



"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
Vice President.....	Fritz Wilder
Secretary	Mari Blaquiere
Treasurer.....	Tom Fazzina
Newsletter Editor...	Althea Conger

June 2009 Vol. 2 Number 6

Thursday May 7th – Sunday May 10th:

Milt and **Scott & I** joined the Fun T's, of Dade City, on a 3 day tour up in Madison FL. There were 5 T's and 12 people. **Milt** brought his speedster for a test drive, which he is going to be driving cross country on the Ocean-to-Ocean tour in June. His new car ran very well and gave rides to brave souls willing to ride in a speedy two seater with no windshield.

On Friday we left the hotel at 8:30 am and our first rest stop was in Monticello FL. Beulah & Bailey Brinson, of the First Presbyterian Church, were kind enough to open their church to us to use their restrooms and offered us ice cold water; which was appreciated by all. They even have a 70 year old church member who drives his Brass Model T to church. We left Monticello and headed to Quitman GA where we had lunch at the Wiregrass Restaurant. After lunch we toured back to the hotel. This round-trip tour was 122.9 miles. The only mishap of the day was the "T" **Scott** was driving...we had a flat. Luckily it was quickly fixed and we were back on the road in a few minutes.

On Saturday we did the Madison Loop and visited O’Toole’s herb garden. We left the hotel at 8:30 am and drove 47 miles to the herb garden; such a nice place to visit. Then it was back on the road to lunch at the Spaghetti House in downtown Madison. We had 45 minutes after lunch to browse the downtown shops; some even stopped at the local ice cream parlor. Then we got back on the road and continued the tour with another stop at the Old Carrabelle School House. This was a one room school house and last year they had a reunion of former students with approximately 100 people showing up. The school was in use from 1869 - 1924. And yes, the outhouse was available for use if anyone so desired. The family that owns the school came over to let us in. While we were checking out the school house **Milt** and **Scott** gave some of the family members’ “T” rides up and down the road. Then it was back on the road and back to the hotel. This round-trip tour was 108.9 miles.

On Sunday we did a small tour, leaving the hotel at 8:30. We just followed the roads and saw the sights. This was just a 50 mile round-trip tour. We got back to the hotel around 11:00am, loaded up the “T”s, and headed home.

We saw some beautiful scenery, had great weather and we all agreed that we needed to do it again. When the Fun-T’s offer this tour again, the Suncoast “T”s have been invited to participate.

The Fun T’s have extended an invitation to all Suncoast T members to join any tours or other functions that they put on. See below, under “Local Interest”, for upcoming Fun T tours.

Saturday May 30th

Tom & Shirley took us on a grand tour of the Belleaire & Clearwater areas with a stop at the Belleview Biltmore. This was going to be one of the last days to actually go in to the Belleview Biltmore as it will be closing down Monday to start on a 2 ½ year renovation project.

We parked our cars right out front while we went inside to take a look at this “Grand Old Lady” what a truly magnificent building it is.

When we got back to our “T”s we had a crowd gathered. While some of us talked to the onlookers about our cars, **Bill S.** gave “T” rides; everyone came away with big smiles.

Those that came on this tour were **Bill & Judy, Tom & Shirley, Ben & Linda, Nick & Ben, Bob & Donna** and **Scott & Althea.**

If you were unable to make this tour, you missed a very nice tour with some of the best weather of the year.

Club Planned Activities:

Saturday, June 27th – Coil Rebuilding Clinic hosted by **Fritz & Scott.** We will be meeting at 9:30 under the oaks at Fritz’s workshop located at 3663 58th Ave. N. St. Petersburg (The Highland Mobile Home Park) BYOC (Bring Your Own Chairs). After the Clinic we will drive to Biff Burger for lunch.

A copy of MTFCI & MTFCA bylaws will be passed out for use at the August 8th meeting. Please read and bring to the August 8th meeting.

July – TBD

August 8th – Bob & Donna will be opening their home to the Club to discuss proposed club bylaws, club organization and discussion of duties as officers. Lunch will be pot luck with **Bob & Donna** providing the meat - please bring a dish to share. Food items needed are appetizers, fruit salad or pasta salad, and dessert. Please call **Donna** (727 418-8983) to let her know what you will be bringing. This way we won't wind up with all desserts.

We will be meeting at **Bob & Donnas'** at 10:00.

September 26th - Club meeting to nominate candidates for new Club officers. We will be meeting at Scott & Altheas home. Time TBD

[**ATTENTION out-of-town members:** If you wish to **nominate**, please email me with your choice(s) and I will submit it for you. Or, if you prefer, you can send it in the mail, at which time I will open your envelope during nominations and submit your choice(s). I will email you with all nominations for you to make your voting choice(s) in October].

To hold office, a Club member **MUST** be a member of **BOTH the MTFCI & MTFCA** with current paid-up membership status.

President's Duties:

1. Preside over Club functions.
2. Have a prepared agenda and pass out copies to Club members at all club meetings.
3. Meet with members to discuss and create the Club Bylaws.
4. Always bring the Charter plaque to all meetings to display.

VP Duties:

1. To preside over Club functions and other activities in the President's absence.

Secretary / Treasurers Duties (as we are a small group right now, these two jobs may be combined into one):

1. In January of each year submit a list of its officers and of its membership, with full addresses, and MTFCA member numbers, to the MTFCA National of each year. Failure to do so will automatically reduce our Chapter status to an Affiliate status.
 2. Attend all Club meetings and record minutes of all Club business.
 3. Bring previous Club minutes and Treasury report to current Club meeting to recap what was discussed and any club expenditures with an accounting of treasury funds.
 4. Handles all correspondence with the MTFCI, MTFCA and Club members.
 5. Keeps a current copy of the Chapter Bylaws.
 6. Keeps a current list of all Club members' membership numbers making sure all Club members are in current standing with the MTFCI & MTFCA, by checking Club members' membership card(s) yearly making sure each Club member is a paid up member in the MTFCI &/or MTFCA as required by specific national club bylaws.
 7. Keeps a current directory of all members' full home addresses, email addresses, phone numbers and cell phone numbers of each Club member. Distribute to members
 8. Mails a copy of the newsletter to any Club member who does not have an email address; otherwise the newsletter will be emailed to all club members via the newsletter editor.
 9. Keeps and maintains Club Minutes & Treasury Reports in binders.
 10. Maintain the receipts and expenditures of all funds of the Club and to keep the Club informed of the Club's fiscal condition.
 11. Be prepared to reimburse Club authorized expenditures by having Club funds readily available at all Club functions.
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October 31st – Vote in new officers. Meet at Millennium Park at 11:30 for cook-out lunch and then election of officers. Hamburgers and hot-dogs will be provided. Bring a covered dish to share.

IMPORTANT: BRING YOUR CURRENT MTFCI MEMBERSHIP CARD ALONG WITH YOUR \$5.00 CLUB DUES.

[**ATTENTION out-of-town members**: if you wish **to vote**, please email me with your choice(s) and I will vote for you. Or, if you prefer, you can send it in the mail, at which time I will open your envelope during the voting and submit your choices. Please have your votes to me before October 31st – Please email me a copy of your membership card and also send a check for your dues].

Future Club Planned Activities:

Vehicle Safety Check – “How To” – Date TBD

What Members are Doing:

Bill S. drives his Model T almost every day, more than his Porsche (which use to be his "baby"). He is known at his church as "the man with the Model T". **Bill & Judy** get lots of waves, thumbs up and smiles, as they drive along, knowing that other Model T owners do too. When they drive as far as Gulfport or Passe Grille they remember how nervous they were the first time they drove their T that far.

Model T Touring Etiquette:

- Line up cars with the slowest cars in front.
- Keep an eye on the car behind you.
- If you make a turn be sure that the car behind you sees you make the turn.
- If you lose sight of the car behind you, slow down for them to catch up or pull over if you see no one is catching up. A car behind you could be broken down and need help and we don't want to go off and leave them.
- If you pull over because you don't see anyone behind you then the car in front of you pulls over, eventually we will all be pulled over and will go back to find the other cars or to help if someone is broken down.
- Always keep a list of members' cell phone numbers and your cell phone handy in case you do break down without anyone noticing you.
- If you do break down, call the tour leader so they know you need help and can come back to help you.
- When in town with a lot of traffic lights and stop signs, please try to keep the line tight so that as many "T"s as possible can make it through the traffic lights or stop signs.
- We understand that in town it is difficult to pull over if you lose sight of the car behind you but please do the best you can.

Watch out for each other and make sure everyone arrives safe and together.

People in the News:

Here is an updated link to view the 2009 **Ocean to Ocean in a Model T** race that **Milt** is participating in: www.oceantoocean.ning.com. June 14th will be the first day of the race and you will be able to read about the progress of the racers on this 3-week once-in-a-lifetime race.

Suncoast T Club Library:

The Club Library will be maintained, for the time being, by **Scott & Althea**. The current MTFCA magazine will be brought to Club meetings for reference.

Notices and/or Articles:

If you have an interesting article to share, or wish to place a notice in the Club newsletter; email it to me and I will make sure it gets in the next Club newsletter.

Final Thought:

Is your car as safe as it can be? The attached PDF checklist is a thoughtful list of items to check – brought to you compliments of the Foothills Model T Club.

Local Interest:

Sat., Aug 15 – Fun T's - Dade City to Crystal River Tour

1 day tour stopping at Charlie's Fish House for lunch. If interested please contact Fran Newsome at FNewsome@jud6.org or 352-521-3631.

Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Fun T's Labor Day Tour - Drive Ts all the way

5 day tour departing from Fran's house in Dade City. If interested please contact Fran Newsome at FNewsome@jud6.org or 352-521-3631.

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:

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.

For more information about the contest, please contact the event organizers: [John McLaren](mailto:JohnMcLaren@2312389080.com) (231) 238 9080 or [Billy McGuire](mailto:BillyMcGuire@8047844112.com) (804) 784-4112

June 21 – 26 – Canyonlands III

National Tour hosted by the CanyonCountry Model T Club. Contact Russ Furstnow 928-526-1343 1stnow@msn.com. More info available in the Vintage Ford Magazine.

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

National Interest - Con't:

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>

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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.