



### Calendar of Events

#### October 2011

- 20 General Meeting, 6:30 PM,  
Berge Ford, US 60 & Mesa Dr.
- 22 Mesa Riverview Car Show

#### November 2011

- 11 Veterans Day Parade
- 17 General Meeting, 6:30 PM,  
Berge Ford, US 60 & Mesa Dr.

#### December 2011

- Christmas Party

**East Valley Model T Ford Club**  
**230 S Val Vista Rd**  
**Apache Junction AZ 85119**



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
EAST VALLEY MODEL T FORD CLUB**

**October 2011**

**Volume 8, Issue 7**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By the time you read this Lynn and I should be back in Arizona. Hopefully you will save some of the "warm" weather so we can enjoy our pool this fall.



I am looking forward to an active events season this year. It seems like we are finding out about more events with the aid of the internet. John Peterson found out about a new car show at the Riverview Shopping Center in Mesa on Saturday nights, at least through November. We will participate in that on October 22. Hope to see many of you there!!

Remember, if you need help with your Model T, we can schedule a tech clinic. These are good opportunities for all of us to learn a little more about these wonderful vehicles and to socialize as well.

See you on the road, Austin

**EVMTFC MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Applications for membership in the EVMTFC may be obtained from any current member or from the Vice President/Membership Chairman, Steve Nissle. Applications can also be printed off from our website at:

**<http://evmtfc.com/EVMTAPPL.pdf>**

Dues are \$20 per year, include all family members, and are ***DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1st, 2012.***

Members joining after October 1st, are paid up for the following year. Please make payment by check payable to East Valley Model T Ford Club. Submit application in person at any member meeting or mail it to: David Veres, Treasurer EVMTFC, PO Box 24502, Tempe AZ 85285.

**RUCKSTELL TECH CLINIC**

*submitted by Steve Linney*

First off, I would like to thank all those who helped in getting my car back on the road after many long HOT days and hours were put in to it. I am very grateful for your knowledge and willingness to work on my speedster. I can't thank you enough. Special thanks to Jack Forsell, Joe Fellin and Dave Veres, you guys were great. THANK YOU!

Well the story begins, the club met for a car show at my work. The Las Sendas Elementary kids loved the cars and thought it was awesome. The principal (my boss) asked if I would take her for a ride. I said sure. We started up the hills of Las Sendas and I heard a noise. "That didn't sound good" she said. I replied "that was not a good sound". We turned around to head back to the school grounds, barely making it. Thank goodness, I didn't have to make her walk. I was a little stressed we weren't going to make it, but we laughed it off and up to the trailer it went.

After getting the car home and I started doing some diagnosis, I knew it was not good news. The gears in my Ruckstell basically were non-existent. This was the start of some very frustrating days, with parts that had a defect and timing off. The car is back on the road with a few minor adjustments still needing to be made, not with the rear end, but water pump or radiator. The rest of the story is in photos.

Thank you again to all who helped!

**SEPTEMBER 22—SCOTTSDALE  
WESTMINSTER FACILITY PARADE**

*submitted by Steve Nissle*

The Westminster assisted living center in Scottsdale is quite large. The circular drive around its perimeter is about 1 mile! It is located at the 101 and Cactus, so it was a trailering trip for Dave Veres and Steve Nissle.

The weather was OK in the shade but a bit warm otherwise. This was Westminster's first parade and they had a good turn out of

participants. The Phoenix Sun's cheerleaders were there. The Sun Devil mascot and ASU supporters as well. There were Scottsdale police on motorcycles, a Scottsdale High School marching band, a fire engine, some classic cars and of course 2 Model T Fords!

The parade started at 4pm and we drove 1 ½ times around the facility then parked in front so we could chat with the residents. It was a really great first time out for our cars after the hot summer months. As always everyone loves the model T's! We met some folks that were born the same year as our cars!

We look forward to the clubs upcoming parades and being with all of you!

### LOCAL CLUB EVENTS

#### **FUTURE EVENTS AND TOURS**

To all members—make your desires known—sponsor an event—you don't have to do it alone, there are others who are willing to help. Think up something fun you want to do and let the rest of us enjoy it with you!!

This is a family club where the more that participate, the more fun it is. Let Austin know what you would like to do. Remember, even if you don't have a T, we like you to participate. Many times others have available seats and are willing to have others ride along.

#### **GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS**

*Refreshments will be provided by:*

October 20th—Davisson/Diehl/Peterson

November 17th—Poppes

January 19th—Gratons

February 16th—

March 15th—

April 19th—

May 17th—

Please let Austin know which month you would be able to bring "light" refreshment snacks to our "General Meetings". You could also team up with another couple.

### **BOB WILDMAN AWARD**

The Bob Wildman Award is the highest honor the East Valley Model T Ford Club can bestow on one of its members. Bob was a charter member of the Club. Always willing to help in any way he could at club events, he readily lent a helping hand to individual members as well, even if it was something totally unrelated to the Model T. He loved to drive his T and participated in as many events as possible. A very giving and special person, Bob was the first deceased active member of the East Valley Model T Ford Club.

The Bob Wildman Award will be given each year to the member who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has contributed the most of him/her self to the club.

To nominate a deserving candidate, write to the Award Committee outlining your candidate's contributions and telling why you think he or she is deserving of the award. Even if your candidate is not selected, just being nominated is an honor in itself. Nominations should be in narrative form and may include other documentation such as pictures, news articles, etc.

**Nominations must be submitted to a member of the Board of Directors no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>.** The Board of Directors will be the Awards Committee. The award will be presented at the Christmas party.

### **EVMTFC WEBSITE**

You'll enjoy watching the T motoring back and forth across the page.

To see the monthly newsletter or any other interesting information, click on the corresponding tab and keep up on what's happening with the East Valley Model T Ford Club.

Join us for fun & fellowship!



[evmtfc.com](http://evmtfc.com)

**UPCOMING OTHER LOCAL EVENTS**

**CRUISE INS**...are regularly scheduled weekly or monthly car gatherings. Please confirm information before relying on it, locations and times can change without notice. A car club event, whether a show, race or cruise-in, is always great fun for the individual or family.

Check the links below for time and place, and the calendar, for weekly "cruisin'-ins".

<http://nationwidecarshows.com/index.php?page=cruiseins&stateid=AZ&cityid=Phoenix>

**OCTOBER 5—FOUNTAIN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE**

Fountain Hills High School and the town of Fountain Hills are excited to present the 4th Annual Homecoming Parade on the Avenue of the Fountains. The community is invited to line the Avenue when as many as twenty-five high school and community organization floats and entries go by and show off their Falcon Pride. Many of the Town Center merchants will join the fun and decorate their store windows and have sidewalk sales the day of the parade.

The Avenue of the Fountains will be closed to vehicular traffic from Saguaro Blvd to La Montana Dr from 4:30—7:30 pm.

For those interested in one of the biggest high school football games of the year, Friday, October 7th, at 7 pm is the Big Game against the Estrella Foothills Wolves.

For more information, contact Steve Nissle who has participated in this parade the past 3 years.

**OCTOBER 9 & NOVEMBER 13—MESA POWER SQUARE MALL VINTAGE CAR SHOW**

Power Square Mall,  
2055 South Power Rd (Power & Baseline)

The place to hang out the second Sunday of each month. 1-4 pm. Kick-off event on October 9th. The shows will take place in the south parking lot on the south side of the mall along Power Rd next to Entry 1. Free registration. Dance the afternoon away to "Double Eagle" Band. Visit all the new stores. Raffle and giveaways.

Call the mall office at 480-361-3059 to confirm your registration and get details. Space is limited. Complete registration form.

<http://powersquaremall.com/index.php?page=car-show-registration>

**OCTOBER 22—MESA RIVERVIEW CRUISE IN CAR SHOW**

Mesa Riverview, 1061 N Dobson Rd, Mesa AZ  
*East side people would approach from Alma School Rd, and westerly people would approach from Dobson Rd.*

Car show and cruise is each Saturday, 5-9 pm, through November. Event Entry Fee: Free.

There will be top 10 awards each week and dash plaques for the first 100 cars. Great restaurants and specials for the night, raffles and a great time!

If you need more information, contact John Peterson, as he stopped by Riverview at their first Saturday night car show and did a quick walk through. According to John, prime parking is on the theatre district street from Bass Pro to the Cinemark, both sides and the center of the street. The area has misters and good lighting. There was a bandstand with live music in the center hub. Nancy Perry, promoter, will reserve a block of space for our club.

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2011/09/13/20110913mesa-riverview-cars0914.html>

*Please let John or Austin know if you will be attending!*



**OCTOBER 22—PHOENIX  
TCH MONSTER MASH**

*submitted by Bert Diehl, Jr.*

*It's a 'Monster Mash'!*

Boo, shriek and moan, it's getting to be that time of the year again. Ghoulies, ghosts, goblins, witches and the like start coming out of the closet, from under the bed, and from the cemetery down the street. Pumpkins with faces start appearing in windows and on front steps, cob webs are commonplace and headstones seem to sprout up in front yards. It's Halloween and if you hasn't gotten into the 'spirit' yet you just might want to see what's wrong witch you!

The Center for Habilitation (TCH) located in Tempe is going to celebrate Halloween by putting on an event called the Monster Mash: A Spirit of Giving. **It's scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7 to 11 pm at 4711 East Ray Road in Phoenix, i.e. Ahwatukee.** The facility being used is a vacated Steinmart store so there should be plenty of room for shenanigans.

Live music will be provided by that underground famous band known as "Sweaty". There will be a costume contest, an auction/raffle, dinner, and haunted walk-thru for a mere \$60 per person. Registration for the event can be made on line at: [www.tch-az.com](http://www.tch-az.com)

Included in the cost of the event is 2 free drink tickets and there is a cash bar for those who need more than two 'bloody' drinks to calm nerves or get in the 'moooooo-d'.

The monies raised through this event will go towards services for people with disabilities which is what TCH is all about. For more info on TCH either peruse the TCH website or call the developing witch herself, Dawn Hawking,

at 480 730-4221. TCH is still looking for corporate sponsors and good raffle items. If you have a good lead or an item to donate please **contact EVMTEC members Bert and Nancy Diehl** or Dawn Hawking at TCH.

Thank you and we hope everyone has a really scary good time!



**\*Note:** TCH is also looking for two old cars to put on display at the entrance to the event. One of them will be my Model A Coupe but **it would be nice to have a Model T** for the other vehicle. The organizers are planning on placing skeletons in the cars so beware, there may be bone fragments left on the seat. Ah, ha, ha, cackle, cackle! Boo!



## SAVE the DATE

TCH Monster Mash:  
A Spirit of Giving Gala

Powered by



**When:** Saturday – October 22, 2011

**Time:** 7pm – 11pm

**What:** Live Music by "Sweaty"  
Costume Contest  
Auction/Raffle  
Dinner  
Haunted Walk-Thru

**Where:** 4711 East Ray Road  
Phoenix AZ 85044  
(Old Stienmart)



**Ticket Prices: \$60 each**  
**Table of 10 reservation \$1000**  
*Ticket includes entrance to the event, dinner, live band, and two drink tickets (cash bar after). Must be 21 years of age.*

**Funds raised will go toward services for people with disabilities.**

For more information contact TCH-Dawn Hawking at 480-730-4221

[www.tch-az.com](http://www.tch-az.com)



**OCTOBER 23—GLENDALE  
PARTS EXCHANGE  
AUTOMOTIVE SWAP MEET**

Glendale Community College  
6000 W Olive Ave, Glendale AZ

Arizona's oldest and finest continuous running event. Funds provide financial assistance towards Glendale College Automotive Scholarships and many other local charitable organizations. Event begins at 7:00 am.

Event Entry Fee:

Vendor swap spaces \$35/20' X 20' -  
- Car Corral \$10/car.

Contact: Dick at 602-618-0577.

**NATIONAL EVENTS**



**JUNE 17-22, 2012—LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
HEARTLAND OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL MTFCA TOUR**

Mark your calendars to join your fellow T members in Nebraska, for the MTFCA's 2012 National Tour hosted by the Nebraskaland Model T and Antique Car Club.

Watch for more information in your Vintage Ford magazine. Space is limited. Send in your registration early.

Check the website often for more information.

<http://heartlandofamericattour.com/index.html>

**MODEL T FORD CLUB OF AMERICA**

The East Valley Model T Ford Club is a Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. At least **50%** of our members must be members of the national club to keep our free liability insurance. Membership in the MTFCA includes six issues of *The Vintage Ford* and a vote for the Board of Directors. Dues are \$35 annually. Life memberships are available.

Are your dues paid up? Most MTFCA memberships expire at times other than the end of the calendar year, so be sure to renew your membership in the MTFCA when due. If your MTFCA member number is not listed on the roster, please call Austin with the number. The number is shown on your mailing label when you receive your Vintage Ford magazine. You may also be carrying a membership card in your wallet which has the number on it.

Direct correspondence to:

The Model T Ford Club of America  
PO Box 126, Centerville IN 47330-0126  
765-855-5248; FAX 765-855-3428  
E-mail: [admin@mtfca.com](mailto:admin@mtfca.com)

Online membership form:

<http://www.mtfca.com/clubpages/joinamember.htm>

Need some tips (*or do you have some to share*) from a fellow T enthusiast? The Model T Forum is a discussion board that can be searched by time of post (New Messages search) or by matching text (Keyword Search). Each of these searching mechanisms provide convenient methods to locate discussions of interest.

<http://www.mtfca.com/cgi-bin/discus/discus.cgi?pg=topics>



## A WOMAN AND HER LIZZIE

*Submitted by John Peterson*

For us, Lizzie Jane—our Model T—was brought into the family by my wife, Jan. At that time, in 1986, I was trying to re-create my youth with a 1955 Oldsmobile. We were attending a number of car shows and seeing a number of older cars, mostly hot rods. Jan thought it would be interesting to have “a *really* old car,” one from the 1920’s or early 1930’s. The early Ford V-8’s attracted her, but she was fascinated by the 1920’s costuming.

As a start on our search, we opened up the Sunday paper car ads. Lo and behold! There was an ad for a 1924 Ford in Tempe about three miles from our house. I knew little about Model Ts—my only experience had been as a 13-year-old with a \$10 “T” chassis for off-road fun, but that is another story.

After a little debate Jan decided to bring this car into our home. Jan named her: the *Lizzie* is for the standard Tin Lizzie, and *Jane* is for her plain Jane appearance. Liz must have suspected that she was in for a change in lifestyle when I hopped in. My recollection of driving a stripped-down chassis as a 13-year-old led to a rather aggressive first spin. Jan, who was in her car following me, says that the first turn was on two wheels. My only excuse is that it was raining.

The seller was marginally active in the Sun Country Club and gave us the phone number of the club vice president, Dale Novotny; Dale drove to our house in his “T” the next day to sign us up. His trip assured us that “T”s were still up to the rigors of modern driving. This was our introduction to vintage-era cars and a lot of fun people.

Lizzie was in unrestored running condition and looks essentially the same now, 25 years later. She had spent her working life in Southern California. The original title was issued in Los Angeles. She apparently was used for quite some time to commute into San Diego. The first time I removed the rear seat and side panel, I found hundreds of receipts from the same San Diego parking garage. The car owner must have been tidy and dropped each day’s stub through the window channel. In the car’s later dormant years I understand it was housed at a Ford garage, perhaps on display or, more likely, just

shoved back in a dark corner and forgotten. In any case she was well protected and shows no wood deterioration or metal rust.

Our decision was just to start driving her and fix things as they broke. In the first year a lot of them broke: we had proud possession of the Sun Country club’s hard luck trophy for most of that year. In her lifetime old Liz has seen more than a few trips around the block. After an embarrassing trip back from the Vulture mine (what an appropriate place) at Wickenburg on a trailer, I decided it was time to pull the engine for an overhaul. This was when the high mileage became evident. Other harrowing experiences occurred at a national tour when the differential thrust bearing disintegrated en route from the Grand Canyon and at a regional tour in Tucson when the rear axle broke. Fun. For Lizzie’s modesty let’s not get into the wear and tear details and just say that the old gal has seen a number of major facelifts.

Over the years Liz has proved to be a real workhorse. She has taken us around Arizona from the top of the Chiricahua Mountains, through midday Phoenix traffic, and to the Grand Canyon, to the Salt River lakes and the hills of Globe. From 100° Easter parades to a rare sleet and snow day in the Valley. We have delivered guests to most of the top resorts in the Valley and have driven up the steps and into the ballroom of the San Marcos Hotel. Liz is also adept at room and board; she can be converted into sleeping quarters for one or two and serves hot food from her manifold cooker. Liz has taught “T” driving at clinics and has shown off at numerous retirement communities and assisted living homes. There is not much that this old gal won’t do. She even traveled to Colorado to transport Jan in her hometown Strawberry Days parade—a parade Jan had not participated in since her school days. Who knows—the old gal may still have a few tricks up her sleeve.

I think Jan plans to keep ol’ Liz around for awhile: she paid the five-year license option, and Lizzie Jane gets the prime parking spot in the carport. Jan is adamant that Lizzie will not be forced to swelter in the heat, no matter WHAT tour is offered.

We feel pleased to help keep this history alive and show that these century-old Tin Lizzies can still show their mettle (metal--pun intended) in the modern world.

**THE OLDEST CAR IN DUSSELDORF***Submitted by Joe Fellin*

My friend Manfred Stanjura of Hermersberg, Germany recently sent me a clipping of what I felt was some interesting publicity about a Model T. Since he has been here and had the opportunity to ride in my CenterDoor, he is acutely aware of my interest in anything "T".

The article is attached but may require a bit of translation since it is from the *Rheinische Post*, a major newspaper in Dusseldorf, Germany. Now Dusseldorf is the 7th largest city in Germany with a population of around 1.5 million so the article does not refer to some small country bumpkin village. At any rate, a newly restored 1911 Model T Touring Car was recently named as "The Oldest Car in Dusseldorf". Probably not a great surprise since we are also known as "The Car of the Century" and "The Car that put America on Wheel". So it appears that the accolades continue.

The article goes on to mention that it was purchased by Manfred Niepenberg from Unterbach (near Dusseldorf). When he bought the car, it was a total wreck. But today, the 20 hp vehicle is more reliable than some new cars (probably some poetic license here). The car was purchased sight unseen from the U.S. and not in running condition. But, as a Lufthansa technician for more than 30 years, Mr. Niepenberg felt up to the task and took on the challenge.

Challenges included badly termite infested wood work as well as wheels which defied description. After completely disassembling the vehicle, the chassis was sandblasted, the body frame was rebuilt from new wood, the sheet metal was welded into condition, the leather seating was upholstered by a cousin and the wheels were built by a specialist in New Zealand..

After a mere 1 1/2 years ( a far cry from my 8 year restoration journey) and probably tons of Euros, the time arrived to start up the recreation but, unfortunately, the engine turned over with a puff and a bang, but would not start. Turned out to be simply a timing miswiring. After solving these problems, Mr Niepenberg proclaims that the only time he has to stop now is "for

photographers". A fitting compliment for another restored Model T. And the vehicle also passed it's "TUV" mandatory inspection required every 2 years in Germany.

And so, a Congratulations to Mr.Niepenberg for another Model T on the road after 100 years.

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING****FOR SALE:**

Assorted Model T parts such as hogs heads, heads, front & rear ends, frame, Model A crankshafts, etc. Call Austin at 480-288-0695.

\*\*\*\*\*

1966 Triumph TR4 A 90% restored. \$7,700.

1966 Mustang V/8 Coupe, A Code, Restoration started. \$5,400.

1964 Ranchero 6 Cylinder, Restoration started. \$4,600.

1953 Ford Victoria, 80% restored. Coronado Kit, Wide White Walls, Skirts. \$8,500.

I have various Model T parts for sale. I'm looking for 1915/1916 Model T fenders.

Call Steve Francois at  
480-946-3590 or 480-612-3603.

\*\*\*\*\*

1917 Model T Roadster. Asking \$10,000. Call Paul Cocking at 480-981-0363, 7327 E. Baywood (Mesa East Park).

\*\*\*\*\*

1924 Model T Speedster. Collen Varnson, House #23, 2055 Apache Wells Condos, McKellips & 56th St. Call 701-330-8651.

\*\*\*\*\*

1931 Model A Ford Coupe w/rumble seat. All original and in very good condition. Everything works and she drives like new. Two tone green with black fenders. Asking \$14,500. Also have a complete Model A rear end for sale. Call Bob Sarraillon at 480-945-8700.



**RECIPE OF THE MONTH****WATER BAGELS**

by: *Joe Fellin*

1 package dry yeast  
1 1/2 cups warm water (105-115 degrees)  
3 Tablespoons sugar  
1 Tablespoon salt  
4 - 4 1/2 cups flour  
1 gallon water

Stir yeast into 1 1/2 cups warm water in large bowl; let stand until bubbly, about 5 minutes. Stir in sugar, salt and enough flour to make soft dough. Knead dough on lightly floured board until soft and elastic, adding remaining flour as necessary.

Let dough stand, covered in warm place 15 minutes. Punch down dough; roll on lightly floured board to rectangle 13x4 inches (about an inch thick). Cut dough into 18 strips with floured knife. Roll each strip gently to form rope 1/2 inch thick; moisten ends and press together to form bagels. Put bagels on floured cookie sheet. Let stand, covered, 20 minutes.

Heat 1 gallon water to boiling in large saucepan; reduce heat to medium. Place 3 or 4 bagels in saucepan; simmer, uncovered, 7 minutes - no longer. Drain on towel. Repeat with remaining bagels.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Bake bagels on ungreased cookie sheet until golden, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Makes 18 bagels.

Note: To top bagels with poppy or sesame seeds, remove them from the oven after 10 minutes baking. Brush with 1 egg white beaten with 1 tablespoon water; sprinkle with seeds. Continue baking until golden.

**EVMTFC OFFICERS**

**Austin Graton**, President (2008-2011)  
480-288-0726 (Board Member)

**Steve Nissle**, Vice President/Membership  
480-226-6883 (Board Member)

**Jan Peterson**, Secretary  
480-969-0695 (Board Member)

**Dave Veres**, Treasurer  
480-897-2209 (Board Member)

**George Elms**, Past President  
(2005-2007) 480-831-0835

**OTHER ASSIGNMENTS**

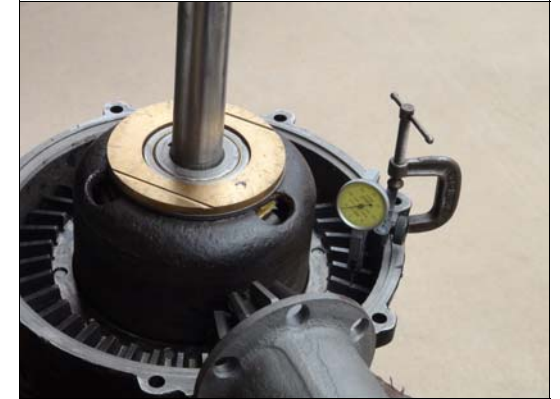
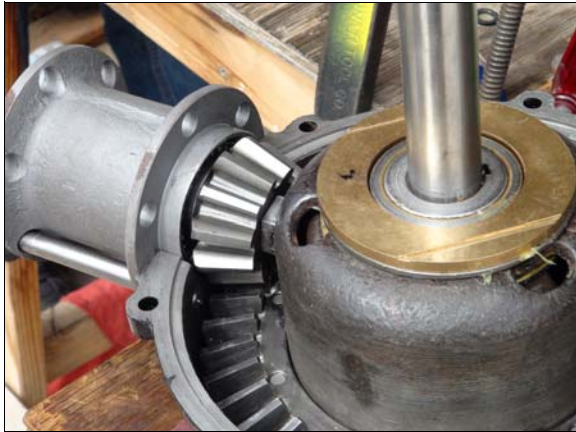
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480-969-0695

**Mel & Lorie Poppe**, Editor  
402-984-6381

**Joe Fellin**, Co-Editor  
480-288-6463





The crack East Valley Team is at it again - this time the Ruckstell of Steve Linney's Speedster - over many months





1913 Model T  
(one of 13 available for visitor rides)



Herschell-Spillman Carousel  
with Becky on board



Model T in Henry Ford Museum  
(not quite ready for prime time)



1913 Model AA Bus



Steam powered locomotive named *Edison*



Omnibus - horse drawn bus-like carriage





Ronnie Johnston's '27 Fordor Sedan at the Superior Car Show along with 100 other showpieces - Sept. 17, 2011





Westminster Facility Parade, Scottsdale - September 22, 2011





Test Drive:  
*It's easy. Pull my ears down and I'll go.*



Ready for a Night Out:  
*At least she knows how to dress well.*



Hard-Luck Trophy:  
*I had a bad air day - so what?*



The Start of Her Sickness:  
*Is it serious, Doc?*



Strawberry Day in the Rain:  
*I came to Colorado for this?*



Ride-the-Divide Tour in Frisco, Colo.:  
*Wow! This is what I expected!*



Sleeping Quarters for One:  
*Eighteen wheelers have nothing on me*



Manifold Meatloaf:  
*Just don't ask for a souffle.*



First Pull of New EVMTFC Chuckwagon:  
*For fancy cuisine I'll bring my friend Lazy Lizzie.*

Lizzie Jane's first 25 years in the Peterson family: *I may be ageless, but they sure are not.* Lizzie Jane





A portfolio of great T's from Dave's friend in Sweden



# Das älteste Auto von Düsseldorf

Manfred Niepenberg aus Unterbach feiert heute den **100. Geburtstag** seiner „Tin Lizzie“. Als er seinen Ford kaufte, war der Wagen ein Wrack, heute ist das **20-PS-Gefährt** zuverlässiger als viele neue Autos.

VON CHRISTIAN HERRENDORF

Das Jahr 1911: In Deutschland regiert Kaiser Wilhelm II., in England wird George V. gekrönt, und in Nordamerika rollt eine von am Ende 15 Millionen Königinnen der Autos aus dem Werk von Henry Ford: eine „Tin Lizzie“ (was im Deutschen in etwa Blechliesel bedeutet). 100 Jahre später brummt dieses Modell T immer noch über die Straßen, inzwischen allerdings in Düsseldorf. Am Steuer sitzt Manfred Niepenberg, der heute den Geburtstag seines Wagens feiert, weil die Nummer des Motors belegt, dass er 1911 gebaut wurde.

Ende der Achtziger entdeckt Niepenberg die „Tin Lizzie“ in den Kleinanzeigen einer Oldtimerzeitschrift. Der Inserent hatte den Wagen ungesehen aus den USA importiert, ihn aber nie zum Laufen gebracht. Niepenberg, der mehr als 30 Jahre als Flugzeugtechniker bei der Lufthansa arbeitete, nimmt die Herausforderung an – und erschreckt sich doch, als der Wagen in seiner „Bastelbude“ eintrifft: Termiten haben das Holz so zerfressen, dass die Teile innen hohl sind. Die Rückwand ist mit vielen Farben bemalt, die Räder eiern.

Niepenberg zerlegt den Wagen in alle Einzelteile. Das stählerne Chassis lässt er sandstrahlen, das Holzgerüst baut er neu, die Seitenbleche schweißt er frisch zusammen, sein Cousin polstert ihm die Ledersitzbank. Nur das Problem mit den Rädern lässt sich nicht beseitigen – bis der Düsseldorfer in einer alten Zeitschrift auf einen Spezialisten aus Neuseeland stößt. Mitten in der Nacht, wenn in Neuseeland Tag ist, ruft Niepenberg dort an und fragt ganz vorsichtig, ob es vielleicht irgendwie möglich sei, Räder für eine



Manfred Niepenberg (77) hat für sein Modell T von Ford aus dem Jahr 1911 das passende Kennzeichen erhalten.

RP-FOTOS (4): HANS-JÜRGEN BAUER



Spiegel und Lampe hat der Eigentümer passend nachgerüstet.



Das Holzenkrad lässt sich überraschend leicht drehen.



In der Kühlerfigur befindet sich ein Thermometer für den Motor.

„Tin Lizzie“ zu kriegen. „What's the problem?“, fragt der Neuseeländer. Drei Monate später bringt der Paketdienst die neuen Räder.

Nach eineinhalb Jahren Arbeit kommt der besondere Moment, der erste Start. Niepenberg kurbelt und kurbelt, es knallt und pufft, aber der Wagen springt nicht an. Der Bastler blättert noch einmal alle Unterlagen durch, schließlich entdeckt er, dass die Schaltreihenfolge nicht stimmt. Er steckt um, und endlich folgt auf „Knall“ und „Puff“ das Brummen, das an einen großen Rasenmäher erinnert. Anhalten muss Niepenberg danach vor allem für Fotografen und Leute, die ihm auf die Schulter klopfen und sagen: „Das ist mal ein Auto.“

In der Werkstatt stehen seitdem nur noch Schönheitskorrekturen an: ein schwarzer Kutschkoffer für die Ladefläche, eine goldene Lampe für die Seite und ein kleiner Fahrradacho. 70 km/h hat der schon angezeigt. Liegen bleibt der Ford nur ein einziges Mal, bei einem großen Wolkenbruch in Mönchengladbach. Auch die Herren vom TÜV haben bei ihren Kontrollen nur einen Wunsch: eine Runde mit der „Tin Lizzie“ drehen dürfen.

## INFO

### Modell T

**Produktionszeit** 1908 bis 1927

**Verkauft** 15 Millionen Exemplare

**Verblieben** In den USA gibt es große T-Modell-Clubs, in Deutschland sind 57 registriert.

**Leistung** 20 PS

**Höchstgeschwindigkeit** rund 70 km/h

**Pedale** drei (Vorwärts, Rückwärts, Bremse)



Comin' in on a "Wing and a Prayer"



"Hmm. There must be something good here with all those Hummingbirds flying around."



"Yep. There is. This is good - really good. Now if I can just get rid of those pesty Hummingbirds."

Modeled by a female *Ladderback Woodpecker*