

The Flivver Flash

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

BRENHAM TEXAS T PARTY

by Debbie Marino, Photos by tour participants

The Space City T's of Houston hosted the 42nd annual Texas T Party this year in Brenham, Texas, from October 9th through October 12th, 2019. Chairpersons Dave Lucas, Rick McCracken, and David Carter had the responsibility of securing a host hotel and overflow hotels, meal locations, activities, driving routes, and so much more: basically, the equivalent of herding cats. However, just like all of the volunteer chairs of years' past, they pulled off yet another successful event. Of the 97 registered Model T cars, the 210 participants arrived from 8 states and 64 cities, not including one international couple. Twenty-four of the Model T's are now centennial cars, equating to 25% of the vehicles achieving 100 years old or older.

A majority of the participants arrived on Tuesday, the day before the tour, to settle in prior to the first morning's route on Wednesday. They were greeted by David Carter in the hotel's parking lot, who guided trailer parking for easy unloading of the Model T's. He and club vice president, Rick McCracken, had created ramps to ease the vehicles over some curbs into the trailer parking area. Once the unloading was done, people ventured into the hospitality room of the Baymont Inn & Suites to pick up their registration packets. Included this year was a cute Model T wooden plaque declaring "Life in the Slow Lane" and a baseball hat recognizing the event, plus the all-important name tags and tour book. The name tag would become ones' meal ticket, and the 60-page tour book was filled with

schedules, maps, dining suggestions, participant names, T-party history and more.



Wednesday morning marked the first tour day, with a drivers' meeting at 8:30 am. While it's fun catching up with friends from other Texas Model T clubs over coffee and some breakfast, it's best not to miss the daily driver briefing in order to note any route changes due to construction or details occurring after the tour books went to press. In past tours, a day's travels could amount to close to 100 miles a day. Club president, Dave Lucas, opted for trips averaging only half that amount. He joked in the drivers' meeting that he chose shorter routes for himself, but everyone seemed more than agreeable to the new schedule, allowing for more free time and less vehicle breakdowns from the stress of longer rides.

The first stop on Wednesday was the town of Bellville, with parking and shopping around the Austin County Courthouse. Only a block away is the Austin County Jail Museum, which is the fourth jailhouse built on that site

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since 1848. The dual-purpose building, built in 1896, also had living quarters for the sheriff and his family, but no one actually used it as a home until 1921. The north side was an office for the jailer and sheriff on the first floor, with jail cells on the second and third floors. A smaller fourth floor housed the gallows, said to have only been used once. Jail doors were shut with a lever lock security system. Even still, escapes occurred by means of make-shift knives made from the iron bunkbed springs, and other smuggled-in tools. However, records of chases for escapees make note that the sheriff's pursuits generally ended in recapture. The Austin County Jail Building was entered on the National Register of Historical Places in 1980.



Another attraction in Bellville was the blacksmith demonstration at Phenix Knives by 'Cowboy' Szymanski. In an 1891 historic blacksmith shop, he creates hand-forged knives and blades, and was even featured on The History Channel's *Forged in Fire* show. Observers were educated in the art of what entails being a metalsmith while he worked on the bellows and the fire to forge a unique steak turner on an anvil. The majority of the group then chose to head out to the Kenney Store for lunch in Kenney, Texas. This Southern home cooking establishment, with live music on weekends, was overwhelmed by the large group but recovered well, as everyone enjoyed a nice meal, good air conditioning, and great fellowship.

Wednesday evening was set aside for social time at the Baymont Hotel, and ice cream and cookies were served. People ventured into town later for a meal, and then

back to the hotel to socialize a bit more before turning in for the night.

After checking the lists in the hospitality room to see if their names appeared as door prize winners and gathering for the morning's drivers' meeting, Thursday's route took participants to the Burton Cotton Gin & Museum in Burton, Texas. The historic 1914 Burton Farmers Gin is a designated National Historic Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, as well as listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a Texas Historic Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission. A tour includes a 20 minute video titled "Cotton: From Wagon to Finished Bale" of cotton being ginned and baled right there at the historic gin. Inside the gin is a 1925 Bessemer Type IV diesel oil engine. Visitors can learn how cotton was harvested and processed and how seeds are separated from the soft white fibers, enjoy various exhibits and browse through cotton souvenirs in the gift shop, such as angel ornaments made from cotton bolls. It is the oldest operating cotton gin in America and is used to gin and bale cotton each year at their annual Cotton Gin Festival in April.



Also in Burton is the Burton Railroad Depot, Visitor's Center and Museum. Burton was a terminal on the Houston & Texas Central Railroad in 1870 where a depot was built, but when it burned in 1898, it was replaced by the current structure and became a recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1991. The Burton Heritage Society, formed in 1973, whose members preserve and share the history of the community, is located in the depot which they maintain. The Model T's looked right in place lined up on the street at the museum. A nearby elementary school heard about the touring cars and walked over to check them out.

A barbeque lunch of brisket and sausage that day was provided by Nathan's BBQ in Henkel Hall at Henkel Market Square in Round Top, Texas. Round Top is known for its antiques, and the market is a shopping destination in the heart of town, but the area was still recovering from Round Top Antiques Week, which is actually a twice yearly 15-day span of about 60 shows covering an 11 mile stretch, so there were relatively few shops open within walking distance of the Model T's, unfortunately. However, there was a pie shop open with baked goods for sale that peaked the interest of several participants because there's just never enough to eat on these tours! Jest, of course! Others made their way over to Festival Hill in Round Top, a 210-acre campus of the Round Top Festival Institute. Besides the concert hall, the grounds contain historic buildings like the Edythe Bates Old Chapel, 13 extensive gardens, and other areas of beauty such as the Herzstein Memorial Plaza styled after European courtyards and the Roman Ruins.



That night, the now annual Farkle Tournament was scheduled. Farkle is basically a push-your-luck dice game played with six dice to be the player with the highest score above 10,000 points on the final round of play. In the past few years, the tournament has become a tradition with this group as much as ice cream stops are to Model T tours in general. As people were dropped out of each round, many headed into the hotel's breakfast area which had been taking over for the evening by Houston Astro's baseball fans to watch the final Game 5 of against the Tampa Bay Rays, earning them a win in the American League Division Series of the MLB playoffs, with hopes of winning the World Series once again. Good thing the entire hotel was basically occupied by T Party participants, as the crowd was enthusiastic!



Up until this point, the weather had been moderate for a Texas fall day with highs in the 80's to low 90's and lows in the 60's to 70's range. Rain had been predicted for Friday morning for over a week, and usually a forecast will change as it draws nearer to the actual day, but this time the weathermen were right on their predictions. The 80% chance of rain became 100% and brought in a cool front, dropping the temperature more than 30 degrees. Normally, a cool front in and of itself would have been a welcomed relief from the Texas summer heat, but the morning rain meant scrambling for ideas on how to handle "Picture Day". Originally scheduled for the cars and their occupants to be photographed in front of the Giddings Stone Mansion, the wind blowing the rain almost sideways for awhile led the group to move the photo session in front of the hotel. With a break in the rain, car covers came off as Model T's took their turns under the hotel's awning. Some folks still braved the weather in their period clothing for the shoot as planned.

That same morning, a good majority now in their modern vehicles, the group headed to Blue Bell Creameries. The Brenham Creamery Company began in 1907 making butter from excess cream brought in by local farmers. A few years later they expanded to making ice cream and in 1930 changed the name to Blue Bell Creameries. Not to be confused with the Texas state flower, the bluebonnet, the name Blue Bell came from another Texas wildflower, the bluebell. The Tour Center is filled with pictures and videos of the history of the company, and parked outside is a 1930's era Ford delivery truck. For just a dollar, you can purchase a generous cup of ice cream in their Ice Cream Parlor and browse their Country Store for a souvenir. The Observation Deck allows visitors to watch part of the ice cream-making process at the plant. Depending on the schedule, production could vary from half gallons to 3 gallons, 3 ounce cups to pints.

Because it just doesn't seem weird to have ice cream before lunch on a Model T tour, the next stop was lunch on the grounds of the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. While waiting for the fried fish and hushpuppies to arrive, participants wandered the Visitor Center to view the exhibits and the gift shop. After lunch, there was an opportunity to explore their Star of the Republic Museum, the only museum in the state of Texas devoted specifically to the culture and history of the Republic of Texas period from 1836-1846. The Barrington Living History Farm was the home of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas. This working farm of the 1850's has period costumed staff who will interpret 19th century farming practices, along with livestock.

Some found time to drive by the Giddings Stone Mansion on their own on the way back to Brenham. The Texas Historical Landmark was completed in 1870 in a Greek Revival architectural style and remained in the family until the 1970's. The two-story mansion's interior is comprised of eleven rooms and two galleries, one on each floor, making up the length of the structure. It currently hosts guided tours and private events, both by appointment.

In the evening, the group headed over to the Appel Ford dealership, some of them braving the wind and cooler weather in their Model T's. Dinner was shredded beef sandwiches and chips, with humongous brownies and cookies for dessert. The dealership was also nice enough to loan out two of their guys on Friday and Saturday to drive the "vulture wagons" in case of breakdowns, along with Jason Ruhmann's towing help throughout the entire tour. This year, luckily, and probably due to moderate temperatures and shorter routes, did not bring much excitement for the vulture wagons in terms of breakdowns. Speaking of excitement, it appears that even later that night, an impromptu women's Farkle tournament involving wine occurred in the hotel's hospitality room, without either an official winner or official rules, but that fun was had by all who attended.

The last day of the tour began with chilly but sunny weather, much improved from the previous day. After breakfast and a final drivers' meeting, now being held in the hotel's lobby since yesterday due to the temperature drop, the Model T's headed to The Antique Rose Emporium. This eight-acre marvel is not just a plant nursery, but instead a gardening attraction that has been featured in numerous national publications.

The antique roses in the display gardens were propagated by cuttings and are descendants of plants from over 2000 years ago, tougher and more resilient than modern hybrid roses, having survived in unattended surroundings. Other theme gardens feature drought tolerant plants, hardy perennials, and pockets of succulents and herbs among concrete and metal yard art. There were many opportunities for some beautiful photography for the skilled and novice alike in this peaceful, enchanting place.

Just a short drive from the gardens is Independence, Texas, where the surviving columns in Old Baylor Park mark the original co-ed spot of Baylor University, the oldest higher learning institution in Texas since 1846 and the largest Baptist university in the world. By 1851, the students were separated, and Baylor Female College eventually came to be a separate institution at Academy Hill. The male campus that had been located to Windmill Hill, moved to Waco in 1885, merging with Waco University, now as Baylor University. By 1887, the college again became co-educational.



Also on the grounds of Old Baylor Park are the furnished Johns Coles Cabin of 1825 and the Log House of 1839, both pre-dating Texas becoming the 28th state in 1845. Across the street is the Mound Hill Schoolhouse. Right down the road is the Texas Baptist Museum, and across that street is the historic Independence Baptist Church, which is the oldest continuously active Baptist church in Texas, and the Houston-Lea Family Cemetery, where Sam Houston's widow, Margaret Lea Houston, is buried.

Before heading out of Independence, some of the Model T's stopped to visit a local car show in the community. An unofficial poll of tour participants checking out the classics favored the 1910 Maxwell speedster. A fajita lunch was then served at Miracle Farm, a residential guidance center in Brenham providing a Christian environment for at-risk teenage boys. The 325-acre working ranch offers an on-campus

school and an innovative horse and roping program to help with their rehabilitation. Longhorns milling around a watering hole near the meeting center entertained those relaxing on the porch's rocking chairs, not far from the tree-lined entrance of this peaceful setting.

There was plenty of time to explore downtown Brenham later that afternoon with various home décor, antiques and clothing shops. Naturally, the place where one could find the most Model T's at one time was "Yumm! Sweets & Eats", a counter-order restaurant with pizza, wraps and burgers on one side, and ice-cream/gelato on the other side. The décor is nostalgic, and includes an old-fashioned candy store. Another downtown attraction is the Brenham Fire Museum which houses "Samanthe", a 1923 American LaFrance Type 38 fire engine, that served the city until 1963 and was later restored, as well as a 1950 American LaFrance 750 GPM pumper known as "Invader". The Brenham Fire Department donated an 1879 Sillsby Steamer fire engine to the Heritage Museum, which is housed in an expansive glass-enclosed structure next to the Heritage Museum. With replicated horses and a driver, the display is lit up at night and quite a site to see as one is driving through downtown Brenham in the evening.

And that is exactly what the T-Party participants were doing on Saturday night to arrive at the Barnhill Center for banquet night, the culmination of the tour. The center is located at the historic Simon Theatre built in 1925 and restored to provide a 321 seat theatre and a ballroom for receptions.



Dave and Sandra Lucas welcomed the guests and thanked everyone that assisted in making this Texas T-

party another memorable one. After everyone had a chance to finish their meal, following tradition, awards were handed out to the following people:

Linda Gibson of Springfield, MO - Farkle Tournament winner

Jerry Giebler of Gatesville, TX- Attendance (has attended all 42 years of the T Party)

Ray Foster of Santa Maria, CA-Farthest trailered Model T

Paul & Sandra Murphy of Limerick, Ireland- Farthest traveled to the T Party

Clint Parr of Desoto, TX- Farthest driven in a Model T at 203 miles

Heidi Neunhoffer of Kerrville, TX- Youngest driver (and her 25th T Party in attendance)

Ken Harding of Dripping Springs, TX- Oldest driver at 93 years

Bruce Carter of Katy, TX- Hard Luck Award (with a burning floorboard, etc. etc.)

Jim & Sandra Ruhmann of Danciger, TX- Most Congenial

Jennifer Mackechney of San Antonio, TX- Members' Choice (a 1912 Runabout)

Rosie Stokley of Katy, TX- Raffle winner (free entry to next year's T-Party)

We now know where Rosie is going to be from September 30th to October 3rd of 2020. The T-Fords of Texas Club of San Antonio, particularly tour leader Daniel Bratcher and event secretary Hugh Hemphill, have agreed to chair the 43rd Annual Texas T-Party in Temple, Texas, so the tradition continues. 2020 T Party tour details will follow as they become finalized. In the meanwhile, a big thank you goes to the Texas T-Party sponsors, the Space City T's of Houston, for the countless volunteer hours club members continue to give each and every year to make these T-Parties happen.

Brenham Texas T Party Video and Photo Links:

[Appel Ford Facebook Video](#)

[Space City T's website Video and Photos](#)

[Anthony J. Marino Facebook iPhone Photo Video](#)

[Tin Lizzie Facebook Photo Album](#)

[Anthony J. Marino YouTube Video](#)

[Texas Transportation Museum website Photos](#)









At a Space City T's of Houston club meeting it was requested to get prices on the SCT's Oval Club Logo signs. If you want any of these please contact Bobby Wright at email bcw54800@gmail.com or by text to 409.771.5548 and place your order. When Bobby gets a few orders he will have them made.



	Magnetic	Peel & Stick
6 inch	\$10	\$5
12 inch	\$20	\$10
18 inch	\$25	\$15

For more Space City T's of Houston info:

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

2019 Calendar of Events

Saturday Nov. 9 - Old Kingsbury Aerodrome
Airport [Fall Wings & Wheels Fly-In!](#) 190 Pershing Ln, Kingsbury, TX 78638, Email: info@pioneerflightmuseum.org or call: (830) 639-4162.

Sunday Dec. 1st - Space City T's of Houston
Christmas Banquet - 5pm. We will be playing the "[White Elephant Game](#)" again with gift limits set at \$20 to \$25. Also collecting new unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots. **Please RSVP with Dave Lucas at 713-299-3059**

"Get Your Kicks" at the **MTFCI Annual Meeting #66** in Phoenix, Arizona "The Valley of the Sun" on January 17-18, 2020. Hosted by the [Canyon Country Model T Club](#) of Flagstaff, AZ. Contacts: Russ Furstnow, 928.526.1343, 1stnow@msn.com or Marilyn Peterson, 928.607.4775, petersenmar@hotmail.com. **Registration deadline: December 4, 2019.**

MTFCA 55th Annual Meeting & Museum Tours. February 14-15, 2020 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Hosted by the Nebraskaland Model T and Antique Car Club. Contact Kenneth M. Cheney, Roger Wermeskerch, 402.488.3686 or Beth Vaughn 402-781-9359 or mikebeth@hughes.net.

2020 Winter Tour, March 8 - 12, 2020 in Gainesville, Florida. Hosted by The Tin Lizzie Club of North Central Florida. **CURRENTLY FULL - WAITING LIST ONLY.** For forms and info visit: tinlizziefl.com, email: f.stephenellis1@gmail.com or call Steve at 352-207-1498.

MTFCA 2020 National Tour, July 18 - 23, 2020 in Spokane, Washington. Hosted by [The Inland Empire Model T Club](#). Contact Matt Hansen at (509) 998-9927 or at gbluffcider@yahoo.com

Tom and Patti Strickling and friends welcome you to beautiful Tuscarawas "T" County, Ohio, for the [MTFCI's 64th Annual Tour JULY 19-24, 2020](#), IN NEW PHILADELPHIA, OHIO. Join us for a busy week of beautiful backroad driving, history, entertainment, arts, antiques, ICE CREAM, youth activities, and more. For questions, contact Tom Strickling at Ttour2020@yahoo.com

Thanks, Dave Lucas

SCT Club President 2018/2019

713-299-3059 mobile

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

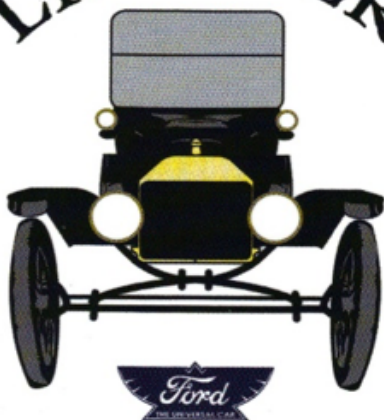
President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	Rick McCracken	281-351-0701
Secretary	Rosemarie Stokley	281-574-7850
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Broderick Thompson	713-269-3820
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Bill Severn	936-273-3592

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text or call
409.771.5548
email:

bcw54800@gmail.com

New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#) and view our club future and past Model T Ford events and activities.

If interested, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to:

Space City T's

Please mail your information and check to the Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, Texas 77059

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

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

November 13, 2019



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

located at

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

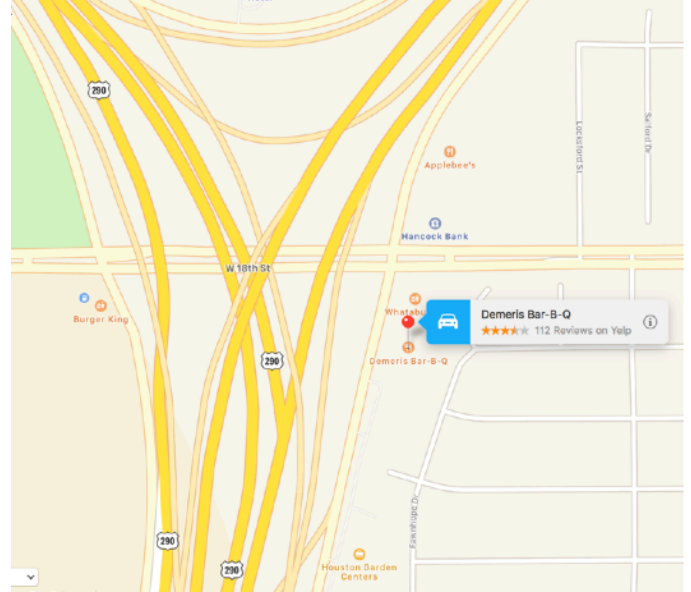
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

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

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

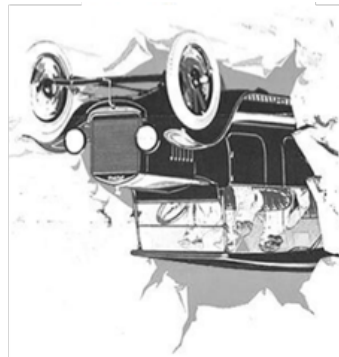


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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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