

The Choke Rod

preserving and restoring the Model A Ford since 1956

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MAFCA 2018 Certificate of Merit

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San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

Model A Ford Club of America

President's Message

Fall is here. The weather has turned cold and wet, certainly no time to be out in an old car. We had five Model A's in the Columbus Day Parade, a record number, all of which made it from start to finish without a hitch. It felt good to get out and do something for a change. Thanks to everyone who brought out the old car and made this event successful.

We have a plan for November: the annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday November 7. Details will follow in a separate e-mail message. I am not sure about our plans for Christmas. We still are in the throes of a pandemic. I just checked the stats and we had 7,500 new cases and 1,500 deaths this month. The number can make you a little nervous. I understand the reluctance to come to an event with a large number of people in a closed space. The only comfort in the news is that 1,500 is not a large number when compared to the total population — and the numbers across the country as a whole have been declining.

I have been checking with Club members and running through the Club Roster to get a feel for how many people we can realistically expect to come to our Annual Meeting / Christmas Party. At this point, and it is still early, the number is fifteen. The tentative date is Saturday December 11 at 7 pm at Val's in Daly City. We would like to know your desires and intentions by the November meeting.

Regarding the meeting, it looks like we will still be meeting virtually through November. We hope to meet in January back at the Monte Cristo Club. Plans may change so keep an eye out for an e-mail or a notice in The Choke Rod.

Here's to the good old turkey
The bird that comes each fall
And with his sweet persuasive meat
Makes gobblers of us all.

Happy Thanksgiving.

See you at the Zoom meeting on Thursday November 11 at 7:30 pm.

Barry Kinney

Virtual Meeting Minutes — October 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Walter Caplan in the absence of President Barry Kinney.

Only four lonely souls appeared at the Zoom meeting – most likely because the meeting was being held at the same time as the Giants, who were playing the LA Dodgers in game 5 of the National League Division Series. This was the decisive game, and it ended the Giants' magical 2021 Major League Baseball season with their stunning 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers at Oracle Park.

The meeting was brief – we acknowledged each other and talked about the Columbus Day Parade. It was good to see Dodge Riedy for the first time in a while.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Caplan, for Joan Peterson, Secretary

Italian Heritage Day Parade

This year we defied our fear of COVID and its variants long enough to participate in the National Italian Heritage Day Parade, formerly known as the Columbus Day Parade. It has been suggested that a more appropriate name would be National Indigenous Peoples Day in honor of all the Native Americans who suffered at the hands of early explorers, Spanish conquistadors, and white settlers who followed Christopher Columbus to North America.

Surprisingly, most Native Americans with whom I am familiar give very little thought to old Christopher. The folks who seem to be the most disturbed by Christopher are non-Native Americans who somehow feel that they have the right to speak for the Native American. Most Native Americans feel uncomfortable stealing the day from the Italians. For the Native Americans I know and all the Italians it will always be Columbus Day.

This year the parade was just as exciting as past in years. We had the Blue Angels overhead, an enjoyable pre-parade party hosted by Bob Fiorito and YMI Council 30, and a killer crowd along the parade route. The only downside was the complete absence of PortaPotties. However, we did find excellent facilities in the Tuscan Inn. Enter through the Pescetore Restaurant and take the elevator to the second floor.

This year we had a grand total of five Model A Fords, all of which finished the parade in grand style. Club members who participated: Walter Caplan (Sedan), Joe Higgins (Roadster), Barry Kinney (Coupe), Bob Fiorito in Gary Barrango's Roadster, and Tom Escher's Red and White Fleet Roadster pickup driven by staffer Schuyler Brown. The cars were followed-up by the San Francisco Municipal Railway Coit Tower Bus driven by Tony Gelardi.

Our group represented both the San Francisco Model A Ford Club and the Young Men's Institute (YMI). The YMI was founded on March 4, 1883 at St. Josephs Parish Hall at 10th and Howard Streets in San Francisco with the goal of promoting moral, social, and intellectual improvement of its members in accordance with its motto: "For God and Country". The institute, in addition to its charitable activities, sponsors several sporting events each year. We were proud to be a part of the parade on behalf of Young Men's Institute, Council 30.

Barry Kinney



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Casey Martinez	November 1
Greg Martinez	November 5
Maria DeMartini	November 15
Joseph Martinez	November 18
Nick Calabrese	November 26
Irma Nicholson	November 27
Tom & Terry Machado	November 4

