

Tin Lizzie TIMES

*A Chapter of the
Model T Ford Club International*



My Dad's Sweet '16....

Or was it '17?

It was a hot August day...

in Sonoma, CA in 1962. My mother bought a 1916 Ford Touring car for my father on his 40th birthday. It looked as if someone pulled it from a ditch. It barely ran, leaked oil, was missing a rear fender, had no upholstery, no paint, no seats, and only one headlamp worked. But it had character, and was going to be a surprise for my dad. After all, it was an antique, and so was my dad... or so I thought at the time.

I was a nine-year-old kid when I got my first ride in it on that hot summer day. Boy was that fun. My brother, sister and I sat on planks of wood that served as a make shift back seat. We just thought that was the greatest. The car looked like a coal fired locomotive going down our dirt road. Plumes of steam billowed from a belching radiator. You could hear us coming for what seemed like miles. There were no floor boards and the hot exhaust reminded you of that if you misplaced your foot on the floor you would definitely know it! My mom was proud of her purchase though, and she just knew my dad would love it.

However, my dad never did much with the car, and only took it out a few times that I remember. Before his passing in 1976, he gave his 1916 Touring car to me. It was barn kept for nearly 30 years before I began restoring it (I still have a long way to go!). According to the Ford Motor Company records, my dad's T was born on June 15, 1916. As I began to restore it, I realized my Dad's "Sweet Sixteen" might actually be a '17 model. Bruce McCalley's book, *Model T Ford*—



*Scott and his wife, Leslie in 2002,
with Dad's T just shipped from CA.*



Did Ya Hear?...

In October, 2017, the Colonial Virginia Model T Club became the newest official chapter of the Model T Ford Club International. Hurray! Based in Williamsburg, VA, we have current and upcoming members from Richmond down to Chesapeake, and we're on the search for more. We got our certification, had our first meeting, elected officers, and wasted no time before we started talking about our cars. Many thanks to Jay Pearsall for cranking things up and getting us rolling!!

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....



The Colonial Virginia Model T Club had a successful first membership and Board meeting at the Pearsall home in Williamsburg on February 3rd. We established our Chapter By-laws and Club Officers. I know not everyone could attend, but we had a good time talking Model T's and hanging out in the garage a bit. We discussed what we'd like to do as a club, and we're thinking that quarterly meetings might suit us best.

Since we're a new club, and not many of the members have been on many drives with their cars, we'll take it slow this year, and look for opportunities to get together on some local drives. I'd like to see us get comfortable on the local roads this year. Looking forward to some fun times behind the wheel!


- Jay Pearsall

After inspecting Jay's '27 Pickup at our first meeting: (l-r) John Long, Trey Gwaltney, Scott Nylund, and our host, Jay Pearsall. (Absent, Jon Bitler, who had to leave early)




Ford Model T Touring Car

5-Passenger
Fore-doors are
detachable
\$690
L. & B. Detail




Ford Model T Torpedo

2-Passenger
Fore-doors
are not
detachable
\$590
L. & B. Detail



Ford Model T Roadster

2-Passenger
Rumble Seat
is removable
\$590
L. & B. Detail



These cars are sold with complete equipment at the prices quoted. Standard equipment—Top, Windshield, Speedometer, 2 Gas Lamps, Generator, 2 Oil Lamps, Horn and Kit of Tools. No Ford cars sold unequipped.

↑ The Model T brochure above has some pretty cars, for sure! Any of you old car buffs want to take a guess what year this was printed?



Hey! Don't Forget..... Upcoming Events!

Saturday, March 17—York HS Annual Car Show. 11am-3pm. York High School, 9300 Geo. Washington Mem. Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692

Saturday, June 30 — Smithfield Olden Days Festival. 10am-5pm. Historic Downtown Smithfield, 23430

Saturday, July 7— Hilton Village 100th Anniversary. All Day Warwick Boulevard, Hilton Village, Newport News, VA 23601

July 15-20 — 62nd MTFCI Tour, Western Pennsylvania

For more info on these events and other great stuff, visit our website!!

Colonial Virginia Model T Club

Williamsburg, VA

Jay Pearsall, President

Jon Bitler, Vice President

Scott Nylund, Secretary

Trey Gwaltney, Newsletter,

Website, Correspondent

Feel free to contact us at:

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"Ladies & Gentlemen, Breaking News!!..."

Updates from CoVa Model T Club Members!"

Sweet '16....

Cont'd from page 1.

The Car That Changed The World pointed out the 1917 models started appearing in August 1916. Well now I got confused because the deeper I got into McCalley's book the more I realized my touring car has parts from 1915, 1916, 1917 and perhaps beyond.

Dave at Chaffin's Garage in Corona, CA confirmed it. He said many cars of that era swapped out various parts including engines because they were interchangeable for the most part. First off, there was no brass on the car like the '16 models. The radiator was taller and rounded instead of the squared off corner look. The windshield wasn't like the earlier models either and the headlight rims were nickel plated, as were the hub caps. These were just a few of the sign posts that this car was different from the year model we had always thought it was.

My dear old dad believed he owned a 1916 Touring car and that's fine with me. I now know it's not. I think it's a 1917 Touring car. Sure as anything, the next owner will say, "Come check out my 1918 Touring car." Happy motoring!

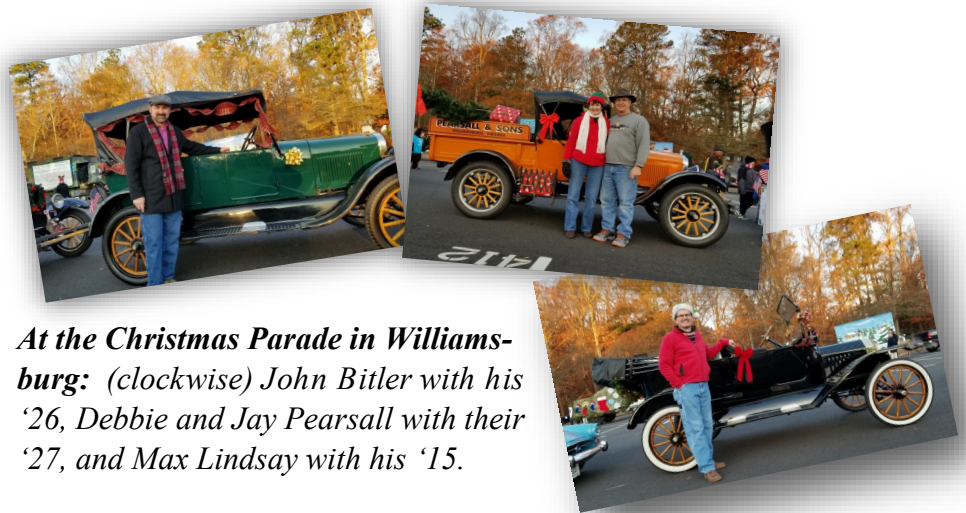
— Contributed by Scott Nylund

When the Parade Passes By....

It was quality over quantity at the 2017 Williamsburg Christmas Parade, as three meager little Tin Lizzies took second place in the Vehicle Units category. This was an exciting day for three of our founding fathers! Our Club was only a few months old and already getting a great reputation for having excellent automobiles! Way to go, guys!



Above: Our very first award! Congratulations!!



At the Christmas Parade in Williamsburg: (clockwise) John Bitler with his '26, Debbie and Jay Pearsall with their '27, and Max Lindsay with his '15.



We came across Jay's '19 all alone parked on the side of the road.

Taking a break? Or waiting for Jay to get back with more spare parts?

"Any color, as long as it's black." - Actually, Henry's Model T originally came in gray, blue, green, and red. By 1912 it was available only in blue, and from 1914 to 1927 it truly did only come in black.

Technical Tips For T's



Stay Charged!

Jay Pearsall says: I can highly recommend the Deltran Battery Tender Junior, 6V-1.25 amp model. It's designed to remain plugged in continuously, year round.



I've worked with other T-owners who had different systems and they only seemed to over charge the battery and boil off the battery acid.

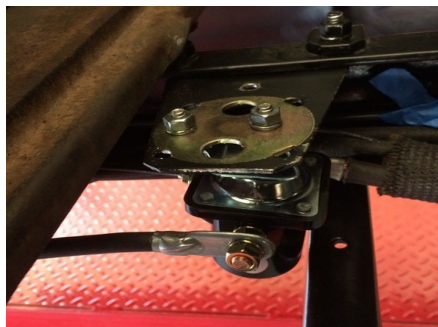
I have a lot of these, both 6V and 12V versions, and I've never had a battery overcharge or lose acid levels. It seems to keep my batteries lasting longer by preventing the sulfate crystals from growing and shorting out the lead plates in the battery. Highly recommend them!

Left: This charger retails for about \$40. Visit www.products.batterytender.com.

Switch the Switch!

Jay Pearsall says: What do you do when your crank becomes more reliable than your floor starter? My solution was to install a 6-volt tractor starter solenoid (available at Tractor Supply Co.) in place of the Model T floor starter button. I've modified both my T's with this. The reason? The floor starter switch gets corroded and then has less than optimum contact for sending voltage to the starter. I've had to push the floor button a number of times to get a good connection and got fed up with the poor contact. The floor switch is just a large washer that gets pushed across the two bolts to make the connection. Each time you engage the button, it sparks and builds up corrosion. With the starter solenoid you will greatly reduce this problem. A solenoid just requires a pushbutton near the dashboard. It's very simple to install and provides excellent contact. Starts every time!

To the Right: Here's Jay's switch solution in his '19 Touring Car with a 6-volt tractor starter solenoid neatly installed in place of the original Model T floor starter button. Nice job, Jay!



Swap Shop

FOR SALE

>Right & left front fenders (steel). Right & left rear fenders for roadster or pickup (fiberglass). Right and left roadster doors. Running boards. Dash. Roadster Cowl. Front & rear 26/27 T frame cross members. '25 or earlier T frame and rear end. Set of Rocky Mountain Brakes for a T with small rear drums. Mike Daigneault, mdaygneault@cox.net

WANTED

>Eye-hook style brackets that go under the fenders and attach to the support rods. Need front and rear for '24 Roadster. Trey Gwaltney, gwaltneyathome@aol.com



What a deal!