



T Bucket Times

May
2017

THE NATIONAL T-BUCKET ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

President's Corner

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As of the writing of this article, we have two successful events behind us in Ocala, FL, and Nazareth, TX, with John and Tammy's BBQ this weekend in Springfield MO. We appreciate the hard work that all of you have invested to make these events successful. The turnout for all of the events has been great and we look forward to a fantastic NATS in Carson City, NV, in June. One of our goals as a board, was to have multiple events around the country every year to give our membership the opportunity to get to know more about the NTBA and our NTBA family. I am pleased that the board has shared that vision and supported it in every way possible, from hosting events to traveling the country to participate in as many as possible.

As I write this, my last article as president, I am so thankful for our NTBA Family and the opportunities that we have shared over the past years as president and SAA. More and more people are better understanding what WE mean by NTBA family values, and that is because of all of YOU!!! YOU are the family that welcomes new members or guests and makes them feel a part of what we share. I feel extremely good about where we are as an organization and the officers and board that will continue to guide us to new adventures. This is a strong, dedicated group of people who work hard on our behalf at every event. Thank you for your support over the past years and continue to support our officers!!! I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events this year and in years to come as XO!! Travel Safe.

Rolla Hessel
President
National T Bucket Alliance
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Event Calendar

NTBA NATIONALS	JUNE 22-24	CARSON CITY, NV	
Green Bay Fun Run	July 6-8	Green Bay, WI	
Pigeon Forge Run Run	July 27-29	Pigeon Forge, TN	
Lake of the Ozarks Fun Run	September 7-9	Lake of the Ozarks, MO	
Tucson Fun Run	Tucson, AZ	November 3. 4	

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

The T-Bucket Times
is a monthly newsletter brought to you by the



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Spring Inspections

It's almost time that everyone can get out their noisy little car and take it for a spin. Follow the examples of safe airplane pilots and truck drivers, and do a thorough inspection. Yeah, I know, that's boring and time-consuming, when you could be out enjoying the breeze in your hair. But humor me.

You should do this inspection while the vehicle is cold; that is, it hasn't been run yet. You want to be able to put your hand safely on every part. These little cars aren't all that complicated. You can check virtually every nut and bolt that's visible in an hour or so.

Start at the front left of the car, and go all the way around, checking every nut, bolt, screw, etc. Check for excessive play in any part. Pay special attention to the tie rod bolts, steering arm bolts, spring shackle bolts, shock bolts, and the cotter pins securing any of them. Many of us use nylock nuts, but keep in mind that heat and age can destroy the nylon portion of the nut, letting it loosen up. Nylocks are not allowed on aircraft, and for good reason. They're not as secure as we like to think they are.

Watch for fluids. If you see a fluid on the ground, figure out where it came from, and if it's normal. You don't want to get halfway down the block and discover you don't have any brake fluid! Check the oil, coolant, transmission fluid, and differential oil. Look at the inside surface of the tires, to be sure you don't have leaking oil or brake fluid.

Wiggle the steering wheel, while looking at all the linkage. You would not believe how many T's I have seen with loose universal joints in their steering, or a loose clamp on one of the shafts. On my car, I've had trouble with the nut holding the steering wheel in place getting a little loose. That has resulted in some "phantom" play in the steering that was almost impossible to track down.

Check the battery. If it's not a maintenance-free battery, add distilled water to bring each cell to the proper level. If you don't have the battery in a box, check to be sure that it isn't chafing a hole in it. (Happened to me this spring!) Clean the terminals. You don't want to have it to refuse to crank your engine just before a big cruise.

Check your lug nuts. Yeah, you haven't had the wheels off. Or have you? Did you have them taken off and balanced? Are you sure the shop retorqued them?

Be sure the tires are to the inflation you want, and that they are the same side-to-side. Look them over for cuts, weather checks, etc. They may very well go bad from age before they wear out. There is a date code on the side of the tire. Check online how to read it. If it's more than 6 years ago, you should probably consider replacing the tire.

Look at your throttle linkage. Make sure the throttle cable, if you have one, is not frayed or loose. Check the transmission cable adjustment, if you have one. You don't want to burn out your transmission on your first cruise of the season. Check the carb to manifold bolts. Loose ones can cause mysterious vacuum leaks. Look at the fuel line. If it's got rubber sections, you might want to replace them before the season starts. The fuel filters should be fresh, too. With as much sitting as these cars do, sediment can be a real problem.

Test all the lights. Wiggle the wires to them, if they can be blowing in the breeze. Again, corrosion over the winter can make for a very bad first start up, especially if you need to drive at night. This might be a good time to switch to LED lights, if you have been planning to do that.

An oil change and tune-up might not be a bad idea. Spark plugs are notorious for going bad if they were put away wet last fall. How would that happen? You came home from a ride. Parked the car in the driveway. Went inside for a while. Came back out, started it up, and pulled it in the garage. Voila, wet plugs.

If you have a PCV valve, clean it. Check the vacuum hose on it, and on your vacuum advance. Replace them if they're suspect. Avoid a puzzling vacuum leak!

There are lots more things that it wouldn't hurt to check, but many of them are peculiar to certain cars. You know your car best; if you know a recurring problem, check it now. The idea is that you don't want to be the guy sitting on the side of the road, waiting for the chase truck to pick you up on the first cruise at your local or national event!

Sun T's Ocala Fun Run

Dewey and Ilona Burton and Bob Brunnell did one heck of a job providing 31 T buckets with cruising, exploring, and good eats for 3 days.

Day 1, with a morning get-together at host hotel, Holiday Inn, took us to National Parts Depot, not for parts but to view some amazing 1-of-a-kind, privately owned cars. Then, lunch on your own, until we met again to cruise to Silver Springs State Park. Glass bottom boat rides, hiking, water slides, and more were available in Tarzan's movie set home. Day finished out with an ice cream Run to Scoops and relaxing at the RV Park.

Day 2 saw us cruising to Daytona Beach for a great ride, good food and kibitzing at Racings North Turn Restaurant. Cruising home after souvenir shopping and pictures on the beach.

Day 3 took us to Don Garlits Museum, where Big Daddy himself regaled us with stories as we toured his awesome collection of cars. Lunch at Brownwood Village where we were joined by Big Dog, Clarence Lee, and Ann. Ice cream run and goodbyes ended the day.

Thanks again to the Shag Wagon, which was always available, and traffic control by our own motorcyclist, Chris.

Meeting old and new friends was the highlight, especially meeting Felix 1 and Felix 2, a father and son, who shipped their T over from Puerto Rico for the event.

A few mishaps with Ts, which is usual with geezers and hot rods, but mostly it was a fantastic event with wonderful people. Great time was had by all. *Kathy Foppe*

The schedule was set and the weekend was off to a good start with the weather. People started to arrive a few days early to get a lay of the land, and Bob and I felt it was going to be another successful event. The events went well without much trouble, if you don't count my bucket catching fire. The damage was minimal. It looked worse than it was, but that didn't keep it from scaring everybody behind me. Oh, yeah, me, too.

This is where family comes together, and before you knew it, Ilona and I were in Bruce's trailer, with the help of Cuz Chris, and Jay...and of course Bruce. We had a few incidents through the weekend, like a cut tire, ignition problems, but nothing to keep up from a good time. The Prez made it through without incident. I'm sure at the Nats, stories will be told (and embellished).

A special thanks goes to the local O'Reilly's, on behalf of Jim Bagaas, who obtained goodies for this event. And to Don Garlits, who also gave us several goody bags that were drawn for on Saturday night. It is getting harder to find businesses willing to donate.

We did a lot of cruising, over 300 miles, and took in some of the sites of Florida. Thanks to Bob, we ate lots of ice cream. We also toured the collection of National Parts Depot, a private collection of over 270 cars. If you need parts for your pony, muscle car or early truck, Rick is the guy to see. Our trip to Dayton was great as the weather held another sunny day.

But most memorable was Don Garlits being there to welcome us at the Museum of Drag Racing, and regaling us with accounts of the past. He even brought out his newly finished T, and what a beauty it is. At 85 years young, we are lucky this legend is still with us, and a honorary member of the NTBA (you can note the NTBA decal on his windshield and the NTBA key fob on the key).

We had many states represented, 12 in fact, plus Puerto Rico, yes that's right! Felix Garcia, Sr., shipped his bucket over for this event. On behalf of Bob, Ilona, and myself, thanks for making this event a success. *Dewey... (SparkPlug)*





Green Bay Fun Run

Well, the time is getting nearer. So much to do and so little time to do it. Lisa and I have our work cut out for us over the next month. We have to clean the house garage out of all "stuff" and then pull cars out of the same structure, yes, including the new 2017 Subaru Forester, and then sort through all the "stuff" in lower level and move from there out to the garage. I reckon some of it will also get moved out to the new barn..well fer shore the furniture. The shop WILL be cleaned for "stuff" as needed too. I really have to get cracking on the shop THIS week. Pretty bad when all I have is a path leading to the back, and then once back there...oh Lawdy..where is that wrench? Yeah, it's that bad, and there isn't even a hot rod in the shop!!!

WAIT!!!! Y'all thought I was typing about the Green Bay Fun Run? Oh no, I'm talking about the new construction that is "supposed" to begin in mid June!

Sorry, I got sidetracked...talking with Lisa while I type this out fer the newsletter. See, I can multi-task.

Well, we certainly are looking forward to having the buckets up here in the Green Bay area. Word has already spread that there will be more than (3) t-buckets running in and around the area come early July. Hopefully the "LGSM" will be running the streets by then.

For those who were here in 2015, we're going to be doing pretty much the same kroozes, with a few extra stops thrown in that were not available back then. On Friday, We will be doing lola, WI again this year, but this time around there is NO time limit as to when we have to leave. Now I heard from a local source that Old Red T was jabbering about taking us back to the Tundra via Symco. If you can find the time between wrenching and kroozing..Google Symco, WI. It's an area set back "in time." I've only driven past it, and never really stopped, so I will be looking forward to it.

Regarding Friday, I have never been to Doc's Harley Davidson in Shawano, and i thought, heck why not stop there on the way back from lola and Symco for supper? Of course it is NOT mandatory to have supper there...where ever you wish to dine is up to you, but this place is like a museum and petting zoo all rolled into one...oh and I understand they serve GREAT barbecue there...oh and yes, you can buy a Harley bike there as well. Another place for you to Google along with Symco: Doc's Harley Davidson of Shawano, WI. (pronounced Sha-no...in case you were wondering).

I am getting ahead of myself here. For the early birds, we will be doing A&W Cruise Night on Wednesday, leaving the Tundra about 4:30 pm. Weather permitting of course, and if the weather is good, there usually are over 75 cars there. I will be discussing a front row area for the buckets. ALL participants receive 10% off their bill. Following A&W...if later on that evening you want to make an ice cream run (again?) Vroom Krazy said he will lead the crowd (with GPS in tow) over to Zesty's in De Pere for a cool treat.

How many of you were here in 2015? Raise your hands!!! Okay, for those of you who were not, we will be leaving the Tundra Thursday morning (times might change) for Door County. This is a great cruise to go on and I thought "maybe"this year, we'd hop the ferry for a 45 minute ride across the inlet to Washington Island...the ladies in the group might find this of interest as Washington Island is home to the "largest" Lavender Gardens in the United States! If any of you went all the way up the Gill's Rock in 2015...recall the scenic, though curvy road? This is how you get to one of two ferries going across. I WILL have info on times the ferries leave and come back, along with fees for crossing. All included in "Welcome" package.

A little side note here, for those of you who were NOT here in 2015, you'll prolly want to have lunch at Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant in Sister bay. I garonetee this will be a treat for y'all....the food is traditional and excellent, and yo u will want to pay "extra attention to the roof of the restaurant."

We will be stopping at various shops on the way up nort. Who reading this likes cheese? C'mon, let's see a show of hands...I KNOW there are more of you here who crave cheese!! Well we will be stopping first at Renard's Cheese and I garonetee you will enjoy this stop. We will be making stops along the way to other shops that Lisa and I know you will enjoy.

Regarding fuel stops, I WILL do my best in having them marked on the maps, and by the way, there is NO feasible way one can get lost going up to Door County, unless your name is Vroom Krazy....only two ways up and back, depending on what side the peninsula you travel and all roads east and west will lead you back to either of two ways north and south.

There is are two new venues that were under construction when y'all were here in 2015 and they are now open. We WILL travel to one of those on Saturday.

Now all planned kroozes are NOT mandatory, if you want to venture off on your own...go fer it, also times too are NOT set in stone. Places of interest to out of towners: EAA in Oshkosh...this area at end of July is akin to airplanes as the NSRA event in Louisville is to hot rods; The National Railroad Museum (down the road from the Tundra); The Maritime Museum in Manitowoc..about 50 miles south of Green Bay...it was here back in WWII where submarines were built. They have in water, tied to dock, a submarine from that era...with tours available; There are many other places to visit and venture too...and of course there is always LAMBEAU FIELD.....with tours available and although Lisa and I have never done the tour, from those that were here in 2015, they raved about the tour, and on a side note, the Packer Hall of Fame is now open (it was under construction in 2015).

Below is the schedule of events, and as stated within this portion and the schedule, times for departures from hotel are subject to change.

ALL information regarding the host hotel, Tundra Lodge can be found on the "official" National T-Bucket Alliance website. When arriving, look for the GREEN and GOLD signs informing where to park tow rigs/trailers and RV'S/trailers. We WILL have the rear of the lodge to ourselves.

By the way, I-41 is NOW completed and very nice. Check your maps...as you can come to the Tundra the scenic back roads (two lanes) or I-41. If any of you have further questions. please do NOT hesitate to FIRST email me (rootbeer1646@gmail.com) and let me know that you will be calling. I say email first, because I've gotten to block all out of state calls to my house, if I do not recognize the number or name...it gets blocked, so email me first.

WATCH both "official NTBA web page" and Face Book for any further information, but for ALL info on the Tundra..go to the NTBA site. We have 30 rooms blocked, but if for some reason you miss the cut-off date, they will still give you the NTBA rate.

Lugnut

PS. Wanted to add that everyone should bring swimwear as the Tundra has an awesome indoor water park...ya know, in case of inclement weather, or y'all can come out and help me clean the shop. ☐

Itinerary for Green Bay Fun Run....

So here is the agenda for the regional eventSTILL working on Saturday morning/afternoon.

Wednesday July 5th..(for the early arrivals) A&W Cruise night....depart hotel lot at 4:30 pm

Thursday July 6th .. All day cruise to and in/around Door County....depart hotel parking lot at 0900

Friday July 7th..Cruise to IOLA, WI. Northeast Wisconsin's largest car show and swap meet. Depart Hotel parking lot ...0900

Saturday July 8th...still working out details...stand by.

Wednesday evening...for the early birds, we plan on cruising over to A&W for their weekly cruise night. We basically blew the regulars minds when we showed up with about 40 buckets in 2015!!! Owner said folks there were wondering what the rumbling sound was they heard coming under bridge. :-) I sure would have liked to have seen from A&W the buckets rolling in. Again, I will talk to the owner about getting one area roped off for us.

Thursday's cruise to door County will be lovely..we will traverse on a four lane highway...two lanes on either side of wide median. This is THE only road worthy of travel up to Door County, trust me on this. Lisa and I took Rolla and Debbie on the old Hwy 57 July 2014 and they said there was NO way we'd do that road. :-) Those of you who were at the Nationals in Springfield, IL in 2008...recall the four lane to Barry, IL? Well this is same type of traffic....NONE. Road is darn near smooth. We will stop at Renard's cheese store...28 miles from hotel; stop at The Apple Market further up the road where they have MORE than apples. Lunch is on your own, but for those who were not here in 2015..Google Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant in Sister Bay. :-) We can get a sow of hands the morning we depart hotel to find out who would like to go over to Washington Island, it's a 45 minute ferry ride over. And for the ladies...Washington Island is home the the largest lavender farm in the United States. Last note here, there is NO way anyone can get lost going up to and returning from Door County as there are two roads either up or back and all cross roads lead to those.

Friday's cruise out to lola will great, traveling through Wisconsin country side, most traffic we will run into might be a tractor or two. Unlike 2015 Nationals, there is NO set time to head back to hotel, but know this..Old Red T (Chad) will be leading group back at a specified time to Symco...it is a small area set in the 40's /50's time era. Suggestion on way back from Symco is supper at Doc's Harley in Shawano...I have never been there, but understand they have GREAT food and lots to look at. :-)

I still have the details for Saturday to work out, but besides what I hope to have planned for the morning...during the rest of the day, maybe you'll want to tour Lambeau Field (I understand the tour is quite something, Lisa and I have lived here for 23 years and only see stadium from our seats). Other neat places to visit are the National Railroad Museum (very close to hotel), EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh..about 40 miles south of hotel; Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI...about 50 miles south of hotel.

We will have maps with gasoline stops marked off on maps. Both Paul "VroomKrazy" Vrooman and Chad "Old Red T" Kapla said they will assist me in our ventures...a huge thank you out to them. so if I can't be of any assistance, go to them.

There WILL be signs along Lombardi Avenue denoting parking. We will also have designated parking for RVs and separate parking for trucks with trailers. Just look for GREEN and YELLOW signs. :-)

NOTE: ALL times for departures subject to change. In the event of rain...bring your swim suits as the Tundra has an awesome water park. Lambeau Field is but a mere three blocks away...it can be easily seen from back of the hotel.

We are looking forward to seeing as many that can attend. Hoping we have same weather we had in 2015.

(317) 872-0001





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