

Backfire Editor
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The Backfire

21st Century

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The official newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club

2024 Club Officers

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Treasurer	Mary Beaman	(408)838-9224
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Membership	Ivan Jorgensen	(408) 874-6373
Tech and Safety	Dan Smith	(408) 287-3908
Endurance Run	Chris Bhirdo	(408) 505-0153
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Public Relations	Allan Greenberg	(408) 997-0879
AAHP	Peder and Maria Jorgensen	(408) 358-3398
	Allan and Lucy Greenberg	(408) 997-0879
Past President	Dan Gulko	scvmtc@gmail.com

The SCVMTFC is a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. The club was founded in 1969 to promote the history and the enjoyment of Henry Ford's Famous Model T. Meetings are held 7:30 pm, on the third Friday of the month, at the First Republic Bank, Los Altos CA. Membership dues are \$30 per year. Send dues to Ivan Jorgensen, 475 Sunnyoakes Ave. Campbell CA, 95008 or PO Box 2081 Saratoga CA 95070. Membership in the Model T Ford Club of America is encouraged. Dues are \$50 per year. Send dues to MTFCA P.O. Box 996 Richmond IN 47375-0996.

With the winter weather upon us, it seems a great time to make sure our Ts are ready for



the tour and parade season. I decided a carburetor rebuild was in order. Ordered the parts and after researching the process I was ready to go. Of course, I hit a little hiccup but a friend from the club helped solve that problem. Put the carburetor back on the truck, turned on the gas and pushed the start button. Not even a sputter so I open the carb bowl and no gas comes out. Checked the gas line and gas tank valve – everything looks good. Opened the gas tank and it's bone dry. OMG, I know crime is bad but I thought we lived in a good neighborhood. Someone got in the trailer and siphoned out all 3 gallons of gas that were in the tank. Well ok...more likely there's a leak somewhere. So, a seemingly simple carb rebuild just turned into a bigger project. But the good news is there's no event or parade coming up this weekend.

Speaking of winter driving, I was not surprised to see a couple of members show up in their Ts for the tour to the Moffett Field Museum, despite the wet weather. Jim Lukash and Bob Meneely earned the first driving patches of the year. Congratulations! The rest of us drove modern cars but I think it's safe to say everyone enjoyed the museum tour.

It's only 4 months away and planning is in high gear for our 53rd annual Endurance Run and Lowland Tour. It's great to see so many people working together to plan for a successful event. Looking forward to it! Likewise planning for Cars in the Park (formerly Antique Autos in History Park) is underway. There's always room for more volunteers on both of these events – both in planning and on the day of the event.

Volunteers are what make this club tick. Many thanks to Pam Caldeira for stepping up to volunteer as club secretary. After just one meeting she's already handling it like a pro. And thanks to Bob Meneely for switching from Programs back to Tour Coordinator. As Coordinator he does not set each tour. We need members to volunteer to set up a tour – it's not that hard I've done it. No volunteers – no tours. And that leaves an opening for a Programs Coordinator. It can be pretty simple but bring a lot of fun and enjoyment to the general meeting. For example, by talking to someone else I got an idea for the next Program. Every person should bring something that is a family heirloom/keepsake or they hope it will become one in the future. Bring up to 3 items and tell the group a little about it. See...it's not a hard job. I send this info to Jim for inclusion in the Backfire and we're set.

And since we're officially in tax season I have a question. Has anyone figured out how to get a Model T to be a tax deduction under IRS rules? It's kinda like a museum and I'll bet museums get a lot of deductions.

Happy motoring!

Lynn

SCVMTFC General Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2024

Attendees: 22 including 1 guest

Meeting Called to Order by President, Lynn Alens at 7:30 p.m.

President (Lynn Alens): The Programs Coordinator position is open and we are hoping that someone will volunteer to fill it. Lynn introduced Bob Meneely as the new 2024 Tour Coordinator. Mary Beaman could not attend this month's board meeting so it will be held on February 5th at the Beaman's house. The focus of the board meeting will be the 2024 budget which will be discussed at the February general meeting.

Secretary (Pam Caldeira): No update

Reading: Chuck Christensen shared a 1919 Ford Tractor Patent issued to Henry Ford.

Vice President (Chris Bhirdo): Chris nominated Pam Caldeira for the 2024 Secretary position and Jim Lukash seconded. Members voted and Pam Caldeira was unanimously elected.

Treasurer (Mary Beaman): No update

Programs: Bob Meneely announced that tonight's program will be "Does your car have a name?".

Backfire (Jim Boyden): No update. Send Jim any items you may have for the Backfire.

Tours (Bob Meneely): Bob discussed the Moffett Field Museum Tour. Volunteers are still needed to do future tours this year. Jim Lukash received a driving patch for the last tour of 2023.

Public Relations: No update

Membership (Ivan Jorgensen): No update. Remember to send in your 2024 dues. Dues are \$30.

Tech & Safety (Dan Smith): No update

Librarian: No update

Endurance Run (Chris Bhirdo): Chris reported that tech inspections and a BBQ will be held at Bertolotti's Garage. Registration forms and a letter from the chair for the website are finalized. Hotel accommodations are being worked on (contact the Jorgensens if you have ideas). An advertisement of the event poster will be in The Vintage Ford magazine. The event will begin and end at the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto and run through the Santa Cruz Mountains. Rob Caldeira is working on both speedster outreach and data base.

Antique Autos: No update

Website: No update

Historian: No update

Refreshments: Thank you, Bill Bratt! Contact Bill if you would like to bring refreshments to future meetings.

Sunshine: Helen Christensen sent cards to Jay Robison last October, Jim Boyden last December, and Nancy Alens this month.

Old Business: Vehicle requirements for the Cars in the Park event now include period-correct vehicles up to 1949. Lynn Alens has posters for your cars to generate interest in the club. Tech sessions need something to work on so if you want something done on your car, speak up!

New Business: New member, Larry Wolfsen, talked about his car and asked if the club has a registry of people who can help him with issues regarding the car. It was noted that there is a list of businesses and club members who can help in the roster. Bob Meneely suggested having the general meetings via Zoom but there was not enough interest. Lynn Alens proposed taking the "Put Together T" to nearby events to generate interest in the club. Members were interested and some events were suggested by the group. Bob Meneely mentioned that it would be best to have a dedicated team to do this. This will be researched more.

Good of the Order: Happy Birthday Norm Josephson, Happy Birthday Karen Archer, and Happy Anniversary Ed and Karen Archer!

Next Meetings: Board Meeting February 5th, General Meeting February 16th

Motion to Adjourn by Bill Bratt, Seconded by Oliver Johnson

Meeting Adjourned by Lynn Alens at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Caldeira, Secretary

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Regular Meetings, First Republic Bank

March 15th

April 19th

May 17th

June 21st

Endurance Run

June 8th and 9th

Cars in the Park

September 14th



Last Chance Tour

December 30, 2023: Inclement weather, two T's and two moderns met at the Rancho Shopping Center, and dodged rain drops all the way to the Last Chance Restaurant in Santa Clara. There we found one A and a bunch of other folk. Kudos to Jim Lukash for braving the rain in his 1913. That gap between the top of the windshield and the front of the top definitely does not keep the rain out. Jim was pretty wet when we arrived in Santa Clara, but he was happy to have finally earned his driving patch for 2023.

We had 21 folks having burgers, pizza and whatnot at the Last Chance., even though we were missing some of our normal crowd due to flu and colds. The eight ball tournament went on as promised. Four teams were formed and the shootout began. In the first round, the Beach dynasty (represented this year by Justin and Brandon) was upset by Noreen Blaze and Shane Snyder, a dark horse entrant. That's okay, we will make a T owner out of him. Also in the first round, Bob Meneely and Troed Johson succumbed to Barbara Beach and Chris Bhirdo. It was a very close final, multiple shots on the eight ball by both teams but in the end, Noreen and Shane prevailed. All in all, good crowd, good lunch, good entertainment. Always a popular tour, even in the rain. Bob meneely





Last Chance Repair Clinic

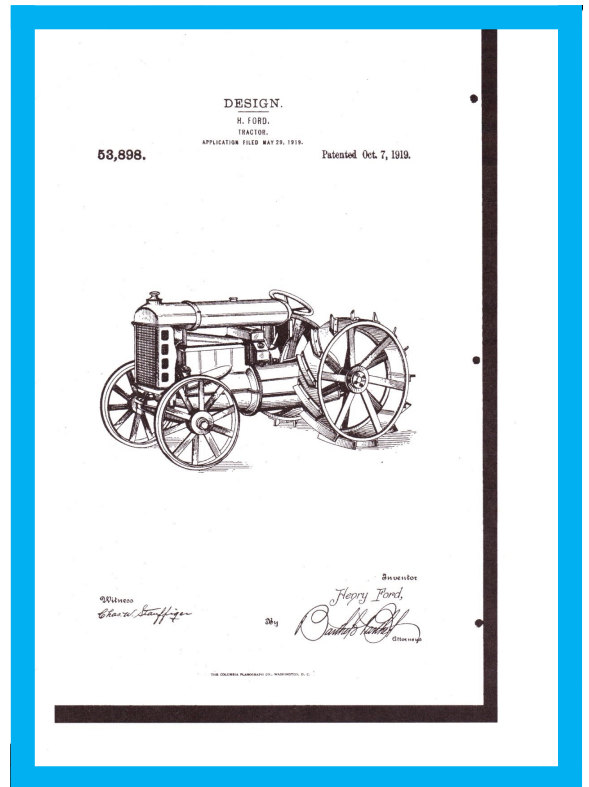
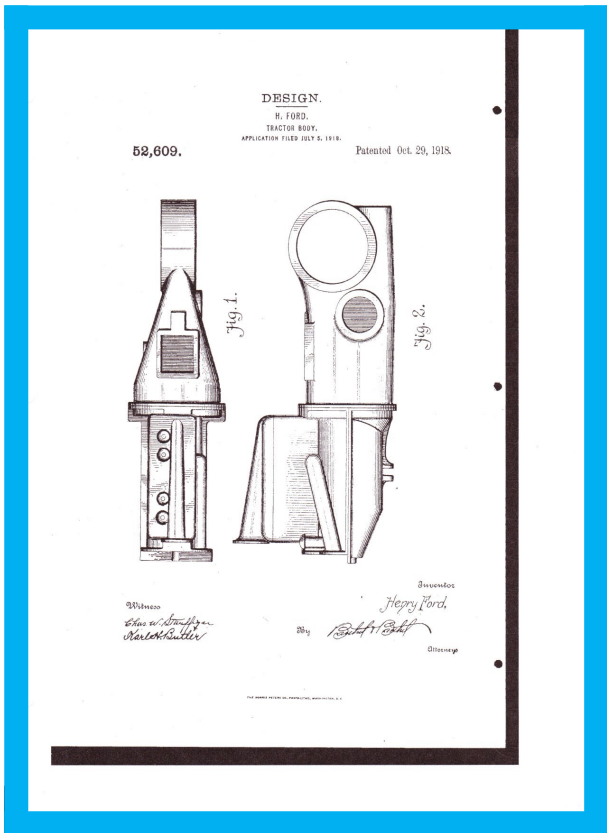
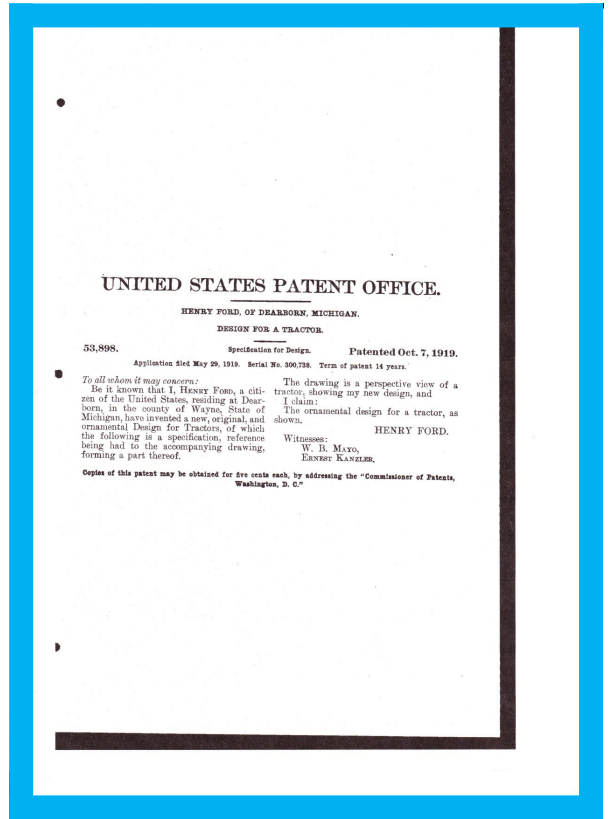
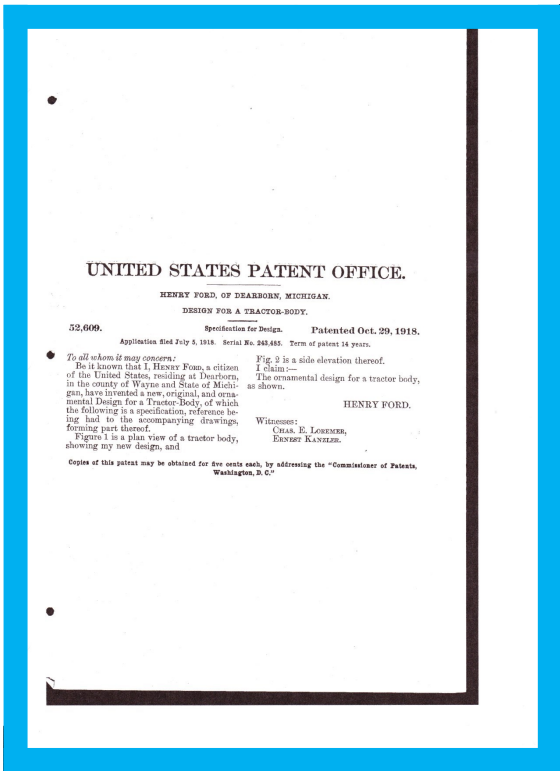
2023 was a difficult year with an injury that kept my T sitting alone for many months. Concern grew I might not get my annual T tour driving patch! While preparing for the November tour, I found the car would not start. After two weeks of study and work alone, I had compression, spark, and fuel but her engine refused to run.

Realizing I needed a "T whisperer" I reached out to Bob Meneely, who suggested we do a "repair clinic" session. So Kyle, Lynn and Bob arrived and we began to diagnose. Multiple issues were uncovered, including a sticking exhaust valve and the timing being off. The valve was due to sitting idly for months, and cured by some marvel mystery oil & run time. The timing issue likely occurred when some well meaning friends helped me during my injury accidentally get it out of sorts.

Thanks to the help from Kyle, Lynn, and Bob I was able to brave the rain for the last chance tour and earn my 2023 patch - then go on the equally rainy January Moffet field tour and earn my 2924 patch

Bottom line is keep those T's running as they do not like sitting unused. And if you need some help getting something done, reach out to the club and invite your T pals to lend a hand getting things running right again!





Submitted by Chuck Christensen

Moffett Field Museum Tour January 20th



MOFFETT MUSEUM TOUR

Jan 20, 2024: Raining again, two T's (Meneelys and Lukash) and two moderns (Christensens and Steeles) met at the designated starting point in Saratoga. Dodging raindrops, we took the expressways to Moffett Field. We were met there by the rest of our group who all drove moderns direct to the museum (Oliver, Larry and Vicki Johnson, Chris and Michael Bhirdo, Linda Larsen, and Lynn Alens. The museum has changed quite a bit since the last time the T club visited. My recollection was that it was somewhat of a warehouse full of miscellaneous stuff. Now, it is quite organized with a lot of very nice displays, and we had a very knowledgeable docent who guided us around before turning us loose to further explore. Actually, I must go back in the near future as I missed a lot in the time we had.

After leaving the museum, we did a little rain tour around the new Googleplex building which is on the corner of the Moffett Field site. Quite an architectural vision, with swooping rooflines and lots of glass. The rain tour ended at the Lakeside Café at the end of Shoreline Blvd, where we had lunch indoors. Rainy or not, I had a good time. And,,,,,, two driving patches were earned, myself and Jim Lukash (who was just barely dried out from the Last Chance Tour). Bob meneely



Christmas Lights Tour

3 Model T's, a Model A and a modern car participated in the Christmas lights tour, lead by Dan Smith on Saturday December 2nd. We met at the usual spot – Bills Cafe on Bascom Ave. By going earlier in the season, the traffic in the neighborhoods was a non-issue as there were no traffic jams or gridlock which will undoubtedly exist later in the Christmas season. After a loop through the Rose Garden area, we headed several blocks over to Willow Glen. In one area there we went up and down several streets in the same neighborhood as their holiday spirit is on full display. I don't think the neighbors compete with each other but they all participate to make quite a spectacular display of holiday lights. There were lots of people walking the streets in Willow Glen and many took notice of the antique cars cruising the neighborhood, some with Christmas lights on board. A great holiday tradition.



**Rare Sighting Along the route of the 53rd Annual Speedster
Endurance Run & Lowland Tour, June 8th and 9th.**



For Sale



FOR SALE:

Sturdy vintage trailer custom built for Model T. Balanced and trails well. Current CA license. Needs new wooden deck and electrical wiring, Asking \$100. If interested call Jeremy Wire at (408) 395-0386 after 8:00 pm,

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Bill Rickson (650) 753-3177

SATURDAY MAY 4, 2024

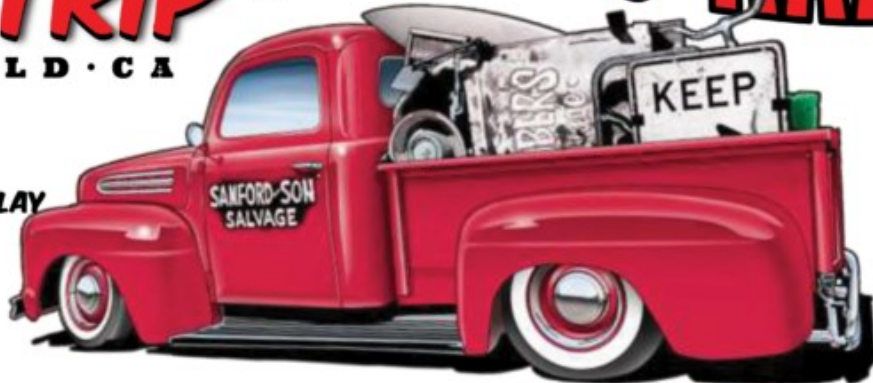
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