

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 63, Issue 12

MAFCA 2018 Certificate of Merit

December 2019

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Cynthia Torres

Gold Country Tour

see page 4

Upcoming Tours

Saturday December 7 - Brave the Bay - Aquatic Park, SF

Saturday December 7 - Christmas Banquet - Val's Restaurant, Daly City

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Barry Kinney

VICE PRESIDENT

Gunard Mahl

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: sfmodelaclub@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 November Tour to Sonora in the Sierra Foothills, the Gold Country, was well attended and very enjoyable. This month of December we celebrate Christmas at Val's Restaurant on Junipero Serra Boulevard in Daly City. A detailed flyer is included in the December issue of **The Choke Rod**. Time is short. Send in your reservation NOW – as soon as possible.



We discussed the Carlsbad Caverns/Roswell Tour at the November meeting. We now have four people signed-up and ready to go. The date is April 5-12, 2020. If you would like to go let me know. We need to coordinate train / plane / room / and ticket purchases well in advance of the tour date. January 15, 2020 is the sign-up deadline. This will give us approximately 90 days to nail down reservations.

James Morgan would like to plan a tour to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The date has not been determined but we would like to know how many Club members are interested. We will discuss the details at our February Meeting.

Our San Francisco Model A Club 2019 officers have been unanimously and by acclamation elected to serve another term for the year 2020. My thanks to everyone willing to do the job for another year.

On Saturday morning December 7 **Brave the Bay**, the San Francisco Police Officers Association Annual Fund Raising Event for Make A Wish Foundation, takes place at Aquatic Park. The Buena Vista Cafe invites anyone who wishes to have breakfast at the Cafe at 8 am and share in the event. Bring your old car. Park directly in front of the Buena Vista in specially reserved spaces and have your breakfast served by one of San Francisco's Finest. Be there by 7:45 am and we'll be the first ones in when the doors open at 8 am.

P.S. Don't forget to pay your dues!

See you at the Annual Christmas Banquet at 6 pm Saturday evening December 7 for cocktails before our 7 pm dinner,

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.
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La Habra CA 90631
www.mafca.com
562-697-2712



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*.

Christmas Banquet Saturday December 7

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 7 at Val's Restaurant in Daly City.

See the insert in this month's **Choke Rod** for details.

President's Brunch Sunday January TBD

Once again in January we will hold our annual President's Brunch, honoring our past and present and perpetual President Barry Kinney.

The date and time are yet to be determined. Details are soon to be finalized. Information will then be available both by email, on our club web side, and in the January 2020 **Choke Rod**.

Alameda Crab Feed 2020 Saturday February 8, 2020

Walter Caplan and Joan Peterson attended this event last year and it was great fun. Club member James Morgan is one of the hosts of this annual event.

See the insert in this month's **Choke Rod** for details.

Election of 2020 Officers

Elections for the 2020 officers were held at the November meeting. The officers for 2020 are:

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

Senior Gift Bag Stuffing Thursday December 5

On Thursday December 5 our San Francisco Model A Club will participate in the annual "Senior Bag Stuffing" event. For the last 22 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, and John Bettencourt all attended. There will be lots of good food and fun and with many hands working we'll be fast and efficient.

Brave the Bay

Saturday December 7 - Aquatic Park

On Saturday December 7 we will join the 12th annual Brave the Bay at Aquatic Park, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Jeanine Mahl should 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. www.bravethebay.com.

Refreshments at the November meeting were provided by
Cynthia Torres

The Club
will provide dessert
at the Christmas Banquet



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

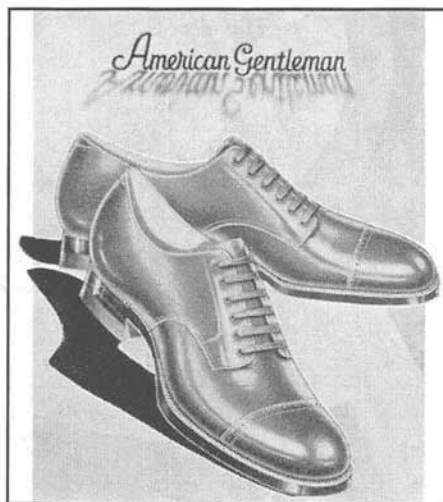


Donald Parsons	December 2
Melanie Marie Patsel	December 9
Frank O'Brien	December 18
Bob Faber	December 24
Paul DeMartini	December 30
John FB Zuffi	December 31

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

Men's Dress Shoes

The shoes pictured on these pages are what men on a daily basis wore during the era. For work or dress, the same style shoes were worn. The only exception is very formal wear, which required an opera pump. The choice of high top or low top oxford was a personal preference. The toecap varied with pointed, rounded, and square shapes. These styles did not change during the era and can still be found in today's shoe stores. The difference is that only natural materials were used during the Model A era, while today man-made materials, such as vinyl and urethane are used in manufacturing shoes.



Reprinted from A Book of Fashion Facts, MAFCA

Gold Country Tour

The Tour began with breakfast at JP's Family restaurant, a clean bright little place in Castro Valley. Our second stop was the Cahoots Corner Cafe, a great little five star mom and pop cafe in Oakdale California. Joe Higgins said, "I never thought I would be in Cahoots with my Club members," Nevertheless there we were — in Cahoots. We finished off the day with a pre-dinner gets together at the Sonora Inn followed by dinner at the National Hotel in Jamestown. Skipped were the museums and historic sites in favor of some good food and conversation.

The Sonora Inn was a pleasant surprise. The Inn first built in the 1850's consisted of a stone building. Later a second wood frame structure was added and then a third building was cobbled into the structure. The building we see today is the product of a Spanish Style remodel completed in 1931. As you might suspect, the rooms were not standard size and the closets and bathrooms seemed like after the fact add-on's.

Victor, the hotel cat, met us at check-in. He has a bed on the reception desk and is quite content let you have a hug or a pet. I ran into Victor several times sleeping in the planter box, lounging in the sun on the poolside veranda, and in my room checking out my luggage.

Dinner at the National Hotel was very pleasant. The building dated from the 1850's. The building and dining room had been restored to the original Gold Rush era style with decor to match. The management and wait staff made us feel at home and the food was excellent.

Saturday morning the group split up. Jill Schwab, Joan Peterson, and Cynthia Torres going to the Bling Barn, a garment shop where everything is decorated with sequins and flashy bobbles and beads. Later they dropped off a donation of pet food to a local rescue shelter. Some of us (Walter Caplan, Jeanine Mahl, Don Barnes, and Mike Cunneen) visited historic Columbia Park and the Inner Sanctum Winery and others (Sue and James Morgan, their dog Finley, and Kathy and Joe Higgins) did a little antiquing in downtown Sonora.

Gunard Mahl and Gary and Cheryl Barrango drove up on Saturday to join us for dinner at the Peppery and the show, **The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical**, at the Sierra Repertory Theatre.

The Show was very enjoyable. Its message was Christmas is a time to be joyful and charitable regardless of your faith or lack of it: Don't let your past misfortune get in the way of future happiness and don't be afraid to express your love of friends, sweethearts, and family.

Next year we will plan to visit the Gold Country for a third time. Who knows, this could become an annual event.

Barry Kinney

Compression Testing (Part 2)

Why and How to Test by Lynn Sondena

How to perform compression testing:

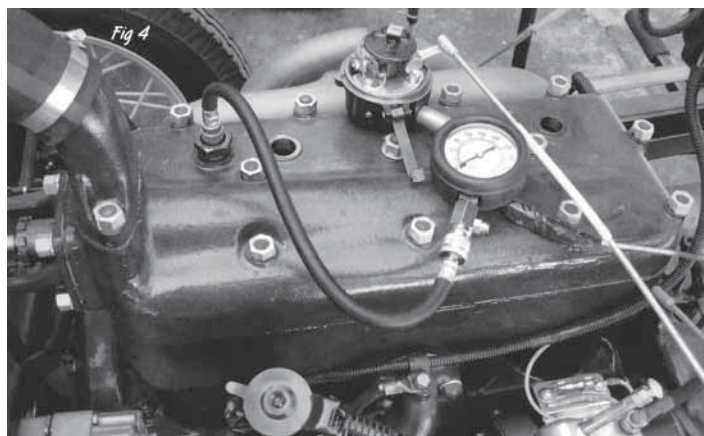
1. Engine should be at operating temperature. (Metal parts inside the cylinder expand and seal better).
2. Ignition key in the off position.
3. The distributor cap should be removed, leaving the coil wire attached. The cap and attached coil wire can hang over the radiator support brace.
4. The throttle should be set wide open.
5. Remove all four spark plugs and connectors. (This allows the starter to turn the engine easier).
6. Insert the compression gauge into cylinder #1 (front of engine).
7. Crank the engine four revolutions and record the pressure.
8. Take compression readings on the other three cylinders and record.
9. Compare the recorded values for all four cylinders. They should not vary by more than 5 or 6 psi per cylinder.
10. Install the spark plugs and connectors along with the coil wire.
11. Return the throttle lever to the top of the steering column.

Note: This test is best performed using two workers. One should be inside the car controlling the throttle and starter. The other worker is on the outside by the passenger side of the engine connecting the compression gauge and recording the readings.

The Average Compression Pressure values were derived from testing local Model A's. Our test group did not have any Lion, Thomas or Winfield heads.

The values are an average and will change according to the barometric pressure at the time the compression test was taken. Also, compression gauges can vary slightly in readings.

Below is a sample of the "Compression Test Recording Form." This form can be used to record the compression test information.

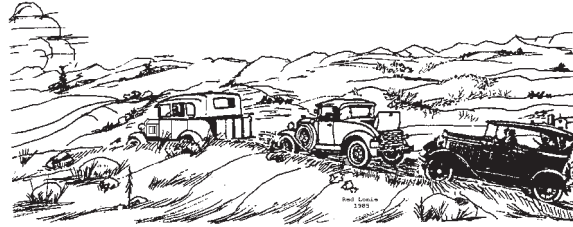


Average Compression Pressure		
Stock head	4.22 to 1	50 to 64 pounds
Police head	5.20 to 1	65 to 72 pounds
Brumfield standard	5.20 to 1	65 to 70 pounds
Snyder's head	5.50 to 1	65 to 75 pounds
Snyder's #2 head	6.10 to 1	75 to 85 pounds
Lion head	6.50 to 1	
Thomas head	6.70 to 1	
Winfield head	6.80 to 1	
Brumfield head	7.00 to 1	85 to 105 pounds

Compression Test Recording Form			
Name or Model A:	_____	Year of A:	28 29 30 31
Engine type: A or B	Bore size: _____		
Type of head:	Stock	Stock-shaved	Snyder's 5.5 to 1
Snyder's 6.1 to 1	Lion	Thomas	Brumfield Winfield Other: _____
Cylinder readings are taken from the front to the rear of the engine.			
Front			
[] [] [] []			
Is the lowest reading within 5 to 6 psi of the highest reading? Yes No If yes, the engine is good. If no, more trouble shooting should be done on this engine.			
Date the test was taken: _____			

2019 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY — NOT THE DESTINATION



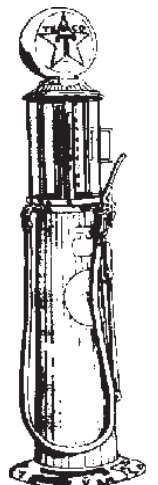
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	13	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
FEBRUARY	24	BARRY KINNEY	PIGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE - PESCADERO, CA
MARCH	16 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL - SF
APRIL	12-14	PETERSON/SCHWAB	OVERNIGHTER TO THE GOLD COUNTRY
APRIL	21	RALPH HOFFSCHILDT	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
TBA	TBA	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
AUGUST	23 FRIDAY	KINNEY	BOCCE BALL - ORANGE PARK, SSF
SEPTEMBER	16 MONDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY MILITARY CONVOY CENTENNIAL
SEPTEMBER	21	MAHL	44 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER	22	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	27-29	CAPLAN / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCTOBER	12 SATURDAY	MORGAN	26 TH DOWNTOWN ALAMEDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW
OCTOBER	13	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF
OCTOBER	19 SATURDAY	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

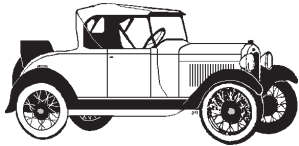
If you would like to lead a tour, please call **Gary Barrango** at **415-821-2628**
We encourage Club Members to plan additional **driving tours** throughout the year.
There is room for more than one activity or tour per month.

2019 Schedule of Events

January 13
January 26-27
May 27-30

SF Model A Club President's Brunch – SF Presidio Social Club
Turlock Swap Meet
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
November 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 were no guests.

Reports of Officers

President: We did not participate in the Veterans Day Parade this year. Barry sent an apology to Ray Pulver and said we would participate again next year. ♦ Our Sonora trip will be Friday - Sunday November 22-24. Barry passed out a day plan to those who will attend. ♦ Barry is planning a tour to Carlsbad Caverns for next April. He passed out an itinerary. He needs to know how many will be going by January 1st. ♦ The Christmas Banquet will be Saturday December 7 at Val's Restaurant in Daly City. The reservation deadline is Friday November 29. ♦ Please send in your membership renewal of \$ 35 by the end of January 2020. ♦ Barry is planning a trip to Oklahoma sometime in the fall of 2020. He passed out information to those present at the meeting. ♦ Brave the Bay will be Saturday morning December 7. We will have breakfast at the Buena Vista Cafe at 8 am and then make our donation, which benefits the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Walter moved and Joan seconded the motion that we donate \$500 this year. The motion passed.

Vice President: Gunard talked about his and Jeanine's trip to South Bend, Indiana.

Past President: No report

Secretary: Senior bag stuffing will be Thursday December 5 at the Boy Scout Offices on Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. All volunteers are welcome.

Treasurer: Jeanine reported that she collected some dues checks and wrote several reimbursement checks.

Editor: Walter reported that Bob Farina will be moving to St. Anne's Home. Walter will invite him and his daughter Becky to our Christmas Banquet.

It looks like the club Officers will remain the same in 2020 unless Barry receives a resignation or someone suddenly volunteers. As a result we had a motion to reelect all the club officers. All officers were reelected unanimously.

There was no entertainment

Cynthia Torres provided refreshments to the November meeting. John Zuffi will provide refreshments for the January 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, January 9, 2020

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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Inserts:

- 2020 Membership Renewal Form
- 2020 Alameda Crab Feed
- 2020 Christmas Banquet Information
- 2020 Christmas Banquet Reservation 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 9, 2020
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?