



The FLIVVER FLASH

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

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Volume 41 Issue 10

October 2017

Follow Up: Tim Moore's Coast to Coast Model T Journey

by Debbie Houck

If you've been following Tim Moore's saga either on the Model T Club of America Forum or just learned about his coast to coast journey in last month's Flivver Flash, here is an update. By the end of August, Tim was progressing in a 1924 Touring towards Bend, Oregon, when he suspected a broken crankshaft. After some assistance getting him to an available Model A guy's shop nearby, a broken fiber timing gear was determined to be a symptom rather than the cause. The real culprit was still the crankshaft, now in two pieces. After riding around the greater Bend area in a 1929 Model A to check out the many crankshafts offered to him (about fourteen in all), a match passed the micrometer test and would soon be "transplanted" into the T. (And don't worry, although it was Tim's first time riding in a Model A, which he found "smooth, fast, (and) quiet", he did recognize that it was "not the car that put the world on wheels".)



With new rings and four new rods enroute from Ross Lillieker's shop in College Station, the wait for news on the forum began. During a test drive sometime after the new rods and crankshaft were installed, the car had started on fire. Although disconnecting the battery terminals saved the car, it was too late for the burnt wiring, so a new wiring har-

ness had to be installed. By late September 12th, Tim was finally on the road and soon to be posting again. A short trip of only 20 miles that evening to another T enthusiast's cabin revealed a flooded carburetor and the need for another fuel filter. Later the following morning while journeying down steep country roads, brake failure required some needed adjustments. With wild-fires looming ahead, Tim made it to Sublimity, Oregon, another 205 miles, on September 13th, and logged 122 miles the following day to Clatskanie, Oregon.

On Friday, September 15th, Tim had made it 6,102 miles to Ocean Shores, WA, where he chose to empty the bottle of Atlantic Ocean water he had collected on day one of the journey into the Pacific Ocean. By September 17th, he was in the Seattle area meeting with another T guy who connected him with Freighter Jim that offered to trailer his car to Long Beach, where it was easier to arrange shipping to Bristol, England.

Forum followers were not the only ones expressing interest in Tim's quest. An article appearing on the Ford internal news site also featured him after his visit to Ford World Headquarters during a stop in July. Here is the link if you would like to see it: [Sea to Sea in a Model T](#).



Inside This Issue	Page
Follow Up: Tim Moore's Coast to Coast Model T Journey / T Party Preparations	1 - 2
The Bellville Tour / The Tour Before The Hillbilly Tour	3 - 4
The 35th Annual Hillbilly Tour / The 40th Texas T Party in Kerrville, Texas	5 - 6
Calendar of Events/ Officers /Ads / General Info / Club Info / Dinner Info / Meeting Info/ Map	7 - 8

There is a nice map outlining the path that Tim has traveled throughout the United States in the Model T. One of those stops was to League City, Texas on July 30th, where I got to meet him in person at Tony Marino's home.



Tim had driven down that way with the intent to visit the previous owner, Bob Kirk, who had taken ill and was unable to meet with him. We all enjoyed

each other's company for a few hours, making observations on human interactions and comparisons of geographical infrastructures, and then he was on his way again.

As mentioned in the previous article, Tim Moore is a British travel writer who has already published 10 books. He explained that he records his thoughts and then it takes several months for those recordings to be transcribed. After that the book writing process is in full swing, and sometime, hopefully in the near future, we can all look forward to reading of the many joys and mishaps along the way. And while some Forum posters were initially naysayers about an inexperienced driver undertaking such a journey that would most likely rely on the kindness of strangers, it seems that is exactly the point. Tim said himself on the Forum that "the T community has single-handedly restored (his) faith in human nature" and that the experience had to be in a Model T- "the car that launched the Automobile Age".

Tim's summary forum post on Thursday, September 21 follows:

"It's true, not a single flat in 6,300 miles! The fronts went pretty bald near the end - I put the rears on the front in Bend, and swapped out the spare for the most worn. Both have had it really (may have had something to do with the 1.25 inches of excess toe in that were undone in Bend!). I also only had to put air in the tyres once! They're Firestone but I can't be more precise.

Kevlar bands. Low gear is nearing the end of its adjustment now, but they all served me very well. Drums seem fine. Rear end - yep, no issues. Was topped up at Ross's in Texas but didn't really need it. It's a 3:1.

After-market failures: two ignition coils (probably an unnecessary change), three sets of points and three condensers (one of each probably unnecessary).

BUSTED CRANKSHAFT! This also took out the nylon timing gear. May have been catalyzed by a failing condenser, which caused some punishingly erratic running the day before.

One and a half exhaust valves burned out. Changed all four.

Two connecting-rod bearings failed. Babbit broke up. May have been exacerbated by an out-of-round crankshaft (as diagnosed by Scott in Wyoming). Fitted four new rods when the replacement crankshaft went.

The two cylinder walls where the rods went ended up with what looked like pretty bad gouges from an errant wrist pin, though compression remained excellent (78-80 - high compression head).

Starter motor failed and had to be replaced.

Wiring loom replaced after fire!

Tie-rod snapped in two (almost certainly caused by the hydraulic damper - it broke right where the damper was attached). Rod welded and damper removed - no noticeable effect on stability. I've probably forgotten a few things. Other than the crankshaft the car acquitted itself spectacularly well overall.

Got home yesterday. Feels very odd not to be sitting in a T all day in blazing sun. To ease the acclimatization process my wife and I watched the 1934 classic *It Happened One Night* yesterday evening - a Model T is the underdog hero in the final act! Great to see (and hear) one in action again."



Nancy & David Carter took the '14 out for a spin around Hooks Airport. Ran into some guys in town from Quantico, VA, to help with hurricane Harvey relief. We admired each other's "rides"!



Sophie Adcock still got the skills!

The Bellville Tour

By Doug Brough

Well, after two misfires, the Bellville tour finally happened on Sep 23. Brave contestants included Jeff & Willie Cordes and friend Fred Mills, the Supak's, the Irvine's and myself. We met at Scott & Leslie Grant's place, just south of Brenham. They had donuts, kolaches and cold drinks ready for us. We lingered around the garage/barn admiring all of Scott's cars, farm equipment, and other man-toys. Some in our party wanted to spend the day here!

Our 9am tour left promptly at 9:30. It was a VERY foggy morning so navigating to the Grant's took a bit longer than originally planned. By the time we left, the fog had burned off.



Our first stop was the Arbors of Briarwood (a nursing and assisted living complex). We put on a mini car show for the residents. They really enjoyed seeing the cars!



The lady you see in the car is an 80 year old resident who badly wanted to get in a car. So with the help of the staff, we got her in and took a ride around the complex. She was thrilled.

After spending about 30 minutes at the Assisted Living, we continued onto Industry for a quick gas and bathroom stop at the

combination Exxon/general store. Denny called it the "Buc ee's of the boonies".

It was on to Fayetteville for lunch at Orsak's. We were able to get seated immediately and enjoyed the food, fellowship and air conditioning. I had put together a visual scavenger hunt, of which I later learned had a couple typos. Being the smart crowd, they all figured out what I meant, instead of what I said, so we had a 3-way tie. So I decided that the Irvine's deserved 1st, the Cordes's deserved 2nd, but then I deducted 5 points because they were late, thus giving the Supak's 2nd, and the Cordes's 3rd. A bag of candy was awarded to each.



After lunch, we said some goodbyes as the Cordes's drove back to Flatonia (where they had started the day), and the Supak's went back to their home in Fayetteville.



The Irvine's and I headed back to the Grant's, with a rest stop at Newman's Bakery in Bellville. While the day wasn't brutally hot, it wasn't quite the fall day I had hoped for so it was a welcomed rest stop. We made it back to the Grants without any problem.

A big thanks to ALL who came out. And a big thanks to Scott and Leslie for breakfast, and allowing us to use their "ranch" as a starting point. See you on the road at a future tour! Doug

THE TOUR BEFORE THE HILLBILLY TOUR

Gwen & Denny Irvine



Stoked with a head of steam—All Aboard



Check out the custom made two-stage steam engine. Polished copper & brass

As usual, we arrived for the Hillbilly Tour the day before the start. As we walked up to the entrance of the hotel, we met the tour organizers, Bob and Susan Stone. They were on their way to an arm of the lake to meet a friend for a ride on a real steam boat. "Would we like to go?" It only took a nanosecond to accept. We were soon looking at the most awesome boat we've ever ridden in. It's a converted 38' Navy lifeboat made to look like the "African Queen". We were soon tooling around Lake of the Ozarks, peeking at the beautiful homes and hillsides. The steam engine ran so quietly, you could carry a conversation on the boat from end to end. The craft is a local hit with all the neighbors on the lake. Dozens of people that we passed were giving us the signal to give a blast on the steam whistle. I hope the Hillbillies are not offended, but this pre-tour "nugget" that we found was the best part of our trip. Thanks for the invitation, Bob and Susan!



Boiler with handmade wooden handles



One of the two steam whistles



Not a coal boiler. Stoked with oak!



Plenty of room for 12 passengers



The 35th Annual Hillbilly Tour

By Gwen & Denny Irvine

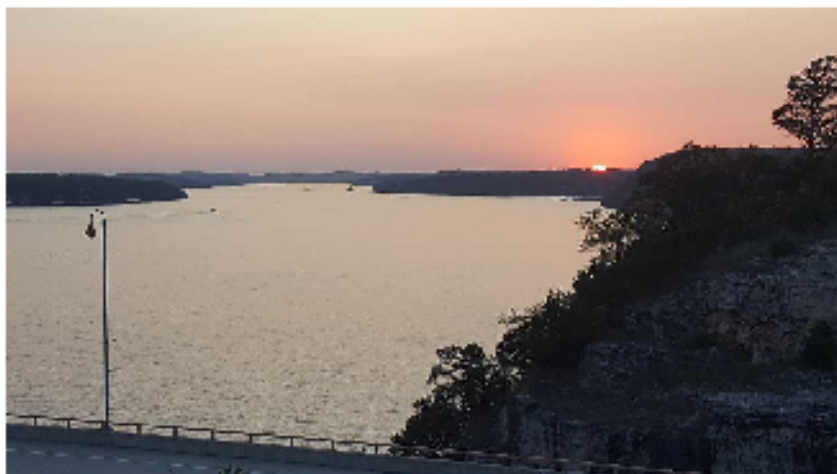
The Springfield, Missouri "Heart of the Ozarks" Model T Club held their 35th Annual Tour on September 6-10, 2017 in Osage Beach on the Lake of the Ozarks. Based out of a 5 story hotel on the Lake's edge, 52 cars spent the first day exploring the "Strip" and Bagnell Dam, ending with an ice cream social at the hotel. Wednesday the 6th was the official start of the tour, which was an afternoon drive south, with stops at the Camden County Museum, a tasting at Seven Springs Winery, and return to Osage Beach.

Thursday the 7th was spent on sections of Route 66 with a car show in Lebanon for the morning, followed by lunch at Dowd's Catfish & BBQ. The afternoon was filled with all the great antique malls and flea markets.

Friday the 8th headed north to Versailles. (They pronounce it "ver-sales") with a focus on the Mennonite community and all the wares they offered. Lunch was at a Mennonite operated restaurant, and then you had time for clock shops, furniture stores, quilts, a country store—you name it!

Saturday the 9th was "Why We Came Day"—the morning was spent on some primitive roads and then the

Swinging Bridges—1930's era suspension bridges over the Lake. And YES—they did swing. From there we hurried back to Osage Beach to board our ship "Celebration" for a cruise on the lake with lunch. Then, if that wasn't enough of a day, we went to the closing banquet that night. With breakfast Sunday morning, we said goodbye to our friends and headed home.





40th Annual Texas T-Party
Oct. 11 - 14, 2017
Kerrville, Texas



The 40th Annual Texas T-Party will be in Kerrville/Fredericksburg, Texas. We will start the tour on Wednesday morning October 11, and will close it with the banquet on Saturday evening October 14.

- The Wednesday tour will begin at 8:30am from the hotel, driving to visit James Avery Jewelry Showroom and Museum, Harper Community, and Stone Hinge.
- Thursday will begin at 8:30, for Picture Day in Fredericksburg. We will be visiting The Pioneer Museum, lunch on your own and doing some shopping.
- Friday will begin at 8:00, and we will drive to Comfort to Luckenbach to Sisterdale to Waring for lunch, and back to Comfort for visits to some wineries and shopping, then back home to hotel.
- Saturday, we will be visiting Bandera. There is a Natural History Museum, with the skeletal depiction of a dinosaur that was used in the movie "Night at the Museum", and The Frontier Museum.

The Y O Ranch Resort Hotel is the host hotel. Room rate is **\$99**. Mention the Texas T-Party when you call. Make your reservations now; you can cancel later if you need to. Trailer parking will be across the road in a rock lot next to Cracker Barrel. Tour fees will be **\$175** for the car and driver, passengers will be **\$150** and children 12 and under will be **free**. We will accommodate a few single day visitors - call for a daily amount - but if riding more than one day, please figure the full tour amount.

- The Y O Ranch hotel does not have an elevator, so if anyone has difficulty with stairs, contact hotel and ask for lower level rooms. Just a reminder, the hotel will charge \$25 for pets, a onetime payment for the duration of stay.
- If anyone has dietary restrictions please let Sandra Ruhmann at (979) 292-5658 know, so they can plan-ahead of time. Wednesday will be BBQ for lunch, Thursday on your own, Friday will be Hamburgers for lunch, and Saturday will be King Ranch Casserole for lunch.
- Dave Lucas would like to get a Farkle tournament going. If anyone is interested in joining, contact Dave at (713) 299-3059. Also, if there are any other games (dominoes, Mexican Train, cards, etc.) bring those and we can play those in the hospitality room any night as well.
- We need door prizes. Get in touch with Rosemarie Stokley at (832) 444-9927 so she can put you on the list of donators.

Y O Ranch Resort & Convention Center 877-967-3767

Jim and Sandra Ruhmann

La Quinta Inn 830-896-9200

Rosemary Stokley

Yogi Bear Jellystone RV Park 830-460-3262

979-415-4630 jimmodelt@yahoo.com

979-292-5658 rdstrqn26@yahoo.com

So put it on your calendars, tell your family & friends and we'll see you in Kerrville, TX

Dave Lucas is collecting old T Party tour books. Please contact Dave at 281-388-0761 or daverlucas@yahoo.com with your old copies to see if he already has them.

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.

Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Rosemarie Stokley	(281) 574-7850
Vice President	Luke Cordes	(713) 449-9129
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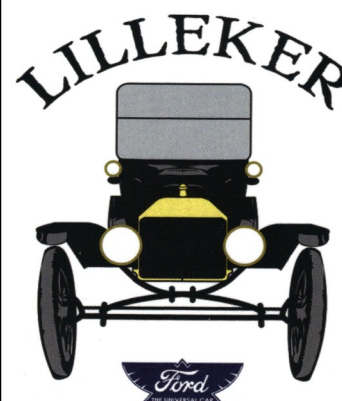
Website: www.spacecityts.org/wp/

Seven (7) USED 30 x 3 1/2" tires for sale
Wards Riverside, Universal etc. \$10 to \$20 each depending on wear.

Used Muncie auxiliary transmission (missing U-Joints) with Power Take Off (PTO): \$200

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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 magazine issues or store items can be directed to the following:

Model T Ford Club of America

309 N. 8th Street, PO Box 996

Richmond, IN 47375-0996

Phone: 765-855-5248

E-mail: susan@mtfca.com

\$40 Annual dues includes six issues of The Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: <http://www.mtfca.com/>

Calendar of Events

Oct 6-8 Ranger Fly In & Airshow

Oct 11-14 2017 Texas T Party
Kerrville, TX

Oct 11 Space City T's Meeting(TBD)

Nov 8 Space City T's Meeting

Dec 2 Christmas Banquet
Christies Restaurant

Jan 10 Space City T's Meeting

Feb 14 Space City T's Meeting

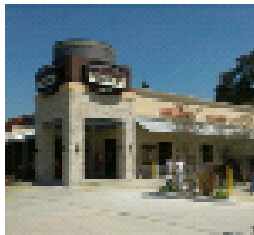
Mar 14 Space City T's Meeting

Flivver Flash Inputs Needed

Do You Have Something to Share? A Barn find, Funny and not so Funny Model T stories? Tour Photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, Restoration Photos or Swap meet finds? A special interest article? **Please email ads, articles, photos, stories, etc. etc. to:**

topkick7@outlook.com

**Next Meeting
November 8, 2017**



**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**

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org



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 BBQ after the WhataBurger.

If construction allows, 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



First Class Mail



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