



The Buzz



The Official Publication of

The Dairyland Tin Lizzies

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Model Ts at School - May 5, 2025

By Keith Gumbinger

We had another great “Model Ts at School” day at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson; our sixth time hosting this fun and educational event for students (and faculty too). It’s also a good shake down for our Ts, since it is usually one of the first events of the season.



Shawn Gerrits once again coordinated the event alongside history teacher Jerry Zeamer. Mr. Zeamer co-founded “Model Ts at School” years ago with Jim Rodell Jr. when Eric Rodell was a student. The event remains a favorite at the school and Mr. Zeamer invites us back each year. This time, 136 students and staff enjoyed rides in 11 different Model Ts.



UPCOMING 2025 & 2026 EVENTS

September 27

Tour to Port Washington

For the "International Day of Model T Touring"
Courtesy of Jim Rodell, Jr. Full details are inside!

October 26

Fall Business Meeting

2pm at the Slinger Historical Museum
414 Kettle Moraine Drive, S. Please save this date.

November 1 or 2

Fall T and TT Truck Tour

Courtesy of Gregg & Pam Zangl
Final date and details are to be announced.

January ?

Possible Tin Lizzies Christmas Party

January ?

Possible University & Ladies' Day



Once again, the Dairyland Tin Lizzies were very well represented at this year's MTFCI Annual Tour. This time, our members traveled to Owatonna, MN to tour with Model T friends from all over the country. The Dairyland Tin Lizzies received quite a bit of recognition this year. Look for more on this in our next issue!

Presentations on the Ford Model T and its role in the American Industrial Revolution were given by DTL members Dave DeYoung, DeWayne Fritz, Pete Humphrey, Chad Prost, Tod Wirth and Gregg Zangl. Students rotated between speakers and each received a past issue of *The Vintage Ford*, courtesy of DeWayne Fritz. Giving the students a piece of the Model T experience to take home with them may help to spark the interest of a future Model-Ter.



Model T rides followed, with these cars and drivers:

Gregg Zangl – 1913 Depot Hack
John Fischer – 1914 Touring
Keith & Carol Gumbinger – 1914 Touring
Gary & Chad Prost – 1916 Roadster
Tod Wirth – 1917 Fire Truck
Pete Humphrey – 1919 Touring

Rich Edler – 1924 Fordor
Marcus Geoffrey – 1924 Roadster Pickup
Dave DeYoung – 1926 Tudor
DeWayne Fritz – 1926 Tudor
Mike Zahorik – 1926 Tudor





Special thanks to Tammy Fischer for organizing lunch and to Ken Lefeber and Shawn Gerrits for capturing the day in photos. Check out all the smiles on the students faces as they ride around in 100 year old Model T's, proof that a good time was had by all!



Here is a 'thank you' note from Mr. Zeamer to Shawn for the club:

Good morning Shawn,

Thanks again for organizing yesterday's event. Our students loved learning more about the Model Ts and especially appreciated the opportunity to ride in several *different* Model Ts. Please pass along our appreciation to the members of your club who were in attendance yesterday. Hoping we can continue to carry on this tradition in future years!

God Bless your day, Jerry

Jerry Zeamer

Director of Admissions/
Recruitment Director/Social Studies

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School



More Model Ts at School - June 3, 2025

By Shawn Gerrits

My stepdaughter Jenny is a fifth grade teacher in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Earlier this year, she asked her students, “What would you like to learn about in history?” Two boys in her class, both big fans of cars, asked to learn about Henry Ford and the invention of the automobile. These two students weren’t always eager to participate in class, but Jenny saw their interest as an opportunity. She chose Henry Ford as a class topic and reached out to us to see if we could bring a Model T to school.

When Jenny found out we could visit, she made a deal with the two boys: if they did research on Henry Ford and gave a presentation to the class, they’d earn a ride in the Model T. Motivated by the reward, they created a PowerPoint presentation and shared what they had learned with their classmates.

On June 3rd, 2025, Barb and I brought our 1924 Ford Model T Touring to the school. It was a beautiful day, perfect for showing the car to the students. We arrived at 9:15 a.m., and Jenny invited the other fifth grade teachers to bring their classes out as well. Jenny’s class was first, and the two boys who had completed the project were ready and excited.

Barb and I spoke with the students about the history and features of the Model T. During the last few minutes of each group’s visit, the students took turns sitting in the car, switching between the front and back seats. Barb showed the students how to honk the horn, which brought lots of laughter. I started the engine so they could hear how it sounded, and finally, I gave the two boys their well-earned ride. Both were grinning from ear to ear.



Four additional classes, each with about twenty students, came out to see the car throughout the morning. The two boys from Jenny’s class helped with each group. One helped students get in and out of the car, while the other stood on a step stool, taking photos with a school iPad as students rotated through the front seat. The student photographer even directed his classmates, saying, “If you’ve sat in both the front and back, go stand on the right side of the car.” He took the lead with confidence and pride.

It was a fantastic day sharing the Model T with the students. They enjoyed sitting in the car, honking the horn, and asking questions. I even gave a few teachers a ride. One of the boys who had done the

research got an extra ride when a teacher hopped in. He sat quietly and just soaked it all in. The other boy told Barb, “Someday I’m probably going to get married and have kids. I’m going to tell them; ‘Do you know what I did when I was in fifth grade? I got a ride in a Ford Model T.’”



To top off the day, we visited Culver’s in Sauk City for lunch—home of the original Culver’s. It was the perfect ending to a memorable and meaningful day.

Destination Door County - May 24-26, 2025

By Keith Gumbinger

Our Club has enjoyed this Door County Tour since 2004. This year marked our 20th tour; having missed 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

Traditionally, our tours are made up entirely of Model T's. However, this year's was a little different. Four of us who planned to drive our T's ended up going modern due to mechanical issues:

Ken Lefeber had a broken starter.

Pete & Shelly Humphrey discovered a broken front leaf spring while driving their T to Sheboygan on Friday. A temporary fix got them to Sheboygan, but the T wasn't safe for the tour.

Keith & Carol Gumbinger found a defective rear axle shaft while installing a new Ruckstell in their '26 Roadster Pickup. That's a big repair job too, so no time for a replacement.

Jack & Barb Leonhardt - were still working on their recently acquired '26 T Coupe. It wasn't quite ready for touring.

In addition to these four with mechanical issues, John & Carol Brodtke joined us on Saturday, but also came modern. John was still recovering from a medical issue and couldn't drive yet.

Saturday: Hitting the Road

We gathered at the Rehlko Generator parking lot in Sheboygan. Tour Chairman Pete Humphrey gave a short driver's meeting and we were soon on our way. Our first stop was for gas at the BP station on the south side of Manitowoc.



We then headed to Hartman's Bakery for a morning snack of fresh pastries and definitely some *extra* pastries for Sunday morning's breakfast.

From there, we continued our drive through Two Rivers and Kewaunee, stopping for lunch in Alaska, WI. Afterward, we made our way to Algoma, where we enjoyed time strolling through town to soak in the local charm. Points of

interest included an art gallery, antique shops and a good opportunity to check out the **von Stiehl Winery and Cider House!**

Back on the road, we hugged the Lake Michigan shore for a very scenic route up to Sturgeon Bay and finally on to Valmy.



Thank you, Carol!!!

The *only* way to start a model T tour is with freshly baked cookies!!

There really *is* nothing better than a Model T Tour on a beautiful day!!



The Runaway Lodge at Valmy was our home base for the next 2 nights. It is operated by our friends Ron and Mary Boston and Mary had everything ready for us, making check-in quick and easy. In the evening, those that wanted dinner, gathered at the nearby **Happy Hour** bar and restaurant up the street.

Sunday: Touring Door County

Sunday morning started with coffee brewed early by Ron, paired with the pastries from Hartman's and other snacks and juice. A great way to kick off the day!

Our first destination on Sunday was beautiful **Cave Point County Park** on Lake Michigan, where we admired the magnificent caves carved by the relentless force of the water and waves.

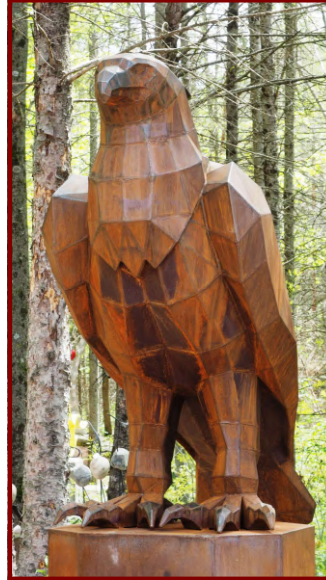


We climbed around the rocky shoreline and took a group photo with the lake as our backdrop.

From there, we headed to one of our favorite stops; **Wood Orchard Market**. Sampling their baked goods and freshly canned sauces and jams always agrees with everyone.

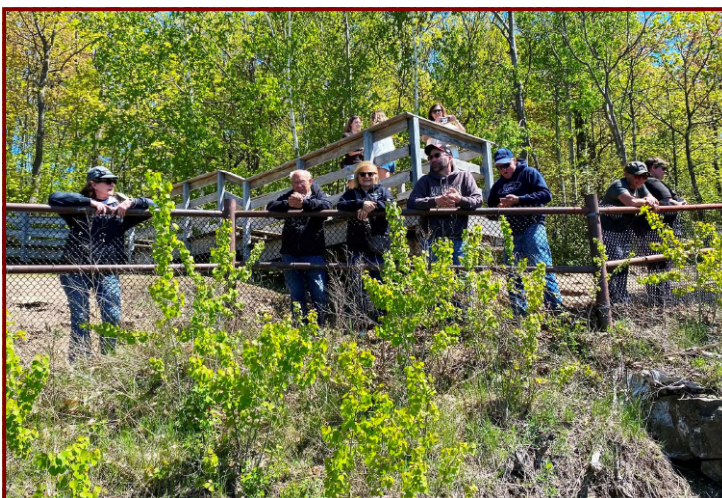
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Afterward, we hopped back into the cars for a short drive to **Edgewood Orchard Galleries** which featured both an indoor gallery as well as an outdoor sculpture garden. We took time to explore the unique art set against the natural landscape.



The roads that followed were absolutely beautiful, taking in the scenic views as we made our way to lunch at the **Sister Bay Bowl Restaurant**, which offered excellent home cooked food and great service.

After lunch, we continued North up to **Ellison Bluff County Park** overlooking Green Bay on the west side of Door County. The water was perfectly still, and watching the boats cruise by on a gorgeous day was incredibly relaxing.



Next, we headed south on some lovely back roads to the **Tannenbaum Holiday Shop**, a unique year-round Christmas store in a former church. Or, if you were hungry for ice cream, (if?) you could go across the street to the **Door County Ice Cream Factory**, an old-fashioned ice cream shop and an institution in Sister Bay. (Of course, we all indulged!)

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Back at the lodge, we gathered at the gazebo for a potluck dinner. Everyone brought something to share; homemade dishes, snacks and sweet treats, making for a great meal. As the evening cooled off, we lit a fire in Ron’s new fire pit, its glow adding a cozy touch to the cool evening air. Later on, Pete brought out his banjo and entertained us with a few tunes, filling the night with music that added to the laid-back evening. We sat around the campfire, enjoying the food, laughter, music, and each other’s company before turning in.



We want to give a special thank you to Ken, who led the T’s in his modern vehicle, a first for our club. Shelly and Pete rode along, helping to keep an eye on the Ts and navigate using the tour directions. Leading a group of Model T’s in a modern car isn’t easy, especially keeping the pace at 30 MPH over nearly 100 miles, but they pulled it off smoothly. At least it was a Ford! :) Thanks to their teamwork and patience, everything went off without a hitch.



In addition, a big thank you to Jim and Colleen Rodell for inviting Pete and Shelly to ride with them in their T on Sunday. It made the day even more special, being part of the tour in a T.

Monday: Wrapping It Up

Before leaving, we took a group photo in front of the Runaway Lodge sign, this time making sure to include our hosts/friends, Ron and Mary Boston.

Our route to Sturgeon Bay took us along Glidden Drive, one of my favorite roads with its curves and tree-lined views. Being a holiday, many residents were out watching us cruise by, waving and smiling. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery and peeks of Lake Michigan en-route to breakfast. We were scheduled to have breakfast in Sturgeon Bay at the Betsy Ross Restaurant, but it was unexpectedly closed! Shelly quickly took the lead, saying “Follow me!” and guided us to a nearby restaurant, Scaturo’s, where we’ve eaten in the past. It worked out great! They were able to accommodate us quickly, they had lots of parking for the T’s, and the food was delicious.

After being well fed, it was time to hit the road and cover some ground. About halfway back, we stopped at the **Dusty Attic** in Kewaunee to stretch our legs. Recently sold to new owners, the shop has been nicely cleaned up and digging through its many interesting treasures made for a fun little break.



Back on the road heading south, we made our traditional stop at **Cedar Crest Ice Cream** in Manitowoc. As the home office and factory, they offer nearly every flavor imaginable and yes, it was as delicious as ever!

Back in Sheboygan, we had a pleasant surprise waiting for us—Dan and Phyllis Schultz were in the parking lot to welcome us back. It was great to catch up with them both. It was also a meaningful moment, remembering that Dan and Phyllis started the Destination Door County Tour over Memorial Day weekend 21 years ago. We’ve shared many happy memories over the years.

Though that wrapped up the tour for most of us, Pete and Shelly still had work ahead. They had left their T in Kevin Bruso’s trailer and Kevin kindly hauled it to Rich Edler’s place before heading home. That way, Pete could start repairs in the weeks leading up to Tin Lizzy University at Rich’s. There will be more on that progress in the next issue of *The Buzz*.

Tour participants who drove their T’s: Kevin & Bob Bruso, Dave DeYoung & Becca DeYoung with her roommate, John & Tammy Fischer, DeWayne Fritz & Diane Scheid, Rob & Pat Maasch, Jim & Colleen Rodell, Larry & Pat Summers, Gregg & Pam Zangl with guest Vicki and Nathan & Mae Jean Zelle.

A special thanks and welcome to Nathan and Mae Jean Zelle, who joined us for their first ever DTL tour. We hope to see you on many more! It was a memorable and meaningful 20th Door County Tour. Thank you to everyone who participated and special thanks to Pete, Shelly, and our hosts at the Runaway Lodge for making it another great adventure.

Buzz Classifieds

Looking for Winter Storage?

Storage is available in Hartford. Call Jim Wright: 414-659-2256

Amish Country Tour - July 12, 2025

By Denis & Melodie Pulvermacher

Our tour was a small group, but we had a good tour. We had 4 cars and 7 participants. Our first stop was Kingston Creamery, an Amish Cheese factory & Store. The cheese curd is FRESH!

Our next stop was Country Kitchen, an Amish bakery and candy store. Goodies galore! Next we drove back roads to Portage for our lunch stop. After lunch we drove up the street to the Portage Museum and enjoyed the exhibits in this beautiful old home.



Our afternoon drive on lovely back roads took us thru Montello and Princeton, with an ice cream stop at the Ice Bowl. After our ice cream there may have been some bouncing in their bounce house for a couple younger participants!

Thanks for Touring with us!



Little Known History

This rare photo shows an early gear design for the Model T Ford that Henry Ford and his engineering team rejected in favor of the planetary gear system that is in the Model T Ford.

(It's a good thing they did...)



International Day of Model T Touring

September 27, 2025

Tour to Port WASHINGTON



Join the Dairyland Tin Lizzies as we take a relaxing trip from West Bend to Port Washington and return on Saturday, September 27, this year's "International Day of Model T Touring". Our tour begins at 9 a.m. at Vrana Frame and Body Shop, 1405 N. Main St., West Bend, with an estimated return time of 4:30 p.m. There is plenty of parking for those bringing tow vehicles and trailers.

We will depart Vrana Frame & Body Shop at 9:15 and head to Newburg on Wallace Lake Road.

Our first stop will be the Old World General Store antique shop. Here, we may hunt for treasures, see shop owner Steve as he rides his high wheel bicycle, and learn about the history of Newburg. Refreshments will be provided by your tour host.

From Newburg we will travel backroads to Port Washington where we can explore the historic downtown shops, marina, walk out to the harbor lighthouse, and see the historic Pebble House.

At 11:30 a.m. we will head to the Inventors Brew Pub on the north end of the marina, 305 E. Washington St., where our group is expected for lunch.

At 1 p.m. we will visit the Port Washington Historical Society Resource Center and the 1860 Light Station, both open special for our group to visit this day. Cost of the Light Station tour is \$5.00 per person.



After our visit to Port Washington, we will depart by 3 p.m. for our return trip to West Bend. To make this a genuine Model T tour, we will stop at The Shoppe Custard and Grill, 600 N. Main St. in West Bend, a short distance south of Vrana Frame & Body Shop for frozen custard.

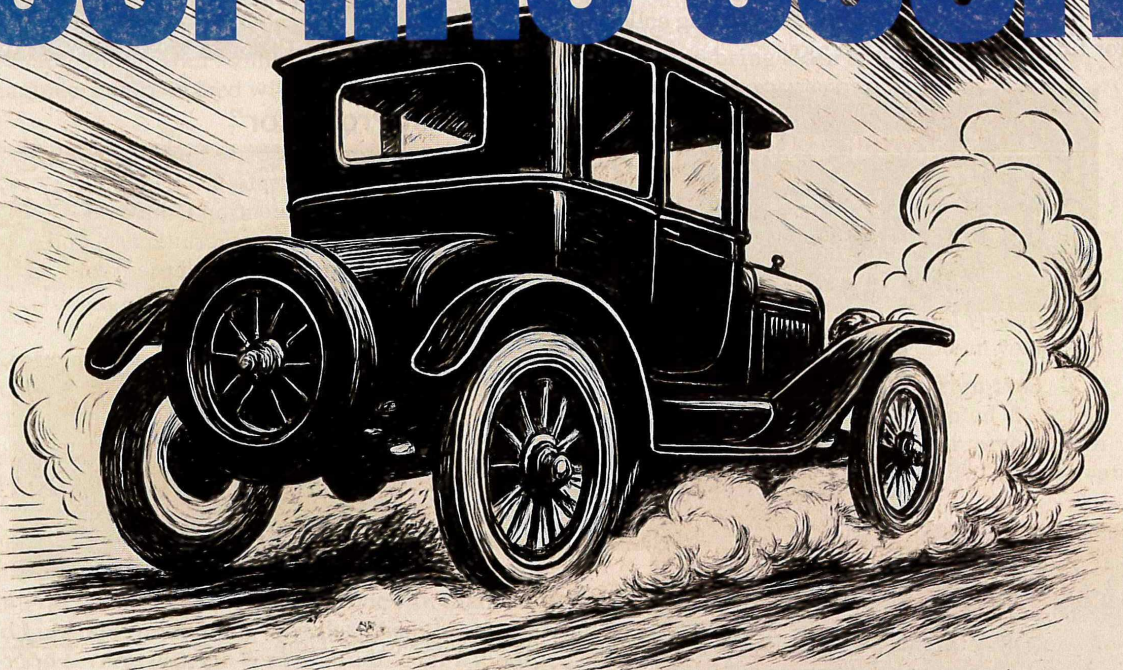


Please RSVP by September 24 if you plan to attend

Call or text Jim at 262-224-9734
or email jcerodell@hiercommnetworks.net

Please leave your fur babies at home.
Pets are not allowed in the historical society museums or restaurant.

COMING SOON



GET READY FOR TWO REGIONAL TOURS IN 2026

NEW YORK

June 22 - 26, 2026

MISSOURI

September 9 - 12, 2026

More information in the next issue of *The Vintage Ford*.

Dairyland Tin Lizzies Officers

President: Tod Wirth

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