
T TIMES

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April 2012

President's Message

Hello fellow Model T Friends,

Winter usually tries to slow down our Model T trips. The usual culprit is the weather because it's COLD. However some of my best memories of our Model T happened during winter and early spring tours. I remember one tour it was 39 degrees and raining. We stopped at a park for lunch and ate on the running board. Our destination was 15 or so miles away, Wanda asked me to drive faster, the only time I heard that in almost 40 years of marriage. Another cold day the temperature was near zero, I conned the kids into going over to a friends for hot chocolate, my friend gave the kids a ride home. I still remember Russ and Jane Armstrong wrapped up like Egyptian Mummies on tour with the snow blowing through their T. Bill Sheller drove a touring car some 60 miles in 15 degree weather with only the

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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, places to be announced in the newsletter prior.

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1 Year -- Russ Armstrong
2 Year -- Fred Fraser
3 Year -- Jim Elenbaas

heat from the engine to give him comfort. Last year in the Canadian Rockies several of our members were on tour, it was June but the wind chill factor made it feel like zero. One should never travel without a thermos of hot chocolate or coffee and blankets. Do you remember a trip where it was really cold outside?

If you don't want to brave the elements outside, turn to the inside of your shop to work on that project with your T. Gary Ellingston has a really good setup to work on his cars. When the sun is out one of his sheds catches the rays and makes it comfortable to work with no heat. On days with no sun Gary works in his other shop that has a small heater. Several other members have shops where they can spend time with some degree of comfort while working on their T's.

The old willow tree outside our office is starting to show green. That means spring is on its way. Take a few minutes or hours and get your T tuned up and ready to go. Several nice tours are in the works. Get out, go for a ride, enjoy your car.

I have learned over the years that things happen when you're driving your car. However, it's better to tour and breakdown than not to have toured at all.

See you down the road, Dean

Member Passing

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of LaMar Barnes March 19, 2012 at 12:15 AM. LaMar was noted as a very kind and friendly person. He was usually present at most of our activities, at times driving the trouble truck on tours if he wasn't driving a Model T or Model A.

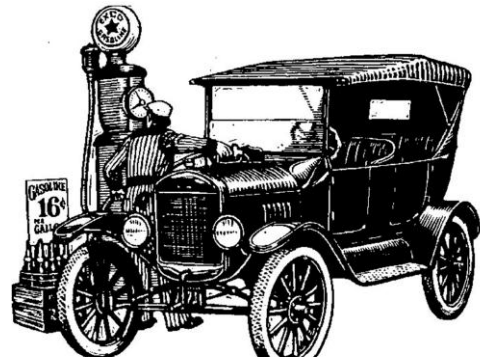
A memorial service will be held in his honor at the Hermiston Senior Center on April 14 at 11AM. There will be a potluck meal and this is to be an informal remembrance of Wayne with friends and music people he has known.

Birthdays in April

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Jim Langdon | April 4 |
| Judy Danko | April 5 |
| Larry Huetson | April 15 |
| Gary Ellingson | April 16 |
| Dean Stokes | April 16 |
| Carol Tesky | April 18 |
| Mike Tesky | April 19 |

Anniversaries in April

No anniversaries in April



Coming Events

- April 1** Breakfast at Langdon's in Hermiston, 30851 Baggett Lane, at 9AM
- April 19** Monthly meeting 6PM at Old Country Buffet in Richland (Columbia Center).
- May 17** Monthly meeting and Hummingbird Tour at Dale and Sharon Peterson's in College Place.
- May 19** Car show at Canyon Lakes Retirement Center in Kennewick, 12 noon. Wayne Williams hosting.
- May 19** Ford Get Together at Hat Rock Park outside Hermiston. Picnic at 12 Noon.
- June 17-20** Montana 500 in Butte, MT
- June 17-22** National Tour in Lincoln, NE
- August 6-9** Mt Rainier Tour

Me and the Model T

by Bill Sheller



Aw, for the road less traveled! That's the road for me. I can think of nothing more rewarding for the feeling of well being that comes over me when I get behind the wheel of a Model T Ford. Just starting ol Henry up with his trusty "startin stick" produces a feeling of calm and happiness within that is hard to put into words. Well for me it's simply complete contentment,

as he comes alive with his myriad of sounds that dance across my senses and produce what I call the standard Model T Ford starting smile! No other automobile I have ever owned or come in contact with in my entire life has effected me this way. You know, I've always thought this condition was entirely my Grandfathers fault. I'm now ready to proclaim the car itself and the many folks I have befriended over my years of association are indeed worthy of... MOST of the credit. It really has to be that way, for I know people who are as smitten with the old Ford as I and ... they never knew Roscoe Sheller!

Getting back to my road less traveled statement, there never has been a car more suited to roads that haven't felt the tread of a tire in week's ... than a Model T Ford! Oh sure the back country roads we are blessed with here are great fun and very relaxing. Most of the touring roads we travel are only shared with the folks who live



on them. They are marvelous and scenic adventures that are well maintained and smoothly paved. Old car enthusiasts love them as well as those who travel on two wheels. Upon meeting these other travelers

we wave and enjoy an instant of comraderie with these strangers. I often think to myself, gosh, ... if they only knew what they're missing, but that thought quickly passes as I return to the magic of the Model T. No sir, where the Model T Ford leaves all the others completely, ... is the road even less traveled than the ones just described!

When you get in a Model T and find yourself an un-paved road, well, that's what Lizzie is all about! There never has been a car more suited to that type of road way. Why the Model T Ford was built for un-paved travel. That's also where you'll separate yourself from most



other old car folks. The marvelous gravel roads we have around here are plentiful and most are quite well maintained. One of the very best things about the gravel is that they produce dust, which in turn produces a rather authentic looking Model T Ford. Gosh, it surely gives me a warm feeling to be able to cast my eyes on a dust clad, or better yet mud splattered Model T Ford, as that for me just enhances the Model T experience. The sight of un-polished and tarnished brass, on a boiled over radiator, is a beautiful sight to see. Because, ... that's exactly how a Model T Ford looked in it's day.

Now there's only one road surface better suited to Model T travel than gravel, and that's ...dirt! This day and age, those roads are hard to find. Dale Peterson did a marvelous job of discovering one on his Ritter tour last year. Henry and I really liked it!

Yep, as I said, Me and the Model T prefer ... the road less traveled!

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



Three River's Model T Club
March 15, 2012
Minutes

Tonight's meeting was held at the home of **Fred and Mary Fraser in Richland, Washington**. We had a good number of members attend. President, Dean Stokes opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked Secretary, Wanda Stokes to read the minutes from the past meeting. The minutes were accepted as read. Dean asked Treasurer, Mike Porter to give his report. We have money in the bank.

Old Business

April 1st will be the breakfast at **Jim and Phyllis Langdon's** shop in **Hermiston beginning at 9:00 a.m.** A sheet was passed around for people to bring side dishes. Jim and Phyllis will supply the pancakes, eggs, and sausage links. This is always a wonderful event, plan on attending.

April 19th meeting will be at **Old Country Buffet in the Columbia Center Mall area**. Time is **6:00 p.m.** Please attend and find out what is going on in your Model T Club.

May 19th will be the **Ford meeting at Hat Rock State Park outside Hermiston, Oregon**. If you have questions, contact Fred and Mary Fraser for more information. This will be a picnic potluck.

June 1st will be a tour out of **Sunnyside touring the Black Rock Creek Area**. The wild flowers should be in bloom for this primitive tour. Dean and Wanda Stokes are hosting this tour and plan on leaving our ranch around **9:00 - 9:15 a.m.** We will see spectacular vistas and more information will be forthcoming. Keep this date on your calendar.

June 17th is the **Montana Model T 500 Speedster Run and Tour in Butte, Montana**. We are hauling our T's to Butte and members must be members of the Model T Club out of Butte. You can join once you are up there. The dues are \$10 and another \$25 is needed to do the tour section of this exciting event. Several members of Three River's Model T club are attending this as touring cars. Plan to attend and

check the newsletter for more information as the date nears.

August 6th - 9th will be the tour hosted by **Dale and Sharon Peterson** to **Mount Rainier National Park**. At this time, all the rooms at the Packwood Motel are taken by our members. If you do wish to attend, please make reservations at some of the other motels in the area soon as they are filling up fast. You should also have contacted Whistling Jack's resort at this time too for the trip back home. Information will be forthcoming in the newsletter - check it out.

New Business

Bill Sheller told us of a great event hosted by the **Walla Walla Model T club** of a car show and other doings in **Waitsburg**. This is a Classic Car show and we are invited. Lois and Herb Mettler (past members of Three River's Model T Club) are in the know about this great event.

Mary Fraser passed around a late Christmas Newsletter from Denny and Linda Kehl. They too, are past members of Three River's Model T Club who now live in Joseph, Oregon. They have wonderful experiences with bears and bobcats visiting them at their remote home. Very interesting.

Dean asked members to give us their **Garage Reports** on how and what they are doing with their T's. All of the members told of various things that they are accomplishing with their T's to get them up and ready for touring. When Dean asked Russ Armstrong what he has been doing with his T, Russ replied: "I put on my hat and glasses and get in behind the wheel of his car and bounce up and down!" We all loved it! With that response, Sharon Peterson asked: "How many Model T's does one person **REALLY NEED?**" Again, the women all loved this! Amen to both responses!!!!

With nothing more to come before the members, the meeting was adjourned. Mary and Fred served delicious pies, cookies and crisps along with tea, coffee, pop and juice. Very good and delicious. Thank you both.

Respectively Submitted,
Wanda Stokes, Secretary

Tours and activities

Montana 500 June 17-20, 2012

Several of our club members have indicated an interest in attending the Montana 500 event, in Butte, Montana this year. Information you will need to participate in this event:

Hotel: Quality Inn 2100 Cornwell Ave. (formerly The War Bonnet Hotel). Phone 800 443-1806. Rate \$80.00, mention Montana 500 T's.

To participate, you must be a member of the Montana Cross Country T Association; \$10 annual dues can be paid at the event. Touring class fee \$25, Competition class fee \$35. Check at www.montana500.com for updates.

Hummingbird Tour to Dixie

The monthly club meeting May 17 will be hosted by Dale and Sharon Peterson at their home at 218 NE A Street in College Place. We will drive from there out to Dixie to see the Hummingbirds at "The Hummingbird Crossing." We did this two years ago and had a wonderful time driving the back roads and watching hummingbirds at the many feeders. There will be a meal planned, more about this later.

Black Rock Valley Tour

Dean Stokes has arranged for our club to tour out to Robert Brothers Land and Livestock Ranch in the Black Rock Valley in the North Slope of the Rattlesnake Hills. This will take place Friday June 1. We will meet at the Stokes Ranch at 9AM. A potluck meal/barbecue is a possible option for this tour. You will need to bring your own drinking water and there is indoor plumbing available.

Mount Rainier Tour

Plans are well underway for the August 6-9 tour to Mt Rainier. All of the rooms at the Packwood Hotel are spoken for. If you have not reserved a place with Dale Peterson, contact us soon so we can try to find alternative lodging for you. Everyone should also have called Whistling Jack's for reservations by this time. Dean and Dale will be working out the route sometime this summer. Members of the Model A club from Pendleton have asked if they could join us and an invitation has been sent. They will be on their own to find accommodations, but we look forward to having them along.

Three Rivers Model T Ford Club

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