



# *"T" Time*

## *The Suncoast T Club Newsletter*

A Chapter of the Model T Ford Club International  
&  
The Model T Ford Club of America

The Suncoast T Club was founded in Pinellas County August 16th, 2008, and is organized for fellowship, fun and the preservation of Model T Fords. However, it is not necessary to own a Model T or other car to become a member of this club. Annual dues are \$5.00 and run from October 1 – Sept 30.

**TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SUNCOAST T CLUB YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE  
MODEL T FORD CLUB INTERNATIONAL.  
DUES FOR THE NATIONAL CLUB ARE \$35.00 A YEAR.**

President.....	Scott Conger
Vice President.....	Ben Umberger
Secretary .....	Althea Conger
Treasurer.....	Althea Conger
Newsletter Editor...	Althea Conger
Activities Director...	Donna White

February 2010

### **President's Message:**

I'd like to speak to two topics this month.

First, Althea and I took the opportunity to attend the MTFCI Annual Meeting in Orlando this past month. It truly was a great experience! We renewed acquaintances made from previous gatherings, met new friends, and participated in the organization and operation of our club. I'm happy to report that among other things:

- Our treasury is healthy and being maintained by a fiscally responsible treasurer
- Outgoing youth editor Sara Zimmer is being replaced by Blake Terry
- A vacated director's seat was filled
- A new president and directors were installed
- Excellent weekend activities were arranged for all participants...nothing was left to chance

Details will appear in the next issue of the MTFCI magazine, including a picture of the Florida contingent...be sure to look for us when it arrives!

The Suncoast T Club was represented by Bill and Judy Saitta, Milt Roorda, Richard Wolf, Althea and I. To those who could not attend, I would say that you missed a wonderful opportunity to really see what our club is all about. Meeting and socializing with other club's members, speaking to the club's officers, and participating in all of the activities provided, gives one a better sense of what goes on behind the scenes to keep our club, our magazine, and our membership, healthy and thriving. I have a very good feeling that our club is in good hands and headed in the right direction.

Secondly, and on a more serious note, at our next **Suncoast T meeting**, we'll be performing a safety check on a car or cars, similar to what would be performed prior to being allowed to participate in a national tour. This will be an example of what is checked at a National tour. In order to participate in a national tour, every owner is required to keep his or her car in sufficient condition to pass a safety check. This will not guarantee that something will not break, but ensures what can be visually seen, is properly assembled, and in good shape. This topic has probably been put off too long, but is now going to be addressed. Is this important? Let me give you two clear incidents of why it is of the utmost importance that each Model T owner should routinely check his or her car.

The first incident was the failure of a rear wheel on a Center Door Sedan during a Horseless Carriage tour. This car had been modified to include disc brakes, but the builder had failed to peen over the bolts to the nuts at the hub, and the wheel failed at about 30 MPH. A simple inspection at each stop during the day would have easily detected the loosening nuts and been safely fixed. How long would this have taken? Well, I can tell you that removing the rear wheel, tightening the nuts, peening the bolts and replacing the wheel would have taken about 20 minutes. How do I know? We had to do this on one of the cars driven to Orlando for the Annual Meeting. Inspection of the wheel at a rest stop showed the bolts coming loose, and the issue was remedied and the trip continued safely. This very old and well used wheel was in good shape, with the exception that sometime in the past it had been rebuilt and the bolts were never peened over the nuts. This was the trip that they worked loose. CHECK YOUR CAR!

The second incident occurred when several cars pulled onto a grassy area adjacent to the road, to fix an ailing carburetor on one of them. The carb was fixed and the cars returned to the roadway. One of the cars became nearly uncontrollable, and we all pulled back off of the road. It was found that a tie rod/steering arm bolt was missing. This allowed one of the wheels to simply go where it wanted, independent of the steering mechanism. Miraculously, the bolt was found 100 yards back, in the grass. It was reinstalled, a new nut torqued on, and cotter pin installed. Total repair time was 5 minutes. The driver (an experienced T driver) reported that there was no warning of problems prior to the bolt bouncing out in the rough grass. The other possible outcome of this failure, where the bolt could have come out while traveling at speed, is unthinkable. CHECK YOUR CAR!

The preceding two incidents ended well, but could have ended very differently.

I am mentioning these incidents not to frighten anyone, but to remind folks that our cars are either at, or approaching, 100 years old. They are going to wear out, and they are going to break. It is up to us to maintain them and CHECK THEM on a regular basis. When touring, this means prior to, and even **during** a tour. A two minute check can mean the difference between a good day and a very bad day.

Please take the opportunity to come out to our February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and learn what a thorough safety check entails, and have a great time with some great folks...I hope to see you there.

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#### **Dual Meeting at Milt's barn - Suncoast T Club and Fun T Club:**

There was a very good turnout for the dual club meeting held on January 16th. Milt Roorda and Bob Most each drove a car on the Ocean to Ocean tour and both gave a very informative talk on the experience of driving a Model T 4000 miles cross country. Bob also had a slide show running all day that chronicled both the Ocean to Ocean tour, as well as pictures of other tours. Milt treated us to hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas, and everyone else

brought other goodies to eat. We're exceptionally fortunate to have such experienced and motivated folks in our group. I hope that each of you take the opportunity to experience and learn what you can when it's offered, so that you may each, one day, teach someone else or lead by example. The original owners of our cars are now mostly gone, so what we pass on is now from our own experience and from what we've learned from others...so be sure to take advantage of the educational opportunities that our club offers.

Because it was a dual meeting to primarily meet each other, once we got to the business portion of the day, our meeting was kept short. Of note, was the continuing discussion whether to donate some portion of our dues to a worthy cause.

Suggestions so far have been:

Donate to MTFCI Youth Fund  
Donate to McPherson Scholarship Fund  
Buy the club an engine hoist

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**Model "T" tour to Orlando for the MTFCI Annual Meeting and Banquet:**

Milt mapped out a great "T" tour for us to travel over to Orlando for the MTFCI Annual Meeting and Banquet.

**On Day 1**, Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, several of us met at Milt's to begin our journey to Gainesville. We left at 8AM and off we went to Dade City to gather up a couple more T's; then on again to Brooksville to meet the last of the group. All total we had 8 cars, 16 people and 1 trouble truck. At the end of the day we had travelled 147 miles.

**Day 2** – Off we went again headed to Ormond Beach. We stopped at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlins home, the author of the Yearling and Cross Creek plus many more books. After our stop we continued on; racing the rain clouds that were chasing us. Unfortunately, we didn't quite make it to the hotel in time to miss the rain. We got caught in a downpour, but with rain gear on we kept pattering along and in a few miles the rain stopped and we all made it to the hotel just fine. Heavy rain persisted through the night, but as luck would have it, this was the ONE hotel on the trip that had covered parking...our "T"s were snug and dry for the next day.

Day 2 was a total of 130.8 miles.

**Day 3** – We're headed to Orlando. We made a stop at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse which is 175 feet in height, and is the tallest lighthouse in Florida and one of the tallest in the United States (the Cape Hatteras Light in North Carolina is taller at 207 feet). Some of us brave souls climbed the 208 steps to get to the observation deck to get a magnificent view of the Atlantic Ocean...and what a view it was.

We then drove through Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge which is a major wintering area for migratory birds. Over 500 species of wildlife inhabit the Refuge with 16 currently listed as federally threatened or endangered. Several wading bird rookeries, approximately 10 active bald eagle nests, numerous osprey nests, up to 400 manatees and an estimated 2,500 Florida scrub jays can be found on the Refuge.

Mid afternoon saw several sputtering T's. We suspect that it was bad gas that occasionally caused annoying, but not serious, trouble for 6 of the 8 cars on this and several other legs of the tour.

We all arrived in Orlando at 5PM with an additional 145.8 miles under our belts.

**Day 4** – The MTFCI supplied an excursion bus that took us to the Charles Hosmer Morse Glass Museum, the world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany. This collection includes jewelry, pottery, paintings, art glass, leaded-glass windows and lamps, and the chapel interior the artist designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Afterwards, we were all treated to a 1 hour scenic boat tour through the beautiful lakes and canals of historic Winter Park. Then we were treated to lunch at Crispers in downtown Winter Park. The last, but certainly not least, was a visit to a HUGH private antique auto collection that housed over 300+ cars...and counting. That night was the Annual Meeting and Banquet.

The Fun T club was the only chapter that drove their "T"s to the meeting. The MTFCI photographer took a picture of the Fun T club with the Fun T club members standing next to the car they drove...look for this picture in an upcoming Model T Times magazine.

**Day 5** – This was our return home trip; which took us 106.9 miles to reach our destination of Milts house...back where it all began. All total, we drove 530.4 miles – for a Grand Total of 4243.2 Model T miles, and no one needed the trouble truck !

I for one was sorry to have our journey end. It was a wonderful feeling to travel the many back roads of Florida at a much slower pace and watch the world go by. I'm looking forward to our next "T" tour.

Suncoast T members that attended the Annual Meeting and Banquet were Richard and his friend Lucille Innis, Bill & Judy, Milt, Scott and me. So you can see that our club was well represented during the chapter roll call!!

Is your name on the list above? If it isn't, you missed a great time! Next year's Annual Meeting and Banquet will be in New Smyrna Beach South Carolina...so start making your plans now to attend.

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**Upcoming Club Planned Activities:**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** – Milt will be hosting a dual tour with the Fun T's coming down to Honeymoon Island and the Suncoast T's driving up to Honeymoon Island and then both clubs will go to lunch. More information will be coming later.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Bill & Judy will host a tour and then back to their house for lunch. More information will be coming later.

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Brando & Joanne will be having their Olde Car Rally. More information will be coming later.

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** - Bob & Donna will host a driving tour around Ft. DeSoto then back to their campsite for lunch. They have site #187, which is a drive thru, so we can park our T's at the site. More information will be coming later. Please bring a dish to share. Bob & Donna will provide hamburgers and hot dogs.

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Remember, our entire club activities are provided by all club members. So if you know of an interesting place in your local area that might be of interest for the club to visit, or maybe just a really nice drive, please contact Donna White, [bwhite125@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwhite125@tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 385-1048 and she will help you map it out and print up maps for the group.

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**Future "How To" Clinics:**

Check rear axle bearing & sleeves / Changing Transmission Bands / Plus more... If there is a class you would like the club to hold, please contact Scott at (727) 551-0001 or email [altheaconger@gmail.com](mailto:altheaconger@gmail.com) and let him know what class you would like.

If you are willing to present a "How To" clinic, please contact Donna White, [bwhite125@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwhite125@tampabay.rr.com) or (727) 385-1048 and she will get it on the club calendar.

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### **What are Members doing?**

Bill & Judy are having body work done on their 1927 Roadster.

Scott & Althea are still re-wooding their roadster.

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### **Reminder:**

Please contact Donna, our Activities Director, if you know of an interesting place in your local area that might be of interest for the club to visit. She will make maps, and help route it out.

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### **Final Word:**

Let me know what **you're** working on or doing, and I will post it in the next edition of the newsletter. We all like to hear what everyone is doing with their "T".

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### **Local Interest:**

#### **February 12 - 14 – Winter Extravaganza Automotive Swap Meet** (Sumter County Fairgrounds)

7620 S.R. 471, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Only 2 1/2 Miles North of Webster Flea Market!)

Admission: \$5 - 1 Day or \$12 - 3 Day Pass

For more information <http://www.floridaswapmeets.net/>

#### **February 18 – 21 – 36th Annual Winter AutoFest**

Location: Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Opens 8:00 AM each day; Parking is Free

Admission: Thurs & Fri - \$8.00 / Saturday & Sunday \$10.00

For more information [www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com](http://www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com) or [www.zephyrhillsauction.com](http://www.zephyrhillsauction.com)

#### **February 24 - 27 – Florida Flywheeler Park - <http://www.floridaflywheelers.org/>**

Florida Flywheelers Antique Engine Show & HUGE flea market

#### **November 11 - 14 – 26th Annual Fall AutoFest**

Location: Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Opens 8:00 AM each day; Parking is Free

Admission: Thurs & Fri - \$8.00 / Saturday & Sunday \$10.00

For more information [www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com](http://www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com) or [www.zephyrhillsauction.com](http://www.zephyrhillsauction.com)

### **National Interest:**

#### **February 19 – 21 – 45<sup>th</sup> MTFCA Annual Meeting**

#### **March 18 & 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet**

World's Largest Early Meet. Pre-War Only: Gas, Steam, Electric, Bicycles, Air Planes, Motorcycles, Horse Drawn, Railroad items, Tractors, Trucks, Stationary Engines, Boats, Buses, Etc. For more information visit their web site [www.pwsm.com](http://www.pwsm.com).

#### **June 30- July 3 – AACA will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Where:** Louisville, Kentucky. Tours are planned for part of the week, and on the last day, there will be a grand car show that is both judged and non-judged. We are encouraging our members to get those cars out and get them to Louisville! Concerned about the weather? The car show will be indoors in a beautiful climate controlled facility. We are also planning a special commemorative item for those that participate. For more information contact Joe Gagliano [Gagliaj@aol.com](mailto:Gagliaj@aol.com)

**July 18 – 24 – South Dakota 54<sup>th</sup> Annual MTFCI National Tour**

The 54th Annual MTFCI National Tour will be held in July 18-24, 2010 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Great Places, Great Faces. Contact Sheryl Stier by email at [sastier@prodigy.net](mailto:sastier@prodigy.net) for more information.

**October 6 – 9 – AACA Eastern Regional Fall Meet**

<http://www.hersheyaaca.org/>

**2011 Local Interest:**

**February 24 - 27 – 37th Annual Winter AutoFest**

Location: Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Opens 8:00 AM each day; Parking is Free

Admission: Thurs & Fri - \$8.00 / Saturday & Sunday \$10.00

For more information [www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com](http://www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com) or [www.zephyrhillsauction.com](http://www.zephyrhillsauction.com)