

# The Flivver Flash

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

## ***Path to a 1922 Model T Touring – Part 2***

By Stephen Havemann

*Continued from the October 2023 publication  
of Part 1 in The Flivver Flash.*

Next up was replacing the side pads for the top. Contacted Classtique Upholstery to place the order and get advice after reviewing videos on their website. They make it look easy to install a new top. But my goal is to just replace the side pads. The owner of Classtique was very helpful, although he advised “he had never been successful in getting a top back on when taken loose”. Not to be deterred, let’s give it that good old college try.



Denny Irvine and I started peeling back the onion (top). You can see in the picture above how discolored the padding outer cloth layer is. The burlap straps were deteriorating in places and most of the padding was gone.

We replaced the side pads on the top and stretched the top, tacked it and so far, it has held together great. It was a two-person job for one to stretch the top and another to drive the tacks.

### **Rod Bearings:**

Denny could hear a clicking noise from the engine. I just asked how you know. He just knew and a stethoscope confirmed a bit of slop. We begin the process of opening the oil pan to expose the piston rod bearing and were happy to see oil dippers installed, new pistons, etc. indicating some upgrades to the engine.



The Flivver Flash newsletter is published by the Space City Ts of Houston, Texas to keep the Ford Model T membership and similar organizations aware of club activities and articles of interest to the Model T family. Permission is given to copy the contents, with proper credit, unless otherwise restricted or specified.

As you can see the 1922 engine is a 3-dip oil pan – more on the significance of this in a moment.

So now it is time to measure the bearing clearance. I am puzzled as to how this is done. Denny introduces me to Plastigage. What a fun invention, cut off a piece, place on bearing, tighten bearing, measure and you now know how many shims to remove.

All was going great until the #4 cylinder, where access is challenged because of the 3-dip oil pan. During disassembly, I dropped the oil dipper in the transmission housing. Fortunately, the oil dipper was found clinging to a magnet on the magneto. With adjustment made, it was time for reassembly. You guessed it, I dropped the oil dipper again. After 30 minutes of searching for the oil dipper, it was found lodged at the very bottom of the transmission housing out of reach of my hand and Denny's. We worked for well over an hour using every tool we could find trying to get the oil dipper out. Finally, we gave up for the day. I went in the house with my tail between my legs like the whipped little puppy I was. My wife asked what was wrong and I explained my peril. She offered to give it a try, rolls under the car, reaches her hand in the engine case down to the bottom of the magneto and pulls out the oil dipper. My wife is a superhero!

### **Main Engine Bearing:**

Still hearing some clacking from the engine, we trailered the car to visit Ross Lilleker in College Station for expert advice. Ross has us start the car while still on the trailer. With 2 screwdrivers and less than 5 minutes, we get the diagnosis, remove 2 shims from the front main bearing.

We followed Dr. Ross' advice and removed two shims, closed the engine up, and she purrs.

### **Adding an air filter:**

Ok, I know this is not pure, but Henry would have if he could.

Yes, it bothered me not having a filter on the carburetor. I found a filter and then worked with a friend who created a 3D printed tube to mount on the Kingston L4



carburetor. I like it and the Model T seems happy with the addition of an air filter. If you are interested in adding an air filter to your car, please let me know.

### **Transmission Oil Screen:**

The car did not have a transmission oil screen. One was added with a magnet. Here is a picture of what the magnet picked up the first time checked after installing.



Looks like a great investment.



### Demountable Rims & Tires:

To say the demountable rims were a bit rusty and the tires cracking from age might be an understatement. Undertaking sand blasting the rims and painting was an obvious need.



Here we are with demountable rims painted, new liners, tubes and tires installed. My wife is feeling much better about the Model T with the new tires!



Removal of each tire from the rim exposed some of the car's history and innovation. For instance, on this rim, duct tape (about 5 layers) was used in place of one of those expensive wheel liners 😊

If a wheel liner is not available and maybe you're a little short on duct tape, an old inner tube might be cut in half and with the addition of some duct tape, makes for a handy replacement. Surely, there was every intention to go back and put in a wheel liner. This just speaks to how resilient these cars are and the lengths the owners went to keeping them on the road with whatever you have available.



Photo of a man with a very nice jacket seen on a Dallas street, received in an e-mail from Bill Severn.



## 2023 Space City Ts of Houston Christmas Party

Photos by Dave Lucas, Craig Neuman, Nancy Carter, Bobby Wright, and Steve Wirtes.

We had a good turn out at the 2023 Christmas party on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at Christies Seafood Restaurant. Prior to dinner we mixed and mingled amongst friends and caught up on lots of topics. Cars, families, projects, retirement, and anything else that came up. Then we had a great dinner with choices of Fried Shrimp, Blackened Shrimp, Chicken Marseille, or Baked Tilapia with a Cream Sauce. Once everyone was finished with dinner and a dessert, we got right into the white elephant gift exchange. After two or three opened gifts, the fireworks began, and the stealing of opened gifts began. It was nonstop fun until the last gift was taken!

After all the dust settled, and after everyone did some final visiting, we called it a night. An evening of good clean fun and fellowship with a great group of folks is very hard to beat. We are looking forward to another great year with the Space City T's car club, and then in December 2024 another fun Christmas Party, so make your plans to come out and enjoy the camaraderie.

Bobby Wright delivered the Toys for Tots collected to the Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Department, Chief Chris Anderson. See photos here and on next page.

Space City Ts Website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://www.spacecityts.org)

Email: [modelt@spacecityts.org](mailto:modelt@spacecityts.org)

FB: [Space City Ts of Houston Facebook](#)







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



## 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 Ts 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.

**2024 Space City Club Officers and Board Members**  
 President Tanner Grebe 936-537-7443  
 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 Mike Schlitzkus 281-387-6658  
 Board Member Dave Lucas 281-388-0761

### The FLIVVER FLASH

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

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

website: [www.spacecityts.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:topkick7@outlook.com)



## CLUB MEETING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

-January 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm Zoom virtual meeting only

-February 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm 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**



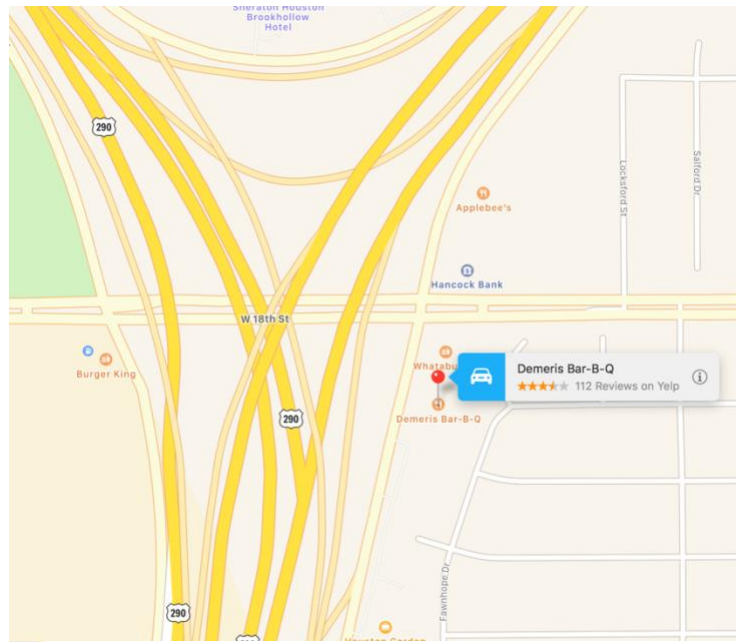
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**Place:**

**Lifebrook Church  
1822 West 18th Street in the Heights**

**Website: [www.spacecityts.org](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**



Space City T's of Houston  
Anthony J. Marino  
302 Torrey Court  
League City, Texas 77573

**The FLIVVER FLASH**