

# *The Flivver Flash*

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

## **DOES IT EVER END!**

by Dave Lucas

Well, let the fun begin. Let me explain. Two weeks before, as I was preparing my 27 Maroon Tudor for the 2024 Texas T Party, I was on a local shakedown ride with club member Joe Scott who brought his Roaster to Alvin for some good back road driving and lunch, the inevitable happened. When we got back from lunch, and as I was preparing to put my car back in the shop, I had no low-speed motion when I depressed the pedal. ZERO, ZILCH, NADDA. I then had to gently nurse it into high gear to get it into the shop for diagnosing.

After checking all linkages and finding no problems, I then removed the transmission cover, and by rolling the engine over with close observation, it became obvious. There was no doubt; it was a cracked low speed drum!



I tell you, that really shook my world and put me into HIGH GEAR to get my 27 blue Touring car ready for the 2024 T Party. To make matters worse, I was involved in 12-hour day / 6 days a week job. I did all I thought I needed to with lever, linkage, steering, horn inspections, even changed the oil and checked tire pressure. What I failed to do was a thorough tire inspection.

Well, now we are at the 2024 Texas T Party in Kerrville and on the Wednesday early bird tour, low and behold, at the first stop, it was brought to my attention I had a very low tire, DRIVER SIDE/REAR. Well, low was a gross understatement, IT WAS FLAT!

After removing my spare tire and rolling it to the side awaiting installation, I proceeded to jack up the car with my original Ford jack. My good friend Benny Guseman stepped in to help with his battery-operated impact wrench, and with my socket, the lugs nuts were removed very fast.

Some other helpers standing around offering support, spoke up saying with excitement "THIS TIRE IS NOT GOING VERY FAR"! I said "no it's not, it is a tube issue", and I did not have a spare tube. Benny said "no, not the tube, this spare tire is shot"!



Looking it over, sure enough the sidewall was severely separated on the inside and was not noticed in the prior expedited pre-tour inspection. Benny Guseman stepped up again and offered me use of his spare. It was a beautiful white wall, and I was now running with three black walls that remained on the car. NOW THAT IS A GOOD FRIEND.

Back on the road and running well, I believe we were coming into the town of Bandera, and I heard a light noise but I was not sure where it was coming from. I asked Sandra if she heard it (she replied "NO"), and as soon as we turned right at the stop light, I was going to look things over.

Immediately after the right turn, the passenger side rear dropped with a loud bang! I hollered holy \*&%^, hold on, I think we lost a tire. Sandra said "YEP", there it goes rolling across the road behind us! This all happened in the middle of the road right in front of an office building with a lady in a car behind me trying to get to work. I approached her car and said "Ma'am, I'm going to be stopped here awhile until I figure out how to jack the car up when sitting on the axle."

Well, Sandra walks fifty feet or so behind the

car and finds the axle key and nut, but no cotter key, and when I looked around, the support staff had gathered. I do not remember who all stopped, but I believe Marvin and Julius Neunhoffer, Benny Guseman, David Carter and others were there to help. Marvin or Julius said that we may have enough men to grab the back end and lift while I put the jack under it. I hesitated a minute thinking that's going to be ME laying under the car and I going HHHHuuuuuummmm.

Well, I guess God was looking over me because a guy pulled up beside the downed car and hollers out "HEY BUDDY YOU GOT A PROBLEM"? To which I replied, "I think I have a big problem". He says back to me he has a forklift, and he could go get it and be back in five minutes. I said sure that would be a big help. Low and behold, about five minutes later here he comes around the corner and lifts the back end up. With all the support staff around, we had the T back on the road in less than thirty minutes! I did have a few spare cotter keys.



Now, that brings me to the tire repair with my best friend Rick McCracken. He came out and helped break down my flat tire and inspected the tube.



Sure enough, we found two small holes in the tube like a heavy long staple. Rick found the small legs of the staple lodged in the tire. I had patched the tube, and it held air.



We put the good tire on the Touring car, but the original spare with the separated rubber must still be fixed to become a good spare.



The only problem is that Sandra likes the white wall tire that Benny loaned me better than the black walls. So here I go with five new white wall tires and tubes. Like I said at the beginning "DOES IT EVER END"!

## February 2025 Tour

Date: Saturday, February 15

Where: Meet at Scott & Leslie Grants, 404 Church Road, Brenham Texas (just off HWY 36)

When: We'll meet around 9:30am with the goal of being on the road by 10:00am

We'll travel to Fayetteville with lunch at Orsak's Cafe. We'll travel about 75 miles that day so we should be done sometime between 2:30pm and 3:30pm. Scott & Leslie have plenty of room for parking.

If you're travelling north on 36 from Bellville, Church Road is the next road after Sempronius. BE WARNED, there are a bunch of Church Roads in Brenham. If you end up in downtown Brenham, you are NOT in the right place. You might need to use Phillipsburg Church Road in your GPS or Google Maps.

If planning on attending, please let Doug Brough know ([doug@brough.biz](mailto:doug@brough.biz) or cell: 832-963-6532). Hope to see you there!

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](#)

## My Story That Sparked my Interest in Model T Fords

By Bill Severn

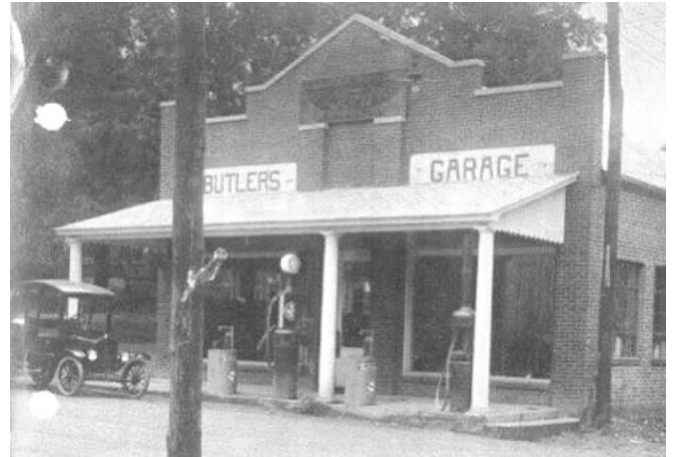
During World War II, I was a 9-year-old living with my parents in Catonsville, Maryland. At that time, you would occasionally see folks driving Model T Fords simply because you couldn't buy a new or used car. During WW II, I remember seeing a Model T driving on the wheel rims, since tires were scarce. I was aware that my grandfather had once owned a Model T and even heard stories of trips the family had taken. However, with my eyes in the skies wanting to be an Air Force pilot, I had little interest in old cars.



It wasn't until 1960 that the Model T interest was ignited. It occurred in Mt. Airy, Maryland at my aunt's funeral. Mt. Airy had been the home of my father's family since 1909. My father and his three sisters were raised there. When Aunt Ada died, she was buried there.

It was on the way to the reception after the funeral that my father pointed out an old square black car and said 'That's your grandfather's old Model T Ford. He sold it to a farmer years ago.' It was a 1923 Model T four door sedan. Later, my father told me that it

was the very first four door Model T sold by Butlers Garage, the Ford dealer in Mt Airy.



The Model T spark lay smoldering in my head until 1974 when looking through an old bookstore, I came across several copies of The Vintage Ford magazine. The spark was instantly whipped into a fire. I joined the MTFCA, after which I moved to Houston, Texas.

In 1975, a post card from Herschel Payne arrived, inviting me to a meeting at Russell & Smith Ford on the 610 Loop. The meeting was to create the Space City Ts of Houston, Texas. The rest is history. The Model T fire has not gone out since.

## 1919 Truck at the George Ranch

by Doug Brough

Tony asked me to do a short write-up on the 1919 Truck at the George Ranch. For those unfamiliar, the ranch is storing a 1919 TT Truck. It's technically owned by the Houston Museum of Natural Science. But the ranch is responsible for its care and is allowed to use it. Over the years, Jim Ruhmann and Dave Veir have donated repair time (and parts) to it.

When the club was there during Frontier Days, the ranch asked us to pull the truck out of the garage. Steve Havemann and I managed to get it started and pulled it out in front of the garage.



As sayings go, it ran – like a threshing machine chewing up barbed wire! When we went to put it back in the garage, we could not get it restarted. The next day I returned and tried to open the drain valve on the float bowl. Notice the result:



So, time to order some parts! In December, Dave Veir came out to work his magic on the truck. I came out to be the chief morale officer. In addition to the above, he had a muffler to install as well as some other parts.

The truck was missing all the carburetor controls (choke & mixture) from the cab. Dave brought those and he was able to install the choke, but not the mixture.

We fired it up to see what other challenges awaited. Well, it did start, and Dave quickly realized only 3 cylinders were firing. We pulled the plugs (yuck!!) and Dave took them home to sandblast.

A few weeks later, back to the ranch, with cleaned-up spark plugs and a repaired brake lever (another known problem Dave had been tackling). We got the spark plugs in and viola, the truck ran – well, so we took it for a drive!



It was nice to see this truck alive again. I have to say, quite a different experience from when Steve and I messed with it during Frontier Days. Dave spent some time showing the staff how to start and drive it so they could use it as needed. This truck will probably always need some TLC from club members, but great to see it running again.



## 2025 McPHERSON WINTER CLINIC



January 17<sup>th</sup> we took another item off the bucket list. Steve Havemann and Denny Irvine decided to attend the Winter Clinic in Kansas. It has shown up each year in the Vintage Ford, so we quit wishing and started doing. However, Mother Nature did her best to foil our progress. Look at the Wichita fuel stop weather!

We had started from the Conroe Airport at 9 AM and wanted to stop for lunch. Steve picked Stearman Airport in Wichita which has an amazing restaurant right beside the runway. What history and atmosphere! In addition, Steve was able to meet a Sherwin Williams paint representative about his RV-14 paint.



When lunch was finished, it was time to brave the weather and wind, refuel and start the final leg to McPherson, Kansas. The total trip length was just under 500 nautical miles. We found a hangar to protect the plane and the Clinic director sent his wife to the airport to pick us up. We checked into the Hampton at 3 PM.

The agenda for Friday was a mixer in the lobby of the Hampton from 5 to 6 PM. Then we went to the McPherson Museum which was only open for our group. You were able to tour before dinner and then until they closed at 9. A catered BBQ dinner was provided, and it looked like over 100 people had shown up.



One of the special museum displays was a College restored 1904 Holsman High-Wheeler. Just saying: this is what yours should look like Dave. That was it for Friday. Saturday morning began at 7:30, and as you registered there were several College restored vehicles on display. You could explore all the different classrooms.





McPherson has a 4-year degree in auto restoration. You get exposed to upholstery, machining, sheet metal, drivetrain, paint, fiberglass, woodworking and electrical. We even met Luke Eyssen, grandson of Tim Eyssen, who was finishing a campus tour and will proceed with a 4-year degree. Jay Leno sponsors a full scholarship here.



Coffee and donuts were served until the seminar started at 8:30. Mike Bender and Mike Vaughn (Museum of Speed) told about their Sea to Sea tour this year from New York to San Francisco in the 10 Millionth Model T. It included the stories about the disastrous breakdown and the wonderful support they received.

Next up was Dave Nolting (Dave's restoration & Machine) who stripped a complete transmission while showing what was not acceptable wear. He brought dozens of examples of failures. He was followed by Rob Heyen who displayed one of the six Ford Factory Racers. LOUD!! Then we adjourned for lunch.



The afternoon session began with "Modern Paint Techniques and Equipment" by Chris Clark, one of the College instructors. That was followed by a Q&A Panel with the intent of wrapping up by 3 PM. It was going longer, at which we left to beat a cold front home. Denny and Steve would like to thank Jerry Young—a member of the Fort Worth Cowtown T's who we met at the mixer. He generously transported us to everything. We launched for a non-stop trip home and landed at 7:00 PM.

## Space City T's Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment was January 1st. 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.

**2025 Space City Club Officers and Board Members**  
 President Steve Havemann 281-433-5182  
 Vice President David Veir 713-823-2359  
 Secretary Rosie Stokley 832-444-9927  
 Treasurer Craig Neuman 346-855-0544  
 Board Member Bill Severn 936-443-8006  
 Board Member Mike Schlitzkus 281-387-6658  
 Board Member Dave Lucas 713-299-3059

### 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 2025 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

-February 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm Face to Face at LifeBrook Church with Zoom and Demeris BBQ

-March 12<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**



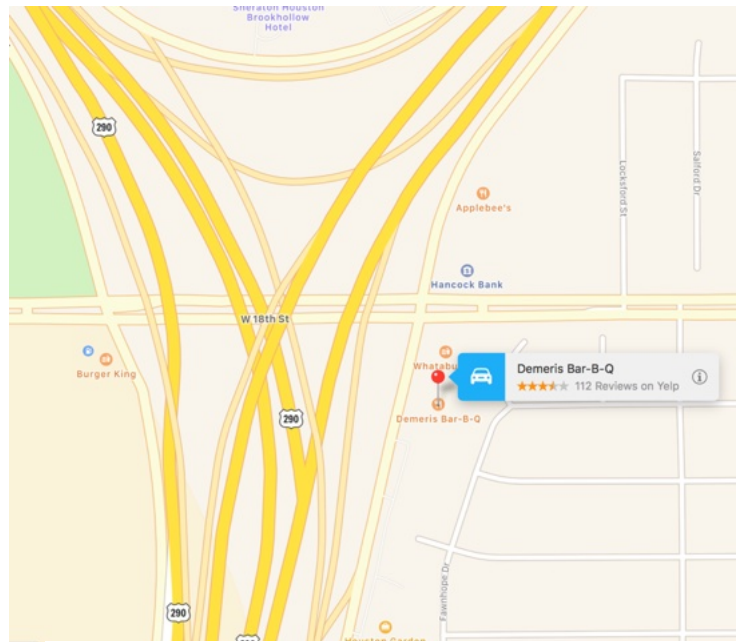
**Then attend the  
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**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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