

# THE OCCASIONAL

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

A PUBLICATION OF THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF  
GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.



Some 2014 Veteran's Day Parade participants. L to R: Jerry Ellerbeck, US Navy; Walt Kleinhans, US Army; Steven Thum; Keith Sanders, US Army; Barry Tanner; Sam Atkinson, US Air Force.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow club members!

I have a collection of newsletters and other papers from our club that I look through once-in-a-while to get ideas for this column. It is a great resource in spite of Cindy wanting me to throw it away. While looking for inspiration recently, I ran across a very interesting piece of our club's history that took place on the day of the Bicentennial, July 4, 1976.

One of our members, Richard Coad, organized a Model T race at a real racetrack, with real flagmen, real timers and even a pace car. The race was held at MAR (Mid-America raceways) in Wentzville (you remember the radio commercials "MAR where the Big Ones are") and was the pre-race event before a sports car race. MAR was both a drag strip and a 2.8 mile road course attached to one another so the drag strip served as the main straightaway for the road course. The race was to be 2 parade/practice laps, then 5 laps around the twisty and hilly road course. Before the race nearly everyone was saying they didn't want to push their car too hard, they didn't care if they won, they wouldn't try anything daring, etc, etc. The practice laps were important to familiarize us with the course but when the pace car pulled off the track and the flagman dropped the green flag everything changed. It was like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde! Just a few moments ago everyone was talking about not pushing their beloved car too hard and now they were determined to win at all costs. Model T's are not made for fast cornering (think transverse springs and wood spoked wheels) but nearly everyone was taking risks on the corners, making enemies on the straightaway and learning some new words if they slowed a faster moving car. Now I know how Kenny Schrader and Rusty Wallace can be dear friends off the track and arch-rivals on the track. After the checkered flag dropped and the race was over we laughed and relived every glorious moment of every lap. It was great fun and a memory I will cherish the rest of my life. Oh, who won? Bert Schlichtemeier in his gorgeous 1909 touring. How did I do? Don't ask.

Happy Motoring!  
Sam

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Fellow T Enthusiasts -

I just loved Sam's comments above! And part of me would like for us to do such a thing again!

This issue starts my second year as your Editor. I began with the March/April 2014 issue, and hope you can see I've learned much since then in putting out **THE OCCASIONAL**.

However, there are three people I simply must thank, because without their help on each issue, well, **THE OCCASIONAL** simply would not be as good as it is. First is my wife Sherry, who puts up with me, proof-reads, and makes suggestions. Second, Sam Atkinson, who endures my constant carping for calendar dates and information. And finally, but most important, is Cindy Atkinson. Cindy produces most of the photographs I use, and answers constant questions about names and places as I continue to learn who our club members are. I simply could not produce this publication without her help.

Last year several folks submitted photos and articles, for which I am grateful. It is interesting to see how our Model T's are used and enjoyed. Who'd a thought one would have been on the stage at the MUNY? Or at a Homecoming Dance? Sam Atkinson has made some great suggestions to me for future articles, and I hope to get better control over my life so I can implement them this year. I've got another project in the works, for which I need your favorite touring photo - see the article on page 7. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to submit pictures and articles. This is the club's newsletter. So, as we begin 2015, plan to get out there and drive!

Nothing like a T for fun!

Steven G. Williams (steven1912@att.net; cell 636-575-1469; home 636-548-8256)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1 - Happy New Year!

9 - **Membership meeting, special starting time 7 PM**, Al Smith's Feasting Fox, 4200 S. Grand, St. Louis. A member of the US Secret Service will talk to us about identity theft. This is the fastest growing crime in the world and the criminals get more clever every day so everyone should make an effort to attend this special event. A question-and-answer session will follow. **The regular business meeting will begin as soon as the agent's presentation is over, around 8 PM**

February 13 - Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Al Smith's Feasting Fox, 4200 S. Grand, St. Louis.

March 8-12, 2015 - Model T Ford Winter Tour, Gainesville, FL. See [www.tinlizziefl.com](http://www.tinlizziefl.com) for more information.

13 - Membership Meeting, 8 PM, Al Smith's Feasting Fox, 4200 S. Grand, St. Louis.

14 - St. Patrick's Day Parade through downtown St. Louis. We are always looking for new faces to drive in this, the most fun parade of the year. Call Flo Reichardt to sign up - 314-723-0456.

19-20 - Pre-War Swap Meet, Chickasha, Oklahoma. The largest source of T parts in the country! Only pre-WW2 auto parts and related, allowed. For information: [www.pwsm.com](http://www.pwsm.com).

April 5, 2015 - Easter Show, Forest Park, St. Louis.

12 - Annual "VINTAGE FORD SHOW" at the Museum of Transportation, Kirkwood.

July 12-17, 2015 - MTFCA Jubilee National Model T Tour, Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. Hosted by the Foothills Model T Ford Club. Check *Vintage Ford* for more details as they become available.

## Helpful Tips

(Ed. Note - Each issue I'd like to include hints and tips here, so if you have any to suggest, email me - [steven1912@att.net](mailto:steven1912@att.net).)

**Battery tips** - If you've put your car away for the winter, be sure to use a master disconnect switch or remove one terminal to protect the battery. You might even connect a "maintainer" to the battery. Keep the electrolyte at the recommended level and use distilled water when it is needed to bring the fluids up to level. Also if the battery is not secured, it could shift, and internal damage could occur. Movement can also cause damage to wiring and connections.

**Oil** - As you start getting ready for spring parades, change your oil. I know some folks think they don't drive the car often enough to warrant an annual oil change, but oil is cheap insurance, especially since there is no oil filter on our cars. Also get and install a transmission oil screen with magnet from one of the T Vendors. I'd suggest when you change the oil, check the screen and the magnet. That may reveal any problems you should address before driving the car.

## TRADING POST

(If you have items "For Sale," "Wanted," or "To Trade," email the information to the Editor at [steven1912@att.net](mailto:steven1912@att.net). Items will be listed only once, so if you want it relisted, you must send it in again. Please include contact information.)

1923 Roadster for sale, \$9,000 to club members, great condition.  
Call Bob Heida, 636-458-2855.



# VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

By Sam Atkinson, photos by Cindy Atkinson

The annual Veteran's Day Parade was November 8th this year, and again the Model T Ford Club was well represented. The Veteran's Parade is designed to honor veterans and promote patriotism and it does both very well. There were quite a few floats representing various military and non-military organizations as well as several old car clubs. Several of our veterans had signage on the side of their cars indicated branch of service and other information. Enjoy the pictures, we had a grand time as usual!



Walt Kleinhans and Jerry Ellerbeck in Jerry's 1924 Touring car



Keith and Jenny Sanders and their 1926 Touring



Sam Atkinson and his 1927 roadster.



Mary Ellen and Steve Stevenson and their 1923 Touring

# MORE VETERAN'S DAY PARADE . . .



Steven Thum and his 1925 Touring



Barry Tanner and his 1927 Touring



Ed. Note - I don't know about you, but I just love pictures of Model T's on the streets, highways and byways. Especially when driven by our folks! Thanks all!



# 2014 Annual Meeting and Christmas Party, at the Thaxton, downtown St. Louis

by Steven Williams, photos by Cindy Atkinson

Once again we gathered together for business and a great time together! The food was excellent as usual, and we enjoyed a slide show of the club's various activities for the last year. President Sam Atkinson proposed a toast to the ladies of the club. (Apparently because they have to put up with us and the cars.) Board members and officers were recognized. New officers elected for the 2015-2016 term were:

Vice President, Steven Thum.

Treasurer, Joe Trehwella.

Board members: Kent Gilbane, Don Spaeth, Steve Stevenson, and Steven Williams

Kent Gilbane, in his acceptance speech for the Hard Luck Award, called it the Badge of Shame. But he made a very astute comment: "Failure is part of the success of this hobby." (And he is right. If we drive our cars, we will have failures. But the more we drive them, the more dependable they become - because we get them repaired and running right.) He encouraged us to bring our cars out on tours.



Sam told us that Joe Duever is very particular about where he buys his gas. He sometimes even asks the Trouble Trailer to deliver him to said brand gas station. Thus he was presented with his own special gas can, for that special brand of gasoline.



It finally happened! That event anticipated by all! Kent Gilbane won the 2014 "Hard Luck Award" On the Fall Tour his 2011 Touring lost the carburetor top, forcing a trip on the Trouble Trailer (personally I like "Vulture Wagon"), much to the delight of all watching. Kent was a good sport about it, and we all know that sooner or later, we might be in his shoes.



Mary Ellen Stevenson and Jenny Sanders selling raffle tickets for the door prizes.



Terry, the proprietor of the Thaxton, welcomed us and told us the history of the Thaxton, which was originally a Kodak Camera emporium.

*Annual Meeting and Christmas Party - continued . . .*



Great door prizes were raffled off, and drawings were held for the table decorations. Each person received a nice gift from the club - a very nice scarf for the ladies, and a 24 compartment organizer and battery powered warning light (great for the T's) for the men. The folks at the Thaxton donated some Cherry Moonshine - unfortunately not enough for everyone!

Newly elected board members and officers. Left to right: Steven Williams; Don Spaeth; Joe Trehwella; Steve Stevenson; Kent Gilbane; and Steven Thum



A great time being had by all



President Sam Atkinson presenting the Club's highest award and honor to Jenny and Keith Sanders. The "President's Award" (a Model T crankshaft, affectionately known as "the Shaft") is awarded each year to celebrate those who have given above and beyond to help make our club the success it is.

Congratulations Jenny and Keith!

## Tour Photos Needed!

I am working on a special project for The Occasional and our club. Please send me your best/favorite photo of you and your T on a tour. It can be any tour - local, national, and anywhere. The picture should include at least one person, your Model T, and some great background scenery. Along with the photo we need the location, year taken (if possible) and year/type of your Model T, plus the name/s of any people in the photo. See the example to the right. Please email them to me at [steven1912@att.net](mailto:steven1912@att.net) as soon as possible. Thanks!

Steven Williams at the Wyoming state line in their 1914 Model T Touring during a point-to-point tour through the Rocky Mountains in 2007.

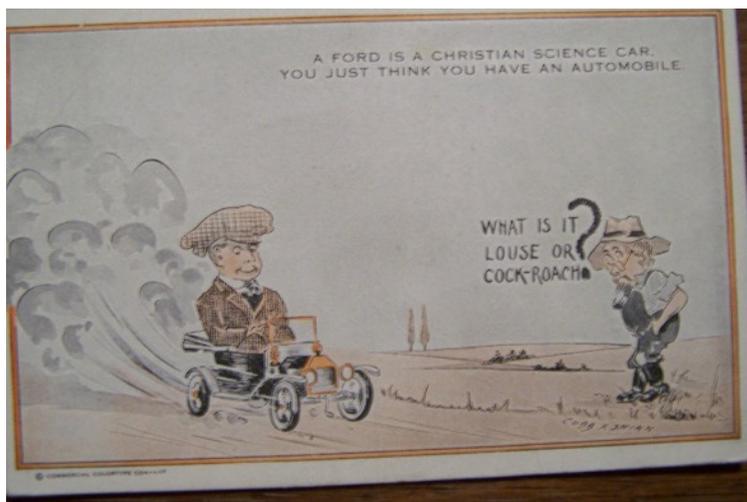


## THE PARADE THAT WASN'T

We had six cars scheduled to be in the annual Thanksgiving Day "Christmas in St. Louis Parade" this year. Unfortunately, the parade was postponed, and then cancelled. Your editor is disappointed the Foundation and the St. Louis Police Department could not coordinate, as did the Macy's Parade folks in New York, who successfully dealt with protestors at that parade. Below is the release announcing the cancellation:

For Immediate Release  
Christmas in St. Louis Foundation  
December 4, 2014

Due to scheduling conflicts that substantially reduced the availability of a number of high school marching bands and parade unit entries, the Christmas in St. Louis Foundation is not able to produce a holiday parade consistent with the quality our community deserves and it has received over the last thirty years. As such, we regret to announce that this year's parade previously rescheduled for December 13th is cancelled. We look forward to coming together next year on Thanksgiving morning for the 30th Annual Ameren Missouri Thanksgiving Day Parade.



**MODEL  
T  
POSTCARD  
HUMOR**

# SOME INTERESTING PERIOD PHOTOGRAPHS

Thanks to the Christmas Parade cancellation, we had extra space due to the way **THE OCCASIONAL** is printed. thought you would enjoy these pictures.



A nice winter's drive in the mud.

Right - Admit it, you'd love to have that snowmobile conversion equipment! Or at least one of those gas pumps.



Left - Can you imagine trying to drive in that kind of snow with Model T wheels? Even with chains! Seattle, WA in 1916.



Below left - Niagara Lockport & Ontario Power Company delivering oil in Redfield, New York.

Below - snowmobile attachment ad.



# MORE PICTURES . . .



Wreck and utility pole. Looks like T was hit on passenger side and forced into the pole.



It takes a rare talent to wreck like this. Or did the T just get tired and give up?



Left - bad day for a T. Now how in the world did that happen?

Below - Tin Lizzie Derby wreck, Santa Rosa, California, 1939. I think the caption speaks for itself, though it doesn't say whether the drivers lived or died. Now I rather hate to see Model T's in demolition derbys.



Above - The look on his face says it all...



SANTA ROSA JALOPIES  
Casualties: 19 cars, 8 drivers.

Acme

## OFFICERS

President - Sam Atkinson (2014-2015)  
636-386-2088

Vice President - Steven Thum (2015-2016) 314-961-3197

Treasurer - Joe Trehwella (2015-2016) 618-466-6192

Secretary - Dave Kuenzel (2014-2015)  
636-230-5887

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2014-2015:

Steve Dodson, 314-846-5588

Jim Kirkwood, 314-660-3934

Ron Olson, 314-837-8830

Bill Rhoads, 314-481-0087

Rich Steingrubey, 618-282-2400

2015-2016:

Kent Gilbane, 573-424-2599

Don Spaeth, 636-285-0851

Steve Stevenson, 314-640-0048

Steven Williams, 636-575-1469

## MARCH/APRIL OCCASIONAL DEADLINE

The deadline for news and items for the January/February issue of **THE OCCASIONAL** is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please submit any information to Steven Williams, steven1912@att.net, or call 636-575-1469.

Pictures and articles are wanted, but we need names with photos please.

Thanks!



Rev. Fr. Dufresne delivering mail, Blind River, Ontario.  
Date unknown.

## BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE MODEL T FORD CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month, 8 PM, at Al Smith's Feasting Fox Restaurant (exterior banquet hall), 4200 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO.

Membership: Keith Sanders is the membership chairman, and you may contact him regarding membership in both the Model T Club of Greater St. Louis, and our parent organization, the Model T Ford Club of America. Contact information: Telephone: 314-329-6377. Email: jenkeith4@att.net.

We strongly encourage national membership. Dues are only \$40 which includes automatic Local Membership. In other words, join MTFCA and your membership in the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis is free!!! Otherwise, dues to the St. Louis club are \$20 per year.

The advantage of belonging to the national organization is a bi-monthly award-winning publication - *The Vintage Ford*. It is a great publication, full of valuable information for Model T owners. Also, check out the national club's website at [www.mtfca.com](http://www.mtfca.com) and especially the forum which is full of great information.



WWW.STLMODELTCLUB.ORG

MODEL T FORD CLUB  
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.

P.O. BOX 2251  
FLORISSANT, MO 63032



If you have been wishing for snow this winter, be careful what you wish for! Unknown location, undated photo, but note the horse-drawn sled center right. Were people “tougher” back then?

The Model T Ford Club of America was formed to encourage and promote active interest in the Model T Ford and its history by membership unrestricted as to location. It is non-profit and non-discriminatory, and is dedicated to widening the base of the hobby by providing information, assistance, and direction to interested parties. Active touring chapters are encouraged, in order to spread interest and participation events. Regional and national activities are provided by the chapters. Members of the MTFCA may be members of the Model T Ford Club of Greater St. Louis with no additional dues or payment. For further information on joining, see inside the back cover.

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