



# *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 to become a member of this club. Annual dues are \$10.00 and run from January 1 – December 31.

**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

May 2011

### President's Message:

Well, the Madison Tour is now one for the history books. This tour, sponsored by the Fun T's and for the first time ever, the Suncoast T Club was by any measure, a resounding success. A hardy group of "T" owners from all over the South East converged on Madison for 5 days of quiet roads and pleasant touring. The more adventurous even dove in (literally) to the huge mud puddles on the way to the optional stop of Peacock Springs. One surprise for our "tourists" was the lavish welcome that we received at the home of Buddy and Beth Spradley. That morning's rest stop became one of the day's highlights with food and drinks and a warm welcome beyond anything we could have possibly imagined.

Milt and Rosemary, and Althea and I would like to thank each and every one who made the effort to come out and enjoy the week with us. It was truly a memorable time.

For more stories regarding this tour, read the following accounts by some of the "tourists":

### [Comments on the Madison Tour:](#)

#### **Bob & Karen Hester had this to say:**

Just three words about the Madison tour. IT WAS GREAT! We spent four days (five, if you count the short shakedown tour on Wednesday afternoon) touring the back roads of North Florida.

It is beautiful countryside, woods, pasturelands, fields, gentle hills, small towns and very little traffic. There was nothing not to like. We stopped at some interesting places and found some good eating spots along the way.

We didn't run in a close knit pack but everyone kind of set their own pace. Although each party had a very detailed and well thought out tour guide, a few made wrong turns and got "lost" for a few minutes. That was all just part of the fun.

This is the first time Karen and I have taken part in a tour that lasted for more than one day. We can hardly wait for the next one. We provided the trouble truck which we operated for a couple days. We were relieved for a day by Bill and Judy Saitta and another day by Scott and Althea Conger. This allowed us to spend some time behind the wheel of Jim Hayward's station hack.

Let me say to anyone who is hesitant to join this kind of event, **"you are missing out on the best part of the Model T hobby"**.

#### **And Judy & Bill Saitta had this to say:**

Judy and Bill's Virgin Looong Tour...The Madison Tour  
By Judy Saitta

Up to this point, Bill's and my version of a long tour was a drive in one of our T's from St. Petersburg to Gulfport (Florida, not Mississippi!). Shortly after our arrival in Madison on Wednesday we were treated to a "check-out tour" (42.7 miles) in Milt Roorda's road worthy T. Day one of thoroughly windblown hair.

Milt and Rosemary treated everyone to delicious grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages and all the trimmings. We ate in comfort under a tent and watched the show of cows and their calf's changing from one pasture to another, seemingly at a whim. There was even an emu and a goat. We talked Milt into cooking out again the second night, after that it was dinner on our own but a hospitality room was set up for more refreshments, games and just visiting.

Day two started bright and early, around 8:30. We were graciously invited to ride with Shirl and Tom Hammatt (of the Fun T's) in their touring car, "Jezebel". This 100 mile drive started out rather chilly but the day warmed up and layers of clothing came off. The drive was lovely, scenic back roads with stops here and there. Highlights of that day were tours of the "Oldest working fire engine in FL" and a visit to the Suwannee Historical Museum (opened just for us as they are normally closed during lunch). I like to contribute and was able to tell the curator a few things about the old loom, and one of our guys

figured out the old threshing machine which had been a mystery until our visit. Optional stops included visits to Peacock Springs & Lafayette Blue Springs State Park.

Day three we drove the trouble truck, another new experience for us. I thought it might be needed at one point by the depot hack/taxi but Bob Hester and Jim Hayward took care of the problem (stopped up fuel line??) and on they went. This was a 106 mile tour. An interesting stop along the way was the O'Toole's Herb Farm with beautiful gardens. A special treat for me was telling the owner why the sheep wool she had wasn't good for spinning; it has coarse guard hairs which would have to be separated out. She offered me the bucket full of fleece but I declined. For those who don't know, I demonstrate spinning at Heritage Village in Largo.

Day four did us in...134 miles in the depot hack/taxi. Bill got to drive with Jim's expertise by his side, whenever the fuel line started chugging we just pulled over and let'er rest a bit, then she started up and kept on going. Anna Hayward and I enjoyed getting to know each other in the back seat. That's the day we drove all the way into Ga. and had lunch in Quitman at the Wiregrass Restaurant. Earlier in the day we stopped at The Blue Egg, an 1885 house actually being lived in (Editor's note: The Spradley Farm has been in the same family for over a century, and our host, Buddy Spradley, as well as his siblings were all born in the front room). Our gracious host provided hot dogs, drinks, chips and cookies and even let the gals visit her charming gift shop.

The tours were well planned by Milt and Rosemary Roorda and Scott and Althea Conger. We crossed over the Suwannee River several times, the hotel was lovely, the tours well planned, but best of all was the camaraderie, which I've heard Milt mention before about "long" tours.

Though Bill and I headed home Sunday morning, missing the last tour, we really had a good time. Now I understand the big smile Althea always has when I see her coming in from a long trip.

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### Sad News:

Richard Wolf announced to us that his son passed away. Please keep him & his family in your prayers.

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### For Sale / Wanted:

**Suncoast T's Sell, Swap, Wanted Market**

**Ads are FREE to Suncoast T Members.**

**Here is your chance to clean out the garage and find new stuff.**

**Please have ads to the editor no later than the 15th of the month.**

#### **FOR SALE:**

- Generators
- Starters
- Coils
- Carburetors

Scott Conger 727-551-0001 or [modeltrepair@gmail.com](mailto:modeltrepair@gmail.com)

#### **WANTED:**

- Top bow for 1923 – 1925 roadster

Scott Conger 727-551-0001 or [modeltrepair@gmail.com](mailto:modeltrepair@gmail.com)

Place your **FOR SALE** or **WANTED** items here. Send Althea an email [altheaconger@gmail.com](mailto:altheaconger@gmail.com) (or call 727-551-0001) with your items and they'll get in the next newsletter.

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## Club Calendar:

If you have a great idea for our Club Calendar, **SPEAK UP!** I'm sure that every member has an interest or idea for an event, so why keep it a secret? A successful club is a cooperative effort, so don't wait for someone else to host an event – step up and be heard! Fill in the empty dates in our calendar!... Get involved and experience the satisfaction of contributing to **YOUR** club in a meaningful way.

### May 14 – Picnic and Pictures tour - hosted by Ben Umberger & Linda Shaffer

The Picnic and Pictures tour will be a nice drive around Bellaire and Clearwater with a few quick stops for pictures with local backgrounds. Ben & Linda will have a camera and can email copies to you or you might want to shoot your own. Speaking of pictures you might want to dress in period costume just to complete the "Picture".

We'll meet at 10:30 AM at Largo Central Park (corner of East Bay and Seminole Blvd) in Parking Lot #3 (on the West side of the Largo Cultural Center) with a stop soon after for Non Ethanol gas at one of the few outlets around.

It's a Picnic, and Ben & Linda have offered to supply the food and drinks (**RSVP** would be helpful to Ben@Bluegroup.com or 727-447-2242 )

### June 11 – Meeting, Cook-out & Ice Cream Tour- hosted by Scott & Althea Conger

**Time:** 11:00 - Meeting will be held after lunch and then a tour to get some ice cream.

**Location:** Philippe Park in Safety Harbor / Shelter #7

**Food:** Hot Dogs & Hamburgers will be provided – Please bring a covered dish to share, and your own drinks.

We will tour to Cold Stone Creamery, in Safety Harbor, for ice cream will be after the meeting.

### July 9 – Coil Tune-up Clinic – hosted by Scott & Althea Conger

**Time:** 10:00 **RSVP** Althea (727) 551-0001, so I can reserve enough tables for us.

**Location:** 109 13<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, St. Petersburg FL, 33701, (727) 551-0001

**Lunch:** We'll drive to Biff Burger for lunch (Another great burger joint)

### August 13 – Meeting and ??

**THIS MONTH IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT OR ALTHEA WITH YOUR ACTIVITY PRIOR TO JUNE 1st.**

### September 10 – Drive to Ft. De Soto - hosted by Scott & Althea Conger

**Time:** 10:30 **Please show up early, 10:00, as we will leave at 10:30 sharp.** **RSVP** Althea (727) 551-0001, so I can reserve enough tables for us.

**Starting Location:** Sawgrass Lake Park, 7400 25th St. N, St. Petersburg, we'll drive to Ft. De Soto.

**Lunch:** We'll drive to a nearby cafe for lunch

### October 8 – Meeting and ??

**THIS MONTH IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT OR ALTHEA WITH YOUR ACTIVITY PRIOR TO AUGUST 1st.**

## Club Calendar (Con't):

### **November 12** – Drive to Safety Harbor for lunch and ice cream - hosted by Scott & Althea Conger

**RSVP** Althea (727) 551-0001, so I can reserve enough tables for us.

If you want to drive your T, **RSVP** Althea (727) 551-0001, so we know to watch for you. See start time and starting location below

**Lunch Location:** Captain's Italian Restaurant-Pizza, 324 Main St, Safety Harbor

**Ice Cream Location:** Cold Stone Creamery, 100 Main St, Safety Harbor

**Start Time:** 10:00 if driving with group to lunch. **Please show up early, 9:30, as we will leave at 10:00 sharp.**

**Starting Location:** Sawgrass Lake Park, 7400 25th St. N, St. Petersburg, we'll drive to Safety Harbor.

### **December 10** – Annual Meeting and Christmas luncheon

**THIS MONTH IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT OR ALTHEA WITH YOUR ACTIVITY PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1st.**

Election of officers will occur and club dues will be collected.

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## What are Members doing?

One member left a large donation toward the cost of dinner hosted by Milt and Rosemary Roorda during the Madison Tour – Anonymous to most of us, but appreciated by all of us.

Milt's Montana 500 speedster is coming along – the chassis is being painted.

Scott replaced a leaking head gasket on the '19 roadster.

Nick is working on a bum generator.

Jim Hayward is performing surgery on his Depot Hack body, and replaced the wheel bearing & hub that went bad on the Madison tour.

Lynn Keiter got his distributor back together and went on tour with a model "A" club.

So, what have **YOU** been up to? If you don't tell us, we don't know!

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## Fun Things To Do This Year:

### **May 22 -27** – Blue Ridge Riders

**Location:** Hendersonville N.C. Limited to 50 cars. Check your current MTFCI magazine for more information.

### **July 17 – 22** – MTFCI 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour – Hosted by the "T Totalers" Chapter

**Location:** Rochester, MN...Creeks, Rivers and Bluffs...start making plans now to attend. Check your current MTFCI magazine for more information or the MTFCI website <http://www.modelt.org/>

### **October 15** – Lakeland, Florida Lake Mirror Classic Auto Festival & Auction

For more information: <http://www.lakemirrorclassic.com/>

## [Fun Things To Do This Year \(Con't\):](#)

### **October 4 –8 – Hershey PA – Hershey Swap Meet & Car Show**

For more information: <http://hersheyaaca.org/>

### **November 9 - 12 – 19th Annual Fall Fuel Up Show & Swap Meet**

**Location:** Flywheeler Park at 7000 Avon Park Cutoff Road, Ft. Meade, FL

**Admission:** Wed thru Sat - \$7.00

For more information: <http://www.floridaflywheelers.org/>

### **November 11 - 14 – 27th Annual Fall AutoFest**

**Location:** Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Parking is Free

**Time:** Opens 8:00 a.m. each day

**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)

### **November 13 – St. Petersburg Yacht Club Vintage Motor Classic**

**Location:** Straub Park, 11 Central Ave., St. Petersburg (enter from beach drive)

**Admission:** Entrance fee is \$25 early registration (includes pre-show reception) and \$40 entrance fee, the day of the show.

**Questions:** Call Bill Waters, Chairman 727-580-1804

<http://www.olddrive.com/events/7191735.html>

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## [Fun Things To Do In 2012:](#)

### **January 18 – 21 – 20th Annual Fall Fuel Up Show & Swap Meet**

**Location:** Flywheeler Park at 7000 Avon Park Cutoff Road, Ft. Meade, FL

**Admission:** Wed thru Sat - \$7.00

For more information: <http://www.floridaflywheelers.org/>

### **March 25 – March 31 – MTFCI Spring Tour, Savannah Georgia**

**Location:** Savannah Georgia

**Contact:** Nevy Clark (912) 897-0050 or email [NClark48@bellsouth.net](mailto:NClark48@bellsouth.net) for more information. Check your current MTFCI magazine for more information or the MTFCI website <http://www.modelt.org/>

### **July 16 – 22 – MTFCI 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour**

**Location:** Rutland, Vermont

### **October 10 –13 – Hershey PA - AACA Eastern Fall Meet**

For more information: <http://hersheyaaca.org/>

### **November XX - XX – Flywheeler Park Annual Fall Fuel-Up Show & Swap Meet**

**Location:** Flywheeler Park at 7000 Avon Park Cutoff Road, Ft. Meade, FL

**Admission:** Wed thru Sat - \$7.00

For more information: <http://www.floridaflywheelers.org/>

### **Fun Things To Do In 2012 (Con't):**

#### **November ~~xx - xx~~ – Zephyrhills Annual Fall AutoFest**

**Location:** Zephyrhills at Festival Park on U.S. Hwy 301. Parking is Free

**Time:** Opens 8:00 a.m. each day

**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)

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### **Fun Things To Do In 2013:**

#### **July 14 – 19 – MTFCI 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour**

**Location:** East Lansing, Michigan

#### **October 9 –12 – Hershey PA - AACA Eastern Fall Meet**

For more information: <http://hersheyaaca.org/>