

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City Ts of Houston, TX

Path to a 1922 Model T Touring – Part 1

By Stephen Havemann

I am not sure why I have always been drawn to a Model T, but recently a lifelong dream of owning a Model T was fulfilled. I am now the most recent curator of a 1922 Model T Touring. I have my buddy, Denny Irvine, to thank for mentoring me on this venture. Most important is the support of my wife, Vivian, first for helping me realize the dream and second for the times she has helped me work on the car.



First, we looked at a 1924 Model T coupe. It had been taken apart and all parts were painted 20 years ago. The owner was selling the project. This seemed like a little more of a project than I was ready to begin.

Next, Denny and I flew to Alvin to meet with Dave Lucas to look at the 1922 Model T Touring in October 2022. The car looked wonderful, but I was not quite ready.



Then in March 2023 Denny arranged a tour, and I rode with him in his Model T Truck. This was a tour chronicled in a prior Flivver Flash.





The tour was all it took to hook me. On March 15, 2023, the 1922 Model T touring came to a new home. BTW, that is a 2022 Ford Explorer parked next to the Model T. My daughter pointed out the 100-year difference.



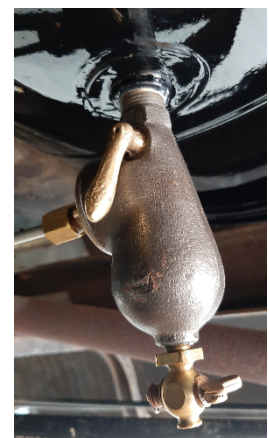
Next, the work of cleaning up years of sitting idle began.

Dave Lucas suggested one of the first things we should do would be to drain the fuel and clean the tank. I asked, "How to clean the tank?" Dave said in the "old days" on the farm, they would take a tire off the tractor, attach the fuel tank to it with pebbles in the tank and let it tumble.



Since I did not have a tractor and having burned up Denny's rotisserie, I built a wood frame to hold the tank, and attached an electric drill to tumble pea gravel and lacquer thinner. The result was a nice clean interior to the tank.

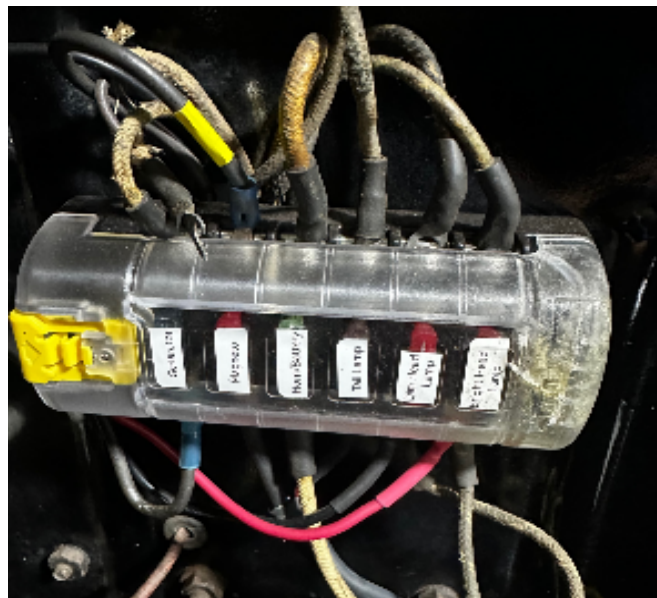
Hints for T Repair. A shop vac will get those pesky last few bits of pea gravel out of the tank which refuse to tumble out on their own.



You can see the cleaned up and painted gas tank. The sediment bulb was found full of so much "stuff" that I am not sure how fuel was able to pass. It was cleaned and polished and works like new.

After rebuilding the carburetor, replacing the fuel line, and adding a fuel filter, it was time to start your engine.

Oh, but not so fast. The starter would not turn over. Denny came to the rescue and taught me how to pull the starter, clean the brushes and other parts, and reassemble the starter. Yes, she started with a Model T rumble.



Finally, it was time to learn how to drive a Model T. Denny has been in a car with me before. I guess he felt safer on the running board 😊. It took a bit of practice, and likely a few years off Denny's life, but I think I am getting the hang of driving a Model T (most of the time).



Now for the puzzler: wiring. There was no power going to the starter switch. Although things were working, the car was not wired the way Henry intended it to be wired. After a lot of research, I located a wiring diagram, and consulted with Denny. We were able to correct the wiring. Safety was enhanced by adding modern fuses.



We found the car handles great on curves. On straight roads it randomly wants to change lanes. During the pre-purchase inspection, we noticed some play in the front end. When the front was raised to repack bearings, a lot of play was found.

To make a gift to support the Model T Museum, [click here](#) or go here: www.MTFCA.com

The result was a tear down of the front end, replacing of all bushing and worn bolts.



The picture above shows the front end on the worktable in Denny's shop. In addition to replacing worn parts, all the rust was wire brushed off, and parts were primed and painted. After painting, the touching surfaces between the leaf springs were painted with a graphite infused paint to promote lubrication.

The "u-bolts" which held the front leaf springs to the car had threads worn off (almost as smooth as a baby's). I am convinced only the bonding of rust held everything together.

Denny came to the rescue, welded beads where the missing threads should have been, ground them to size, and threaded the u-bolts. Good as new or better! Boy, I made that sound easy.



Here is the car, with the front end off and waiting to be reassembled.



Since the radiator was off, it was given a good cleaning, and the water pump was checked. To our surprise, the impeller was broken loose from the shaft, and the cavity was full of rust.



Now we knew the root cause of why the car was running hot. Denny let me borrow a straight pipe to get the car running while he repaired the water pump.

Did I mention, Denny can fix anything! 😊



Finally, the car is back together, and road tested, with the steering nice and tight as well as running cool. What a nice improvement. I cannot express enough my gratitude for all the help and mentoring from Denny Irvine and support and patience from my wife, Vivian.

If y'all would like, I can continue documenting the process of nursing the 1922 Model T back to good health.

2023 Space City T's Christmas Party

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 2023

**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.

CAR SHOW LISTINGS

SPACE CITY CRUISERS FALL CAR SHOW
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023
WALTER HALL PARK
807 HIGHWAY 3 NORTH in LEAGUE CITY
WEB: www.spacecitycruisers.com
EMAIL: scc@spacecitycruisers.com
Facebook: Space City Cruisers

ROSE HILL METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL
Car & Truck Show OCTOBER 7th 9AM
21022 ROSEHILL CHURCH RD
TOMBALL, TX 77377

Ponderosa Forest Auto Show
Saturday, October 21, 2023 - 10am until 2pm
Canyon Creek Park in Ponderosa Forest
subdivision. 17919 Canyon Creek Rd., Houston, TX
77090 (north of 1960 between Ella and
Kuykendahl) PonderosaAutoShow@outlook.com

CONROE ISD CARS & COFFEE
Saturday, October 21 8- 11am
Woodforest Bank Stadium
Conroe Independent School District
3205 West Davis, Conroe, TX 77304

GOOD GRUB AND GEARS CAR SHOW
SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 2023
8:30AM - 3PM STEVENSON PARK
FRIENDSWOOD, TX 77546
TO REGISTER, VISIT
WWW.SPACECITYCORVETTECLUB.COM

GEORGE RANCH FRONTIER DAYS
OCTOBER 21, 2023 9:00 AM Ends At: 5:00 PM
AT THE GEORGE RANCH HISTORICAL PARK
[10215 Fm 762 Rd, Richmond, TX 77469](http://10215_Fm_762_Rd_Richmond_TX_77469)
Battle Re-Enactments • Food
Trucks • Vendors • Pioneer Folk Life. Cowboys •
Games • Cattle working Demonstrations • Historic
House Tours. Live Music

LOW COST POWDER COATING FOR DUMMIES

Efforts are still underway to make Steve Havemann's project car into showpiece. The latest task has been eliminating rust and salt pitting with powder coat. The learning curve is steep, but we've had some successes too. You can see for yourself if it was worth it at the Texas T-Party—Rockport.



Yep—just a Harbor Freight box & gun



Steve sanding off the salt pits and rust



Denny spraying powder on a reflector



Bake @ 400 in a \$40 Craigs list oven



Headlight reflector looks like a mirror



Looks like nickel plate or chrome

Space City T's Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15. At that time the roster will be compiled according to those paid. Dues are **\$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:

Craig Neuman
2302 Lord Nelson Drive
Seabrook TX 77586

SPACE CITY T's MEMBER ENROLLMENT

Model T Ford Club of America membership # _____

Model T Ford Club International membership # _____

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 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 27th of the month preceding the month of publication. E-mailing occurs the last day of the month. Annual club dues are \$25 per year.

2023 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 Craig Neuman 346-855-0544
 Board Member David Veir 713-823-2359
 Board Member Jerry Smith 281-455-9765
 Board Member Anthony J. Marino 281-482-4156

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

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

website: www.spacecityts.org

For Sale: 1929 Model A Boat-Tail Speedster



2016 Keels & Wheels photo

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

\$7995 OBO ([more photos](#))

Please leave message or email:

Anthony J. Marino

832-607-8528

topkick7@comcast.net

FOR SALE

1925 DOCTORS COUPE



PRETTY RED WITH BLACK TRIM. SHE HAS A FEW NICKS BECAUSE I DRIVE HER. RUNS REALLY GOOD, POWERFUL, ENGINE DOES 45MPH WITH EASE. GARAGED, NO RUST. MOSTLY ORIGINAL, EXCEPT DISTRIBUTOR AND INSIDE KIT. HAS LEATHER AND WOOD PANELS. FOR MORE INFO ON ENGINE CALL ROSS AT LILLEKER AUTO. **\$12,000**
ROSEMARY STOKLEY
KATY, TX 1-832-444-9927

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:

Craig Neuman
2302 Lord Nelson Drive
Seabrook, TX 77586

A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2023 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
 Richmond, IN 47374-3034
 Phone: 765-373-3106

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

\$50 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford
 Join or Renew at: [MTFCA Join or Renew](#)

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

CLUB MEETING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

-October 18th – 21st – Face to Face at Rockport T Party

-November 8th - Face to Face at LifeBrook Church with Zoom and Demeris BBQ



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

located at

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



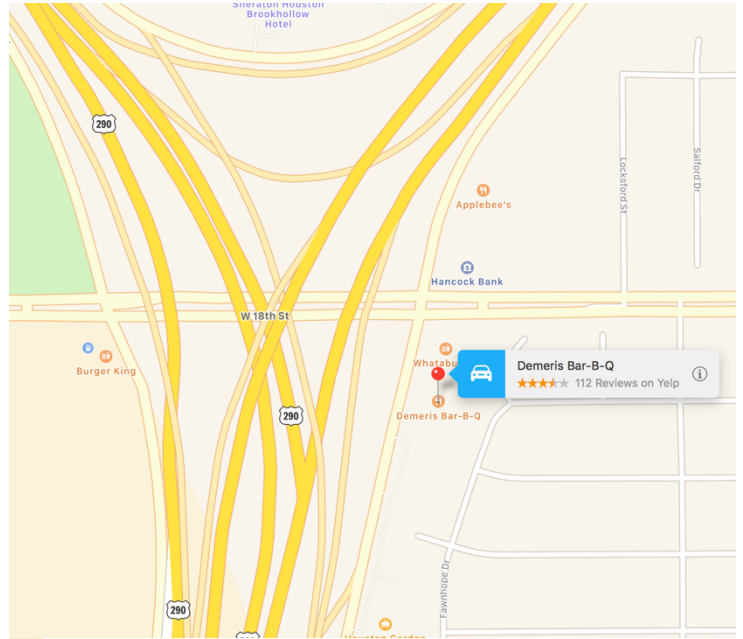
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

Place:

**Lifebrook 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



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Anthony J. Marino
302 Torrey Court
League City, Texas 77573

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