

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

Suck, Squeeze, Bang, and... "BLOW"

By Craig Neuman

A phrase I once heard when I was learning to fly as a kid still remains with me today. With such a simple design, the Model T motors carry the same exact principals. But you already knew that, right? Haha. For this article, I am writing about the "Blow"...as I recently just replaced nearly all of the machine's highly complex (not!) exhaust system. And even though one would think this work would be simple, we ran into a few kinks along the way, and discovered something quite mind-bending too!

After inheriting my dad's 1923 Roadster which had been untouched for over 7 years, I was able to get her cranked up easily with the awesome help of Anthony Marino. However, the first thing we noticed when we got her running, that needed attention next, was the exhaust system.

One thing that unusually stood out to us was that the exhaust pipe had an attachment flange that connected to the manifold and was held

For more Space City T's of Houston info:

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

together by a huge c-clamp. But when looking more closely at where the flange overlapped with the end of the manifold, there was a pretty big gap that remained even with the tight fitting held by that c-clamp. That alone was a huge culprit of how loud the engine ran!



So we decided to remove the clamp from the fitting in order to remove the pipe. We

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discovered that the threads on the exhaust manifold were completely stripped and worn down. So we assumed this is why there was a workaround to this issue.



I mentioned we discovered something mind-bending earlier...well, since we had the old manifold off, and had removed the old exhaust pipe, I decided to remove the muffler because I noticed it wasn't secured properly. Once I got it removed, I heard something jiggling inside of it. Looking at Anthony's expression, I realized this of course wasn't normal. Upon taking the muffler apart, we couldn't believe what was rattling inside of it...it was one of the metal rings used in the #4 cylinder manifold seals! We knew this from simple deductive reasoning...when the exhaust manifold was

removed, we found those remaining rings in the holes for the 1, 2, and 3rd cylinders. Lol. Anyway, I have no idea when, but at some point, that little thing became dislodged and managed to work itself out of its seal and through the exhaust pipe into the muffler!



It was at this point where we decided that I needed to get a new manifold and exhaust pipe. Before spending the money for a brand new one, Anthony had come up with the idea knowing that he had a spare manifold, and use that to replace mine. While he and Dave Lucas refurbished the replacement manifold, I had ordered a new exhaust pipe, as well as, new manifold seals and manifold/pipe nut. Once the parts came in, Anthony and Bobby Wright came over, along with the refurbished manifold, to help with the install.

Unfortunately, after trying to re-install the refurbished manifold to the block with new gaskets, is where we had more issues. We just couldn't get a good fit. After another attempt a couple weeks later, I decided to pull the trigger and buy a brand new manifold.



Once that came in and armed with a huge pot of freshly brewed coffee for a morning's work, Bobby and Anthony came over again to help with the new install.



When everything was complete, the only thing left to do was to fire her up and check the quality of our work! As it turns out, all was good and high 5's went all around!



Needless to say, at this point, everything went well. The new manifold went on perfectly, and even the big exhaust pipe nut didn't give Anthony any grief tightening up that connection!!



Now that the work on the exhaust system is complete, it's time for me to move on to the fuel system. But I have a big question...where does that fall into the "Suck, Squeeze, Bang, Blow"??? Haha

Don't Buy a T If You Are Shy!

By Steve Wirtes

I have loved cars my entire life...probably before I could walk! Yes, the photo is yours truly when I was about two or three—still in diapers and hanging on to the steering wheel for balance.



My automotive obsession has been both a blessing and a curse. Most likely the “bug” bit me when I was a baby, as Dad loved to play with cars, but his infection was limited to polishing and keeping the car clean.



Later, he did maintenance (with my assistance of holding the trouble light early on) such as changing water pumps, replacing starter and generator brushes, etc., but as Dad admits, it was out of necessity and not for pleasure as we were not related to the Rockefeller family. Little did he realize the 30-weight oil he used in his diesel 1959 Mercedes-Benz 180Dc was creeping its way into my pores and eventually into my soul.

Not to brag, but I've owned well over 100 cars in my lifetime. Many were purchased to help finance my education (13-semester plan), pay bills, finance the construction of my Cobra kit car, but the common thread is I LOVED EVERY MINUTE of tinkering. European sport cars have always been my favorite but deep down inside I have always lusted after a Model T.

Many of my friends thought I lost my mind when I began my quest of locating a proper “T”. Sport cars are fun if you are alone or have one passenger, but beyond that, they are not practical. Either the dog or your girlfriend (disclaimer: I'm happily married now) must stay home and sometimes the decision is not an easy one (let me mention again I'm happily married now). I knew many variants of the Model T were out there and I kept gravitating toward the Touring Model as it is a convertible (or phaeton!) with a back seat. Now there's room for my wife, our German Sheddler (Shepherd), family (including grandkids) and friends who can tolerate dog hair!

One of the T's endearing qualities to me is its uniqueness—not everyone can simply jump in and drive it. The ability to drive a standard transmission car is rare today and the ability to drive a Model T is a talent few possess. Every time I take the T out for a quick spin I am greeted with numerous waves, smiles, and thumbs-up gestures.

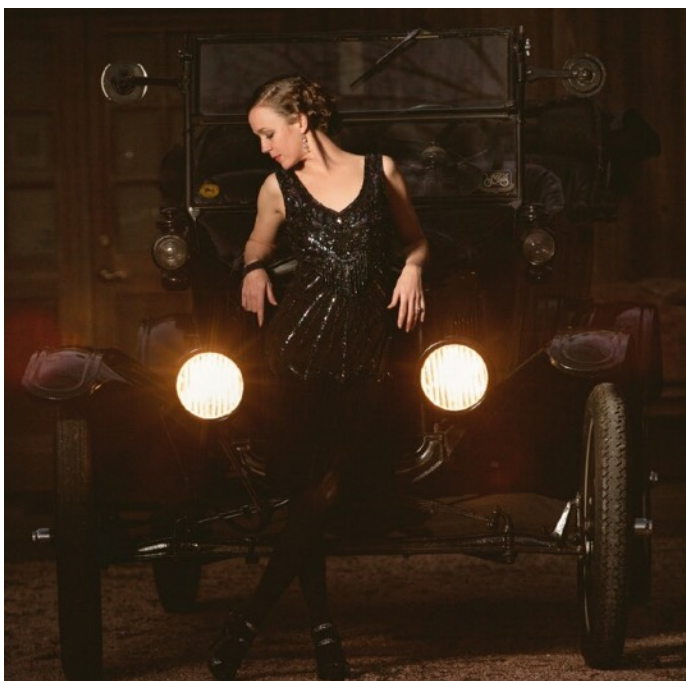
T's are not known as speed demons, but then again, when we drive our cars, we're transported back in time to a simpler time, where we are going fast enough the mosquitos cannot keep up, yet slow enough to where we can appreciate the sights and smells of nature around us. Besides, 30-32 mph on wood-spoked wheels can be exhilarating! So, here I am, a novice T owner who has quickly become familiar with my car by driving it around the neighborhood while trying to avoid distracted (cell phone!) drivers.

Our T is rapidly becoming a local celebrity! In our community, one of our neighbors is a professional photographer and a darned good one at that. She has friends who are models, and one young woman recently requested a photo session with our T. I was happy to oblige our neighbor and local photographer, Adri, who knows how to arrange the proper background, lighting, and the countless details which when combined properly, make for truly remarkable photographs!

Please enjoy a few photos Adri had graciously allowed for us to include in this issue of the Flivver Flash. And thanks to model Catherine



for taking care of my Chicago Typewriter during the photo shoot (pun intended), too!



2022 Texas T Party

SEP 28 AT 8 AM – OCT 1 AT 10 PM

JOIN US FOR THE 45TH ANNUAL TEXAS T PARTY! HALLETTSVILLE TEXAS, "THE CITY OF HOSPITALITY" WILL BE THE AREA OF EXPLORATION THIS YEAR. THIS RURAL COMMUNITY OF POPULATION 2550 IS THE COUNTY SEAT FOR LAVACA COUNTY. RICH IN HISTORY, SCENIC ROLLING HILLS AND SMALL TOWN CHARM WILL MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE TOUR FOR OUR BELOVED T FAMILY! WE WILL ALSO VENTURE OVER TO "THE CLEANEST LITTLE CITY IN TEXAS" - SHINER, CUERO (LEATHER IN SPANISH) AND PARTS OF NEIGHBORING FAYETTE COUNTY.



THIS EVENT WILL BE LIMITED TO 75 VEHICLES

Wednesday will be a full day of touring

[Hallettsville PDF Registration Form](#)

Host Hotel:

Hotel Texas 361-798-5900
1632 N. Texana St

hoteltexas.net

Single King: 95.95 +tax

Double Queen: 100.95 +tax

Moderate truck/trailer parking

Secondary Hotel:

Best Western Executive Inn
361-798-9200

207 US HWY 77 South

69.99 + tax

Truck/trailer parking for guests

Lavaca County Expo Center/RV Park

**1/4 mile from Host Hotel also overflow truck/
trailer parking**

<https://www.lavacaexpo.com/rv-park.html>

361-798-1600

Chairperson

Jeff & Farrah Cordes

361-772-5767

Co-Chair

Jim & Sandra Ruhmann

979-292-5658

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 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual club dues are \$25 per year.

2022 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	David Carter	713-875-1049
Secretary	Bruce Carter	713-703-2958
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Rick McCracken	281-726-5695
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Anthony J. Marino	281-482-4156

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

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

website: www.spacecityts.org

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:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, TX 77059

A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2022 dues!

For Sale: 1918 SOUTHERN WIDETRACK COUPELET



All new body wood done by Ray Wells. Body work almost complete. Motor rebuilt to a short block. Car is disassembled. More photos available upon request.

\$13,500

Contact:
Eric 'Gator' Gould
318-268-8538 (AL)

For Sale: 1920 Model T Center Door Sedan



Recently rebuilt engine and transmission. Flat tube Brass Works radiator, new upholstery kits ordered, 12v, new firewall and floorboards

\$10,000

Eric "Gator" Gould
Hm: 251-765-2677

For Sale: 1927 Ford Model T, 2 door, Tudor Sedan



Excellent stock example of the final year of Model T Ford production #14,494,433. Well maintained with lots of original parts. Licensed in Texas.

\$12,500

Contact:
Walter
520.255.2757 (TX)

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, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford
Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

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

Check your email to see if our **May 11, 2022** Meeting is at Demeris BBQ and the Lazy Brook Baptist Church



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

located at

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

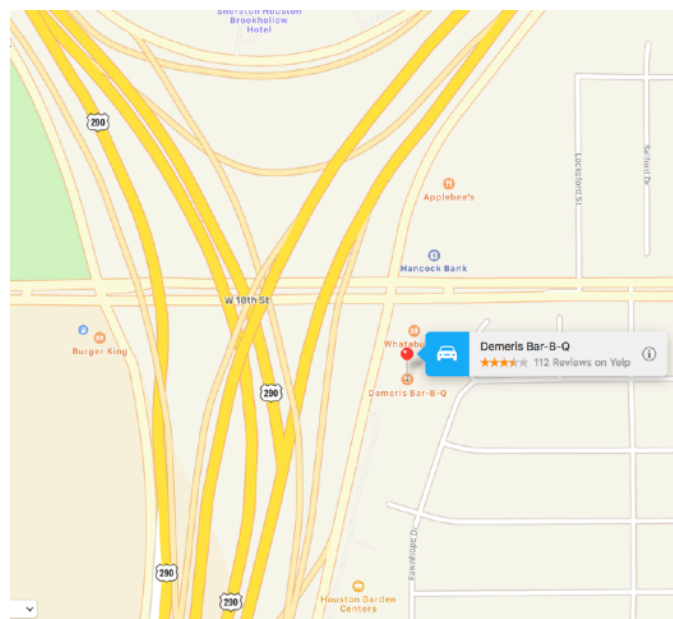
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

Lazy Brook Baptist 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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