



Thunderbird NEWS

OCTOBER 2016 VOLUME 18, #10



PROUD ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL TROPICAL PARK CLASSIC CAR SHOW

SPONSOR OF THE FELIPE COS MEMORIAL FLORIDA 300 MILE RALLY

WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS 2015 GOLDEN QUILL AWARD

HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 THUNDERBIRD

THE FELIPE COS MEMORIAL FLORIDA 300 MILE RALLYE FINALISTS EDITION

CHULA VILLAGES SEBRING LAKE PLACID
ARCADIA FORT MYERS MIAMI

LAP AROUND THE TRACK
SEBRING THUNDER CAR SHOW
SEBRING THUNDER LIVE CONCERT
WINE TASTING
TREASURES MUSEUM
RUBEN'S BREAKFAST

PRESENTED BY THE
CLASSIC Thunderbird CLUB
SOUTH FLORIDA

REGISTRATION CLOSURES AUGUST 31
REGISTRATIONS

Florida's
300
MILE RALLY

INSIDE THIS EDITION
FLORIDA 300 RALLY coverage, START to FINISH!
THE SEBRING THUNDER Spectacular
Classic Thunderbird Club Member's Cars in the Rally
Tech Talk, CTCI News
Upcoming Club Events, Car Shows and Cruis-Ins
MUCH MORE!

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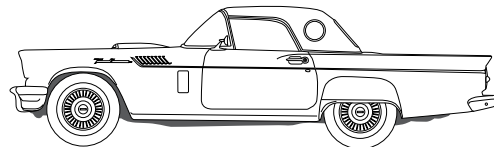
Brent B. – Iowa



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editor's CORNER

OCTOBER 2016

Hello Club Members,

This Issue is dedicated to telling all our members about the GREAT TIME we had on the Florida 300 Mile Rallye in September. There will be, space permitting, lots of pictures from beginning to end, covering each event! Arlene and I participated with Car #12. It was our first Rallye and we had FUN!

Our monthly News magazine has lots of useful information, including upcoming Car Shows and Cruise-ins, Club contact information and technical articles. From time to time information becomes outdated. If you see an error, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can be correct in the next issue.

Recently we have been honored by receiving the OLD CARS Weekly 2015 GOLDEN QUILL AWARD for a Collector Car Club Newsletter.

We have just received a CTCI Newsletter SILVER AWARD for our February 2016, Felipe Cos Tribute Edition

Thank you all who have contributed stories and pictures in 2016. We again compete among hundreds of Club publications for 2017!

Pictures of the Events are also available for viewing on our Club Facebook Page www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFLorida and our club Website www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com

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,

Ed Raabe

CTCI CHAPTER #114 OCTOBER 2016 VOLUME 18, #10 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

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.

CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFlorida

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

October Auto Trivia



Q: What city was the first to use parking meters?

The answer is on the last page!

THUNDERBIRD INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY:

Our Club's web page:

www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com

2005 Thunderbird: www.fordautomobiles.com
 Ford racing: www.fordacing.com
 Speedvision: www.speedvision.com
 CTCI's Home Page: www.ctci.org
 Daytona's Turkey run: www.carshows.org
 Metroplex EarlyBirds: www.geocities.com
 Arizona Classic T-Bird Club: classic-thunderbird.org
 Santa Clara Valley T-Birds: www.tbird.org/scvt
 Sierra Nevada Classic T-Bird: www.tbird.org/snctb
 Connecticut Area Classic T-Bird: www.tbirdsofconn.com
 Chicagoland Thunderbirds: www.thunderbirds.org
 Potomac Classic T-bird: www.hydratech.com
 Old Cars www.greatoldcars.com
 Classic T-Bird Club of Chicagoland www.ctcc9.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER



Paul Werner 1st
Oscar Castro 2nd
 (Our Fearsome Leader!)
Mareylis Manso 5th
Valentyna Saladino 16th
Vera West 16th
Kay Hall 25th
Marion Schade 27th

Lisette Morales 28th
Debbie Ferretti 28th

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

INTERNET PAGE

Have you seen our internet page? We have changed our address www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com and we have a Facebook page too! Search Classic Thunderbird Club South Florida or

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 Louis Tassi
 954-782-0107 www.ftlauderdaleaaca.com

AACA South Florida Region. President, Ron Mitro
 305-467-8196 www.aaca.org/southflorida

Auto Appraisal Network: John & Bret Layzell
 305-899-9963 www.autoappraisalnetwork.com/miami

Benefit Car Shows: Oscar Castro
 305-467-8196 www.benefitcarshows.com
oscar@benefitcarshows.com

Gerry Car Show: Gerry Perez
 786 344-4228 email gerrycarshow@bellsouth.com

Magic Mustangs: Frank Alonso
 305 551-6077 Fadatec@aol.com

Muscle Stangs of Miami: Ayanidys Martinez
 305 321-0437

Jumpin' Jack Productions: Jack Corssino
 305-214-2277 www.jumpinjackproductions.com

DB Entertainment Inc.: Dick Barten
 954-563-4000 Bandsouth@bellsouth.net

Cruisin South Florida: Scott the MusicMan
scott@cuisinsouthflorida.com

Ft Lauderdale Mustang Club: Mark Patterson
www.flmustangclub.com

Cobra Joe Productions: Joe Bevelacqua
jbevsr@msn.com

VMCCA Sun Coast Chapter. President David Bobbitt
 305 661-1340 bobbitt@comcast.net

Russ G Events: Russ Gagliano III
russ@russgevents.com



Letter from the President

Oscar Castro

OCTOBER 2016



Fellow Members, Thank You all for the continued increase of the monthly meeting attendance! Once again, we filled out the room for our September meeting! Please note that there will not be a monthly Wednesday meeting for October, it will be replaced by the LUAU (see more below). I hope to see all for our last Wednesday meeting of the year, which will be on Wednesday November 16th. The December meeting will be replaced by the Holiday Party on Sunday December 11th (see more below).

The 7th Edition of the Florida's 300 Mile Rally, now known as the Felipe Cos Memorial Florida's 300 Mile Rally is now history! A group of 37 cars journeyed north to meet up with the 100 plus group of cars coming from other areas to participate in all of the events that made this an AWESOME weekend! It was a fun and exciting weekend (Sept 16-19), jam packed with activities such as; the 300 MILE RALLY, the MUSEUM VISIT, the GROUP LUNCHEON, the WINE TASTING, the WELCOME RECEPTION, the BURNOUT COMPETITION, the GROUP DINNER AT LOCAL WATERING HOLE, the CAR SHOW, the FLEA MARKET, the BBQ DINNER, the WINE AND CHEESE AWARDS RECEPTION, the MULTIPLE LAPS AROUND THE SEBRING TRACK, the SCAVENGER HUNT, and the GROUP LUNCH on the road back! For those of you that missed it, don't worry, you will get another chance to experience the Rally, since we have already schedule the 8th edition for September 15-17 of 2017!

We received confirmation from the Venetian Isles Homeowner's Association to have our LUAU at their lakeside club house on Saturday October 15, 2016. We then confirmed with the troupe of Polynesian Dancers and the Fire-Knife Dancer, as well as with the very special Chef that will cook a great meal for us, right at the feast! Remember, this event will be at no cost to our members, just one of the ways that we are demonstrating our commitment

to invest in our members and to thank them for their continued support during our activities and their willingness to say "present" when we need help with our fundraisers. We are about 3 weeks away from the LUAU, so please; look around for festive islands clothing to fit the ambiance for the evening. IMPORTANT, please go to our website www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com and read all about the LUAU, then click on the RSVP link to let us know how many people are coming. You must RSVP for this event.

The Holiday Party is almost here too! Please go to our website www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com and read all about it, we have a wonderful menu planned and as always a bunch of fun activities. I am particularly looking forward to the Mean Santa Exchange brought to you by our Premier Mean Santa Coordinator, Daisy! We will send out an email soon with the details and the link so that you can RSVP and choose your entree. You must RSVP and choose your entree for this event.

Please save the date, SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2017, that will be the day for our yearly Tropical Park Show! This year, the attendance by show cars was super, and we also had many people come forward and volunteer to work the show! The result was an awesome show, and as history has shown, we get better every year, so get ready for another super show in 2017! More information coming soon!

Information on all of our activities are posted on our website www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com, check in often! Please make sure that your yearly club dues are up to date so that you can take full advantage of all our activities!

Thank you all for being members of the best Classic Thunderbird Club in South Florida!

Happy Thundering!

Oscar Castro

President - 2016

Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

October 15th Saturday, The Luau
Venetian Isles Homeowner's Club House 15399 Egret Lake Circle Miami, Coral Way & 153rd Ave 7:45-9:30pm

December 11th Sunday, The Holiday Party
94th Aero Squadron 1395 NW 57th Ave Miami FL 6-9PM

January 29th 2017 Sunday Club Car Show, Tropical Park





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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2016 AACA NATIONAL/REGION EVENTS

Check **Antique Automobile** or www.aaca.org for more information



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

June 3-4, 2016- Annual Grand National, Williamsport, PA – hosted by the Susquehannock Region

June 12-17, 2016—Sentimental Tour - Salisbury, NC

July 14-16, 2016—Central Spring Meet - North Mankato, MN

July 17-21, 2016—Founders Tour - Huntingdon, PA

July 31-August 3, 2016—Eastern Divisional Tour - Richmond, VA

August 11-13, 2016—Southeastern Fall Meet - New Bern, NC

September 1-3, 2016—Western Fall Meet - Cheyenne, WY

September 11-16, 2016—Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (VMCCA) - North Conway, NH

October 5-8, 2016—Eastern Fall Meet - Hershey, PA

October 20-22, 2016—Central Fall Meet -Galveston, TX

November 5-11, 2016—Reliability Tour

- Savannah, GA



ANNUAL RATES for advertising in the newsletter

FULL PAGE _____ \$675.00
1/2 PAGE _____ \$375.00
1/4 PAGE _____ \$250.00

CARD SIZE _____ \$150.00(NON MEMBERS)

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Miami, FL 33146
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New West Kendall Location
12539 SW 128th Street
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(Near Tamiami Airport)
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CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

September 21, 2016 6:30 PM at Trattoria Pampered Chef, Miami Lakes

BY SHELLY FAUST

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting called by Oscar Castro
Oscar Castro, President
Type of meeting: Monthly Club meeting
Facilitator: Oscar Castro
Recording the Minutes: Shelley Faust

THE MINUTES

Business Agenda item: Upcoming events and Recap of The Felipe Cos Memorial Florida's 300 Mile Rally

CALL TO ORDER: 7:20 PM

Oscar wants everyone to know that the website has been updated.

Our next event will be the Luau on Saturday, Oct. 15th from 7:45 – 9:30 PM. It will be at the Venetian Isles Homeowners Club House – 15399 Egret Lake Circle in Miami.

The Venetian house has a lakeside and beach area. It is on Coral Way and 153rd Ave. There will be Polynesian dancers, a fire dancer and great food. It is free to members.

For each invited guest it will be \$ 35.00 each.

Our Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 11th from 6 – 9:30 PM at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.

They are located at 1395 NW 57th Ave. in Miami by the airport. There will be a fish, chicken, prime rib and vegetarian selection. It was mentioned that the prime rib is delicious. The DJ will be Elvis.

Please see form online.

If you want to participate in our gift exchange, please bring a super interesting gift for around \$ 20 or more. Please put your name on the gift. Please note that we put a spin on the exchange and have a lot of fun.

Each member pays \$ 15.00 for the Holiday party and the club pays \$ 20.00.

For each invited guest again it will be \$ 35.00 each.

Leo bought some antique signs to the meeting as a preview. They will be raffled off at the party.

We had some new members join us tonight:

Bob and Natalie who have a 65 Mustang and Bob is working on a 49 Hudson.

Jose and Meta who have a 56 Gold painted car with a Corvette motor.

WE ALL ENJOYED THE RALLY.

It was unanimous that Oscar did a super fantastic job and we all want a repeat.

Our group had 5 winners at the Sebring rally.


Ed wanted to mention that Norm took pictures on his drone at Sebring.

Our car show which was mentioned after we adjourned will be on Sunday, January 29th, 2017 at Tropical Park, which is a week before super bowl Sunday.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn was at 7:40 PM.



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www.thunderbirdclub.us

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



CTCI Classic Thunderbird Club International Membership



It's called the **Classic Thunderbird Club International**, and you will find members throughout the United States and all over the world.

Why a Thunderbird Club?

Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI) was formed to band together owners and admirers of the 1955-57 Ford Thunderbird — to serve as a medium of exchange of ideas, technical information, and sources for parts. Lasting friendships have been formed through local chapters, Regional Conventions and International Conventions. Moreover, CTCI is recognized and sanctioned by the Ford Motor Company, which extends cooperation and support.



I encourage all New Club Members to join CTCI as soon as possible and Current Members to keep your CTCI membership up to date.

Felipe Cos founded our CTCI Chapter, #114 for South Florida in November 1998. Since then our club has hosted a CTCI International Convention in 2004 and grown to include 50 member families.

Look at the benefits of membership. For myself, I have saved a lot of time and money by visiting Gil's Garage, hosted by Gil Baumgartner CTCI Authenticity Chairman and 'Thunderbird Guru' and the Early Bird Club magazine is full of great articles and Club stories!

I have included the current CTCI membership application, which is available www.ctci.org in an editable .pdf format.

What Membership Means

Whether your Classic Thunderbird serves as everyday transportation, a relaxing hobby or both, you will find valuable help in your restoration and maintenance problems in the TECH TIPS printed in the club publication, the **EarlyBird**. This informative, illustrated periodical is distributed every two months and contains a variety of interesting features. Articles about historical data, members and their cars, news of chapter events and activities, are all profusely illustrated with photos. In addition, the **EarlyBird** offers an advertising service to those wishing to buy, sell, or swap parts or cars. You can review the contents of the current issue on our web site: www.ctci.org.

Tours, meets, road rallies, picnics and other outings designed to encourage group participation are regularly conducted by the various chapter groups. Check our web site www.ctci.org for a chapter near you. You are cordially invited to attend any of these friendly chapter meetings or events. CTCI members may also participate in Concours d'Elegance competition at CTCI conventions.



SCAN ME!

Standard or Premium Packet

Every new member receives a Standard New Member Packet upon payment of the initiation fee and dues. This includes a striking windshield decal, the latest edition of the **EarlyBird**, a membership roster with our club By-Laws, 3"x5" CTCI logo dash plaque and other general information. The optional Premium Packet includes the above plus a beautiful metal CTCI grille emblem. Many items such as service and transmission manuals, decals, handbooks and numerous self help items are available and sold to CTCI members only. See our Member Store at www.ctci.org.

OUR OBJECTIVE:
EVERY CLASSIC T-BIRD OWNER IS A CTCI MEMBER

Classic Thunderbird Club International

1308 E. 29th Street, Signal Hill, CA 90755-1842 USA • 562.426.2709 • Fax: 562.426.7023 • Email: ctcioffice@ctci.org • Web site: www.ctci.org
Phone Toll Free 1.800.488.2709

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Mail Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email Address _____

CTCI Chapter Affiliation (if any) _____

- New members please fill out application and send payment (in U.S. funds ONLY*) to the address above.
- Make checks payable to CTCI, or pay by credit card by email, fax or phone.
- Current members may renew dues online at www.ctci.org.

Please select one of the following prorated amounts:

Month Joining	One Time Initiation Fee	+	Dues	=	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> January thru March	\$15.00	+	\$35.00	=	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> April thru June	\$15.00	+	\$26.50	=	\$41.50
<input type="checkbox"/> July thru September	\$15.00	+	\$18.00	=	\$33.00
<input type="checkbox"/> October thru December	\$15.00	+	\$9.50	=	\$24.50

NOTE: Add \$16.00 to select Premium Packet with CTCI Grille Emblem.

Annual dues renewal will be \$35.00, payable January 1 of each year.

Premium Packet with Grill Emblem = Add \$16.00 to total

TOTAL ENCLOSED: (\$US) _____

*NOTE: Members outside the U.S. may pay dues by credit card. You may send credit card information by email, fax or phone. U.S., Mexico and Canada: First Class..... Additional \$15.00/year Other Foreign Countries: A/O Rate..... Additional \$35.00/year (not including Mexico and Canada)

Signature _____ Date _____ Check here if you wish to be listed in the CTCI roster, as of April 1st.

I give permission for my phone number and/or email address to be listed in the CTCI roster.

(NOTE: Phone numbers & email are for office use only, or for the roster if you choose to have it published. Roster addresses may be sold only to T-Bird vendors to be used only for catalog purposes.)

Are you a former member of CTCI? Yes No If Yes, what is your former CTCI membership number? _____

Sponsored or Referred by _____ CTCI # (if known) _____

CAR DATA

This section is optional, but will help us to complete our historical data base registry. Your ownership information will be kept confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes. This data will be found on the fire wall, inside the engine compartment; left hand side by the heater box. Please fill in the number and letters as stamped on the data plate. If you have more than one T-Bird, please copy this form and submit each car's data. How many Thunderbirds do you own? _____ 55's _____ 56's _____ 57's

Year _____ Serial Number _____

For 1955, 1956, and early 1957's: (see example)

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Production Code _____

For late 1957's:

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ Trans _____ Axle _____

Registered Owner (if other than member) _____

Address _____

License Number _____ State/Province _____ Is your T-Bird primarily Original or Modified?

Color (if not per data plate) _____ Mileage _____ Condition (rate from 1-5, 1 is best) _____

Special Features or Remarks _____

rev 1/2015-WEB



For Office use Only
CTCI # _____ Date: _____
Ck # _____ Amt Rec'd: _____



UPCOMING CLASSIC CAR EVENTS

CAR SHOWS



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
10:00am - 3:00pm
Hollywood Boulevard
between 19th & 20th Avenue
 Classic Cars, Modern Classics & Custom Cars
Free Admission • Vehicle Registration \$20
On-site registration from 8:00am - 10:00am
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Sunday October 2nd, 2016
 11am to 3pm
Carolina Ale House (Weston)
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50/50 Raffle benefits: Darrell Gwynn Care Unit

 * Shut off that Old Race Car * Bring Memorabilia *
 * Relive the good old days * Large trailer lot *
Special Guest: The Cabriolets & Florida Street Rods
 Registration: \$10.00 ** Info: Eugene 954-419-8836
 ** crrd.com/contest.htm



Sunday 11
 Sunday 1

Car Show & Movie

Saturday, October 1st • 4:00pm
Heritage Park (19200 Collins Ave)

Join us as some of the best show cars in South Florida come out and shine in the city's premier park. Starting at 4:00pm, the car show will have a live DJ, free crafts for the kids, and other fun activities. When the sun goes down we'll end the event with a showing of the classic film GREASE. This event is FREE and Open to the Public! The 528 Shuttle bus provides free transportation within city limits. FREE Event Parking is available in the Heritage Park Parking Garage and under the William Lefeman Causeway.



Car show starts at 4:00pm
GREASE
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Call 305.763.0706

To enter your car in the show, call
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Drive down the application accepted until September 15th

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
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Saturday Dec. 3rd
Friday night Nov. 11th

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www.benefitcarshows.com

TEAMSTERS 769 10th Annual Picnic & Car Show
Saturday, November 5, 2016
 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Markham Park
 16001 West State rd 04 Sunrise, Florida

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Help Stamp Out Hunger
 Please make every effort to bring your non-perishable items to the picnic to make our food drive for Feeding South Florida a Success

Entry Fee \$25.00 (2 adults) includes Food & Drinks, trophies to be awarded

Please R.S.V.P. with Huey Morales at (954) 536 - 3492

Please Note: One meal Ticket will be provided for each person (Replacement Ticket will be \$10.00 each)

Meal includes: Chicken, Ribs, and Beer & Soda
 Hot Dogs & Hamburgers Unlimited all Day at no cost



www.benefitcarshows.com

Toys for Tots Car Show

The members of **Sanctuary Church**
 1400 South Federal Highway
 10 blocks south of Atlantic Blvd

Saturday October 22, 2016
 11 am to 4 pm
 (No open to 10)

Music by **Just the Music Men**

Donations: Food, Drinks, Raffle Cars

Prizes: Best of Show, Top 10

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 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____ CLUB AFFILIATION _____

I agree to abide by all the rules of the show and understand that I am responsible for my car. I agree to release them all liability, the Ft. Lauderdale Region of AACA, the Car Auto Group and Sanctuary Church for any damage, injury or loss of value property of this event. I understand that AACA retains the right to withdraw any participant in this event for any or no reason.

Signature _____ Date _____

Vehicle Make _____ Year _____ Model _____ Color _____

Early registration \$15. After October 15th or day of show \$20.
 Make check payable to Ft. Lauderdale AACA and mail with this form to:
 AACA, 6158 NW 46th Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33067
 May also register on line at: www.AACAFtLauderdale.com

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The Felipe Cos Memorial Florida 300 Mile Rally/ Tour

BY ED RAABE

2016 marks the 7th Anniversary of The Florida 300 Rally.

The Rally has been renamed in honor of the memory of Felipe Cos our Club founder, The Felipe Cos Memorial Florida 300 Rally.

Rally racing was a great passion of Felipe's. He even competed twice in The Great Race. He would say "Car shows are for car owners, Rallies are for car drivers, which one are you?" Not only did he race in Rallies, he used that experience to create the Florida 300 Mile Rally 10 years ago, which has drawn people from all over the world here to Florida to compete since then! His last Rally was held in 2014, just a few short months before he passed.

This story is about the adventures of a Classic Thunderbird Club member couple's FIRST Rally Experience.

Arlene and I set out on our first Rally adventure on Friday, Sept 16th at 6am.

Thirty Seven Cars (37), Drivers and Navigators, competing in the 7th Edition of the Rallye arrived at the Seminole Truck Stop on US 27.



Breakfast was provided by The Florida Car Marathon.

Florida Car Marathon be holding their 7th edition 500 Mile Rally March 30th to April 3rd in 2017

We were ready to begin our journey to Sebring FL. at 7am, right on schedule!. Oscar gathered us up, passed out our Car Decals and Rallye books and gave us the PEP talk.



Ricardo, Richard, Stuart & Gail Valentyna looks over the Rally Book



I have to tell you, when we saw the size of the book, 77 pages, we became a little apprehensive (transaltion: freaked out) since we never Rallyed before. None the less, off we went. Arlene Driving and me Navigating.



Our 1st Auto checkpoint was missed because we were so nervous, but Oscar anticipated that, so it was a "gimmie" and there was no penalty.

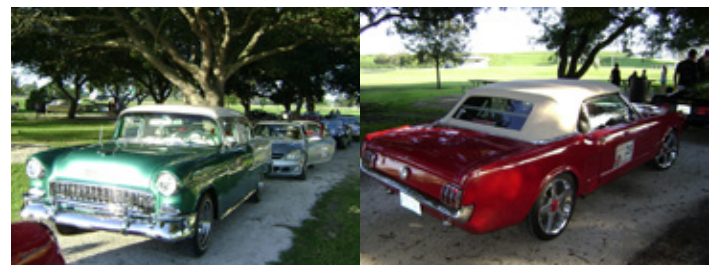
By the way, we missed the next one too!

Luckily Oscar gave us all that one too so it did not count against us either.



We all arrived In Lake Harbor an hour later for a "Tailgate" breakfast.

So far, we hadn't lost anyone, but the day was young and we were just an hour into it.



Arlene with our Rally Car

Pit Stop at the Circle K on US 27, Great Idea! Some of us need gas, but all of us need the restroom!



Everyone was comparing notes and the enthusiasm for the event really took hold!

For us, we were hooked! It helped that we were getting the Auro Control Zones now and we did all arrive at the gas station within 5 minutes of each other!

Next stop, "The Treasures Museum" in Lake Placid. This place was amazing, and no matter what kind of a "Car Enthusiast" you are, you appreciate the VW! The building was a 100 year old former Citrus Packing factory that Robert, the owner, had converted to his restoration shop, devoted to VWs. He told us he once had 80 cars there and judging from the mounds of old VW parts covering the floor, we believed it!



Also there were a few rare cars in there including an unrestored, original Type 1 convertible, he found in Argentina!



Another convertible sported a post-war radio that had only German city names on the dial, because immediately after World War 2, German cities only had one station each!



Paul Werner solved the riddle about Robert's doctor brothers (aka Robert is lying) and won a magnum of a nice Cabernet!

Off again, at 12 noon for a drive around scenic lakes Placid and June, toward our final destination, lunch served by Century 21 Advanced. All Service Realty in Sebring.



Lunch eaten by 1:30pm, we were off again to the Henscratch Winery, know for it's wine, jams, jellies, sauces and dressings, all made from local fruit. Some had fun feeding the roosters and hens running all around, hence the name Henscratch winery, while others sampled the Fruit Wine. Our timing was perfect as a torrential thunderstorm arrived at the same time, but not before we were all safely under cover!



The Final and 5th Leg of the Rally began at 2:30 to Chateau Elan Hotel at the Sebring Intl. Raceway, our Rally's final Destination, but a surprise was in store! Driving to the Hotel,



Oscar, who I forgot to mention was the Orchestrator of this Rallye, was standing in the road waving wildly at all of us to head down a road away from the Hotel!

Funny thing was, Arlene and I booked a different Hotel and we were heading that direction toward downtown already!

So WE knew where we were going, and sure enough, as we pulled off the side of the road, everyone followed us. Since we were the lead car.

I guess we really looked like we knew what we were doing! Oscar caught up and then, itinerary changed, we were off to the Sebring Circle to register for Saturday's big event, The Sebring Thunder Car Show!



Theresa and Mike McNeal like the band!



Oscar on Traffic Duty

Registration went off without a hitch, due to the excellent planning by Oscar, we were all preregistered and just had to pick up our Car Cards and "goodie bags". Kathy and Madge from the Sebring Thunder organization did a great job! After we were all done it was off to the Hotels to check in and get ready for dinner later at the Cowpoke's Watering Hole.

Dinner at The Cowpoke's was a real taste of "country". Everyone enjoyed the food and the band. We were joined by our friends Fran and Norm who have a home in Lake Placid. Norm brought his Phantom Drone to take videos of our cars at the Sebring Thunder Show the next day.



Leo, My name is Saladino, and don't forget it!



Ricardo and Cindy enjoyed the dinner!



Oscar,
What,
Me WORRY?



Saturday, WOW, did we get the Royal Treatment from the Sebring Thunder Show officials, a whole street, just for us!

The Sebring Thunder Car Show started in 2009 and had over 150 cars in attendance last year. With our 37 cars, they topped 200 in 2016!

Three days of Sebring Thunder include a "Burn Out" contest, Car Show at the Historic Downtown Sebring Circle, Awards BBQ Dinner and a few laps around the Sebring International Raceway!



We all lined up along East Center Avenue starting at 8am.

This is a great Venue, Cars for the Guys and shopping for the Gals! There were 18 Classes from Vintage 1901- "Diamond in the Rough"

At 12 Noon, Car owners went to their cars and revved up the engines to create the famous "Sebring Thunder". Our friend Norm arrived at 11:30 to launch his Drone and Video the Event. The Video can be seen on You -Tube and pictures are also available on our Club Website

www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFLorida

See our cars displayed.





Special note for Thunderbird lovers. Donny and Marie Keaney, originally from the Bronx, NY, now Sebring residents were on hand to display their "Honeymoon" 1955 Thunderbird. I had the great pleasure to talk to Marie, who told me Donny had bought the car brand new in 55 and they Honeymooned with it in 61! Avid street and track racers, they displayed 'period' pictures of their racing exploits with their car!



Marie told me "I was one of the 'good' girls so they let me start the races by throwing down my scarf". She said "you know it wasn't legal, but all you guys did it"! I confessed about my street racing days on the Brooklyn-Queens expressway and we were "fast friends"!

She even had a picture of her racing in a Hemi powered Hydroplane!

Following the Car show we all went back to the Hotels to relax and cool off before heading to the Elks Club for the BBQ and Awards.

Dinner was efficiently served, but since the Venue was a last minute alternative, there was not enough room for everyone. Oscar got a room in the back bar opened and tables set up for our Rallye group. Arlene and I arrived last, found seats up front, but didn't see the rest of our group, because of that.

The Fla 300 Rallye group earned several awards. Andres Rodriguez for his VW Beetle; 1st in VW Class, Arlene Raabe for her Mercedes SLK280; 1st in Foreign Sports Cars Class and Paul and Anita Werner for their Mini Cooper Roadster; 1st in Specialty Car Class.

The funny story is since I did not see Paul & Anita in the room, I assumed they did not come for the BBQ, so I went up to receive the award for them, when their name was



called. As I am beginning to tell the audience about their car I see them strolling up the isle from somewhere in the back! "OMG you ARE here", I said. Then the former Mayor of Sebring, who was announcing the winners said, referring to me, "I don't know about this guy, I think he's just looking for 2 awards". The room erupted in laughter!



Sponsor's awards went to Jose & Meida Canal for their 56 Bel Air convertible and Ray & Lea Nodarse for their outstanding Corvette C7

A Wine and Cheese gathering followed back at the Chateau Elan Hotel. Awards were given for the Rallye participants and to the person who could solve the Murder Mystery Riddle.

Antique Class Winners



John Layzell; Driver and Celia Layzell; Navigator won the Rallye with only 27 seconds off perfect time with 2 Aces! Second place went to Steven Ellinport; Driver and Susan Ellinport; Navigator, 36 seconds off and Third Place to Dave Kissel; Driver and his nephew, Tony Blair; Navigator, 44 seconds off perfect time.





Modern Class Winners

Tony Bedford; Driver and David Bedford: Navigator, 1st place 24 seconds off perfect and the BEST Rallye performance! Ray Gonzales; Driver and Rosy Diaz; Navigator, 71 seconds off with 2 Aces. Paul Werner; Driver and Anita Werner; Navigator, 82 seconds off. Arlene and I came in 5th with 112 seconds off, Not bad for the Rookies!

Bob and Natalie Heslekrants won a Magnum of Cabernet for 'Fill in the Blanks' (aka getting to know you). The challenge was to speak to every Navigator to get their phone number!

Please see the complete results of all the participants on the charts.



Sunday morning, we kicked off the day with breakfast at the Runway Cafe at the Sebring Airport. It was foggy when we arrived but by the time we were done it cleared and we could see the planes just a few feet in front of us on the tarmac. Oscar received an appreciation gift card from all of us, presented by Daisy.

He had a Car Decal with Felipe Cos Rallye number 99 made, which we all signed, to be given to Christy, Felipe's Widow, as a tribute to Felipe. A very emotional moment for all of us!



RALLY ANTIQUE CARS

PLACE	CAR NUMBER	
1	03	27 - John & Celia [2 ACES]
2	17	36 - Steve & Susan
3	20	44 - David & Tony
4	34	49 - Jose Antonio & Rodrigo
5	25	61 - Gene & Edith
6	26	86 - Andres & Guillermo
7	04	119 - Manolo & Kokys
8	10	125 - Leo & Valentina
9	30	129 - Ricardo & Cindy
10	13	142 - Elvis & Marcia
11	05	160 - Jose & Meida
12	22	168 - Calel & Caleb
13	27	170 - Bruno & Fernando
14	08	223 - Stuart & Gall
15	24	265 - Eddy & Diana
16	32	291 - Thiago & Michelle
-	09	No Score Turned In
-	28	No Score Turned In
-	31	No Score Turned In
-	33	No Score Turned In

RALLY MODERN CARS

1	11	24 - Tony & David [Best Score Overall]
2	15	71 - Ray & Rosy [2 ACES]
3	07	82 - Paul & Anita
4	19	86 - Richard & Gina [3 ACES]
5	12	112 - Ed & Arlene
6	02	139 - Richard & Mareylis
7	06	241 - Mike & Theresa
-	00	No Score Turned In
-	01	No Score Turned In
-	14	No Score Turned In
-	16	No Score Turned In
-	18	No Score Turned In

SEBRING THUNDER CAR SHOW

FOLLOWING RALLIERS WON IN THEIR DIVISION

12	Ed & Arlene
07	Paul & Anita
26	Andres & Guillermo

FOLLOWING RALLIERS WON THE SPECIAL SPONSOR'S CHOICE AWARD

05	Jose & Meida
35	Ray & Lea Nodarse

Next we caravanned over to the Sebring International Raceway tarmac to stage up for the "Lap Around the Track"

After some delay due to the Porsche Club scheduled track time, everyone was able to drive several laps to make up for the time we had to wait! Everyone got a chance to test their machines and display their driving skills! Below is John and Celia Layzell in the queue.



Finally, our last Adventure was the "Scavenger Hunt on the way to Punta Gorda for lunch at Fisherman's Village Harpoon Harry's B&G. We followed the backroads of Florida looking for clues for answers to jot down in our Rallye book, such as 'Itchy Fowl Grape Juice' was Henscratch Winery, which we noted as we passed by the sign. "What do the Nickelson's Drink?" seeing a sign for Nickelson's Dairy, the answer must be Milk and so on!



SCAVENGER HUNT WINNERS

Oscar compiled the results and announced the winners at lunch.

John and Celia, 1st place winning by getting the Bonus question correctly! David and Tony 2nd and Ray and Rosy 3rd Event though we struggled to find some of the clues Arlene and I managed to finish 6th.

SCAVENGER HUNT (aka FIND THE CLUES) ACTIVITY

Correct		29 Active Questions
27	03	John & Celia (Bonus Answer Broke the Tie)
27	20	David & Tony
26	15	Ray & Rosy
26	07	Paul & Anita
24	08	Stuart & Gail
23	12	Ed & Arlene
22	30	Ricardo & Cindy
19	24	Eddy & Diana
17	14	Norm & Robin
18	22	Calel & Caleb
16	29	Bob & Natalie

After a great seafood meal on the water at Harpoon Harry's we all wondered through the stores at Fisherman's Village, then homeward bound.

Arlene and I were worn out, but glad we had the opportunity to join a great bunch of people, have a super time and discover the FUN of Rallying!

Kudos to Oscar Castro for all the hard work he put into making the 7th Florida 300 Rally a big success!

NEXT RALLY

I don't know about you, but if I had never heard or been in a Rally before, and I had just read this article, I would definitely want to be in the next one! Well, for all those adventurous souls out there, those that have never rallied but would want to, and those with RALLY blood already running thru their veins, don't worry, the 8th edition of the Florida's 300 Mile Rally will be held next year during the weekend of September 15-17! Check the Thunderbird's Club website [www.thunderbirdclubsouthflorida.com] for details and the kickoff announcement.

TECH TALK CORNER

T-BIRD TECH REMINDER

Why modern motor oils may not be good for Our Thunderbird Engines.



Zinc Dithiophosphate (ZDDP) is no longer available in most modern motor oils. Our Thunderbird engines require the ZDDP to provide lubricity to prevent premature camshaft wear (i.e. costly engine rebuild).

Some motor oils have ZDDP in them, such as Joe Gibbs Break-in Oil, Valvoline VR1 Racing Oil, or Eastwood ZDDP oil additive for classic vehicles that were manufactured before 1989.

The Eastwood product can be added at the time of an oil change if you use a modern engine oil or synthetic oil.

Remember our old T-bird engines were designed to use ZDDP in the oil because we have flat tappet cam and valve train.

Mike McNeal

CTCI NEWS

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October Auto Trivia ANSWER

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A: Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935.

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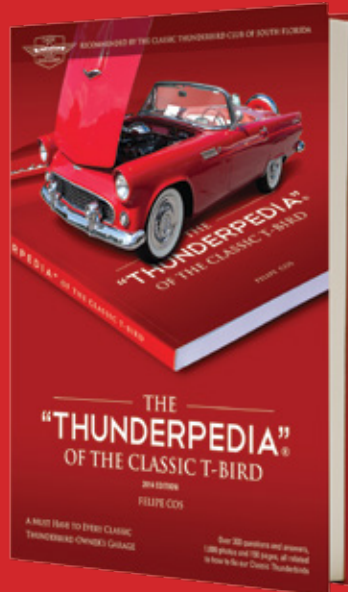
Felipe Cos introduced The Second Edition of the "Thunderpedia of the Classic Thunderbird" at the Branson/Springfield Convention.

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



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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5550-AKR	55	kit	139.95
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