



# Thunderbird NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016 VOLUME 18, #2

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# editor's CORNER

## February 2016

Hello Club Members,

This issue is a Tribute to our Founder Felipe Cos. The Cover page is devoted to Felipe and Christy's 1956 Thunderbird that participated in the Great Race of 2004

I surely appreciate the articles that are being contributed to our Thunderbird News by our members. Please keep them coming! Top priority will go to articles about a Classic Thunderbird of South Florida Events and we welcome any story about a Classic Car Event where Thunderbirds appear. Technical articles are much appreciated, as some of us do get our fingernails dirty and our knuckles bloodied!

This year I look forward to a short story from EVERY CLUB MEMBER who owns a 1956 T-Bird for the 2016 Thunderbird News

Tell us how you found it and why you bought it.

Where and from whom you bought it. i.e. (a nice couple living in Indianapolis who had owned it for 20 years)

If it has "history" or "celebrity"

What condition was it in when you bought it?

What you have had done to it since you became the owner of it

What your plans are for the car in the future

Believe me, we want to hear about YOUR car!

You don't need to be a 'literary genius' to write a few lines. I can fix up if you like

Please us Microsoft Word or the Apple Pages

If you have favorite pictures of your "baby" please send those also, 1mb or smaller

Deadline is the 3rd Thursday of the month right after or month club meeting.

Thanks to you all for contributing to this month's edition,

We are very grateful to all our advertisers who have helped to make it possible to continue to publish our monthly newsletter,

The Thunderbird News.

Welcome HILL'S AUTOMOTIVE!

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Ed Raabe

## CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA CTC CHAPTER #114 FEBRUARY 2016 VOLUME 18, #2

Our meetings are held the Third Wednesday of each month at The Trattoria Pampered Chef 7347 Miami Lakes Dr. Miami Lakes FL 33014 Our Host is Gabriel Nash.

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[www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com](http://www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com)

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Felipe Cos Founder

### PAST PRESIDENTS

**Felipe Cos** 1999

**Ed Brown** 2006-07

**Ken Lemming** 2000

**Connie Danluck** 2008

**Felix Hernandez** 2001

**Ed Brown** 2009

**Norm Gabe** 2002

**Daisy Hernandez** 2010-11

**Andre Fournier** 2003-4

**Peter Klein** 2012-13

**Connie Danluck** 2005

**Ed Raabe** 2014-15

## THUNDERBIRD INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY:

Our Club's web page:

[www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com](http://www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com)

2005 Thunderbird: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.fordautomobiles.com](http://www.fordautomobiles.com)

Ford racing: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.fordacing.com](http://www.fordacing.com)

Speedvision: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.speedvision.com](http://www.speedvision.com)

CTCI's Home Page: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.ctci.org](http://www.ctci.org)

Daytona's Turkey run: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.carshows.org](http://www.carshows.org)

Metroplex EarlyBirds: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.geocities.com](http://www.geocities.com)

Arizona Classic T-Bird Club: \_\_\_\_\_ [classic-thunderbird.org](http://classic-thunderbird.org)

Santa Clara Valley T-Birds: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.tbird.org/scvt](http://www.tbird.org/scvt)

Sierra Nevada Classic T-Bird: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.tbird.org/snctb](http://www.tbird.org/snctb)

Connecticut Area Classic T-Bird: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.tbirdsofconn.com](http://www.tbirdsofconn.com)

Chicagoland Thunderbirds: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.thunderbirds.org](http://www.thunderbirds.org)

Potomac Classic T-bird: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.hydratech.com](http://www.hydratech.com)

Old Cars \_\_\_\_\_ [www.greatoldcars.com](http://www.greatoldcars.com)

Classic T-Bird Club of Chicagoland \_\_\_\_\_ [www.ctcc9.com](http://www.ctcc9.com)

### CTCI NEWS

DUES ARE DUE in NOVEMBER each year  
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To become a member or renew your membership

Please go online to  
[www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com](http://www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com)

Checks may be sent to:

#### THE CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB of SOUTH FLORIDA

Attention: Peter Klein, Treasurer  
4133 Park Ave. Miami FL 33133

## INTERNET PAGE

**Have you seen our internet page?** We have changed our address [www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com](http://www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com) and we have a Facebook page too! Search Classic Thunderbird Club South Florida or

[www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFLorida](http://www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFLorida)

We encourage participation on our Facebook page. Send Posts about everything Thunderbird related and we will enjoy other "car stuff" too.

Like Museum Visits, Car shows and Cruise Ins you attend. And other stuff you think we T-Bird lovers would like. Just keep it as clean as your T-Bird on "Detail Day"!

## NUMBERS TO KEEP

**The following are contact numbers and e-mail address you need to have on file:**

**AACA Ft Lauderdale Region.** President Bob Dunn  
954-563-7696 [www.ftlauderdaleaaca.com](http://www.ftlauderdaleaaca.com)

**AACA South Florida Region.** President, Ron Mitro  
305-467-8196 [www.aaca.org/southflorida](http://www.aaca.org/southflorida)

**Auto Appraisal Network:** John & Bret Layzell  
305-899-9963 [www.autoappraisalnetwork.com/miami](http://www.autoappraisalnetwork.com/miami)

**Benefit Car Shows:** Oscar Castro  
305-467-8196 [www.benefitcarshows.com](http://www.benefitcarshows.com)  
[oscar@benefitcarshows.com](mailto:oscar@benefitcarshows.com)

**Gerry Car Show:** Gerry Perez  
786 344-4228 email [gerrycarshow@bellsouth.com](mailto:gerrycarshow@bellsouth.com)

**Magic Mustangs:** Frank Alonso  
305 551-6077 [Fadatec@aol.com](mailto:Fadatec@aol.com)

**Muscle Stangs of Miami:** Ayanidys Martinez  
305 321-0437

**Jumpin' Jack Productions:** Jack Corssino  
305-214-2277 [www.jumpinjackproductions.com](http://www.jumpinjackproductions.com)

**DB Entertainment Inc.:** Dick Barten  
954-563-4000 [Bandsouth@bellsouth.net](mailto:Bandsouth@bellsouth.net)

**Cruisin South Florida:** Scott the MusicMan  
[scott@cuisinsouthflorida.com](mailto:scott@cuisinsouthflorida.com)

**Ft Lauderdale Mustang Club:** Mark Patterson  
[www.flmustangclub.com](http://www.flmustangclub.com)

**Cobra Joe Productions:** Joe Bevelacqua  
[jbevsr@msn.com](mailto:jbevsr@msn.com)

**VMCCA Sun Coast Chapter.** President David Bobbitt  
305 661-1340 [bobbitt@comcast.net](mailto:bobbitt@comcast.net)

**Russ G Events:** Russ Gagliano III  
[russ@russgevents.com](mailto:russ@russgevents.com)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY



**SHELLY FAUST Feb 18**

**KARL HOFFMAN Feb 09**

**DEBBIE LAVISTA Feb 21**

**MIKE MCNEAL Feb 03**

**BOB TONEY Feb 19**

My apologies, If I have missed your birthday it is because I do not have your information. Please contact me to update your records.



# Letter from the President

Oscar Castro

FEBRUARY 2016



As I predicted last month, the Tropical Park on Sunday January 24th, was better than last years, but (and I will predict again) not as good as our 2017 show will be, because we just keep on improving every time! Everyone in the club knows the following, but just in case someone else is reading this and is wondering why we keep getting better, it is because of the group effort by our wonderful members! Everyone came together on show day and the result was an awesome Show! Go to the Gallery section of our website to see all the pictures that everyone has posted been posting.

Next on the list will be our February 5-7 weekend trip to Fort Myers for the Ford Show and the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Train Ride, Thank You Daisy for taking on the planning for this event!

When we return, don't miss our February meeting on the 17th, Rally Day. John Layzell will be showing some videos of the Road to Mandalay and the Florida Car Marathon 500 Mile Precision Rally reps will also be there to tell us about their rally.

Following right behind in March, will be our participation in the RM Auction, I cannot emphasize enough how important this event is to the club. This event is a major source of financing for our club and every single member should do their part and help out with this event.

During the rest of the year, we are working on putting together a lot more activities for our members and guests to enjoy!

Keep an eye out for emails and check our website, [www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com](http://www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com), for the latest news on what the club is planning.

Happy Birding!

**Oscar Castro**  
President - 2016  
Classic Thunderbird Club  
of South Florida





The following article was taken from **Thunderpedia, First Edition** supplement by Felipe Cos.

These batteries are getting harder to find!

Recently I needed to re-place my 29NF battery and thought I would share this information. My battery was a NAPA 7280 and the positive post came loose.

I contacted my local NAPA store in Davie and they ordered me one into that store, which arrived in 2 days! My battery was pro-rated and I received a discount. Final price \$88.00. There are a few choices as listed below, but I get a good value from the NAPA product.

Thunderbird News is the official newsletter of the Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida. Our purpose is to inform our membership about, club meetings, club activities, Classic Car events and articles of interest to Ford Thunderbird owners.

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The views and opinions expressed in Thunderbird News are those of the named author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, The Board of Directors of the Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida or those of the membership.



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### DEVIL QUESTIONS... ANGEL ANSWERS

Some answers are from my own 50+ years old experience. Some are from someone else's experiences. Most of them are from different publications. Felipe Cos

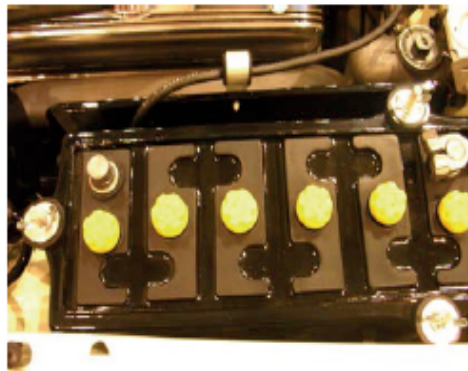
## Battery.

**Q: WHERE CAN I GET BATTERIES FOR MY 56-57 BIRD?**

**A:** You will be able to get batteries from any of the Bird's vendors, or you may buy them locally at various auto parts stores.

Those batteries are the large size batteries-you may ask for 29NF battery model in any brand.

This is the #1 sell by the Bird's vendors, looks like as the original one with individual vents. (Cost \$270.00)



The following are the ones that will fit in your birds: (Cost \$140.00-160.00)

REPLACEMENT LOOKS DIFFERENT BUT THEY WILL FIT

NAPA #7280 Model 29NF, CA 465, CCA 390.



EXIDE STANDARD PART #29NF-6, CA 450, CCA 390.



INTERSTATE MODEL 29NF-VHD, CA 525, CCA 420.



MOTORCRAFT MODEL BH-29NF, CCA420.



# CTCI NEWS **Announcing the 2016 International Convention in San Diego, CA**

**"FUN, FUN, FUN in THE CALIFORNIA SUN"**

The CTCI Board of Directors has voted to approve the sanctioning of the 2016 International Convention in San Diego, California. It will be co-hosted by the Earlybirds of Southern California and the Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego, to be held September 13-18, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108 Phone 1-800-2- Crowne The room rate is \$124 per night, promo code '2016 Thunderbird Convention'. The Hotel with start taking reservations in October 2015. Registration forms will be in the January-February 2016 Early Bird.

Plans for the event include a Polynesian style welcome pool party, a tour of the USS Midway, including a luncheon at the Bow area, the Corvette Challenge at the Corvette Diner, a Scenic coastal cruise drive to the San Diego Botanical Garden, an Outing to the Viejas Casino and Outlet Center, finishing off with the Concours d' Elegance and Awards Banquet.



For further information look for updates at [www.CTCI.org](http://www.CTCI.org) Or contact Martha Lazdins 949-6611426 [hmlazdins@att.net](mailto:hmlazdins@att.net) or Alan Custinger, 760-745-9345 [1940mv8@cox.net](mailto:1940mv8@cox.net)

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CARD SIZE \_\_\_ \$95.00 (MEMBERS ONLY)



# #99 Thunderbird and the Great Race of 2004

Ed Raabe

Our Cover photo this month is a picture of Felipe and Christy Cos's 1956 Thunderbird. In keeping with our goal to tell a short story about our members 1956 Cars, I thought we could start by honoring our founder Felipe Cos on the first anniversary of his passing on to that Great Race in Heaven, with a recollection of his participation in the Great Race of 2004

Rallye racing was a great passion of Felipe's. He would say "Car shows are for car owners, Rallyes are for car drivers, which one are you?" Not only did he race in Rallyes, he used that experience to create the Florida 300 Mile Rallye, which drew people from all over the world here to Florida to compete for a Decade! The last Rallye was held in 2014.

By 2004 The Great Race had become an American Institution. Conceived in 1983, the first Great Race started Los Angeles, CA. and followed a route to Indianapolis IN. with a winners purse of \$250,00.00 and 69 participants.

In 2004 from June 19th -July 3rd the route was Jacksonville FL. to Monterey CA. This would be Felipe's second Great race.

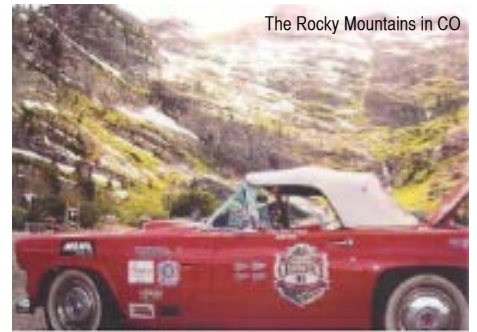
The race started with 110 cars. On the 4th day his car lost the transmission seal near Mt Vernon AK. Working late into the night at a nearby transmission shop by 12:30am it got fixed, but he still had to drive 3hrs to the hotel for the start of the day at 7am! If you do the math, they went out with about just 3 hours rest!

Felipe told a funny story about how his navigator, an old school pal who was living in California then, once got a "nature call" and had to stop. "Do you know much time you loose if you need to tale a "pee" break..It takes up 1 mimute and 34 seconds @ 50 mph. and you need to dirive at 55 mph for 340 seconds to make that time up". They don't call it a prescion ralley for nothing! He climbed a mountain in Utah at just 20mph and Aced the day! 11 states, rain snow and sandstorms and "amazing vistas" in 14 days.

He remembered the turnout of sometimes over a thousand spectators at the stops along the way.

80 cars finished the race and Felipe finished at 52nd , actually 21st in his class. The Winner, a 1916 Hudson, off just 1 minute and 54 seconds! I guess they didn't need to take a "pee" break! One of his best recollections was seeing Christy at the finish line in Monterey cheering him on!

Felipe's car as entered, was the #99 Thunderbird Precision Team 1956 Fiesta Red Thunderbird with the soft top, fender skirts removed and running original steel wheels. The engine had a fresh overhaul, with new rings & bearings installed and he had a special spare parts bin consrtructed for behind the seat, otherwise it was just the way he always drove it at home.



The Rocky Mountains in CO



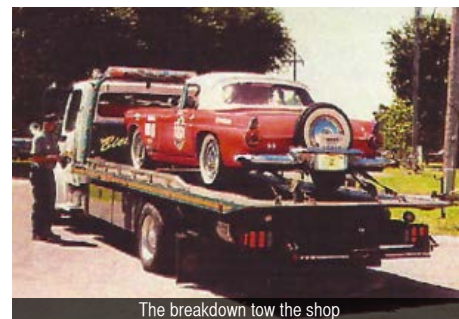
Felipe's Grandson helping CO



At the Starting point



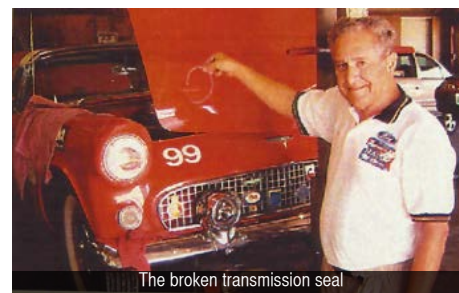
The Ladies at a Lunch stopover



The breakdown tow the shop



Christy and Connie cheering Felipe at the Finish Line



The broken transmission seal



At the Finish Felipe with Christy and Connie



Helping the mechanic in AK





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www.thunderbirdclub.us

**Leo Saladino**  
Vice-President  
Cell: (718) 812-0991



# 16th Annual Classic Thunderbird Club SFLA Open Car Show



The 16th Annual Open car show our Thunderbird Club Sponsors is now history and once again we had a great turnout!

Over 186 cars of all kinds including 16 Classic Thunderbirds from 1955 to 1966 and a few "New Birds" were on display.

The day started out early, 7am with temperatures in the low 40's, which is "way cold" for south Florida. Undaunted we arrived at the site to set up just after sunrise. Stuart and I were the first to get there, Oscar, our new club president and show organizer and Marcia followed with the tents, tables, chairs and signs. It was starting to look like it was really going to happen, but then who could doubt we would have a great show. Fortified by doughnuts and coffee courtesy of Raul and Stuart by 8:30 we were ready and the first cars began arriving just before 9am. And it was warming up to the 50s! The final temperature 62 degrees with bright sunshine and a light breeze.

Some of the unusual cars you "never see" outside of Concours shows these days were John Lazelle's 1937 Alvis Speed 25 Vanden Plas one of only three surviving out of 391 produced in the world! All original and unrestored Alvis was an English Motorcar manufacturer producing 20,374 from 1920-1967

The cars were Alvis produced chassis with engine, transmission and running gear with custom coachwork, not unusual in the day. This particular car with Vanden

Plas aluminum coachwork was shown in London at the 1936 Olympic Motor show!

Norm and Robin Gabe brought their wonderful 1956 Thunderbird and the newest car in their stable, a 1959 Edsel Citation. Since I also own a 1959 Edsel, this car really interested me. Edsels are a very rare site at car shows here in Florida. Norm just received his car at the beginning of the weekend, as it was an Ohio car and this was the first time at a show in Florida. We look forward to seeing it again to admire Norm's personal contributions in restoring this often misunderstood Marque.

Martin a proud 1962 Thunderbird owner also owned a 1948 Buick and is a Buick fanatic. We had the opportunity to talk to the owner of a beautiful 1954 Roadmaster Riviera Sedan equipped with factory air-conditioning. The owner, Al Padilla when restoring the car insisted on an original factory air-conditioning system for his car. He was able to find a car up north that had one, he reclaimed and restored all the components, installing it to perfection right down to the clear plastic cold air delivery tubes going from the rear deck lid to the headliner. You see the evaporators were mounted in the trunk, not under the dash in those days, so the tubes needed to clear not to obstruct the rear view! This car was stunning!

The Awards table was full of beautiful trophies and the winners are chosen by only the participants. For the Thunderbirds,

we have 3 Awards honoring Felipe Cos our founder. It was especially wonderful to see Christy, Felipe's wife at the show today. Grace and Martin won 1st place for their 1962 Thunderbird convertible with the roadster tonneau cover, with Ed and Raul taking the 2nd and 3rd Memorial Awards. Grace recently did some research and obtained an original copy of the sales receipt and Monroney sticker for their Bird, which is a nice addition to their storyboard.

Other cars of interest included Tony Valera's new addition, a 1950 Pontiac Catalina which won best in class even though it wasn't a Chrysler! (for those who don't know, he wins a trophy at every show for his Chrysler).

Ford was represented not just by Thunderbirds, but 2 Panteras and a half a dozen Cobras were in attendance! Michael Areas won a trophy for his 1974 Blue Pantera.

When it came to awards Jorge Del Rey walked away with 4 trophies for the cars he brought including "Best of Show" for his 1956 Chevy Bel Air.

Thanks to the great effort of Georgina, Leo and Arlene we raised \$740.00 in the 50-50 raffle! This year \$340 goes to the McPherson Automotive College scholarship in the name of Liz Brown. The Club contributes annually from the proceeds of the 50-50 raffle. Liz and Leo Smith not only won the longest distance traveled to the show, coming up from Big Pine Key, they won the 50-50 also!

We are grateful to all those Club member volunteers who contributed to the setup, registration, vote tally, front gate, parking and awards.



Alvis 1





Alvis 2



Best of Show Cars



Ed Wins Cos Trophy



Alvis 3



Buick 1



Grace wins Cos Trophy



Arlene & Daisy



Buick 2



Gary Best Corvette



Bos 1



Buick 3



Georgina Regi Desk



Bos 2



Club Cars 1



Ed's 55



Bullet-Flair and Aero Birds



Club Cars 2



Club Cars 3





Gary-Paul Entrance



Grace 1



Grace 2



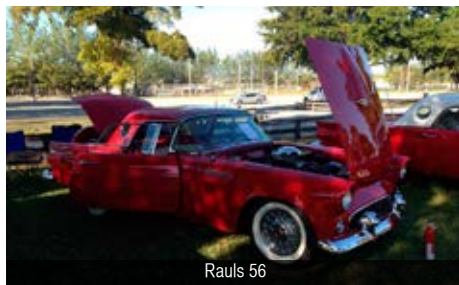
Leo - Flix fix it



Leo\_Arlene 50-50 Raffle



Liz -Leo Smith



Rauls 56



Regi Desk



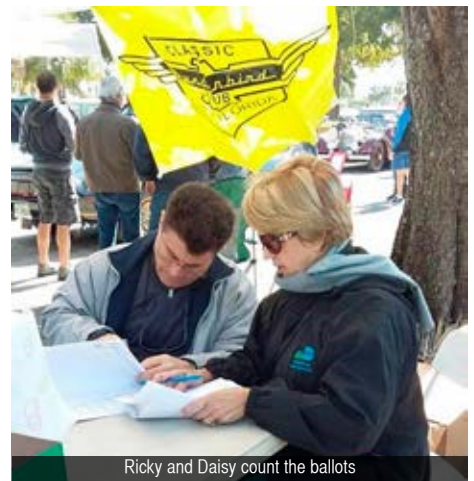
Norms Edsel 59



Oscar Trophys



Raul Wins Cos Trophy



Ricky and Daisy count the ballots



Rob-Debs 66





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## 2016 AACA NATIONAL/REGION EVENTS

(check [Antique Automobile](http://Antique Automobile) or [www.aaca.org](http://www.aaca.org) for more information)



February 11-13, 2016– AACA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

March 16-19, 2016– Winter Meet, Naples, FL; hosted by Naples Marco Island Region

April 7-10, 2016--Southeastern Spring Meet, Charlotte, NC; hosted by Hornets Nest Region

May 5-7, 2016 AACA Special Meet Auburn, IN; hosted by AACA National

May 19-21, 2016 - Eastern Spring Meet; Vineland, NJ - hosted by South Jersey Region



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## SECOND EDITION RELEASED

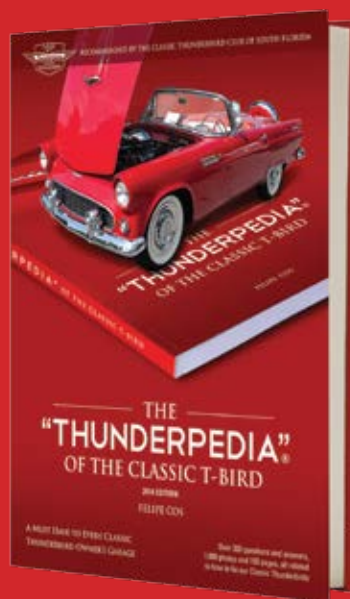
Felipe Cos introduced The Second Edition of the "Thunderpedia of the Classic Thunderbird" at the Branson/Springfield Convention.

It has over 300 questions and answers, 1,000 photos, and over 150 pages, all related in how to fix our Classic Thunderbirds.

There are no other books similar to this.

Price is \$35.00 Postage is \$6.00

For more information contact Ed Raabe by email at [ed.raabe@gmail.com](mailto:ed.raabe@gmail.com)



## To all members

Remember that this newsletter goes to press the 15th of each month. Please remember the date!

If you want your article to appear, I need it by the 15th!

We welcome any contributions that members can make to our newsletter!

This year We want to feature stories about YOUR 1955 Thunderbird

Do you have any interesting photos of your car? Send it to me!

Do you have any interesting story about your car? Send them to me!





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<b>9431-ECJ</b>	LH	255.00

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Our kit includes antenna with plastic base & rubber pad.

<b>18813-AR</b>	55/57	kit	59.95
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**TOP WEATHERSTRIP KITS**

We have been told that all of our hardtop & soft top weatherstrips are **"The Best Available"**.

We carry both types of hardtop weatherstrips!

**HARDTOP KITS**

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<b>51502-CK</b>	10 Pc. Kit.	394.95
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**Upholstery Kit Includes:** Seat Covers, Backrest Board, Door Panels, Quarter Panel Cardboards, Windlace, Garnish Rail Covers, Arm Rest Covers, Welt Cord Beading, Vinyl Floor Cover, Dash Cover, Drop Curtain & Carpet **CALL FOR PRICING!**

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- ✓ 2 - Front bushing
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- ✓ 2 - Center bolt & nut

<b>5550-AKR</b>	55	kit	139.95
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We have 3 & 4 row core radiators available for your Thunderbird!

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- OPTIMA** - 4 ROW, MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY CORE WITH 1/2" TUBES ON 5/16" CENTER

<b>8005-STD</b>	55/57, 3 row core	399.95
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<b>8005-HE</b>	55/57, High Efficiency	529.95
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