



T – Times

Volume 31 Issue 8
October 2011

Three Rivers Model T Ford Club
P. O. Box 7083
Kennewick, WA 99336

“T-Times” is the publication of the Three Rivers Model T Ford Club and is published monthly solely for its members and exchange with other antique automobile groups. Editorial copy and advertisements should be sent to: Editor 218 NE A Street College Place, WA 99324 by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the next month’s issue. Email: dpeters0258@gmail.com

The Three Rivers Model T Ford Club is a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. Membership is recommended and encouraged. Make membership requests to: MTFCA P.O. Box 126 Centerville, IN 47330. Annual local club dues are \$20. Monthly meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Reata Springs Baptist Church, 2830 Leopold Lane, Richland, WA at 7:00 PM.

2011 Officers

Club President Marlene Coder
m.coder@hotmail.com

Vice President Dean Stokes
dwestokes1@embarqmail.com

Secretary Wanda Stokes
dwestokes1@embarqmail.com

Newsletter Editor Dale Peterson
dpeters0258@gmail.com

Board Members

1 Year -- Marlene Coder
2 Year -- Russ Armstrong
3 Year -- Fred Fraser

Special Dates

Birthdays for October are: Sandi Elenbaas (10/15) . **Happy Birthday**

Anniversaries for October are: Mike & Carol Tesky (10/06) and Terry & Edris Shegrud (10/16). **Happy Anniversary to everyone.**

Three River's Model T Club
September 15, 2011
Monthly Minutes

Vice President, Dean Stokes, opened today's meeting substituting for President Marlene Coder who was absent. There were few members present. We did not have a flag to salute, so that was omitted.

Wanda read the minutes from the past meeting, all approved. Treasurer, Mike gave his report; we have money in the bank.

Old Business

A report was given about the trip to Sun Terrace in Sunnyside. Everyone had a nice time and a delicious lunch.

Reports were given on the [Lyle Tour that Bill Sheller](#) hosted; everyone enjoyed this relaxing trip very much. The accommodations were first class and the food was delicious. Everything went well even though two Model T's had to go on the trouble truck.

Ray Porter from Kennewick High School did not attend tonight's meeting. He requested Model T's to be present at this year's Homecoming.

Marlene e-mailed Dean with some suggestions for tonight's meeting. Marlene asked if we wanted to have a dinner meeting to break the ice for upcoming meetings. Bill motioned that we table this until more members are present. All agreed.

Dean reported that Dale is in the hospital after having a stent in his heart. We are all wishing Dale a speedy recovery. He is missed. Also, Fred Fraser reported that Linda Carraher is recovering from hip replacement. We also wish Lynda a speedy recovery. We miss you both very much.

New Business

Fred Fraser will check out [Old Country Buffet as our October 20th meeting](#). All present thought this would be a great opportunity for more members to attend and have a delicious meal. Please plan on attending. **The time will be 6:00 p.m.**

It was noted that our [Christmas party](#) is less than 100 days away. The [Stokes' would like to host this year's party](#) at their home in Sunnyside. Be thinking about this and plan on attending. More information will be forthcoming.

Much discussion was presented about the idea of returning to mailing out a hard copy of the newsletter. Several members said that they just do not check out the website and appreciate a hardcopy in the mail. We have **few** members who are actually participating in our tours and attendance is way down. Mike Porter said that the newsletter is the backbone of our Model T club, and some members are not computer "savvy" and the club is dwindling. All members appreciate Dale for his hard work and dedication to the newsletter on line. We have money in the bank to perhaps spend on mailing via snail mail copies of the newsletter on line to members. Dean said he will talk with Dale regarding this. Linda Porter also noted that our 2011 membership roster consists of less than 20 members and of those, only a handful participates. We will be discussing this further at the next meeting. **Please attend as this is an important meeting ~ October 20th at Old Country Buffet at 6:00 p.m. in Kennewick at the Columbia Center Mall.**

Thank you Linda and Mike for the delicious snacks. The meeting was adjourned with nothing more to come before the members.

Respectively submitted,
Wanda Stokes, Secretary

Coming Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Oct. 20 | Monthly Meeting at Old Country Buffet in Kennewick at Columbia Center Mall
6:00PM |
| Nov. 17 | Monthly Meeting in Richland |
| Dec. | Annual Christmas Party at Dean and Wanda Stokes' home in Sunnyside. |
| Jan. 2012 | Annual Dinner Meeting |

Lessons Learned the Hard Way (editor's ramblings)

By Dale Peterson

During my involuntary "vacation," I have been at times feeling lazy and at other others finding all sorts of things to stave off boredom. Files in the office are finally getting sorted. Items from the past 30 years are sometimes quite interesting finds while others are getting refilled to file 13.

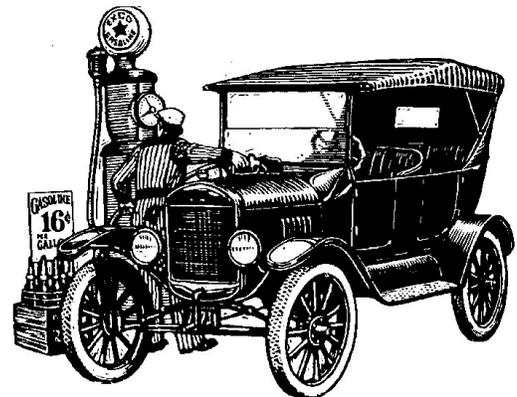
One of the files I found was titled Three Rivers Model T Ford Club and contained past newsletters from as far back as February 1990 where a report was given on the January installation Banquet. Of interest, it was noted that there were twenty five in attendance, including guests Dale & Sharon Peterson from Hermiston, Oregon. In a note further down of new members they were noted to "own a 1919 Chalmers car and have indicated an interest in Model T's." Now I must admit that we never attended any tours that year, but enjoyed meetings with many wonderful people. Over the years it appears the club has never been a large one. Some of the rosters number members (singles and couples/families counted as one) in the 20's with a high of 35 in the 2004 club roster.

Heard at recent meeting is a note of discouragement over a "dwindling number of members." At the same time there is also talk of what can we do to make our club better. Our next meeting is scheduled for a dinner meeting at Old Country Buffet in Kennewick, come join us with your ideas for the future of our club. If there is one lesson I have learned over the years in this club, it is: we sure have a great bunch of people to share the fun with! Invite a friend to the meeting that could be possibly interested in things "T".

Tour to Paradise



How about a trip to Rainier National Park during the summer of 2012, while the flowers are at full bloom? I am proposing a 3 night tour to Rainier National Park early August with three nights at the newly refurbished Paradise Inn, built in 1916. Getting there could be up to you; meet at the Inn with your modern tow vehicle and trailer, or drive with me the distance. Itinerary would include drives to Sunrise, Longmire, and possibly a ride on the Mt Rainier Scenic Railroad steam train at Elbe. Rooms at Paradise run from \$114 to \$260/night. A queen bed room with bath is 167/night or \$501 for 3 nights. Think it over, talk about it at our next meeting. Learn more at: mtrainiergusetsservices.com. Tour chairman: Dale Peterson.



Member Activities

Some of our members have been busy with T projects, here is a report of one of them as found on the MTFCA website forum. Jim Elenbaas has some real talent in body building. See others comments and browse other, sometimes very helpful advice on this discussion forum. Check it out at www.mtfca.com/discus. The following was borrowed from his post on the forum titled "Different type of barnyard cruiser":



After gathering distressed parts for over 20 years I decided that I had enough pieces to put together another T. I always liked the looks of the delivery type of vehicle so I figured with a little help from Lowes and Home Depot it could be a reality. Once a design was selected I figured that I could engineer it on the fly, so off to Lowes I went with a list of lumber I would need. While loading the items one of their helpers asked me what I was going to do with the wood. I proudly told him I was going to build a Model T Ford body. He looked at me like "This is the biggest idiot I have seen all week", and I secretly wondered if he wasn't right. As it turned out that was not the last trip to the store for wood. Seems you always under estimate what you will need. Once the project was started it actually progressed quite rapidly.



This took about 4 months from starting with a bare frame to paint. The sign painting took about 3 weeks with time out for cataract surgery on both eyes. Since this was my first attempt at sign painting it wound up with the rustic look I was hoping for.

Once the project was nearly complete I found that the only items (beside the wood and top material) I needed was a hood and horn. A short time later eBay sent me my missing items with the correct distressed appearance. A couple of weeks ago I found the brass spot light and now it is ready to go out on late night repair calls.

Lynden Motor Company was started by my Great Uncles in about 1911 and continued until 1933. They sold various brands of vehicles and also sold Goodyear tires and Exide batteries.



Safety Tip

by **Bill Sheller**

I don't know about you, but I suspect that the following Model T Ford trait has happened to you at one time or another. I can say for sure that it has happen to me on more than one occasion. I'm referring to the brake handle slipping off the pawl on the ratchet that holds the transmission in neutral or the parking brake on, ... while the engine is running! The results of this , (if you are in the driver's seat), is startling at best requiring INSTANT response and really scary at worst if the Model T happens to be unattended.

To tell you the truth, the above described disaster has happened to me enough times, that until now I would not leave Henry running to get out and close a gate or pick up something I had dropped. If I was not behind the wheel, the ignition was always switched off, even to leave the car for just a moment. ABSOLUTLY NO EXCEPTIONS! Although it was just a mite bit on the inconvenient side, I mean ... you know ... gosh just let it run and warm up while you shut the gate and then it'll be ready to roll when you get back in. Well ... a couple things I know for sure, as the older I get the more I listen to that little voice inside of my head telling me ...think about the consequences here Bill. If Henry should decide to slip into high gear while unattended, even if the drivers door was left open, the chances of me catching up with him are pretty gol dem remote. Think about that for just a moment will ya? Have you got the picture clearly in your head of you trying to catch up with your run away Model T Ford, as it heads un-afraid into on coming traffic (like a semi truck) or a building, or worst yet another person!!! There, I hope I've made my point!

The photos below show a very simple and fool proof solution to this problem. The fix is just a length of leather and a screw or bolt holding it to the seat frame. When the hand brake is pulled back the leather strap formed into a loop is slipped over the brake handle, you can leave your Model T running and it will be there when you get the gate closed! I read this bit o wisdom in Ted Aschman's "Tinkering Tips" and it really works!

Henry built a darn good car ... Yes he did!



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Lyle Hotel and Columbia River Gorge Tour



September 12 - 14, 2011

by Bill Sheller

The Lyle Hotel was nothing short of wonderful. Oh sure, there was a bit of disaster involved which produced human emotions ranging from shock and surprise to "almost" elation! I'll attend to that part later on, but first let's get on the road! The tour met at Prosser and after greetings and the handing out of tour packages, we departed right on time. We toured along the Yakima River towards Mabton and paused for a horn toot and regards at TerMaaten's place. Bernice was out in the back yard and returned our waves of friendship from across the river. We miss you Ken.



The 1905 Lyle Hotel

We stopped in Mabton for a quick fuel stop before heading up the hill to Bickleton. Gary Ellingson was kind enough to provide the trouble truck for us. He had his speedster on the trailer so he could enjoy the tour out of Lyle the next day. That was a huge help to me, as the Ritter tour was still pretty fresh in my mind! Thanks so much Gary! Up the hill we went and arrived in Bickleton without Dean and Wanda Stokes and the trouble truck. We were also without phone service way up there in the "bluebird capital of the world"! Pretty soon along came Gary and Sandy Ellingson in their speedster with a report the Stokes Roadster Pick Up was returning to Sunnyside with some sort of trouble. They would return as the trouble truck operators. Off we went for our lunch date in Goldendale, Washington. You know I've been down the rock creek canyon (between Bickleton and Goldendale) and up the other side heading in both directions and I never get tired of the drive. It's just the best Model T adventure! On a sad note, there used to be a rest area with "facilities" at the bottom, but vandals have force it's closure.

We met up with Dean and Wanda over lunch in Goldendale, and although the waitress seemed a little put out that 16 travelers would perhaps eat lunch in her restaurant at noon, we managed a very pleasant lunch and social gathering in spite of her displeasure! After lunch we fueled up and headed for the Lyle Hotel over the Centerville Highway. If you've never taken it between Goldendale and Lyle, well ... treat yourself sometime to it. I promise you'll truly enjoy it. About 20 miles from Lyle, Henry made a flapping sound like a playing card in a bicycle spoke which lasted perhaps 7 seconds and skidded to

a stop in the middle of the road. After a very brief examination it became quite obvious to me that Henry and I had joined the exclusive and dreaded two piece crankshaft club. You know I felt so bad for Henry as he was being pulled onto the trailer for the first time in his long and faithful service. As you know, Henry and I have been lots of wonderful places together. Gosh he looked so disappointed and although no one heard it but me, he was apologizing as he settled in for his first ride on the trouble trailer. Henry is being treated to his second complete mechanical overhaul since our relationship began 16 years ago. Him and I are headed for the TOP of Pikes Peak next summer, ...want to go along?



Henry's first trip!



Great shoes

We arrived at the Lyle Hotel about 4:30 and visited on the outdoor patio over a glass of beer, wine, or soda until dinner was served in the formal dining room. The folks who own the hotel are both chefs extraordinaire. The meals we were treated to were well ... just the best! Fresh flowers on the table and all.

The next morning we headed for Hood River and the Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum. Doris Burma came down the hotel stairs in the morning looking ready for a full day's adventure except her feet looked somehow ... wrong! She had broken a strap on her shoes rendering them un-wearable, so she donned a pair of Paul's until she could get another pair in Hood River. That's the spirit Doris! It's always a pleasure traveling with you two!



Model T's ... My favorite!

The museum is nothing short of awesome. What makes this museum quite special is that every vehicle in the place, both cars and planes are operational! The museum regularly flies and drives all of the machinery. It was great fun looking at aircraft with bugs on the leading edge of the wings. Yup, ... they really fly em! They have a fortune invested in drip pans alone! Every year, the week end after Labor Day the museum has a "fly in". Sucks, we just missed it. If you've ever wanted to fly in an open cockpit bi-plane, that week end would be your chance. Let's see ... Henry owes me a ride over the narrow steel grates of the Hood River Bridge anyway, so ...



Howard Frye and son

All in all the Lyle Hotel and Columbia River Gorge Tour was a fun and quite relaxing three day adventure. Antique hotels certainly add to the opulence of yesterdays touring. I happen to know of a few others, ... care to join me later on?

Henry built a darn good car ... Yes he did!



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