

The Flivver Flash

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

Member Feature: Tony's Toys

by Debbie Marino

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

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Every year during the Texas 'T' Party, the tour book lists the participants cars (year and model). I thought it would be interesting to go more in depth on how the owners of these vehicles came to acquire them. Each car has a story, and that's part of what makes owning an antique vehicle a fun experience. This month I'm highlighting our Flivver Flash editor, Tony Marino. He is the owner of "Betty", a 1926 Touring, and "Big Liz", a 1924 TT C Cab 1 Ton Truck.

1924 was probably the first year that Ford built an all metal TT truck with the express body. At this time, the most common nickname for a Model T Ford was the "Tin Lizzie." The TT truck, however, was the biggest and heaviest Model T that Ford made, hence, the nickname "Big Liz."

Big Liz was recently featured at the Houston Auto Show in January 2019. Some of her 'unusual' specifications are listed as follows: high dome aluminum pistons, Stipe 250 camshaft, stock crankshaft and head, E-timer, Muncie auxiliary transmission, hi-speed 5:1 Ruckstell worm drive rear end, and oil slingers in place of the magneto.

Tony's father, Anthony Marino, purchased the then rusty, non-running truck in the early 1970's out of a barn from Charles Sherry in Farmington, Pennsylvania for \$1500 while Tony was serving in the Air Force. However, he already knew this truck, because when he was a young boy, he had played on



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it in the barn pretending to drive it, with his friends Charles and Eric, the sons of Charles Sherry.



Tony's father, called him one day in Minot, North Dakota, where Tony was stationed, and said "Hey, listen to this," while he ran the truck's engine in celebration that he got it running. Mr. Marino owned Marino Auto Supply in Hiller, Pennsylvania at the time. He had enlisted another mechanic friend of his, Jackie Adamson, and they used a two by four block of wood and a hammer on top of one of the pistons to loosen the stuck pistons and the crankshaft.



When his father passed away in 1979, the truck was shipped to Friendswood, Texas, where he had moved after leaving the Air Force. That is when Tony



joined the Space City T's. In the early 1980's, Space City T club members Robert Cardner and Ralph Reeder worked on the truck to replace the solid rubber tires and install the Muncie transmission and high speed rear end. Subsequently, while driving in the middle of Friendswood, several of the magneto magnets broke. In 2006, Ben Hardeman and Ross Lilleker of Texas T Parts rebuilt the motor and installed a TruFire ignition system and oil slingers in place of the magneto.



After the rebuild, the first T Party Big Liz attended was the 2006 Georgetown event. She has attended numerous T Parties since that time, with the 2017 Kerrville event being the most recent. It was there in the YO Ranch Hotel parking lot that Tony and his wife Debbie replaced the burnt out TruFire ignition system with the E-timer ignition system. But, it was not all work and no play on that trip. Together they enjoyed dressing up on picture day, recreating the characters of Grant Wood's painting *American Gothic*.



Around 2007, Tony bought “Betty”, the 1926 Touring car, from Floyd Bigelow, in Bellville, Texas because Tony’s late wife Donna did not like to ride in the TT truck, in hopes that she would attend one of the T Parties with him. He succeeded in his quest, and she made it to the 2011 Bastrop T Party event with him.



Betty’s moniker came from the insurance paperwork found under the front seat. It was the name of the previous owner’s wife, and the name stuck. Another club member, Herb Janzen, whose father worked with Floyd, remembers riding in the car when he was a kid. When Tony told Herb who he had



purchased the car from, he instantly recalled the name and those childhood memories.

It has since been repainted and the convertible top was replaced with a new one, which was still sitting in a box on the back seat. Ross Lilleker installed a Ruckstell rear end after a thrust bearing was damaged during the 2013 T Party. The motor was rebuilt by the previous owner in the 1980s and is still running good on the original magneto.



One of the remarkable and unusual items on Betty is the aftermarket odometer on the left front wheel. It currently reads over 80,000 miles. Her most recent T Party was the 2018 Schulenburg event.

I would really love to hear how other Space City T members found their Model Ts and the stories behind them. While we’d prefer that you send an article to the editor for future publishing, if you are not so inclined to write something yourself, please let Tony know that you’re still interested in having your car(s) featured. I can arrange for a telephone interview and write something up for you when possible.





2007 Uvalde T Party



2014 San Angelo T Party



2019 Events

Concordia Lutheran High School at 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 at 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.

TT Tour, Saturday, March 23, 2019. While this tour is specifically designed for TT's and other slow moving Model TT's, regular Ts are invited. Arrive (9:30 am) Timberwood Park Community Center 26631 Timberline Dr, San Antonio, 78260. Trailer parking is available. If you have any questions please contact DuWayne Headrick at 210-705-4318 or dpsapper@gmail.com.

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.

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. Looking at April 13th, May 11th, or 18th as possible dates.

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.***

Hello. I am in charge of the Ellinger Tomato Festival parade on Sunday, May 26, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m.. Would very much like to have the Space City T's participate in our parade. Ellinger, Texas, is located on Hwy. 71, about half way between Houston and Austin. Kindly let me know if there is a possibility of your participating. If yes, would appreciate your sending me your mailing address so that entry forms can be sent to you. Thank you, William H. Koehl, wakoehl@gmail.com

[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 are 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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Calendar of Events

Mar 13	SCT Meeting
Mar TBD	Concordia Lutheran High School
Mar TBD	The Monarch School and Institute
Mar 23	TT Tour - Timberwood Park, San Antonio
Mar 29	Robison Elementary Inventors Day
Apr 10	SCT Meeting
Apr/May	Spring Shake Down Tour - National Forrest area
May 8	SCT Meeting
Jun 12	SCT Meeting
Jul 10	SCT Meeting

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

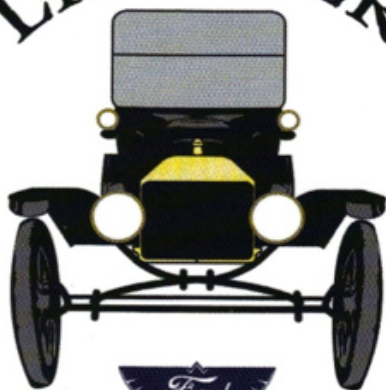
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: susan@mtfca.com

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

Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

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ROSS LILLEKER

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WWW.MRMODELT.COM



For Sale:
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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 OBO

Chuck Sportsman
903-203-9292 or
903-833-5572

csportsman@msn.com

This ad expires April 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

March 13, 2019



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

located at

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

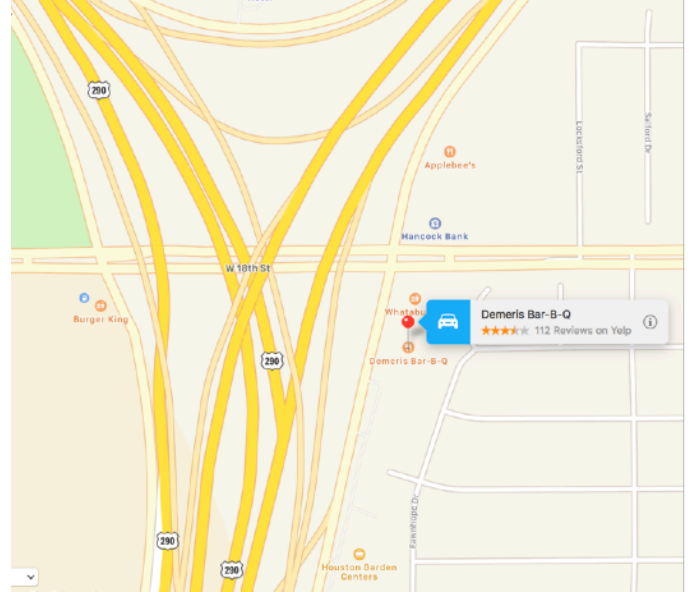
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

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

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

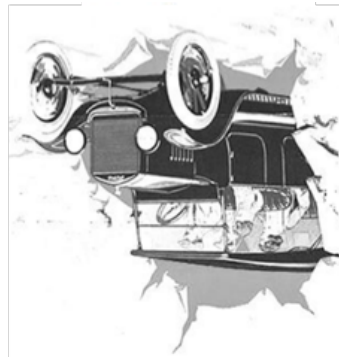


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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



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