

The Flivver Flash

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

46th Annual Texas T Party

By Debbie Marino

On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Model Ts made their way to the coastal town of Rockport, Texas, for the 46th annual Texas T Party. What began as a group of about a dozen cars, the Space City Ts of Houston, Texas, have sponsored this tour since 1978. Each year, a different location is chosen by the volunteers who organize the tour. Hugh Hemphill and Daniel Bratcher, of the T Fords of Texas club of San Antonio, Texas were this year's organizers.

The base hotel was at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Rockport, with carryover at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The hospitality room of the Fairfield Inn served as the pickup place for lanyards and tour books for the registrants. With anywhere from 80-100 vehicles participating each year, space is limited in the hotels' parking lots, so trailers were able to be securely stored at the Aransas County Airport.



As the official touring did not begin until the following day, Tuesday was used as a time for checking on the Model Ts, after making the

journey to Rockport. It was also a time to socialize with people from various clubs from all over Texas and beyond. This yearly event is often the only opportunity to visit in person with friends made from other clubs at previous Texas T Parties, because, well, Texas is a very large state to cover, especially in a Model T.

Wednesday began with the daily drivers' meeting under the Fairfield Inn's covered entryway. These short briefings are important, as traffic changes and new information can occur after the tour book with directions has already gone to press. By 9 am, the group was heading to Port Aransas, Texas, a city on Mustang Island. On the way, a mini parade through the parking lot of a local elementary school brought smiles to the young children awaiting the cars' arrival, as much horn honking ensued!



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To arrive at Port Aransas, the Model Ts crossed the waterways using a ferry, part of the Port Aransas Ferry System, operated by the Texas Department of Transportation. Dolphins could be seen following the ferries going back and forth. There were no planned activities on the island, so participants had the opportunity to do as they chose. Some chose the miles long beach; others went for unique shops, including a candy store with a Model T inside displaying their sweets and chocolates. Outdoor activities are the most popular on the island, and the weather was beautiful, so Model Ts could be found at many of the local restaurants for lunch, often al fresco.



This area is known for its native and migrating birds as part of the Central Flyway. One doesn't need to be a professional ornithologist to enjoy the abundance of bird species that can be found. Some of the sites along the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail include the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture, the Joan & Scott Holt Paradise Pond, and the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center. The birding center offered a native pollinator garden at the entrance to the ADA accessible boardwalk with an observation tower. In these freshwater wetlands, visitors were entertained by the beauty of a variety of egrets, ibis, gallinule, herons, caracara, ducks, and many American White Pelicans. These birds were in addition to a very relaxed looking alligator known in the area as "Boots".



The evening offered a chance to visit the Rockport Little Theatre for viewing two short Model T era movies, local performers singing and storytelling, and even Hugh Hemphill performing his own song about the Model T. There were also opportunities to visit the many restaurants in the area for dinner, with fresh seafood being a great choice.

"Picture Day" was scheduled for Thursday. Participants lined up their Model Ts to wait their turn to be photographed with their car in front of the Fulton Mansion, a three-story Second Empire architectural style in Rockport overlooking Aransas Bay. This impressive home reflects George Fulton's engineering skills, with its central heating, gas lighting, and indoor plumbing with hot and cold running water. Coffee and doughnuts were provided at their visitor center and guided tours were available.



Lunch was held in a hangar at the Aransas County Airport where the trailers were parked. A few brave individuals like Sandra Ruhmann and Paul Murphy went up in a Stearman Biplane. A raffle for one flight, supporting the airport's youth involvement charity, also had winner Heidi Nuenhoffer flying in the skies.



Back at the Fairfield Inn, there were various activities to keep oneself entertained that evening. The 4th annual Farkle tournament took place, with Steve Pursley as winner of the "Sophie Adcock Farkle Award", named in memory of the late Space City T member who loved and excelled in the game. Luke Cordes arranged Pinewood Derby races (see photo provided), with Sarah McElvaney pronounced as the winner. In the hospitality room, a Model T maintenance round robin session was moderated by Daniel Bratcher, with about 20 people in attendance.

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



Friday was scheduled to be a long driving day of over 130 miles roundtrip to Goliad, Texas, via Refugio. For those not wanting to make the long trek, the stop at Heritage Park in Refugio, Texas, was also an opportunity for trailering to that area and beginning the tour from there. At the stop, a donation box to help the Boys & Girls Club raised over \$1,000. After enjoying the coffee and donut stop, the group proceeded past another elementary school, much to the delight of the students already lined up to see the Model Ts. The horn honking matched the enthusiasm of the children, and then the cars were on their way to Goliad.



A very nice Tex-Mex lunch was served within the walls of the Presidio La Bahia in Goliad. The Model Ts were allowed to drive onto the grounds, and the meal was served under the shade of the live oak trees. La Bahia is a fort constructed in its present location by the Spanish Army in 1749 to protect the Spanish missions in South Texas. With the presidio's military influence no longer significant after the Texas Revolution, Our Lady of Loreto chapel continued to service the community.

The Presidio La Bahia is now owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Victoria, operating as a public museum. It became a National Historic Landmark in 1967.



Many of the Model Ts then made their way to into Goliad around the courthouse square after lunch. The ice cream store, Two Scoops and More, was bombarded with tour participants after the Blue Bell ice cream and soda floats.



Saturday was a half day tour. The first stop was a visit to The Big Tree, a 1000 plus year old live oak tree at Goose Island State Park. It is surrounded by other large live oaks, many that have been permanently shaped by the coastal winds. The tree is protected both by a widely fenced area and numerous mosquitos!



The second stop was to line up the Model Ts on Fulton Beach Road in Rockport for a procession through the city's Historic District. Austin Street was closed off to modern cars, as the Model Ts made their way to the old railroad depot, where their antique Rockport VFD fire truck was already parked. The city had gotten the word out that the Model Ts were coming to town, and the spectator turnout for the drive in the heritage area was quite impressive. After a sandwich lunch, tour participants were free to explore the area's shops, art galleries, bars, and restaurants.



Many made sure to get back to their hotels in time to safely load up their Model Ts in the trailers for the next morning's departure, before getting ready for the tour banquet night. A delicious menu of brisket, sausage, potato salad and baked beans was served in the hall of the First Baptist Church of Rockport. Prior to dining, the group said the Pledge of Allegiance and was treated to the lovely voice of Janie Neunhoffer singing "The Star-Spangled Banner".



After the meal and a choice of four different fruit cobblers with ice cream, Hugh Hemphill began the presentation. Russ Gruenwald and Tim Eyssen, past Model T Ford Club of America presidents in attendance, were acknowledged. First timers to the annual Texas T Party were also acknowledged. Then the awards portion of the presentation began.



Sonny & Stephanie House in their 1914 Roadster

Sonny and Stephanie House were voted as “Most Congenial”. The Hard Luck award went to Roger Freeman, who had a breakdown of not one, but two different cars he brought to the tour. The Youngest Driver award went to Luke Eyssen, age 15, while the Oldest Driver award went to Russ Gruenwald, age 93. Jerry Giebler won the Attendance award as having attended not just the most Texas T Parties, but all of them in the 46-year history. The Furthest Driven award is for the driver that drives their Model T the greatest distance to the Texas T Party; that person was Mike Noe at 126 miles. The Furthest Trailered went to Don and Kim Donohue, family and friends from Earl Park, Indiana at 1200 miles. The Furthest Traveled was awarded to Paul and Sandra Murphy of Limerick, Ireland.

At the beginning of the banquet, name badges are collected, and a drawing is held before the close of the night’s festivities to determine the winner of a free registration for next year’s Texas T Party. That lucky person was Duane Headrick. Speaking of next year, planning is already underway for the tour to visit Kerrville in 2024, so stay tuned for more information and plan to attend for all sorts of fun in the slow lane!

More Texas T Party photos – next few pages!!



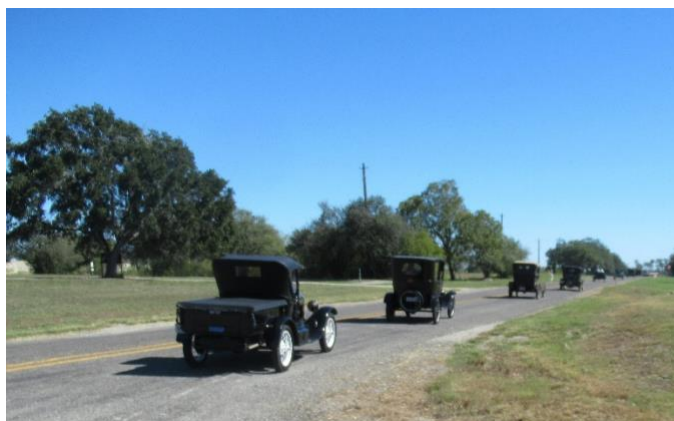


Space City Ts Website: www.spacecityts.org
Email: modelt@spacecityts.org
FB: [Space City Ts of Houston Facebook](#)

THE FLIVVER FLASH



[2023 Rockport Texas T Party short video](#)



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

ALVIN ROTARY NOVEMBERFEST CAR SHOW – NOVEMBER 11, 2023

NATIONAL OAK PARK
118 South Magnolia Street in Alvin. TX

WEB: <http://www.alvinrotary.org/>
EMAIL: alvinrotaryclub@yahoo.com
Facebook: [Alvin Rotary Club](#)

WINGS & WHEELS FLY-IN NOVEMBER 11, 2023

OLD KINGSBURY AERODROME
190 Persing Lane in Kingsbury, TX

WEB: <http://www.pioneerflightmuseum.org/>
Please call (830) 639-4162 or
EMAIL: info@pioneerflightmuseum.org

1927 Model T Touring Raffle Drawing
Buy your ticket [here](#) for only \$50.00!

George Ranch's Frontier Days

By Doug Brough

Will Rice and his 2 sons (Matthew and Max), David Veir, and Doug Brough represented the Space City Ts at the George Ranch's Frontier Days. It was a nice day with plenty of shade. We parked our cars near what they called the 1930's garage.



Our staff representative was very nice and helpful. She told us we could parade through the grounds as we wanted to. Will had taken a couple of rides around the grounds, so after lunch I (Doug) said I'd parade with him. I always remember reading about how cars spooked horses "in the olden days". We got to experience that first-hand.



The ranch had a couple horses pulling a wagon around giving rides and we were coming down the road as they were coming from the other way. The horses did NOT like the cars and were quite agitated! Thankfully, we got out of the way ASAP with no injuries, but we got to relive an early automotive experience first-hand!

When not driving the cars, folks would come by to look at them. All were amazed by the simplicity of the T's. We let the kids crank them to see what it was like. They all said it was hard!



They understood this year was just the "perfect storm" in that most folks were at the Rockport Texas T Party, but they were still very thankful to have us. I'm sure we'll be invited back next year.



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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 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 OBO**

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

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

-December 3rd – Christmas Party



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

located at

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



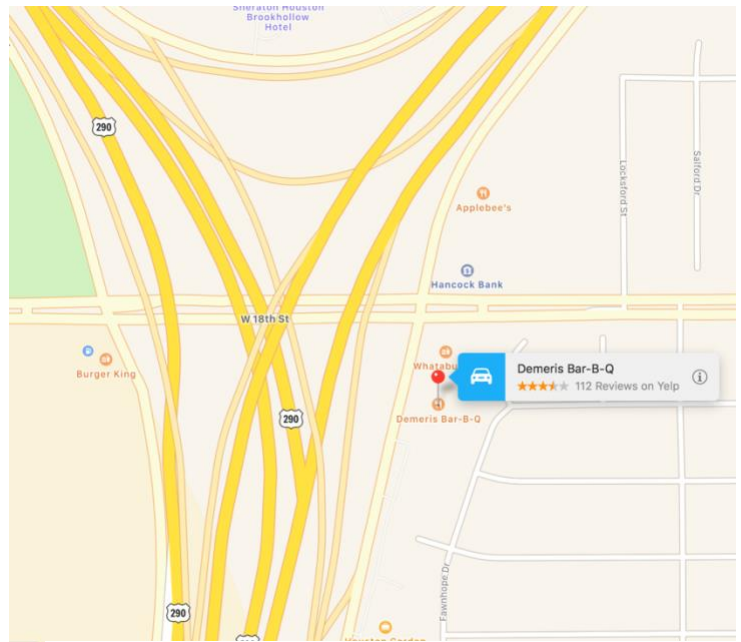
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

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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302 Torrey Court
League City, Texas 77573

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