

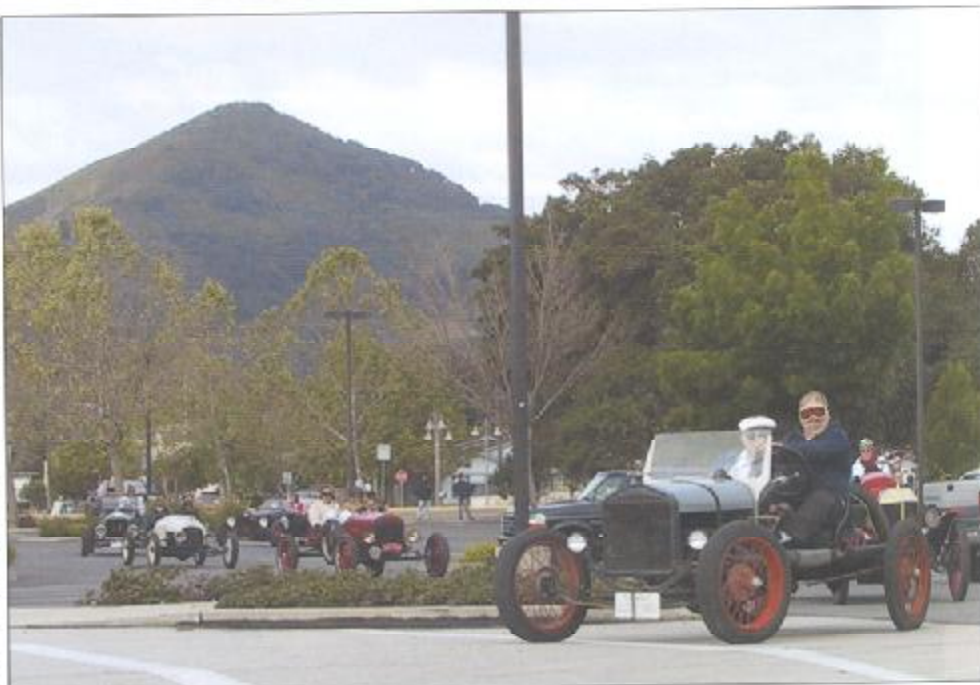
SALINAS VALLEY 4-BANGERS

SPEEDSTER RUN JUST FOR FUN



One of the great events to attend in California in May is a Model T speedster run and low land tour hosted by one of the MTFCA's newest chapters in California, the Salinas Valley 4-Bangers. The event is called the SRJFF, or Speedster Run Just For Fun.

It was created to provide another low cost, fun weekend in which to use the full potential of the Model T, while providing a great view of the scenery on California's Central Coast. The month of May is a time when the beauty on the Central Coast is at its best. The hills are all green and the flowers are all starting to bloom. The majority of the run is on old two-lane roads. The club members state they have enough roads in this part of the country to not duplicate the route for the next five or more years.



The success from the 2nd annual run in 2002 of over 30 cars was four times the participation of the first year. When word got out through the *Vintage Ford* that the 2002 event was a success, the number of participants in 2003 doubled. Cars from Central and Southern California as well as Oregon and Northern California attended.

The run each year will cover over 100 miles with elevations from 200 to 2,000 feet, and is designed to tax the horsepower combined with the lighter weight of many different types of speedsters. However, a second route, called the Low Land Tour, is made available to all the cars that don't want the challenge of some of the big hills. The route map contains instructions like, "Pass by the Wool Grower Hotel," or "Use caution going down Jackass Grade Road," or, "Turn at the sign that says Mercy Springs Valley."

At the 2003 event, the turn-out of homemade speedsters provided a "car show" in itself. The horsepower of these cars is from stock to "you wouldn't believe it!" This, of course, makes for great conversation at the barbecue dinner at the end of the tour. Dialog across the dinner table included, "What gear did you use going up that hill?"; and, "If I wasn't getting hot, you wouldn't have passed me." The best one was when the winner stood up to accept his trophy and told his best friend, "The reason I beat you home is because your equipment broke—AGAIN. And the only reason I didn't stop to help is because you had all my tools!"



Well, the pictures tell the story and the success of the 2003 event. We will have pictures of the 2004 event in a future issue of the *Vintage Ford*.

The intent now is to have the SRJFF become an annual event the first weekend in May for everyone who enjoys touring with their Model T and would like to visit this part of the country. The purpose of the weekend is to have a good time. In fact, the trophies passed out at last year's barbecue were made of paper, which only added to the spirit of the weekend and proves that it doesn't have to cost a lot to have a good time. □