

The Spare Tire

Palmetto A's of South Carolina

PO Box 8717

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

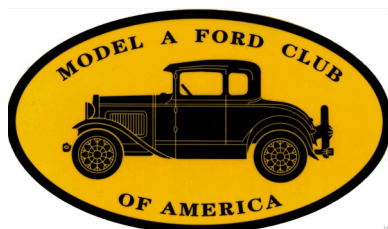
Model A Ford Club of America Chapter

Model A Restorers Club Region

Model A Ford Foundation, Inc.

Website: www.palmettoas.net

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



Greetings!

Since no one has volunteered to take the position of *The Spare Tire* editor, publication will be suspended. This will be the last issue until we have a new editor.

All club information will be posted on our website :www.palmettoas.net

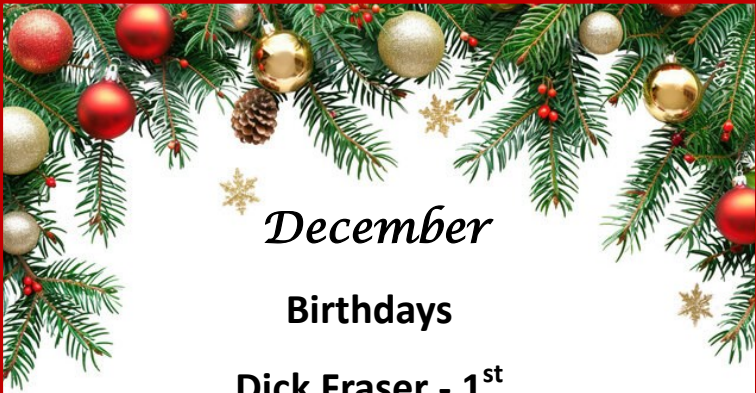
You will still be getting email news and notices as needed.



Notices!

RSVP for our Christmas Party (December 13th) must be received by December 3, 2025.

Deadline for club dues is December 31st!



December

Birthdays

Dick Fraser - 1st
Chester Kay - 9th
Linda Toole - 11th
Mack Day - 18th
Twila Cockerill - 21st

Anniversaries

John & Nancy Roberts - 6th
Joey & Kay Austin - 29th

“A” Note from the President...

In November we had eleven members and two guest in six A’s enjoy a great Model A weather day for our outing to Lake City where we had a tasty lunch at Slabs BBQ. After lunch was a short drive to downtown to visit the moving tribute to Dr. Ronald E. McNair, the Lake City-born astronaut who perished in the Challenger Space Shuttle explosion in 1986. We then headed for home with a short stop in Sumter for ice cream.

December’s outing on the 13th, (2nd weekend) will start at 8:30 at the Flying J / Denny’s at 5901 Fairfield Rd. (Hwy. 321 & I-20) We’ll Have our Christmas Lunch at the Wagon Wheel restaurant in Fort Lawn, SC.

Be fueled up and don’t forget the walkie talkies. We continue to look forward to these fun outings with our Model A family.

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



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*Denotes Officer of the Club

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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

Sunshine Report

Please keep the following folks in your thoughts and prayers: John Cockerill, Mack & Mary Day 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, November, 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.

Remember, this is the weekend we set the bathroom scales back ten pounds!



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. They are looking for your ideas and input!

Proposal to Amend the Palmetto A’s By-Laws

The Board Members have received and unanimously agreed on the proposal to make a change in our current by-laws. The proposal change involves the section, **Article III Members sections A and B**. Both sections A and B state that “**member shall be intitled to receive one copy of the Club’s publication, The Spare Tire. Distribution of the newsletter may be by web-site, email or postal service as requested by the member.**” Because of the ever-rising cost of printing and postage, the cost to provide members with “hardcopy” printed newsletters for the year now exceeds the annual membership fee. **Therefore, the proposal is to change the section, Article III Members sections A and B to read, “member shall be entitled to receive the Club’s news publication by website or email as requested by the member.”** These two options have been available to members for quite a few years. **This proposal will be presented to be voted on by the membership at our annual business meeting in February 2026.**

Palmetto A’s Schedule for 2025

December 13 - Palmetto A’s Christmas Party at The Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Ft. Lawn. Depart from the Flying J Truck Stop, 5901 Fairfield Rd (just off of I-20) at 8:30am.

2026

January 17 - Mystery Tour

February 21 - Budget Meeting at the Austin’s for Danny’s famous Chicken Bog!

March 28 - Palmetto A’s Annual Picnic

PLEASE NOTE: DATES AND PLACES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

Other Events of Interest

2026

May 2026 - 2026 MARC National Tour, Finger Lakes, New York

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





15 November, 2025 Tour

Palmetto A's toured to Lake City to eat lunch at Slab BBQ. After lunch, we drove through town to visit the Ronald McNair Memorial.

MAFFI Minute November 2025

Winter is approaching here in the Midwest, and the museum is still rapidly working on new and updated exhibits! Darwin Schaffer donated a really special unrestored and fully original 1930 De Luxe Delivery (130) which was originally used by a funeral home for flowers. This will be used during Model A Days to demonstrate corn shelling since it has a power take-off system for a belt (though personally, I might try and sneak an ice cream maker on it!).

Andrew Oliver of Connecticut won the sweepstakes on the 1928 Phaeton, and Kris Wilson of Missouri won the rebuilt engine.

Now that the trustees have had a chance to go over the numbers for the 2025 Model A Days, it looks like it was a great success thanks to all our hobbyists who came to support the museum. There are plenty of ways to get involved with helping and still plenty of ways to donate to the museum between the My-A-Program, Brick Memorials, and even regular donations. As we get towards the Holiday Season, this is something great to keep in mind, especially for your local club.

Keep on motoring!

John Grossheim, Trustee and Secretary of MAFFI

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/UC3twKfHco40ySFBYpKzfJ3A>

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

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 or JOHN COCKERILL AT johntwilac@yahoo.com.

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Fashionable Frocks for Festive Occasions—Fur-Trimmed Hats
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DECEMBER

Woman's Institute of Domestic Arts & Sciences

1929



“Change the Condenser”

by Tom Endy, rev 2023

On most any Model A tour one of the participating cars will likely drift to the side of the road inoperative. Soon after everyone gathers around someone in the crowd will surely yell out “change the condenser”. This knee-jerk reaction has become ingrained in Model A folklore. The truth is that good quality condensers available today seldom ever fail.

Over the years I have seen countless numbers of condensers changed out, but I have only observed one that actually failed, and that was because the ground strap soldered onto the back of the condenser came loose due to an over-heated engine.

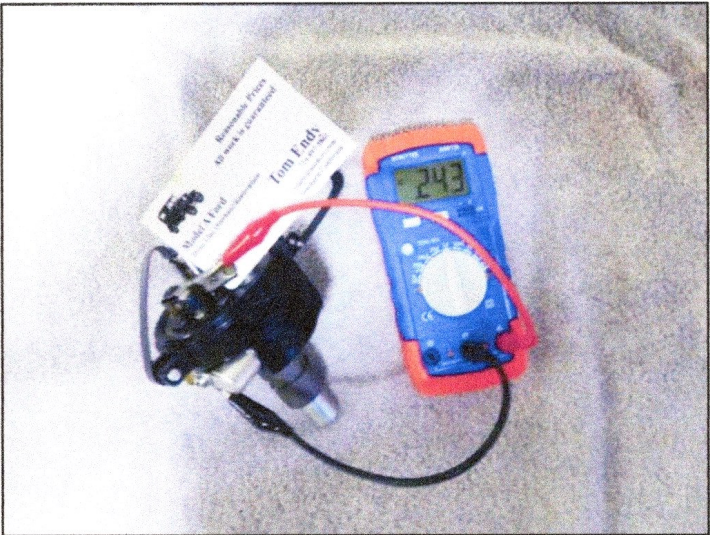
The common practice for checking a condenser is to use an ohm meter. It will tell you if it is shorted or open, but not what the actual capacitance value is.



A Honeytek A6013L Capacitor Tester (called a condenser in automotive jargon) is available through Amazon for about \$22. The tester will tell you not only if the condenser is good or bad, but the actual value in micro-farads. Set the pointer on two micro farads.

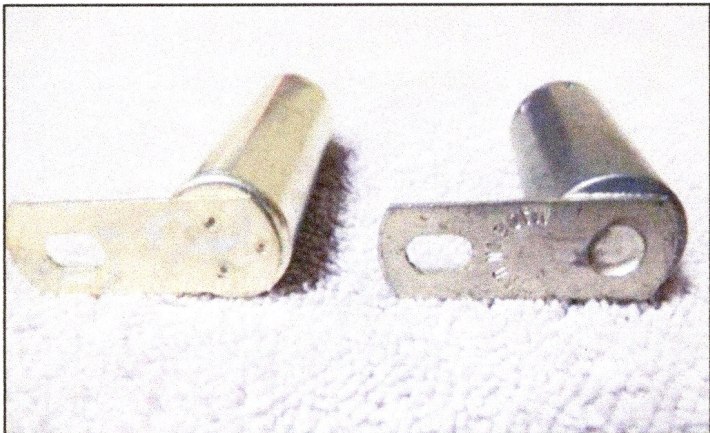
What I have discovered with my new Honeytek tester is that the good quality condensers from Bratton’s test out at a nominal .228 -.235 micro farads. I have never seen any documentation that Henry ever recorded about how many farads (or portions thereof) are required of a condenser to properly operate a Model A Ford ignition system.

It is difficult to describe what a farad is, especially when only a very small portion of one is used in a Model A condenser. A micro farad is but .000001 of one farad



The Honeytek tester is a unique thing to have along on a tour. You can easily test a condenser while it is still attached to a distributor installed in a Model A. Simply remove the car’s fuse, and slip a business card between the points. The plus lead of the tester is clipped to the arm of the points; the negative lead is clipped to ground on the distributor.

There are still poor quality condensers being sold by some suppliers. They are easily identified by the ground strap being soldered to the end of the condenser. The good quality ones sold by Bratton’s and a few other suppliers will show three little dots on the strap indicating they are stake welded on.



On the left is a good quality Bratton’s condenser. On the right is a poor quality soldered on condenser still being sold by some suppliers.



“To remember something,
you pull your eyes inside
your head and look ‘round
till you find it.”

Bill Keane



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A World Magazine

A MAFCA Publication

Have you downloaded the most recent edition of A World Magazine? Click on the link, download the magazine and print! This is a great magazine with fun for all ages!

<http://www.mafca.com/downloads/Youth/A-World.pdf>

The Palmetto A's is a not for profit organization with chapter affiliations with MAFCA 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 65 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 MAFCA, 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

Benefits of National Club Memberships

Membership in MAFCA 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 MAFCA meets

Voting privileges in National elections of officers and by-laws revisions

Free classified advertising on the MAFCA 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.

Includes detailed technical and Era fashion articles, Model A historical articles, coverage of National Meets and Region News, classified ads, and vendor ads - a great source of information for parts and services.

From 64 to 72 pages each issue. Excellent quality coated paper with color, and black and white photography.



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 johntwilac@yahoo.com.



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