



## *"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

April 2010

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

This year's focus of MTFCI is to increase membership through the "Get a Member, Get a Life" campaign. Anyone who encourages a new member to join the National club will get a nifty lapel pin for their effort. Ask me to see mine at our next event! Encourage enough new members to join, and you will be rewarded with a Life Membership! Now there's a deal, so don't be shy when folks show an interest in your car---take the time to answer their questions and invite them to attend an event. You never know if a curious stranger will become a valued member and good friend. It's happened before! (Read all about this campaign in the current MTFCI magazine).

On the subject of new members, we have been fortunate in that recently, a number of local MTFCI members have chosen us to be their local club. As our membership grows, new members bring experience to the club. With growth and experience, generally comes maturity. We are no longer just a small group of local friends---our membership now spans several counties and states. I believe that it's time for the club to reflect that maturity.

In order to encourage full participation from all of our membership we need to seriously consider establishing a regular meeting schedule. More than once, I've been contacted by an out of town member wanting to include us in their visit. How easy are we making it on them if they cannot plan a trip in advance and know that they can participate in an event with some certainty? So long as we maintain an erratic, ad hoc schedule for our events, we will never meet our full potential as a club. If we don't take full advantage of the talents of our distant members, because they can't regularly and easily participate then we will all suffer for it.

Please give this some thought, and let's plan on resolving this issue in the very near future---it's the mature thing to do!

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### **Last Month's Activity:**

March 6th had the dual tour of the Suncoast T Club and the Fun T Club touring to Honeymoon Island. Fritz & Mari and Scott & I drove our T's up to Honeymoon Island and couldn't have asked for better weather. It was a great drive and as it turns out, we were the first to arrive. After a 10 minute wait, we saw Milt's red T come driving down the road. We gathered our T's together and continued down the road to do some walking on the beach and collecting seashells. Some of the guys stayed by their T's and talked about parts and T problems; I even saw a carburetor exchange hands...looks like Scott has another carburetor to repair.

We all enjoyed the warm sun after all the chilly weather we've been having. This was a great place to come visit and we all thought that this would be a great place to come back to.

Afterwards we drove over to the Nature Center and looked at the displays. Then Milt gathered us all up and we headed off to the Ozona Blue Grilling Co. for lunch. Afterwards, we cranked up the T's and drove a mile or two further and had ice cream...what's a "T" tour without stopping for ice cream?

Thanks Milt, for a great tour and a wonderful place to have lunch.

Those that drove T's were Milt, Fritz & Mari and Scott & Althea. Other members that drove modern were Nick & Ben, Bob & Donna, Tom & Shirley and new members Larry & Ginny.

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### **Latest issue of Model T Times:**

Take a look at page 7 and check out the photos. How many Suncoast T members can you spot at the Annual Meeting? In the group picture, attendees from Florida, from left to right, are as follows: Scott & Althea Conger, John Gallerani, Barbara and Jim Almeter (background), Judy and Bill Saitta (foreground), Shirl and Tom Hammatt, Ginny and Larry Perkins, Susan and Joss (?), Marcello (a delightful young man,

and sometimes passenger with us), and Marcello Nobrega, little Marcello's dad, Milt Roorda, and Bob Most. A huge "thank you" goes out to Sr. Marcello for driving the trouble truck. As mentioned in previous issue of our news letter, a wonderful time was had by all. If you weren't there, you missed a great event.

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### **April Tour**

#### **MODEL T TOUR – April 10, 2010**

Hosted by Bill and Judy Saitta

**10:00 a.m.** - Meet at Gulfport Lions Club located at 4630 Tifton Dr. S., Gulfport, FL. Directions to Lions Club: going south on 47<sup>th</sup> St. S., cross 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. & go to dead end where you'll see the Lions Club. (29th Ave. S. becomes Tifton Dr. S., but it actually looks like the club is located on Del Rio Way S.). The tour will leave from this location by 10:20.

**For those of you unfamiliar to St. Petersburg, the following directions come straight from the Gulfport Lions Club website:**

**"... Get on 49th Street going south in St. Pete and go to the end. One block from the water, and a stop sign, is our Lions sign - turn left on Del Rio Way, after the stop sign, we are the brick building on the right."**

We'll be touring historic Gulfport with its' funky colorful houses, brick streets and lots of lovely trees and foliage. Included is a stop at the Gulfport Historical Museum, open from 10 – 12 on Saturdays and also a stroll on the pier. We'll end up at the beach in Gulfport for a business meeting and picnic (bring your own picnic lunch and drinks...Judy and Bill will provide extra water). The shelters are on a first come first serve basis so we may make a stop before the tour is over to secure a shelter. You might want to bring chairs in case we can't get a shelter. Contact Judy at [jsaitta@earthlink.net](mailto:jsaitta@earthlink.net) or (727) 546-2110 if you have any questions.

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### **Upcoming Club Planned Activities:**

**May 1st – AACA Rallye** - Hosted by Brando & Joanne. Brando has offered to transport 2 T's to Tampa for this event. Call 813-917-9205.

**June 5th – Tour** - Hosted by Bob & Donna. More information will be coming later.

**July 10th – What the Heck is That?** Hosted by Scott & Althea - Plan to pack a lunch and bring your favorite unusual tools or accessories and let us guess what they are or how they work!  
Location TBD

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**Reminder:**

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, our Activities Director, at [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 “How To” class you would like performed.

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**What are Members doing?**

Lots happened last month!!

Bill & Judy Saitta will have the engine back in their '27 Roadster shortly.

Ben Umberger has fixed his slipping clutch and badly worn hogshead. We're looking forward to seeing his car on the road again.

Bill Brown will be getting the last of his wheels back from the wheelwright.

Nick Miller broke down in his '27 touring and had to change a timer. Rumor has it that at least half of his friends saw/heard his car popping & banging home; must be nice to be famous.

Tom Fazzino is opening a new deli at the dog track; might name it “Model T Deli” (?) If you get a chance, ask him about it.

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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:**

**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:**

**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 (Hershey)**

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

**2011 Local Interest:**

**February 24 - 27 – 37<sup>th</sup> 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)

**2011 National Interest:**

**January 28 – 29 – MTFCI 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Banquet**

Location: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina...start making plans now to attend.