socket. The original Model A reflectors and bulbs provide excellent lighting when the reflectors have been resilvered.

2019 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY — NOT THE DESTINATION

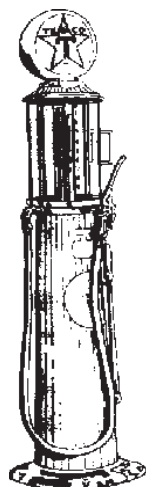


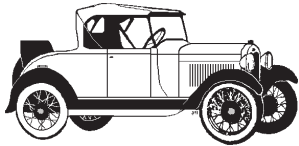
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	13	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
FEBRUARY	24	BARRY KINNEY	PIGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE - PESCADERO, CA
MARCH	16 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL - SF
APRIL	12-14	PETERSON/SCHWAB	OVERNIGHTER TO THE GOLD COUNTRY
APRIL	21	RALPH HOFFSCHILDT	EASTER PARADE - UNION STREET, SF
APRIL	27 SATURDAY	KINNEY	F. A. S. T. SPRING HILLCLIMB - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	28	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
MAY	12	BARRY KINNEY	MILITARY ANTIQUES & MUSEUM, PETALUMA, CA
MAY	19	MPOT FORD CLUB	FRIENDSHIP DAY - REDWOOD SHORES
MAY	27 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	15 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JULY	20 SATURDAY	KINNEY	RADIO DAY BY THE BAY - ALAMEDA
JUNE	30	CAPLAN	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
AUGUST	TBA	KINNEY	BOCCE BALL - ORANGE PARK, SSF
SEPTEMBER	16 MONDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY MILITARY CONVOY CENTENNIAL
SEPTEMBER	22	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	27-29	CAPLAN / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
SEPTEMBER	TBA	MAHL	44 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
OCTOBER	13	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF
OCTOBER	TBA	CAPLAN	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
November	10 SUNDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE - FISHERMAN'S WHARF
DECEMBER	7 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DECEMBER	7 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.

2019 Schedule of Events

January 13	SF Model A Club President's Brunch – SF Presidio Social Club
January 26-27	Turlock Swap Meet
May 27-30	2019 NCRG Roundup The Sonoma A's will be hosting the 2019 NCRG Roundup at the Flamingo Conference Resort in Santa Rosa, CA. This will be a four-day event beginning on Monday May 27 ending with the awards banquet on Thursday May 30, 2019. Contact Steve Lewis: 707-829-9007
December 5-8	National Awards Banquet – Claremont, CA Hosts: Pomona Valley Chapter





San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
March 14, 2019

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 was one guest: Gregory Zak.

Reports of Officers

President: The Duarte's Tour was a success. We had a great tour of Pigeon Point Lighthouse, followed by a tasty lunch at Duarte's Tavern in Pescadero. ♦ We will not participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade or the Easter Parade this year. ♦ The Gold Country Tour is on track. Barry handed an information sheet and attendance list for the trip to those who are going. We will finalize everything at the next meeting on Thursday April 11.

Vice President: No report

Past President: Gary reported on TROG The Race of Gentlemen. It took place in Santa Barbara. People in pre-World War II cats drag raced down a closed street. There were about 140 cars. He said it was a fun event.

Secretary: No report

Treasurer: Jeanine reported that we have 34 paid members. She deposited three dues checks and wrote two reimbursement checks.

Editor: Walter reported that he and Jeanine took care of all the paperwork involved with maintaining our non-profit status. ♦ Our member Mel Pastel is the tour director for the Marin A's and is working on the Lincoln Highway Military Convoy Centennial Tour in September. ♦ We voted to send the National Model A Museum a donation in the amount of \$ 200 for their Museum Fund.

Tour Chair: No report

Gary Barrango provided refreshments to the March meeting. John Zuffi will provide refreshments for the April meeting. We watched a video on lighthouses after the meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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, April 11, 2019

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

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

Please Note: Goat Hill Pizza has a NO SPLIT CHECK POLICY.

The Choke Rod
is available online in color at
www.sfmodelaclub.org



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www.sfmodelaclub.org

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APRIL MEETING
Thursday April 11, 2019
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco