

# hunderhind

JUNE 2018 VOLUME 20, #5

PROUD ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL TROPICAL PARK CLASSIC CAR SHOW

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#### INSIDE THIS EDITION 500 Florida Car Marathon Car Show News Cruis-Ins

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# HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA 1998-2018



# ITC International Thunderbird Club Membership

#### ITC The International Thunderbird Club

The International Thunderbird Club (ITC) is open to all 1955 to 2005 Thunderbird owners and enthusiasts along with other T-Bird club organizations. Numerous ITC members, including me, belong to CTCI and VTCI.

ITC encourages all clubs to join the other clubs to help support the Thunderbird, share ideas, T-Birds, and technical advice. ITC has one of the largest Thunderbird Facebook pages in the world with over 4,400 T-Bird Facebook members posting daily from around the world.

Numerous CTCI and VTCI chapters have joined ITC. Last year the ITC/VTCI chapter, Hoosier Vintage Thunderbird Club, hosted the ITC chapter. This year the convention will be hosted by ITC/CTCI chapter Buffalo Thunderbird Club. ITC/CTCI chapter Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club has stated that they are happy with the support ITC's provides them. ITC/VTCI Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club from Michigan has stated they are also pleased with ITC's support and never have received support from VTCI.

ITC is very proud of the number of clubs that have ioined ITC.

Recently three new chapters have joined ITC La Louisiane Thunderbird Club, Louisiana; Classic Thunderbird Club of Central Ohio; and Central Alabama Thunderbird Club with a few more chapters being they have organized.

The benefit of becoming an ITC chapter is the additional exposure to the T-Bird world. Chapters have stated, grown as a result of their ITC relationship. ITC promotes its chapters by listing their major events in the ITC Script magazine and on the ITC website. ITC also promotes chapters events and members on ITC Facebook. ITC has Technical Advisors for all T-Birds, Marvin Hill, Hill Automotive, is one of the technical advisors for the 1955-57 TBird. Steven Legal is Technical Advisor for the 20-05 Retro Birds.

ITC is sponsored by most of the Thunderbird vendors including Thunderbird Specialists for 2002-05 Retro-birds.

There is no charge to become an ITC chapter. Three ITC members are required for approval with a total of six by the end of the year. If you are not satisfied with being an ITC chapter, you can simply request to end the chapter relationship.

As president of the International Thunderbird Club, I encourage some of your members to join ITC and become an ITC chapter.

Feel free to email or call me anytime if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gerard (Bart) Bartasavich ITC President





# INTERNATIONAL

# THUNDERBIRD

**CLUB** 

Created by serious people ... just for fun

Chunderbird

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Annual dues are as follows:

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The International Thunderbird Club, the ONLY International Thunderbird Club in the world whose common goal is to preserve and enjoy all Thunderbirds with family fellowship, shows, tours, seminars, technical help, parts availability, meetings, and a magazine. Our local and national meets provide concours judging. The ITC Thunderbird Script magazine is published bi-monthly for our members.

USA & Canada January-April\$30.00 May-August\$20.00 *September-December\$30.00 *Valid to end of following year	International January-April\$40.00 May-August\$26.80 *September-December\$40.00 *Valid to end of following year
Please fill out application:	
New Member	Mail to:
Renewing Member ITC # if known \$30.00 or \$50.00 2 years US & Canada \$40.00 or \$70.00 2 years International	INTERNATIONAL THUNDERBIRD CLUB Karen MacCord, Treasurer PO BOX 1211 Middletown, DE 19709
Updating Current Info ITC # if Known	Referring ITC Member
Name:	Email
Spouse's Name:	Street:
City:	State/Providence:
Zip:	Country:
Phone [home]: ()	Phone [cell]: ()
Thunderbird Information: Year: Model:	* VIN refers to your Vehicle Identification Number
Year: Model:	*VIN #
Year: Model:	*VIN #
Year: Model:	*VIN #
Thunderbird Club Affiliations	Position
Thunderbird Club Affiliations	Position

Visit ITC website: www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com

(GEB) July 2016

Gerard (Bart) Bartasavich
President
International Thunderbird Club
P O Box 24041
Pepper Pike, OH 44124
(216) 375-2808
qebart@ameritech.net





# editor's corner

ITC South East District Chapter

JUNE 2018 Volume 20. # 6

Hi Thunderbird Club Members,

This month we are featuring the 500 Miles Florida Car Marathon. Thanks to Oscar for providing a story about Marcia and his participation in the 8Th running of the Rally. Special thanks to Daniel Romagnoli for pictures. Oscar Castro, Daniel Romagnoli and Daniel Alvarez teamed up to make this year's Marathon the best yet! Club Members Bob and Natalie Heslekrants, Mike and Theresa McNeal, John and Celia Layzell, Daniel and Romagnoli with Andrea Giglio and Oscar and Marcia Castro participated.

Publication was moved up this month due to commitments, so the story about Thunderbird Appreciation day and our Club annual Brunch at the Miami Shores Country Club will be in the next issue.

In the Month of March our club achieved ITC Chapter Status with 6 members initially joining ITC. Those of us who own the later vintage Thunderbirds, 1958+ will benefit from the support ITC will give. Hagerty Insurance is extending a discount to ITC members, giving you another reason to join!

I surely appreciate the articles that are being contributed to our Thunderbird News by our members. Please keep them coming! Thanks to you all for contributing to this month's edition. If you haven't seen yours' yet I assure you it will be in a future issue!

Please remember to support our advertising partners and don't forget to tell them vou saw it in The Thunderbird News!

#### **NEWSLETTER CLOSING DATE**

To all members: Remember that this newsletter goes to press the 15th of each month.

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!

#### **OLD CARS Weelky GOLDEN QUILL AWARD**

for a Collector Car Club Newsletter.

#### CTCI 2017 Newsletter Competition GOLD AWARD

for our October Rally 2016 Edition

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.



Articles may be reproduced with the permission of the author.

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.

**ANNUAL** 

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\$95.00 (Members only)

#### Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida CTCI CHAPTER #114 JUNE 2018 VOLUME 20, #6

## 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 **OFFICERS**

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www.TBirdFL.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ThunderbirdClubSouthFLorida CTCI Chapter #114 ITC South East District Chapter Felipe Cos Founder

PAST PRESIDENTS

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Ed Brown 2006-2007

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Daisy Hernandez 2010-2011 Peter Klein 2012-2013 Ed Raabe 2014-2015 Oscar Castro 2016-2017









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## 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!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

02 **Bridget Hagood** Poppy Maden 10 **Judith Saladino** 13 Robert Merlin 16 Jean-Claude Lafontant 17 **Martin Vazquez** 17 21 Cindy Gonzalez **Naymara Cruz** 24 **Bob Heslekrants** 24 26 **Joyce Cotner** 





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

#### THUNDERBIRD INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY:

Our Club's web page: www.TBirdFL.com

www.fordautomobiles.com
www.fordacing.com
www.speedvision.com
www.ctci.org
www.carshows.org
www.geocities.com
classic-thunderbird.org
www.tbird.org/scvt
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www.tbirdsofconn.com
www.thunderbirds.org
www.hydratech.com
www. greatoldcars.com
www.ctcc9.com

#### NUMBERS TO KEEP

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

Intl Thunderbird Club, Bart Bartasavich, ITC President 216-375-2808 gbart@ameritech.net www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com

**AACA South Florida Region.** President, Manny Garcia www.aacasouthflorida.club

**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

ibevsr@msn.com

VMCCA Sun Coast Chapter. President David Bobbitt 305

661-1340 bobbitt@comcast.net **Russ G Events:** Russ Gagliano III

russ@russgevents.com

#### **INTERNET PAGE**

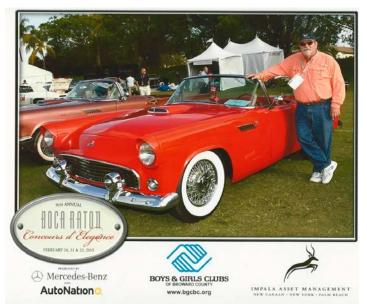
**Have you seen our internet page?** We have changed our address **www.TBirdFL.com** and we have a Facebook page too! Search Classic Thunderbird Club South Florida or

#### 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"!





By the time you read this, we all would have a great time at the annual brunch on Thunderbird Appreciation day, and I will have eaten my weight in shrimp. In addition, you all will have gotten a chance to see me in my sling, as I had shoulder surgery on the first of the month. I am coming along well and comfortable, but it is frustrating only being able to use one arm.

Typing this message with one hand is an adventure in itself!

I would like to announce that Oscar Castro has now become our new treasurer. I am sure he will do a great job with this position in addition to all the other things he does for our club. I would like to give a great big thank you to Peter Klein, who has been a superb treasurer for over four years.

Welcome Elizabeth Barry to the board, replacing Oscar.

Ed and Arlene are working on a Breakfast for those who want to participate. A possibility is Havana Restaurant in Pembroke Pines where the 500 Florida Marathon participants had their Rally kick-off breakfast. I am looking forward for a chance to get together with our cars in daylight. Watch for details.

That, in addition to the rally, dinner meetings, Sebring Thunder, the Holiday party, and perhaps another breakfast, should keep us busy for the rest of the year.

Our meeting in June will be on the 20th as usual at the Pampered Chef and remember that the November meeting will be a week earlier than usual due to the thanksgiving holiday please feel free to contact me with suggestion, comments, or criticisms at 56-613-5715 or drpaul4kids@gmail.com, at any time/

Happy motoring, Paull

#### **Paul Werner**

President - 2018

Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida



# UPCOMING CLASSIC CAR EVENTS-CAR SHOWS







Lowe's & the
Asphalt Angels
Classic & Hot Rod
Car Show!

Saturday, June 2, 2018
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
4701 Okeechobee Blvd,







Registration Fee - \$15

 The Appliett Angels, No., I.e. a Registered VSE (E.V.) See Profit 2. Proceeds denoted to local charities such as 8950 Copioner stoots, Votarially cases Fire Houses, the Royal Paint Beach Dept. of Reservation for the Sunnhine League and St. Lyde Children's Houghtal (more) details at <u>voron arghafterget boars but, net3</u>.



Sunday, June 24, 2018 10 AM – 3 PM Key Largo Moose Lodge 98800 Overseas Hwy Key Largo, FL 33037



# CLASSIC CAR SHOW

\$5 Donation





50/50 Drawing Raffle Prizes



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\*11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Car Show\*\*

Sunday , June 10<sup>th</sup> 11am to 3pm Rain Date : Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> Plus\*\*\*\*\*\*Plus\*\*\*\*\*\*Plus\*\*\*\*\*\*Plus

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Food & Drink Specials , Awards , DJ Eugene

Info: Eugene (954)410-5536 edreidy@comcast.net
Sheehan Autoplex of Lighthouse Point







#### **4 GREAT SOURCES FOR On-Line CAR SHOW INFORMATION**



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Cruisinsothflorida.com



Flacarshows.com



Southdadecarshow.com





# MONTHLY CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN

















Speed STUDIO WIRKING

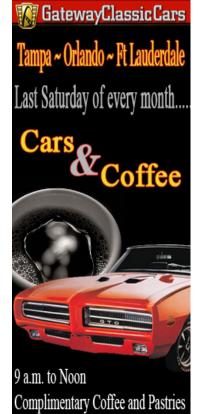


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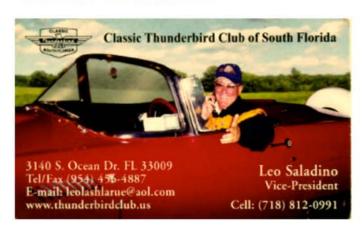
MUSIC BY ROCKIN RICH BEDFORD 3200 NW 23<sup>kb</sup> AVE. =500 FOMPANO BEACH, FL 33069 Collector Car Company

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# **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.

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.

#### 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 <a href="www.ctci.org">www.ctci.org</a> 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.



#### 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 plague 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 CLASSICT-BIRD OWNER IS A CTCI MEMBER** 

#### CTCI Classic Thunderbird Club

#### CTCI Classic Thunderbird Club **International Membership**

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!

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

Online Renew for 1 year 2018 for \$37.50 or signup for 3 years at \$105.00 (35.00 a year)



#### 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 I.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.

riake cilecks payable	to cici, c	n pay by ci	cuit	card by en	ian, iax or phone.	
Current members ma	y renew o	lues online	at w	ww.ctci.org	3.	
ease select one of the noth Joining One Time In January thru March April thru June July thru September October thru December OTE: Add \$16.00 to select nual dues renewal will b	itiation Fee \$15.00 \$15.00 \$15.00 \$15.00 Premium Pa	+ Dues + \$35.00 + \$26.50 + \$18.00 + \$9.50	= = = = = CI Gri	Total \$50.00 \$41.50 \$33.00 \$24.50 Il Emblem.	Premium Packet with Grill Emblem = Add \$16.00 to total  TOTAL ENCLOSED: (\$US)  *NOTE: Members <u>outside the U.S.</u> may pay dues by credit card. You may send credit card information by email, fax or phone. U.S., Mexico and Canada: First Class	
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ignature						
NOTE: Phone numbers & only to T-Bird vendors to b					er if you choose to have it published. Roster addresses may be so	
e you a former member o	f CTCI?	Yes No I	f Yes,	what is your	former CTCI membership number?	
onsored 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?

Year	Serial	Number						
For 1955, 1956, a	nd early 195	7's: (see example	e)			THIS VI	SERIAL NO. P5FH1  SERIAL NO. P5FH1  1908 436 2 186 000 2 290 32	ES LETTTERS PATENT 12 2 514 772
Body	Color	Trim	Produc	tion Code			2 132 729 2 270 122 2 310 11 OTHER PATENTS PENDING	
For late 1957's:						- //	40A R XA	
Body	Color	Trim	Date	Trans	Axle		MACE IN U.S.A. FORK	REG. U.S. PATENT
Registered Owne	er (if other th	han member)						
Address								
License Number			State/P	rovince	Is	your T-Bird pri	imarily 0riginal o	r Modified?
Color (if not per	data plate)		Mileag	ge	c	ondition (rate	from I-5, I is best) _	
Special Features	or Remarks					For Office u	se Only	
						CTCI #	Date:	
rev I/20I5-WEB						Ck #	Amt Rec'd:	

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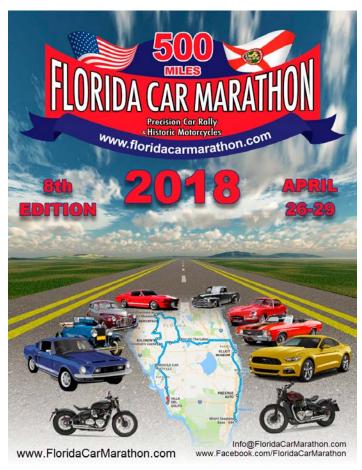


\*Free standard shipping (UPS Ground or Post Office) over \$300.00 in parts will be available in the lower 48 states only! Free freight does not apply to any parts deemed oversized. In that case, actual freight charges will apply.



3655 Arrowhead Drive #120 Carson City - Nevada - 89706





RALLY ON! Was the cry to start another exciting edition of the Florida Car Marathon 500 Mile Precision Rally which ran from April 25 thru the 29 of 2018! This year was the Marathon's 8th anniversary and a lot of members of the Thunderbird club were there to participate in the Marathon and help them celebrate!

The Marathon, originally a 1-day event which started 8 years ago, has grown into a five-day event, two days local and three

on the road. The festivities began on Wednesday the 25th, with a cocktail reception at the showroom of the Men's Designer Outlet, M.D.O.



The participants

gathered to greet and meet and to get some technical pointers from the "old" pros that were in attendance, many of which also participated this year.



The next day, the Marathon moved to Downtown Doral for their Come to Town Block Party. The party was created as a special event to welcome the Marathon participants and to watch them cross the START line as they started the Rally! The Downtown Doral streets were closed to vehicular traffic and the 49 rally cars were all parked on each side, facing the START arch at the end of the block. The many restaurants all participated

by providing the participants with samples and tastings from their many offerings. Appetizers, salads, entrees, drinks, and ice cream were but a few of the items provided. They even had a traveling magician that walked around and astounded the crowds in from of the restaurants.



DJ Elvis, broadcasting from the bed of his 1946 Chevy pickup, was on hand to bring it all together and provide the old-fashioned party atmosphere! Everyone was having such a good time that we were sad when 9:30 came around to signal the start of the Rally. However, when all the cars simultaneously started their engines and one by one crossed the START arch under the direction of the rally master, we quickly changed gears from the Party Mood to the RALLY ON gear!









The next morning, we all gathered, 7:30 AM at Havanna restaurant in Davie for breakfast, then at 9:00 AM, the first car started the Rally route and one by one the rest followed, it took about 25 minutes to get all the cars out, which was good, because it helped space out the contestants. As we headed north on Okeechobee road, the whole rally came to a complete halt! There was a motorcycle involved in a single vehicle wipeout and we had to wait for the Med-Evac helicopter to land and take him away.



We were assured by the officer manning the road block that the driver was going to be OK, but that because of the remoteness of the location where we were, there was no straight-line road to the hospital, so the helicopter was the fastest way. While waiting, we all walked around, talked, and shared some breakfast leftovers. Here we were, less than two hours into the rally and thought we had not accomplished much yet, we did have two breakfasts under our belt, which at this time, mine was getting tight because, my waist line was beginning to stretch.... Soon after, we continued on and arrived at the first stop, which was at the Pahokee Marina and Campgrounds, where we had some refreshments and snacks, and a much-needed bathroom break!



The next stop was at the Elliot Museum in Stuart, where we had BIG buffet lunch (more stretching) and toured the Museum. The museum was awesome; I still can't get over their car juke box! Most of the museum's cars are not on the show floor, rather they are kept in giant racks, and then when you want to see a specific car, you key in the number into the computer and a big mechanical arm moves up, down, left, right, as needed to retrieve the specific car from the rack. It then brings the car front and center into a turn table, where the cars is displayed on all sides, then the arm comes back, retrieves the car and takes it back to its original storage cubicle. Incredible!





After leaving the museum, we headed to our host hotel, the Inn on the Lakes in Sebring, but not before taking a "short cut" thru an orange grove, via a dirt road. It was hot, it was bumpy, it was dusty, it was hard to maneuver, but most of all, it was fun. Especially hard was trying to maintain the rally speed and time, with a huge orange loaded truck in front of you, going 20 miles slower! But then, almost as soon as it started, it was over, and we were back on the good ol' asphalt road!





Upon arriving at the Hotel, we barely had time to shower and change before going up to the hotel ball room for dinner, it was plentiful and so was the wine! After the dinner, most of us retired to our room to get some well needed rest, while some others gathered at the lounge for after dinner conversation.

The next morning, after breakfast, we were back on the road, headed towards the Sun-N-Fun Air Museum where we had lunch.

Yes, I can tell that by now you are thinking that all we did was eat, but remember, the rally does not drive a straight line and although we left at around 9:15 for a destination just an hour away "as the crow flies", we actually arrived at around 12:30 pm.







We were treated to a wonderful picnic style lunch (more waist line stretching) and then a comprehensive tour of the Museum before we once again headed got back on the road.





Our next stop was Solomon's Castle, where we saw... never mind, you must see this in person to believe it! No matter what I say, I don't think I can describe in a way you can "see" it in your mind. I will just suffice to say that Mr. Solomon spent the last years of his life, a lot of them, building, constructing, creating, and just about making up anything you can think of around his 100-acre property. He built a Castle, a FULL SIZE Spanish Galleon, a replica of the Alamo, and a host of other associated buildings. He then went on to create painting, sculptures, and a thousand other items, to fill them all. A lot of what he constructed, like "The Train" was put together using common items you would normally find lying around the house or yard. While there, we were treated to coffee, refreshments, and the most wonderful dessert you ever tasted. By now, my belt my waist line was stretching so much that I only had a few holes left to close the belt.

Then, just when I thought I could eat no more, we were back at the Hotel for Dinner! Again, the food, the wine, everything was plentiful, except for the holes to close my belt, by this time, I only had only four left!

The next morning, I skipped breakfast (you know why), and went straight to the car to wait for the GO signal to start the last leg of the rally. Our first stop on Sunday was the Chateau Elan Hotel. The hotel is right inside the Sebring International Raceway and we got to watch some of the races from the pool deck or the Grand Suite balcony, while enjoying another breakfast. Needless to say, I couldn't resist, and now I was down to only three holes on the belt!

After the hotel, we headed West then South towards Naples while doing some more time trials. We stopped in the middle, more or less, to turn in our time sheets, and then continued on.







We arrived in Naples at around 2:00 PM at Villa Del Golfo to a wonderful reception on the grassy and shaded grounds next to the creek. There was some very entertaining live music, champagne, and some dancing while we waited for all the cars to check in.

We were then treated to an Argentinian Parrillada, roughly translated, that means BIG BBQ! Great and abundant cuts of meat and Chorizos, and yes, you guessed it, I was now down to the LAST hole in my belt. Luckily, the awards presentation started just in time, a little bit more and I would have had to completely forego the belt and switch to suspenders!



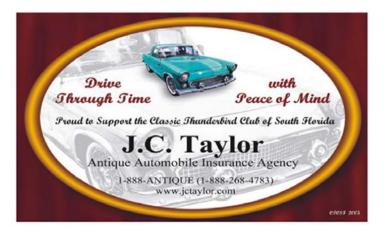


As I mentioned, the Thunderbird Club was very well represented, all participants were in the top 14 out of 49, and 3 were in the top 5! We all had fun, so much that 100% of the Thunderbird Club participants, already put down a deposit and registered for the 2019 Edition! RALLY ON!















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