



T-Bucket Times

July
2014

THE NATIONAL T-BUCKET ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

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As I write this, people are headed to Pigeon Forge, TN, and other areas of the country to "Family Reunions." I was pleased with the feedback from many of the folks who attended Mt. Home last month. Many folks were attending their first Nats and commented on how welcome they were made to feel, which just reinforces the family values we represent!! Rick and his team did a fantastic job on our behalf and I can't thank them enough for their time and efforts. Also to the folks that assisted with cruises, poker runs, registration, raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets, THANK YOU is not enough for all of the hard work and time you put in for the NTBA!

Ceec is ready to host our Western Regional event in August, and I am looking forward to seeing many folks that I have not seen since Colorado! If you are in the area, stop in and check it out! I know the list of attendees continues to grow. There will be a number of opportunities to gather in the next 4 months so I hope you take advantage of one or two and get to know some of our new members. This fall we have So-Cal T's 101 Run, Fred's Fun Run, Artesia, Lake of the Ozarks to name a few. Hope to see you on the road!

I will have the final details for 2015 Nats in Green Bay worked out this weekend. Deb and I are headed up there to meet with the city, law enforcement, and Tourism folks and from all early indications you will not be disappointed!. Luggy has been busy to say the least. Stay safe and Keep Cruisin!!

Rolla



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Event Calendar

2014 Western Regional	Yakima, WA	August 21-23	509-431-1688
2014 Missouri Mini-Nats	Osage Beach, MO	September 4-6	816-452-8152
Artesia Fun Run	Artesia, NM	September 18-20	575-365-7259
Fred's Fun Run	Tucson, AZ	Novemer 7-8	

If you have an event you would like in the event calendar, send the info to:
newsletter@nationaltbucketalliance.com

The T-Bucket Times

is a monthly newsletter brought to you by the



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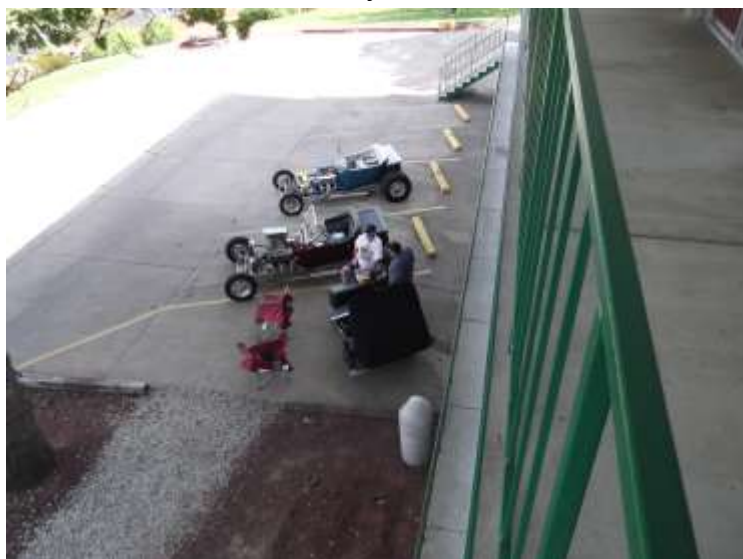
BRANSON, MOUNTAIN HOME WELCOME THE NTBA BACK

BRANSON PRE-MEET

While the 2014 NTBA Nationals were officially in Mountain Home, Arkansas, past-president Bill Darr organized a 3-day "pre-meet" in Branson for those who wanted to take a relaxed look at the shows, dining, sight-seeing, etc. available in the Branson area. About 15 members came in on Sunday through Wednesday morning.

Maintaining the NTBA motto of "Live to Drive, Drive to Food," two highlights of the meet were cruises to the Gaston's Resort below Bull Shoals dam, and to Lambert's Café (The Home of Thrown Rolls), just south of Springfield, Missouri. The cruise to Gaston's featured a very wet drive back, after crossing the river by ferry.

If you do a youtube search on my name, you can find a video of the very wet return from Gaston's.



MOUNTAIN HOME NATIONALS

It would be easy to give a line-by-line listing of the events at the Mountain Home Nationals, but I want to give others a chance to tell some of their favorite times.

Of course, the event included the usual cruises to surrounding towns and events, ice-cream cruises almost every night (abandon diets all ye who enter the Nationals), with a parade, visits to nursing homes, a rally/poker run, and a static show on Saturday. Interspersed throughout was a lot of visiting with old friends and making new friends. When it comes down to it, the Nationals is not so much a car show as a family reunion with noisy little cars as transport from meeting to meeting. As Lavelle Tunnell said, "We're all just a family, but instead of being related by blood, we're related by motor oil."

And even as I'm putting this newsletter together, the Pigeon Forge and SoCal events are taking place, so we will have more event coverage next month.

Kathy Foppe

NATS 2014 started for the Foppes and Pinky T at a great burger burn at Denton Ferry RV park.



The rains came in torrents and then the rainbow came out. Burgers were great and the hospitality wonderful. Passing the hat to help the cooks showed

"family" at its best.

Angie Milton

My favorite thing for the 2014 NTBA Nationals.... The caring and compassion that was shown when we finally arrived in Mountain Home. John and Jay were right there along with Rick. They were all so helpful in getting us back on the road. Visiting with our family was also great... Miss each and everyone already.



Bruce Deangelis

My daughter Jodi got to spend the entire week with me at both Branson and Mountain Home. Here she is at the second stop on the poker run waiting for cars to arrive to pass out a winning card.



Sandra Shugart

Besides seeing our T-Bucket family again and meeting new ones there are two occasions that stand out from the National's this year.

First was the cruise to Care Manor Nursing Home. It was so great to bring a smile to the faces of the residences that we got to meet.

Second moment was when the younger members of the group were recognized. I believe they will be a great asset to the group in the future. I know these are just a few of them but there are also many others that we need to recognize too.



Mickey Gist

This was at Buffalo city. It was the only cruise we got to go on as we came up from Memphis on Friday. Just a special Thanks to all the people that made this happen.



Hall of Fame Inductees - 2014

I am happy to announce that our Hall of Fame inductees for 2014 are two special couples that are definitely deserving of this award. Dale and Teresa Wiersma AND Windy and Jodie Scott were both inducted into the NTBA Hall of Fame at our meeting in Mt. Home, AR. Dale and Teresa were unable to be at the meeting; however, they called in during the meeting and were able to accept the award and address the group. Windy and Jodie were there to receive their plaques. I am thinking I will hang onto Dale's until the Lake of the Ozarks event and let him pick them up there :)

He is retired you know ;)

--Rolla Hessel, President

CAROL BENSON

Over the last year I've ridden in the T-Bucket maybe 10 times for less than 30 minutes each. It was OK but not exciting to me. Tim Taylor (aka Toolman) asked me to go to the Nationals with him. Honestly, I agreed only to support him in his love of the T-bucket events since he embraced my passion for motorcycle racing. I am shy and don't converse easily with people I don't know. I was mentally prepared to be bored and to be making a break for the hotel room every chance I got.

We drove up from Grapevine, Texas which is an 8.5 hour drive. About two hours outside of Mountain Home, Tim said he was tired and I needed to drive. I had always refused to learn to drive the bucket until then, because I was intimidated by it. However, keeping with my state of mind to make sure he had a wonderful week, I said I would and asked him to find a side road for me to get familiar with how it handled. Then I would continue the journey while he rested.

One half of a mile, ONE HALF OF A MILE was all it took! I fell in love with "Da Bucket". I drove the last two hours and we arrived safely at the hotel. I was grinning ear to ear the whole time. Before we got into the hotel we were surrounded by his fellow "bucketheads." There were about 10 people that I had met before this event. Everyone was so nice and friendly and they immediately made me feel very welcome. I think I did more talking than he did that night. If you know the Toolman, you know that's not an easy task to do. If you knew me, you would know that's a miracle.

Friday we did everything scheduled and then some. Between events Tim wanted to go to the room to cool off and rest for a bit. I was the one that kept saying that I was here to have fun, not sit in a hotel room and that I'd be outside hanging out with everyone. I loved the cruise to the nursing home, the visits with the residents, the parade, hanging out on the square and later that night, hanging out in the parking lot. There were great people, amazing conversations and a genuine feeling of being accepted into the group.

Saturday morning Tim was going to the University to help set up and I was going to just chill in the room for a while. I went downstairs for breakfast and found out that there was a cruise that morning. I was so excited! Without hesitation, I found Tim and told him I was going to do the cruise by myself. He couldn't believe it and was elated that I wanted go. He said that if I needed anything or had problems that the others on the cruise would take care of me. By this point I had no doubt that

if help was needed I probably wouldn't even have to ask and several people would jump in and resolve any issue that arose. I had an absolute ball on the cruise. The smile on his face was amazing and he was beaming like a dad with a new baby. I got a little teary eyed at his reaction. He was strutting around telling everyone the rest of the day that I did the cruise without him. I have the image of that huge smile burned in my mind.

We were there for the Red, White and Blue Festival, the National Meeting and ended up being the only T-Bucket that was parked in the grass for the fireworks, which were spectacular. After the fireworks was more parking lot therapy. At that point I was worn out.

Sunday morning was time for us to pack up and head home. After tons of hugs from everyone we were on the road and 9.5 hours later we were home. We started trying to figure out the logistics of the upcoming BBQ Event before a week had passed.

In Summary, I conquered the intimidation of "Da Bucket", easily conversed with all the people I met, never wanted to make a break for the hotel room, was nowhere close to being bored at any point and had an absolute blast. All of these combined to make the trip that much more enjoyable for Tim, which as I stated was my main goal. Mission Accomplished :)

Everyone kept saying that these events are not about the T-Buckets, they are about the people. Being an outsider coming in, I fully agree. Don't get me wrong, the T-Buckets were very intriguing but the people were everything.

You, I mean WE, have a wonderful organization that thrives because of its members. It was a pleasure meeting you all and I can guarantee you will see me at more events in the future.

--Carol Benson



WHO ARE WE? DANIEL ANGELERI



(Daniel is the young man in the body in the photo above.)

The whole idea started when we decided my father needs a toy with 4 wheels--no more motorcycles. We got the green light from my mother to own a hotrod/ratrod, with only a few requirements. It needed to be clean enough for her to be seen in (not a rust bucket), had to not cost too much, had to fit in the garage, and we only were allowed to work on it when all other work around the house or for school was done. So we started looking at hotrods. We even tossed around the idea of a dune buggy. It came up that we don't see many T's around, or many traditional hot rods, such as deuce coupes. We liked both those bodies and knew they made kits in each. After some research comparing cost, buildability, and size, we decided it would be cool to have a T-bucket.

Now it was a matter of what kit. My dad is very mechanically inclined, but this was a learning experience for me, ending up like a profolio. We chose a Spirit body and chassis so everything would flow nicely. We went and bought a used and abused pickup truck that was solid mechanically, which happened to have a 400 cu. in. SBC in it. So now we ordered the kit.

When everything finally arrived to the local shipping company we were all set- but had nothing to pick it up in! We got rid of the truck! We ended up using my dad's Chrysler 300 to tow my utility trailer and get started. To start, my dad would assign a simple task for me to do as he did stuff around the house, checking in occasionally. As we got ready to figure out how to mount a 4 speed in this tight little frame, a little research revealed that Spirit has only had a 1 or 2 customers use their t-bucket frame and body and make it a standard. So we measured twice and cut twice as we tried to figure it out. Once that was sort-

ed, things progressed real slow as it was all new to me, setting up a clutch, a steering column, etc. My dad would come home from work, eat, change into garage clothes, and show me what needed to be done that week. During the weeks I got real quick at doing homework and doing my chores. I did a majority of the body work (my dad liked to play every here and there), most of the welding (he would show me on one area and have me take over) and tapped most of the holes. It was a fun project, taking two years, over which my father really got to show me what he knows, how he learned it, and how he and I don't always see eye to eye. I couldn't be happier with the outcome! We have strengthened our family and ex-



tended it greatly.

(Note: Daniel and his father attended the Mountain Home Nationals as Daniel's high-school graduation present!) The cruise photos on page 9 of this newsletter include photos of Daniel's completed T, which he and his dad brought to the Mountain Home Nationals. All six photos were taken by Daniel's dad, David.)

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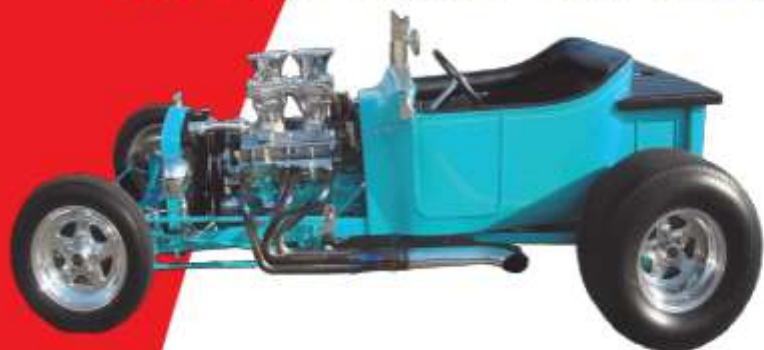
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