

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

Volume 64, Issue 1

MAFCA 2018 Certificate of Merit

January 2020

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America



Photo by Glenn Mullin

Christmas Banquet

see page 5

Upcoming Tours

- Sunday January 12 - President's Brunch - Harding Park, SF
- Saturday February 8 - Alameda Crab Feed - Alameda, CA
- Saturday March 14 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - San Francisco
- Monday April 6 to Saturday April 11 - Carlsbad Tour - Carlsbad, NM
- Sunday April 12 - 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

December has been a busy month. Walter, Scott, Greg, and I met on Sunday December first to erect and decorate the Christmas tree at St. Anne's Home. While there we had an opportunity to visit Bob Farina who recently moved into an apartment at St Anne's. Bob and his wife Dee started an event we now fondly celebrate each year: Fathers Day at St. Anne's Home.



The second activity was the "Senior Gift Bag Stuffing" on Thursday December 5. Jill Schwab has been the organizer for this event for the last 22 years. With the help of the Santa Clara T-Bird Club and other volunteers she has delivered many thousands of Christmas gift bags to the Veterans hospitals in Palo Alto and several senior day care facilities in the area. This year Cynthia Torres, Joan Peterson, Walter Caplan, and Barry Kinney all served as volunteers from the San Francisco Model A Ford Club.

On Saturday evening December 7 we celebrated our Annual Meeting / Christmas Party at Val's Restaurant in Daly City. Santa stopped by with gifts for everyone. There was a gift exchange and raffle. No one went home empty handed. Joan and Jill did a great job with table decorations. Tom and Terry Machado contributed the table wine and Walter delivered the cake. It was a wonderful warm night with friends and family.

Earlier that same day Saturday December 7 we met with Sergeant Bob Guinan (ret.) of the San Francisco Police Department for an early breakfast at the Buena Vista Cafe followed by the presentation of our donation to the Make A Wish Foundation. The SFPD sponsors this fundraiser each year for Make A Wish called Brave The Bay. It features a swim in the bay by all of the new SFPD recruits, a cable car pull, and a 5K run. The San Francisco Model A Club has shown support for the SFPD by making a donation each year for the past number of years to the Make A Wish Foundation.

See you at the January meeting.

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 \$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*.

Carlsbad Tour

Monday April 6 - Saturday April 11

Carlsbad Caverns National Park &

International UFO Museum and Research Center
in Roswell, New Mexico

Please note the dates for the Carlsbad Caverns Tour have changed: We now leave on Monday April 6 and return on the Saturday April 11. We will be gone for SIX days including two travel days. We now have six club members committed to this tour. If you plan to go Barry needs to know by Thursday January 12, 2020. There are two travel options: Amtrak from San Francisco to Los Angeles with a layover and then overnight by train to El Paso OR by air either on United or Southwest Airlines. Call Barry for details at 415.990.2974.

Alameda Crab Feed

Saturday February 8

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 the December 2019 Choke Rod for details.

Easter Parade

Sunday April 12

Union Street's 28th Annual Easter Parade and Celebration will be held on Sunday April 12, 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.

Dessert at the Christmas Banquet was provided by
The Club

John Zuffi
will provide refreshments
at the January meeting



President's Brunch

Sunday January 12, The Cypress Grill

Harding Park Golf Course Clubhouse, SF

We will Brunch at 10:30 am at the Cypress Grill at the Harding Park Golf Course Clubhouse: The Cypress Grill at Harding Park has a breathtaking view of Lake Merced as well as the signature 18th hole of Harding Park Course. The Cypress Grill's menu features modern American cuisine and serves breakfast and lunch. For those old enough to remember, we met here several times before for our January President's Brunch and enjoyed ourselves enough to come back once again.

Please call Barry Kinney to confirm at 415.990.2974 or 415.282.2789.

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival

Saturday March 14

The 169th 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 Fran`cisco 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.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Janelle Barrango Frueh	January 5
Matthew Sullivan	January 7
Terrence 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

Care of Furs (part 1)

by Joni Morgan

The current condition of a vintage fur depends much on the treatment it received in the past. While the average life of a fur is 20-25 years, even the most durable fur can be ruined sooner by improper care. The greatest enemies are moths, heat, sunlight, and friction. If you find a vintage fur that has escaped most of these ravages, then you owe it to yourself - and to the fur! – to continue its proper treatment. The following points will give you a better understanding of how to care for and preserve your era fur.

Cold Storage Proper storage with a furrier is usually the best method of preserving a fur. It will be protected from excessive drying, from heat and light, and from moths, as well as from fire and theft. This may not be economically feasible for vintage furs, which have begun deteriorating from age and have decreased in value. If you decide against cold storage, the following suggestions will help you maintain your fur at home.

Moth Protection Some moths love to lay their eggs in fur. To prevent their larvae from turning your prized fur into a Caterpillar Cafe, enclose the garment in a moth-proof bag of tightly-woven cloth (never plastic). This also protects the fur from the unwanted attention of the family cat or dog, who may want to sleep or play with it. Adding a moth preventative such as crystallized camphor will help repel adult moths, but the odor will also be absorbed by the fur and will be quite difficult to get rid of. Keeping the garments in a cedar chest or closet would be preferable.

Keep Furs Clean Dirt, dust and grime invite moths. A gentle shaking of the garment or a light beating with a rug beater should remove most of the dirt or dust. However, care should be taken not to strain the leather or split the seams. Take your fur to a reliable cleaner for any serious dirt.

Heat and Light Heat dries out the oils in the leather, which leads to hair loss and tears in fragile seams and skins. Vintage furs cannot be "re-oiled," so it is of utmost importance to not expose furs to heat. An unheated closet is a good storage place, provided the fur will not get too cold and freeze. Strong sunlight will also discolor furs. Undyed furs will fade; white furs will turn yellow; and even dyed dark furs will change shades when exposed to sunlight.



"Silver fox color Manchurian Wolf."
Actually Chinese dog, dyed and pointed
to resemble silver fox.
National Bellas Hess Fall/Winter 1928

Reprinted from *A Book of Fashion Facts*, MAFCA

Absent Friends

Our friends Fred Grafelman and Mel Patsel both left us this past fall.

Fred passed away on September 27, 2019 at the age of 79. Fred was the beloved husband of the late Judith M. Grafelman and loving father of club member Jennifer. Born and raised in San Francisco, Fred owned his own painting business for over 55 years. He was devoted to his parish Holy Name of Jesus. Fred was president of the African Violet Society and a member of our San Francisco Model A Ford Club. His generosity extended to all he knew.

Mel passed away on December 2, 2019 at the age of 83. Mel was a member of our club for several years until he joined the Marin Model A Club. Mel served in the San Francisco Fire Department for many years and had a part time job at the Bohemian Club where he had an opportunity to rub shoulders with some real movers and shakers. Mel was an athlete and rode his bicycle cross country both ways for over 8000 miles. Mel had an outgoing personality, some great life stories, and a wonderful sense of humor. Both club members John Bettencourt and Joe Higgins served with Mel in the SFFD, and according to Joe both have their stories of Mel (either heard about or witnessed). Joe wishes it to be known that Mel was a gentleman and will be truly missed.

We will all miss both Fred and Mel.

Christmas Banquet

Our 63rd Annual Meeting and Christmas Banquet on Saturday December 7 was one of our best in spite of the first gully washing rains of the season. Room decorations started going up around four in the afternoon. Each table was graced with a center piece, two decorated bottles of wine, and a small favor carefully placed by each table setting.

The walls of the banquet room were decorated with garland and wreaths, lending a warm Christmas atmosphere to the room. A table placed in one corner of the room overflowed with raffle prizes. The opposite corner was stacked high with Christmas gifts and "Toys for Tots."

Behind the scenes Walter Caplan and Steve Owsley made an early morning trip to Pacifica to pick up our Christmas cake from Mazzetti's Bakery and a second trip to San Jose for the Santa suit. Tom and Terry Machado graciously contributed a case of very delightful table wine. Joan Peterson and Gill Schwab made all of our table decorations and Walter, Joan, and Cynthia Torres came early to help decorate. We had a very competent team working to make this day memorable. Thanks to all of them.

Our friend Greg Zak suited up and played Santa Claus. Greg did a wonderful job. He moved around the room, table to table, passing out gifts to the delight of the children and adults alike. Christmas would not be complete without Santa.

This year we were blessed to have Bob Farina and his daughter Becky come to our party. Bob and his wife Dee are responsible for starting one of our traditional annual club events, Fathers Day at St. Anne's Home. Tom and Terry Machado came down from Stockton to be with us. They started another of our annual club events, the Concours at Ironstone Winery in Murphys.

After dinner we enjoyed a gift exchange followed by a raffle. No one went home empty handed. I was a wonderful evening, a time to share stories about friends and family, the club, and days gone by.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Barry Kinney



Top Row Photos by Cynthia Torres



Bottom Row Photos by Scott Williams

What Were They Thinking?

We all know that advertising business has always had a casual relationship with the truth. And outrageous statements are part and parcel of ads and commercials. But sometimes you have to ask, "What were they thinking?". Be warned some readers may be offended by these old ads.

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

Technical Q & A

Excerpts of questions and answers by MAFCA's Technical Director Chuck Christensen

Q: My family has an AA Dump Truck that we'd like to sell. It's not running now, but it's in relative good shape aside from the paint. Minimal rust. If you can, could you direct me to a dealer or online marketplace where we could sell it. It's history: my father, who passed away a few years ago owned it since, I believe, the late forties or early fifties. He owned a gas station. It is complete with a plow and a push frame on the front. We actually own two Model A Coupes that my brother and I are in the process of restoring and will be keeping. We are also interested in joining the Model A Club. Thanks for your help in advance.

George Karalias

A: Here's a few suggestions: Join the Model A Ford Club of America and advertise the vehicle in *The Restorer*. Advertise it in *Hemmings Motor News*, available at most large book stores and sometimes available in local libraries. Contact The Ford Model AA Truck Club at wilsmor@juno.com for listing in their newsletter. Neil Wilson is the current President. You can also advertise on the MAFCA web site. Where is the truck located? I could even list it in our local newsletter if it is anywhere near the San Francisco Bay area.

Q: I'm in the process of replacing both manifolds with new ones, as I had a cracked ear on the old intake. Everything seems like it will fit fine, except for one small thing. The threads for the vacuum fitting aren't clean enough, and they are going to ruin the brass fitting if I force it. What is the thread? Is it 1/8 - 24 NPT? If so, should I just buy the pipe tap and clean those threads? Thanks for any help.

Steve Conover

A: You are correct about the thread size. 1/8 NPT. A tap would be your best bet in cleaning the threads. Just don't run the tap in too far. Since pipe threads are tapered you want to run the tap in just far enough to clean up the threads.

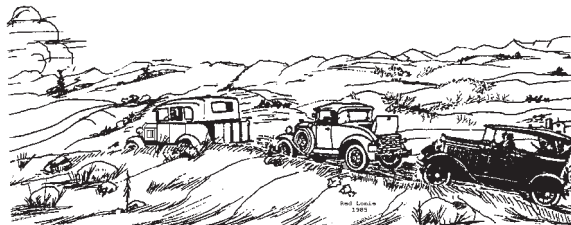
Q: I just installed a Brumfield head (5.9:1) on my 1928 Roadster Pickup. It's running great, but I am now getting a lot of gray/white smoke out the exhaust. Our best guess is that new rings are needed, but thought I would see what you had to say. Thanks very much.

Skip Lane

A: I haven't had any experience with the Brumfield head, but I think the first thing I would do would be to check the cylinder compression. Warm up the engine, do a compression test, add a couple squirts of oil and redo the test. If the compression comes up significantly with the oil then you probably should consider rings. Oil past the rings usually shows up as more of a blue tint exhaust smoke. White smoke may indicate water getting into the cylinders via a poorly sealing gasket or, heaven forbid, a crack somewhere. I would guess that the Brumfield would raise compression to about 90-100 PSI, but the most important factor is consistency. Compression in each cylinder should be pretty much the same, within a few pounds. I like the screw-in type compression gauges, which would require an adaptor from the 7/8" thread to a smaller size to fit the compression gauge. The simpler gauge which has to be held in place will do the job though. I would like to know what you find out.

2020 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MAFCA TOURS

IT'S THE JOURNEY — NOT THE DESTINATION



MONTH	DAY	TOUR LEADER	TOUR
JANUARY	12	BARRY KINNEY	PRESIDENT'S BRUNCH - SF HARDING PARK
FEBRUARY	8	MORGAN	ALAMEDA CRAB FEED
FEBRUARY	TBA	TBA	TBA
MARCH	14 SATURDAY	BARRY KINNEY	ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL - SF
APRIL	6-11	KINNEY	CARLSBAD CAVERNS
APRIL	12	RALPH HOFFSCHILDT	EASTER PARADE - UNION STREET, SF
APRIL	TBA	KINNEY	F. A. S. T. SPRING HILLCLIMB - AUBURN, CA
APRIL	26	SF MODEL A FORD CLUB	DREAM MACHINES - HALF MOON BAY
TBA	TBA	BARRY KINNEY	MILITARY ANTIQUES & MUSEUM, PETALUMA, CA
MAY	17	MPOT FORD CLUB	FRIENDSHIP DAY - REDWOOD SHORES
MAY	25 MONDAY	CAPLAN	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE - PRESIDIO
JUNE	20 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	ST. ANNE'S HOME - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JULY	TBA	KINNEY	RADIO DAY BY THE BAY - ALAMEDA
AUGUST	TBA	KINNEY	BOCCE BALL - ORANGE PARK, SSF
SEPTEMBER	TBA	CAPLAN / KINNEY	OAKLAHOMA TOUR
SEPTEMBER	TBA	MAHL	45 TH ANNUAL 28 TH AVENUE BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER	20	KINNEY	ANTIQUE AUTOS HISTORY PARK - SAN JOSE
SEPTEMBER	25-27	CAPLAN / MACHADO	OVERNIGHTER MURPHYS-IRONSTONE CONCOURS
OCTOBER	TBA	MORGAN	27 TH DOWNTOWN ALAMEDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW
OCTOBER	11	BARRANGO	COLUMBUS DAY PARADE - NORTH BEACH, SF
OCTOBER	TBA	CAPLAN	SF OLD CAR PICNIC - GOLDEN GATE PARK
November	8 SUNDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	VETERANS DAY PARADE - FISHERMAN'S WHARF
DECEMBER	5 SATURDAY	CAPLAN / KINNEY	SFPD BRAVE THE BAY - AQUATIC PARK
DECEMBER	5 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.

2020 Schedule of Events

January 12
January 25-26
June 21-26

SF Model A Club President's Brunch – SF Harding Park

54th Annual Turlock Swap Meet

MAFCA National Convention – Kerrville, TX

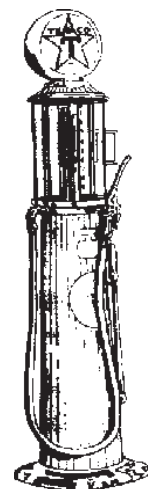
Hosts: San Antonio Chapter – The Alamo A's

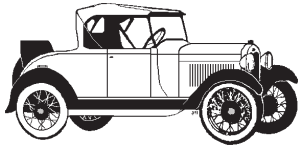
10th Annual Model A Day at the Gilmore Car Museum – Hickory Corners, MI

September 19
December 3-6

National Awards Banquet – Fort Worth, TX

Hosts: Fort Worth Chapter





**San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Model A Ford Club of America
December 8, 2019**

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 7 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 2020: President Barry Kinney; Vice President Gunard Mahl; 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 2019. Recognition of the dedication and good work of the 2019 Board, all of whom agreed to continue in office for the 2020 year, will again occur at the President's Brunch on Sunday January 12, 2020 at the Harding Park Golf Course clubhouse 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 2019 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. John Zuffi will provide refreshments for the January 2020 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 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



in this Choke Rod

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Inserts:

2020 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 9, 2020
7:30 pm - Monte Cristo Club
136 Missouri Street (Potrero Hill)
San Francisco