



# T-rific T Tales



July, August, Sept. 2019

Volume 4, Issue 3

*Newsletter of the T-Rific T's Club of West Central Wisconsin*



## Evolution of the Motor Car

By Fred Myers

In the pioneering period  
Of the so called horseless hack,  
When autos wound up on the side  
And bottomed up the back.  
The skipper sat well up the front  
To steer it to and fro,  
When he wasn't busy tinkering  
To make the darn thing go.

As time went on and models  
Changed a bit from year to year,  
They built 'em longer in the front  
And shorter in the rear.

Each model saw the driver  
Still further in retreat  
Till he scarce could see the highway  
From his retroactive seat.

The radiator now extends  
At least a foot or two  
Beyond the forward axle  
And methinks, before they're through,  
We yet may see a motor car  
So freakishly designed  
The driver will not ride at all -  
He'll trot along behind!

**INDIANHEAD**  
**SWAP MEET**  
**AND**  
**CAR SHOW** **45<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Sun. August 4th 2019**

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN STATE FAIRGROUNDS**  
GATES OPEN AT 7AM  
**CHIPPEWA FALLS - WISCONSIN**  
HWY. 124 NORTH EDGE OF TOWN.

Bring your vintage car and join the T-rific T Club  
at their usual designated corner.

**IMPORTANT:** If participating, plan on arriving at 7 a.m.  
or contact Denny Mickesh so he can save a spot.

Short club meeting on Sunday at 1 p.m.



<https://t-rificts.com>



## Club Officers

- ♦ President Stephanie Culver  
Phone: 715-822-4015  
Email: crazy-collector@centurytel.net
- ♦ Vice-President Jack Running  
Phone: 715-577-5798 (cell)  
Email: jrunning1@att.net
- ♦ Secretary Pauline Spiegel  
Phone: 715-404-5774  
Email: jpspie210@yahoo.com
- ♦ Treasurer Sheila Running  
Phone: 715-832-9686 (home)  
Email: jrunning1@att.net

## Newsletter Info

Send newsletter items to Pauline  
Spiegel by email:  
[terrificclub@gmail.com](mailto:terrificclub@gmail.com) or U.S.  
mail:  
16874 210th Street, Jim Falls, WI  
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- ♦ Home Phone:  
715-382-4350
- ♦ Cell Phone:

## Inside This Issue:

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## TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

One purpose of the T-Rific T's is to get more Model T's re-stored and on the road. To help with this goal, members were asked to volunteer in their area of expertise so that when a fellow member needs help, he/she knows who to call:

- ◆ Bill Glass: 715-723-7202 or 715-210-5530
- ◆ Del Hanson: 715-234-7308 or 715-205-9024
- ◆ Dan Doughty: 715-835-0685
- ◆ Larry Hanson: 715-837-1578
- ◆ Brian Tourville: 715-664-8830
- ◆ Ernie Loga: 715-832-7302
- ◆ Denny Mickesh (electrical): 715-723-9719
- ◆ Stephanie Culver (fuel or ignition): 715-822-4015
- ◆ Bob Baker (body work): 715-834-2158



### Club Meeting Minutes - May 5, 2019 - Mike Webb's Warehouse

Members present: Larry Hanson, Dennis Mickesh and Ruth, Jack and Sheila Running, Mike Frazzell, Chris Harder, Fred and Suzie Shiffer, Stephanie and Bill Culver, Tom and JoAnn Nanstad, Adam and Krista Behn, Mike Webb, Cindy and Marv Yardley, John and Pauline Spiegel, Glen Garey, Brian Tourville, Ken Ganz

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Culver. Introductions made. Financial report provided by Treasurer Sheila Running. Information shared on the Munson Bridge Car Show Club Event on June 16. Club members invited to participate. Discussion on coordinating a club tour in the fall, perhaps in the Rice Lake area. Mike Webb suggested having a club picnic at Carson Park this summer. Jack Running invited the club to join their Fire Truck Club picnic and car show at Carson Park July 28.



Other sharing included Mike Webb offering to show (after the meeting) a solar powered water kiosk his company created to clean water (change bad water into drinkable water by killing the bacteria and viruses). This device can be taken anywhere in the world. Ken Ganz also shared that he has an acquaintance with some old car parts. Chris Harder stated he brought some rims along that he has for sale. Cindy Yardley will provide updated club information for the International Model T Club.

Recently deceased club members Gordy Gee and Jim Thill were saluted/toasted. Also toasted Bob Baker (experiencing poor health) in appreciation for his contributions to the club. Everyone asked to keep Linda Hanson in thoughts and prayers as she is also experiencing health issues. Meeting adjourned. Several items brought so a small auction held and presentation of water kiosk.





## T-RIFIC T CLUB EVENT

On a beautiful Sunday, June 16, 2019, John and Pauline Spiegel and Tom and JoAnn Nanstad with their vintage cars met up at Jim Falls and ventured to Withee, Wisconsin, to team up with the Chippewa Valley Model A Club to participate in the third annual Father's Day Car Show at Munson Bridge Winery. Club member George Utphall and girlfriend Jean also attended. Munson Bridge owners Tom and Sheri Rohland provided a delicious lunch. It was a beautiful day, great car show, and FUN time.





## CLUB EVENT - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The T-Rific T' Club members have been invited to join the Chippewa Valley Chapter of SPAAMFAA (that's the old fire truck organization) at the Chippewa Valley Museum for a picnic and show on July 28 at 11 a.m. For the past several years that organization has done an annual get-together there and have been part of the CV Museum's Antique Fire Truck Show. This year, adding some older vehicles (like ours) interspersed will be an added draw for this great museum.



### Details are as follows:

The picnic will begin at 11 a.m. sharp and will conclude by 12:30 so that we are available to answer questions and show our vehicles to the public when the museum opens at 1 p.m. We get to park and enjoy the shade from the large trees right in front of the museum. The event will conclude when the museum closes at 5 p.m. You can come and enjoy part or all of the afternoon - whatever works for you.

The SPAAMFAA group will purchase items for "make your own sub sandwiches" and you are asked to bring a dish to pass and your own drinks. They will also provide paper products, silverware, napkins, and condiments such as mayo, mustard, etc. A donation (around \$2.00 per person) is asked to help defray the cost of the ingredients for the subs.

**Please RSVP to Jack or Sheila Running (715-832-9686) by July 22.** Please let them know if you are planning to attend and whether you will need parking for your vehicle/vehicles. We hope that you will all be able to come, enjoy a delicious lunch and FUN afternoon, make some new acquaintances, and have great conversations.

Note: The Chippewa Valley Museum is located in Eau Claire's beautiful Carson Park right next to the Paul Bunyan Camp, so those facilities will be open and available for you to visit as well.



## 2V Radiator Fan

Tom Nanstad has a 12V radiator fan to give away. It was mounted to the back side of his 1925 Depot Hack radiator. He doesn't need it anymore. Any club member can have it for free. Call or email Tom 715-577-0992 or email [oleloginn@yahoo.com](mailto:oleloginn@yahoo.com)



## 1924 MODEL T DEPOT HACK FOR SALE



Very nice condition. Restored and painted with black Centari enamel in 2006, wood revarnished with spar varnish in 2017. Brand new radiator and headlight reflectors in 2018. Very little time on engine, good compression, and driven less than 100 miles in last 12 years. Electric starter. Starts and runs very well. Manual, spare parts, and documents included. Clear title. Does not run on magneto. Will email additional photos on request.

\$15,000.

Mike Frazzell

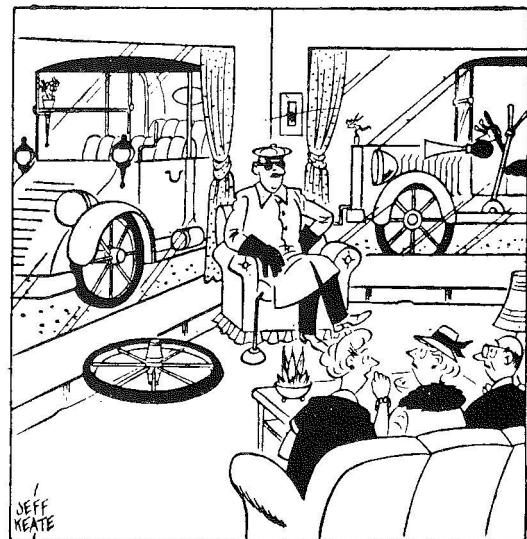
[\(mikefrazzell@gmail.com\)](mailto:mikefrazzell@gmail.com)

Fall Creek, WI

920-915-7397

## AREA CAR SHOWS and EVENTS:

- ♦ July 11 - 13: 46th annual Iola swap meet and car show
- ♦ July 21: Main Street Cruise In Car Show – Downtown Chippewa Falls 5 – 8 p.m.
- ♦ July 28: Beldenville Old Car Show and Swap Meet - Ellsworth
- ♦ August 4: Indianhead Car Show - Chippewa Falls Fairgrounds (see front page)
- ♦ August 10: Pure Water Days Parade - Chippewa Falls, 1 p.m.
- ♦ August 10: Main Street Cruise In Car Show - Downtown Chippewa Falls 2 - 6 p.m.
- ♦ August 10: Pioneer Village Classic Car Show - Barron 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- ♦ August 25: Festival in the Pines Car Show - Eau Claire, 9 a.m.
- ♦ August 31: Sturgeon Fest Car Show - Jim Falls - 9 a.m.
- ♦ September 1: Sturgeon Fest Parade - Jim Falls, Lineup by 11:30 a.m. (Parade starts at noon)
- ♦ Sept. 8 - Lake Holcombe Car Show - 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - \$5.00 registration fee



"Avoid mentioning old cars!"



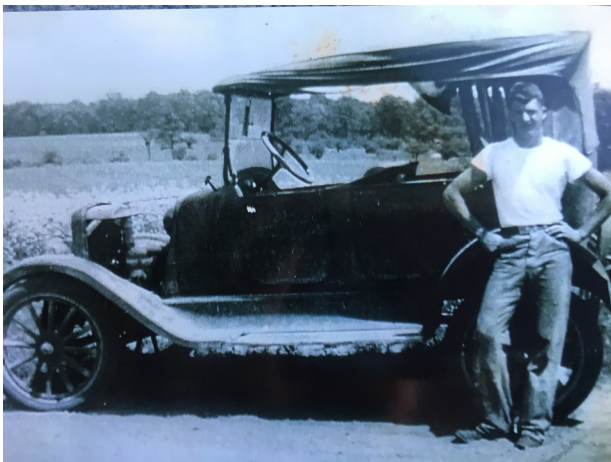
## CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Jim and Nita Thill and the Joy of the T - by Connie Goss

"One purpose of the T-Rific T's is to get more Model T's restored and on the road" I believe my Dad, Jim Thill, Sr. helped with that goal/purpose. Both my parents loved to tour in their Model T and other restored autos....the goal to have them...be visible and on the road. Here is my version of their story.

As members of the T-Rific T's and friends of Jim and Nita Thill, you have more knowledge about the cars than I ever will, perhaps you can fill in the blanks on some of the autos in the following photos.

By default the "Joy" is to share the history, knowledge and love of the Model T. More importantly, the opportunity to ride in one through the generations. Mom was born in Frederic and Dad in Hamburg, Wisconsin. They grew up in small towns in northern Wisconsin during the 30's and 40's, my Dad in Stanley where his parents were cheese makers.

*(One of his earliest cars - any suggestions what it is?)*



In Stanley, Dad worked for Halterman where he learned to love mechanics and all things mechanical at an early age. He was a fixer/mechanic by trade and at heart. After graduating from Stanley High School, he worked the ore boats on the Great Lakes for about a year and then returned to Stanley to start a milk route with his own truck.



On a chance visit to Eau Claire, he met Nita his sweetheart, love of his life, and accomplice in the many saved Model T's and other antique autos they rescued through the years.

Dad was drafted during the Korean War and was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Mom, Dad, and our oldest sister Sandi moved into a small house right next to Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate. Our second sister Linda was born in Virginia. Dad was an MP and one night while on duty at the gate, he helped a young lady in distress. She asked that he call her father. As luck would have it, an older distinguished gentlemen in his robe showed up. He was a Colonel. There was no damage to the gate but the car needed to be moved. The girl and Colonel moved the car (maybe with Dad's help). Either way the Colonel told Dad to see him tomorrow at the Engineering School. That was Dad's introduction into bulldozers and heavy equipment. A chance happening and choices made led to additional training in mechanics.

After the tour of duty in Virginia, they moved back to Ladysmith, Wisconsin where third sister Mary Ann was born and Dad started a logging truck business to support his growing family. We have had several conversations if the logging truck was a Diamond Reo or Diamond T. Different stories have the truck fun to drive, especially for a young boy trying to reach the brake pedals with the hot floor bed.

Mom and Dad eventually moved back to Eau Claire when my brothers Jim, Bob, and myself were born. Our youngest siblings Cathy and Joe came along later. Luckily, Mom and Dad both had a sense of humor. With all those kids, it was needed. This photo is of one of their first antique cars and the five kids who put sand in the gas tank. Our younger sister Cathy (not pictured) was just born and I was only three, so it wasn't Cathy or myself who did it.

*(Nita thinks this was the 1926 Dodge - can you identify it?)*





## CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Dad's education/experience in the Army with heavy construction equipment led to a job with Bark River Culvert and Equipment as a mechanic. He traveled out to the equipment at the construction sites, in fields and at farms that needed repairs. He met a lot of people and made friends along the way. Eventually this led to the opportunity to go out on his own with Thill Track and Tractor Service, out on Hwy 85 south of Eau Claire. With seven kids and Mom as a willing supportive partner, they started a full service repair shop for heavy equipment. It soon became apparent that there was a need for high quality used parts. The logical step was a salvage yard for construction equipment and eventually a nationwide network of like-minded distributors for used and new (OEM/non-OEM) parts. Think of it as an early version of Amazon. My parents always told us if we were just standing around we were doing it wrong, find something to do like pick up a broom. As a family business, there was always something to help "do."

Our youngest brother Joe came along which rounded us out to a total of 8 kids, a bunch of grand kids and great grandkids that have had the opportunity to share in the joy and pleasure of riding with Mom and Dad in a Model T.

This is the 1926 Model T Ford Fordor. Dad did a body off the frame restoration which he finished in 2010. It was judged first place in its class at the 2011 Rochester, Minnesota, tour of the Model T Ford Club of America International.



They participated numerous times in the annual Fall Creek parade and had many lucky family members ride along.



In addition to keeping as many Ts on the road as possible, I think my parents other motto was: find a car, save a car; share the history, pass along the history, and keep telling the story. America is great and the T is part of the story and journey.

They had the opportunity to winter in Hawaii and during their time there, came across vehicles that needed to be rescued. A favorite is the Model A coupe that they brought back and took to the Chippewa shows.



*Then there was this blue Ford truck....anyone know the year??*





## CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

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Their final barn find “aka” rescue was from Fall Creek in 2014. A lady had a 1924 Model T in her barn that needed a new home. After seeing the 1926 Fordor in the Fall Creek parade, she contacted my parents for help. Mission accomplished, the 1924 Model T was saved and found its new home with Bob Beaulieu, a fellow Model T enthusiast and mechanic who worked for Thill Track & Tractor Service for years. Recently, I was able to introduce and connect Bob to Denny Mickesh and Bill Glass for extra Model T parts that others could use to keep them on the road.



In addition to the 1924 Model T in that barn, there was a little blue “bomb” that was saved, but that is another story and another fine mess.



The 1926 Fordor was a favorite car to both Mom and Dad. When it was time to sell, they offered it to the members of the T-Rific Ts first. It found a good home in Tuscaloosa. It went with all the papers, extra parts and the original Model T tool kit to keep it on the road.

So the question could be why all the Model Ts? The answer is simple - Why not!

The Ford Model T is a history lesson and my parents loved to tell the story. They were able to live the story. The Model T is not a pile of old junk that has no meaning, it is a story to share. Through them, those fortunate enough to take the time and slow route have had the opportunity to be part of the story. The lesson is to stop and enjoy the fruits of your labors, aka work hard/play hard, save some, play some, share the fun and the stories. **Keep the history alive!**



**If you share the ride and the story,  
it can take on a life of its own.**



**“A Model T is always going somewhere!”**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, October 13, 2019**

**Fall Fling and Club Auction**

Nita Thill Home in Altoona

Exchange stories about Ts, old cars and parts

Lunch and beverages provided

Jim’s Model T parts being donated to the club auction

Hosted by Nita Thill, Connie and Dan Goss

(Connie is Nita and Jim’s daughter)

*More details will be in October newsletter*