



The Buzz



The Official Publication of

The Dairyland Tin Lizzies

What's inside?

- Christmas Party
- Upcoming Events
- Tin Lizzy University
- Ladies' Day
- Buzz Classifieds
- "The Bet"
- Rock & Pam's Fall Tour
- Meeting Minutes
- Model Ts at School
- Belvedere Swap Meet
- Yellowstone Trail Day
- Membership Roster
- Wayback Machine

DTL Christmas Party - January 10, 2026

By Barb & Shawn Gerrits

The Dairyland Tin Lizzy Christmas party was a wonderful afternoon filled with fellowship, laughter and holiday cheer. The celebration was held at The Early Bird (formally Alma's) in Allenton, on January 10, 2026.



Although Sharon and Tod Wirth originally planned the event, they were not able to attend and graciously asked Barb Gerrits to step in as host.



Guests began arriving around 2:30 p.m. greeting one another with smiles and lively conversation. Members enjoyed catching up on past events, winter projects, and plenty of Model T stories.

UPCOMING 2026 EVENTS

May 4th, 8th
11th or 12th

Model T Day at Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS

Date will be weather dependent and is still TBD until we are closer.
See full details inside!

Late May

Model T Day at Grand Avenue Elementary

...in Prairie du Sac Date is still TBD but will likely be in the last 2 weeks of May. Contact Shawn Gerrits if you are interested.

May 23-25

Destination Door County 2026

2 rooms remain at Runaway Lodge as of press time. Join us if you can! Contact Pete if interested. Runaway Lodge: (920) 746-4046

June 6

Yellowstone Trail Day 2026

Visit historical societies in communities along Hwy 175.
Starts in Theresa this year. Full details are inside.

June 20

Summer University Work Day

with Ladies' Day Activities - Rich Edler's place, Waldo.
Timing and details will be announced but save the date!

July 11

Showdown at Sanford Field - Hillsboro, WI

Speedster & vintage drag racing and car show at a historic air strip
Contact Billy Vrana for more details.

September 19

Roads & Runways Car Show at EAA

Show your car alongside vintage aircraft.
Contact Ken Lefeber for more details.

October ?

Fall Business Meeting

Date and location are still TBD.

Dairyland Tin Lizzies Officers

President: Pete Humphrey

Treasurer: Ken Lefeber

Vice President: Kevin Bruso

Secretary: Jim Rodell, Jr.

Webmaster: Carol Gumbinger

Newsletter: Pete & Shelly Humphrey



At 3:00pm, the always-anticipated white elephant gift exchange began. The room quickly filled with laughter as creatively wrapped packages were selected, opened and occasionally “stolen” in good fun. From practical items to humorous surprises, each gift added to the entertainment. By 4:15 pm, the final package was opened and the exchange concluded with plenty of smiles.



The staff at The Early Bird went above and beyond to accommodate our group. They provided a designated area for the white elephant gifts and set up a special table for the many desserts brought by our members. Their friendliness and attention to detail was amazing throughout the evening.

At 5:00 p.m. the buffet was set out for the group. The food was delicious and received many compliments from members. In addition to the buffet, DTL member's contributed an assortment of delicious homemade desserts which provided a perfectly sweet ending to the meal.



Throughout the party, conversations continued to revolve around upcoming tours, restoration projects, club activities and treasured memories involving our beloved model T's. The camaraderie and shared enthusiasm for the hobby was evident, reminding everyone why the Dairyland Tin Lizzies is such a special group.

A heartfelt thank you to The Early Bird staff for there exceptional hospitality and to everyone who attended and helped make this year's Christmas party a memorable and enjoyable gathering. We look forward to another wonderful year together.



Winter Tin Lizzy University - January 31, 2026

The Vrana Frame and Body Shop was once again the site for our annual Winter Model T University. On January 31st, roughly 40 to 50 Model T enthusiasts from the Dairyland Tin Lizzies as well as other area clubs gathered to participate in “all things Model T”.



The day began with a swap meet and “T-talk”. There was plenty to see and talk about of course and the Model T talk continued throughout the day. Shortly after things got underway, the ladies headed out for their “Ladies Day” of shopping, sipping and other fun.

Our resident coil expert Tod Wirth set up his testing station and got to work troubleshooting and adjusting coils brought in by our members and guests. This service is much appreciated by all who have taken advantage of it!



The morning flew by quickly and soon it was time for lunch. Billy Vrana organized a terrific lunch of chili with all the fixin’s. There were chips, snacks and plenty of dessert options as well, some were homemade! No one went hungry.

After lunch, the presentations began. Gregg Zangl demonstrated the finer points of manifold straightening. This process is best done on a jig, but can also be done on an engine block if you happen to have a spare.



It involves the application of heat and a gentle adjustment.



It is best if two people do this. One applies and maintains an even heat while another one straightens.



It's also very easy to go too far with the adjustment and break the manifold in the middle. If that happens, the manifold is not automatically scrap.



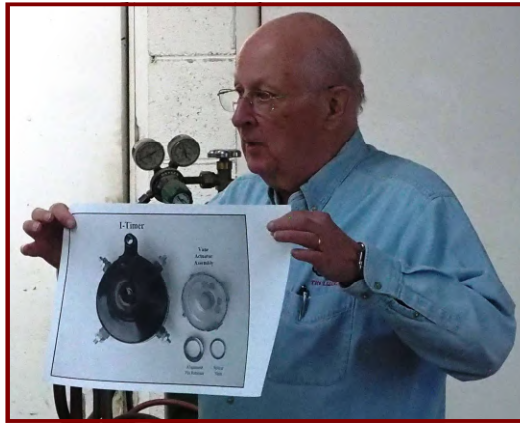
You can set up the broken manifold on an engine block and braze the pieces back together. Doing this *on* a block eliminates the guesswork of getting things lined up properly.



Pete Humphrey led a discussion on timers with the help of Fritz and Keith Gumbinger.

Of course we all know that the Ts came off of Henry's assembly line with roller timers. These timers were not as reliable as ol' Henry would have liked. They were prone to poor operation because of dirt and oil preventing good contact. Also, the roller shaft wore prematurely and the roller's travel would become eccentric and would skip.

This led to the birth of yet another cottage industry designed to "fix" one of the Model T's many shortcomings. Many companies came up



with their own versions of the "perfect" timer. And while many did not survive, several have. And a few newcomers are on the market today as well. Some of the timers that were discussed include the New Day, Crystal, Redmond, E-Timer, I-Timer, TW Timer, distributors and of course the roller. It was a good discussion and many attendees spoke up about their experiences with the various models.

One of our newer members, Joe Baranek, spoke briefly about his experiences with the clutch discs. This is a topic that could easily be revisited in depth at a future University.

Our final presenter, Rob Maasch, gave a detailed demonstration of magnet recharging when the magnets are *outside* of the car.



Using a home-built charger, a compass and a Gauss magnetic field tester, Rob walked through the dos and don'ts of this sometimes confusing process.



A big thank you goes out to all of our presenters and to Billy for hosting this event again this year!

University Ladies' Day - January 31, 2026

By Shelly Humphrey

It was another wonderful gathering for Ladies' Day and possibly our best attended yet! Nine ladies joined in the fun: Carol Brodtke, Barb Leonhardt, Mae Jean Zelle, Colleen Rodell, Tammy Fischer, Pam Zangl, Vicki Trupp, Diane Scheid, and Shelly Humphrey.

Diane Scheid led the group and introduced us to several new spots to explore. We kicked off the day at Creative Brews, a charming new coffee and pastry shop that also features handmade goods from local vendors. With warm drinks and

sweet treats in hand, we settled in to relax, chat, and catch up before browsing the unique crafts on display.

Next, we set out to walk off those calories with a bit of shopping. Our destination was a new antique mall in Barton—an impressive space spanning two buildings, three floors, and multiple entrances. There was no shortage of vintage treasures, and several of us found special items to take home. Pam and Vicki decided to linger a bit longer to continue their treasure hunt while the rest of us moved on to lunch.

We gathered in downtown West Bend for sandwiches at Game Over before continuing our shopping tradition with stops at some of our favorite local spots: Savoring Thyme, Ann D's and Christy Mac's.

As the afternoon came to a close, messages from the guys let us know that Tin Lizzie U was wrapping up. With that, we concluded our day of laughter, connection and camaraderie, and made our way back to Vrana's shop. A big thank you to Diane for planning such a fun and memorable day!



Buzz Classifieds

Wanted to buy: Ford Script 21" Black spare tire cover

Contact: Jack Leonhardt 920-226-1005

Hello Dairyland Tin Lizzies members! A quick reminder that membership dues for the 2026 touring season are now due. If you have not already paid, please send your check for our modest membership dues of \$15, payable to "Dairyland Tin Lizzies", to: Ken Lefebber, 805 Meadow Lane, Plymouth, WI 53073. As was voted by the club membership, you must be paid up by June 1st of this year to remain a member in good standing. Thanks in advance!

This club thrives because of the participation and contributions of its members. Please consider organizing a day-tour for our club this summer. We could really use a tour in July and another in August. It doesn't have to be fancy. A simple drive for some custard would do the trick.

If you plan it, they will come!

-President Pete

The Bet is on at Model T University

By Keith Gumbinger

At the January DTL Model T University, an entertaining discussion unfolded between two of our distinguished senior members regarding how long a Model T restoration should take.

Bob Brusco and Keith Gumbinger are each restoring 1927 Fordor sedans and between the two of them, they've managed to turn a typical restoration project into a long-term lifestyle.

Just how long are we talking? These cars have been "in progress" for over 15 years.

Now, adding a bit of motivation (or pressure), Bob's wife Sarah and Keith's wife Carol have both expressed a strong desire to actually *ride* in these cars, preferably on the Door County Tour over Memorial Day weekend. Given that Door County weather can be cold and damp, a nice closed car would be ideal... assuming, of course, the cars ever get finished.

To be fair, part of the delay may be attributed to the fact that both Bob and Keith are now proud octogenarians. As they've admitted, their "get up and go" may have... well... gotten up and gone. Unfortunately for them, their wives' ability to remind them about unfinished projects remains in excellent working condition.

The good news? Both cars are *almost* done. Bob's Fordor has been re-wooded, upholstered, and painted. It has a new Berg's radiator, and it runs and drives. In other words, it's very close; just not quite close enough to trust on a tour without a little more shakedown (and a very well stocked toolbox).

Keith's car is also making progress. It has a rebuilt engine, a Ruckstell axle and has been run, but not actually driven yet. It still needs a few days of finishing work and installation of the upholstery kit, which has been carefully aging in the spare bedroom for over 15 years. (Perhaps it may be considered a period-correct antique itself.) The rest of the car is in fine shape, with touched-up paint, new tires, a serviced radiator and a freshly replated radiator shell.

So here we are: two nearly finished cars, a few weeks to go before the tour and two very confident owners.

Bob and Keith each insist *his* car will be done first. Naturally, there are skeptics.



To settle the matter, a wager has been placed; a full \$5 bet, with photographic evidence to ensure no funny business. High stakes, indeed.

Are there side bets? Probably. Will both cars make the tour? That's a much riskier question. You'll have to show up for the Door County Tour to find out who wins and whether either wife finally gets that long-awaited ride.

Highlights from Rock & Pam's Fall Tour - November 1, 2025





Dairyland Tin Lizzies

Minutes of April 12, 2026 Business Meeting

The spring meeting of the Dairyland Tin Lizzies was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by President Tod Wirth on Sunday, April 12 at Slinger Historical Museum. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Jim Rodell, Jr. performed roll call.

Members present were:

Kevin Bruso	Ken Lefeber	Gordy Sharapata
Dave DeYoung	Rob Maasch	Katie Steeber
Rich Edler	Les Mathson	Karl & Melissa Von Neumann
John & Tammy Fischer	Jeffrey Pagels	Billy Vrana
DeWayne Fritz	Gary Prost	Tod & Sharon Wirth
Shawn & Barb Gerrits	Denis & Melodie Pulvermacher	Gregg Zangl
Jan Guell	Jim & Colleen Rodell	Nathan Zelle
Dave Hjortnaes	Diane Scheid	Tony Ziehmke
Jerry Johnson	Rick & Irene Schwechler	Pete & Shelly Humphrey

Brent Stary was introduced as a new member at the meeting. He is Elizabeth Ziehmke's father.

President Tod Wirth proposed a correction to the October 26, 2025 meeting minutes. The second line of new business should read "This year's Christmas part is being worked on by Sharon Wirth". Jerry Johnson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Pete Humphrey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice President Kevin Bruso had no new business to report.

Secretary Jim Rodell, Jr. reported that he provided an updated roster to MTFCA national office which maintains our qualifications as a chapter and part of the chapter liability insurance program.

Treasurer Ken Lefeber presented a financial statement for the period of October 26, 2025 to April 12, 2026 with a beginning balance of \$3,268.51 and ending balance of \$2,918.28. Ken also announced that he is collecting dues for the 2026-2027 membership season. Dave DeYoung moved to approve the treasurer's report. John Fischer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Newsletter editor Pete Humphrey reported he is working on the next issue of The Buzz which will include minutes of the spring meeting and a calendar of events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gregg Zangl reported on the November 1 fall tour which he and Pam hosted. A half dozen Model T's toured on a cool gray day visiting Pilgrim Antique Mall, Holy Hill, Ox & Cats Restaurant, and Bobrowitz Sculpture Garden.

Barb Gerrits reported on the January 10 Christmas party which she and Shawn hosted when event organizers Tod & Sharon Wirth were not able to attend. The party was held at The Early Bird restaurant in Allenton with good results.

Billy Vrana reported that Tin Lizzy University went well on January 31 with good topics and good attendance.

Barb Leonhardt reported that Ladies' Day held on January 31 was well-attended with 8 ladies having fun drinking coffee, eating, and shopping. One stop included the antique mall east of Barton.

President Tod Wirth announced that although he had brought up the topic of our club's organizational structure, he has not been able to make further progress on the topic and has nothing new to report. After the passing of his father, Bob, he has much business to handle and will work on organizational structure details in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shawn Gerrits announced that he had been in contact with Mr. Jerry Zeamer of Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School to schedule Model T Day. After discussion of possible dates, it was decided to schedule Model T Day for May 4 with alternate dates of May 8, 11, or 12 in case of inclement weather.

Pete Humphrey reported on plans for Destination Door County to be held May 23-25 and being planned by him and Shelly along with Fritz and Diane. Twelve vehicles are registered and Runaway Lodge had 2 rooms available as of April 9. The Rehlko parking lot will be available to park tow rigs and trailers.

Shawn Gerrits would like to revisit Prairie du Sac Grade School during the last two weeks of May. He will announce the date of the event by email after it is established.

Jim Rodell, Jr. announced details for Yellowstone Trail Day on June 6. Three historical societies on the Yellowstone Trail (Theresa, Lomira, and Byron) will be open that day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tour instructions take participants from one location to the next via the Yellowstone Trail. The event is for both antique automobiles and modern vehicles. An added feature to Yellowstone Trail Day for 2026 will be Model T rides in Theresa from Oscar Miller blacksmith shop at 113 East Rock River St. to Rivers Edge Park and back similar to the EAA Model T experience. Dairyland Tin Lizzies members signed up for times from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help with this event.

Rich Edler will host Tin Lizzy University Summer Session at his facilities near Waldo on Saturday, June 20. Barb Leonhardt will host Ladies' Day at the same time.

Barb Gerrits announced that she and Shawn will plan and host the next Christmas party. It will be held January 9, 2027 at The Early Bird restaurant in Allenton.

Billy Vrana announced that a "Flathead Drag Race" will be held July 11 near Hillsboro, Wisconsin.

Ken Lefeber announced that "Roads and Runways" will be held September 19 at EAA Airventure Museum.

Les Mathson shared the story of his family's 1917 touring and the Black River Falls Ford dealership which is undergoing restoration. Les suggested that a tour to Black River Falls is an idea for a future event.

Nathan Zelle reported that he and Dave DeYoung have discussed planning a tour in the "driftless region" of southwest Wisconsin.

President Tod Wirth and Pete Humphrey presented the idea of forming a Tin Lizzy University committee to be responsible for planning the topics and presenters for Tin Lizzy University. Tod Wirth moved to form a 3 member committee for this purpose. Katie Steeber seconded the motion. When opened for discussion, Jim Rodell stated that he thought the size of the committee could be larger. Tod Wirth retracted his first motion and moved to form a committee of 3-5 members for this purpose. Pete Humphrey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tod Wirth moved to assign the chairmanship of the committee to the person in the office of vice president. Dave DeYoung seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tin Lizzy University committee is currently Chairman Kevin Bruso, Pete Humphrey, Jim Rodell, and Tod Wirth.

Under additional new business, Jim Rodell announced that he will be making a presentation at Wisconsin Automotive Museum on April 15 on the topic "Model T Ford Accessory Manufacturing in Wisconsin."

Irene Schwechler moved to donate \$50.00 from the treasury to Slinger Historical Museum in appreciation for using their facilities as a meeting location. Jeff Pagels seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Tod Wirth opened the election of officers and announced that he did not seek reelection. DeWayne Fritz nominated Pete Humphrey for president. Irene Schwechler seconded the nomination. No other nominations for president were received. Pete Humphrey holds the office of president for 2026-2027.

As the other remaining officers were willing to continue service and nominations for opponents were not received, they will remain in office. Kevin Bruso holds the office of vice president for 2026-2027. Jim Rodell holds the office of secretary for 2026-2027. Ken Lefeber holds the office of treasurer for 2026-2027.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Tod Wirth announced that Rueben Kugel has a collection of Model T parts for sale and has a list of the parts, which is also posted on the Dairyland Tin Lizzies facebook page.

President Tod Wirth announced that Model T repair and restoration videos are available from Pete Humphrey, our club librarian, as well as DTL windshield decals for \$1.25 each.

President Tod Wirth announced that he was given notice of an online auction of Model T parts and cars held by Thiel and Thiel Auction of Chilton ending May 26. It was determined after the meeting that the auction is for the estate of Ron & Sandy Stock.

Irene Schwechler asked for a show of hands of those planning to attend the London, Ontario tour of Model T Ford Club International. Dairyland Tin Lizzies will be well-represented. Tod suggested that those who are planning to attend should be sure to arrange for passports now and check to make sure that car insurance, health insurance, and cellular phones will be valid in Canada.

Dave DeYoung moved to adjourn the meeting. Irene Schwechler seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 3:37 p.m. Members interested in dining together after the meeting met at Slinger House Restaurant.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Rodell, Jr.
Secretary, Dairyland Tin Lizzies



Model T's at School



**Possible dates: May 4th, 8th, 11th or
12th, 2026 7:30am - 3pm**

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School

3399 Division Road

(Hwy G., just north of Sherman Rd.)

Jackson, WI

Help bring history to life for American History students at KML while they are learning about Henry Ford and the American industrial revolution. We have the opportunity to meet with as many as five classes throughout the day for about 40 minutes each.

Our itinerary will include a brief history of Henry Ford, the Ford Motor Company and the Model T. We will then demonstrate some of the unique characteristics of our Tin Lizzies and provide Model T rides.

This is an excellent opportunity to promote our hobby by sharing our knowledge and Model Ts with the next generation.



Please RSVP to Shawn Gerrits at 920-382-6442 if you can attend.

Rockford Model T Club's 61st Annual Little Hershey

Swap Meet & Cruise In

Saturday May 16th, 2026

Boone County Fairgrounds -- Belvidere, IL

Enter @ Gate 3 -- South Entrance

Gates Open Saturday at 6a.m.

\$10 Entry For Spectators - Children Under 12 Free **Food Available**

Rain or Shine Free Parking

Cars For Sale

Over 300 Swap Spaces

Available Inside & Out

**Vintage Car Cruise In
For Makes 2001 & Older
Driver + 1 Passenger
& Car Get In Free
*Trophies Awarded***



Free Model T Rides



For More Info
Scan QR Code
~or~

www.rockfordmodeltclub.com

Vendor Gate Open For Setup 10am - 6pm on Friday

Portion Of Proceeds Go To Local Charities

✂ ••Clip Here

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

12x30 Outside Space 2for1 until April 30th \$30_____

Indoor Space \$30_____ Car Corral Space \$10_____
*New Cement Floor
In Poultry Barn*

Make Check Payable To: *Rockford Model T Club*

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Send To:
Dave Lantz
P.O. Box 2561
Loves Park, IL 61132

Call Dave with Questions (815) 979-4544

Club Email Address: littlehershey1@gmail.com



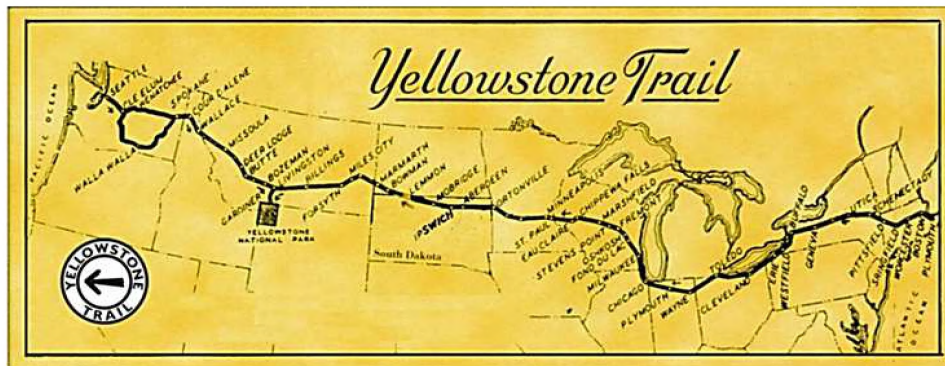
Yellowstone Trail Day

Saturday

June 6, 2026

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Yellowstone Trail began in 1912 when a group of South Dakota businessmen worked to establish a route from Boston to Seattle for early automobile tourists to travel cross country and visit Yellowstone National Park. In southeast Wisconsin, the Yellowstone Trail followed the route of Hwy. 175 in Washington, Dodge and Fond du Lac counties. Many businesses catering to the influx of automobile tourists sprung up along the trail. The Yellowstone Trail Association provided maps, marked the trail with signs and painted yellow arrows, and promoted the route until the 1930's. Today, YTA again promotes the Yellowstone Trail as a fun and historical auto route.



Learn more about local history and the Yellowstone Trail on Yellowstone Trail Day!
Byron, Lomira, and Theresa historical societies will be open to welcome visitors
Saturday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Start at any of the locations and get your free Yellowstone Trail tour guide to begin your time travel experience and see landmarks from the era still here today! Visit multiple historical societies in one day! Enjoy a fun day on the road with other vehicles, old and new, celebrating the history of "A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound".

Byron Historical Society
 Byron Town Hall
 N3097 Highway 175
 Byron, Wisconsin

Lomira Historical Society
 Silver Leaf School at Sterr Park
 Pleasant Hill Ave.
 Lomira, Wisconsin

Theresa Historical Society
 Solomon Juneau House
 201 S. Milwaukee St.
 Theresa, Wisconsin

For more information, contact Jim at 262-224-9734



New for 2026!

Experience travel from the Yellowstone Trail era!

Ride in a Model T in Theresa. Dairyland Tin Lizzies members will provide free Model T Ford rides for adults and children accompanied by their parents.

Rides will start and end at 113 East Rock River Street, making a loop at Rivers Edge Park.

