

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 63, Issue 1

MAFCA 2018 Certificate of Merit

January 2019

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Glenn Mullin

Christmas Banquet

see page 4

Upcoming Tours

Sunday January 13 - President's Banquet - Presidio Social Club, San Francisco

Saturday March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - San Francisco

Sunday April 21 - Easter Parade - San Francisco

Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
MAFCA

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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: 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

It is the start of a new year. Let's try to make this year one of our best. If you have an idea for a trip or tour to a place that might be interesting, fun or educational, or both, please bring your ideas to a meeting. We are planning an April overnighter to the Gold Country which will include a live 50's concert. Of course, we will do our traditional tours to Ironstone and St. Anne's but there is plenty of space in each month for an additional tour or "Get Together".



Thanks to all of our Board Members who have volunteered to continue to serve. A special shout out to Walter who does so many things behind the scenes to make our Club successful. He and Scott do an excellent job with the Newsletter and Website; our information source for all of our events and activities.

We will not have a Crab Feed this year. This was a major event and fund raiser for our Club and an event that pulled our club members together. For these reasons we will miss having this event. However, John Zuffi and Gary Barrango deserve credit for planning and executing this event. It is because of them that the Club continues to thrive. We must also thank Gary and the Monte Cristo Club for allowing us to continue to use their facilities for our Club meetings.

See you at the January meeting and the President's Brunch.

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 \$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*.

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival Saturday March 16

The 168th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in San Francisco is a well established event with historic ties to the city. The parade itself is a huge draw for attendees from all different demographics and ethnicity.

The Festival at City Hall provides a great opportunity for attendees to learn more about Irish history and culture while having fun at the event. A full day of activity is planned for the St. Patrick's Day Festival at Civic Center Plaza and on Grove Street, from Polk to Larkin Streets.

The colorful festivities surrounding the parade will showcase Irish culture through live performances and entertainment, arts and crafts exhibitors, food and beverage concessions, children's rides and inflatables, and non-profits booths representing the Irish community.

The Festival will take place before, during and after the Parade on Saturday. **The Parade begins at 11:30 AM on Saturday at the corner of Second and Market, where more than 5,000 participants from all over the states will reel about with laughter and revelry all the way to City Hall.**

Join us for this great San Francisco event, which is the largest St. Patrick's Day event west of the Mississippi! If interested in driving in the parade contact Barry Kinney at 415-647-7077 or 415-282-2789.

<https://www.sresproductions.com/events/st-patricks-day-festival/>

Easter Parade Sunday April 21

Union Street's 27th Annual Easter Parade and Celebration will be held on Sunday April 21, under the leadership of Ralph Hoffschmidt and his wife Rita in their lovely 1930 Roadster. We will make our way along Union Street past a surprisingly huge throng of spectators. Several thousand families, mothers, fathers, grandparents, multitudes of children, and assorted others will line the parade route from Laguna Street to Fillmore Street.

If you were concerned that San Francisco was losing its ability to retain families, the Union Street Parade and Celebration will show you otherwise - young families are alive and well in San Francisco, and gathering together on Easter Sunday for a joyous outdoor experience with their fellow San Franciscans, dressing up, wearing silly hats, playing, snacking, and parade watching. Come join the fun.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Sabrina Mei Bowermaster	January 2
Janelle Barrango Frueh	January 5
Matthew Sullivan	January 7
Terence McGinnis	January 9
Terry Machado	January 16
Coragene Savio	January 20
John Bettencourt	January 23
Bob Craig, Sr.	January 30
Gunard & Jeanine Mahl	January 24

President's Brunch Sunday January 13

Presidio Social Club, San Francisco

We will Brunch at 10 am the Presidio Social Club: San Francisco's iconic Presidio Social Club serves up a classic Northern California vibe, attentive hospitality, and a comforting seasonal menu. Erected in 1903 as a military barracks, the historical building has been converted into a modern eatery sure to put anyone "at-ease" featuring contemporary twists on San Francisco staples and artfully crafted cocktails (you might want to try the hot buttered rum). For those old enough to remember, we met here for our January 2015 President's Brunch and had a fabulous time.

The Presidio Social Club is located at 563 Ruger Street in The Presidio of San Francisco, just inside the Lombard Gate. www.presidiosocialclub.com

Following Brunch there will be an optional mystery Tour. Feel free to join us on the tour if you can.

Please call Barry Kinney to confirm at 415.990.2974 or 415.282.2789.

The Choke Rod Honored by MAFCA

The Choke Rod was selected by MAFCA to receive the 2018 Newsletter of Merit award. Our grateful thanks to all our contributors for their part in helping us in this achievement.



Dessert at the Christmas Banquet was provided by
The Club

Walter Caplan
will provide refreshments
at the January meeting



Christmas Banquet

Christmas at Val's 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 Joan and Jill brightened the room and set the tone.

Once again Joan amazingly came up with an array of great raffle prizes and individual gifts to club members. Our sincere thanks to Joan Peterson, Jill Schwab, and John Bettencourt for all their help and for their raffle and gift contributions. Needless to say, no one went home empty handed.

And again this year our Santa, Gregory Zak in real life, neatly trimmed hand and foot in his traditional red suit, distributed the gifts with the help of his elves, Joan and Jill. Santa's first gift presentations were to little Ethan Mahl, now a charming and remarkably well-behaved four 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.

We joyously acknowledged the attendance of a number of members and guests.

The great meal was followed by our traditional holiday dessert cake from Mazzetti's Bakery in Pacifica.

The party concluded with the raffle and then we all headed home with family and friends, our gifts, and our memories of the 2018 Christmas Banquet at Val's. "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

Walter Caplan



Gift Bag Stuffing

On Thursday December 6 our San Francisco Model A Club participated in the annual "Senior Bag Stuffing" event. For the last 20 years our friend Jill 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 gathered at the Boy Scout Office 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. This year we gave out 1000 gift bags. Our club had a great showing this year. Walter, Barry, Joan, Jill Schwab, John Bettencourt, and Jenny all attended. There was lots of good food and fun and with many hands working we were fast and efficient.

Joan Peterson

Brave the Bay

On Saturday December 8 club member Walter Caplan and our club Santa Greg Zak met at The Buena Vista for our traditional early morning breakfast, served by officers from the San Francisco Police Department. Following our meal and several Irish coffees we presented the club's \$500 donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation at Aquatic Park in the presence of our old friend and now retired SFPD Sergeant Bob Guinan and Police Chief William "Bill" Scott.

Walter Caplan

Flashback ~ January 2009

Just like the Model A's themselves, the Club has had a long road. And while Model A's don't change, the Club has. Let's take a look at the Club as it was in back January 2009.

The Officers:

President:	Garry Barango
Vice Presidents:	Tom Escher Greg Martinez
Secretary:	Barry Kinney
Treasurer:	Steve Owsley
Past President:	Greg Martinez
Tour Chair:	Jeanine Mahl
Editors:	Walter Caplan Steve Owsley
Fashion Editor:	Rachelle Marquez
Photo Editor:	Kerry Fehlberg
Membership:	Walter Caplan

Historical Facts:

- 2009 was the first year the Club held its Crab Feed
- **The Choke Rod** won its fourth consecutive MAFCA Award of Merit
- US Airways flight 1549 lands in the Hudson River after striking a flock of geese on January 15th
- Barak Obama sworn in as the 44th President on January 20th.



Photo by Kerry Fehlberg

The cover photo from the
January 2009 **Choke Rod**

Hats

Millinery of the 1928-1931 fashion era reflects spectacular design and skilled artistry. Hats were a fundamental component of any wardrobe. Different materials were used to create a variety of styles and decorations, as illustrated here. Even hat linings were a portrayal of quality, workmanship, and attention to detail. Often linings were decorated with flora and fauna, people, cars, and the manufacturer's name printed or embroidered on the top of the crown lining. "Front" with an arrow on the lining often directed the wearer on how the hat should be worn. Headgear and hair styles have always enjoyed an important part of culture and history. Hats and hairstyles have denoted class status, freedom of expression, sexuality, and ethnicity. They have hidden identities, and have been involved in crimes of passion and intrigue. Hats and hairstyles have protected us from the elements and added style and individuality to the wearer.

Hats of straw are probably one of the oldest forms of millinery. Natural straw used in millinery comes from dried stems of grains such as barley, oats, rye, and wheat. After the grain is pulled, it is laid on the ground and bleached. The outer layer of the stem is removed and the stem is bleached a second time. The straw is woven or plaited either by hand or loom. Then the braids are stitched together in a circular way to make a hat. The invention of a straw sewing machine in the late 1800's greatly improved this process. Straw hats were often recycled, altered, and re-altered. Hats were even bought untrimmed for the creative woman. Products were offered to change the hat color with a stroke of a brush, making it fresh and good as new. New trims were sold separately to keep up with current styles or different color outfits.



- A. Natural straw wide brim hat with a deep crown and ribbon accent. c. 1928-1929
- B. Black straw hat with a cutout brim accentuated with cellophane flowers. c. 1929-1930
- C. Navy blue straw cloche with an upturned brim and a straw flower rondele accent. c. 1930
- D. Red straw hat adorned with an applique of cherries and leaves around the crown with a ribbon tab draped over the side brim. c. 1930-1931
- E. Yellow straw cloche with embroidered flowers on the crown and covered with chiffon, accented with a two tone brim. c. 1928

Technical Q & A

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

Q: I have an engine with a crack from the valve seat to the cylinder. This is an almost new rebuilt engine. Can it be repaired. Or should I give up on it? It has about 3,000 miles on it. Jack Dusenberry

A: Don't give up on the block. It can be repaired. A good engine shop can drill and pin the crack to keep it from running any further. The crack can then be welded.

Q: I have a charging system question. Last night while out on a short trip, my amp meter dropped to 0. Luckily I was a few hundred feet from home, so I got back with no problem. The ampmeter seems to be working, because when I turn the lights on, it goes to about -10, with or without the engine running. The fan belt is fine, the generator is turning, but it doesn't seem to be charging. The connection for the cutout is tight. The only thing I did differently was to add a few drops of oil to both the front and rear bearings, the morning of the trip. I have a new cutout on order, but I'm not convinced it will help anything. The generator was recently rebuilt and hasn't caused any problems in the past. Do you have any suggestions as to what might be wrong? Steve DeBoer

A: It appears that your problem is the generator cutout. Clip a jumper wire between the input and output terminals on the cutout. If the ampmeter indicates a charge while the engine is running, then the cutout is not operating. Many of the reproduction cutouts are far less quality than the original Ford cutout. Many of the original Ford cutouts can be found and are still in good operating condition. Start by replacing the cutout, and it's a good idea to carry a tested spare if using a new reproduction cutout.

Q: We recently purchased a 1931 Ford Model A Deluxe Fordor Sedan with a Briggs body. The front fenders are missing and we wanted to replace them with wheel well type fenders. The question is - did the Model A come with one wheel well fender or two and if only one which one (left side or right side). I have seen different variations and I am a little confused. Steven Kelman

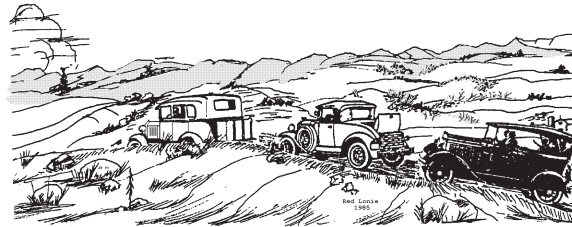
A: ALL Fordor Sedans from the factory had a spare tire in the rear and none were provided with fender well spares. These were options that could be added by the Ford dealership on request. When one fender well was installed it was installed on the driver side. Many of today's Model A'ers opt to put a fender well on both sides because it looks sporty and provides an additional spare.

Q: I have recently acquired a restored 1931 Model A Deluxe Town Car without a wiper motor. The body is plumbed for a vacuum motor. The windshield has two mounting holes spaced five inches apart and another hole in the middle between. Adjacent to the middle hole are two more holes, one on either side of the center hole. I have located a vacuum wiper motor, but the mounting holes are 4 11116 apart and the operating lever does not align with any of my holes. I have talked to suppliers all over the country and I get many different answers; such as: should it have an inside mounted motor; is my windshield frame incorrect; has someone changed the holes; should this car have an exterior mounted motor? (It appears as if the motor must be exterior.) Is my windshield frame correct for the car? Roger Sabo

A: You say you have a 1931 Deluxe Town Car. I assume you have a 1931 Slant Windshield Town Sedan. If it is the Slant Windshield Town Sedan it should have an inside wiper motor that mounts by the motor shaft, no mounting arms. You need a Trico TR-C2A vacuum motor that mounts inside and mounted with a nut on the shaft sleeve. If it is not a Slant Windshield, but a Deluxe Fordor Sedan, the wiper motor mounts on the outside with two threaded arms. That is a Trico TR-CIA motor.

2019 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY — NOT THE DESTINATION

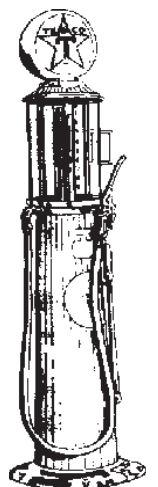


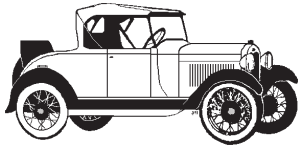
MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	13	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF PRESIDIO
MARCH	16 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL - SF
APRIL	21	RALPH HOFFSCHILD	EASTER PARADE - UNION STREET, SF
APRIL	TBA	KINNEY	F. A. S. T. SPRING HILLCLIMB - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	28	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
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
JUNE	30	CAPLAN	PRIDE PARADE - SAN FRANCISCO
JULY	TBA	KINNEY	RADIO DAY BY THE BAY - ALAMEDA
AUGUST	TBA	KINNEY	BOCCE BALL - ORANGE PARK, SSF
SEPTEMBER	TBA	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	TBA	CAPLAN / KINNEY	LINCOLN HIGHWAY MILITARY CONVOY CENTENNIAL
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
December 8, 2018**

The December meeting was held at Val's Steakhouse in Daly City. The meeting was called to order following the Club Annual Christmas Banquet on Saturday December 8 at 8 pm by President Barry Kinney.

First order of business was the election of officers for 2019. The current board was unanimously re-elected for another term in 2019: President Barry Kinney; Vice Presidents Tom Escher, Gunard Mahl, and Greg Martinez; Secretary Joan Peterson; Treasurer Jeanine Mahl; Tour Chair Gary Barrango; Editors Walter Caplan and Scott Williams; and Membership Walter Caplan.

Ceremonies following the Banquet included a visit by Santa Claus, and acknowledgment of the Board of Directors for the year 2018. Recognition of the dedication and good work of the 2018 Board, all of whom agreed to continue in office for the 2019 year, will again occur at the President's Brunch on Sunday January 13, 2019 at Presidio Social Club 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 again 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.

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 Joan Peterson, Barry Kinney, Cynthia Torres, and John Bettencourt 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 Gregory Zak, 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 2018 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.

The Club provided dessert for the Christmas banquet from Mazzetti's Bakery in Pacifica. Walter Caplan will provide refreshments for the January meeting.

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 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



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Inserts:

2019 Membership Renewal Form



www.sfmodelaclub.org

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