

The Flivver Flash

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

McFaddin-Ward Show and Lecture

By Bill Severn

In early February 2025, Steve Havemann, president of The Space City Ts, received an inquiry from Mr. Greg Riley of Beaumont, Texas. Greg represents the McFadden-Ward House Museum in Beaumont. On Thursday, May 8, 2025, the Museum was planning a car show to occur prior to an automotive lecture to be given at the McFadden-Ward house. Automobiles from every era of auto development were to be shown. The request to The Space City Ts was for an early Model T Ford to represent the early teens. Steve Havemann contacted me and asked if I would be interested in displaying the 1913 Wide Track Touring at the event. I agreed and the brass polishing began.



Using Steve's enclosed trailer, we took the car to the event, arriving for the 4:30 display. Cars were displayed on an open lot in front of the McFadden-Ward home. Listed below are the vehicles that were on display:

- 1910 Bianchi Landulet (Town Car)
- 1913 Ford Model T Wide Track Touring Car
- 1925 Locomobile Model 48
- 1936 Ford V8 Phaeton
- 1936 Cord 810
- 1937 Packard Lebaron Town Car Super 8
- 1960 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible
- 1968 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 KR
- 2006 Ford GT Heritage Edition.



At about 6PM, car owners posed for a group photo.



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.

With volunteers watching over the cars, at 6:30 owners and other attendees went to the auditorium at the McFaddin-Ward house for a presentation by Mr. Matt Anderson, Curator of Transportation at the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan. The presentation was entitled "Wheels of Progress: How Detroit and Ford Motor Company put the World on Wheels."



After the very interesting and informative lecture, cars were put away and everyone went to Carrabba's Italian restaurant for dinner and the swapping of many stories.

The next morning, provisions were made to photograph the cars at various mansions in Beaumont.



After the event was over, Mr. Greg Riley stated that consideration was being given to making the McFaddin-Ward event an annual event. Thus, The Space City Ts may be called on again to provide a car for display.

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

Breakfast with Lions

By Bill Severn

Off we go again. Another North Side 8:30 AM breakfast run. This time a new restaurant in The Woodlands was chosen. I know this will sound strange, but a great breakfast place in The Woodlands is a Scottish Pub called The Blue Lion. It is a two-part facility with a restaurant on one side and a Scottish pub on the other.



For a lot of the Model T drivers, driving to The Blue Lion was a bit of a trip, with AM traffic slowing things down. However, four Model Ts arrived safe and sound. Left to right below see Steve Havemann's 1922 Touring car, Bill Severn's 1916 Touring car, Mike Schlitzkus's 1915 Roadster Pickup and Denny Irvine's 1927 Roadster Pickup. Rick McCracken joined the group, but due to the distance, brought his modern car (smart decision).



Great food, Model T stories, and great companionship followed. Ready to eat their meals are (left to right) Mike Schlitzkus, Bill Severn, Steve Havemann, Denny Irvine and Rick McCracken.



No doubt we will do this again, but possibly to a closer venue for the guys on the north.

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1923 Barn-yard Contraption

By Alex Pinyozy

I bought a '23 chassis because the engine was supposed to have been rebuilt. I needed the rebuilt engine for my '26 which has a cracked block. After I started playing around with this '23, I decided to build a barn-yard contraption to run around in at my farm. In working on that rebuilt engine, I soon realized how gullible I was accepting the sellers' statements about how good it was.



First, I had a major steam leak blowing out at me from the back of the head. That was a call for an initial head gasket replacement. Almost immediately the new gasket was not holding, and I thought I had done the installation wrong, which called for a second head gasket. Then the same major steam leaked out the back of the head again. It turns out the head bolts at the back of the block were stripped. I removed the head again. I also had to remove the firewall to allow room to get a drill to the back of the head to drill out the stripped rear head bolts.

That was when David Vier volunteered to do the Heli-Coils and bolted the head back on with new head bolts and a head gasket. Then I followed up with reassembling the firewall, electrical, etc. With all this going on, I forgot where the on position of the cut off valve was, and the car would not start at all.



I was talking with Bobby Wright one day with my frustration and he offered to get the Southside Space City T's group together to come over and figure out what was wrong.



Bobby, Dave Lucas, Tony Marino, and David Vier all came over and it turned out that was enough knowledge to figure out that the gas valve needed to be turned on for the car to run. I would have never thought of that!

While they were working on the wiring, they found that I had failed to finish the wiring in the dash and the sparking display was quite amazing.



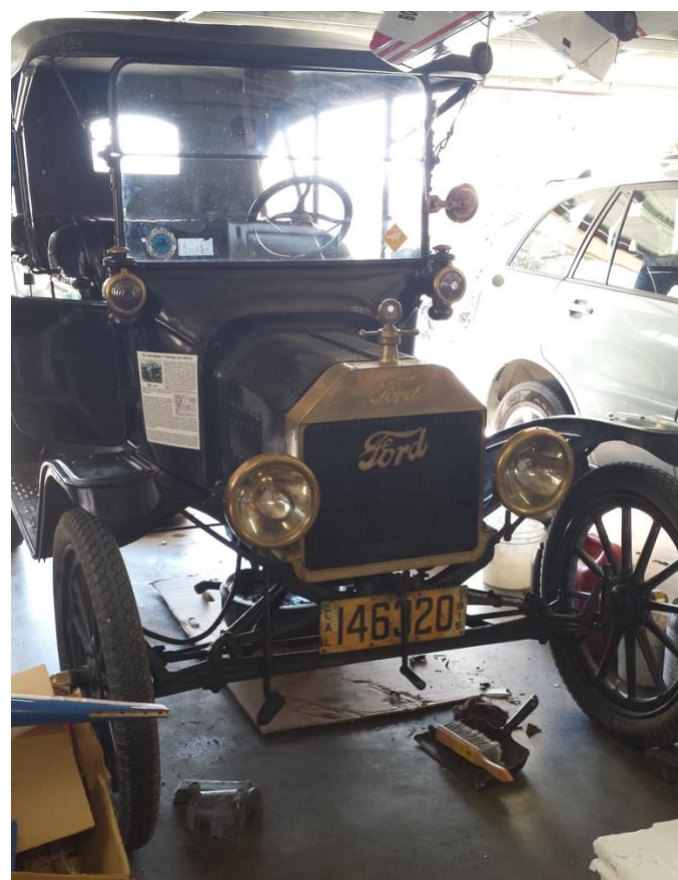
The day ended up with Tony driving the car around a bit with Dave as a passenger. It turned out that low, braking and reverse and high gear pedaling all worked as they should.

Thanks to the Southside Space City T's group for coming over and helping. To me it was a very fun day.

Just Push the Pedal Down and Follow Me!

by Ray Foster of the Central Coast Model T Club, CA

Don't just come to see the Ts at the Marshall Texas T Party. Gather up all your friends shonuff and join the tour with your Model T. It's 4 days of a lot of fun. If you are behind my easily recognized black T, it's one of the few with correct 1915 hub caps, and you can smell the smoke from my ever so deadly belch-fire.



Be prepared for unworldly hot weather like a gazillion degrees hotter than hot, one day of rain, and the ever so deadly TXDOT as the chairmen manage to pick a road with stretches of gravel topped driving surfaces as they repair things. It keeps it challenging and fun!

I tried to get a straw man itinerary, but nada, so just like the rest of us you will just have to go with tha flow. I have never been disappointed in the Texas T Party routes as we bounce over hill and dale going hither and dither. I do hope there will be a Kolache stop as Kolaches are yummy, good. This might be out of Kolache territory, but they will have Shiner's (beer). Remember, just push the pedal down and follow me! Oh, do make sure tires have good tread on them and the fan belt is good. Changing either in the hot Texas sun is fun whilst chatting with everybody, but it for sure ain't going to be real fun!

In the evenings, we all can get together for dinner, and you will meet all the great T Party people. You will wonder how tha heck they know so much about Ts, and so do I. You can explain all about your source of knowledge.

I'm anxious to get my lonesome 'as found' '10 car running.



My 1910 T is being restored. Metal parts are painted Carmine Red. Wood body is primed and ready for color and it will go in for

upholstery in a couple months. The engine and transmission have been repaired and are being assembled. I fitted the inner rear axle wheel bearings and made a stand to assemble the differential with the drive shaft so I could set the clearances. The original body tag matches the engine number making it a March 1, 1910, build date. The estimated completion date is late 2025 for getting the car on the road, but not 100% restored.

Missing is the windshield glass, speedometer, and drag link plus a few other parts. Most other parts I have acquired. The Pitman arm nut on the 1910

car broke when taking it off! It was poor quality metallurgy in old nut! I'm replacing all suspension, steering, etc. bolts and nuts on both my Model Ts after seeing this nut break.



Our local club is the Central Coast Model T Club, located in Templeton CA., Pete Meyers is President. John Tannehill III lives in MO., so he's not too far away from Marshall. He has eye issues so right now he can't drive, and he isn't planning on doing the tour, but ima working on him to do so. He has a couple parts I need, like correct model year carburetor, etc. that he is bringing to the Texas T Party.

So, we just gotta convince him and friends to "Just push the pedal down and follow me".

Ten Tips to Get Your T Tour-Ready

A Short Review of Relevant Functional Checks for T Drivers. Originally published and credit given to *The Vintage Ford*, Volume 60 Issue 3, May-June 2025 for the following content.

Temperatures are rising, days are getting longer, and Model T owners long to get their precious vehicles back on the road. With many chapters hosting events, Homecoming, and the National Tour Steam 'n T Party, there will be plenty of excuses, er, reasons to do just that.

Before heading out, make sure your T is road worthy and tour ready. A disclaimer: this is not a comprehensive “get a T out of mothballs” tutorial, nor even an exhaustive list of items to evaluate or test. For more detailed information, or specific problems you encounter in servicing your antique automobile, please reference any of the many fine manuals, get expert advice (Technical Editor Mike Vaughn is always willing to help¹), or hire a professional. That being said, here are ten items to go over before you get very far from your home garage.

1) Change the oil.

May sound too elementary, but it's the second item in Milt Webb's “Ultimate Checklist” Engine Checks section.²

There is a great debate among T owners, drivers, and mechanics (they're not always one and the same, right?) about which oil is the best, correct, or only oil to use. We do not endeavor to resolve that issue here.

The important point is to pay attention when draining the oil. You should try to catch the first oil out for inspection. Look for water, metal, or other signs of fouling. A small amount of water or very small pieces of metal is not unusual.

A cupful of water or a lot of metal or babbitt indicate servicing is needed.

If the oil is particularly thick, let it drain overnight. “Do not install any flush oil or diesel oil: ‘Plain ol’ oil is the best cleaner!”²



Visually inspect wiring, timer, coil box, and coils for corrosion and clean, replace, or have serviced as needed. There is a terrific resource in the Model T Ford Service Manual.

2) Check the transmission bands.

The low gear pedal should feel firm about two inches before hitting the floor. Same for the transmission brake. The reverse band should engage about halfway between full up and the floorboard.

If you remove the transmission cover to inspect the bands, they should be about 3/16” thick. That's about the width of a pencil. Be sure to hold on to the pencil and not drop it into the transmission.

3) Brakes should have equal drag.

Raise the rear wheels, move the brake lever to neutral with no brake. Test for free spinning at the rear wheels. Then pull the brake lever to vertical and re-test. Wheels should have heavy equal drag or be almost locked. If one spins more freely than the other, try with the other hand. If the problem moves from one wheel to the other, it's not the brakes. (See last hint on Tip 8.) Make sure the emergency brake lever and locking pawl don't slip.

4) Lube, Lube, Lube.

Maybe this was part of your check during the oil change but if not, now's a good time to check. It's important, make sure those joints

are moving freely, but not loose. Oil and grease are an old car's best friends. Even though they tend to let them slip away. Reunite your T with both.

5) Remove slop from steering and front axle.

Too much movement in tie-rod ends or the wishbone ball can be dangerous even at low speeds. Replace pins and bushings, add shims, or get new parts as needed. This is not at all a joking matter.

6) Get new rubber.

While looking at the steering and front axle, you either admired the fine tires, or you ignored them altogether. Don't ignore them. Reinflate them or at least check the pressure. Check for damage that may have occurred from sitting over the long winter months. Even if you got your T out for a spin in the snow, like Fred Smallwood³, check for hardening rubber or cracks.

This might also be a good time to order spare tires or tubes. At least check your patch kits



and make sure you replaced the stuff you used last year. Don't overlook the stockpile in the corner. Don't neglect the spokes on those wheels. Pay particular

attention to worn or loose spokes, being specifically diligent with wooden spokes.

7) Check the gas tank.

If this seems too obvious, you'll really appreciate the story of the young man from Missouri. But that's for another day.

In addition to fuel level – and we hope you remembered a fuel stabilizer when you parked it last fall – check for rust or other contaminants in the tank. Clean the sediment bowl and replace the filter as needed. If you're really ambitious, clean the carburetor as it might reveal other issues.

8) Starting the car is not the first thing to do.

We realize you are all experienced T owners. It's just that when the itch to get on the road hits, sometimes we want to "just take it for a spin" and then fix what seems wrong when we get back. We put starting later in the list to reinforce this point.

Starting the car before completing basic engine and fuel system checks can ruin your day. It would probably be a good idea to give the entire starting system a once-



over, too. If you have a starter, it is recommended to check the posts for corrosion, make sure the nuts can be removed and are not too tight, check the cables and ground strap, and test the battery. If you don't have a starter, it's not too late to join a gym.

9) Test the lights.

If you're like most T drivers, you'd trust your car – and yourself – to handle just about anything. Except those other drivers, especially at night. You might not even go out at night and so your lights are only for show. Just for the sake of argument, and the pesky requirements of being road legal, let's say they're not just for show.

Replace bulbs as necessary. Purists should check the gas generator tank, gasket, liner, and gas line to ensure proper function and no leaks.

Also, be sure the tips are clean. Not enough and too much flow are equally bad when it comes to carbide lamps.

10) Replace that wrench.

You know the one. You took it out of your tool kit and told yourself you'd remember to put it back later. What do you mean, you took the whole tool kit out of the car? Good thing you're not alone on tour!

We suggest a basic kit with appropriate screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, and hammers as your experience has taught you are required for

roadside repairs with your T. Red Green⁴



suggests a simple tool kit. "You only need two things in your tool kit. If it doesn't move and should – WD-40®. If it moves and shouldn't – duct tape." That might work at Possum Lodge, but the Model T predates duct tape by over thirty years and WD-40® by fifty.

11) Stock the essentials.

What "Top Ten" list doesn't need an extra item? By essentials, we mean those items you frequently wish you had while on tour: a flashlight; knuckle bandages; aspirin or ibuprofen; a hat to protect your hair, or your scalp as the case may be; a blanket for when the temperature drops more than you thought it would; an extra water bottle for when it's warmer than you expected; an emergency poncho because it rains even in the desert sometimes besides which they're only a couple of bucks and don't take up much space; a temperature stable snack or protein bar because a Snickers™ may be great for when

you're not yourself but they tend to melt; and finally, a pen to sign autographs when curious people come up and admire your fine automobile.

All kidding aside, we trust you found these tips helpful as you prepare for the touring and event season. As an extra help, the [MTFCA Model T Safety Inspection Form](#) has specific technical, performance, and safety items that are checked before participation in sanctioned events.

One last thought (inspired by talking about admirers), it might be a good idea, after you've got it prepped, to detail your glorious Model T to show off its rugged charm and beauty. Adding a towel to the essentials kit would be useful, too. You could use it to wipe off the steering wheel (rain or palm sweat), remove those chocolate fingerprints, clean mud off the running boards (or your face), and keep that T gleaming for all those photos you will want to share with other aficionados of this fine hobby! Happy motoring!

Footnotes

1 Mike Vaughn is the Technical Editor at The Vintage Ford. You can send Mike an email via editor@mtfca.com with "Mike Vaughn Tech Q&A" in the subject line. Mike is also available at 402-540-0573 or 1924modeltman@gmail.com.

2 Milton Webb, The Ultimate Checklist or Tuning a T for Durable Touring, *The Vintage Ford*, Vol. 38, Num. 2, March-April 2003.

3 Fred was shown driving his Speedster in a snowstorm in the "ouT & abouT" feature in *The Vintage Ford*, Vol. 60, Num. 2.

4 Steve Smith [Red Green]. (1991-2006). [The Red Green Show](#).

2025 Texas T Party, Marshall, TX

October 7-12, 2025

FOUR DAYS IN EAST TEXAS!

Tours/routes in work but not limited to [Marshall, TX](#), Mini Model T Swap meet, [Bear Creek Smokehouse](#), Enoch Stomp Winery, Stage Coach Rd., TC Linsey Store, Gators n Friends, [Greenwood, LA](#), [Caddo Lake](#), and [Historic Jefferson, TX](#). Truck/trailer parking will be at the [Marshall Convention Center](#). [RV parking](#) in work. **Click here:** [2025 Marshall Texas T Party Registration Form](#)
Click here: [MTFCA Safety Inspection and Release Form](#)

Host hotel:

Hampton Inn Marshall, 5100 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672

- To book: 1. Go to www.hamptoninn.com
2. In Where to? Type Marshall, TX
3. Select Check-in Check out dates.
4. Click Special Rates, Scroll the Group Code type: **TTP**
5. Click Find a hotel

It will be the first hotel in the list. Room rate **\$119+tax**

(You may also call 1-800-426-7866. Inform agent of code **TTP**)

Hot breakfast, Pet Friendly. **Group rate expires September 23, 2025**

2nd Hotel:

[Quality Inn Marshall, 4911 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672](#)

903-935-7923, Call to book, use code **Texas T Party**

Room rate: **\$86+tax single \$90+tax double**

Hot breakfast, NOT pet friendly. **Group rate expires July 30, 2025**

Other hotels:

Click here: [Clarion Pointe Marshall](#)

5301 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75672, 903-927-0009

Click here: [Comfort Suites Marshall](#)

5204 E End Blvd., Marshall, TX 75672, 903-927-1139

Click here: [Best Western Executive Inn](#)

5201 E End Blvd., Marshall, TX 75639, 903-935-0707

MODEL T PARTS COLLECTION



This is a sale for the estate of the late Hershel Payne, a founding member of the Space City T's of Houston. His son, Mike, is clearing out a storage garage and the highest bidder will get all of it. Many items in boxes are not shown, but include books, headlight lenses, pictures, etc. Rough estimates are around \$4000, but asking \$2000 OBO for everything.



Lubester/oil cans



transmission



spindles



motometers and oil lamps



Grease Cups/wheel bearings



Ring gears and pinion



Headlights and parts



Rear springs



tire spreader/chassis parts



tires and wheels



Model T Models



Drill Press



Model T clock

Contact Information: Mike Payne 936-443-9153 or text

**Enclosed Car Hauler wanted, must have 7-foot entry door height, must fit Ford Model T.
Call Alex Pinyozy 281-772-7647**

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

website: www.spacecityts.org

For Sale: 1914 Model T Touring Car



It is a T-2000 New Body from Sweden. New Body includes splash shields, running boards, fenders, hood. Rebuilt Engine. Radiator is new, Re-wooded wheels. NEW top, interior, seat springs. New wood in original top bows. All lights original. Original windshield new safety glass. New tires. Driven 100 miles since restoration.

\$20,500

Contact Gator Gould
 Monroeville, AL
 251-765-2677

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](http://SpaceCityTsofHoustonTexas.com). 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

\$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

-July 9th – 7:30pm Zoom virtual meeting

-August 13th – 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**



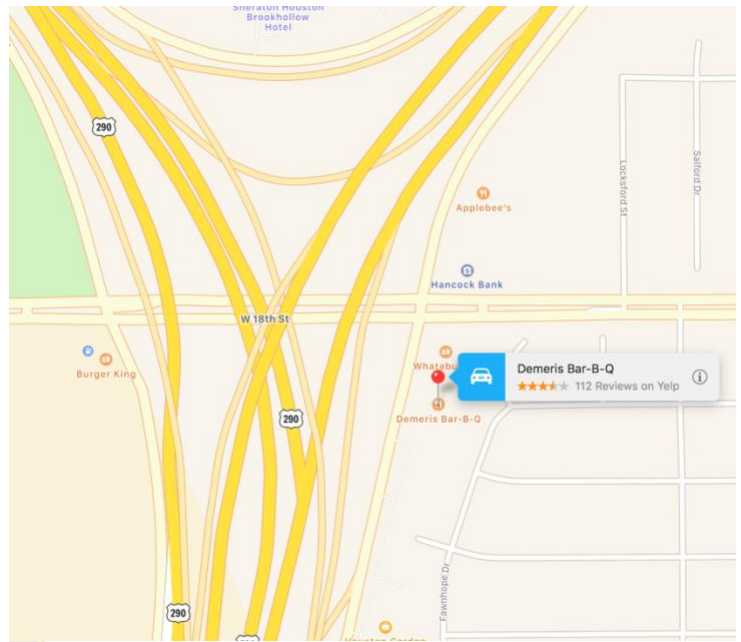
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.
Place:**

Lifebrook Church

1822 West 18th Street in the Heights

Website: www.spacecityts.org

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



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

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