

# The Flivver Flash

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

## Let There Be Light!

By Steve Wirtes

Until now I have submitted articles pertaining to the search, acquisition, delivery, titling, and initial driving experience of our beloved 1923 Ford Model T Touring. Perhaps it is time to shift gears and get into the “meat and potatoes” of T ownership—maintenance!

I have discovered the members of the Space City T's to be a very independent group of individuals. It is part of our DNA being Texans—we are naturally self-sufficient but always available to a fellow member (or potential member) to offer assistance or simply sage advice. Being a new member, I have yet to participate in a T Tour and there is where I am told one can experience firsthand the camaraderie where perfect strangers help one who is in need.

For more Space City T's of Houston info:

[How to join the Space City T's of Houston, TX](#)

[Space City T's Photos & Videos Gallery](#)

Granted, I try not to drive my T at night as it is not a matter of if but rather when an accident will occur. The simple fact remains most of our cars are equipped with lighting which is not up to today's standards. Add distracted (phone/text) drivers, impaired (drugs/alcohol) drivers, or simply drivers who received their drivers' licenses from boxes of Cracker Jack® into the equation one can begin to understand how scary the suggestion of night driving can be.

In the meantime, we drive our T's primarily during the day but we should be prepared for the inevitable. Sooner or later, one is going to experience a failed high or low beam headlamp provided one occasionally utilizes the T's headlamps. This happened to me shortly after taking delivery of my T as my passenger side low beam failed to illuminate.

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During one of our early morning coffee meetings, fellow member Tony offered to provide me with a replacement headlamp bulb (provided I replace it, of course) and Bobby graciously offered me to use his Headlamp Trim Ring Removal tool. I placed an order with one of our T suppliers for the aforementioned but in the interim, I was prepared to replace the bulb. I decided to take this opportunity to document the procedure while taking my time to “make it easier” for the next time I had to perform this task.

Step one involves removal of the headlamp trim ring. While one might be able to “muscle” it off with a leather belt or strap wrench, there simply is no substitute for using the proper tool.



Either borrow or purchase your own tool, T-1243, as it is relatively inexpensive and has the two machined surfaces which engage two of the four nubs located 180-degrees apart. Use of the tool requires two hands with gentle (or not-so-gentle in my case) pushing pressure while turning the trim ring only a few degrees counter-clockwise.

Depending upon the machine tolerances when your tool was made, be careful the two “jaws” remain engaged with the two nubs. Bobby’s tool worked better than mine but my calibrated hands can later “tweak” my tool gently with a



flogging iron (hammer) with precision to bring it in a few thousands of an inch closer. No Bobby, I did not perform this technique on your tool—it worked perfectly as supplied. My headlamps had years of corrosion and layers of paint which made the trim rings removal challenging but with patience they were separated.



At this point I decided to deviate from the task at hand of repairing the inoperable low beam as I was confident the bulb was the culprit and perform some general cosmetic maintenance. I used a simple wire brush on a drill motor for the removal of layers of paint and slight corrosion. Be sure to wear proper protective safety glasses/goggles as a strand of wire can and will fly off the wire brush due to centrifugal



force. One of these metal strands in the eye can cause blindness!



Once you are satisfied with the surface finish, I applied a single coat of primer followed up with a single top coat of black enamel. Do this to both the inside of the trim ring as well as the outer perimeter of the headlamp bucket. Use masking tape and paper to protect surfaces you do not intend to paint.



I replaced the “defective” dual-filament bulb with a new replacement one, only to learn it too failed to illuminate the low beam. Since I had purchased a couple of extras (I did not need Tony’s spares as it turned out), I tried another and same result...no low beam! Back to the toolbox to retrieve my multimeter and I ascertained there was no power going to the low beam terminal. I looked at the back side of the headlamp bucket only to discover one of

the wires had simply come out of the terminal connection. A thin blade screwdriver allowed me to back off the set screw in the terminal block. I cleaned off the end of the wire, inserted it back into the terminal block, and secured it with the set screw and presto, we had a low beam!

Time to install the trim ring to the headlamp bucket. I used a thin layer of wheel bearing grease on the outside diameter of the headlamp bucket and the inside diameter of the trim ring. This made it easier to install the trim ring (less friction) and will hopefully keep the Galveston Bay salt air from working its magic for a while.



Having realized I went through a lengthy exercise might normally make me feel foolish as I should have checked the obvious first, but the work I performed needed to be done “to make it easier next time”. That next time the headlamp is likely to fail, according to Murphy’s Law, is usually while one is driving on a lonely back country road where there is no cell phone signal. Now, provided I remember to include a spare bulb or two and Tool T-1243 in my spare parts bin I carry under the rear seat, I have confidence knowing I can replace a failed headlamp bulb in a matter of minutes.

## Trouble Shooting the Charging System

From Ron Patterson

Several years ago, Bob Cascisa and I were creating a complete and correct set of Model T wiring diagrams. We also prepared an article that addressed those pesky five charge and discharge wires that are commonly found incorrectly terminated resulting in incorrect charging and discharging Ammeter readings.

A few people recently contacted me on the MTFCA Forum, and asked for help and I had forgotten about this article. Here it is again: [Trouble Shooting the Model T Ford Charging System](#)

Also, below is a CORRECT copy of wiring for all Model T electrical circuits. There are many WRONG Model T wiring diagrams floating around. Print out these diagrams and use the article above for the simple tests to ensure your wiring is correct. Click to view and print the wiring diagrams here:

[1919-27 Wire Harness Wiring Diagrams](#)

NOTE from Jim Davis: Ron Patterson the Model T electrical guru, posted

these diagrams and article on the MTFCA Forum, to help new Model T guys with perplexing electrical problems. With all the incorrect information floating around, this might be good club information.

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## The 2022 All Ohio Model T Jamboree Tour

From Randy Elder

The [Country Roads T & A Club](#) will be hosting the 2022 All Ohio Model T Jamboree Tour in Marietta, OH on Labor Day Weekend. This is a three day tour of the Mid Ohio Valley. [2022 Jamboree Info & Registration Form](#). Contact Norm Bailey at 740-538-0023 or [oldcarboy23@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarboy23@gmail.com) or Nelson Logan at 1-740-373-5036 or [nlogan@suddenlink.net](mailto:nlogan@suddenlink.net).

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## Model T Ford Serial Numbers

by Bruce McCalley

Here is a link to the [Bruce McCalley: Model T Ford Serial Numbers](#) article which first appeared in the *May-June 1978* issue of *The Vintage Ford*.

The article presented new light on one of the most confusing facets of Ford history. This article was based on information gathered at the Ford Archives in Dearborn, Michigan.





# 45th



# Texas T Party

**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2022**

## Hallettsville

**Host Hotel:**

**Hotel Texas 361-798-5900**

**Secondary Hotel:**

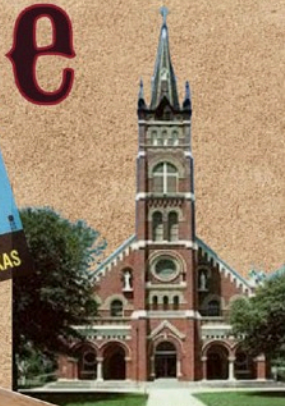
**Best Western Executive Inn**

**361-798-9200**

**RV Park:**

**Lavaca Co Expo Center**

**361-798-1600**



**Chairperson**

**Jeff & Farrah Cordes**

**361-772-5767**

**Co-Chair**

**Jim & Sandra Ruhmann**

**979-292-5658**



# 2022 Texas T Party

## SEP 28 AT 8 AM – OCT 1 AT 10 PM

JOIN US FOR THE 45TH ANNUAL TEXAS T PARTY! HALLETTSVILLE TEXAS, "THE CITY OF HOSPITALITY" WILL BE THE AREA OF EXPLORATION THIS YEAR. THIS RURAL COMMUNITY OF POPULATION 2550 IS THE COUNTY SEAT FOR LAVACA COUNTY. RICH IN HISTORY, SCENIC ROLLING HILLS AND SMALL TOWN CHARM WILL MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE TOUR FOR OUR BELOVED T FAMILY! WE WILL ALSO VENTURE OVER TO "THE CLEANEST LITTLE CITY IN TEXAS" - SHINER, CUERO (LEATHER IN SPANISH) AND PARTS OF NEIGHBORING FAYETTE COUNTY.



**\*THIS EVENT WILL BE LIMITED TO 75 VEHICLES\***  
**\*Wednesday will be a full day of touring\***

**[Download Hallettsville PDF Registration Form](#)**

**Host Hotel:**

Hotel Texas 361-798-5900  
1632 N. Texana St

[hoteltexas.net](http://hoteltexas.net)

Single King: 95.95 +tax

Double Queen: 100.95 +tax

**Moderate truck/trailer parking**

**Secondary Hotel:**

[Best Western Executive Inn](#)

361-798-9200

207 US HWY 77 South

69.99 + tax

**Truck/trailer parking for guests**

**Lavaca County Expo Center/RV Park**

1/4 mile from Host Hotel also has overflow truck and trailer parking

<https://www.lavacaexpo.com/rv-park.html>

361-798-1600

**Chairperson**

**Jeff & Farrah Cordes**

**361-772-5767**

**Co-Chair**

**Jim & Sandra Ruhmann**

**979-292-5658**

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 Flivver 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 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual club 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	Rosie Stokley	832-444-9927
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

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

website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.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](mailto:rachel@mtfca.com)

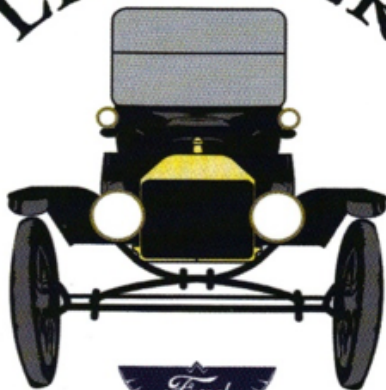
\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford  
Join MTFCA at: [www.mtfca.com](http://www.mtfca.com)

## 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, [videos](#), or [links](#) to: [topkick7@outlook.com](mailto:topkick7@outlook.com)

# LILLEKER



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WWW.MRMODEL.T.COM

### For Sale: 1920 Model T Center Door Sedan



Recently rebuilt engine and transmission.  
Flat tube Brass Works radiator, new upholstery kits ordered, 12v, new firewall and floorboards

## \$10,000

Eric "Gator" Gould  
Hm: 251-765-2677 (AL)

Check your email to see if our **July 13, 2022** Meeting is Virtual or at Demeris BBQ and 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

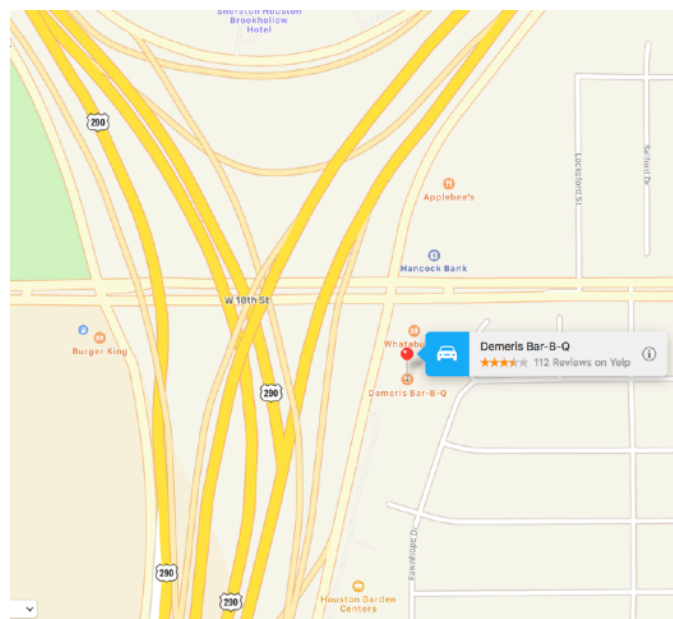
Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

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

Website: [www.spacecityts.org](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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