

The Flivver Flash

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

WOW, NOBODY TOLD ME IT WAS SO FAR

By Bill Severn

It was a few years ago and my 1916 Touring was finally a running and driving car. But it was my only Model T. You know, one is never enough. For many years I had thought of owning a Center Door Sedan. They are few and far between, but I finally located one in El Paso, Texas. It looked pretty good to me, although overpriced. After some negotiations, the car was mine.



For more Space City T's of Houston info:

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

Now, I don't know how your kids or grandkids are, but mention "road trip" to my grandson, Tanner, and he's standing at the door with the keys saying "When do we leave?" So we packed up Tanner's truck, hooked up a friend's trailer, and headed west. I was guessing we'd be in El Paso that night. Boy, was I wrong. After passing Kerrville, the road seemed to go forever. The sun was getting low and so was the gas gauge. I'm sure there'll be a town with gas soon. But everything looked like this.



Inside This Issue	Page
Wow, Nobody Told Me It Was So Far / My T's Tribulations / T's & Alcohol Don't Mix!	1 - 4
Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet / Dues Are Due	5 - 6
Membership / Ads / General Info / Space City T's Videos	7
Club Info / Dinner Info / Monthly Meeting Info / Map / Useful Space City T's Links	8

Finally, with the gauge touching empty, we spotted a station. As we approached the station, it was obvious it was closed. We're doomed. Then I noticed that the pumps were still turned ON. One swipe of a credit card and we were saved. Then we hit the road again but decided El Paso was too far; we'd settle for Ft. Stockton.



On to El Paso the next morning and loaded up the Center Door. Decided to trailer it with the cover on. Bad idea. Turned out the cover was old and it shredded within a few miles.



Overnight in Ft. Stockton again, then headed east. Decided to avoid San Antonio traffic, so took a short cut through Austin. Another bad idea. It was Friday evening and we got hung up in stop and go traffic.



We finally got the Center Door Sedan home, and I have been enjoying it ever since.

Would I drive to El Paso again for a car? Are you crazy? That's half way to Los Angeles.

My T's Tribulations

by Steve Wirtes

If there is anything I have learned in life, it is the importance of patience and not sweating the "small stuff". I acquired my 1924 Model T Touring car from a gentleman in Rhode Island, but Rhode Island did not issue vehicle titles until after the year 2000. Since the seller of my car did not have a registration slip available, I must go through the tedious process of having Texas local law enforcement verify the VIN (in our case, the engine number) and secure a bonded title.

I reside in Galveston County, so the process must begin by making an appointment with the Galveston County Auto Crimes (Sheriff's) Office. Since there is a six-week backlog, after contacting the Sheriff's Office in December, my appointment was set for January 2022.

Mind you, the vehicle must be in operable condition, as they do not make house calls. Thank goodness the January weather was tolerable!



After allowing my T to warm up for a few minutes, I embarked on the nearly eight-mile trip to the Sheriff's Office. She never missed a beat and I learned her "sweet spot" is between 30-32 mph—or at least that is as fast as I presently have the nerve to drive her.

The folks at the Sheriff's Office were most professional, courteous, and thorough. I paid the \$40 fee for the completed Texas Inspection Form VTR-68 and was on my way home. Again, the return trip was uneventful with the exception of folks driving in my blind spot so they could take photos/videos of my T on the road.

Having driven motorcycles for many years, I have learned to try to anticipate other drivers' actions. Some call it defensive driving. I call it driving like all the other motorists are trying to kill you. I now see the value and safety in traveling in a group, such as an organized club event, as there IS safety in numbers.

My parting advice to all T owners out there is we need to "exercise" our cars periodically, but

to do so with extreme caution. Our cars are unique and generate attention.

Cell phones almost all have photo and video capabilities, and when this is coupled with someone trying to operate a motor vehicle simultaneously, the results can be tragic. Seems like everyone out there wants to be a movie producer.

While driving home, my cell phone rang, and I did not even think of answering it. I don't believe there will ever be a T driver accused of cell phone use while driving, as every appendage of our body is busy adjusting the timing, setting the throttle, steering the wheel, shifting gears, or applying the brake! It's driving in its most purest form, and I love it!

T's & Alcohol Don't Mix!

by Steve Wirtes

Now that the title of this article got your attention, please allow me to put your fears to rest, I was not drinking and driving, nor would I ever condone such. When one acquires a new toy, one wants to play with it often. It has been said the only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys. Truer words were never spoken, and my love affair with motion, be it motoring, flying, or sailing, will never end.

Last month my T was finally delivered after a few delays (no fault of the shipper) and my thanks to club members Tony and Bobby for sharing in the big event, delivery day! The carrier was a fella known as "Freighter Jim" and I would like to thank him publicly for the excellent car he took of our "baby" while she was in his care. Freighter Jim documented Tony giving me my first driving lesson in the Home Depot parking lot near our home.

Note: Freightier Jim posted my T delivery videos on his [FaceBook Page](#) and they are entertaining.

This same business center also has another well-known Texas establishment, Spec's, a local spirits retailer, located a few hundred yards away. Since it was time to visit this retailer, I thought it might be an opportune time to take the T out for a short jaunt and become more familiar with driving her. Granted, I do not have the proper tags on her yet (see previous article), but I do have all other documentation including insurance, and I carry copies of this information should I get stopped.

There I was, minding my own business traveling between 15-20 mph taking the back road, when I noticed the T pulling a bit to the right. I attributed this to possibly low tire pressure and continued along my journey, as last week I confirmed the tire pressures were between 55-60 psi.

Pulling into the parking space at Spec's a fella commented, "Hey fella, you've got a low tire." I got out, looked at the tire, and replied, "Low? Heck, it's flat, but it's only flat on one side." He asked if I wanted a lift back home to secure tools and a jack, and I said "No thanks. I believe I have everything I need." I then went into the store to make my purchase, all the while thinking of my next move.

As I returned to the T, I lifted the rear seat to reveal the compliment of tools the seller provided, INCLUDING an original mechanical gear-driven jack. The wheel lug nuts and tire/rim assembly were removed without issue and I replaced with my spare tire/rim. Total time was 10-15 minutes, and I could have done it faster except for the crowd of 8-9 folks who had gathered to cheer me on. I was trying to answer their questions while

working. No doubt this might have been the highlight of their day, and I was happy to provide the entertainment. As I worked, I was extolling the virtues of the T, trying to stir up interest with hope others would "catch the bug" of T ownership.

My closing comment would be for us to regularly check the tightness of our wheel lug nuts. All of my wheels seemed to have loose lug nuts, being ¼ to ½ turn loose. I do not know if they have a tendency to loosen or if the previous owner did not tighten them down enough. I believe they might loosen on their own, as the previous owner is a multiple-T owner who I trust.



I did crack open a cold one upon returning home with a toast to Henry Ford for his wonderful creation, and to my trusty steed (T) for getting me home safely.

32nd Annual National PRE-WAR SWAP MEET

where the east meets the west

March 18th & 19th, 2022
Friday & Saturday

30 miles SW of OKC on I-44
Exit HWY 62 (Exit 83)

West to the Grady County
Fairgrounds

1895-1945



Celebrating the first
50 years of the automobile!

Pre-War transportation
related items only

Vendors unwilling
to comply need
not apply

CONTACT US:

Michael & Susie Ersland

(405) 224-9090 // www.pwsm.com

Make check payable to PRE-WAR SWAP MEET
P.O. Box 562, Chickasha, OK 73023

Deadline: Pre-Registration (for same space) Nov. 1, 2021
All spaces \$50 in advance* // \$60 at gate

Name:

Address:

City / State / Zip:

Home: **Cell:**

Email:

☐ **By checking this box, you are agreeing to receive all correspondence via email.**

*All sales final. No refunds will be issued.

Number of spaces requested
outside:

..... Gravel / Grass (approx. 10'x30')

..... Paved Lot (approx. 9'x25' / max height 9')

inside:

..... South Building (approx. 10'x10')

..... North Building (approx. 10'x10')

..... Tables (North Building only / \$10 each)
*tables limited // rental based on availability

If more than one space, request layout

..... End to End Side by Side

Space City T's Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15, 2022. 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.

2022 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	David Carter	713-875-1049
Secretary	Bruce Carter	713-703-2958
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Rick McCracken	281-726-5695
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Anthony J. Marino	281-482-4156

THE FLIVVER FLASH

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

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#). If interested in becoming a member, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to the:

Space City T's

Please mail your information form and check to the Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, TX 77059

A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2022 dues!

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

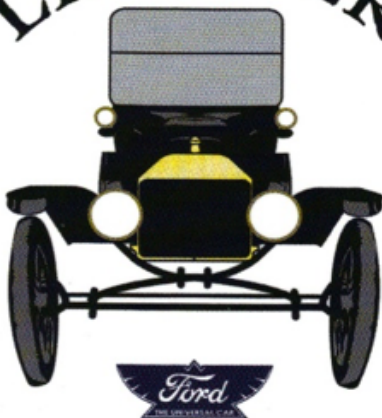
309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

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

Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

LILLEKER



ANTIQUE AUTO
MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST

ROSS LILLEKER

979.218.4083
WWW.MRMODEL.COM

For Sale: 1918 SOUTHERN WIDETRACK COUPELET



All new body wood done by Ray Wells. Body work almost complete. Motor rebuilt to a short block. Car is disassembled. More photos available upon request.

\$13,500

Contact:
Eric 'Gator' Gould
318-268-8538 (AL)

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

Check your email to see if our
February 9, 2022 Meeting is at
Demeris BBQ and the Lazy Brook
Baptist Church



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

located at

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

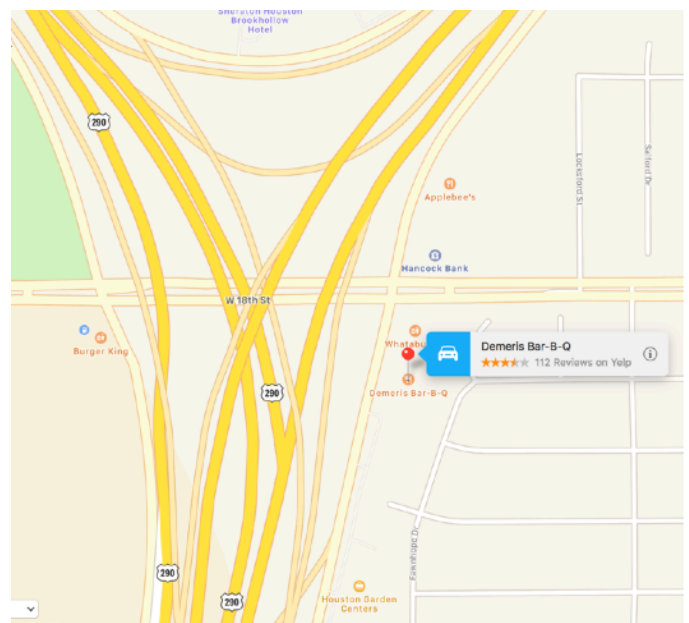
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

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

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

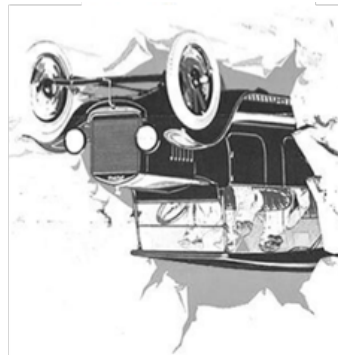


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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

The FLIVVER FLASH