

# The Spare Tire

*Palmetto A's of South Carolina*

PO Box 8717

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

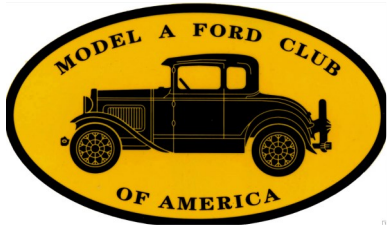
Model A Ford Club of America Chapter

Model A Restorers Club Region

Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.

Website: [www.palmettoas.net](http://www.palmettoas.net)

Facebook: [Palmetto A's of SC](https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoAsOfSC)

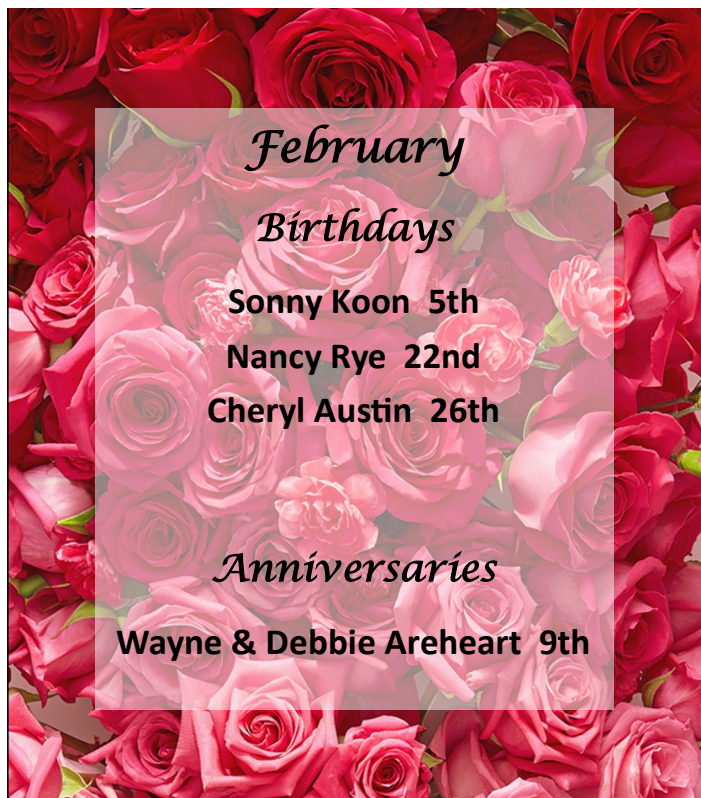


Last year's Chicken Bog / Budget Meeting at the Austin's.

This year's meeting is February 15th.

## Our January gathering at Lizard's Thicket





### *“A” Note from the President...*

We started the New Year with our “Mystery Tour” beginning with club gathering at the Lizard’s Thicket downtown Columbia for breakfast. After socializing and catching up on the latest goings on, those participating in the tour left for their mystery destination. It turned out to be Edisto, SC.

**February 15th has us gathering** at Danny and Cheryl Austin’s home for our annual “Chicken Bog” business meeting where the budget for 2025 will be presented for the club’s approval as well as other business topics. This year, sides will be provided by those with last names starting with A – K and desserts will be provided by those with last names starting with L – W. You may start gathering at 10:30 and we’ll eat around 12 noon. The business meeting will be after lunch. This meeting allows us to have a great time to fellowship before and during lunch and to get to know our new members. Twila and I are looking forward to this fun gathering with our Model A family.

For all trips, make sure your cars are fueled up and don’t forget your walkie talkies! Let’s keep those members on our prayer list in our thoughts. We hope to see them rejoin us soon! Remember as always, if your “A” is in the “repair or restore shop,” you can still be part of the fellowship in your “modern.”

So let’s dust’um off, gas’em up, and let’s go “Model A’ing!”

*John Cockerill*

### *Board of Directors*

President\* - [John Cockerill](#) (803)446-3837

Vice President\* - [Bruce Edge](#) (803)206-4207

Secretary\* - [Debbie Areheart](#) (803)960-6497

Treasurer\* - [Dick Fraser](#) (803)622-7582

Newsletter Editor\* - [Twila Cockerill](#) (803)446-5803

Membership Director - [Cheryl Austin](#) (803)351-5687

Past President - [Happy Begg](#) (803)622-0048

National Director\* - [Wayne and Debbie Areheart](#)  
(803)960-0927

Members At Large - [Tom Mack](#) (803)351-3695

[Dan Ward](#) - (864)415-5496

\*Denotes Officer of the Club

### **Committee Chairs**

Tour Director - [Cheryl and Danny Austin](#) (803)351-5687

Technical Director [Wayne Areheart](#) (803)960-0927

Librarian - [Davin Smith](#) (803)822-4141

Sunshine - We need a volunteer!

Palmetto A’s Annual Picnic - Committee

Swap Meet - Committee

Christmas Party - Committee

Fundraising - [Dick Fraser](#)

Community Outreach - [John Begg](#)

Webmaster - [Happy Begg](#)

Website: [www.palmettoas.net](http://www.palmettoas.net)

### *Sunshine Report*

Please keep the following folks in your thoughts and prayers: John Cockerill and Margaret Smith.

**Remember: call, write or send a card to someone who needs encouragement. We are “FAMILY” and it helps to be thought of and prayed about.**

**If you have any Sunshine concerns, please call or email the newsletter editor to add the name to our Sunshine Report.**

### *Treasurer’s Report, January 2025*

We continue to maintain a balance in line with the club budget as set and approved by the Board of Directors. All bills and receipts are processed promptly. The checkbook is balanced monthly with no discrepancies.



### Down the Road

Is there a destination to which you would like to drive your Model A? Is there a lunch spot to which you would like to drive your Model A? Call or email Cheryl and Danny Austin at 803-351-5687, [cherylaustin40@gmail.com](mailto:cherylaustin40@gmail.com). They are looking for your ideas and input!



I MAY BE A LITTLE GRAYER AND SHORTER THAN I USED TO BE AND I NEED GLASSES TO READ ANYTHING SMALLER THAN A STOP SIGN, BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS ... DAMN, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY

F-E-A-R has two meanings: 'Forget Everything And Run' or 'Face Everything And Rise.' The choice is yours.

### Palmetto A's Schedule for 2025

**February 15** - Palmetto A's annual budget meeting and Chicken Bog lunch at the Austin's, 246 Calcutta Drive, West Columbia.

**March 22** - Palmetto A's Annual Picnic at St James Lutheran Church

**April 11** - Old 96 Swap Meet. Meet at The Irmo Walmart, depart at 9:15

**May 17 TBA**

**PLEASE NOTE: DATES AND PLACES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

### Other Events of Interest

#### 2025

**April 3-5** - Charlotte Auto Fair Spring Meet

**April 11 - 12** Old 96 19th Annual Swap Meet

**June 15-22** - [MAFCA National Tour, Waynesboro, VA](#) Hosts: Dallas Chapter

**June 16 - 20** MARC National Meet, Gettysburg PA

**September 4-6** - Charlotte Auto Fair Fall Meet

**October 7-10** - Hershey Swap Meet & Car Show

#### 2026

**May 31 - June 7** - [MAFCA National Convention in Pendleton, OR](#)



# Brake Light Switch!

by Tom Endy

The Model A Ford has somewhat of a peculiar wiring system design. Power for the headlights, taillights, cowl lights, and brake lights is obtained from the connection at the cutout switch on the generator and routed to a buss connection inside the light bail at the bottom of the steering column.

The light switch on the steering column directs power to the headlights, taillights, and cowl lights, but not to the brake lights. A wire runs direct from the power buss inside the light bail to the external brake light switch.

There is really no purpose for the brake light circuit to be involved with the light bail. Should there be a short circuit in the light bail, the power lead to it can be disconnected temporarily from the cutout switch connection to accommodate operating the car without lights during daylight. Unfortunately it also disconnects the brake light switch, which makes it unsafe to drive the car.

It would have been prudent if Ford had run a wire direct from the starter switch (or the fuse) to the brake light switch. With this arrangement the power lead to the light bail could be removed from the cutout switch on the generator without affecting the brake light circuit.

It is easy enough to modify the brake light circuit to isolate it from the light bail. Locate the wire on the brake light switch that comes from the light bail. Disconnect it at the brake light switch and fold it back and wrap insulating tape around it. Connect a new wire where the wire at the brake light switch was removed and run it direct to battery power. The most logical place to make the connection is at the starter switch. If a fuse modification is installed connect it there.

This wiring modification now eliminates the light bail from the stop light circuit. Should a short circuit occur in the light bail, it can be disconnected from power at the cutout switch connection and the car can be driven during daylight hours with the brake lights functional.

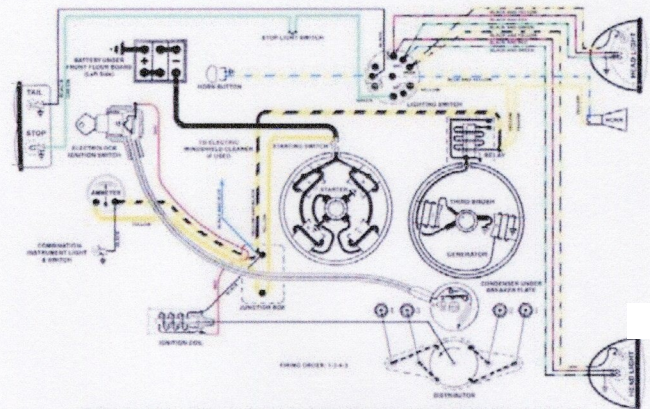


Fig. 18A - Wiring diagram showing the internal circuits of the model A Ford cars not equipped with cowl lamps, with two bulbs in each headlamp. When starting to trace one of the several electrical circuits, begin with the positive (+) terminal of the battery or generator. The battery is the source of supply when the engine is not running, or generator is running very slowly. When the generator speed is increased to the point where its voltage becomes greater than the battery voltage, the entire positive charge and then the generator is the source of electrical current supply and also charges the battery. See Doka's Automobile Encyclopedia, pages 332, 448 and 427 explaining the principle of operation of the current cut-out (relay), how to trace circuits, etc.

**Model A Ford wiring diagram. Note second wire down from the top runs from the power buss inside the light bail to the brake light switch, then on to the brake light on the left.**

Foreign made reproduction brake light switches are notorious for being of very poor quality and for shorting out. A good quality 1930-1931 brake light switch can be obtained from A&L Parts Specialties located at Canton Center, CT. The switch, which is a copy of the original, is a quality item manufactured by A&L. The switch includes brass bushings at each end of the operating shaft. ☺

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[anel@aol.com](mailto:anel@aol.com)

**Switch part number A-13480B**

*Santa Anita A's Member, Tom Endy, past editor of the Victoria Association Newsletter (The Bustle) for the has created the 20+ years of the work. Some of the articles and documents have been featured in the MAFCA Restorer Magazine, other club's websites, and some are not published anywhere but here: [santaanitaas.org/tom-Endy's-tech-articles/](http://santaanitaas.org/tom-Endy's-tech-articles/). Enjoy, utilize, and learn!*

## Just a reminder!!

The club has a library of Model A Technical DVDs for your use. Contact John Cockerill at 803-446-3837 (cell) or at [johnwilac@yahoo.com](mailto:johnwilac@yahoo.com).



## Palmetto A's Board Meeting

January 7, 2025

President John Cockerill called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at the IHOP in Columbia. Attending were Wayne & Debbie Areheart, Cheryl Austin, John & Happy Begg, John & Twila Cockerill, Bruce Edge, Dick Fraser, Tom Mack, Davin Smith and Dan Ward.

Minutes of the Board meeting were read by Debbie, a motion was made by Wayne, seconded by Cheryl and approved.

Dick gave the Treasurer's report for the last 3 months of 2024.

Happy reported that the website fees are up to date and shouldn't change before next year.

The proposed budget for 2025 will remain pretty much the same as 2024. A proposal was made to earmark \$500 for The Great Race that will be in Irmo on June 29. Tom will check into this to see if there are volunteer opportunities available and if this is something we want to pursue.

Twila reported that she is mailing out 8 newsletters. John C. mentioned that we should have enough postage for the rest of this year. Also that Twila has received a Merit Award from MAFCA for our newsletter The Spare Tire. All agreed this is well deserved recognition. Advertiser bills will be mailed out in February.

Dick will start soon on the fundraiser/mileage program.

Wayne reported nothing is in the works now as far as tech sessions. John C. mentioned that he & Davin had discussed the possibility of a tune up workshop at Smith & Jones. More info on this to come.

Cheryl reported that we have 23 paid members. She will send the list of members to MAFCA and MARC after our renewal deadline of January 15. Dick will pay our dues on line. Tom suggested that there should be other ways for members to pay membership dues. Happy & John B. will look into this, possibly setting up a PayPal account. Membership/Renewal Application sheets will still need to be completed and returned to Cheryl. We are now offering new members a free 1 year membership.

Cheryl then went over the proposed tours/meetings for 2025, the next being the overnight Mystery Tour to be held January 18-19. Those that have signed up and paid will leave out after we enjoy breakfast with other Club members at Lizards Thicket on Elmwood at 9 a.m. All events, with times and details, will be listed in The Spare Tire as they are finalized.

Plans are still being made for the April and June activities. Those plans will be discussed further at our February Board meeting. For the June activity, Davin, Tom and Wayne will meet and present a proposal to the Board.

Happy thanked Bruce for agreeing to serve as Vice President of the Palmetto A's. Happy has been elected as Vice President of MAFCA.

John C. asked if our Club trailer needed to be serviced. That will be checked out at our chicken bog/budget business meeting to be held at the Austin's on February 15.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

Submitted by Debbie Areheart, Secretary

## Did You Know????

MAFCA has a video section on their website. Categories include: MAFCA Events, Technical, Historical, Member, Chapter, Fashion, and Miscellaneous. Check it out!

<https://www.mafca.com/videos.html>

MAFCA also has a YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3twKfHco40ySFBYpKzjf3A>

## MAFCA STAR PROGRAM

The MAFCA Star Program is designed to reward our members who enlist new members for the club. It applies to all New Members, both free and paid. We are hoping that this small token will stimulate existing members to bring new members to the club. The 2025 Free MAFCA membership form in our [Members Only area](#) has been changed to identify the sponsoring **member** instead of chapter. When an application is received by the MAFCA office, a MAFCA Star decal will be sent to the sponsoring member. -- Jay McCord, Membership Director

## Model A Ford Technical Questions

Paul Shinn has gathered a group to help answer your technical questions about Model A's. The group includes MAFCA's current tech director and several past tech directors. You can email your questions and concerns to:

[ModelATechQuestions@gmail.com](mailto:ModelATechQuestions@gmail.com)

Who knows, you may even see your question answered in *The Restorer!*

## NEED HELP WITH YOUR MODEL A?

IS YOUR PROBLEM SOMETHING THAT COULD BE ADDRESSED BY THE CLUB "TECH TEAM?" WAYNE AREHEART AND THE "TECH TEAM" ARE LOOKING FOR SMALL JOBS THAT WOULD PROVIDE A "LEARNING" TECH SITUATION FOR THE CLUB. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WAYNE at [dareheart@sc.rr.com](mailto:dareheart@sc.rr.com) or JOHN COCKERILL AT [johtwilac@yahoo.com](mailto:johtwilac@yahoo.com).

**Cook's Corner...**

**CHERRY FUDGE CAKE**

Cake:

- 1 Package devils food cake mix (18oz)
- 2 Large eggs
- 1 Teaspoon almond extract
- 1 Can cherry pie filling (21oz)

Preheat oven to 350°. Place first 3 ingredients into a large mixing bowl, add 1/2-3/4 of the canned pie filling and beat for 1 1/2 minutes. Add remaining pie filling and stir in by hand. Pour batter into a greased/floured 9x13 pan. Bake for 27-30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted into middle comes out clean.

Fudge Topping:

- 1 Cup sugar
- 1/3 Cup milk
- 5 Tablespoons butter (not margarine)
- 1 Cup milk chocolate chips

Bring milk, sugar and butter to a boil over medium-high heat in a heavy saucepan, stirring occasionally; boil 1 minute. Remove heat, add chocolate chips; stir until melted and smooth. Quickly pour evenly over hot cake. Cool completely and serve.



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Uses no oil.....	Just throws it out
No rust.....	Body and fenders missing
Rough.....	It's too bad to lie about
One owner.....	Never been able to sell
No time to complete.....	Can't find parts anywhere
Needs interior.....	Seats are gone
Rebuilt engine.....	Has new spark plugs
May run.....	But it never has
Low mileage.....	Third time around
Many new parts.....	Keeps breaking down
29 coats hand-rubbed paint....	Needed that much to cover rust
Clean.....	It sat out in the rain yesterday
Best offer.....	About what I expect to get
Always driven slowly.....	Won't go any faster
Prize winner.....	Hard luck trophy 3 times in a row
Stored 25 years.....	Under a tree
Real show stopper.....	Orange with purple fenders
Easy restoration.....	Parts will come off in your hand
Ready to show.....	Just washed it
Top good.....	Only leaks when it rains
Good investment.....	Can't depreciate any more

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See Opposite Page for Descriptions

For "How to Measure" See Opposite Page

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*The Spare Tire*  
**Due date for submissions  
 for next month's issue  
 is the 20th of this month.**

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The Palmetto A's is a not for profit organization with chapter affiliations with MAFCFA and MARC. The organization is dedicated to the preservation and the restoration of the Model A Ford automobile and supports membership in the national organizations dedicated to the same purpose. Palmetto A's is one of the oldest Model A Clubs in the nation, having been active for over 63 years. Monthly meetings are generally held the third Saturday of the month, time and location announced in *The Spare Tire*, the club's monthly newsletter. Palmetto A's membership dues are \$25 per year.

Members are encouraged to join the following national clubs:

Model A Ford Club of America.  
 Annual dues are \$50 and include a subscription to *The Restorer Magazine* from MAFCFA, 250 South Cypress St., La Habra, CA 90631 and  
 Model 'A' Restorers Club  
 Annual dues are \$50 and include a subscription to the *Model 'A' News Magazine* from MARC, 6721 Merriman Road, Garden City, MI 48135



CLICK HERE FOR MAFCFA  
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Benefits of National Club Memberships**

Membership in MAFCFA includes the following:

- A one year subscription to The Restorer, our award-winning bi-monthly magazine including free classified ads.
- The right to register and participate in all National and Regional MAFCFA meets
- Voting privileges in National elections of officers and by-laws revisions
- Free classified advertising on the MAFCFA web site and posting of photo of your car in the Photo Album section
- Technical advice to help restore your Model A and keep it in top shape

National MARC Membership Includes:

- Six issues each calendar year of our award-winning, international, bi-monthly Model 'A' News magazine.
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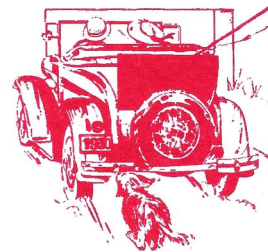
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The Palmetto A's Model A Club, of MAFCA and MARC does not endorse or in any way approve or disapprove the use of any person or enterprise that advertises in *The Spare Tire* newsletter.