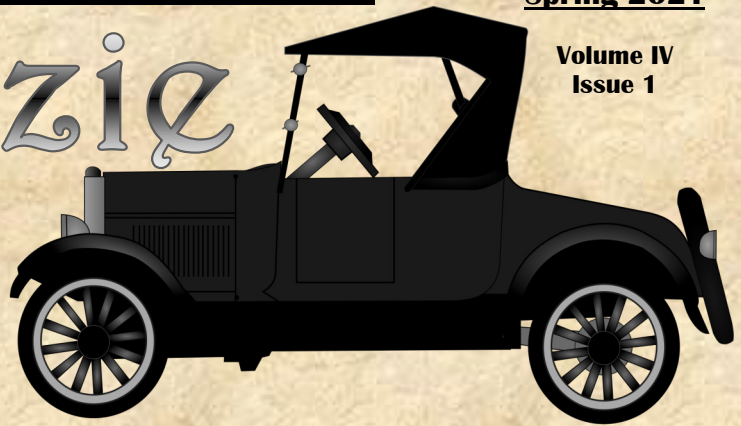


# Tin Lizzie TIMES

A Chapter of the  
Model T Ford Club International



*Good for any type of weather...  
As long as it's snowing!!*

While Henry Ford's team had been wildly successful at marketing his transportation marvel, their plight to appeal to an arguably far more diverse audience is almost unimaginable today. Appealing to the many different needs of Americans, Henry piqued their interest by offering a portfolio of nine different cars, all using the exact same chassis! This versatility became the catalyst for several entrepreneurs to ride Ford's coattails. Two of those companies were *Pullford* and *Snowmobile*.

Last August, in an effort to grow our T collection to three ('21 Center Door, and '27 TT Sinclair Oil Tanker), my ever supportive wife Glenda and I purchased a '23 Model T Ford with two rather unusual attachments: *Pullford* rear wheels and axle, and *Snowmobile* skis. Never to pass on a challenge, we were compelled to research both of these innovative companies.



*Pullford*, a Quincy, Illinois company was one of nearly forty businesses making similar kits as a crossover device converting automobiles into tractors. Even with the very reasonably priced Fordson tractor coming in at around \$600, a standard Model T chassis could be purchased in 1917 for \$325, and the *Pullford* kit could be bought for \$155 and installed easily right on the farm with just a few bolts. This gave farmers greater versatility to plow the fields during the week, then dismount the *Pullford* and drive their family to church on Sunday. In hindsight, neither the *Pullford* nor Fordson were a match for industrial tractors, like the International Harvester or John Deere, due to the Model T's original, but weaker front axles, smaller radiator, and lighter frame. But for the cost, it was a more advantageous solution.

In 1913 the *Snowmobile Company, Inc.*, located in West Ossipee, New Hampshire, sought out to provide car owners with a wintertime solution to travel. By 1922 the company perfected their wood and metal skis, which were then sold exclusively through Ford dealerships. The kits were sold in three different gauges because at that time there were still more horse-drawn sleighs on winter roads, and the ski kits were sized to stay within a sleigh's already packed snow tracks. *Continued on page 3...*



## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT...



Happy 2021! I hope everyone is still staying healthy. I want to start by apologizing for being less available to help with winter projects. The more contagious strain along with susceptible family members requires me to be less involved until the vaccination. While COVID was slowing down, a number of us were able to install the top on Scott's Touring, and replace the tubes and tires on Trey's Hack. I know Bryan needs help with tires, Steve needs a few things adjusted on his '26 Pickup, and we need to get Ken and Margi's cars running again.

I hope the upcoming MTFCI national tour in New Philadelphia, OH, July 18-23 will still be a go this summer. I'm not suggesting a national tour is mandatory! I was once a new T owner who just drove around the block, but mentors and encouragement got Deb and me loving national touring! Like our club, you meet fun, knowledgeable T people and get a lot of driving experience. Keep your batteries charged, your gas tanks full, and as always, please send ideas for "socially distanced" local driving for this Spring and Summer.

*- Jay Pearsall*



Hip, hip, hurray! Back in October, after lots of hard work, and COVA Club help, Mel finally got to test his '23 Roadster. All went pretty well.... until he ran out of gas! And just a few blocks from home! Great to see another T on the road. Congratulations, Mel!



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

**Albemarle Area Chapter Model "T" Tour** — April 17, 2021.  
Time: 9:00 am. Tour: 9:30 am—3:30pm. (Rain Date: April 24, 2021.)  
Place: Walmart Supercenter—US-17 By-Pass and Halstead Blvd, Elizabeth City NC. A leisurely 40+ mile tour of Pasquotank County.

**Mid-Atlantic Pre-War Swap Meet** — Friday, May 14, 2021:  
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday, May 15, 2021: 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: VFW Post 621, 218 Veterans Lane Luray, VA, 22837

**2nd Annual Breakthrough Car Show** — May 15, 2021.  
Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Historic Hart Farm, 6955 Duncan Road, Petersburg, VA. Sponsored by the Car Club Council of Central VA. Participant judging. All makes, models and years are welcome.

*Raising Spirits,  
and Money!!*



On Saturday of Halloween, (with masks having become part of our daily routine) our club participated in a Car and Airplane Show assisting a fundraiser at the



Williamsburg Airport. Jon, Max, Bryan, Scott, and Jay were there



for a pretty reputable total of five T's. We made a nice group of "spokes" men (HA!) for good old Henry, along with a handful of "new" cars from the Colonial VA Model A Club.

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:*

[covamodeltclub@gmail.com](mailto:covamodeltclub@gmail.com)





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

*Updates from CoVa Model T Club Members!"*

## **No-Go P-A? Head to LU-RAY!**

It was a great event with near perfect weather! Yes, Luray was a mid-week event; quite unusual, but well thought out. When the Hershey swap meet was cancelled



back in the earlier part of 2020, it appeared we would be without an early-car focused swap meet all year. Still, 60+ vendors turned out to find some goodies. Things opened rapidly Tuesday morning, even though it was just 37 degrees and misty. The sky cleared quickly though and I was in short pants by noon. Typical Luray... very laid-back and super friendly.



*Model T Times* editor, Natalie Weaver and her sister Janice spent two days visiting everyone, taking photos for the national magazine.

*Continued on page 5...*

## **Any type of weather...**

*...cont'd from page 1.*

Although a bit expensive, coming in at \$395, country doctors and rural mail carriers, among others, were users of this type of vehicle, because it could travel at an average of 18 miles per hour over two and a half feet of unbroken snow. Another potentially unforeseen benefit of snowmobiles was converting them to "sandmobiles" by replacing the skis for wheels, which helped market this attachment in places around the world with heavy sand and deep mud.

We know very little about the car's early roots. But we do know it came from Andover, Massachusetts, and was owned for many years by one Alexander D. "Sandy" Gibson, Jr., who passed in 2017, aged 79. Sandy was a licensed contractor, and did snow removal and sold firewood on the side. A member of the MTFCA's Snowmobile Chapter, Sandy loved old cars, and took this Snowmobile to the annual Snowmobile Tour. I speculate it was originally owned by a small town farmer, who may have also been a doctor in northern Massachusetts, which is why I've staged it the way I did. Manufactured on February 20, 1923, this car would have been purchased as a barebones chassis and modified with both attachments. She's a great conversation piece, but now we just need some New England snow down south in Ol' Virginny!!



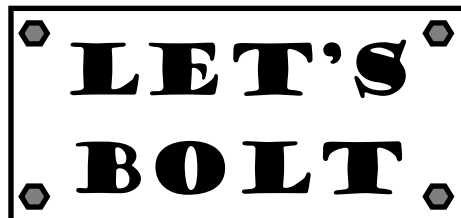
*Submitted by- Bryan Daniel*

## **Christmas? What?**

Christmas sort of came and went in 2020 without many parties, parades, or passengers. But Jay and Deb got their '19 Touring Car all decked out for the Holidays to cruise around Williamsburg and spread some cheer. Looks great, guys! Love that new paint job!!



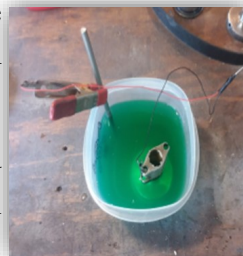
# Technical Tips For T's



## Take the plunge...

One of my recent COVID projects was to rebuild the steering column on my '27 *Hudson* Roadster. (Yes, that's right. I said Hudson.) It was a pretty simple process with some new pins and bushings. The fun part was re-plating the nickel components! I learned the basic process on YouTube, got the source nickel on eBay, and set up my shop...

To start, you take a container of white vinegar and mix in a pinch of salt to make electrolyte. Then, with some source nickel and a modified phone charger, you create an ionic solution. You know it's ready when it turns green!



Next, you prep the parts. As with anything else, the better the prep, the better the results. I found sanding with 800-grit, then cleaning with brake-cleaner to be satisfactory for this previously plated brass housing. After cleaning, I masked the threaded and interior sections with some warm paraffin wax and an old paint brush. Don't worry, it's a thrift store pan on the stove!

Next it was into the green soup and hook up the phone charger. My experiments taught me that lower power chargers (less than 8 volts and 1 amp) produce a smoother finish than the higher output ones. Hook the negative lead to the part you're plating



(just like de-rusting with a battery charger) and the positive to the source nickel. I turned the part and moved the charger clip every 15 minutes or so to get an even finish. The process took about two hours!

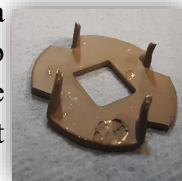
When I was happy with the plating, I unhooked everything and set the part back in the (emptied) paraffin pot. A gentle warming removed the masking wax. A quick turn on the buffing wheel and the housing was ready to install. I put the wax and ionic solution in their own Tupperware containers, and the phone charger in a zip-lock baggy for next time. So, for a total investment of under twenty bucks (not including beer) and an afternoon of fun, I became a plater! You can too! Just look up "Easy DIY Nickel, Copper, Zinc Plating" on YouTube.

*Submitted by- Roger Harmon*

[www.covamodelfordclub.weebly.com](http://www.covamodelfordclub.weebly.com)

*Mark Williams says...*

Henry's Model T used carriage bolts in many areas in the wood framed bodies. But years later it's nearly impossible to remove them because the square section of the carriage bolt just spins in the wood and there's no way the grip it, short of cutting a slot across the top for a flat blade screwdriver, or just cutting the nut off.



If you're restoring your T's body



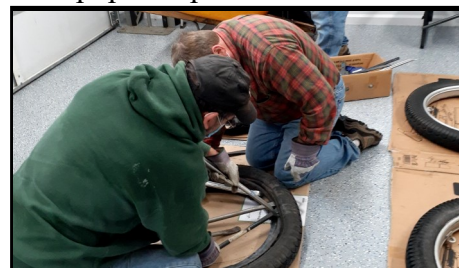
or replacing any of these bolts, you might want to consider using this special washer.

These also make future removal easier, should that be required, and allow you to tighten them better. These washers are available at most hardware stores.



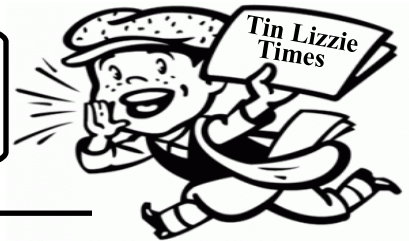
*Trey Gwaltney says...*

Nobody likes changing tires, but next time you have to put a new one on a rim, apply some lube (gel or spray) to the bead. It will pop into place much easier.





*Extra!! Extra!! Read all about it...  
This just in from COVA Club Members...*



## **\*\*COVA President Nominated\*\***

Our chapter recently had the pleasure of nominating Jay Pearsall for the MTFCI 2021 Founders Appreciation Award. Jay serves as our President and is also one of the founders of the Colonial Virginia Chapter. Throughout his tenure he has assisted nearly all of us with the maintenance and necessary education of our T's, giving each of us the confidence and resources to be successful at taking on projects we might not normally attempt. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jay has held several Zoom conference calls to keep us together and communicate, in addition to attending local drives and car show charity events. Jay and his wife Debbie have been the glue holding us together as a community, and have also both been instrumental in preserving the Model T's rich history, heritage, and legacy for generations to enjoy. Thank you Jay.



## **COVA President at a Loss for Words**

*"I'm not sure what to say. I am humbled, speechless really, that the COVA club membership submitted me for the MTFCI Founders Appreciation Award. I am keenly aware that I am not the most experienced T mechanic in our club; each of you have a unique skill that helps the club succeed. My whole goal for our club is to promote the Model T hobby, encourage, mentor and educate to keep our historic vehicles on the road. Thank you!"*

*- Jay*

## **Head to LU-RAY!**

*...continued from page 3.*

The official Model T Club store was there, and the VFW kept the coffee hot and the grill burning all week to feed everyone. Vendors came in from Massachusetts to Florida, and even Michigan and California. There were three AACA Past Presidents there (including myself) and also at least two Model T Ford Club Past Presidents. Richmond folks were out in force including Paul and Gretchen Carraras, Lee Crenshaw, Bob Richmon, Reggie Nash, and George Duke.



Of course the event has a Model T focus, and there was plenty of great stuff to be found. There were even a half dozen complete cars for sale including an unrestored early 1911. I sold well, and tried to spend the money quickly buying some early lamp burners, brass windshield parts, spark plugs, a couple of oddball timers, shackles, grease cups, and a few 1915 issues of Ford Times, as well as some other interesting Ford literature.



The big find for me, a welcome addition to my brass lamp collection, was a wonderful 1903/4 self-generating brass Autolyte headlamp, usually seen on very early single cylinder cars that carry just one lamp mounted out front. This was a good old-fashioned swap meet, just like they used to be with trailers of stuff loaded, boxes full of unsorted and unpriced parts, and loads of brass!

*Submitted by- Terry Bond*

## Colonial Virginia Model T Club



*Paging CoVa Club Members!.... CoVa Club Members!.... Here's the skinny on more neat activities from CoVa Club Members!...*

### CoVa Club Joins With T and A Clubs for a Full Day of Touring!

While many of us have felt like we have been in a “fog” for the last year or so, it was truly the case back in early November when the CoVa Chapter, along with members of the Albemarle and Central VA Chapters, along with some friendly Model A’s who wanted to tag along, all met at the Southampton Fairgrounds for a nice Autumn drive through Southampton County and the City of Franklin. As we started out, it was almost difficult to see the colorful Fall foliage through the soupy mist! We made it into the clear by our first destination, The Village at Wood’s Edge. This Senior assisted living facility had several private streets, and residents were out in full force with much excitement! It was our own private parade, with much waving, honking, photos, and memories.



Next, it was into Franklin for a stop at Bobby’s Tire & Auto. No, there were no flats, and there was nothing flat about Bobby’s collection of antique toys, signs, and other memorabilia. Wow, what a sight! If you have to wait to get a tire changed, this is the place you want to be. What a collection!



After a socially-distanced, but very tasty lunch at *Serve*, a new hot spot in Franklin that pays tribute to our military and vets, we made our way to visit Mahone’s Tavern and Museum in Courtland. Named for Civil War General William Mahone (who looks a good bit like Max!), this circa 1796 home/tavern/boarding house offers lots of interesting artifacts and information for those interested in some “pre-T” history. (Keep working on that beard, Max!!)

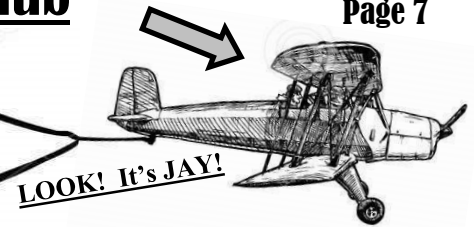


Our final stop for the day was the Southampton Historical Village & Agriculture and Forestry Museum. Several buildings have been relocated here to represent life “back in the day” with exhibits in each representing anything from a home to a school to a store to a doctor’s office, just to name a few. What a great photo op for Scott! In the main building, along with an impressive collection of farm equipment and tools, was an incredible model train display. This thing had all the bells and whistles... quite literally! Multi-level, multi-track, even multi-seasonal, with one section set up as a snowy mountain scene. Definitely worth the trip if you’re anywhere near!



All in all a great day. But who would expect anything less with good friends, good weather, and a bunch of old cars?! If we had only had some good chocolate chip cookies, the day would have been perfect. Oh, wait... we did! What a day!





## How Much is Too Much?!

If you've ever dreamed of having another old car... or just a few more... or possibly an entire building full of them... well, be careful what you wish for! We got a real good taste of just that back in September when the CoVa Club joined up with several T's and A's for a day trip to Mathews, VA, highlighted by a visit to the collection of Bobby Diggs, an avid Model A enthusiast. (That's putting it mildly!) Pete and Sissy Hall had arranged for a great day of driving, viewing, and simply enjoying some great old cars.



After an initial rendezvous, unloading, and review of the day's route and agenda, the group headed into Mathews for a pleasurable drive with lots of honking and waving. (Unless you were changing a flat tire.) After several miles of showing off, the group met for a relaxing lunch and some nice local sightseeing. (Unless you were changing a flat tire.)



A little before 1:00 we headed to the big event of the day, a visit to meet Bobby Diggs and tour his collection of Model A's, memorabilia, accessories, and lots of other neat stuff! Now, acquiring the right album to keep your stamp collection in isn't that difficult. And finding the right bookcase to shelve your Shakespeare volumes is fairly do-able. And even coming up with the perfect showcase for your ever-growing display of oil cans is manageable. But twenty or more cars? And just as much volume in related items? Simple... just build a 1920's Ford dealership/garage building.



*Continued on page 8...*

## Changing Tires Why, it's as easy as....

1. Your tire goes flat on your Club's trip to Mathews, so you gladly accept the help from your friend who's just along for the ride, the Club's President (who has a better jack than you), and the eldest club member, who is the first to "get out and get under."



2. You discover your spare has a leak and won't hold air, so you pull into a filling station where you borrow the Presidential spare so you can finish the drive.



3. You finish a long day's drive and have to replace your leaky tire and limp back on your trailer for the "drive of shame" home.



Thanks for all the help, guys!!



# Colonial Virginia Model T Club



"Well, that's what I heard. That Cova Club is the Bee's Knees! And here's still more stuff they've been up to... They really are the Cat's Pajamas! Let's get a wiggle on and jump on their running board!"



## Dreams Do Come True...

Earlier in March, Scott and I made a special drive to California!... Well... California, Maryland. I had been watching Facebook Marketplace for Runabouts that I could buy and convert into my dream car. When kids tell me their dream car is a Ferrari, Porsche, or Lamborghini, and then ask me what mine is, I will tell them, "It's a Model T pickup... and it doesn't even have to look good if it drives okay!"

Well, it looks like I found my dream car (or truck) in Maryland with a '21 Runabout (well, she has a '23 engine, but who's counting?). Scott and I checked out the car and I decided it was a match made in heaven



(or Detroit, or, well... wherever)! With a handshake deal, we headed back to the Peninsula to fetch my trailer and a check to pay for the car of my dreams.

We both returned the next day, as Scott was in it for the long-haul (literally speaking). During the drive, we solved almost all the world's problems with amazing intellect (or so we thought), watching the fields go by and wondering if any of the barns we saw might have other T's just waiting. We all keep dreaming.

In the end, I scored with not only the '21 Runabout, but also with an extra engine and transmission combo (supposedly the engine isn't frozen), along with another transmission. We assumed it was a Warford, but it turns out it was made by Warner Gear in Muncie, IA. There were extra tires/tubes to replace the flat ones on the car (I'll call Trey for help!), and several boxes of goodies that included two variations of coil testers. One of them strangely looked like the "Gonkulator" on Hogan's Heroes! All in all, two great days of driving, talking, and adopting an old T from a kind old gentleman named John. Can't wait to get started on my dream car!



*Submitted by- Max Lindsay*

## Too Much?...

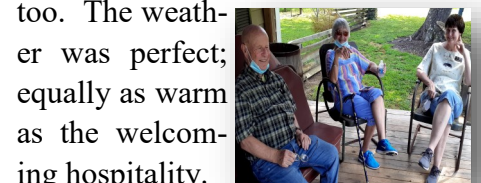
*...continued from page 7.*

We were all quite impressed with Bobby's place. And this guy loves Model A's! Not sure just how many there were, but it was plenty.



And other cars as well.... and signs.... and parts.... and posters. ... and photos... and... well, you get the idea. There was always

something else to see every time you turned around, including a couple of other buildings with some surprises in them too. The weather was perfect; equally as warm as the welcoming hospitality.



After taking in more rumble seats and running boards in one day than any old car buff probably



deserves, it was time to load up for the drive home. Another great day with great old car friends. It's always good to spend a day touring with the Club, but it's nice to relax when you're trailered up, headed home. (Unless you're changing a flat tire!!)