

# *The Flivver Flash*

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

## **Ford Model T and MDOT**

by Debbie Marino

Most of you Model T owners probably already know that Ford's mass-produced vehicle (only second in numbers to the Volkswagen Beetle) often had a variety of uses such as tractor, fire engine, and snowmobile. But did you know that in Michigan, the Model T is still in use today to conduct road audits? Last month, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) posted an informational video on YouTube, mostly filmed in Wexford County, MI.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOssaM914EA>



As Del Kirby, MDOT manager for the Cadillac (Michigan) Transportation Service Center, explained, the axle width of the Model T is

approximately 64 inches, comparable to the buggies driven by the Amish and Old Order Mennonites. In fact, this was part of Henry Ford's plan when developing the specs of the Model T, to allow the vehicle to follow the narrow tracks of the horse drawn carriages of the time, instead of straddling the ruts.

As the speed capabilities of automobiles increased up to today's modern vehicles, the buggies generally travel on the shoulders of the roads. Using the Model T as a standard of measurement, MDOT can determine if the shoulder lanes are adequate for horse drawn buggies. The road audits simulate the experience of riding in the buggies, enabling MDOT to improve road safety for this large population. Michigan is said to have the sixth-largest Amish population in the country at roughly 18,000 people, particularly in Northern Lower Michigan.

This summer, MDOT is working on a \$6 million project on the M-91 to rebuild 4 1/2 miles of road in Montcalm County. Construction of this section of the highway requires a complete closure from May to September. A narrow shoulder, or an unpaved, gravel one, puts the lightweight buggies at risk.

There have been several devastating crashes involving buggies in the county in recent years.

Even a paved lane, though, can spook a horse, being so close to the larger, faster moving modern vehicles. Kirby mentions in the video that this project will widen the shoulder to 8 feet and have rumble strips under the white line.

While the many online mentions of this video do not explain the ownership of the Model T, a decorative plate in the front shows "[Crankun T's of Michigan](#)" a chapter of the Model T Ford Club International (MTFCI).

## ***Radio Messenger Service***

by Jim Davis

My biological dad was an entrepreneur in the 1920s. He sold real estate and Encyclopedia Britannica and operated the Radio Messenger Service.

Radio Messenger Service was a hot shot type delivery service, delivering goods and parcels all over Houston. He had brown trucks (like UPS) with a fleet of 1925(?) Model T panel type trucks.

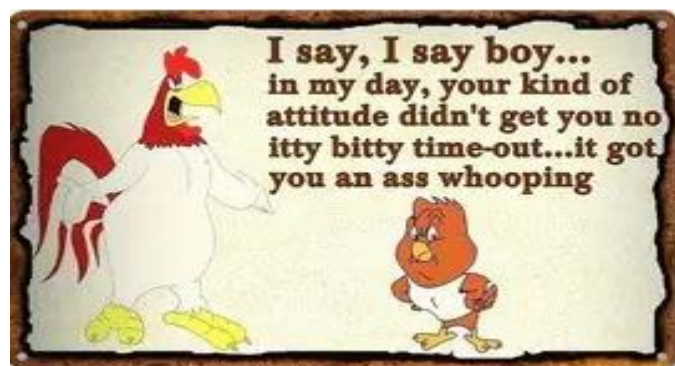


Radio was still the big new fad in the 1920s and his logo on the truck said: "Send it by Radio".

He was quite successful until the crash of 1929 put him out of business.

On another note, my stepdad used to tell another Model T story of when he was a kid, his dad had a Model T, and he always set the timing, so the engine ran rough. That's where his dad liked it, in his special notch on the spark advance lever.

My stepdad tried, to no avail, to convince him that the engine would run smoother at a different spark setting. So, one day when his dad was not around, he fired up the Model T, and after finding the spot it ran best, he bent the spark linkage, so the spark lever was back in the special notch his dad liked. It was really set in a different position where the engine ran the best.



Kids were sneaky back then too, even though their butts were on the line. You can be sure it was if they were caught. There were no five-minute time outs back in the day!

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

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](#)

## Rosehill Methodist Church Show

by Jim Davis

This car show was held Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Rosehill Methodist Church. Because of T Party and extra holiday articles, the Flivver Flash was full, so I did not submit it back then. The church is located next to my property on Rosehill Church Road, five miles west of Tomball. The car show had about fifty cars. Due to problems up-loading photos, I only included these few. The 1923 Model T truck with the kids in it is mine.



The 57 Plymouth Patrol car (below) is one that I personally installed the siren, the red rotating beacon, the roof top antenna, and the working Motorola radio. The radio has a control head, steel box speaker, steel cased "head knocker" microphone, 60-watt, dynamotor power, and two channel VHF & FM. The car is owned by former HPD Captain Ken DeFoor.



There is a restored 1952 Ford police car located at HPD headquarters at 1200 Travis, which I furnished and installed the siren and radio equipment, along with a first generation, tripod mounted speed radar. They have a large museum area with a two place, piston powered HPD helicopter called "Goony Bird". It is hanging from the rafters. It is an interesting place to visit with an emphasis on the word "VISIT".



Traffic was stacked up on the road in front of the church, and neither me nor Bernice like stop and go traffic. So, I did what Model Ts were made to do, and just drove through the ditch to my parking place in front of my grandfathers old Model T show gas station. I probably had the only car there that could or would dare do that. I got a lot of stares.



The cement base of one of the old glass-top, ten-gallon hand pump remains, and that is where I parked to tell my grandfather's story. I had a large crowd listening.

## Kerrville Texas T Party Plans

by Bill Severn

Planning for the 2024 47<sup>th</sup> Texas T Party is moving along. There are 46 cars registered so far. If you have not registered, do it soon (page 6). The hotel still has some rooms (page 5), but they will go fast. Plan on bringing bathing suits as the Inn has a great pool and several Jacuzzis. The wearing of period-correct clothing is encouraged, especially at the Banquet.

### Tentative Schedule:

Tuesday Afternoon –

- Registration opens in the Board Room at the Inn for Check-in.

Wednesday –

- Starting from the hotel, we take some back roads to arrive in Harper, Texas. Here there is a catered lunch, and [The Harper Pioneer Museum](#) is within walking distance. Then some more beautiful country roads take us to [Cafe At The Ridge](#), a snack shop and great bakery, for a dessert and pit stop. Next, it's on to the [James Avery Hill Country Jewelry Store](#). Here there will be a drawing for a free piece of their fabulous jewelry. The ladies will love that. Then it's back to the hotel.

Wednesday evening

- The [Pinewood Derby](#) for the young at heart– Yahtzee – Uno and board games for all.
- Socializing at the hotel's Western Bar named [The Inn Pub](#). Bring your boots for some dancing.

Thursday – (Photo plans in work)

- A country road drive to Fredericksburg, Texas. Time for shopping, lunch on your own and a chance to visit [The National Museum of the Pacific War](#). The drive back is over cattle-country back roads.

Thursday evening

- This evening will feature the Sophie Adcock Memorial [Farkel](#) tournament. Plan to attend, as this is lots of fun.

Friday –

- A drive in the West Texas scenic rolling hills to the [YO Ranch](#). Here we'll be treated to a Texas BBQ lunch and a free tour of their exotic animals and long horn cattle. Next, a drive along the scenic Guadalupe River for a stop at [The Hunt Store](#). Fill up your gas, have an ice cream or grab a drink. They are doing a basket raffle for us. Then on to [Bridget's Basket](#), a beautiful winery in the valley. Here, visit their gift store and have a taste of their wine. Then it's return to the hotel to end the driving day.

Friday evening

- Socializing and Karaoke at The Inn Pub.

Saturday –

- A drive through cattle country back roads to the Texas town of Center Point, then on to the [Ridin'-The-River Cowboy Fellowship](#) for a catered lunch. With lunch complete, travel on to [Bandera, Texas, the Cowboy Capital of the World](#). Time for shopping and exploring. Then it's beautiful country roads with a stop at [Camp Verde](#) for shopping and, if needed, a pit-stop. After that, back to the hotel.

Saturday evening

- The closing Banquet for the tour will be held at The Inn of the Hills' spacious [Banquet Hall](#). A wonderful dinner, a cash bar, and great companionship.

### Tour Chairman's request:

- We are still soliciting donations of door prize items and items to be added to the drivers 'Goodie' bags. If you have something to donate, contact **Bill Severn** at [wcsevern@earthlink.net](mailto:wcsevern@earthlink.net) or call **936-443-8006**.

# 2024 Texas T Party

Kerrville, Texas

October 16 – 19, 2024

<https://www.innofthehills.com/>

1-830-895-5000



FOUR DAYS OF HILL COUNTRY FUN

VISIT THE Y O RANCH

**Inn of the Hills Texas T Party rate **\$109.00** per night + tax**

**Inn of the Hills is a No Pets Hotel**

**Pet Friendly Alternative Hotels**

**LaQuinta Inn and Suites**

**1940 Sidney Baker St., Kerrville, TX 77028**

**1-830-896-9200**

**Hampton Inn Kerrville**

**2038 Sidney Baker St., Kerrville, TX 77028**

**1-830-257-0600**

**Best Western Sunday House Inn**

**2124 Sidney Baker St., Kerrville, TX 77028**

**1-830-896-1313**

# THE FLIVVER FLASH



## 47<sup>th</sup> Annual TEXAS "T" Party Registration Form Kerrville, Texas October 16<sup>th</sup> - October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Please Return Completed Form and Payment by August 31, 2024

Registrant Driver's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

T Year/Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Model T Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

| List Adult Passenger Names below: | List Youth Passengers below (12 and younger): |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| _____                             | _____   |
| _____                             | _____   |
| _____                             | _____   |

Are you trailering your Model T to host city? YES ☐ or NO ☐ (check one) Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you driving your Model T to host city? YES ☐ or NO ☐ (check one) Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number:

| Registration Fee                           | # | Fee      | Total |  |
|--|---|----------|-------|--|
| Car & Driver:                              |   | \$195.00 |       |  |
| Adult Passengers:                          |   | \$170.00 |       |  |
| Youth Passengers (12 and under):           |   | \$0.00   |       |  |
| Extra Photo:                               |   | \$15.00  |       |  |
| Extra Tour Book:                           |   | \$15.00  |       |  |
| Dangles:                                   |   | \$5.00   |       |  |
| Extra T-Shirts (1 Included):               |   | \$20.00  |       | Sm ____ Med ____ Lg ____ XL ____ 2X ____ |
| Total Enclosed and due by August 31, 2024: |   |          |       |  |

**Guest Tickets:** Call for single day prices. If participating more than one day, full registration is required.

**Refund Policy:** If your plans change after you register, we will do our best to accommodate cancellations. However, many of our vendors base their pricing on a guaranteed minimum. We will make a full refund if you cancel by July 31, 2024. Refunds for cancellations after August 1, 2024, will be made on a prorated basis with funds available after the final accounting audit.

Photography and videography will be taken on the Annual Texas T Party tour. By virtue of your registration, you consent to the use of images and/or videos of yourself and your family members/guest by the Texas T Party and distribution to any publications.

The SPACE CITY T'S of Houston is a chapter of The Model T Ford Club of America and is a club interested in the preservation of Model T's. Many hours have gone into hosting this event. Registrants, by signing this registration form, agree to indemnify and hold THE SPACE CITY T'S of Houston and each of its members harmless from all claims, demands and causes of action arising out of negligence of the Registrant, his agents or employees or passengers, and/or the ordinary negligence of THE SPACE CITY T'S of Houston or any of its members. Registrant also certifies that his/her car is in road-worthy condition and meets all requirements of the registered state.

Registrant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: SPACE CITY T'S and mail to: William Severn 58 N. Dragonwood Place, The Woodlands, Texas 77381. If you have questions, call William Severn (936) 443-8006, Tim Grebe (936) 522-6997 or Beth Grebe (936) 537-2847.

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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.

**\$7495 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 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 2024 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

- August 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm Face to Face at LifeBrook Church with Zoom and Demeris BBQ

- September 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm Zoom virtual meeting



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

**located at**

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



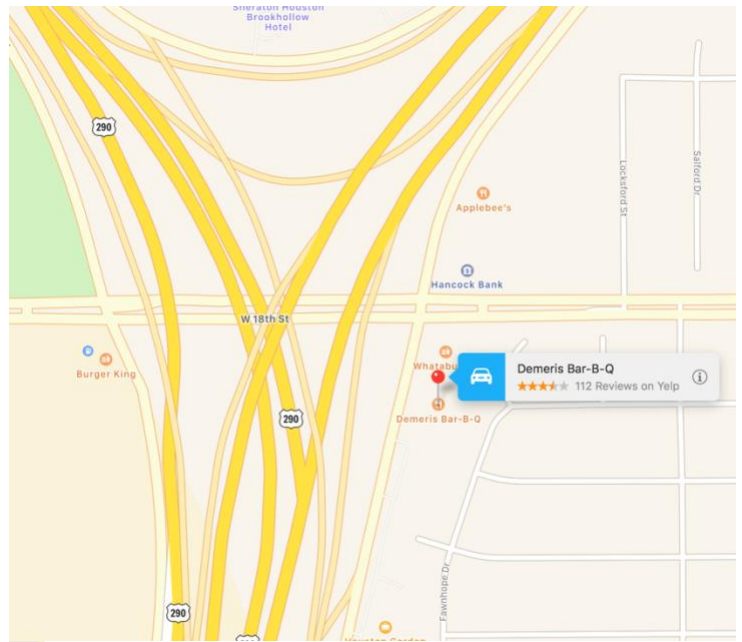
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**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

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