



Tin Lizzie Gazette

Four Seasons Model T Association

February, 2015 Volume XI, Issue II



Presidents Note

Each new year presents one major challenge to me... it's called January! How to get by this long month without losing optimism that Spring is not too far off? Now, with February on our doorstep I have renewed hope and will begin my necessary "T" repairs while thinking about the activities that Marty is planning for us. I'm sure I'll continue to have more frozen pipes for a while, but who cares... January is in the rear view mirror!

The baton has been officially passed with this issue of the Tin Lizzie Gazette. Andre & Joan are off and running as the new Newsletter and Web Administrator team. I'm counting on everyone to keep them well informed of interesting events, projects being worked on, pictures, etc.

George reports that the Ambulance has returned home safely and is now back on American soil. I recently read his travel log documenting his time spent in France this past summer. Very impressive!

It's still not too late to get your name on the 2015 FSMTA Membership Roster, but your dues must be received no later than February 15th.

As always,
Happy Motoring!

Pete

Too cold for a little ride? Andre and Marty didn't think so. A couple of pics from a January 1st ride...



Videos have been posted of George King's trip to France. Great to watch! They can be viewed on youtube at the following locations:

Ambulance in Paris

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jhq8e_mNK8

AFS volunteers & ambulance in Clermont Ferand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3UmxsIxbrM>

Montage of Photos taken in Boudreaux

<https://www.youtube.com./watch?v=3lwMqZn89lQ>

Ambulance in the Auvergne region of France

<https://www.youtubecom/watch?v=aTznk0bjfns>

AFS event in Sarlat, France

<https://www.youtube.com./watch?v=6zTOyWjlOcs>

An interesting article on starting the Model A in winter, which could also apply to the Model T:

'Motoring in Our Model A'-Story by Lloyd Bresley, Summersville, West Virginia

This winter, as you climb into your cold car, shiver, turn the key and mumble about how winter can't end soon enough, I hope my reminiscing will cheer you up.

Back in the 1930s, the temperature sometimes reached 30 below on our family's central Nebraska farm. Going to town for supplies meant starting up the Model A. The engine would be so cold that the oil in the pan was the consistency of heavy glue.

The oil and the engine had to be warmed before you could even hand-crank the engine, and it wasn't long before we had the complicated procedure down pat,

First you filled a pan with corncobs soaked in coal oil, slid it under the engine and set it on fire. If you didn't accidentally burn the insulation off the wiring, you could turn the ignition switch on and put the gearshift in neutral. After setting the spark, throttle and choke for a cold start, you were ready to get out and crank the engine.

By now the flaming corncobs would have warmed the oil enough to make cranking possible. You grasped the crank handle with your fingers and thumb. If you forgot this particular grip, the engine had to kick back only once to make you remember forever. Something about dislocating a thumb is truly memorable.

With the engine running, and being sure the radiator's drain cock was closed, it was time to play the fill-the-radiator game. The trick was to gradually add water, pouring quickly enough to keep the engine from overheating yet slowly enough to keep the cold metal from freezing the water.

You never, ever let a radiator full of water freeze. This brings us to the last thing you needed to do before moving: Cover part of the radiator with cardboard. Otherwise, as you drove along, the rush of 30-below air would freeze the water in the radiator.

As you motored along, you'd want to keep an eye on the system, because once the car warmed up it would keep warming up, and if you didn't stop and remove that piece of cardboard, it would go right ahead and overheat. While this was far from the dreaded frozen-water-in-the-radiator situation, it wasn't a good place to be, either.

So you'd burned your cobs, watched your thumb and yanked your cardboard. But getting to town didn't mean you were home free. It was more of a crossroads. Once there, you could:

- A. Turn the car off and attempt to shop faster than the water in the radiator could freeze.
- B. Leave your trusty Model A running until you were ready to go.
- C. Shut the car down, drain the radiator and, when you were ready to head home, start the whole process over from scratch. (This was not a beloved option.)

Whatever you decided in town, once you got back home you made certain you opened that drain cock and emptied the radiator. And that was all there was to making a quick trip into town!

An article on the Model T steering wheel:



The late Bruce McCalley's "Model T Ford: The Car That Changed the World" gives great detail on the evolution of the Model T from 1908 to 1927. He tells us that the steering wheel increased from 14-1/4 inches in diameter to 15 in 1911, to 19 in in 1920, then to 17 for the final two years, 1926 and '27. However, by then it was no longer wood but a synthetic material called "Fordite," and the spokes were pressed steel, not forged. Fordite was made by recycling baked lacquer from the paint booths, very characteristic of Ford's frugal ways.

And let's take a look at this month in history:

Feb 10, 1912 - the hot air pipe has been redesigned and material changed from cast iron to cold rolled steel.

Feb 10, 1919 - "Ford Motor Company" specified on ammeter face.

Feb 15, 1923 - firewall has now been changed from wood to steel.

both types will be coming thru production for about 60 days.

February's Calendar of Events

Feb 1, Sun - Powder Mill Barn Swap Meet, So. Maple St. Hazardville, CT. off Rt. 190 west. Turn left at the light in the Center of Hazardville. 7am - 'till ??

Feb 2, Tues - Ground Hog Day. Only 6 more weeks 'till SPRING !!

Feb 6 - 8, Fri thru Sun, 16th Annual Model T Ford Club Snow-Mobile Meet, Stowe, VT. For more info contact Doug Sanford at sanfordtman@yahoo.com or call 845-561-0643.

Feb 11, Wed - FSMTA get together at John's, 27 Brooklyn Tpke. Windham Ctr, CT. 5pm-ish. Finger foods & lite snacks welcome. Bring a story to share or something for show & tell.

Are you on Facebook? It's easy and fun!

There are a couple of Model T groups on facebook that you may find interesting. Members are from all over the globe, who share our T interest. Lots of good information as well.

You can search for "Model T Ford Club of Facebook" or "Official Model T Ford Enthusiasts Group for Facebook". In these two groups there are over 3000 members with a wealth of information for us to read and photos for us to enjoy.

I have also created one for our club chapter and hope for it to grow if we all join in. That is called "Friends of the Four Seasons Model T Association".

Note from Joan and Andre:

A BIG thanks to all of you who have submitted articles to include in this newsletter. Please keep articles and photos coming. They can be sent to aboutque1956@yahoo.com

In closing, here's a look at back in the day





Four Seasons Model T Association

PO Box 309 Columbia, CT 06237

A Chapter of the
Model T Ford Club of America

Name:

Address:

Town :

Zip:

Phone:

Email Address

Note: Are you a member of our National Organization – *The Model T Ford Club of America*? Please circle one: Yes No

2015 FSMTA Chapter Dues \$15.00

(Make checks payable to Ed Tollmann)

Please List Your Vehicles Below:

Use the reverse side of form if necessary

Make _____ Model _____

Body Style _____ Year _____

Number of Cylinders _____ HP _____

Make _____ Model _____

Body Style _____ Year _____

Number of Cylinders _____ HP _____

Make _____ Model _____

Body Style _____ Year _____

Number of Cylinders _____ HP _____