

# The Pedal Pusher

*Official  
Monthly  
Publication*



## Redwood Empire Model T Club

1423 Forestview Dr,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

# March Edition

2026



# Redwood Empire Model T Club



Volume 36

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Number 3

## President's Message

Hello R.E.M.T.C. Members,

We had our first meeting of the new year, and it was wonderful to see all the familiar faces. Our club participation in our monthly meetings is the key to our success. A huge THANK YOU to all who attended!!

Andy held a Garage Day at his home and workshop on February 14th. The subject of the Garage Day was carburetors. Andy covered basic rebuilding tips and proper tools for doing the rebuilds. The Holley NH carburetor was the star of the show for this Garage Day. The basic design and ease of use have made this carburetor a "Go To Item" for many of our club members. Parts are readily available from many of the parts suppliers, and rebuild kits will not break the bank. I always carry a spare NH carburetor in my kit of spare parts (I know I carry too much; Andy tells me this is why I drive a TT truck). Thank you, Andy, for putting on another great Garage Day for our club members. I will be putting together a Garage Day on the Model T ignition system very soon. The goal will be to take the "mystery" out of the coils and commutator setup and discuss best practices when using a distributor.

### Spare Parts:

We have discussed spare parts for quite some time, and what to carry to ensure you have a successful day of touring. I put together a list of items to carry a few years ago. I was told by many that it would require a TT truck to carry all that I recommended. I will work with a few of our members to put together a new, more manageable list of spare items. We will have it available on our website and in a future newsletter.

The rains have dampened our touring these last few weeks, but this should start to change soon. I look forward to our 2026 touring season and the fun we will have together. If you have an idea for a tour and would like to put one on.... Please contact our Tour Chairperson Dave Ryberg to get it on the calendar.

-Chris Rich

## 2026 Board Members & Chairpersons

### Board Members

President.....Chris Rich  
Vice President.....Sebastion Ambra  
Secretary.....Teresa McCallister  
Treasurer.....Patty Girman  
Past President.....John Girman

### Chairpersons

Historian.....Jeanne Nelson  
Membership.....Ted Shimkowski  
Newsletter.....Cyrus Estes  
Roster.....Patty Girman  
Scholarship.....John Girman  
Sunshine.....Dianna Shimkowski  
Tours.....Dave Ryberg  
Webmaster.....Steve Vining

## Chapter Information & National Affiliation

The Pedal Pusher is a monthly publication of the Redwood Empire Model T Club (REMTC). The club holds a general meeting on the first Thursday of each month in the meeting room of the Round Table Restaurant located on Marlow Rd. in Santa Rosa. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

REMTC website: [www.remtc.org](http://www.remtc.org)  
Dues for an individual, or a household, are \$30 per year. Student memberships (no fee) include only the emailed REMTC newsletter.

Charter members above the age of 85 have an honorary membership.

REMTC is an official non-profit chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America (MTFCA).  
P.O. Box 996 Richmond, IN 47375-0996  
Phone: (765) 373-3106  
Email: [admin@mtfca.com](mailto:admin@mtfca.com)  
Website: <https://www.mtfca.com>  
National dues are \$50 per year, and include a subscription to the Vintage Ford magazine.

## **R.E.M.T.C.**

# **General Meeting Minutes**

Round Table Pizza, Marlow Rd, Santa Rosa, CA  
February 5th, 2026

### **President**

Chris Rich called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

### **Attendance**

27 members in attendance, five Chairpersons and all Board Members were in attendance.

### **Secretary's Report**

Teresa McCallister read the secretary's report, with approvals by Dianna Shimkowski & Michael Chirhart. Anniversaries were announced, there were no birthdays in February.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Patty Girman reported on our current finances, with approvals by Jean Chirhart & Pete Rich.

### **Tour Report**

Dave Ryberg reported a shop day will be held on February 14th. He is working on guidelines for creating tours, such as regularly scheduling tours in the middle of the month, as this may help members plan for tours. He will send the information out, to be discussed at the next meeting. He plans to eventually put it on the website so members can sign up for tours online.

Steve Vining gave a report on the recent flash tour: 60 miles to Cloverdale. Chris Rich planned the tour which turned out to be a beautiful, 70 degree day. They enjoyed their ride along Westside Rd. and their lunch at a Mexican restaurant.

Chris Rich said we will do more flash tours, usually not as far, and with a focus around a meal.

### **Sunshine Report**

Dianna Shimkowski reported that Jack Mulkey passed away.

Chris Rich commented, he had know Jack for a long time, he was a gentleman whom contributed much to R.E.M.T.C. and other antique car associations, and stated, "we lost an amazing person".

His wife, Gayle Sharpsteen will restart "Taco Tuesday" gatherings in the future.

### **Scholarship Report**

John German reported that both high schools cashed their donation checks. Casa Grande auto shop students sent R.E.M.T.C. a thank you letter with notes of appreciation from the students.

At the February meeting, we sold \$66.00 in raffle tickets which will go toward the scholarship fund.

Chris Rich added, it is a great thing to contribute directly to an education department since many schools have been stretched financially.

### **Editor's Report**

Cyrus Estes was absent.

### **Membership Report**

Ted Shimkowski reported that there has been no new activity.

### **Webmaster Report**

Steve Vining reported we host [our website] with Dream Host which gives statistics on the number of times our website has been viewed. Before this month's flash tour, we had 241 hits, down 15% from the previous month. During the last week of January, the number of hits increase to 588. The website has been updated to include the 2026 board members.

### **Historian Report**

Jeanne Nelson was absent.

### **Old Business**

Dianna Shimkowski asked for feedback on the Holiday luncheon held at the Rohnert Park Cattlemen's restaurant in December. Chris Rich stated he liked having the restaurant exclusively for the Model T Club, the restaurant had good parking, good food, the food was served on time, and he appreciated no one had to drive at night.

Continued on the next page

## **R.E.M.T.C.**

# **General Meeting Minutes**

Continued from previous page.

### **New Business**

Dianna Shimkowki stated Cattlemen's restaurant asked about rebooking the holiday luncheon in 2026. Chris Rich asked for a show of hands regarding selecting a Saturday vs. a Sunday. The number of hands for a Saturday far exceed the number of hands for a Sunday date. Chris directed Dianna to contact the restaurant and book a Saturday date quickly because they will likely book up soon.

Steve Vining asked about making a donation on behalf of CC DePaoli. Funds could be sent to the Model T Museum or Dogwood Animal Rescue. Chris Rich said to send \$50.00 to the Dogwood Rescue.

John Girman brought up, in the past we had yard sales to raise funds. We no longer have access to the previous location and will need a new site with good road access and visibility. He asked members to keep an eye out for potential locations as they drive about the area.

### **Model T Moments**

Mark Hogan commented he read a book about Model Ts, written from the perspective of a Model T dealership, their challenges, and a race from New York to Washington. He will give more information about the book at a later date.

Andy Clary said they delivered toys for tots in his speedster. Anyone with pictures of the event are asked to submit them to the newsletter and/or Historian, Jeanne Nelson. Chris Rich had lunch with Joe, they recalled a memorable ride to Minden, Nevada in a speedster.

Pete Rich has a friend who has 6 clincher rims for sale, possibly 6 rims for \$200.00. He will also have an enclosed trailer for sale soon, if anyone is interested.

Karen Tam's car turned 100 years old on January 17th, 2026 and Chuck got it running.

20th Anniversary plaques were left at the head table and were available to anyone who wants them.

### **Dessert**

Desserts of cookies and Valentine's treats were provided by Jean Chirhart.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Teresa McCallister, REMTC Secretary.**

## March Birthdays



John Girman - Joe Konvalinka - George Merrill  
Max Meyer - Cindy Vining - Jayne Jones  
Dani McEachern

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## March Anniversaries



Don & Pam Johnson - Robert & Nancy Novak  
Larry & Robin Summerfield  
Robert & Melanie Taylor

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## Sunshine

Mici Ryberg had a shoulder surgery, and was sent a get well card.  
A get well card was sent to Sheri Granigen.  
A sympathy card was sent to the McCallisters.

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## 2026 Meeting Desserts



JANUARY 8TH - - - - - NO MEETING  
FEBRUARY 5TH - - - - - JEAN CHIRHART  
MARCH 5TH - - - - - JEANNINE CLARY  
APRIL 2ND - - - - - DIANNA SHIMKOWSKI  
MAY 7TH - - - - - PATTY GIRMAN  
JUNE 4TH - - - - - JAMES HARRIS

JULY 2ND - - - - - CINDY VINING  
AUGUST 6TH - - - - - DODGE RIEDY  
SEPTEMBER 3RD - - - - - DONNA JONES  
OCTOBER 1ST - - - - - TRACY LONG  
NOVEMBER 5TH - - - - - DAVE & MICI RYBERG  
DECEMBER 3RD - - - - - CYRUS ESTES

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# The Running Board

Dates of Importance

**May 1st-2nd: Bakersfield Swap Meet**

At Minter Airfield

See the included flyer for further information

# FEBRUARY FLASH TOUR

*Submitted by Ted Shimkowski*



Chris Rich hosted a flash tour on Jan. 31st, which was the first tour of 2026. There must have been a lot of pent up demand to get our cars out, because 9 Model T's plus 2 modern cars showed up for the tour. The tour started at Carr's Drive-In in Forestville where Chris and Joan set up a table with lots of donuts, coffee, and hot water for all to enjoy. Believe me, the hot beverages were welcome given the temperature that morning was 39 degrees, with lots of moisture in the air making it seem even colder.

Although cold, the day turned out to be a perfect tour day with clear skies and moderate temperatures as the morning progressed. We wound our way north through the Dry Creek Valley, and then turned east near the end of the valley to return to roads that took us to Cloverdale. Chris had already made reservations at a Mexican restaurant that easily accommodated the 21 people in our group. Good food and conversation was had by all, and roughly two hours later, we all jumped in our cars and headed back for home with each car selecting the route of their choice.

The tour went off without any troubles, there were no breakdowns or problems with any of the cars, which is always a delight. Thanks again to Chris & Joan for hosting this flash tour, and hopefully others will be able to get their cars ready for the new 2026 touring season.

*Respectfully,  
Ted*



# ME AND THE MODEL T

*Author: Roscoe Sheller*

*Copy 1965*

*Franklin Press, Yakima, Wash.*

Judging the book by its cover and liner notes, this thrift store find was no doubt once a part of a High School library. A lighthearted memoir that covers the time from the author's discovery of the automobile as a youth, to his experiences as one of the first owners of a Ford Model T dealership in Sunnyside, Washington.

It begins with his first encounter with a Model T as it passes through his hometown of Sunnyside, Washington as part on the last leg of a race from New York to the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle, Washington, that began June 1, 1909. The newspaper accounts showed the public was skeptical of the Fords durability (Labeled Model T 1 and Model T 2), and they were not expected to finish. There were six entries. Model T 1 wins the race, arriving in Seattle on June 23, 1909. It covered the 4106 miles in twenty days 52 minutes. Second place, 17 hours later, the 45hp, 4500 pound Shawmut arrived, followed shortly by Model T 2.

A week later, and Acme (all 3600 pounds of it) finished. The Italia arrived by flat car and the 4600 pound Stearns never made it out of New York. I mention the weight of the other cars in contrast the stripped down Fords at 1800 pounds.

The dealerships featured strict top-down management by Henry Ford. Dealer contracts included the purchase of new vehicles as they arrived whether the dealership had sold their inventory or whether they could pay for them. If shipped by rail they were assembled at the dealership.

Dealers were forced to sell Fordson Tractors at cost as part of their contribution to winning WWII. to sell Fords newspaper, including soliciting subscriptions for the Dearborn Independent. This resulted in a long & painful lawsuit, and agents traveled from dealership to dealership to make sure all the rules were followed. The price for insubordination was the loss of the dealership in short order.

You can get through the book in around two hours and I should mention it wasn't all doom and gloom with plenty of lighthearted anecdotes from learning to drive a Model T to some of the, shall I say entertaining customers.

*Submitted by Mark Hogan*

# FEBRUARY SHOP DAY

*Submitted by Ted Shimkowski*

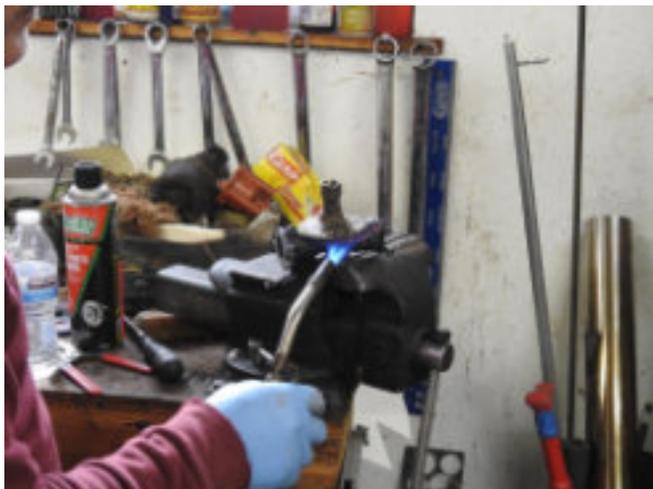


Feb. 14th was not only Valentine's Day, but Andy also held a garage day to discuss carburetors and how to check them out if problems arise. The morning started off quite cold, but a reasonable number of members turned out to learn about carburetors. Andy had numerous examples of different styles of carburetors which were used through the various years, as well as some aftermarket models. New members Karen and Chuck brought their carburetor for review by Andy, and it appeared all was fairly correct, except for the style of float which was thicker in cross section, as well as it having a large dent. Andy's conclusion was that they most likely had a vacuum leak that was causing the car to run poorly, and he suggested replacing the thick float for a more typical thinner float that is the more common float in use.

Things got interesting when Andy reviewed Dave Ryberg's bad carburetor and noted that the needle and seat did not appear to be in good shape. He tried to remove the seat from the carburetor body, but it would not budge. After numerous attempts to use big screwdrivers to remove it, Andy turned to his approach of using a torch to heat up the offending part to help it break loose, but that proved futile. Andy's next approach was to drill out the seat, but after many minutes of drilling out the body of the seat, it still would not come loose. Andy surrendered and recommended rebuilding a new carburetor body to replace the one that just got destroyed proving that not all repairs go smoothly with old cars.

Thank you Andy for holding these kinds of events, as well as a thank you to Jeannine for providing much needed hot coffee, and the delicious cupcake brownies. A thank you also goes to our president Chris Rich for bringing donuts that seem to keep our club running.

*Respectfully,  
Ted*



# BAKERSFIELD SWAP MEET

# 2026



come to  
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— This year's Swap Meet honoring Gil Klecan —

## MAY 1 & 2 - 2026

### Brass Era / Pre-war Swap Meet



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*... Henry Ford*

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