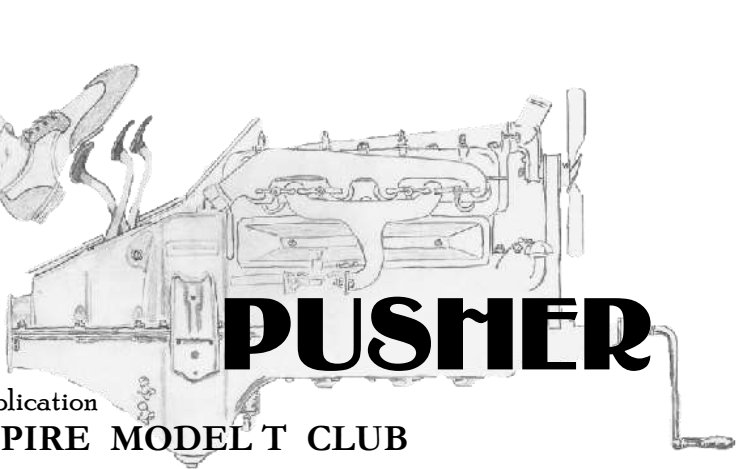


# THE PEDAL PUSHER

Official Monthly Publication  
REDWOOD EMPIRE MODEL T CLUB



REDWOOD EMPIRE MODEL T CLUB  
P.O. Box 1058  
Forestville, CA 95436



HAPPY

MOTHER'S

DAY

**MAY 2023**



# THE PEDAL PUSHER

Volume 33 Number 5

Established 1990

May 2023

## President's Message

Redwood Empire Model Ters,

It was really good to see everyone turn out for the Pancake breakfast and safety check at the Nelsons. It couldn't have been a better day. Thanks to Steve and Jeanne Nelson for hosting it. Their place provided a really great venue for this. The cooking chores were ably handled by Jack Mulkey and Jeannine Clary. I don't think anyone went away hungry. Thanks also to Chris Rich and Ted Shimkowski for conducting all the inspections for the safety check. At the breakfast, Andy Clary announced an upcoming tour that includes the Pacific Air Museum. Some of our Model T's might be able to park on the museum grounds with the planes. Should be a good tour and a good photo op. Also, Dave Stoneberg is working with Mike Chirhart on a Spring Vine Tour for May 13. Elsewhere, in this newsletter you'll find a notice about a proposed change to the club bylaws along with some background information. No doubt there will be discussion about this at the May meeting. The weather is great right now. Hope you can enjoy it by driving your Model T.

*John Girman*

### CHAPTER INFORMATION

The Pedal Pusher is a monthly publication of Redwood Empire Model T Club (REMTC)  
P.O. Box 1058, Forestville, CA 95436

The Dues are \$30 a year for an individual, or for a family in the same household.

Students - no fee - includes only the emailed REMTC newsletter.

Charter members after age 85 - Honorary

The club holds a general meeting on the first Thursday of the month at the Round Table Pizza Restaurant's meeting room on Marlow Rd., in Santa Rosa.

Members and guests are welcome to attend.

#### REMTC Website

[www.remtc.org](http://www.remtc.org)

### NATIONAL AFFILIATION

REMTC is an official non-profit chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America (MTFCA),  
P.O. Box 996 Richmond, IN 47375-0996

Ph:(765) 373-3106 Email: [admin@mtfca.com](mailto:admin@mtfca.com)

Website: <http://www.mtfca.com>

National dues are \$50 per year which includes the *Vintage Ford* magazine subscription.

### 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

President.....John Girman  
Vice President .....Steve Vining  
Secretary..... Sandy O'Halloran  
Treasurer .....Patty Girman  
Past-President .....Mike Chirhart

### CHAIRPERSONS

Tours.....Mike Chirhart	Historian.....Jeanne Nelson
Membership .....Ted Shimkowski	Newsletter Editor....Nanette Chuck
Sunshine Reporter..... Dianna Shimkowski	Roster.....Richard Chuck
Scholarship.....Jeannine Clary	Webmaster.....Steve Vining
Scholarship.....Andy Clary	Webmaster.....Cyrus Estes

# **Notice of Proposed Change to REMTC Bylaws**

To be addressed at the June membership meeting  
at Round Table Pizza, Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa at 7:00 pm.

**Background:** As REMTC evolves, more of our members live away from Sonoma County and some members prefer not to drive at night so that we often do not have a quorum as defined in our Bylaws (two Board members and twenty-five percent of the membership). In the meeting of the Board and the Chairpersons at the beginning of the year, a change to the Bylaws was discussed and subsequently a draft change was developed. After that was done, two REMTC members independently pointed out another possible problem. Frequently, a husband and wife both serve on the Board. This means that a quorum could be constituted with a husband and wife, possibly having similar views, so that they would have undue influence on the business of REMTC. Both of the REMTC members suggested that a quorum should have three Board members and this suggestion was incorporated in the proposed change.

**Current Bylaw: Article IV, Section 6:** A quorum shall be constituted if two current board members and twenty-five percent (25%) of all voting members are present at a meeting. If a quorum is not present at the meeting, a binding vote may not be taken; Board of directors may pass a resolution to act upon policy matters by a simple majority vote.

**Propose Bylaw: Article IV, Section 6:** A quorum shall consist of three current board members and members in good standing present at a general meeting. If a quorum is not present at a meeting, a binding vote may not be taken. Board of directors may pass a resolution to act upon policy matters by a simple majority vote.

# Redwood Empire Model T Club

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2023

Round Table Pizza, Marlow Road, Santa Rosa, California

**Attendance:** 26 members in attendance.

**President:** John Girman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Secretary's Report:** Sandy O'Halloran read the Old and New Business for March 2023. There was a motion to accept by Steve Nelson and seconded by Mike Chirhart. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Patty Girman shared the monthly treasurer's report.

**Sunshine Report:** Dianna Shimkowski was absent with covid. Cards were sent to Steve Cavalli and Jack Mulkey last month. Bob Smith's wife fell and broke her hip.

**Tour Report:** Mike Chirhart talked about the upcoming Pancake Breakfast and Safety Check at the Nelson's house on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The safety check will be in the barn starting at 8 am. Dave Stoneberg is planning a tour on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Vince Gregoire is planning a tour in June. There are 2 parades in July, one in Penngrove and one in Kenwood. Members can participate in either one. Vince O'Brien is planning a tour Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. The overnight tour will be from September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. It is still in the planning stages but will probably be in the delta at the Ryde Hotel. October will be the T & A tour. Trouble truck drivers are needed for our tours, members without running cars may want to drive a trouble truck. **Please see the Pedal Pusher or website for more tour information.**

May 27<sup>th</sup> a brass car is wanted for the Oakmont Car Show. You can text [oakmontcarshow@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontcarshow@gmail.com) if interested. Lastly, we talked about tours not always being on Saturdays since most members are no longer working.

**Librarian's Report:** Some of the library books were sold at the last Model T ignition training at the Clary's home. The books on the website will remain available if anyone would like to borrow them.

**Webmaster Report:** Steve Vining said all is well with the website.

**Editor's Report:** A discussion took place regarding stories in the Pedal Pusher that aren't our Model T tours. It was decided that is okay. It has happened in the past and is fun to read what our members are up to.

**Membership Report:** Ted Shimkowski was absent, he is getting over Covid. Our newest members Jimmy and Tracy Long were present at tonight's meeting. It is good to have them at our meeting.

**Historian Report:** Jeanne Nelson was absent. Steve Nelson shared Jeanne just received a bunch of pictures on Snapfish.

**Scholarship Report:** Andy shared that he is hoping to give another scholarship check before the end of the school year.

**Old Business:** Steve Nelson said the Petaluma School sent an acknowledgement of receipt for the gift given in Lloyd Butler's name.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Model T Moments:** Pete Rich shared that he is paring down his shop and will be having an ongoing Model T sale. If you want any Model T parts, please give Pete a call and he may just have that part.

**Dessert Provided by:** Jean Chirhart for Dianna Shimkowski

**Meeting Adjourned:** Motion to adjourn by Jeannine Clary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sebastian Ambra, motion carried. Adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by, *Sandy O'Halloran*, REMTC Secretary

**MAY  
BIRTHDAYS**



Gwen Brown

Chris Rich

Steven Chase

Kelly Stone

Richard Chuck

Ron Welsh

Cyrus Estes

Ted Grosman

Patty Girman



*Frank & Diane Burns*

*Terry & Jan Storm*

*Robert & Stella Dunne*

*David & Joni Stoneberg*

**Please send your photos and stories  
for this Pedal Pusher Newsletter to:**

**[4RNetMail6@gmail.com](mailto:4RNetMail6@gmail.com)**

**GENERAL MEETING DESSERTS  
for 2023**

**Please bring dessert for 40 people,  
And if needed, bring paper plates  
and plastic forks.  
If you can't make it to the meeting,  
please call a substitute.**

January 5th – Jeannine Clary  
February 2nd – Donna Jones  
March 2nd – Bob and Stella Dunne  
April 6th – Dianna Shimkowski  
May 4th – Jean Chirhart  
June 1st – Linda and Bob Salomon  
July 6th – Tim and Teresa McCallister  
August 3rd – Sebastian Ambra  
September 7th – Sandy O'Halloran  
October 5th - Cindy Vining  
November 2nd – Pam Johnson  
December 7th - Patty Girman

**REPAIRS and RESTORATION**

Cards were sent to:

*Steven Cavalli*

*Jack Mulkey*



**Speedy Recovery**  
*to Judy Smith who broke her hip  
and had surgery*

**GET WELL**

*Judy Konwalinka*  
*Hope you are feeling better after COVID*

*Ted Shimkowski and Dianna Shimkowski*  
*Hope you both are feeling better,  
and all symptoms of COVID are gone*

# THE RUNNING BOARD for 2023

## May

### **Saturday 13th – Wine Country Spring Vine Tour**

Meet at 9:30 AM at the soccer field parking lot across  
from Cardinal Newman High School on Old Redwood Hwy. (left at the light)  
Tour Hosted by Dave Stoneberg, and Peter Stoneberg

### **Sunday 21st - 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet**

Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds Petaluma

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - Oakmont Car Show**

6833 Oakmont Drive

10 AM to 1 PM...Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served at the event  
About 120 cars expected...spaces sold out, but REMTC will be represented at this show

## JUNE

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dry Creek Tour**

Meet at Creekside Inn, 16180 Neely Blvd. Guerneville, California  
8:30 AM coffee & donuts, 9 AM Leaving to meet up with Golden Gate Tour (for their Day 6)  
You may leave your car at the Inn overnight for the Forestville Parade on Saturday  
Dinner 5:30 PM at the Main Street Bistro in Guerneville  
If interested, please contact Steve Chase (323) 497-0601 for dinner price and reservations.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Forestville Parade**

Meet at Carr's Drive-In at 9:30 AM, Hosted by Pat and Sandy O'Halloran  
Parade 10 AM, Short tour afterwards then Lunch at the park  
Bring candy to toss to the children

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> - Charter Member Vince Gregoire's Tour**

Meet at Gregoire's home, 2342 Westway Drive, Santa Rosa, California  
Hosts: Vince & Joan Gregoire, and Larry & Robin Summerfield



# **THE RUNNING BOARD for 2023**

## **JULY**

**Tuesday - 4th of July Parade in Kenwood or Penngrove 4th of July Parade**

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Cooker Tour**

at Lions Grove picnic area, Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol

Hosted by: Steve & Cindy Vining

Details to follow

## **AUGUST**

Special Tour from our new members

More details to follow

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - New Grass Tour**

Meet at Washoe House at 9:30 AM

Hosted by Vince O'Brien

**Sunday thru Wednesday - 24<sup>th</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup>**

### **Overnight Delta Tour**

Tour in planning

## **OCTOBER**

**T & A Tour** Call to Volunteer: 707-545-5883

## **NOVEMBER**

**RAIN OR SHINE TOUR** Call to Volunteer 707-545-5883

## **DECEMBER**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Dinner at Cattleman's in Petaluma**

# **A SLIPPERY SLOPE**

*By Dick Winterhalder*

Two weeks after Wall Street collapsed, my mother drove her infant son down through San Francisco's Bernal Heights neighborhood to a drugstore.

Before leaving she bundled me up in a wicker bassinet wedged on the floorboards between the seat and firewall of our 1922 Model T roadster. Father had given her driving lessons a few weeks earlier and she felt confident to drive the hills of the city. Arriving at the drug store and parking on a steep slope near the entrance, she curbed the wheels toward the gutter and pulled the brake on tight. She needed only a few items and planned to return quickly, so she left me sleeping in the car.

Her shopping took much longer than expected and when she returned, she found the car was gone. After checking out the row of cars, she panicked, ran back inside the drug store to shout, "My baby has been kidnapped."

As luck would have it a policeman was sitting at the soda fountain. He calmed mother down and together they left the store and looked again down the hill, which was now filled with cars.

The cop walked down the hill to check each car and there he found it, almost a block away, resting against an abutment and showing no damage. I was still sleeping, unaware of the excitement.

It was reasoned that the wheels were not curbed tightly, and the car had crept down the hill. Open parking spaces behind it quickly filled with cars to hide its escape. Take heed of the failing Model T handbrake and always carry a wheel wedge to insure the car stays anchored.



# What is the “BEST” oil for your Model T

By: Ted Shimkowski



On “balmy” Saturday in Sonoma County John Girman gave a great talk on engine oils used in our Model T’s. I say “balmy” because snow covered all the surrounding mountains, and the outside temperature at Steve Vining’s house was barely 38 degrees at 9:30am! As luck would have it, only one of Steve’s space heaters was working, so it paid to be dressed warm and drink copious amounts of hot coffee in his shop.

Before the oil presentation was made, John Girman presented Steve DePaoli with his first-time touring award.

There were 18 members in attendance and John put together a very nice history and description on how oil is formulated and rated for various uses. John’s presentation made it very easy to understand various functions that oil serves in an engine, why it’s important, and how it works in our engines. John took extra time talking about the commonly controversial subject of ZDDP, or lack thereof, in our current oils. It was surprising to learn that ZDDP, or Zinc, instead of being totally taken out, its current level in today’s modern oils is pretty much at the same level as it was in the 1950’s. He finished up by saying that too little, as well as too much, is equally bad and it must be balanced with other additives.

After describing how the SAE rates oils for service by indicating the grade of the oil at low temperature (32F), and high temperature (212F) giving us the various choices such as 10W-30, 5W-20, etc., he concluded by saying that Phillips Petroleum recommends always using the lightest grade of oil that will get the job done. There was a host of good questions from the audience, that talked about old myths and approaches to using oil in our engines, that stimulated good discussions. I think everyone enjoyed learning more about the black gold that keeps our Model Ts on the road and will help us make informed decisions on what oil to use.





Model Ts fixing Lost Creek Street.



Street scene with Model T dealership.

## These Model Ts Have Their Own Town

John Krug needed a building to store his Model T, so he built one to match the era. As he bought parts and built more Model Ts, he also built buildings. Today he has a 1920's era town of around 20 buildings, filled with a similar number of Model Ts and uncounted Model T parts. "My first building was Ole's General Store, which is filled with parts," says Krug. "I have a grain truck in a grain elevator, and a car in the hotel, and the firehouse has two cars and the fire truck. The blacksmith shop has two Model T tractors." Some buildings, like the church, have been decorated and furnished accordingly. Others, like the post office, stand empty. The town even has an outhouse that once stood at the local fairgrounds.

The print shop is a dedicated print shop, complete with a full set of turn-of-the-century printing equipment. "A visitor who came to see my Model Ts was looking through the town and told me if I built a print shop, he would give me the equipment he had collected," says Krug.

Unfortunately, Krug has no one to run the equipment. The same is true of the fully equipped blacksmith shop.

"I'd love it if someone would use it," says Krug.

One of the most appropriate buildings for a Model T collector is the 26 by 35-ft. Danielson Motors, a Model T-era garage and Ford dealership. It is complete with Model T parts and the tools used on them.

"The Danielson family had seven car dealerships in the area at one time, so I named the garage for them," explains Krug. "The family had reunions here." The Danielson family isn't alone. The town and the Model Ts are popular with reenactors, car clubs, and individuals.

"People come here all the time, and I give tours," says Krug. "One couple had a Roaring 20's style wedding and had their pictures taken here. All the men had shotguns. Something is going on here pretty regularly."

The only time the town is not filled with old cars and parts is the three weekends a year when John's wife, Diana takes it over.

"I have to empty all the buildings for the weekend as she uses them for a vendor's market," says John. "People come to see the town, and then shop while they're here."

**John Krug**, 3277 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Rd., Ottawa, Illinois 61350 phone: 815-228-5898  
[modeltnut@hotmail.com](mailto:modeltnut@hotmail.com) [www.modeltnut.com](http://www.modeltnut.com).



Krug has built around 20 buildings to go with his Model T collection.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Krug, 3277 E 18th Rd., Ottawa, Ill. 61350 (ph 815-228-5898; [modeltnut@hotmail.com](mailto:modeltnut@hotmail.com); [www.modeltnut.com](http://www.modeltnut.com)).

m • vol. 46, no. 6 • FARM SHOW • 39

This story article  
and next page article  
on John Krug

Submitted

By  
Ted Shimkowski

And

printed with  
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Magazine

*retyped for legibility*





1924 Model T 4-door built over 6 years.



Krug has restored around 20 various Model Ts and has an extensive parts collection.

## He Collects Everything Model T

*Submitted by Ted Shimkowski*

With around 20 Model T cars, trucks and tractors, and parts to build another 30, John Krug is a self-described Model T nut. He even has a website by that name. He has 13 that are licensed and can be taken on the road.

Krug's passion started in 2002. He saw a Model T driving around the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. "I loved the wood spoke wheels and the sound of the engine," recalls Krug.

He bought one and then another and another, some at auction, others from neighbors. Pretty soon he had a reputation for Model Ts and Model T parts.

"People will call and ask if I want some parts they have," says Krug. "I've been collecting for years and have a 64 by 64-ft. barn full of parts, as well as other buildings with parts. I have parts all over the place."

He holds onto most of the parts for his own use. Sometimes he trades one with another enthusiast.

"Trading is a good way to get what you need." Says Krug.

Pretty soon he was restoring parts, and then he started building cars from them. In one case, he built a 1924 4-door all from parts.

"It was completely disassembled with all the wooden parts missing or in bits and pieces," says Krug. "I worked on it for 6 years, building it and getting tired of it and then building some more."

He had no patterns for the missing wood pieces. He looked at restored versions, took pictures and studied them. Sometimes there was one piece, and he had to make its mirror image.

"I had to reproduce some entirely, such as where a bottom joint had rotted away," says Krug. "There were lots of compound angles, and it was hard to get them right."

That car was his biggest challenge, but not the only one he built. He has several WWI military vehicles. He started with an ambulance chassis and after seeing a picture of a WWI nurses and soldiers by one, built the body. He later built a scout car body, complete with a machine gun fashioned from plastic.

He also has several Model T tractors, including a Montgomery Ward conversion tractor that used a Model T engine and parts. It had large wheels in the back with cleats and a low gear.

"I have put an extra seat on mine, so I can carry a passenger," says Krug.

Krug has a fire truck and several other trucks, as well as an Ottawa car. It was a body built on a Model T chassis in Krug's hometown of Ottawa, Illinois.

"My favorite, and the one I drive into town, is a natural oak pickup," says Krug.

He notes that most chassis were the same, just the bodies differed. There were only small variations in fenders from 1909 through 1925," says Krug. "In 1926 and 1927, they changed styles quite a bit. However, if you look at the ambulance and the scout car, you can see small differences in the radiators and fenders."

Finding some parts is harder than others, advises Krug. "Original parts, including fenders and running boards, can be hard to find," he says. "You have to buy more than one to make one good one. For some reason, the front fenders seem to rust out more than others."

Like a growing number of collectors, Krug does not restore most of his Model Ts to showroom gloss. He likes to share their history through the wear and tear. "I like the ones that look old and rusty, but can run and be enjoyed," says Krug.

As he collected cars and parts, he needed more places to keep them. Eventually, they took on a life of their own as Lost Creek, Illinois. (see companion story). His Model Ts are also popular with historical reenactors from Prohibition bootleggers to WWI soldiers and nurses.

FARM SHOW

# Pancake Breakfast and Safety Check

*By Sandy O'Halloran*

A big thank you to Steve and Jeanne Nelson for their hospitality on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a great time at their Pancake Breakfast and Safety Check. It was a beautiful sunny day, and the turnout was terrific. We had pancakes, regular and blueberry, hashbrowns and ham or sausage. Some members brought other goodies too. Thanks also to Jack Mulkey, Dan McEachern, and Jeannine Clary for handling the cooking.

Many thanks to Chris Rich and Ted Shimkowski for their hard work checking all the "T's". I believe there were 13 cars driven to the event and 8 of them went through the safety check. The main issue found this year was worn steering components. It is quite comforting, as a passenger all season in our Model T's, to know that our cars have been checked, and repairs have been made where needed.



Jeanne had her 1946 Ford Convertible on display and it is a beauty.







**Safety Check**







**Pancake Breakfast**







## **Over, not Under, Around, and Through**

REMTTC Members Out and About

Steven Chase, Donna Jones, Vince O'Brien, Dan & Mary McEachern, Dani McEachern, Margie & Jim Pappakostas, and Andy Clary went on the Horseless Carriage Club of America's National Tour in Visalia, California last week.

We visited a school. Here is a photograph of 23 of their third-grade students in (and on) Steven Chase's 1915 Ford Touring.

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are like those who stop a clock  
to save time."*

*... Henry Ford*

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