



"T" Time

the Suncoast T's 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 October 10th, 2008. The club's founders are dedicated to promote the interest in the preservation and restoration of antique automobiles, particularly the Model T Ford, its accessories, lore and literature, and the enjoyment thereof. It's a fun club with annual dues (Oct 1 – Sept 30) set at only \$5.00.

**TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SUNCOAST T'S YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE
MODEL T FORD CLUB INTERNATIONAL.
DUES FOR THE NATIONAL CLUB ARE \$35.00 A YEAR.**

President.....	Bill Saitta (727) 687-3673	wsaitta@earthlink.net
Vice President.....	Fritz Wilder (727) 525-4935	fgwilder@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary	Mari Blaquiere (727) 525-4935	mblaquie@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer.....	Tom Fazzina (727) 446-2954	imaginationcabinet@msn.com
Newsletter Editor...	Althea Conger (727) 551-0001	altheaconger@gmail.com

March 2009 Vol. 2 Number 3

Saturday February 7th:

Scott & I joined **Milt** and the Fun T's on a wonderful tour from Milts house to the Big Cat Rescue in Tampa. We were about 1 block from the facility, waiting at a red light, when we all heard a loud bang; we thought it was backfire from the T in front of us...but it turns out the T behind us had a tire blow out. Luckily, we had a modern car following us so they followed the T as it limped into a gas station. They left their T there, hopped into the modern car and continued on to the Big Cat Rescue. Afterwards, Milt went back and helped change the tire and we were all back on the road heading for lunch.

The Big Cat Rescue, a nonprofit educational sanctuary, is devoted to rescuing and proving a permanent home for exotic (not domestic) cats who have been abused, abandoned, bred to be pets, retired from performing acts, or

saved from being slaughtered for fur coats, and to educating the public about these animals and the issues facing them in captivity and in the wild.

The sanctuary is home to the most diverse population of exotic cats in the world, with 16 species and subspecies of wild cat represented among more than 100 residents. These include tigers, lions, liger, leopards, cougars, bobcats, lynx, ocelots, servals, caracals and others, many of whom are threatened, endangered, or now extinct in the wild.

It was a really neat experience to see these cats up close.

Friday & Saturday, February 27th & 28th:

On Friday, **Scott & I** along with **Milt** joined the Fun T's, South Florida T's & the Flywheeler Flivvers, at the Jacaranda Hotel (where some of us spent the night). We had a nice dinner with some great conversations; and then on Saturday, we all drove our T's 8 miles to Flywheel Park, parked in Willie's Used-Up Car Lot. At 10:30, we got to drive in an antique car parade that had at least 100 cars and trucks.

We also had a great time checking out all the neat buildings and the HUGE, and I do mean HUGE, swap meet.

For those of you that have never been to the Flywheeler Park, this is a GREAT place to see TONS of antique machinery and period buildings.

Local Interest:

March 6 - 8 – Come and join the Horseless Carriage Club of Florida and the Fun T's for a tour March 6th & 7th, in Dade City, and then on the 8th, we are off to the Steeplechase in Dade City. Contact Milt ((727) 410-7776) for information on the hotel where everyone will be staying.

March 28 – AACA Festival of Speed, St. Petersburg - North Straub Park, St. Petersburg, FL (10:00 – 4:00pm)

On Saturday a gathering of the world's finest automobiles, motorcycles & watercraft will be displayed. Vehicles will be placed for display on the grounds of North Straub Park overlooking Tampa Bay. You will enjoy on site cafes, smooth jazz, wine tastings, cigar smokes, luxury lifestyle displays and much more. Vintage Bentley's and Lamborghini's will be on display along with AUDI, BMW, PORSCHE as well as many others on display. Showcasing vintage and contemporary vehicles of all makes and models including motorcycles, race boats, micro cars and other related vehicles.

March 28 – Suncoast T Tour hosted by Bill and Judy Saitta

9:45...Meet at Sacred Lands for a 10:00 a.m. tour of this historic site (near where Saffron restaurant use to be)...tour should be about ½ hr. long; a restroom is available here.

Directions to Sacred Lands:

From the intersection of Tyrone Blvd. and Park St., go 1.5 miles south on Park St.

Turn right (west, toward water) off Park St. at Jungle Prada De Narvaez Park...is just before brick street starts...go left into Sacred Lands' parking lot.

* Our next scheduled potty break will be at Unity Christ Church. The church is open that day as they are having a "Re-Circulation Day". Participation in this aspect of the tour is optional. (Re-circulation is like a garage sale but no money is exchanged, people who participate bring something they don't want or need anymore & take home what they do need or want). Items can be taken to the church at 6168 1st Ave. N. Wednesday – Friday (March 25 – 27) between the hours of 9 a.m. & 12 p.m. For more info about this contact the church at 344-1515.

For any other info about the tour contact Bill Saitta at wsaitta@earthlink.net (727) 687-3673.

April 11 - 23rd Annual Antique Car Show, Largo, FL

The Pin-Mar Antique Car Club and Heritage Village are teaming up to provide a picturesque setting for more than 100 lovingly restored automobiles. There will be entertainment, a food court and more. Free admission and Free parking and shuttle to event entrance. Heritage Village is located at 11909 125th St. North Largo, FL 33774.

October 16-18 – AACA Lake Mirror Classic Concourse d'Elegance, Lakeland FL

National:

May 24 – 28 – Spring Tour, Shepherdstown, WV

Hosted by Heart of Maryland T's International, Inc. Registration Form must be postmarked by April 15, 2009
<http://www.modelt.org/2009springtour/2009springtour.pdf>

July 20-24 - 53rd Annual MTFCI National Tour, - Johnson City TN

The 53rd Annual MTFCI National Tour will be held July 20-24, in Johnson City, Tennessee. For those interested, the host hotel is now accepting room reservations. Their toll-free telephone number is 866-400-0541. You must tell them you are with the "Model T Tour" to receive the special rate of \$95.00 plus tax. For additional info, general questions, or registration go to the tour website at: <http://www.modelttour.org/> or contact Brent & Pennie Terry, 2009 MTFCI National Tour Co-Chairs, by email at: ttour2009@yahoo.com

October 7-10 - Hershey Fall Meet, - Hershey PA

Car Show and Swap Meet - The Eastern Division AACA National Fall Meet takes place each year during the 1st full week in October.

2010

June 30- July 3 – AACA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary

Where: Louisville, Kentucky

Read more about it here: <http://www.aaca75.org/Introduction.htm>

Notices and/or Articles:

If anyone has a notice or article that they would like to have placed in the newsletter, email it to me and I will make sure it gets in the next newsletter.

Final Thought:

If you're not out driving in your T or at least riding as a passenger with someone else in some of the T tours that come up in our area, you're really missing out on a wonderful experience.
