# The FLIVVER FLASH

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

Fords crepitant primum, sed ipsi crepitant longissimae

Volume 40 Issues 5 & 6

May & June 2016

## Inside This Issue

| | |
|---|---|
| Oh, What A Day It Was! | Page 2 - 3 |
| Epic Model T Trip Will Continue After Wreck | Page 4 - 5 |
| Texas Touring T's Take a Chance on Thunderstorms | Page 6 - 9 |
| Watch a Ford Model T Shame Jeeps With Its Suspension Flex! | Page 10 - 11 |
| 39th Annual Texas T Party Registration Letter | Page 12 |
| Tech Tips/ Parts / Services / Club Information | Page 13 |
| General Info / Dinner Info / Meeting Info / Maps | Page 14 |

# Oh, What a Day It Was!

## By Stan Hoekstra

Friday the 13th day of May 2016 dawned brightly. Rain was not forecast until late in the afternoon. Four Model T's and drivers showed up for the annual Inventors Day at Robison Elementary School in northwest Houston, or if you will, Cypress.

Our club president, Rosie Stokley, arrived with her 1926 touring. Bill Severn showed up with his 1916 touring, Alan Fairclough came with his 1925 touring and Broderick Thompson brought the count to four with his 1925 touring.

Initially, we set up along the side of the school where the building cast a shadow. It soon became evident that we slowly begin to roast as the sun began it's traverse across the heavens and the temperature crept towards the day's high of the high 80's and matcing humidity.

After two classes had filtered through our program, we made arrangements with the school administrators to move the event to the entrance portico of the school which afforded abundant shade.

A total of seven classes passed through the event with an average of twenty or more students per class which brought the total to nearly 150 kids exposed to Model T's for the first time in their lives, judging from the questions they asked.

Bill Severn served as our amiable presenter. You must understand that Bill is a flight instructor for pilots of jet airliners. It had to be a cakewalk for him to teach the kids the fundamentals of a Model T.

After Bill gave his presentation, the kids were allowed to sample each Model T in groups of five or six each. The eye opening fact was watching the Model Ts being cranked to start the engines.

Each and every student had to have a turn at honking the ahoogha horns and the klaxon horns. It's a wonder that the those cars with battery horns had a enough juice later in the day to start with the electric starters. Without a doubt, the rest of classes in the school must have wondered what on earth was going on outside the school.

After a total of four and half hours, the Model T's were released from marking their territory and allowed to roam the countryside.

We appreciate the hospitality of the school staff and the delicious lunch they provided. It appears that this event has become an annual affair etched in stone.

**A Special Thanks** to Hortensia Vega of Robison Elementary for spear-heading the event, Bill Sherrill for recruiting the members who volunteered to bring cars and to Bill Severn for giving the presentation to the classes.

# Epic Model T Trip Will Continue After Wreck

By Anthony J. Marino

Good news! The April 28, 2016 ***Old Car Weekly*** reports that Dirk and Trudy Retger's 1915 Model T Ford is undergoing restoration to continue their around the world trip, hopefully by 2017. As per ***Old Car Weekly***, their bid to drive around the world was on hold after the Ford was involved in a crash in Belgium. Their quest to circumnavigate the globe in a Model T came to a crunching halt when the car and their Land Rover support vehicle both were rear-ended by a truck.

Prior to restoration

Rear-ended in Belgium

Rear wood restoration

The Model T is currently undergoing a re-build, and they are fundraising via their web site www.tfordworldtour.org/ to complete the task. "Our schedule was to go to New Zealand and Australia in 2016, but because of the accident in August 2015… we first have to restore the cars," Dirk Retger told the web-site www.stuff.co.nz. "We are busy now re-storing the Model T and we hope to get it back on the road again this year."

Chassis restoration

The Retger's, from the Netherlands, bought the car in 1997 and began their journey in 2012 and have so far covered around 5000 miles, visiting over 50 countries covering all the continents of the world. They are making this journey of approx. 80,000 miles in order to raise money to support the worldwide work of SOS Children's Villages International, a children's aid organization.

In 2013, the retired couple drove through the USA Canada on a 180-day road trip. The Retger's Ford Model T is mostly unaltered from its 1915 configuration. One exception is larger tires for the wooden-spoked wheels, making the ride softer for long journeys.

A YouTube video of the Model T world tour can be seen at https://youtu.be/hhwVjJvEjAs.

The Model T rebuild fundraising via their web site at http://www.tfordworldtour.org/help-to-continue-the-model-t-worldtour/i-donate-one-or-more-parts-to-rebuild-the-model-t/ has a list of donation requests for various pieces of the car rebuild. Individuals or clubs can donate one or more parts to rebuild the Model T. Some of the higher priced items remaining are as follows:

**Axles:**

Rear Axle housing left +$775.00

Rear wheel hub +$216.00

Front axle Spindle bolts set +$85.00

Front wheel hub +$392.00

**Wheels:**

Clincher rim +$344.00

Clincher rim +$344.00

Clincher rim +$344.00

Wheel spokes 24st. +$340.00

**Body:**

Running board +$216.00

Spare tire carrier +$270.00

Windshield frame +$378.00

Windshield filler blocks +$32.00

Windshield channel 6ft. +$97.00

Touring top bows +$500.00

Top wood bows +$135.00

Splash apron left +$223.00

Front fender left +$446.00

Rear fender left +$446.00

Rear quarter panel left +$128.00

Rear corner patch panel +$62.00

Center rear body panel +$236.00

Brass rear stoplight +$182.00

Brass rear stoplight +$182.00

Rear cushion +$219.00

It would be an excellent gesture of support if the Space City T's of Houston made a donation to assist in this restoration. Any contribution is highly appreciated.

# Texas Touring T's Take a Chance on Thunderstorms

By Debbie Houck

Seven Model T's bravely ventured out on Sunday, May 15th, for a little journey (of approximately 50 miles) from College Station, Texas to Hilltop Lakes, despite calls for pending thunderstorms. Meeting up at Lilleker Antique Auto Restorations, the leisurely group left not-so-promptly at "tenish", and made a quick jaunt to the nearest Starbucks and gas station for refueling of coffee and/or gasoline.

Present were Art and Gloria Langrish with their 1914 Touring, Dick and Cheryl Holcomb with their 1924 Roadster, Denny and Gwen Irvine in their 1927 Roadster Pickup, and Tony Marino with Debbie Houck in his 1926 Touring. Three of Ross Lilleker's Model T's were in the tour: he and his family in the 1927 Tudor Sedan, Ryan Levermann and family in the 1926 Tudor, and Justin Elliott and family in the 1924 Touring. All are members of either the Texas Touring T's or Space City T's Model T clubs or both. A special thanks to Art for organizing this lovely trip and inviting both clubs.

Upon leaving civilization/urbanization of the Bryan/College Station area, drivers and passengers alike enjoyed quiet tree-lined roads. Although bluebonnet season has long passed, there were numerous wildflowers in bloom alongside each lane – plenty of pinks, purples, whites, reds, and especially yellow flowers. There were also the usual cattle and horses in pastures and one very crushed armadillo, because, after all, this is Texas. One unfortunate fawn must have got hit crossing the road the previous night, and as a result, there were numerous turkey buzzards in view. On a more pleasant note for you ornithologists, a grackle found a resting spot in the purple-blooming Chaste tree next to Starbucks, and a beautiful cardinal took flight during our final destination.

That destination was Hilltop Lakes, a beautiful resort-city community in Leon County with plenty of amenities located on 4,400 acres. The group was met up by Mark and Joyce Perkins, residents of Hilltop Lakes, in their 1926 Roadster, bringing the final total to eight vehicles. Everyone enjoyed lunch at the Overlook Restaurant, and then the Perkins graciously entertained those wanting a driving tour of the community. The route showcased many areas, including Airport City, with homes

and hangars for residents and their planes, with a taxiway behind the houses, leading to the airstrip. In addition, there is a golf course, pools, tennis, lakes, an equestrian area, and even putt-putt golf.

In the end, everyone made it back to Ross' place before the evening storms set in, and it's fairly safe to say, given that there were no break-downs, flats, or serious overheating, that they were all glad they took a chance on the weather to enjoy a relaxing Sunday tour.

Entrance to Hilltop Lakes

Entrance to Airport City area of Hilltop Lakes

Art and Gloria Langrish (1914 Touring)

Dick and Cheryl Holcomb's 1924 Roadster

Ross Lilleker's 1927 Tudor Sedan

Denny and Gwen Irvine (1927 Roadster Pickup)

Ryan Levermann ("slightly overheated"1926 Tudor)

Justin Elliott and Family (1924 Touring)

Mark and Joyce Perkins' 1926 Roadster

Tony Marino's selfie with Debbie Houck and his 1926 Touring

On the road again…

A road in between two lakes

Tree-lined roads on the journey

Catching up before lunch

Starbucks lineup

Waiting at Starbucks

Showing off the cars

Lunch lineup at Hilltop Lakes

# Watch a Ford Model T Shame Jeeps With Its Suspension Flex!

Written by Phillip Thomas on April 19, 2016 Contributor: Chris Palsmeier

The Ramp Travel Index (RTI) grew out of a need to score suspension flex – and frame flex, in the case of this Model T

Ramp Travel Index (RTI) ramps are something of a bench-racing platform for off-roaders to compare suspension flex between different trucks of different size. So when a 1916 Ford Model T arrived at the Flex for Food event in Wichita, Kansas, there as clearly only one mission for the Model T owner: outshine everyone with 100-year-old excellence!

When *Four Wheeler* introduced the RTI system, it came out of a need to score the suspension articulation of different vehicles. This was done for many reasons: comparing stock vehicles against each other, comparing before-and-after results from suspension modifications, to even judging competition rigs at the Top Truck Challenge.

This is done by driving a vehicle up a 20-degree ramp (though steeper ramps are used with more capable rigs) with a single front wheel, forcing the front and rear suspension to articulate in in two different directions. Once the vehicle is no longer able to climb the ramp with all four tires on the ground, a measurement is taken along the ramp's deck to see how far the vehicle has driven up the ramp. Of course, trucks with different wheelbases will score differently, so that is also factored in. The formula is pretty simple: Distance driven up the ramp is divided by the wheelbase and that number is multiplied by 1,000. In the case of this Model T, it made it about 103 inches up a 20 degree ramp, for a grand score of 1,030: (103/100) x 1,000 = 1,030.

In the off-roading world, 1,000 is the magic number to beat. For some perspective of what sorts of machines the Model T is burying under its twisted frame, the JK Wrangler Rubicon two-door scores 769, and the four-door JK Rubicon scores 724, according to Four Wheeler; most of your more venerable 4x4 choices (new and old) float between an RTI of 350 to 500.

Does this mean the Ford Model T is an off-road beast? To be fair, there weren't many roads around when it was cranked out of Henry Ford's factory—so, yeah, it kind of had to be. However, we'll probably stick with something a little more four-wheel-driveish for a weekend out in the mountains, but we wouldn't turn down a 4x4 Model T trail rig!

# 39th Annual TEXAS T PARTY

## *Sept 28th - Oct 1, 2016*

## *Stephenville, Texas*

***Cowboy Capital of the World***

**Hosted by Space City T's**

Preparations are well underway for this years Texas T's Party, returning to Stephenville, Texas for four days of driving, sightseeing, eating and this year's added attraction - the 9th Annual Ranger Fly-In.

We are planning excursions to Hico, Glen Rose, Dublin, DeLeon, Commanche and then on Saturday to Ranger to spend the day at the Fly-In with over 100 antique airplanes at a vintage grass airstrip that once welcomed Amelia Earhart.

As previously advertised the Host Hotel is the Holiday Inn Express
121 S. Lockhart, Stephenville, TX 254-965-8899
We fully booked this hotel in less than 30 days, you can call and be added to a waiting list in case there are cancellations, but if you have not yet booked a room please do so now as we will be sharing Stephenville with the parents of Tarleton University this same weekend and all rooms will be sold.
First alternate - Make your reservations here:
La Quinta Inns & Suites - 105 Christy Plaza - 254-918-2444
This hotel is pet friendly, refer to Texas T Party when making your reservation to get the rate of: Single King - $115.00++ 2 Doubles - $105.00++
This hotel is next door to the Holiday Inn - serves breakfast.

RV Parking - Lost Creek RV Park - Contact Jason
1962 US-281, Stephenville, TX 76401 254-965-6223
He would not give me rates, please contact him for rates and availability.

Tour fees will be $175.00 for the car & driver, passengers will be $150.00 each and children 12 and under are no charge. We will be able to accommodate a few single day visitors - contact me for pricing for the specific day, but if your visitors are riding more than one day they will need to pay the full tour pricing.
The registration form is included, please complete and mail back with full payment no later than August 15th.
Note that Inspections Forms will be mailed separately at a later date, you will be required to turn in your inspection form at the time you receive your registration package at the tour, we want to make sure all cars are inspected and road worthy prior to starting the tour.

Kathy & David Harris - khdh59@yahoo.com
1014 Montclair Drive, Garland, TX 75040 - 214-801-5288

Mayes Fuller CPA
A Certified Public Accounting Firm

**Mayes Fuller**
Certified Public Accountant

115 East Second
Hallettsville, TX 77964

361-798-5411
713-882-5710
979-263-5537

Email: mayesfuller@sbcglobal.net
SKYPE: MAYES FULLER

Space City T's
Houston, Texas

LILLEKER
Ford
ANTIQUE AUTO
MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST
ROSS LILLEKER
979.218.4083
WWW.MRMODELT.COM

Direct: (713) 802-6638
Cell: (832) 443-9833
Ford
TOMMIE VAUGHN
DAVID WATSON
New, Used, Fleet & Credit Union Sales
(713) 869-4661
dwatson@tommievaughn.com
1145 N. Shepherd • Houston, Texas 77008

28-31 Ford Model A Parts for Sale: Six 21 inch wheels and two 21 inch tires $75, rear end/axles/brakes/hubs $300, powder coated A frame $50, tie rod & drag link, $40, hubs $20, heads, $40, oil pans, $30, flywheels, $30, flywheel covers, $30

OR BEST OFFER — Anthony 281-482-4156 or topkick7@outlook.com in League City, Texas

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. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are $25.00 per year.

Model T Ford Club of America

Space City Club Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **President** | **RoseMarie Stokley** | **(281)574-7850** |
| **Vice President** | **Broderick Thompson** | **(713)566-6836** |
| **Secretary** | **Stephenie Oehrlein** | **(281)935-9909** |
| **Treasurer** | **Anthony Marino** | **(281)482-4156** |
| **Board Member** | **Dean Dockery** | **(281)937-0946** |
| **Board Member** | **Nancy Carter** | **(281)931-8268** |
| **Board Member** | **Rick McCracken** | **(281)351-0701** |

**The FLIVVER FLASH**
Editor: Clint Allred
435 10th St
Hempstead, Texas 77445
(713) 725 0506
email: clintallred@outlook.com
http://spacecityts.org/
Webmaster: Doug Brough

Have Fiberglass fenders would like metal.

Need spray aprons, seats, throttle and timing linkage,

Hood, Top frame, emergency brake shoes, whatever

else you may have laying around. Please call:

Clint 713 725 0506 or John 713 829 4242

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
E-mail: jay@mtfca.com

Annual dues (includes six issues of The Vintage Ford)
U.S. $40.00
Foreign $50.00 Canada and $56.00 for all other countries.

**Next Meeting**
**June 8, 2016**

**Dine with Friends at**

**Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

**located at 1702 West Loop North,**

**Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**

**Then attend the**
**Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**Place:**
**Lazy Brook Baptist Church**
**1822 West 18th Street in the Heights**

**Directions to Demeris BBQ**

**NOTICE: FM 290 CONSTRUCTION DETOURS**

If construction allows, 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 immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

If construction allows, 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 the 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,

# The FLIVVER FLASH

**Space City T's Chapter**
**Editor Clint Allred**
**435 10th St**
**Hempstead, Texas 77445**

First Class Mail