



The Backfire

21st Century

Vol. 26 No. 5
May 2025



The official newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club

The **SCVMTFC** is a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. The club was founded in 1969 to promote the history and the enjoyment of Henry Ford's Famous Model T.



Monthly Meetings:
Third Friday of
Every Month
@ 7:30 p.m.
Brading Associates
3620 Charter Park Dr.
In San Jose
Join us! You don't have to
own a Model T to belong to
the club

Photos from Last Year's Endurance Run/Lowland Tour (June 2024) Hosted by the SCVMTFC
This year's event June 7-8

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<http://www.scvmtfc.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Endurance Run/Lowland Tour is just around the corner and organizer Chris Bhirdo reports there are 10 speedsters signed up that didn't participate last year. So, all indications are the event is growing. And there are already a number of registrations

for the car show for anyone that doesn't want to join in the Lowland Tour. If you own a classic car, there is definitely a way to participate and bring some joy to the veterans and their families.

As I said in this column a couple months ago, PR usually covers the news but once again PR is the news. Thanks to Matt Allen for taking on the role of PR Coordinator for the club. He has already fielded a couple of new inquiries and seems to have a good handle on things. Thanks Matt!

The tour to the Portola Valley & Alpine Railroad was a joint tour with the Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto Club and very enjoyable. 3 Model T's and several modern cars made the trip all the way up the hill without any rain. Everyone got their chance to ride a miniature train and tour the shop before mother nature turned on the faucet. I think a couple of our T drivers might have been a bit damp when they got home. Maybe we should have not only a driver's patch but a "nasty weather" driver's patch. It could signify a hardcore Model T driver. But as I think about this more, Model T drivers in most of the US have to be ready for an encounter with rain all summer long and we could easily become the California wussies. Their requirement for a "nasty weather" patch might be driving through a tornado. So, let's scratch this idea and just give Bill and Barbara kudos for bringing out their "no roof" Model T's and braving the "nasty weather".

Motor on,

Lynn

2025 Board Officers

President	Lynn Alens	(408) 205-5806
Vice President	Chris Bhirdo	(408) 505-0153
Secretary	Pam Caldeira	(408) 888-9671
Treasurer	Mary Beaman	(408) 838-9224
Backfire Editor	Nancy Alens	(408) 679-2780

2025 Committee Chairs

* Denotes Board Members

Touring*	Barbara Beach	(408) 887-4857
Programs*	Mark Edwards	(650) 576-1481
Membership*	Ivan Jorgensen	(408) 874-6373
Tech & Safety*	Dan Smith	(408) 287-3908
Endurance Run	Chris Bhirdo	(408) 505-0153
Lowland Tour	Lynn Alens	(408) 205-5806
Librarian	Michele Brading	(408) 472-6688
Webmaster	Nikkie Gulko	scvmtc@gmail.com
Refreshments	Bill Bratt	(650) 341-8859
Historian	Lucy Greenberg	(408) 997-0879
Sunshine	Helen Christensen	(408) 739-8424
Public Relations	Matt Allen	(408) 605-2310
CitP	Peder and Maria Jorgensen	(408) 358-3398
	Allan and Lucy Greenberg	(408) 997-0879
Past President*	Barbara Beach	(408) 887-4857

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Applications for Membership in the SCVMTFC:

<http://scvmtfc.org/MISC/membership%20forms/Membership%20Form.pdf>

Membership dues are \$30 /year. Send dues to Ivan Jorgensen, 475 W Sunnyoaks Ave., Campbell CA, 95008

Membership in the Model T Ford Club of America is encouraged. Dues \$50/year. Send dues to MTFCA, 310 N 8th St. Richmond, IN 47374



CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

2025 SCVMTFC Board Meetings

Board Meetings occur every
other month, Mondays before
General Meetings via Zoom
(unless otherwise noted)

May 12, 7:30 p.m.

July 14, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Next Endurance Run
Planning Meeting is
May 13th @ 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting.
Contact Chris Bhirdo.

2025 SCVMTFC General Meetings

General Meetings occur on 3rd
Friday of every month at
3620 Charter Park Drive, San Jose
(unless otherwise noted)

May 10 combined with Club Potluck
Noon-2:00 p.m. @ The Alens' Home

June 20, 7:30 p.m.

July 18, 7:30 p.m.

August 15, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. Date TBD Combined with Holiday
Luncheon



If there is any one secret of
success, it lies in the ability to get
the other person's point of view
and see things from that person's
angle, as well as your own."

Henry Ford





CLUB CALENDAR

2025 TOURS & EVENTS				
	Date	Event Type	Contact	Details
MAY	May 2-3	Multi Club Event	Steven Chase (323) 497-0601	Bakersfield Swap Meet See Details Page 6
	May 6—9	Combined Club Tour	Rob Caldeira	Rendezvous Tour Paso Robles, CA - Location change due to fires
	May 10	SCVMTFC Tour	Nikkie Gulko	SCVMTFC Potluck & May General Meeting @ Lynn & Nancy Alens's. See Details Page 5
	May 17	Public Relations	Matt Allen	Saratoga Bossom Festival
	May 18	Public Relations	Bill Bratt	Mid Peninsula Old Time Auto Club Friendship Day
	May 24-25	Public Relations	Lynn Alens	Dapper Days at the Filoli Historic House
JUN	June 7-8	SCVMTFC Hosted Event	Chris Bhirdo	54th Annual Endurance Run and Lowland Tour See Details Page 7
JULY	July 13-18	National Club Tour	National Model T Club	Steam 'n T Party National T Tour, Stettler, Alberta, Canada Details @ https://www.mtfca.com/events/
	July 4	SCVMTFC Tour	Ivan Jorgensen	Svedal
AUG	August TBD	Combined Club Tour	Glenn Wildman	Proposed joint picnic with South County Confirmation pending
SEPT	Sept. 13	SCVMTFC Hosted Event	Greenbergs & Jorgensens	25th Annual Cars In The Park @ History San Jose. See Details Page 9
OCT	October 4	SCVMTFC Tour	Jim Lukash	Pancake Breakfast at Lukash home
	October 16-19	Combined Club Tour	Barbara Beach	San Diego Model T Club Last Roundup Tour ***NOTE DATE CHANGE***
	Nov. 11	Public Relations Event	Matt Allen	Veterans Day Parade
NOV	November TBD	SCVMTFC Tour	Barbara Beach/Chris Bhirdo	Proposed farm visit
DEC	December	SCVMTFC Tour	Barbara Beach	SCVMTFC Annual Holiday Lunch
	December	SCVMTFC Tour	Barbara Beach	SCVMTFC Holiday Lights Tour
	December	SCVMTFC Tour	Barbara Beach	SCVMTFC Last Chance Tour

TOURS/EVENTS: CONTACT BARBARA BEACH
PUBIC RELATIONS: CONTACT MATT ALLEN

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



This year's Swap Meet dedicated to the memory of Bill Bennett

MAY 2 & 3 - 2025

Brass Era / Pre-war Swap Meet



MINTER AIRFIELD

201 Aviation Street - Shafter, CA
(A few miles North of Bakersfield on Hwy 99)

- Vendor set-up; Friday morning
- Swap Meet; Friday & Saturday
- Vendor Space \$50 / Buyers \$10



SWAP MEET Special!
\$97/night Thursday, Friday & Saturday or any variation.
(661) 387-1678 Group Code: HCCSC
19480 Quinn Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308



For Vendor Registration & General Information: Steven (323) 497-0601

SCVMTFC Potluck & General Meeting

Saturday, May 10th at the Alens's residence in Campbell

Noon-2:00 PM

Caravan meeting at Rancho @ 10:45, Leave at 11:00

RSVP by May 3rd at scvmtec@gmail.com or 408 644 6098 (leave message)

(Limit 3 salad dishes)

Dessert, water, utensils and paper plates will be provided.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Photo by: Linda Bhirdo

SANTA CLARA VALLEY MODEL T FORD CLUB
**54TH ANNUAL ENDURANCE RUN
& LOWLAND TOUR**
JUNE 7-8, 2025

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Tech Inspection & Barbecue
Bertolotti's Garage

505 Laurelwood Rd, Santa Clara, CA
Inspections: 12:00PM - 4:00PM
Barbecue Served: 4:00PM

Event Sponsors:



**Sunday, June 8, 2025 Endurance
Run & Lowland Tour**

Veterans Medical Center
3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto, CA
Opening Ceremony: 8:00AM
Green Flag Drops: 8:30AM
NEW! Veterans Appreciation
Car Show: 11AM - 3PM

For more details, visit our website:
www.SCVMTFC.org



Registration forms for Endurance Run,
Lowland Tour and Car Show at:
<http://www.scvmtfc.org>
Links on the Home Page

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



For More Information Visit the
MTFCA National Club Tour
Website

[https://www.mtfca.com/event/
steam-n-t-party-stettler-
alberta/](https://www.mtfca.com/event/steam-n-t-party-stettler-alberta/)

25th Annual

"The largest annual antique & classic auto show in the West"

A Living History Day



Entrance Fees:

Adults: \$10

Seniors: \$8

Children (6 - 12) & HSJ Members: \$5

Participants & Children Under 6: Free

Adjacent City Parking: \$10

Saturday, September 13, 2025

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

History Park, 693 Phelan Ave.

San José, CA 95112

Presented by the Santa Clara Valley Model T Ford Club
&
History San José

Period-Correct Vehicles and Motorcycles through 1949

•Antique Bicycles •Antique Fire Equipment •Early Day Gas Engines

•Handcraft Demos •Antique Collectibles •Dixieland Band

•Tonic Trio Singers •Vintage Clothing •Historic Buildings

•Trolley Rides •Children's Activities •And More

Featured Event:

Model T Put Together



scvmtfc.org



historysanjose.org

Food and Ice Cream are Available

Allan Greenberg

RECENT TOURS-APRIL

Trains, Rain, and Automobiles!

On a picturesque, beautiful spot of private land in the hills above Portola Valley, there is a hidden gem called the Portola Valley & Alpine Railroad. There are 14,000 feet of track for a 7.5 gauge railroad which is generally not open to the public. But luckily for the SCVMTCF, Bill Bratt is a member and hosted us for a private tour. Seven modern cars and three Model T's caravanned up winding and somewhat hidden roads to get to the railroad. Although a miniature railroad, the steam engines and cars are large enough for people to ride on and we were treated to beautiful scenery and views as we rode along the tracks. Everyone becomes a kid again when they get to ride the rails! A tour of the massive workshop where cars, buildings and tracks are built and maintained was part of the day. And then the rain hit! The T's had to flee or get soaked. A few of the people stayed behind and enjoyed a picnic lunch in one of the buildings. A great day! Fun was had by all.

Nancy Alens



COMMUNITY RELATIONS-APRIL

Bunnies & Bonnets Parade

Keeping with an annual holiday tradition, members of the SCVMTFC joined several other classic cars, marching bands and performers for the Bunnies & Bonnets parade in downtown Campbell. The event took place the Saturday before Easter, and is a crowd-pleaser for local residents and especially the kids. The Greenbergs were well represented with their extended family joining in.



FEATURED ARTICLE

THE HORSELESS CARRIAGE ERA PROGRAM ON APRIL 12

By Ed Archer

For anyone of us that have owned and been around the horseless carriage hobby awhile, the announcement that “The Wonderful Horseless Carriage Era” Program was to be held at the Candy Store and that it cost \$50.00 to attend, you couldn’t help but think “why would I want to go to that? I doubt there’ll be anything talked about that I don’t already know.” To some degree you would be right, but I have to admit, for most of you, you really missed a good show. As organizer of the event, I knew that our featured guest speaker, SCVMTFC member Dan Erceg would really present a fun educational performance, with his knowledge of the era, the cars, and the whole package. His idea of giving everyone the opportunity to ride in the horseless carriages that were there was a home run. Lunch was excellent, catered by Cheat A Little catering and it really hit the spot, and gave everyone time to converse and enjoy the camaraderie. It was so nice to see members Tony Wollesen, Mark Edwards, Chris Kent, John Kent and Jim Lukash who brought and monitored one of the cars, What a treat! All milling around enjoying the festivities.

So, the program was really aimed at folks in todays world that are not lucky enough to have been introduced to the horseless carriage era, but can’t help but wonder what that part of the collector car hobby is all about. Well Dan really brought it forward in a fun way, and with a little input from attending horseless carriage guys the program couldn’t have been better.



(Continued)



FEATURED ARTICLE CONT'D

Dan brought a large group of original photographs, artwork and memorabilia for display and began his talk with a great description of the era, how things were back then, and progressed into the cars, the hobby's beginnings and the hobby today, the Horseless Carriage Club of America, and regional groups established throughout the world, and finally the opportunity just before lunch for everyone to sit in one of the horseless carriages that were there. Each car had a monitor to properly help the people in and out, with Tony Wollesen monitoring his curved dash 1901 Oldsmobile, myself for our 1906 Locomobile, Chris Kent on Ben Mozzetti's 1909 Stearns, Gerald Robinson on John Bertolotti's 1910 Rambler, Jim Lukash on his 1914 Ford and Dan Erceg on his 1915 Pierce Arrow. As if that wasn't enough and thoroughly enjoyed, immediately after lunch the caterer made room for us to get three of the cars, the Ford, Pierce Arrow and the Locomobile out of the building so that we could give everyone the ultimate experience of riding around the neighborhood aboard any of the great cars of their choice. And as you can imagine that was truly, the icing on the cake... with gobs of whipped cream on top. The comments came pouring in afterwards, so much so that maybe there could be a chapter two sometime in the future.



REMEMBER WHEN

**EVENTS OR STORIES OF THE SCVMTFC PAST. COURTESY OF OUR HISTORIAN,
LUCY GREENBERG**

WINGS OF HISTORY AIR MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE & FLY-IN

May 14, 2016: We gathered at the usual starting place for a southern tour, the parking lot at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road. Gathered there were 6 Model T's; Ed & Karen Archer, Norvel Ney & Zach, Bill & Mike Bratt, Chris Bhirdo & son, Dan & Ann Marie Smith and Allan & Lucy Greenberg. Joining us was Sam Sunseri in a Model A, Dan & Steve Gulko in a '32 Chevy, Peder &



Big and loud and you don't ever want to see this view in the air.

Maria Jorgensen in their new '26 Lincoln, Tony Wollensen in his '24 Pierce Arrow and Grover & Maryann Steele in a modern. We caravanned to the South County Airport for the 16th Annual Wings of History Air Museum Open House and Fly-in. We arrived at 10:00 AM without any incidents or malfunctions. Upon arrival, we were met by Tony Andre who brought his newly acquired beautiful '25 Oakland and Taylor Andre with his new acquisition, a 1926 Model T. Glenn & Vicki Wildman were there with their Model A as was Del Aquila. Bob Muetzenberg brought his recently purchased Model T. Shortly after we arrived we noticed the arrival of a beautifully restored '29 Lincoln owned by Scott Brunshwiler.

Many of us took a quick look around at all the great displays of aircraft, early day gas engines, crawlers and tractors. But most of the day was spent close to the antique autos talking to friends,



Model T row.

acquaintances and especially visitors who showed a great interest in the autos. This event brings out many locals who look forward to the day and we enjoyed showing and talking about our cars.

Allan Greenberg



Strolling the flight line on a beautiful day, look at that sky.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SCVMTC General Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2025

Attendees: 28 including 2 guests

Meeting Called to Order by President Lynn Alens at 7:31 p.m. Meeting held at Brading Associates.

President (Lynn Alens): Lynn asked for any additions or corrections to the last meeting minutes printed in *The Backfire*. There were none and the minutes were approved.

Secretary (Pam Caldeira): No update

Reading: Chuck Christensen read an excerpt from the book *1919-1927 Model T Ford Service*.

Vice President (Chris Bhirdo): Chris shared an issue of *The Flivver Flash* newsletter from the Space City Ts in Texas.

Treasurer (Mary Beaman): Mary distributed and reviewed financial reports. The club now has a Certificate of Deposit at Wells Fargo.

Programs (Mark Edwards): Lynn Alens announced that tonight's program will be "Sharing Your Hobby." Next month's general meeting will be combined with the potluck so there will be no program.

Backfire (Nancy Alens): Lynn Alens reminded members that the deadline for submissions is the 25th.

Tours (Barbara Beach): Barbara confirmed upcoming tours and events: Trains in Portola Valley April 26th, Potluck May 10th, Endurance Run and Lowland Tour June 7th-8th, Sveadal July 4th, South County Tour August Date TBD. Barbara handed out driving patches to Bob Meneely, Bob Beaman, Chris Bhirdo, and herself. Mark Edwards and Chris Kent have also earned driving patches from the Green Brass Tour.

Public Relations: Lynn Alens confirmed upcoming events: Bunnies and Bonnets Parade April 19th, Saratoga Blossom Festival May 17th, Friendship Day May 18th, Harding Park Golf Course 100th Anniversary July 18th, Santa Clara County Fair Parade August 2nd, Santa Clara Parade of Champions October 4th, Veteran's Day Parade November 11th. The club will not be participating in the Filoli Dapper Days Weekend event. Taking the Put Together T to Friendship Day was discussed and two more volunteers are needed for the team. If you are interested, please speak up.

Membership (Ivan Jorgensen): Lynn Alens reported that there are over eighty members now.

Tech & Safety (Dan Smith): No update

Librarian: Michele Brading suggested that members come early to meetings and choose a reading from one of the books in the library to share during the meeting.

Endurance Run: Chris Bhirdo reported that eighteen participants have registered for the Endurance Run, six participants have registered for the Lowland Tour, and five participants have registered for the Veterans Appreciation Car Show. Chris gave an overview of the event. Ed Archer talked about the origin of the event. More volunteers are needed.

Cars in the Park: Peder Jorgensen has a sign-up sheet for volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Peder. The event will be on September 13th. Peder gave an overview of the event. The featured vehicles this year will be Speedsters and Racers.

Website: No update

Historian: No update

Refreshments: Thank you, Chuck and Helen Christensen! Thank you, Shirley Azevedo! Maria and Peder Jorgensen will bring refreshments in June.

Sunshine: Helen Christensen sent a card to MaryAnn Steele.

Old Business: Lynn Alens showed members the advertisement display frame he built and thanked Bob Meneely for the base.

New Business: Bill Bratt mentioned that MaryAnn Steele has two sandblasters she wants to give away. She also has a lot of hardware and is selling a speedster. Pat Meneely showed members the new iron-on jacket patches and said she still has jackets. The patches are \$15 each and the jackets are \$25. If you are interested in buying one, please contact Pat.

Good of the Order: Happy Birthday Peder Jorgensen! Happy Birthday Nancy Alens!

Next Meetings: General Meeting May 10th (The Alens' Residence) Board Meeting May 12th (Zoom)

Motion to Adjourn by Mary Beaman, Seconded by Chuck Christensen

Meeting Adjourned by Lynn Alens at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Pam Caldeira, Secretary

May 2025

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE

FOR THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES, PLEASE CONTACT :
Ed Archer, phone 510 581 4911, Email karened4@att.net



1923 Ford Model T light Van delivery. Truck #52, original United Parcel Service from the Oakland, CA. service area. Older high quality very authentic restoration. Call for price.

1926 Chevrolet Superior K 5 Pass. Touring Show quality older restoration. Don't settle for second best and spend a lot of time, money and headaches to try and make it great. This one is already there. \$10,500.00 Call or email for more pictures.



1952 Bentley Radford Countryman Pebble Beach show quality restoration. Buy an immediate winner. Price is much less the cost and headaches of restoring one. \$129,000.00. Call or email for more pictures.

Very authentic **1915 Ford Model T Runabout/Roadster** and car trailer to be sold as a package. Single axle trailer, professionally well built and hardly used. The car is a 1915 throughout with exception of the kerosene side and tail lamps may be 1916 or so. It runs well, tires are like new, paint is pretty good, body shows some amateur quality body work here and there. It's an older restoration with paint chips throughout, but overall looks good as a car meant to be driven. The top has been down for years improperly stored and I do have pictures of it up but full of wrinkles and needs to be set in the sun in the up position for an extended period to stretch it out. All in all a great package ready to tour and have some horseless carriage fun. \$12,500.00 or best offer. More pictures on request.



1971 MGB Mk 3 Roadster. White with black interior, chrome wire wheels. Extremely nice one owner well maintained since new, loads of fun top up, top down, to drive. 71,000 original miles, recent engine and transmission refresh and repair as needed by MG specialty shop. \$21,000.00 or best offer must sell asap.

Ads will be run for 3 months unless canceled. If your ad is removed and you still want it posted, please contact the Editor of The Backfire at alensna@gmail.com

MARKETPLACE

FOR SALE



1916 MODEL T ROADSTER

FORMERLY A 1915 UNITED MARKET TRUCK. HAIGHT
ASHBERY, SAN FRANCISCO.

ORIGINAL BAY AREA T. 2ND OWNER OVER 55 YEARS.
MULTIPLE CONCOURSE WINNER. FIRST CAR OF LONG
TIME FORD RESTORER

PRICE: \$13,000

CONTACT: GREENSNAKE68@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CHRIS BROWN 1 650 823 0067. TEXT OKAY



For Sale

1928 Packard 526 4 Door Sedan

Acquisition of a new car forces sale of my **1928 Packard sedan**. This is an all original 'barn find' car that has had significant mechanical improvements to make it a safe and reliable touring vehicle. I am the 4th owner of this California car that was sold by Earle C. Anthony.

Price \$18,000 /offer

If interested, call Rob Guzzetta (408) 639-9801
splithead6fan@gmail.com

Many more photos of car available if interested.

**Bosch Jack Hammer
(Demo Hammer)**

\$275.00

**Ray Fontaine
408-258-0186**

**T Block single valve cover style
Small drum rear end, not torque tube
2-Torque tube housings**

CHEAP - FREE

Contact Peder Jorgensen 408-410-2903

Ads will be run for 3 months unless canceled. If your ad is removed and you still want it posted, please contact the Editor of The Backfire at alensna@gmail.com

MEMBER NEWS

2025 DRIVING PATCHES



January
Jim Lukash

April
Bill Bratt

July

Oct

February
Bob Meneely
Chris Bhirdo
Bob Beaman
Barbara Beach

May

August

Nov

March
Mark Edwards
Chris Kent

June

September

December

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming
Endurance Run/Lowland Tour/Car Show June 8

Come and help us ensure a great day and have fun at the same time!

Opportunities Include:

- Bring your T to the Veterans Appreciation Car Show
- Help Direct Traffic
- Greet Guests
- 5 more people still needed for morning staging
- 5 more people still needed for afternoon support

Contact Chris Bhirdo if you can help! cbhirdo@gmail.com or text (408) 505-0153



SANTA CLARA VALLEY MODEL T FORD CLUB

SUBMISSIONS DUE TO THE EDITOR BY THE 25TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

EDITIONS PUBLISHED 1ST OF EACH MONTH, 12 TIMES A YEAR

EDITOR: NANCY ALENS

ALENSNA@GMAIL.COM

(408) 679-2780



May 2025