



"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.**

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Thursday March 5th thru Sunday March 8th:

For those of you that didn't come to the Steeplechase & Tour as guests of the Fun T's and The Horseless Carriage Club, you missed out on a terrific tour & show.

On Thursday we all did a meet 'n greet as each of the trailers arrived bearing some great looking cars. To name a few, there was an:

1908 EMF	1913 Case	1920 Winton
1910 Maxwell	1913 Cole	and many, many more
1911 Amplex	1914 Mitchell	
1911 White	1919 Stephens	

Our first tour was on Friday and it was a total of 78.8 miles. Our first stop was to see a large private car collection and memorabilia and a recreation of a gas station complete with visible gas pumps. There was only one mishap that day. A 1922 Model T Centerdoor lost a rear wheel. No one was hurt; the "T" didn't even get a dented fender...amazing! The driver was able to keep control of the car and got it safely off to the side of the road and stopped...1 foot short of a ditch.

Triple A was called and unfortunately, that driver and car were no longer able to participate in the rest of the planned tours. The car was loaded up in its trailer and they headed off to home. That evening, back at the hotel, there were plenty of stories, and other than the sobering "wheel" incident, there was plenty of laughter to go round.

Saturday, off we went on a 98.7 mile tour. One of our stops was to a private collection see several Cords, and an original Tony Stewart race car. Boy was that car loud!! Again, at the end of the day, we all met up at the hotel, to share more great stories and laughter.

Sunday, it was off to the races...literally. The short tour, 19.8 miles, was to the Steeplechase. We got to drive our cars onto the infield as we were part of the exhibit. We had great seating and a wonderfully large tent to keep the sun off of us. This was a fun event, and quite a few ladies, and a few men, tried to out-do each other with the hats they wore. There were some Jack Russell dog races, a horse carriage parade; then starting at 1:00 pm the Steeplechase began.

Suncoast T'ers that came on the tour were **Fritz & Mari, Milt & Rosemary** and **Scott & I**. On Sunday, the day of the Steeplechase, our newest members, **Bob & Donna**, also showed up. **Bob & Donna** were guests of the organizers and got to schmooze with Ronde Barber (a Tampa Bay Buccaneer). They even had time to visit us little people in the black cars.

Saturday, March 28th:

Our T group met at Sacred Lands in the Jungle Prada neighborhood for a walking tour of the grounds. Sacred Lands has a variety of Florida native fauna and wildlife. It's located in the historic section of St. Petersburg called "Jungle Prada". The streets of this neighborhood were paved by hand using Augusta Bricks. The site sits on Boca Ciega Bay and from the docks you can spot a variety of birds and marine life; like dolphins and manatees. There's a Greenhouse Auditorium and museum as well as their famous Indian Mound. On the guided tour we heard about Spanish explorers, contemporary indigenous spiritual practices, fragrant and edible plants, and salt water's effect on environmental habitat, the lives of peacocks, and much more.

After our walking tour, we went on a 1 hour driving tour around the neighbor and surrounding community.

We stopped at the Unity Christ Church where they were holding a Recirculation Day. A Recirculation Day is sort of like a yard sale; only difference is you don't pay for anything. You see something you like, you pick it up and it's yours to take home. A few of us walked away with some goodies.

Afterwards we all hopped back into our T's and motored on over to Stake 'n Shake for lunch. But it turned out there was a car wash going on and the place was quite busy, so plans were quickly changed and we drove 3 blocks further and wound up at Carmelita's for lunch. Those that came on the tour were **Bill & Judy** (hosts), **Fritz & Mari, Bob & Donna, Bill & Nereyda, Tom & Shirley, Nick, Scott & I**, with **Ben** meeting us for lunch. We all hope Ben's back is better soon and he can resume "T-ing". Thanks Bill & Judy for a great tour.

Club Planned Activities:

Our next group tour will be Saturday May 30th and will be hosted by Tom & Shirley. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Planned Activities (Continued):

Coil Rebuilding Clinic – Hosted by Fritz Wilder / Scott Conger – Date TBD

Vehicle Safety Check – “How To” – Date TBD

Saturday April 11th will be the Car Show held at Heritage Village and hosted by the PinMAR car club. Any of the Suncoast T members that come to this show will be able to meet one of our out-of-state members, Dick & Jane Conger (Scott’s parents). So please make sure you stop by and say hello to them.

For more information on the Heritage Village car show, check below under Local Interest.

Notices and/or Articles:

If anyone has a notice or an 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:

Check your car prior to EVERY DRIVE. Don’t be the next person to have one of your wheels pass you by.

Local Interest:

April 3 - 5 - Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg

The “World’s Fastest Spring Break Party” to help kick off the 2009 IndyCar Season.

For more information www.gpstpete.com 727-898-INDY (4639)

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

November 12 – 15 – 25th Annual Fall AutoFest

Located in Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Opens 8:00am each day; Free Parking; Admission: Thurs & Fri - \$8.00 / Saturday & Sunday \$10.00

Automotive & Antique Swap Meet, Vintage Auto Exhibit Racing, Collector Car Auction.

For more information www.zephyrhillsfestivals.com or www.zephyrhillsauction.com

National Interest:

May 24 – 28 – 3rd Annual Spring Tour, Shepherdstown, WV

Hosted by Heart of Maryland T’s. Host Hotel – Please make your own reservations at Clarion Hotel, Shepherdstown, West Virginia; 877-424-6423 (304-876-7000) Mention Model T Ford Club International Tour. Room rates are \$94.00 plus tax. Will only accept payment in full in U.S. funds. No credit card payments. Refunds on a funds available basis only. Make Checks Payable to 2009 Spring Tour and mail to: Harry Wellens, 3120 Will-Mil Terrace, Monrovia, MD 21770 Questions regarding registration should be directed to Harry Wellens (301-831-3638) or email: hwellens1@comcast.net

June 14 – July 12 – NY to Seattle 2009 Great Race

The Centennial of the June 22, 1909 Ocean to Ocean Endurance Contest was won by a 1909 Model T Ford. In recognition of the centennial of that long ago feat in automobiling, fifty-five Model T's, ranging in age from 1909 to 1927, will be following the original route of the 1909 racers, stopping nightly in towns in which the early racers stopped a century ago. Only in a few instances, in which the old roads have disappeared (i.e. in Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington), will the 2009 racers run on interstate highways, minimizing the amount of deviation from the original route. For more information about the contest, please contact the event organizers: John McLaren (231) 238 9080 or [Billy McGuire](mailto: Billy McGuire) (804) 784-4112

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 – AACA Eastern Division National Fall Meet - Hershey PA

The Eastern Division AACA National Fall Meet takes place each year during the 1st full week in October. The Hershey Region began hosting the show on 1995 and has done so each year since then. The meet is located in beautiful Hershey, PA on the grounds and parking lots surrounding Hershey Park and The Giant Center. Hershey is considered one of the largest antique automobile shows and flea markets in the United States. It consists of over 9,000 flea market spaces, over 1,000 car corral spaces, and approximately 1,500 show cars. Each year the show attracts visitors from all over the United States and many countries throughout the world. Some of the most unusual cars and parts can be found at Hershey. If you love antique cars, Hershey is the place to be.

For more information <http://local.aaca.org/hershey/fallmeet.html>

2010

January – MTFCI Annual meeting – Orlando FL

February 18 – 21 – 36th Annual Winter AutoFest

Located in Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Opens 8:00am each day; free Parking

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

July 18 – 24 – South Dakota 54th 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 for more information.