

# The Flivver Flash

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

## The Jaunty Jalopy

by Will Rice

By most accounts my granddad was a pretty neat person. A sergeant in WWI, he served in France, returned to his small town in Wisconsin and started a Ford dealership. He was mayor for a time and, as a Shriner, led parades and festivals in his 1920 T pickup conversion, with designs milk-painted on the sides by his kids.



I have vague memories of him, as he passed when I was 8 years old. Unfortunately, my three children never met either him or my father. But how awesome is it to

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)

hold the crank that once broke my grandpa's wrist (watch the thumb!!) and the steering wheel, with its knurled imperfections that let spectators know from a distance, yes, that's real wood. It's fun to pile my kids into the T. Even my five year old knows how to pull full choke for priming, then key on and half choke for starting.



### Inside This Issue

### Page

The Jaunty Jalopy / Space City T's of Houston Christmas Dinner

1 - 5

Dues Are Due

6

**Club Officer Nominations** / Membership / Ads / General Info / [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)

7

Club Info / Dinner Info / Monthly Meeting Info / Map / [ModelT@spacecityts.org](mailto:ModelT@spacecityts.org)

8

I can remember my dad having to jack up a rear wheel and spraying ether to try to get her started after a long cold Wisconsin winter. A thanks to Houston's milder climate and to Ross for the fresh rebuild and 12 volts! Just as my grandpa taught me, I'll jump the curb and drive through the grass behind the local park pretending the brakes and steering don't work so I can get some screams from the kids in the back. I wonder how many hundreds of passengers our T has terrified and delighted in these years.



I started last Thanksgiving planning for her centennial. I had taken the T to a couple of juried car shows earlier in the year but came away with no trophies, so I figured it was time for refreshing.



Much to my wife's terror, I took over the driveway and stripped the old paint off down to the metal, 4 layers in some places, up to 10 layers in others. Some years of white primer, some years of red, but always black paint. My modern truck has more dents and dings than this 18 gauge steel!



By Christmas break I invaded the garage, putting plastic sheeting up everywhere for a makeshift paint booth. The patterns on the running board are etched in my memory as I sanded, primed, sanded, painted, and wet sanded the hills and valleys there. I took care around all the Ford scripts not to lose that embossing, and Henry was proud to put his name in several places.







I chose a satin clear-coat to add some interest and help hide any imperfections, as this was my first paint job. The wooden pickup backend I rebuilt 10 years ago also needed freshening, so I sanded the rock maple wood bed of its decade of dings from dog claws and Christmas tree branches and layered up the varnish on that, plus new paint on the truck bed sides. I had two weeks to do the pin-striping in 1-Shot Process Blue before her debut!



The Houston Auto Show was impressed enough with my application to offer this 100 year old, one family owner, car a prominent spot in the lobby of the NRG Center by the

front entrance in January 2020. Drive in was on a Tuesday and my buddy followed in my F-150. It was a funny scene to have my T and my dirty pickup fall in line among sparkling brand new Maseratis and Ferraris as we passed the inspection station. The fire marshal wanted to see my gas gauge to ensure there was minimal gasoline in the car and was disappointed to know the car didn't have one. He asked how do I know how much gas I have, and I said well, I look in the tank. He walked around looking for the filler and I laughed as I rose from my seat and uncovered the cap. After climbing aboard and peeking in, the fire marshal signed off and I pattered on. Ushers waved me in and tried to direct me to park quite precisely, and I wished they realized what it took to manhandle controls and inch the car this way and that. Once parked, I went ahead and drained the oil so my leaky T would not mark her place on the carpet!





A gorgeous Duesenberg was the centerpiece during the preview night, and everyone attending the weekend show savored the unveiling of the new electric Mustang, but I did see many visitors appreciating mine, the oldest car there and one of the 15 million Universal Cars that started it all!

To further the celebration, the in-town Buzz Magazine picked up the story. I took the writer for a ride and she did her best to convey the sights, sounds, smells and celebrity in her article. With a hundred years of anecdotes, it was funny which ones she chose to include. My wife Tabitha was embarrassed to be featured on the cover as her colleagues popped up on Zoom work meetings asking for her autograph, but the kids and I enjoyed the 15 minutes of fame. Showing the car at Keels and Wheels in the spring will round out our centennial celebration.

Well, it isn't every day that a family member turns 100! With all this craziness 2020 has brought, I think back to things like the Spanish Flu pandemic and the politics of the fight for women's suffrage, and wonder if it is true that the more things change the more they stay the same. While I wish my kids could have met their grandfather and great grandparents and heard their stories first-hand, I'm very glad they have this iconic vehicle to represent the best of our family's history. My three kids will just have to debate over who gets to inherit and take care of her for the next 100 years!

Here's the link to our article and some more photos. Enjoy!

<https://thebuzzmagazines.com/articles/2020/09/jaunty-jalopy>







### Space City T's Christmas Dinner

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2020**

**CHRISTIES SEAFOOD RESTAURANT 5:00pm**

**Please RSVP for a head count to:**

**Dave Lucas at: (713) 299-3059**

Men should bring a man's gift and women bring a woman's gift with a value of \$20 to \$25.

You may also bring a new unwrapped Toys for Tots gift, as an option, if anyone wishes to bring one.

## Space City T's Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15, 2021. 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 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 1/2 year, \$25.00 per year thereafter.



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)

## Officer Nominations Wanted

Please communicate your 2021 club officer nominations to Dave Lucas at (713) 299-3059 or [daverlucas@yahoo.com](mailto:daverlucas@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

## 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, TX 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

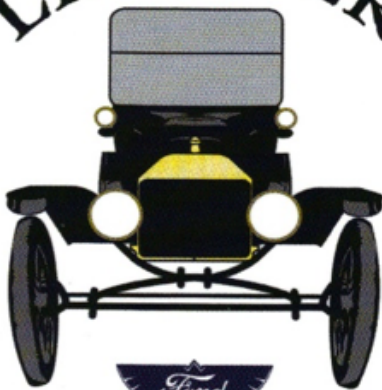
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996  
Richmond, IN 47375-0996  
Phone: 765-855-5248

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)

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#### For Sale: 1929 Model A Boat-Tail Speedster



#### 2016 Keels & Wheels pics

'Boat-tail' is from two 1947 International pickup hoods, 4 cylinder Model A motor with Stromberg downdraft carburetor, & modern intake manifold, Kelsey 16" bent spoke wheels, and rebuilt electrical system.

**\$11000 OBO**

Anthony J. Marino  
832-607-8528 mobile or  
281-482-4156 home,  
leave a message or  
[topkick7@gmail.com](mailto:topkick7@gmail.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)

## Next Meeting Cancelled

**November 14, 2020**



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

**located at**

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

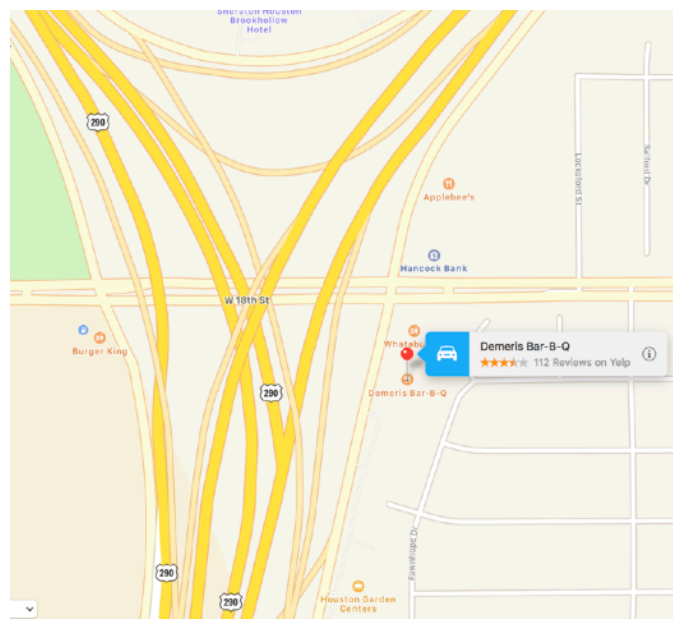
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**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**



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