



Volume 36 Issue 12

# The FLIVVER FLASH

The Official Newsletter of The Space City T's ~ Houston, Texas

*Fords crepitant primum, sed ipsi crepitant longissimae*

*Merry  
Christmas*

December 2013



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The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education, edification and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education, edification and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may feel free to use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to club for publication must be submitted to the editor by the deadline of the 20th of month preceding the month of publication. Printing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year.

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<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Broderick Thompson</b>	<b>(713) 269-3820</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Stan Hoekstra</b>	<b>(281) 858-5577</b>
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The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas Chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership in the Model T Ford Club of America, The Vintage Ford magazine, MTFCA Library, Chapter Insurance, purchase of manuals, back issues or store items can be directed to the following address:

Model T Ford Club of America  
119 West Main Street, PO Box 126  
Centerville, Indiana 47330  
Phone: 765.855.5248

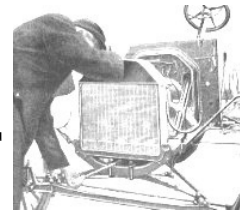
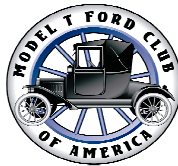
Fax: 765.855.3428

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Annual dues (includes six issues of The Vintage Ford)

U.S. \$40.00

Foreign \$50.00 Canada and \$56.00 for all other countries.



## A Model T

## Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas and the old Model 'T'  
Would need to be started - a real job for me.  
For we were all goin' to the community hall  
Ol' Santa was comin' with presents for all.  
The oil was so stiff and the battery was old  
She'd be so hard to start out there in the cold.

It hadn't been started in over a week  
Which meant that assistance I really should seek.

I got two large pans of hot coals and ashes  
Which I placed under lizzie in a couple of dashes.  
The coils, do they buzz? Try them one at a time

The gap on the plugs - the size of a dime.

I pulled out the choke and the crank I did try

The motor so stiff - I thought I would cry.

For the crank when I pulled it - came up oh-so-slow

And I knew at this rate the car never would go.

I got some hot water which I poured from the kettle

Over the intake - more than a little.

I cranked and I cranked - till I was ready to drop

And just as I did - it ventured a 'pop'.

This gave me new hope - I returned to my work

For as long as there's hope - I never would shirk.

In the next fifteen minutes - four times it did fire

Just often enough my thoughts to inspire.

I thought it all over - out there in the dark

Let's try just a little advance of the spark.

I took hold of the crank and gave it a twist

Just then I felt a sharp whack on the wrist.

I found 'twasn't broken (why was I so dumb?)

I should have watched closely the placing of thumb).

By now I'd decided to try a new tack

One rear wheel I'll raise with the jack.

Again I told ma to pull down on the spark

If I get this car started - it won't be a lark.

Just as I was getting as mad as a hatter

She starts with a roar, a bang, and a clatter.

The vibration shook her right off the jack

And I was run over as I stood in my tracks.

About the time it ran through the shed

Ma pulled on the brake, and to me she said -

'Now dust off your pants - let's don't be too late

You know the program starts straight up at eight'.

Well, we loaded the kids and we flew through the snow

Ol' lizzie at last was a-rarin' to go.

When we arrived at the hall - I knew we were late  
For the yard was parked full - clean out to the gate.

From inside the building came a hearty 'ho' 'ho' 'ho'

It seemed that Ol' Santa was ready to go.

As I ran up the walk - t'wards the big double door

It suddenly flew open, and then with a roar

Came a stampede of reindeer - I was knocked on my rear

Once again that evening shooting stars did appear.

And I heard the fat driver - as I was losing my sight,

"Merry Christmas To All, and To All a Good Night"

—Author Unknown

## On The Cover



### "Getting Ready for Christmas"

A late '23 to early '25 Roadster Pickup delivers the Christmas goodies. Look closely, nestled next to the tree is a lucky someone's Lionel electric train. Angela Trotta Thomas is an artist for Lionel Trains.

Used with permission from Angela Trotta Thomas.  
(Painting by Angela Trotta Thomas. To view more of her paintings visit her at [www.angelatrottathomas.com](http://www.angelatrottathomas.com))



## Election

A slate of officers and directors was presented at the October meeting on October 9. It is as follows:

President	Rick McCracken
Vice President	Broderick Thompson
Secretary	Stan Hoekstra
Treasurer	Dave Lucas
Board Member	David Carter
Board Member	Bobby Wright
Board Member	Ted Adcock

The election took place at the November meeting on November 13. Installation will take place at the Club Christmas Dinner on December 1.

## Dues Are Due

The deadline for dues payment is January 15. At that time the roster will be compiled according to those paid up. Dues are still \$25.00 per year

**Do not send dues to the editor**

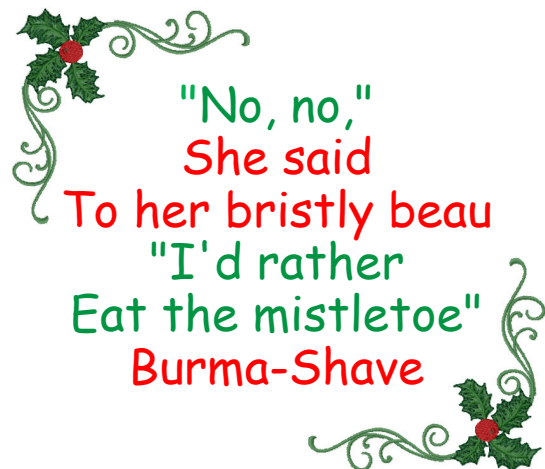
Send all dues to our treasurer for 2014,

**Dave Lucas**

**21125 County Road 160**

**Alvin, Texas 77511**

**NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible. To do so will jeopardize our club's 501c non-profit status with the IRS.**



## 2013 Calendar of Coming Events

December 1 **Space City T's Christmas Dinner**  
2013Christies Steak and Seafood  
See item this page for more details

December 14 **Marines Toys For Tots Car Show**  
2013 **Sponsored by the Westside Mustang Car Club**  
4815 Highway 6 North  
Houston, Texas

TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS TOYS FOR TOTS

**WestsideMustangs.com**  
**5th Annual Toys for Tots**

**Toy Drive and Christmas Car Show**

**December 14th, 2013**

**9am till 1pm**

**Track 21**

mini golf laser tag indoor carling

**4815 Hwy. 6 north**

**Houston, TX. 77084**

## Gasoline Alley



## Afscheid maar niet vaarwel

(Translation: Farewell but not goodbye)

By Stan Hoekstra

On November 23 members of the Space City T's gathered at Bill and Pat Sherrill's place of business, SECO, to give a sendoff to Dirk and Trudy Regter as they complete the North American leg of their around the world trip in a 1915 Model T. They began their trek of the United States and Canada in Houston on May and returned to Houston on November. As Mr. Sherrill put it, the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end..

And what a journey it was. The Regters shared their adventure with us through a slide show and video presentation. Upon leaving Houston and Texas they traveled to the west coast with stops in Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon on up into Canada and back down into Michigan and finally back into Houston.

High points along the way were meeting Jay Leno, the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and Graceland. Needless to say, there were many other great adventures including the Hershey swap meet and meeting Corky Coker at Coker tire.

Now they are head back to the Netherlands, otherwise known as Holland, for a respite until they resume their tour of Central and South America.

They made many friends along the way, not the least of in Houston with the Space City T's club.. Shown here are photos of the send-off event.

Thanks to Bill and Pat Sherrill for hosting both the annual Ice Cream Social this summer when Dirk and Trudy kicked off the North American tour and this gala at the end of the road.

When the Regters resume their journey through South America in 2014, follow them on their website:

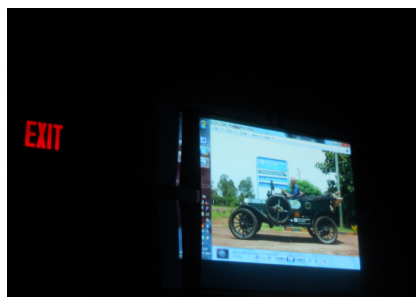
<http://www.tfordworldtour.org/>



Dirk Explains



Windshield Banner



Travelog



Star of the Show



A pair of Frieskops  
Evelyn Devries Hoekstra and Trudy Roorda Regter



Home Away From Home



Dining on BBQ



The Presentations



The Farewell Cake



Closeup



## Tracked Tin Lizzies

By Daniel Strohl

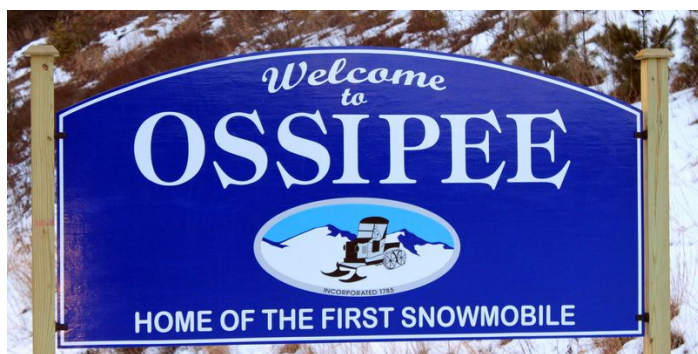
The Nova snowmobile and the Metro-Sled were no mere flukes. Decades before, Model T owners in the Snow Belt of North America, convinced their Ts could do anything, including milking the cows and animal husbandry, converted their rides into sleds. Fortunately, they had assistance from a kit developed by Virgil D. White, of West Ossipee, New Hampshire, a Ford garage owner who is thought to have coined the term snowmobile in 1913 when he patented his conversion kit, consisting of a pair of wooden skis in the front and a track at the rear driven by two of the Model T's wheels (the front wheels moved to the back, where they served, essentially, as idler gears).

According to an article in a local newspaper, White eventually sold about 25,000 of the snowmobile conversion kits during the 1920s, enough of which survive today to warrant the Model T Snowmobile Club of America, a chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. The kits proved popular among rural doctors and mailmen, but the end of the 1920s saw the demise of the Model T snowmobile and of White's Snowmobile Company, Inc., as municipalities started to first pave their roads and then plow them.



I shot the T snowmobile above at Hershey this year, shortly before the Model T Snowmobile Club's annual meet. This year's Model T snowmobile show, by the way, will take place February 2-4 at Lake George, New York.

Used with permission from Daniel Strohl.  
Check out Dan's blogs at the Hemmings Daily website:  
<http://www.hemmings.com/newsletter/>



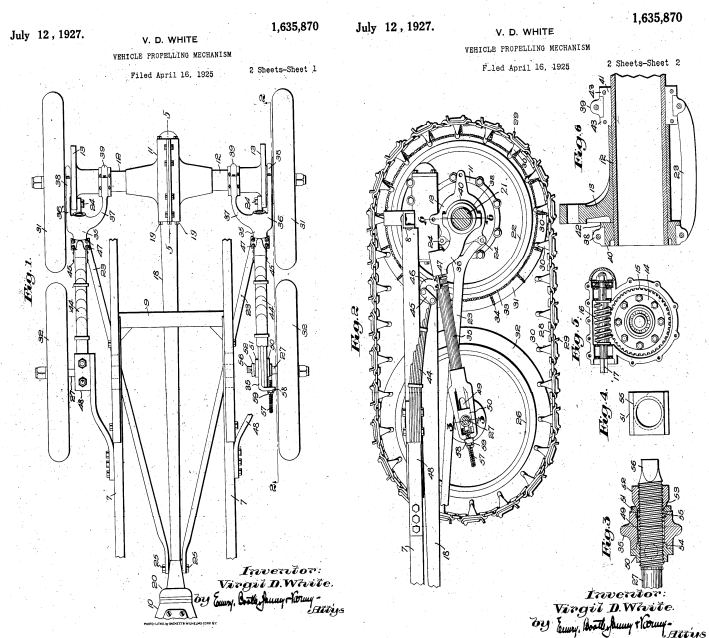
## Dashing Through the Snow...

By Stan Hoekstra

This month we look at Model T's configured a little differently than what we are used to seeing. Given the right environment, these machines will go where no stock Model T can. We are referring to Model T snow mobiles.

Back in the heyday of the Model T, vehicles equipped with skis on the front and crawler tracks on the rear found great favor in the northern tier of states in the winter. Pressed into service as mail carriers, country doctor transportation, utility companies, rescue units and most any entity that required reliable transportation on an unforgiving winter landscape. The vehicle of choice for the required modification was the Model T Ford. Low cost, rugged, light, it was the perfect platform the application.

A number of manufactures jumped into the market, but it was Virgil White, a Ford dealer in Ossipee, New York who captured the market. Two of his patents are shown here.



## Tinkle, Tinkle Little Car

By Cecilla L. Goodbody

**Tinkle, tinkle little car  
How I wonder what you are.**

**Leaking oil every day  
Having it your own way.**

**Going up hills real slow  
I don't want you any mo'.**

**Tinkle, tinkle little car  
Boy what a lemon you are.**

## Classified Ads

**For Sale: 1924 Coupe:** Standard axle, good upholstery and paint, fatboy steering wheel, generator, side fence, honey-comb radiator, #4 exhaust leak. Asking \$8500.. Contact: Richard Smith Smith Tire & Auto 936-756-5363



**Wanted: Newsletter Editor** We looking for a new editor to take over the Flivver Flash. This will not be a jump in and sink or swim situation. We will be as involved as much or as little the new editor wishes. However we will not intrude. We will remain available to assist and do research for articles. If interested contact Stan Hoekstra Phone:281-858-5577 Email: stanhoekstra@att.net

**For Sale: 1917 Model T Touring Car** I have \$15,500 invested and would like to get \$12,500. New tires, perfect body, It is a total restoration with electric starter. The body is rust free and in great condition. Ross of Lilleker Antique Auto Restorations reworked the transmission, clutch, and the engine runs great. More photos at <http://transformationalchurchconsulting.com/about.htm> Contact: Thomas Broadhead 405-213-5285



### For Sale: Rebuilt Model T Ford Components

Rebuilt Model T Transmission  
Rebuilt Model T Starter  
Rebuilt Model T Generator  
Call Bill McRee at 281-427-0792 for details

### For Sale or Trade 2003 190 Bay Boat Triumph

In excellent condition. Has 115 Yamaha, Center Cold console, GPS, Fish Finder, MinnKotta Trolling motor, Triumph trailer. \$14,000.00 or best offer. Would trade for Model T. Contact Leon at 817-473-1333.

### For Sale: 1922 Coupe

Suicide doors, mechanically sound, runs good, good top and upholstery. Asking \$9,500.  
Contact Jerry Hathcoat—Brashear, Tx. 903-582-2241

### Wanted: '27 Model T Front Bumper & Brackets

Contact: Gaylord Willet — Montgomery, Texas  
936-448-1550

### For Sale: Two Model T's



**1915 Roadster ('Lil Red)**



**1924 Touring**

The '24 has lots of extras such as a floating rear wheel bearing, high speed Ruckstell, Rocky Mountain brakes with Kevlar linings, ball-bearing 4th main, Kevlar transmission bands and clutch disk. The '15 has small version Rocky Mountain style brakes, starter and one piece exhaust/intake manifold.

The engines in both cars were built with special updates. High compression heads, aluminum pistons, stainless steel valves, hardened exhaust valve seats inserts, adjustable valve lifters, tour cam, modern spark plugs, alternator, modern carb and air filter. Both cars are 12 volt and have signal lights.

Contact: Robert Kirk 281-332-1701

### For Sale: Walker Estate Model T's

1915 Brass Roadster,  
1925 Fordor Sedan,  
1927 Tudor Sedan,  
1926 Roadster,  
1925 Touring,  
1924 Roadster with Chevrolet Transmission

For complete photo depiction of the collection, see page 6 of the October 2013 issue of the Flivver Flash.

Contact: Craig Corley at 936-875-6034



**Free!!!** A set of Flivver Flash newsletters dating from 1999 to the present. Moving and reducing clutter. First come, first serve. Otherwise they go into the dumpster. Contact Terry Woods, Home: 832-222-2294 or Cell: 832-659-5881



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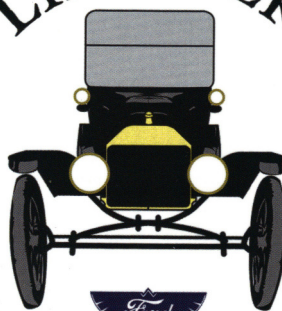
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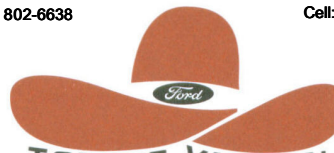
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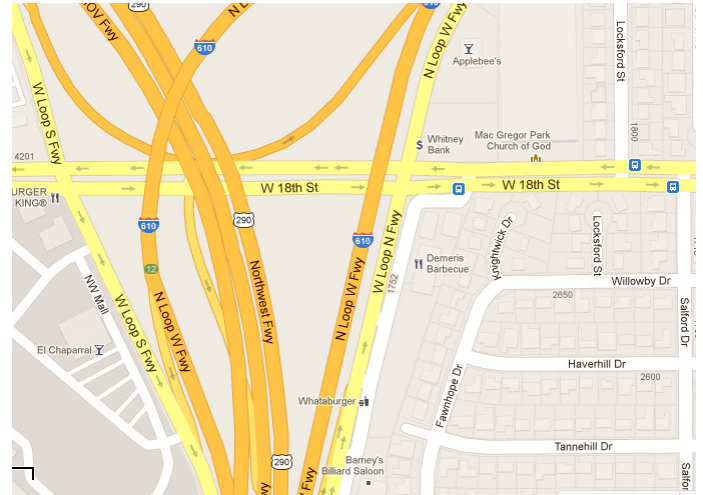


## No Meeting in December



**Instead, Christmas Dinner at  
Christie's Seafood and Steaks  
6029 Westheimer  
Houston, Texas 77057**

**December 1, 2013  
See Item on Page 3**



### Directions to Demeris BBQ

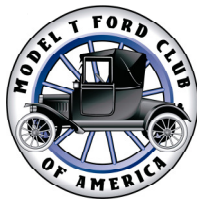
From the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit. Demeris BBQ will be right after Houston Garden Nursery.

From the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right. Proceed to Demeris after Whataburger.

From the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.

## The FLIVVER FLASH

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Katy, Texas 77449



**First Class Mail**

