

The Flivver Flash

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

Titling the "T" Tests Titleholder's Temperament

By Steve Wirtes

This is the tale of the tribulations endured while wading through the process of titling an out-of-state vehicle in the State of Texas. Understand, I purchased my T at a VERY attractive price and the seller was a complete gentleman who was completely transparent, so I do not fault him one bit. Dealing with government bureaucracy, however, is another matter. When buying an out-of-state car without a title or registration, titling it in Texas is a tedious process, so please factor this in when comparing it against an in-state car with a clean Texas title.

The State of Texas has a Bonded Title Procedure packet available for free at your local Assessor and Collector of Tax Office, which will provide step-by-step instructions for Texas residents. First step is to make an appointment with local law enforcement for them to verify the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number). Likely your local police department cannot perform this function, as I was told to make an appointment with the Sheriff's Office Auto Crimes Division.

For more Space City T's of Houston info:

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

In my county there is six-week backlog, so be patient.

You must bring the car to their office, and it would be a good idea to have a copy of your **Texas Liability Insurance Card** should you be stopped (if driving it) along the way. The car is not required to be operational, but it must be a complete vehicle including a frame, body, and motor.



Inside This Issue

Page

Titling the "T" Tests Titleholder's Temperament

1 - 3

March 2022 Tour – Bellville Area / Trailer Alarms & GPS Tracking

4 - 6

Membership / Ads / General Info / [Space City T's Videos](#)

7

Club Info / Dinner Info / Monthly Meeting Info / Map / [Useful Space City T's Links](#)

8

The Sheriff's Office will also require your **Bill of Sale**, your **Texas Identification (driver's license)**, and a \$40 check (no cash) or \$43 if using a credit card. I also brought along the **Form 130-U Application for Texas Title and/or Registration** that was completed by me and signed by the seller when I purchased the car.

Their job is to verify the VIN which, in the case of all Model T's, is the engine number, as Ford (I am told) prior to 1925 did not apply secondary numbers to the frame. The Sheriff's Office will complete **Form VTR-68-A Law Enforcement Identification Number Inspection**.

This complicated my situation, as my engine serial number was from 1922, but my car's body had the features of a late 1923 or 1924 car (radiator size, cowl differences, etc.). The owner prior to the fella I bought my car from had a brass plaque with his and his wife's names indicating the car was a 1923 model. This same fella was one of the founding fathers of a Model T club in Rhode Island and was highly-respected for his knowledge of T's so I consider my car a 1923 model with a 1922 engine. As it turns out, the State of Texas had to title my car as a 1922 model, as the engine number was the only means to confirm model year.

I took all of the aforementioned forms in bold print above to the Texas DMV Regional Service Center (Houston), waited in line for two hours, then stood for 45 minutes in front of the clerk only to be told there were errors on the form the Sheriff's Office had completed. To be honest, one mistake was legitimate (indicating the engine was from 2022 instead of 1922) but the other one where the Sheriff indicated the car's body was from 1924 was open for debate. The Sheriff had noted the car was from 1924 due to the body features but the "Regional" folks did not like that. So, it was back to the Sheriff's Office to make the correction and then

back to the torture chamber, er rather, the DMV Regional Service Center.

With my documents properly endorsed by the DMV Regional Service Center I thought I could now proceed to my local Tax Assessor's office to secure my title and license plate. Wrong! Now I am told I must contact an appraiser to value my car. Not any appraiser, mind you, but one sanctioned by the State. This individual will complete and provide you with the **Form VTR-125 Motor Vehicle Appraisal for Tax Collector Hearing / Bonded Title** for the sum of \$250. This is so the State can get their pound of flesh as the fact their "presumptive value" tables do not go back 100 years ago.

Oh, but there's more the Surety Bond, which I was told your car insurance carrier can provide, was wrong again! Only certain folks are authorized to complete the **Form VTR-130-SB Certificate of Surety Bond**, and don't you dare bring in a color copy like I did or you'll be waiting in line again. They must have the ORIGINAL copy. This expense was a \$200 fee (plus \$3.00 credit card fee).

My final trip to the local Tax Assessor's office was to bring in ALL aforementioned documents —my file now requiring a folder—to them. They also had me complete, in their presence, the **Form VTR-270 Vehicle Identification Number Certification** as well as **Form VTR-54 Application for Antique License Plate**. Seems like I also had to provide a DNA, stool samples, and a pint of blood, but it's all a blur as of this writing.

So now, breathing a sigh of relief, I leave the Tax Assessor's office with a temporary paper license plate in hand, a copy of my **Title Application Receipt**, and my wallet a few hundred dollars lighter having paid the sales tax on my purchase price, \$13.00 Title Application Fee, \$20.00 TERP Title Fee, \$25.00 Sales Tax Penalty Fee (which I'm going to challenge),

\$50.00 Antique Plate, \$10.00 City Road Bridge Add-On Fee, and \$4.75 Processing and Handling Fee.



This might normally be the end of the story, but sadly, it is not. Seems a keystroke mistake of one digit indicating my purchase price of the car was made by the Tax Assessor's Office clerk resulted in my being sent a letter in the mail a week later. Now they want an additional \$68.75 tax due. Coincidentally, I received my permanent (5-year) Antique Vehicle metal license plate the same day.



Part of me wanted to tell them to go pound sand, and yet somewhere in the recesses of my

mind I am hearing Mark 12:17 "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's." I returned to the Tax Assessor's Office and paid the \$68.75 error and inquired about why I was charged the \$25.00 late fee. The clerk explained one has 30 days from date of purchase to begin the title transfer process to which I replied I had complied, and it is not my fault there is a six-week backlog at the Sheriff's Office Auto Crimes Division office. I was told to fill out yet another form and mail it to the State to request the \$25 Penalty Fee refund. With the current inflation rate, the \$25 might buy me 2-3 gallons of fuel later this year.

I hope you enjoyed the story. Please understand every person, and I mean EVERY PERSON I dealt with, was most courteous and professional. Surprisingly, I never got irritated or angry, but maybe a bit frustrated.



All it took was a short drive in my T afterward and I soon realized it was worth the effort.

March 2022 Tour – Bellville Area

By Doug Brough

We started out at the magnificent 7: Doug and Shelley Brough, Dean and Lily Dockery, Mike Schlitzus, Bill Severn and grandson Tanner Grebe.



We met at Scott and Leslie Grants home.



They had donuts, kolaches, and juice for us to enjoy.

The men enjoyed touring Scott's man cave.



Notice the unusually outfitted bathroom:



The women enjoyed a tour of the house, courtesy of Leslie. Sorry ladies, no pictures of that, since I was in the man cave!

Our 9:30 tour left promptly at 9:40. Not a problem - we had plenty of wiggle room. Our goal was to head to Orsak's Café in Fayetteville for lunch, in a roundabout way. Not too far along FM 159 Mike's car starting giving him trouble. At first it was thought to be the magneto. He got it running on battery but decided he better head back to Scott and Leslie's. Well, he didn't quite make it. The timer disintegrated! Bill and Tanner stayed with him until Scott could come and drive him back to get his truck and trailer. Meanwhile, Doug and Shelley and Dean and Lily carried on with the tour.

We found a few dirt roads, and the bluebonnets were just starting to come out.



While Doug and Shelley and Dean and Lily meandered to Fayetteville, Bill and Tanner shot across FM 159 as fast as their car would carry them, after leaving Mike safely with Scott. Unbelievably we all arrived at the restaurant at the same time!



We finished lunch around 1:30 and decided to just drive straight back to Scott and Leslie's. We arrived back at their place around 2:45.



Our Lord blessed us with perfect weather. We enjoyed one another's company, good food and a fun drive. Total mileage for the day, 50 miles meandering to Fayetteville, 30 miles coming straight back. A special thanks to Scott and Leslie for allowing us to meet at their place, and taking great care of us.

See you on a future tour!

Trailer Alarms & GPS Tracking

By Bruce Carter

In one of the past Space City T's of Houston club meetings, after a trailer was stolen from the 2021 Texas T Party parking lot, there was a discussion regarding trailer alarms and GPS tracking.

I offered to research the topic because many of my survey contractors had tracking units on their trucks, ATVs, UTVs, trailers, etc. After talking with some of these guys, and realizing there was a variety of opinions, I found the website below for a group that carries multiple products and offers support in selecting the units to fit individual preferences.

[Welcome to Trailer Alarms, LLC - Trailer Protection - Theft Prevention \(trailer-alarms.com\)](http://www.trailer-alarms.com)

I would recommend anyone interested to start with these folks and see if they can develop a system that fits their needs and budget. The units and monitoring services are not cheap, but at the same time offer comfort in knowing an asset can be tracked and potentially recovered, as the recent T Party circumstance demonstrates.

Also, there may be some benefit from cost savings on insurance if these units are installed on the trailers or vehicles.

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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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!

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

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)

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, etc. etc. to: topkick7@outlook.com

Check your email to see if our **April 9, 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

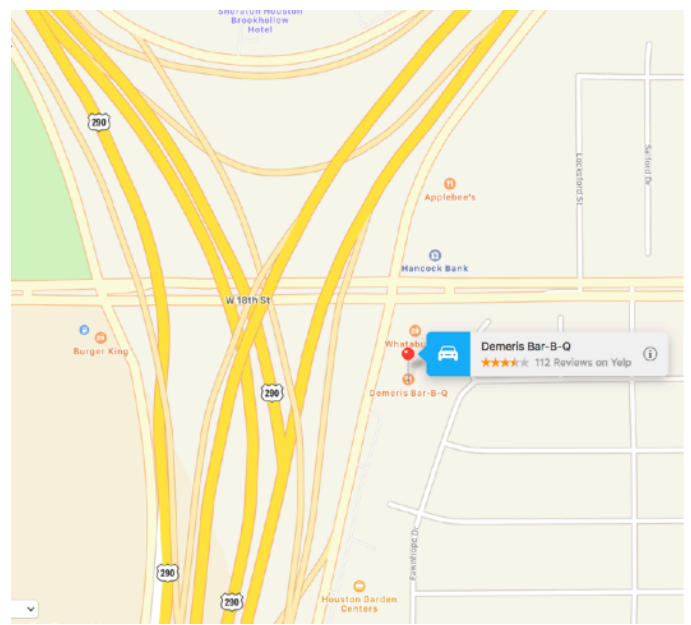
Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Place:

Lazy Brook Baptist Church
1822 West 18th Street in the
Heights

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

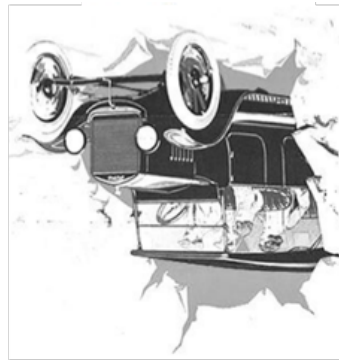


Directions to Demeris BBQ

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



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