

# The Flivver Flash

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

## Space City T's of Houston Christmas Party

by Dave Lucas, Bobby Wright and Jerry Smith

We had a great time at our annual Space City T's of Houston Christmas Party on December 1st. and had 24 people in attendance. The food was great as usual and the 'White Elephant' gift exchange was full of excitement with all the swapping and exchanging going on. The exchange of gifts went well with very little blood loss.



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We also had a short club meeting to announce the 2020 Club Officers and Board of Directors.



The dessert was fabulous!

The only change here is one member, Broderick Thompson, who rolled off the Board. Nancy Carter will replace him for next year. All other positions remain the same as they were in 2019.

Toys were collected at the Space City T's of Houston Christmas Party. They will be distributed by Santa Fe Fire and Rescue.

Happy New Year! 🎉🎆🎊🎇



The person in the picture is Santa Fe Assistant Chief Chris Anderson.



## Reverting to Stock Ignition System

by Peter Adey

My 1914 came to me with a distributor and 12 volt alternator mounted on a 1920 engine. I finally have her running smoothly and very reliable. So, time to mess it up! Now that I have gained a few years of experience, I felt compelled to convert the ignition system back to the original timer / coils. I knew I would need four working coils, some kind of timer, a commutator wire harness, spark plug and Magneto post wires. Kind of daunting when totally unfamiliar.... Add to that the coil box was pretty crusty and would need rebuilding and it only had two coils of unknown condition. So – where to begin?

I started with the coils. I decided to send the two coils off to a small business in Idaho. He rebuilt the two coils and I purchased two more. He did a fine job and provided a great set of four tuned coils. It is wonderful working with these small businesses. Fantastic and encouraging people! Next was the coil box and switch. The coil box wood was splintered and the switch wires were frayed and friable. Fortunately, the switch itself was in pretty good shape. FunProjects has a great coil box rebuild kit that replaces the wood with weather proof material and rewires the switch. The rebuild was pretty straight forward with excellent instructions. Soldering reminded me of my Heathkit days! The contacts in the box were in pretty good shape and just needed some cleaning with a wire brush wheel, reshaping



and reinstalling. With that complete it was on to timers and wires!

Deciding on a timer is more complicated than it sounds. Just do a MTFCA search on timers and you will see the problem! There are so many different timers on the market and any search turns up a plethora of opinions. This topic seems as contentious as asking what type of oil to use! E-timer, I-timer, Anderson, New Day, etc., etc. - all with their fan base. I finally landed on the New Day timer. The old originals of these have a great reputation. They went through a few bad years of reproductions but the newest ones are receiving pretty good reviews.



Hopefully this will deliver low maintenance, quality, and dependable service for years to come. After removing the distributor and cam gear, the timer installed pretty easily. The wiring was pretty straight forward. I installed a 7 wire commutator harness so I could use the generator and headlight wires in the future. I connected the existing ignition wire to the battery terminal on the coil box and a mag wire to the magneto post. I added a main fuse under the seat where the battery is located and a terminal block on the fire wall for later use. I set the timing, with #1 piston in the correct post TDC position and using a timer gauge bent the commutator rod to the fully retarded up position. With all that complete it was time for the moment of truth! After switching the coil box to battery, a slight hand crank and the coils

buzzed! I then I hit the starter and BINGO! - She fired right up! Switched her over to magneto and voila! She ran like a champ! Very rewarding!

Before:



After:



Next steps will be rewiring all of the 12 volt peripherals (headlights, horn, brake lights, and turn signals). The wiring in my car is a rat's nest. My plan is to rewire all these peripherals to the terminal block following the standard wiring diagrams and color codes. I also intend to scrap the alternator for a rebuilt generator from Langs fit with a Fun Projects 12 volt voltage regulator. I am still scratching my head on how to add an ammeter without cutting into the original wooden firewall. I'll figure out something. This has been a fun a project. I have certainly learned a lot about the Model T ignition system. It seems pretty typical that every time I embark on some project it ends up much bigger than expected. One thing inevitably leads to another, and another, and another. But that is half the fun I guess! The

sound of those buzz coils buzz-buzzing is definitely a part of the Model T experience that I was lacking. The next lucky fellow to have this vehicle will find a fairly standard platform to start with. I wish I had been so lucky!

## Whiskey Cake Restaurant Repeal Day Party

by Debbie Marino

Several Space City T club members attended the Repeal Day celebration at Whiskey Cake Restaurant at Baybrook Mall. The group was treated to quite a feast for bringing their Model T's to display in front of the restaurant in honor of ending Prohibition on December 5th, 1933.



Restaurant staff, dressed up for the event, also enjoyed having their photos taken.

## 2020 Calendar of Events

**“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](mailto:1stnow@msn.com) or Marilyn Peterson, 928.607.4775, [petersenmar@hotmail.com](mailto:petersenmar@hotmail.com)

**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 email: [mikebeth@hughes.net](mailto: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](http://tinlizziefl.com) email [f.stephenellis1@gmail.com](mailto:f.stephenellis1@gmail.com) or call Steve at 352-207-1498.

**Sunday Mar. 29 - The 2nd Annual American Heroes Car Show** hosted by The Lost Cajun and Texas Roadhouse at the Brazos Town Center at FM 762, US-59, Rosenberg, TX 77471. We have moved to a cool March 29th Sunday, which happens to be "VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY". Very appropriate since our charity is The Xena Project who serves Vets, Military & First Responders at no charge! Tom Koppa 281-652-6233, [tomkoppa@yahoo.com](mailto:tomkoppa@yahoo.com)

**April 4 and 5 - Houston Music & Arts Festival** - In conjunction with the City of Sugar Land, Outlaw Nation is proud to present the Houston Music & Arts Festival at the Crown Festival Park in Sugar Land. Please click here: [houstonartsfestival.com/#classic-cars](http://houstonartsfestival.com/#classic-cars) for an overview. Find us at: [www.outlawnation.com/](http://www.outlawnation.com/). We are offering a \$500 reward to the Space City T's. We are looking for 20 Classic Cars to be displayed from 1PM to 6PM each day. Each of the participants will receive vouchers for FREE

food and beverages. There will also be 10 – \$50 O'Reilly Gift Cards. Please email or call me at 775.232.4743. Tom Miller, Festival Operations, [tom.miller@outlawnation.com](mailto:tom.miller@outlawnation.com)

**Saturday May 23 - The Annual Danny Dietz Memorial Event Car Show** will be Saturday May 23rd at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds at 4310 TX-36, Rosenberg, TX 77471. It also includes Rodeo Events, BBQ Cook Off and more including a KIDZONE this year! Tom Koppa 281-652-6233, [tomkoppa@yahoo.com](mailto:tomkoppa@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Ttour2020@yahoo.com)



**For more Space City T's of Houston info:**

Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)

Email: [ModelT@spacecityts.org](mailto:ModelT@spacecityts.org)

## 2020 Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15, 2020. 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 2020 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.

**2020 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	Nancy Carter	713-580-3368
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Bill Severn	936-273-3592

**THE FLIVVER FLASH**

Anthony J. Marino  
 302 Torrey Court  
 League City, TX 77573  
 281-482-4156

email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)

**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](mailto:susan@mtfca.com)

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

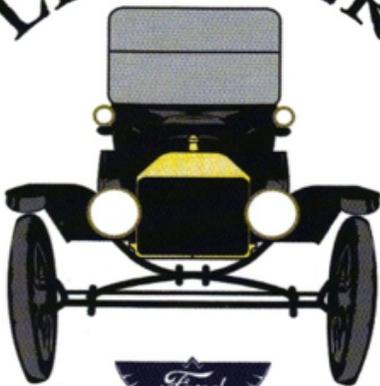
Join MTFCA at: [www.mtfca.com](http://www.mtfca.com)

**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](mailto:topkick7@outlook.com)

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**WWW.MRMODELT.COM**

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 1923 Model T  
 Runabout and T  
 based trailer.**



Original coil ignition with modern alternator converted to 12v; high compression aluminum head & pistons; Rocky Mountain brakes; Ruckstell axle; mahogany interior door panels; two spares; disassembled in work trailer has T front axle & tie rod; lots of spare parts: generator; set of wood spoke wheels & rims, and etc. etc. in Prosper, TX.  
**Mike Mitchell at (214) 250-6246 or [mmitchell53@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmitchell53@sbcglobal.net)**

**Next Meeting**  
**January 8, 2020**



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

**located at**

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

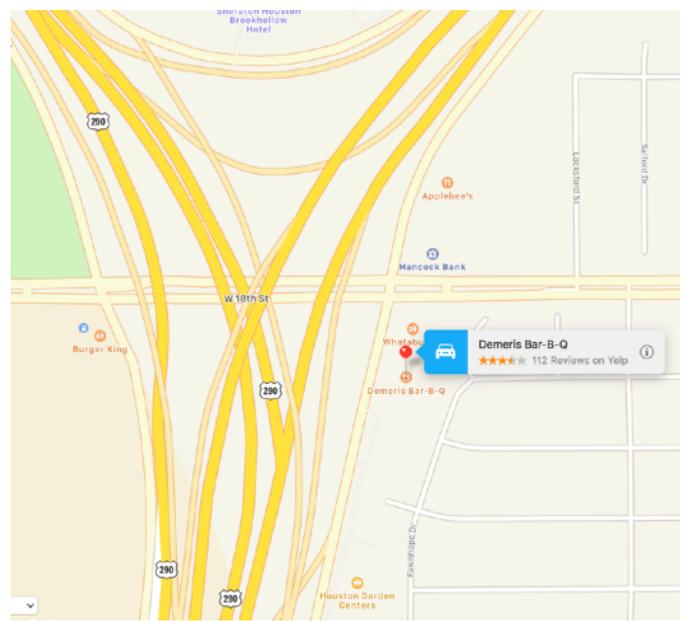
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**Place:**

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

**Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)**

**Email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)**

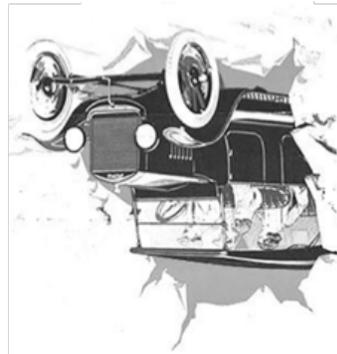


**Directions to Demeris BBQ**

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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