

The Flivver Flash

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

SOLUTION TO THE STUCK NEEDLE SYNDROME

By Alan Fairclough & Stephanie Oehrlein

My 1926 Tudor, *Pretty Boy Floyd*, has been suffering from carburetor woes for quite a while. It runs out of fuel, and when I took the carb off and took it apart, it was apparent the fuel metering valve was stuck solid. I ordered a kit from Lang's, but the new style fuel kit was back ordered.



I got the old-style rubber tipped needle and socket kit instead. My existing new style ball valve socket was stuck solid with dirt and rust, with no way of taking it apart, so I was down to the only available option. The old-style needle was also sticking in the closed position, and it would take a few gentle taps with my hammer to dislodge the pin and get fuel flowing again.

Normal as it may seem to be using a hammer to get my old car running on the side of the road every quarter of a mile, it is a nuisance. A solution was required.

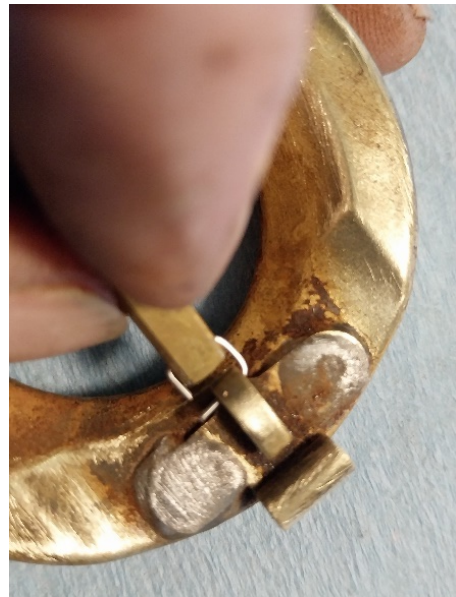


Remembering the Stromberg carburetor on my 1946 Ercope 415C, the metering needle was also a problem. Originally, a brass needle and seat were used. It required installing it with a light tap with a hammer to get the needle seated. Not too hard, not too soft, just the right tap. Lapping the needle valve was not a solution.

They changed that to a Delrin tipped needle, but with time, the Delrin would deform and leak. They then went to a Buna N tipped needle, which did not do too good with the new aviation fuel, so it was a scramble to go back to the old brass needles, which were hard to find for a while. The good thing about the Stromberg needle is that it probably leaked, but did not stick, because it had a wire bail underneath the needle.

I decided I would improve on the NH carb for my T by adding a bail.

I took the existing needle and carefully drilled a 1/16" hole in the lower end of the needle body. I then made a wire bail to hang below the needle. The stirrup of the bail is hooked below the tang on the float, so when the float drops down as the fuel level gets lower, it pulls the needle down off the seat and prevents it from sticking. The bail is thin steel wire and small enough to not affect the movement of the needle and close enough, so that the engine does not run out of gas before the float pulls the needle down.



The first test was a dry test. Before the repair: I held the carb upside down and blew through the fuel inlet, and the needle was seated, no air flow. I turned the carb right side up and repeated the test, and the needle remained stuck. Tapping the carb upside down with a hammer managed to dislodge the needle and allow flow.

Repeating the dry test several times proved that the needle was stuck in the seat well enough that it would not drop by its own weight.

After the repair: the air does not flow with the carb upside down but does flow when turned right side up.

Running test: before the repair: Tap the carb, the bowl fills up and seals off. The car runs for about a minute, starts sputtering and dies because the needle is stuck.

After the repair: the car starts and runs as it should.

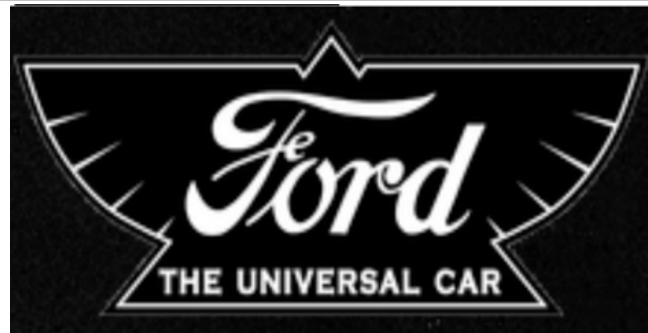
This repair was easily done with hand tools and no animals were harmed in this process. Just got a minor flesh wound to the author while working with steel wire.



Space City Ts Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org

FB: [Space City Ts of Houston Facebook](#)



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





The George Ranch would like to invite The Space City T's to come out and show their cars for the following dates:

June 15th is our tribute to Father's Day: 8:30am- 4:30pm located at the 1930's George Ranch House. The car show will be a surprise to the fathers that come to see The George Ranch and for the groups taking a survival class at the 1830's.

November 15th-16th our biggest event out of the year called Frontier Days!!

Frontier Days consists of battle re-enactments, live entertainment, cowboys, games, historic home tours, vendors and food. We would like to have Model T's included as well.

Friday November 15th: 8am- 2pm located at the 1930's George Ranch House consist of lots of schools.

Saturday November 16th : 8am-5pm located at the 1930's George Ranch House will be open to the public

Plan on coming to show your Model T or for more information please contact:

Victoria Martinez Weaver

vmartinez@geogeranch.org

(346)620-0127 #252

Education Coordinator 1930 George Ranch House,

Education Department,

The George Ranch

10215 FM 762

Richmond, Texas 77406

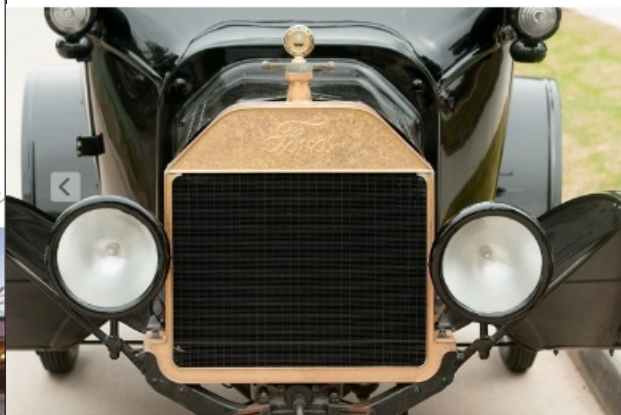
2024 Texas T Party

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



47th Annual TEXAS "T" Party Registration Form
Kerrville, Texas
October 16th - October 19th, 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

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:

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

\$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

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

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

CLUB MEETING MONTHLY SCHEDULE

- June 12th – 7:30pm Face to Face at LifeBrook Church with Zoom and Demeris BBQ

- July 10th – 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**

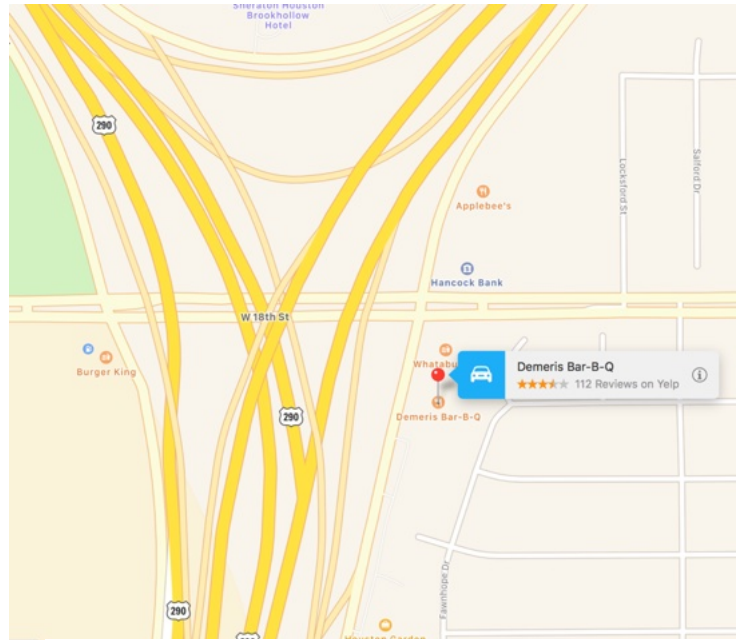
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

Place:

**Lifebrook Church
1822 West 18th Street in the Heights**

Website: www.spacecityts.org

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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