
T TIMES

Volume 33, Issue 7

August 2012

President's Message

This summer members of the 3 River Model T Club have gone in all different directions with their cars. Destinations included Nebraska, Montana and several stops in Washington. Everyone has had a good time with no trouble that we know about at the present time. I did hear about a water pump problem, but that's another story.

In a short time several members will be leaving Sunnyside for a trip up to Mount Rainier and surrounding area. Some will stay in a hotel that is over 100 years old, visit Paradise, (a spot in the National Park) which has over 1000 inches of snow in some years.

Another important date for a National Tour

continued on page 2



"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, places to be announced in the newsletter prior.

2012 Officers

Club President Dean Stokes
dwstokes1@embarqmail.com
Vice President Bill Sheller
Treasurer Mike Porter
Secretary Wanda Stokes
dwstokes1@embarqmail.com

Newsletter Editor Dale Peterson
dpeters0258@gmail.com

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Coming Events Calendar
- 2 Special Dates
- 2 Rainier Tour
- 4 A New Top for the Touring by Bill Sheller

put on by the MTFCI is Canyonlands 4 located in southern Utah. Several members of our club attended this tour a few years ago and it is right at the top of the list of all-time best tours. It seems that most of the advertising for this tour has been on email or by word of mouth. The tour opens for registration on August 1, 2012 with applications emailed to interested parties. If you want to go and can't find information, contact Mike Porter or Wanda Stokes.

I know of a couple of local tours in the planning stage. One problem seems to be that of a trouble truck driver. The trouble truck driver is just as important to the tour as the leader. One would hope the trouble truck is kind of like the Maytag repairman; always waiting. If any club member wants to, or knows of anyone who wants to go on a tour while enjoying heat in the Winter and Spring or A/C in the Summer and Fall as a trouble truck driver, let me know. Simply put no trouble truck, no tour.

See you at the next meeting or on tour. Dean

Birthdays in August

Sharon Peterson Aug 17

Edris Segrud Aug 24

Anniversaries in August

Fred and Mary Fraser Aug 8

Mount Rainier Tour

Plans are well underway for the August 6-9 tour to Mt Rainier. All of the rooms at the Hotel Packwood are spoken for. Two of the couples will be lodging at a motel 2 blocks away as this has become a popular tour that does not all fit in the 9 rooms at the host Hotel. Dean and Dale drove part of the route last month, finding some glitches in the routes to avoid and other interesting segments to get us where we are going.

The tour is to leave from the Stokes' ranch in Sunnyside at 9:00 AM, meaning that Dale and others will need to arrive early enough to prepare for the drive. We will drive on back roads, through Yakima, and on to Naches for lunch. Afterward we will drive to Packwood along Highway 12 where we will be based for the next two nights. Highway 12 should be better than it sounds as they will be doing roadwork along the north side of Rimrock Lake, reducing traffic going that way somewhat. We are hoping to bypass the 45 minute waits by driving the south Rimrock loop. **Day 2** will be over the hill on Forest Road 52 to Paradise for lunch, then on, around to Ohanapecosh, then back to Packwood. **Day 3** we will pack up and drive to Sunrise for lunch and then down to Whistling Jack's for the night. **Day 4** will be our return to Sunnyside via the Yakima Indian Reservation and lunch at Toppenish. We should be back in Sunnyside by midafternoon, allowing everyone to get home by a reasonable hour.

We will be asking for \$20 per car to cover the fuel for the Trouble Truck and drinking water. The driver will be staying in our room so will not be any extra cost there. Extra funds will be refunded after the tour.

Coming Events

August 6-9	Mt Rainier Tour
Aug 16	Regular Monthly Meeting at Howard Amom Park in Richland 6:00 PM
Sept 15	East vs. West Reliability Tour to Vantage
Sept 20	Regular Monthly Meeting
Dec	Club Christmas Party

A New Top for the Touring

by Bill Sheller



Top Bows prepped and wrapped



Movin to a shady spot



New Pads and webbed strapping



Wanda sewing pad flaps together

You may recall from my Montana 500 report that the 60 mph wind on one of our touring days reduced the old top on Dean and Wanda's touring car to un-repairable shreds! A rather large gob of unsightly duct tape ... at least it was black ... got them going for the rest of the Montana adventure. As you all know, being seasoned Model T'ers whatever happens to Lizzie on tour is certainly repairable and really nothing to get upset about. Short of the small inconvenience caused on the side of the road, a break down is more of an adventure than anything and always makes for good memories to be shared with friends. Perhaps, in my case anyway ... WELL ... I share them OVER and OVER.

After returning from Montana, Dean ordered a new top for the '23 Touring. I volunteered my assistance in installing it, so then we just had to wait for the hottest day of the year to begin the project. Dean was scheduled to take Bonnie Donbar (the Sunnyside Astronaut) on a ceremonial ride through town, so we needed to get to the task at hand.

By the time I pulled up in my newly acquired '66 Mustang ... gosh I've always wanted one, Dean had done the preliminary work of removing the old top, all the old tacks and staples, well the majority of them anyway, filling some 80+ year old holes in the wood, and re-wrapping the top bows. About the only thing we needed to start right in was ... a little shade!



Almost done



Getting the front right is HARD



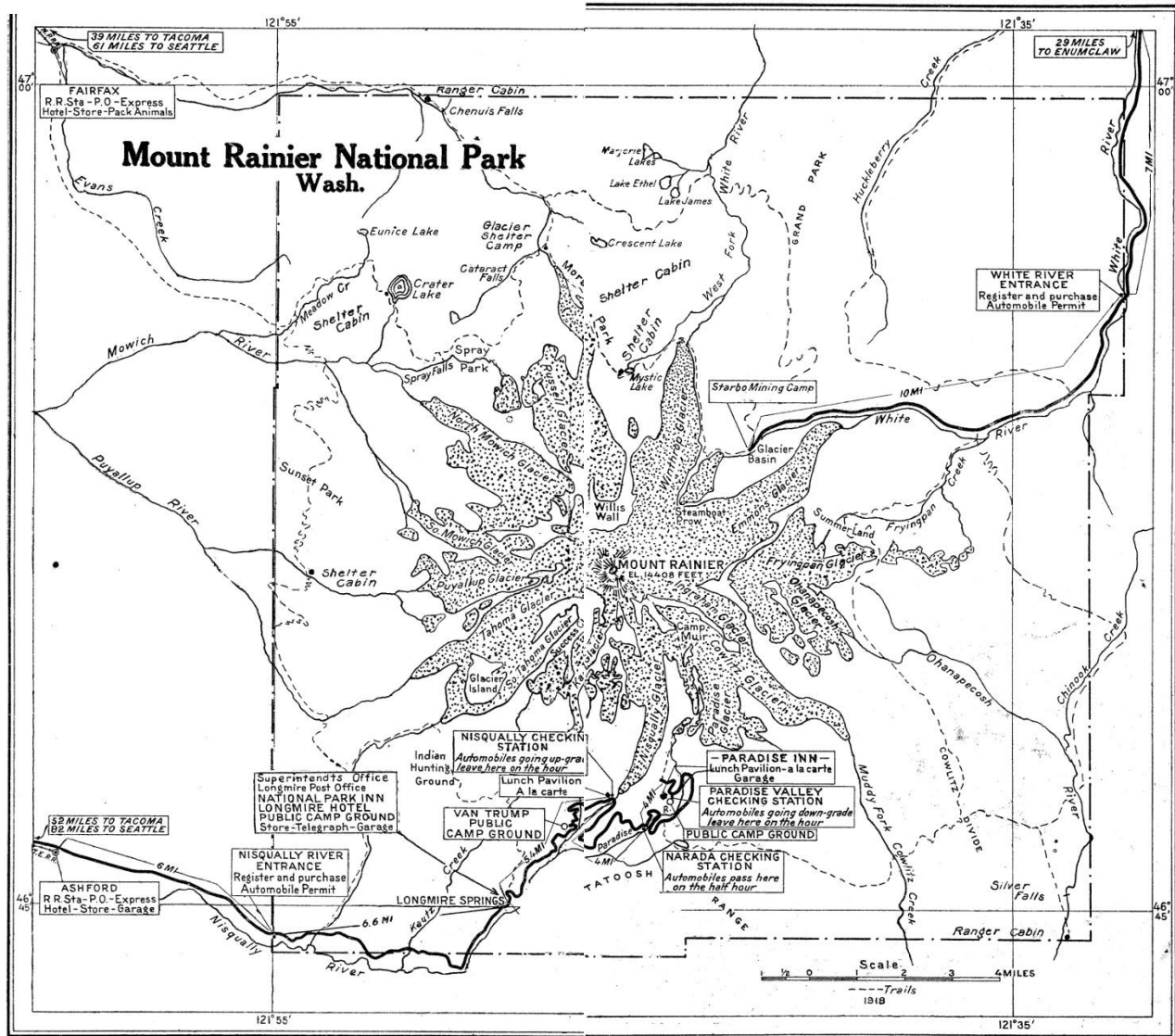
New top ready for service

With just a wee bit of patience and the occasional non mandatory glance at the instructions, which usually was of little help, we started to build the new top. We were happy to have the pneumatic air staple gun borrowed from Jim Langdon, as tacks and hammer is, well ... really doing it the hard way. Any Model T project large or small is ALWAYS a better experience when done in the company of good friends and the top is surely no exception to that rule. Having more than two hands is mandatory, so if you need a new top on your Model T, I certainly encourage you to invite a few Model T friends over before you begin.

While we were working on the new top pads and webbed strapping, we set the top material in the sun so it would be pliable and wrinkle free when we were ready for it. With those items stapled in place, Wanda hand sewed the pad flaps closed while Dean and I trimmed off the excess. We were now ready for the top material and ... did I mention it was 105 degrees that day? To say the top material was pliable and wrinkle free and ... yikes REALLY REALLY hot would be an understatement! Gosh, that top was so hot ... well there were almost puddles in it! Once it was centered up to our liking, it was a matter of stretching and stapling. With some careful stretching and keeping it straight and wrinkle free as possible the new top began to look pretty darn good. One of the hardest parts to get right is across the front because there is a hood and engine in your way, which makes it difficult to reach across. Look closely at the photo and you'll notice the hood is up which makes for a good place to stand while attaching the front material. All in all, the new top on the '23 Touring looks mighty good. I'm not sure Bonnie Dunbar noticed but ...

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

Mount Rainier Map from the Automobile Blue Book vol. 9, 1919.





T-Times

Volume 33 Issue 7
August 2012

August 16
Eat at 6:00 PM, Meeting 7:00 PM
Meeting of the Three Rivers Model T Ford Club
at
Howard Amon Park, Richland
Lee Blvd off George Washington Way
Bring your own picnic, club will provide desert

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