

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

Tony's TT Truck Debuts at Houston Auto Show

by Debbie Marino

[Space City T's Web Site](http://SpaceCityT'sWebSite)

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Space City T member, Tony Marino, got the invitation to show off his 1924 Ford Model TT Truck at the 36th annual Houston Auto Show held January 23 – 27 at NRG Center in Houston, Texas. The auto show traditionally features the newest vehicles, and over 800 of them from some 40 top automakers, in a venue of over 800,000 square feet, were highlighted. In addition, about 50 classic cars were chosen to be displayed for visitors to the car show, as well.



The theme of many of this year's classics was trucks. Over 30 classic trucks were represented, from a 1956 Ford F100 to a 1968 Ford Ranger pickup to a rare pushbutton automatic transmission 1958 Dodge Sweptside pickup. Of course, Tony's truck was the oldest vehicle of all the classics. Signs were recently

created to promote the Space City T's, so he is one of the first to showcase the club at a car show. With over 400,000 visitors each year, here's hoping that



some of that exposure will peak some interest in the club. In addition, he has a very nice sign tailored for the TT Truck explaining its specification details and the story behind its ownership. The truck was recovered in 1972 from a barn in Farmington, Pennsylvania. When Tony was a child, he used to play on it and pretend to drive it in the barn. Now, as an adult, he's been able to drive it regularly for over 40 years.

Getting all the cars into NRG Center is a considerable ordeal, and it starts quite ahead of time prior to the show itself. The classic cars arrived two days before the opening day and got positioned in their

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mapped-out locations. Many of new models have already arrived by this time, as well as the signage, fencing, carpets, etc. The following night is the preview gala for exhibitors, media, dealership owners, and other VIPs.



The theme of the year's preview night gala was "Havana Nights". One promo girl in a ruffled flamenco skirt was offering Spanish-style Houston Auto Show paper fans. Another female and a male similarly dressed were on tall walking stilts. A fourth one was seen later in the evening with her "skirt" serving as a wandering dessert table. (This would be a very dangerously fattening job for me!) A stage in the center showcased a cover band singing well known songs to get everyone in the party mood, including Camila Cabello's "Havana", naturally. Another vendor was giving out cigars. Numerous open bars and buffet tables were located down the main aisle.

Oh, and of course, there were cars. Well, many of the vehicles were trucks, as this is Texas and the Houston Auto Show is the largest auto show of the south. Preview night unveiled the Dodge Ram 1500 Heavy Duty Laramie Longhorn edition and the Aston Martin DBS Superleggera Tag Heuer Edition.

Manufacturers use the auto show for vehicle reveals to the public, like the 2020 Jeep Gladiator pickup, the Chevy Silverado Trail Boss and the Nissan Titan Rocky Ridge Stealth, as well as the 2019 manual 6-speed Mustang Bullitt remake. Along with trucks, it seems like every manufacturer wants in on the SUV market, as well, including Jaguar, Audi, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche, and Alfa Romeo. Approximately 75% of all new car sales in the Houston area market are from the truck and SUV segment.

The fun thing about the auto show is that there is no direct selling allowed there by the auto makers, enabling consumers to look, touch, get into, and even test drive the latest vehicles without the pressure of making a purchase. Many of the manufacturers offer free brief test drives that begin inside NRG Center and around the parking lot and nearby streets outside the complex. Two other crowd favorite demo rides, inside the expo, on rugged-designed courses are Camp Jeep and Ram Test Track.

Tony's 1924 Ford Model TT Truck received plenty of attention. Debra Duncan, host from *Great Day Houston*, a local talk show of *KHOU-TV Channel 11*, aired the following video segment on her show that week, where she interviews someone involved with the auto show right in front of Tony's truck, mentioning that his is the oldest vehicle on display.

<https://www.khou.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/great-day-houston/experience-the-houston-auto-show/285-e3f674f4-bc74-4c90-9cc4-545109ed57c8>

The *Houston Chronicle* also gave the TT truck a mention in an article published on Sunday, January 27, 2019, written about the classic cars featured at this year's Houston Auto Show.

http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/HoustonChronicle/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=HHC%2F2019%2F01%2F27&entity=Ar01601&sk=7B277C98&mode=text&fbclid=IwAR2oD0x9k7qylbelzifhfNEDGMG1j5_hlkv3NRvync2cpX1tF5fgqUyD05w

It's fun to attend this annual event, but it's even more fun to highlight your own vehicle at the show. If you are ever invited to present your car at the Houston Auto Show, consider doing it. Because even after all of the loading and unloading, and the Houston traffic to get there and back, it's rewarding to showcase what you love to other people that may remember your vehicle from "way back when", or want to see and learn more about a piece of history they may never have been exposed to before now.



Running When Parked?????

by Bill Severn

OK, I know everyone has heard that phrase. That was pretty much what I heard when I went out to California and bought my 1916 Touring car. My question to the owner was "Is it a running car?" The answer was yes. The car was mostly together and



the engine had compression, so I took his word for it. The owner's vision was failing and he had not worked on the car for some time. How much time? Who knew.

Pop forward a year of so and I'm disassembling the car to restore the drive train and body. Once the body was removed I took off the gas tank. I thought I had better check it out before reinstalling it. Shaking it revealed some debris in the tank. I started shaking and picking at it and began getting stuff out. Leaves, twigs, looked like residential habitat for at least a dozen mice. It took a full day using a modified coat hanger to dislodge everything. I piled up all the stuff and got a measure to see just what was there. Holy Cow, it was a pile about 6 inches wide, three inches high and about 10 or 11 inches long. It was a rodent condo. I then proceeded to wash out the tank with water and dried it thoroughly. Then I poured in and sloshed around some liquid tank sealant. When the sealant cured I reinstalled the tank. No telling how many problems I would have had if I had not cleaned that tank out.



'Ran when parked'; when, 50 years ago?

Houston Ford Branch Plant Tidbits from The Galveston News

Terry Woods found an interesting internet article by accident, at [Maxwell House History](#) chronicling early Ford events in Houston. The earliest entry is dated 03/17/1910 and there are a total of 10 events, with the latest being 02/03/1924. They are taken from The Galveston News, founded in 1842. Most of the entries have to do with the Houston Ford branch plant, located on Harrisburg Boulevard, later occupied by Maxwell House Coffee in Houston, TX.

Here are the random tidbits regarding the Ford plant (and related topics) from the The Galveston News: 03/17/1910 - "Mrs. Ella Love, proprietress of the Sternenberg Flats, at the corner of Milam and Walker avenue, filed a petition for an injunction [in Houston] Wednesday against the Ford Motor Company, who have recently rented floor space on the ground floor of the flats for a garage and agency for the Ford car. Mrs. Love alleges that the smoke and fumes permeating from the lower rooms occupied by the Ford Motor Company are annoying to the roomers and is endangering to the building. Mrs. Love asked that the company be restrained from permitting the odorous gases and smoke to escape through the floors of the building."

10/06/1913 - "The Central Contracting Company of Detroit. Mich., has been awarded the contract to construct the assembling plant for the Ford Motor Company, on Harrisburg road property recently purchased. H. C. Beck, president of the company, has arrived in Houston to superintend the start of the work. A similar plant will be constructed in Dallas. The building will be of reinforced concrete, four stories and basement, and will cover an area of 80x300 feet. It will include a large assembling department, a repair department, stock and salesrooms. The building is one of twenty-three assembling plants being constructed by the Ford Motor Company in various cities of the United States."

10/18/1913 - "The Ford Motor Company today secured a building permit for the construction of a building, 78 x 240 feet, to be erected at a cost of approximately \$200,000. It will be used as an assembling plant by the Ford company, and is similar to the Ford plants in Detroit, Mich., being constructed of reinforced concrete. It will be equipped with every modern appliance for the assembling of automobiles. The building will be located at Milby Street and the Harrisburg road, will be four stories high, and will be constructed by the Central Construction Company."

10/23/1913 - Ford filed suit to remove the cloud on its title to the property on Harrisburg Rd., denying the City of Houston's allegation that some of the streets through the property were public streets.

02/24/1919 - Ford announced it was "reopening" its Houston plant on March 1st, and that it would be shipping cars from the plant to South Texas and Mexico, and that it expected South America would also soon come within the trade territory of the Houston plant.

[The plant had presumably been closed during World War I or used for war-related work. In 1919, Henry Ford was in litigation with the Chicago Daily Tribune, which had called him an anarchist in an editorial because of pacifist positions he had taken in 1916, and which he had sued for libel, asking for \$1 million in damages. One of the issues in that litigation was the extent to which Ford plants had been given over to war work during World War I, with Ford arguing that its Detroit plant was 100% devoted to war work at the time of the signing of the armistice, and the newspaper arguing that Ford was as profitable in war time as in peace time.]

09/23/1920 - Ford cut the price of its cars and trucks by 31%, and stated that the cut would apply not just to new orders from the Houston plant, but also to the plant's 6,000 unfilled orders pending at that time.

01/09/1921 - Ford was close to finishing a new unit at the Houston plant, a "modern concrete structure of two stories, 100 feet front by 220 feet deep." Houston was the only American city requiring expansion - some plants in other cities had even been closed.

09/20/1921 - Ford petitioned the Houston City Council to gravel Drennan St. from Texas Ave. to Harrisburg Blvd.

03/25/1922 - Ford announced that all its plants were adopting "the forty-hour week," meaning that its plants would be closed on both Saturdays and Sundays.

02/03/1924 - Photo published of a "Wald Transfer Company" moving truck built in Galveston. The caption mentions that the company that built the truck also gets orders from Ford Motor Company. [Thought the WALD photo was a bit of a coincidence given the old WALD sign in the same area as the coffee plant.]



Old Ford plant is the red brick building on the left. Other structures were added later by Maxwell House Coffee.

2019 Events

Concordia Lutheran High School
700 E. Main Street
Tomball Texas 77375

This is a show and tell the history and talk about the Model T cars. It is from noon to 3pm and Randy Neumeyer has 3 classes that want to see and learn about the model T's. This is a one day event scheduled to be on March 19, 20, 21, or 26 and still needs to be finalized.

The Monarch School and Institute
2815 Rosefield Drive
Houston Texas 77080

This will be a show and tell the history and talk about Model T cars as well. Scott Nipper is the person in charge of setting this up and I will be confirming the date and time of this event as well.

The Robison Elementary inventors day show. Karen Finke is our contact person. The school is located at 1700 Robison Woods Road in Cypress Texas 77429. This is a show and tell the history and talk about Model T cars as well. The date is set for March 29, 2019 from 8:30am to 4pm and has been supported in the past by 3 to 4 SCMT members.

Channelview Cars in the View car show invitation. Aaron Allison is the contact person and I will send the flyer out as soon as I get it. It will be held at the Ray Maddy Stadium in Channelview on March 2, 2019 from 10am til 2pm.

Club member Peter Adey has once again offered to set up a spring shake down tour up in the National Forrest area as he did last year, but this years event would be on the east side of 45. More details to follow as they become available.

Liberty Church is hosting its [4th Annual Car & Bike Show](#) on May 4th at their location 200 FM 2025 Cleveland TX 77328. Check in is at 10am, judging starts at noon and trophy presentation at 3. Entry is \$20 a car/bike, there will be 25+ trophies awarded (new classes to be added for 2019) and the 1st 30 entries receive a free t-shirt, additional t-shirts as well as food will be available for an additional cost.

Last year we had an amazing turn out from trucks and muscle cars to exotics and more, help us make this show the biggest church show in the Houston area, and please remember All proceeds from the show, shirts and food will go to benefit the Liberty Church Youth Department. ***Please help us make this show an amazing event and help contribute to a great cause..***

Trinity Episcopal Church, Associate Rector Rich Houser wants to have a car show for the church members and families on March 2, 2019 from 10am till noon. the address to the church is 1015 Holman, Houston Texas 77004.

The Horn Elementary Roaring 20s Gala at The Briar Club of Houston on March 2, 2019 invitation. I am trying to find someone that would be kind enough to display their Model T at the front of our event. Please let me know if you can get me in contact with someone. Thank you, Katie Wylie (281) 435-2410

[MTFCA 2019 National Tour #2](#)

Highland Rim Tour Cookeville, TN August 17 - 22, 2019. Come join us in Tennessee for an unforgettable tour of the scenic backroads traversing the Highland Rim of the Upper Cumberland Plateau. Host hotel: Country Inn and Suites, 1151 South Jefferson Avenue Cookeville, TN 38506 \$89-\$119 Rate; specify Model T. Reservations: 931-525-5668 Registration limited to the first 150 cars. ***Now, y'all plan on visiting us in Tennessee this year! No foolin'!***

There seems to be a lot of requests to our club from schools for car shows and a little history on the Model T's. This is a great opportunity to spark some interest in the younger folks and hopefully to build our membership and keep the Model T car hobby alive and well, so please spare a day of your time and if you live in the area go tell the younger generation about a piece of History that most never get a chance to see or experience up close and personal.

Thanks
Dave Lucas
SCMT Club President 2018 / 2019
cell: 713-299-3059

2019 Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15, 2019. At that time the roster will be compiled according to those paid. Dues are still **\$25.00** per year. Please **print** out this page, **fill out** the form below with your most recent information, and make your check payable to **Space City T's**.

Please **mail** your dues to the 2019 Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, Texas 77059

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

SPACE CITY T's MEMBER ENROLLMENT

Model T Ford Club of America membership # if Applicable _____

Model T Ford Club International membership # if Applicable _____

DATE _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

Name: _____ Spouse _____

Minor Children (under age 18) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

Cell: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Occupation: _____

Model T's Owned:

Space City T's of Houston Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4: Dues for members admitted to membership between July 1 and December 31 shall pay (1/2) of the annual dues. (\$12.50 for the given year, \$25.00 per year there- after)

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 and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education 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 use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

2019 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	Rick McCracken	281-351-0701
Secretary	Rosemarie Stokley	281-574-7850
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Broderick Thompson	713-269-3820
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Bill Severn	936-273-3592

THE FLIVVER FLASH

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281-482-4156

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

Calendar of Events

Feb 13	SCT Meeting
Mar 13	SCT Meeting
Mar 29	Robison Elementary Inventors Day
Apr 10	SCT Meeting

For Sale: Set of four vehicle dollies.



The kind you jack up, set four wheels on and can roll around the vehicle.

\$75.

Bobby Wright: (409) 771-5548 text or call and leave a message.

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the 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

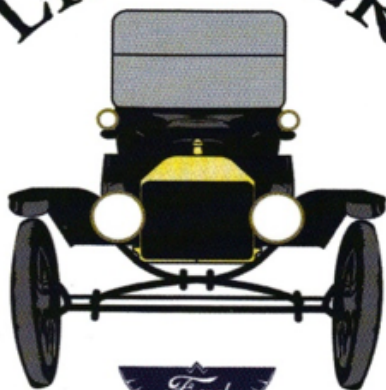
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: susan@mtfca.com

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

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For Sale: 1926 Model T Fordor



Very solid car, Ross Lilleker engine with Z head & about 1000 miles, runs good, 5 new tires, new coils, new top, top wood & carpets. Good paint, good interior, 6 volt, spare wheel, low head & other misc. parts. \$14000 negotiable Chuck Sportsman 903-203-9292 or 903-833-5572

csportsman@msn.com

This ad expires February 2019

FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or 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

February 13, 2019



Dine with Friends at
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.

located at

1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008

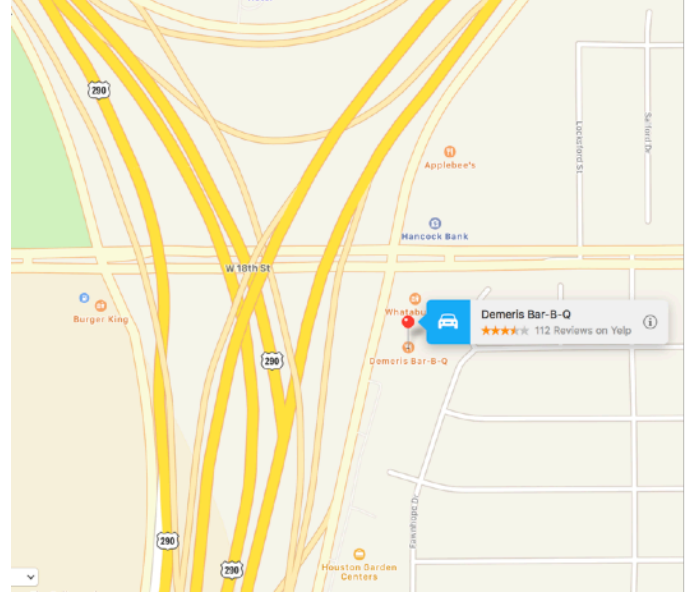
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

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

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

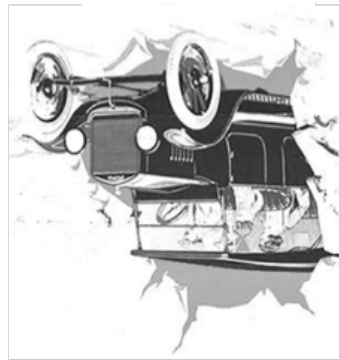


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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 immediately on the 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 BBQ 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, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.



First Class Mail



Space City T's of Houston
Anthony J. Marino
302 Torrey Court
League City, Texas 77573

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