

# Tennessee T's



## Model T Ford Club

Editor- [Bill Robinson](#)

Be sure to visit our club's website

<http://tennesseets.weebly.com/>

**A Message From Ricky Williams,  
Our President**



Greetings Model T'ers

I was leaving for work a few days ago, and looked over and saw my neighbor scraping frost off his windshield while I was waiting for my heater to hurry up and get warm. For some reason I started thinking about, what if it was the early 20th century and I was standing in front of a Model T trying to hand crank it before leaving for work in 20 degree weather. Maybe that was better than saddling a horse, but just what was it that attracted people in that time to the Model T.

It might have been because it was their first car, and they didn't have to feed it. But, they did have to find gas and oil to put in it, and they did have to service it and fix it when it broke down. I imagine they were really proud to pull up to church and park their car instead of having to tie it up? We all know it wasn't because it was warmer. Don't you know after they did get the car started they would nearly freeze to death getting to where they were going?

Maybe they liked the Model T because they could put their whole family in it, although they could hook up a buggy to their horse. I've seen so many old pictures with 5, 6, or maybe even 7 people in their Sunday best headed down the road in their Model T.

It could have been because it was faster, although I don't know how they went very fast and kept those big ol' hats they wore from flying off their heads.

Personally, I think they were attracted to the Model T for the same reasons we are today. They are just so cute and irresistible that we can't stay away from them. Folks probably had people, back then, coming up to them and asking the same questions that we hear today. Can you buy tires for it; does it run on gas; where do you get parts; how fast will it go; and are those spokes made of wood? I can hear them now answering; yes, yes, parts store, 45, and yes.

I love sharing my Model T and its story today as I'm sure they did then. When I see someone standing by my car I have to go talk to them and share her story.

We have some really good tours lined up this year. So join us and share your story of the Model T, or maybe even make a new one. By far, it's my favorite part of touring. It makes me smile to see a little girl buckled in a car seat at a red light waving to me, or another person hanging out the window of their car to take a picture as they pass by, or the countless people that stop when we do just to ask questions. It's all a part of touring and sharing our story, as I'm sure they did back then.

Happy T'ing

Ricky

## Club Officers 2018

**President-** Ricky Williams  
Humboldt, TN  
731.618.0207  
[rwilliams@click1.net](mailto:rwilliams@click1.net)



**Vice President-** Dennis Plank  
Humboldt, TN  
731.616.6609  
[daplank@bellsouth.net](mailto:daplank@bellsouth.net)



**Secretary-** Vandy Williams  
Humboldt, TN  
731.414.9085  
[vandy1311@yahoo.com](mailto:vandy1311@yahoo.com)



**Treasurer-** Connie Plank  
Humboldt, TN  
731.313.1496  
[csplank@bellsouth.net](mailto:csplank@bellsouth.net)



**Chaplain-** Mac Flowers  
Waverly, TN  
931.535.2327  
no email



## Tours and Events

Contact Ricky Williams, our club President, if you have a tour or event planned to be sure the date is still open. [rwilliams@click1.com](mailto:rwilliams@click1.com)

Date	Event (Tennessee T's events are <b>bold</b> )
March 2, 2019	<b>Lynn Cook Safety Day, Humboldt Tn</b>
March 2, 2019	Swap Meet- Marietta, OH <a href="http://www.oldcarclub.webs.com">www.oldcarclub.webs.com</a>
March 15-16, 2019	Chickasha, OK Swap Meet
May 16-18, 2019	<b>Tennessee T's Spring Tour- Reelfoot Lake Region</b>
June 15-July 14, 2019	1909 Great Race Reenactment The Reenactment of the 1909 Great Race (a.k.a. Ocean to Ocean 2019 Tour) <a href="http://www.oceantoocean.ning.com">www.oceantoocean.ning.com</a>
June 16-20, 2019	Poor Boy Tour 2019, Hendersonville, NC
July 14-19, 2019	2019 MTFCA Annual Tour in Prince Edward Island, Canada
August 17-22, 2019	<b>MTFCA National Tour, Highland Rim Tour hosted by the Tennessee T's, based out of Cookeville, TN</b>
Around Labor day	Ohio Jamboree (exact dates to be published when known)
September	Park County Indiana Covered Bridge Tour (exact dates to be published when known)
October 9-12, 2019	Hershey Swap Meet

**HELP!**

**HELP REQUEST for Volunteers-** We need 3 photographers on the 2019 National Tour to take photos at various pre-arranged locations during the tour. If you would be interested, please contact [hora7@aol.com](mailto:hora7@aol.com) or [billrobinson1926@gmail.com](mailto:billrobinson1926@gmail.com). The plan is to have a slideshow at the closing banquet, provided we can accumulate enough quality photos.

**MTFCA National Tour #2**

Highland Rim Tour

Cookeville, TN August 17-22 2019 Hosted by the Tennessee T's

Please make plans to attend the tour. Better yet, volunteer your time and help George and other members make the National Tour a success. [hora7@aol.com](mailto:hora7@aol.com)



*Please read this!*  
*Are club emails going to your SPAM FOLDER?*

As the President of the Tennessee T's I feel it's my job to keep you informed on club activities and club membership also to collect dues and be our link to the national clubs. In order to do that, I usual send out several emails to the membership. It has come to my attention that quite a few members are not getting my emails or can't open them when they do. Please check your **spam folder** to make sure I'm not going to **spam**. My email address is [rwilliams@click1.net](mailto:rwilliams@click1.net). My name Richard Williams shows up as to who the email is from and I always start the subject line with "Tennessee T's." Always feel free to call or text me @(731)618-0207

Thanks, Ricky

## Membership Dues

Club dues were payable for all members on January 1, 2019.

Please check to see if your dues were submitted. Members who have not submitted for the current year will be dropped from the membership roster and newsletter list effective 3.1.19. We look forward to having you as a member this year.

Send \$15 to Vandy Williams, 97 Creekwood Rd, Humboldt, TN 38343

# Tennessee T's

# Model T Ford Club

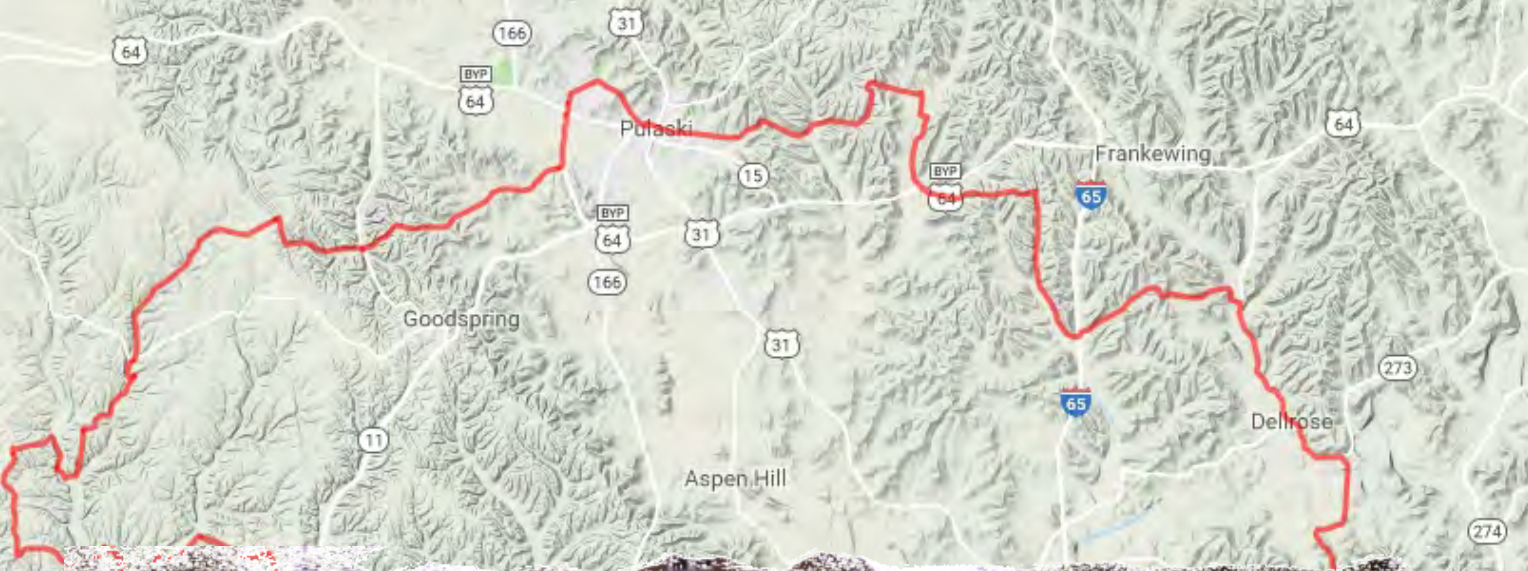
Boy, did we get a BANG!! out of those roads



## The Not For Sissies Tour

October 11, 12, & 13, 2018

Pulaski Tennessee,



Anderson

Elkmont

Thach

FEBRUARY 2019

Toney

# The Not For Sissies Tour

Honestly, our team thought we had some pretty tough routes picked out, that is why we gave it the name. We even had printed bypass routes for those drivers who wanted to take the easy way, but nobody bypassed...anything. But, in the end, even though a few sissies attended the tour 🍼, nobody had problems that were caused by rough roads, and nobody even got stuck.

The **TOUR TEAM** consisted of the following (alphabetically): Blayne McCafferty, Paul Gierow, The Planks, The Robinsons, The Spratlins, David Walker. (A separate write up of some of our many disasters while planning the routes is later in this newsletter.)

A special thanks goes out to **David Walker** for his knowledge of the area that surrounds Pulaski. David spent his high school days attending school in Pulaski and knocking around on the rural roads and studying their significance to the history of Giles County, and to the days before Tennessee was even a state.



Sure, Model T's are his hobby, but studying the McCutcheon Trace, the Trail of Tears, and old stage coach trails have been his life-long passion. Our club may not have ever found these old historical roads without David's knowledge. David also stationed himself along some of the more "watery" spots and took some great photos.

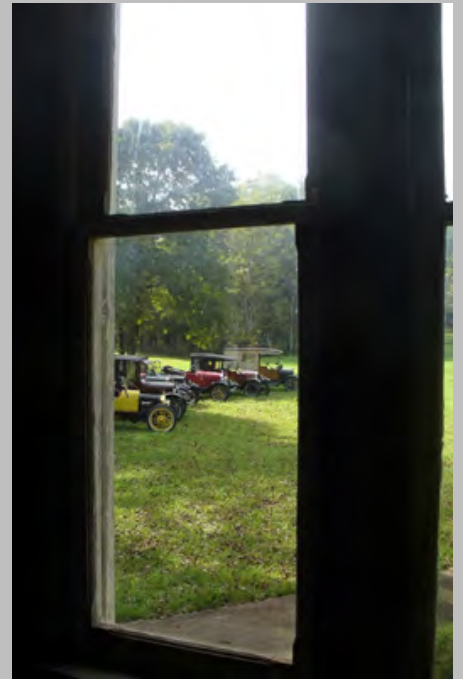


Also, we owe members **Paul and Rhonda Gierow**, owners of the Tennessee Rose Farm for allowing us to come to their beautiful farm for ice cream and a little overhead drone photography, both on the farm and throughout the tour. Thanks to Blayne and Gary for the 'Ol Timey music, too.

<https://www.facebook.com/TennesseeRoseStables/>









Want to see a slideshow of our tour photos? <https://tennesseets.weebly.com/the-not-for-sissies-tour.html>

Want to see a YouTube video of our tour? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXU\\_kxUHLt4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXU_kxUHLt4)



Want to see a write-up of all the **disasters** and bad luck our team had while planning the Not For Sissies Tour? Then, go to page 10.





**The Tennessee T's club** is a member of both the MTFCA and the MTFCI. Most of our members are also members of both associations that help preserve our hobby and our historic old cars.



**READY TO JOIN OUR CLUB ?**

[New member application.. see our website](#)

## Condolence

With great sadness, I am letting you know that Bob Harris, from Clarksville, TN passed on Saturday, January 12, 2019.



According to Larry and Carolyn Williams, Bob and Nell were some of our club's earliest members who attended the Natchez Trace Tours, the Land Between the Lakes, and hosted some of their own tours.

For Bob's obituary click on this link  
<https://www.nealtarpleyparchman.com/tributes/Robert-Harris>



There has been no notification of new members

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Two tours in the near future that have limited car entries- both are almost full. Dont get left out!

1. In May- The Tennessee T's Spring Tour in the Reelfoot Lake region. Limited to 17 cars due to limited accomodations.
2. In August- The MTFCA Highland Rim National Tour in Cookeville is limited to 150 cars due to limited accomodations



## Disasters while planning The Not for Sissies Tour



By Bill Robinson

Pulaski Tn/ Oct 11, 12, &13, 2018

Hosted by myself and David Walker- The roads, the waterholes, and the routes thanks to David- he grew up in the area and backroads and trails are his passion.

In the Summer heat of 2017, the initial routes were run by David and Seth Spratlin in their speedsters. These two were simply exploring some old historical back roads that David has been riding ever since he was a teenager.

Then, in August, 2017, Paul Gierow and I were invited to tag along, not knowing what we were getting ourselves into. When my invitation first came, my response was to *avoid the trip* with 2 speedsters, especially since I am a "30mph guy" driving my wife's Touring car. But I gave in and David sent me the day's 130-mile route sheet so I could put the turns in my Garmin. They tricked us both into coming along, saying that they would lead the way, and wait for us at each turn. I had never met Paul prior to this drive. He was a friend of David's and he was immediately "assigned by David" to ride with me in the Touring Car. That worked out rather well and I showed Paul how to operate my GoPro camera and he made lots of good footage that day. After about 15 miles of us following, then catching up at turn-time, David and Seth were waiting for us at a turn on a very secluded, one-lane dirt road at a "Y" intersection. Both guys simultaneously said "Y'all go ahead. Lead the way". "But.... I don't know the way", I replied. A smirky reply came from David, "You have the routes on your GPS. Go ahead!" Dang it, I should have known better, but away we went. Paul videoed the rest of this tricky segment. It was too late to turn around. ¼ mile later we went through a long water hole called "Tennessee Quick Sand". For the rest of this particular disaster watch the video that Paul made <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjjHVf2a3F4>

Our whole 130-mile day was run in one water hole after another, many creek crossings, rickety bridges, old historical Cherokee trails, stage coach roads, and even a creek called "Grease Creek" where the mud is so greasy that stage coaches would stop and grease their axles along their route (at least that was David's story, anyway).

After we ran the backroads that day someone suggested, "We should make this a club tour". And that is how this Not for Sissies Tour got started.

As we planned and adjusted the routes, our planning team grew. Some were invited, some invited themselves. This was ex-pres Gary Tillstrom's plan- a territorial planning team. A few years ago at a business meeting he issued a map with "zones" lined out so that club tours could be planned by folks who live in specific areas. His plan worked.

Next, on October 14, 2017, we ran the route again. David, Gary, Seth, Ricky, Bill, Dennis, & Blayne all found out about our excursion and came along. We all met up at a country truck stop/café and departed.

**(The team** alphabetically: Blayne McCafferty, Paul Gierow, The Planks, The Robinsons, The Spratlins, David Walker- road nut who grew up in the area, The Wheats, The Williams'.)

Southern Giles county TN is a sparsely populated area located in the Highland Rim (roller coaster) just North of the Alabama state line. The back roads start on Chicken Creek Rd which is only a couple of miles from the Hampton Inn in Pulaski. Not many of the roads that David planned even had a center line. Naturally, the dirt roads had no lines because the paint won't stick! The disasters began when we got deep into the back country.

I am now going to attempt to list some of the disasters that occurred:

1. First thing, David's speedster wouldn't start on the Saturday we met at the gas station to drive. Bill, Dennis, and Blayne got behind him to push the car off. It worked, however Blayne fell in the process and the car drug him a few feet. It could have been a real disaster.

2. Early in the planning it was just 4 guys. David's tailpipe hit the road because David's baling wire broke, so Seth re-wired it. Good fix. Still there last time I looked, too.
3. At our first gas stop, David had to add water to his radiator. The folks at the small town, HillTop Store had no way for him to fill his radiator- so he borrowed their shop's coffee pot.



4. At the same store, all 4 guys needed a rest stop- BAD!. The restroom had "OUT OF ORDER" on the door- another disaster!
5. Then Dennis had a flat tire. Big 'ol nail! Narrow gravel road, on a hill. Uh-oh! What else is going to go wrong today? Ricky got down to jack the wheel up.



6. At the end of that day (Saturday), Ricky informed us that he'd just gotten off the phone with Vandy and that she is on her way to Pulaski. He liked the routes so much that he wanted her to come ride with him the next day because he knew she wouldn't believe his story. I sneaked off without telling Ricky or anyone else to call Suzi and got her on her way to Pulaski. Boy, I didn't want to miss out on this Sunday ride, even if un-invited. Well, our ride was really fun and trouble-free- EXCEPT for the heavy thunderstorm and high winds. We found Ricky and Vandy parked sideways on a one-lane country road, sitting head-into-the-rain and wind in order to (try) and stay dry. They weren't successful.
7. Then another day in late Summer, the wives rode along and so did the heavy rains. The first downpour came at lunchtime in Lynnville. Blayne found us an almost abandoned barn to hide in. The barn saved us from high winds and extra heavy rain. Good thing- Nobody got shot.



8. 45 minutes later, at the next downpour, the group pulled into the downhill side of an uphill driveway. A couple of drivers (Blayne (aka Barnhound) & Seth) went up the long driveway of an unknown barn. The owner was there trying to keep dry. They asked permission for our group to use the protection of his barn. Being an old car guy himself, he invited us inside his ½ barn and ½ home and he gave us an hour-long tour of his collection until the rain cleared. This was a disaster that wasn't a disaster. We actually had fun.
9. The third heavy downpour that same day came and we were in the middle of nowhere, but on a highway, almost back at Pulaski. Suzi and I were leading. I pulled over into a shallow ditch so traffic could go around us, rolled up my windows, looked in my rear view, **No Model Ts behind us**. Where'd they all go? After the rain they caught up but I never heard where they hid. Barn probably.
10. Next day, early morning, 3 miles down Chicken Creek Rd a tree laid completely across the road. No way to go around it. No way to hook a strap and tow it away because it was tangled with Poison Ivy and Poison Sumac/Virginia Creeper top-to-bottom. How do we go around it? Had it not been for David we would have gotten lost and maybe created a whole new route. Roads are so scarce that we had to go at least 11 miles out of our way to get back on track. Really!



11. Then, shortly after getting lost, the heaviest downpour of all. No barns anywhere around. Out came the tarps over those who needed them. The group didn't know that Blayne and David had turned around and somehow found a horse barn to hide in. Seth and Hillary were in front of us, and had it not

been for the new Walmart tarp purchased the previous night, they would have gotten soaked. Blayne and his uncle got wet. Real wet. Suzi and I rolled up our windows and videoed the disaster.



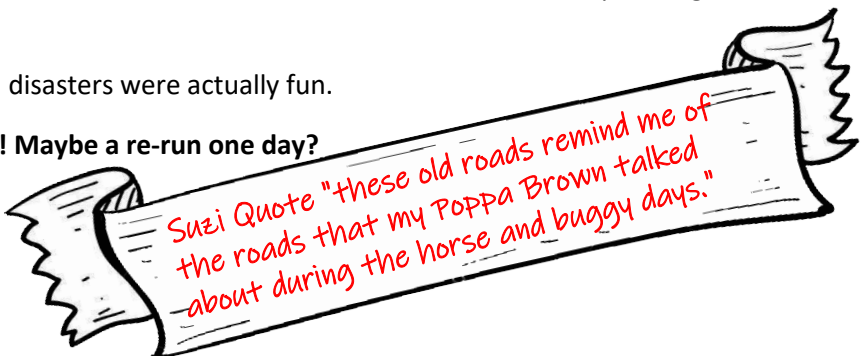
**Now, quickly, some other problems that we had:**

12. David takes group way off route, gets everybody “lost”. He didn’t even know where we were.
13. Road signs missing or mis-labeled all over route. This created a “route sheet” nightmare.
14. Seth’s new fender falls off. His speedster has no trunk, so he finishes the day with a fender on his lap while driving.
15. Bill got tricked again- on Estep Hill. David wanted us to go up it. I went, nobody followed. On the way down- “pow-powpow-pow”. The guys all laughed. They nicknamed it “backfire hill”. Obviously, we scratched this road from the tour.
16. Blayne hits a water crossing a little too fast. Water went way over his windshield and into his lap.
17. Then, Blayne had a flat tire. Seth and David broke the tire down and found a piece of barbed wire imbedded. Bad luck.
18. Then, Blayne’s car developed the “death wobble” but a little tightening got it fixed.
19. Dennis broke a crank, he had Paul drove him back to the hotel to get his trailer. Then, Dennis had a flat on his his trailer on the way to get his car. 2 disasters in 1.
20. Blayne writes “On the one-day trip with Bill, Ricky, Dennis, David, and I, we happened up on a combine that just got done burning up. It was boiling smoke sitting beside the road.

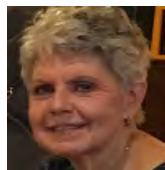
That’s enough! We have all thought and laughed of these experiences that happened many times over the last year or so, and each time I smile, and realize how much fun we all had while planning the Not For Sissies Tour.

During the planning stage- the disasters were actually fun.

**Myself, I’d do it all over again! Maybe a re-run one day?**



**The Money Bucket** as of 2.7.2019  
submitted by Connie Plank,  
club treasurer



**Club's Regular Account**

<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$3,641.68</b>
Total Deposits* (itemized)	\$4,321.00
Total Deductions** (itemized)	<b>-\$1,839.83</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$6,122.85</b>

Dues	\$355.00
Reelfoot Tour Registration	\$3,966.00
<b>Total Deposits*</b>	<b>\$4,321.00</b>

Nat'l Tour Checking Account	\$100.00
Reelfoot Tour Fees	\$1,682.58
Lynn Cook Day Expenses	\$57.25
<b>Total Deductions**</b>	<b>\$1,839.83</b>

**Nat'l Tour Checking Account**

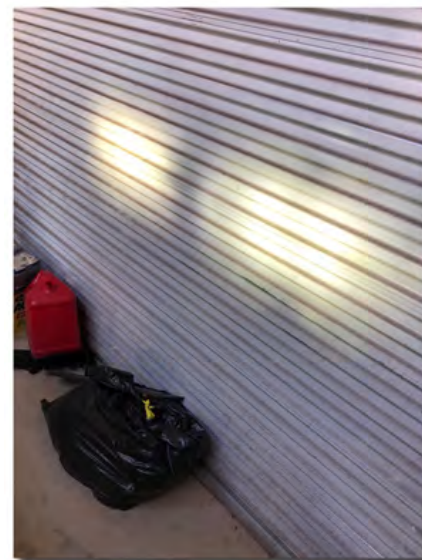
<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Deposits	\$38,410.00
Bank Fees	<b>-\$12.10</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$38,497.90</b>



**Please don't forget Lynn Cook Day, Saturday March 2, 2019, in Humboldt, TN. Let Ricky know that you are coming so that we don't run out of his famous sausage gravy & biscuits.**  
[Click here for the brochure.](#)

**Led bulbs in my 26 T** by Gary Wheat

Car is 6v. Bulbs will work on 6, 8 or 12 volt. Polarity does not matter. They just plug in just as older bulb, draw very little voltage much less than the original bulb. Found them on Snyder's web site. I like them, I can see where I'm going now!



## Members on the Mend

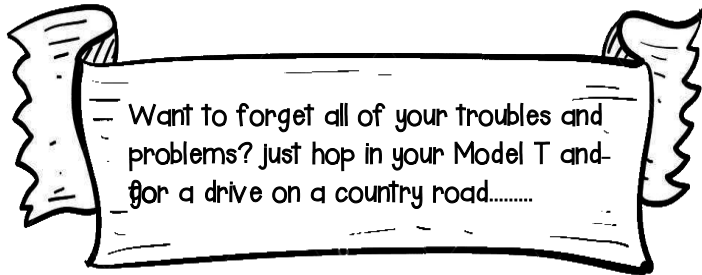
Big John Ohlrogge is recovering from foot surgery.

We also have a couple of members who are having major health problems. Let's just call them unspoken at this time. They know who they are and we are thinking about them.

Get well soon!



Hey, we tour  
the whole  
dang state!  
And then some!



## BOOGER.. IN THE PAN!

Find something in your old car that is not supposed to be there? Let us all see your find!

Here's how:

Write a short article and tell our club members about what you found. Send pictures to the editor. [tennesseets@hotmail.com](mailto:tennesseets@hotmail.com)

Don't forget- Big John makes beautiful, hand-crafted wooden steering wheels.

[bigjohn331958@gmail.com](mailto:bigjohn331958@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU TENNESSEE T'S  
THANKS FOR THE PICTURES  
AND ARTICLES THAT YOU  
SUBMITTED THIS MONTH. I  
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH IT  
HELPS ME WHEN YOU  
WRITE THE NEWSLETTER.**

☺  
*Bill Robinson,  
newsletter  
editor*

**Need A  
TENNESSEE T'S  
T-SHIRT?  
Contact Hillary**

[hillary.spratlin@gmail.com](mailto:hillary.spratlin@gmail.com)



**FULL TIME COLLEGE STUDENTS  
CAN JOIN DUES - FREE**

If you have not found the **TECH PAGE** on our website, then pay it a visit. There are many good articles posted that can help out on your next project. Also, if you write an article, send it to the newsletter editor for consideration.