



FOUNDED 1998

Thunderbird NEWS

JAN-FEB 2021 VOLUME 23, #1

PROUD ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL THUNDERBIRD CLUB CLASSIC CAR SHOW

SPONSOR OF THE FELIPE COS MEMORIAL FLORIDA 300 MILE RALLY

WINNER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS GOLDEN QUILL 2019 & ITC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARD



65th Anniversary of the Ford Thunderbird

VALENTINE'S ISSUE

*"Baby It's Cold
Outside"*



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- New Editor
- Member Car Page (New)
- Thunderbird Club Memberships
- Dear Oscar, Advise Column (New)
- DJ Elvis Top Ten Countdown (New)
- Meetings are Back!

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 CTCL and VTCL.

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

ITC is very proud of the number of clubs that have joined 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



Created by serious people just for fun ...



Created by serious people ... just for fun

INTERNATIONAL THUNDERBIRD CLUB

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.

Annual dues are as follows:

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

Renewing Member
 ITC # if known _____
 \$30.00 or \$50.00 2 years US & Canada
 \$40.00 or \$70.00 2 years International

Updating Current Info
 ITC # if Known _____

Mail to:

INTERNATIONAL THUNDERBIRD CLUB
Karen MacCord, Treasurer
PO BOX 1211
Middletown, DE 19709

Name: _____ Email: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip: _____ Country: _____

Phone [home]: (____) _____ Phone [cell]: (____) _____

Referring ITC Member _____

Thunderbird Information:

Year: _____ Model: _____ *VIN # _____
 Year: _____ Model: _____ *VIN # _____
 Year: _____ Model: _____ *VIN # _____
 Year: _____ Model: _____ *VIN # _____

** VIN refers to your Vehicle Identification Number*

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
 gebart@ameritech.net



editor's CORNER

January / February 2021 Volume 23, #1

Greetings Club Members

Greetings Classic Thunderbird Club Members,

6 years ago, with the passing of our Club founder Felipe Cos I assumed his position as Editor of our club Newsletter, The Thunderbird News. Felipe had created not just a news "letter" but a Magazine featuring Club news, stories provided by members, and all things "Thunderbird" could find. I was not sure if I was up to the task of producing a nationally acclaimed club newsletter worthy of the effort Felipe put into it, but I had to give it a try. I have loved the Early Birds since I was a kid when my Grandpa, Herman, gave me a metal 1955 "Thunderbird Blue" Thunderbird toy, swearing that he would own one someday. Grandma Gertrude had other plans.... So, years went by, 58 to be exact and owning a real 1955 T-Bird in "Thunderbird Blue" came true, if not for him, for his grandson! But I digress.



It has been a challenge, and all the time a pleasure, to produce a Club Newsletter recognized repeatedly by the CTCL and the ITC Thunderbird Clubs for excellence. In 2016 I was most humbled by our first Golden Quill award for a Club Newsletter in our category. Hundreds of Classic Car Clubs compete for Old Car Weekly's annual prize! We have won that award for 4 years running. Felipe must be smiling down as he Rallies around in his "Heavenly" # 99 Thunderbird!

Now the time has come for a new Editor to take command. I have and will continue to work with Ricardo Lara-Aguilar, who is anxious to continue Felipe's tradition of excellence. So far, the transition is going smoothly, and this will be Ricardo's first edition, just see for yourself how fantastic it is in the following pages! It is always good to see things from a different perspective and our Club Newsletter is no different. I once again will get to anticipate with excitement, the delivery of each issue of Thunderbird News. (it wasn't that I was not excited the past 6 years, it's that I always knew what was in it!, LOL).

Thunderbird News is now a bi-monthly, due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID 19 Pandemic. Each member receives a Digital copy, and our Club Website posts each issue as well. If you would like a Full Color Printed Copy, become a sponsor (there is a special Club Member rate). I love the "Old School" print editions. We continue to reach out to the Classic Thunderbird world of Parts and Services vendors. Sponsorship for 2021 is great and Oscar is collaborating with Ricardo to offer newly added Website presence and other advertising "perks" for them. Please remember to mention, when you support our Sponsors with purchases, that you saw their Ad in Thunderbird News.

So, I am not abandoning you! As we get closer to a move to Tampa, Arlene and I will still be active Club members, attending meetings and events, like the Felipe Cos Annual Rallye in March and Car Show in April.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you, the fabulous members of this great club.

The Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida,
Ed Raabe.

Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida CTCL
CHAPTER #114 JAN/FEB 2021 VOLUME 23, #1

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Our meetings are held the Second 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

PRESIDENT

Richard Manso
786-343-6523
richardmanso@bellsouth.net

SECRETARY

Gail Corenblum
305-799-1956
gailstu@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Leo Saladino
718-812-0991
leolashlarue@aol.com

TREASURER

Oscar Castro
305-467-8196
oscar@benefitcarshows.com

EVENTS & TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Oscar Castro
305-467-8196
oscar@benefitcarshows.com

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Stuart Corenblum
305-588-5646
stuartcorenblum@bellsouth.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Werner
561-613-5715
drpaul4kids@gmail.com

Daniel Romagnoli
305-799-8328

daniel@daroma.us

Elizabeth Barry
305-989-4660

elyb@me.com

EDITOR THUNDERBIRD NEWS

Ricardo Lara
786-709-8391
editortcsf@gmail.com

Maria Peraza

304-439-3818
perazatoledol@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY & SUNSHINE NEWS

Natalie Heslekrants
954-852-7417
heslekrants@yahoo.com



20925 SW 238th Street, Homestead FL 33031-1053
Ph: 305-467-8196

E-mail: emails@thunderbirdclubsoflorida.com

Editor Ricardo Lara: editortcsf@gmail.com

www.TbirdFL.com

Facebook: ThunderbirdClubSouthFlorida

Instagram: tbirdflorida

CTCL Chapter #114

ITC South East District Chapter

Felipe Cos Founder

PAST PRESIDENTS

Felipe Cos 1999

Ken Lemming 2000

Felix Hernandez 2001

Norm Gabe 2002

Andre Fournier 2003-2004

Ed Brown 2006-2007

Connie Danluck 2008

Ed Brown 2009

Daisy Hernandez 2010-2011

Peter Klein 2012-2013

Ed Raabe 2014-2015

Oscar Castro 2016-2017

Paul Werner 2018-2019



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 VOLUME 23, #1

January, February and March – Will march along forward towards all the things planned for 2021.

Please, navigate to www.TbirdFL.com to review the Calendar!

Yes, there is one there on our web site.

Ed, thank you. As your new Editor, I am pleased to take on this challenge and attempt to fill your shoes – it will not be easy; however, with the support I have so graciously received from our dearest members – we will do a good job! And thank you my friend for your years of service to make this Newsletter the envy of all Car Clubs!



Ricardo Lara

Please be sure to support our advertisers, now more than ever they need our support. Buy On-Line and deliver right to your door! What could be easier!

Don't forget to mention you saw their Ad in our magazine when purchasing Parts & Services for you Classic.

Thanks to ALL the Advertisers who support 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.

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.

Thunderbird News Winner of ITC 2019 Newsletter Award

OLD CARS Weekly GOLDEN QUILL AWARD for a Car Club Newsletter. 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019

CTCI 2017 Newsletter Competition GOLD AWARD for our October Rally 2016 Edition.



THUNDERBIRD INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY:

Our Club's web page: www.TBirdFL.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

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, Ira Shapiro
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
www.southdadecarshows.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
jbevrs@msn.com

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

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

Hello fellow Club Members,

I am proud to announce that 2021 has started out as a more “promising” year for us as a club.

The much anticipated “300-mile rally” which is really about 110 miles this year, will take place on March 13th. It is a one-day Road Rally through the Redlands and the Homestead countryside.

This year, the Rally will take off from By Brothers, an outdoor tropical restaurant venue, with Tiki Huts and outdoor open area seating. Breakfast and dinner will be served there, and the Rally Awards will be given out as well at dinner. This year the rally will start at 8 am and end at 9 pm. Expect emails with more details from Oscar: our famous Event Coordinator, at an email near you.

I am honored to say that Ricardo Lara, a very valued and appreciated member of our club, has “spontaneously” and “unconsciously” volunteered himself to become the new “Editor in Chief” of our world famous and award-winning Thunderbird Newsletter. I know he has some big shoes to fill, but I hear he has big feet.

Ed, we all thank you sincerely for over six years of your excellent work as editor. I also thank Arlene, (Mrs. Raabe), for the hundreds of hours you have spent working on our Newsletter, when you could have been with your family. We thank you both.

Folks, our much-anticipated 2021 Open Car Show at West Miami's Cooper Park, will finally take place on April 25th. First and foremost, I would like to thank Gail and Stuart for all that they do behind the scenes for our club. They helped plan the plotting and parking for this show, and Gail for continuing to be Madam Secretary while someone steps up and relieves her. We have a sold out show with 110 cars registered. It is a very nice park with rolling green grassy hills and a beautiful gazebo atop a hill. This will be an event as classy as a Concours D' Elegance as some may say. There will also be baby Tbirds lined up, side by side all around the Gazebo. The music will be supplied by none other than the one and only Mr. D.J. Elvis with amazing music from all eras, such as Little Deuce coupe to Barbarito Diez, to the Beach Boys.



Friends, February was our second Club Meeting at La

Tratoria Italian Restaurant. In January we had only 12 members. In February we had an incredible 25 members dining at the meeting. The food was great as always, the customer service could not have been better. Gabe humble as ever, always personally coming out, and greeting us all and thanking us for the much-needed business we give him. As time goes by, our numbers are increasing at the meetings. I really appreciate the effort in coming to the meetings, considering that many of you live far away. It was very nice to see some of our members coming out again. I know everyone has their own time in mind as to when they should venture out into society again. Whenever that time is, we will welcome you all back with open arms.

In life there are some events, that can change your perspective on life, like a certain song you just can't get out of your head or a famous quote such as J.F. K's "...ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

Well at dinner at La Tratoria a very wise man uttered this quote which will go down in history.

“100 years ago, everyone had a horse and only the rich had a car; now, everyone has a car and only the rich have a horse – my how the stables have turned!” This very wise man is our own Mr. Oscar Castro, husband, father, grandpa, Event Coordinator and Philosopher.

On a personal note, my wife and I are very proud to say that our daughter Melanie and her Fiance have bought their first home. They will be doing some home improvements and moving in after their honeymoon. Melissa, our youngest, graduated from The University of Florida in December, and now has job offers from two of the country's biggest advertising firms. We are very blessed and proud of our girls.

Folks I have been railroaded into believing that my first year as President was an inactive one. Ricardo came up with the “wonderful” idea of 2021 being technically my first year in office. If I am nominated, I will gladly accept. Thank you so much my friend.

Thank you all, Be well my friends.

Richard Manso

Club President 2020, 2021.



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.



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!

I 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 sign up for 3 years at \$105.00 (\$35.00 a year)



CTCI International Convention
Sarasota, Florida, April 20 - 24, 2021

Hosted by Trail Birds of SW Florida

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED



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.

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.



SCAN ME!

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

CTCI Classic Thunderbird Club

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: _____



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2021

JANUARY

Madeleine Rumayor	1
Rafael Rodriguez	7
Bill Otis	9
Silvia Rodriguez	11
Robert Brice	14
Luis Rumayor	14
Rita Kissel	18
Richard Crochet	21
Yanila Fernandez	24
Silvia Guzman	27
Gladys Wilson	28
Ricardo Lara-Aguilar	29
Alisa Chirdaris	31

FEBRUARY

Mike McNeal	3
Norma Pieiro	4
Gail Corenblum	7
Bob Obenland	8
Jose Siut	12
Victor Ulloa	13
Joanne Richardi	19
Barbara Trujillo	20
Anita Werner	26

**You're Not Old
You're a Classic**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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 Headquarters

Complete 1955-1972 Thunderbird Parts Warehouse for Over 40 Years



(925) 825-9550
parts@tbirdhq.com

**Have you been to
our website lately?**

WWW.TBIRDHQ.COM





CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA MEMBERSHIP

Who are we?

We are a social group of dedicated individuals with interest in ownership and enjoyment of Ford Thunderbird cars and of all Antique Automobiles. We meet each month for dinner, car shows and activities with our membership from West Palm Beach to the Florida Keys. Our club is family oriented in its activities and sponsors a scholarship fund for [McPherson College](#) (The only accredited university in the United States with a major in Automobile Restoration). Our aim is to bring together owners and non-owners of the Thunderbird in a social activity to encourage and promote the admiration, care and maintenance of the "Classic Thunderbirds"; and Antique Cars in general. We hope to provide an outlet for people to discover the uniqueness of the features and styling of the Ford Thunderbirds and exchange knowledge with each other about them and other Antique Automobiles.

OUR MEMBERS DO NOT PAY TO ATTEND OUR SHOWS

JOIN NOW AND COME TO THE JANUARY SHOW FREE!

YOU CAN ALSO COME FREE OR AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE TO THE
HOLIDAY PARTY, ANNUAL BRUNCH, ANNUAL DINNER, BBQ PARTY, AND ANY OF OUR MANY EVENTS,

BUT WAIT... THERE IS STILL MORE!

OUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

- Free Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Free Gratuities at our Monthly Dinner Meetings
- Several other activities Free or subsidized by the Club
- Access to the vast car-related knowledge base amongst our members
- And one more thing, all the Fun and Fellowship you can handle!

PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBER ACTIVITIES

- MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETINGS
- BI-MONTHLY "THUNDERBIRD NEWS" NEWSLETTER
- YEARLY BBQ
- HOLIDAY PARTY
- YEARLY SUNDAY BRUNCH
- ONE OR TWO OUT OF TOWN DRIVES YEARLY
- YEARLY EDITION OF THE FLORIDA 300 MILE RALLY
- EACH YEAR WE HOST OUR YEARLY OPEN CAR SHOW WITH OVER 200 CARS

All you need to join the Club is a Love of the Thunderbird or Antique Cars
No need to own a T-Bird or even an Antique Car to apply for membership!

Go to www.TbirdFl.com to apply or renew
We accept major credit cards, PayPal and checks



DEAR OSCAR:

Wife, or Car?

DEAR OSCAR: I was the happiest guy in the world! Happy wife, children, home - a wonderful family. I always wanted a '55 T-Bird. Recently, I was lucky enough to make a big sale and received a big commission in addition to hefty bonus for 35 years of hard sales work. I thought I would finally complete my happy life purchasing a life-long-dream of owning a 1955 Ford Thunderbird for pleasure driving and wrenching on the weekends.

I purchased the 55 on eBay. I was so happy! I WON the Bid! It took me over 6 months to finally purchase the car with so many nights searching on the internet for this shining beauty with only 50 thousand miles on the odometer - what a STEAL for \$30,000! Original paint too! It was described as a driver in original condition.

Well, it was a Driver - at some point; today, it is a just Driven! The odometer must have turned 2 or 3 times around. Yes, the engine is.

I started working on it immediately with a quick tune-up. I



OSCAR CASTRO

got it to drive a couple of times around the block, but it would knock and smoke, heat-up and then just die...by the end of the first month, I had already spent \$2,200 on tools and parts, and long evenings on the classic car blogs trying to figure out what is wrong with the Driven. The paint isn't peeling off, but it is about to...will need a set of tires for the bald mismatched set that are on now...the gas tank is leaking, and the rust around the windshield leaks of cold rusty water on my ankles when I pump the brakes to try to stop!

I need a rebuild, and a new transmission so that I won't have to push it to go in reverse, etc.

Oscar, the Car I can fix - eventually...the WIFE and family, that's another story, and I will need 3 more bonuses to pay for all of this.

The Wife said she is OUT! Too much time in the garage, long evenings on the computer, my hands are all cut-up and fingernails are all black from dirty grease.

It's either the *Wife or the Car* - What Should I Do?

DEAR WIFE OR CAR: Hmnn...which one should you keep?

Please send photo and model year of the wife.

2021 CLUB CALENDAR

- MARCH 10 Monthly Club Meeting
- MARCH 13 300 Mile Rally
- MARCH 15 (Tentative) TBird Auction
- APRIL 14 Monthly Club Meeting
- APRIL 25 Annual Car Show
- MAY 10 NO Monthly Club Meeting





BULLSEYE
www.bullseyepowdercoating.com



POWDER COATING



CERAMIC COATING



SANDBLASTING



CAR STRIPPING



305-278-2111
info@bullseyepowdercoating.com

WHEEL SMITH

**T-BIRD
WIRE WHEELS
MADE IN
AMERICA**

Call Today! **800-854-8937**
For The Latest Specials Visit: TheWheelsmith.net

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"!



Concours Parts & ACCESSORIES

YOUR 'ONE STOP SHOP' FOR OVER 30 YEARS!

♦55/57 Thunderbird ♦58/66 Thunderbird ♦49/59 Ford, Mercury & Edsel Car
♦48/72 Ford Truck ♦60/72 Galaxie ♦62/72 Fairlane ♦68/71 Torino

**FREE SHIPPING
ON ORDERS OVER \$300.00***



**GET OUR
NEW
CATALOG!**



Not Rebuilt!



1955 - 1957 'NEW'

TACH DRIVE DISTRIBUTOR

Has its' own electronic ignition & the kit comes with different springs to adjust the advance. Or you can simply eliminate the vacuum advance all together.

It requires a higher voltage coil, which is included in the kit. For 12 volt systems only

\$395.00

*Must use carbon core plug wires (OUR PART#12259-MC)



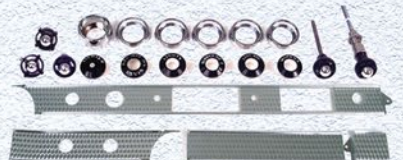
UPHOLSTERY



SHEET METAL REPAIR PANELS



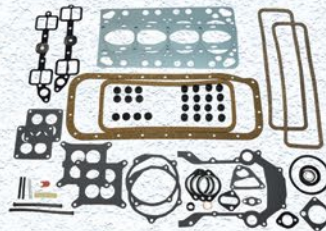
WEATHERSTRIP



DASH & DASH COMPONENTS



SUSPENSION & STEERING



ENGINE & TRANSMISSION



WIRING



CHROME & EMBLEMS



FUEL SYSTEM

**ORDER ON-LINE @
WWW.CONCOURSEPARTS.COM**

(800) 722-0009

**Concours Parts
& ACCESSORIES**

3655 Arrowhead Drive #120
Carson City - Nevada - 89706



WEBSITE

*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.



MONTHLY CLASSIC CAR SHOW & CRUISE-IN

CLUBHOTI
 Powered by Veterans
CARS & COFFEE
 Last Saturday of every Month
 Time: 8am - 11am
 1000 Highway 1A, Suite 1000
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304
 954-561-1111
www.clubhoti.com

ROCKETS
THE PACK IS BACK
 2nd SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
STARTS AT 4PM FOR MORE INFO 561-482-0052

The Big Apple Shopping Bazaar Car Show
 Every 2nd Saturday of every month!
 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.
 FREE ADMISSION For Spectators. Fun for the whole family!
 • Trophies Awarded!
 • DJ and Music
 • Food Trucks
 • \$20.00 Entry Fee
 60 specialty stores open for shopping!
 5283 W. Atlantic Avenue • Delray Beach, FL 33484
 Presented by Calra Joe Productions • www.CalraJoeProductions.com

GatewayClassicCars
 Tampa ~ Orlando ~ Ft Lauderdale
 Last Saturday of every month...
Cars & Coffee
 9 a.m. to Noon
 Complimentary Coffee and Pastries

COME JOIN PBC CLASSICS FOR A CAR SHOW EVERY TUESDAY AT DUFFY'S SPORTS GRILL IN DELRAY BEACH LOCATED AT 1750 S. FED. HWY. 5 PM - 8 PM EVERYONE WELCOME 10% OFF MENU FOR ALL CRUISERS
 FOR MORE INFO - CARSHOWJEAN@AOL.COM
f CAR SHOW JEAN

OPEN TO ALL CLASSIC, CUSTOM, COOL, EXOTIC & MODERN MUSCLE
Anno Marie's PIZZA CO.
 2403 N STATE RD 7, MARGATE, FL 33063
FREE EVENT TO PARTICIPATE!
 Every 1st & 3rd Sunday of month
 5 pm - 8 pm
 DJ ROCKIN RICH BEDFORD
 WWW.ROLLBACKRADIO.COM LIVE REMOTE
 WWW.ROCKINRICH.NET 954-675-8679
 ENJOY LUNCH OR DINNER WITH CLEAR SIGHT OF YOUR RIDE BEER & WINE AVAILABLE
 WWW.TARABURNER.NET

Stock Repairs & Maintenance
 Restorations
 Frame Oils
 Performance Upgrades
 Mild to Wild
ASE
 CERTIFIED
 AUTOMOTIVE
 REPAIRER
Precision Auto Works
 318 SW 14th Ave. #1
 Pompano Beach, FL 33069
 954-247-9362
Hot Rod Friday Cruise-In
 1st Friday of every month
 Top Show Trophies
 Super Cool Door Prizes
 Food Trucks and DJ
 Open 'til 8pm
SMOKE 'EM UP!

MAX motive
OPEN HOUSE & CRUISE IN
 EVERY LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
 FROM 8AM - 12PM
 JOIN US AT OUR SHOWROOM LOCATED AT:
 8800 NW 17th AVE. BOCA RATON FL 33488
 CALL US WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT: 561-984-9031
 OR VISIT US AT WWW.MAXMOTIVE.COM

Worlds Largest Classic & Collector Car Company
FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHERING CRUISE-IN
 3-6-21
 HOSTED AT BEAT CULTURE BROWDY
 • FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 8AM-12PM
 • ALL MAKE AND MODEL CARS WELCOME
 • SMALL BATCH CRAFTED BEERS
 • TRADITIONAL LOW AND SLOW BBQ
 7250 NW 17th STREET MIAMI 33126
 @BEATCULTURE

THE ORIGINAL COFFEE & CLASSICS FORT LAUDERDALE
 "The original 'Puffin' Coffee & Classics" is the premier monthly Fort Lauderdale gathering of vintage European and American cars.
 50/50 JACKPOT!
Asphalt Angels Car, Truck, Jeep & Motorcycle Show!
Saturdays Jan 9, Feb 13, & Mar 13
 Registration \$10
 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 10300 W. Forest Hill Blvd. Wellington, FL
 Trophies awarded at 1:30 pm

THE MALL AT WELLINGTON GREEN
 A STARWOOD HOTEL MANAGED PROPERTY
LIVE 360°
Asphalt Angels Car, Truck, Jeep & Motorcycle Show!
Saturdays Jan 9, Feb 13, & Mar 13
 Registration \$10
 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 10300 W. Forest Hill Blvd. Wellington, FL
 Trophies awarded at 1:30 pm

CRUISE BOCA CAR SHOW AND CRUISE-IN
 First Wednesday of Each Month!
 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 TALLIES TUSCAN TABLE - 4060 N DIXIE HWY. BOCA RATON FL, 33451
 HOSTED BY RUSSELL G. EVENTS & STEVE SAFFER
 EUROPEAN & AMERICAN AUTOBODY
HAGERTY Schaeffler
O'Reilly TUSCAN TABLE
APEX CONTRACTORS INC.

Wings Plus Ramblewood Lunch Cruise
 1235 North University Dr. Coral Springs 954.757.4850
Saturday, 12pm-3PM.
 Now Each First Saturday Of The Month
FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS
 \$5 for \$20 Import Bottle Buckets
 \$5 for \$12 Domestic Bottle Buckets
 Come Check Out Rows of Classic Custom & Cool Cars In Our Back Parking Lot!

Bahama Breeze Nopar Meet
 Every 4th Wednesday of the Month
BPM
 12395 SW 88 St Miami, FL 33186

EVERY 2nd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH!
Buffalo Wild Wings Nopar meet
 ALL WELCOME
 11555 Pines Blvd. Pembroke Pines, FL 33026
 15% off Entire Menu. \$4 22oz Bud Light
 \$12 Buckets Domestic Beer

SUPERCAR SATURDAYS FLORIDA
NEW LOCATION
 SuperCar Saturdays Florida at The Shops at Pembroke Gardens
 527 SW 145th Terrace, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
 9AM to 12 PM - 2nd Saturday of Every Month
 @supercarsaturdaysflorida @browardlimb
Lamborghini BROWARD

Hop Wheels
 1st Thursday Monthly Cruise In Meet Up
Copperpoint
 6:30pm-10pm
 Classic Cars, Hot Rods, Customs, Motorcycles, Jeeps are welcome
 Live Music with **Stip and the Spinners**
 Reserved Parking Discounted beers
 Food Truck
 1301 Commerce Rd. Pompano Beach, FL 33062

COUNTRYSIDE CLASSICS
 Every 2nd Saturday of the Month
Classic Car Exhibition
 Music
 Classic cars
 Delicious Cuisine
 Kid friendly environment
 1555 SW 17th Ave. Miami, FL 33137
 By Brubaker's
 @brubakersbarbecue

2020 PALM BEACH AUTOMOTIVE/CAR SWAP MEET AND CAR SHOW
SOUTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS
 9067 SOUTHERN BLVD
 WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33411
 ENTER GATE 8
NOVEMBER 14-15, 2020
 8 AM TO 3 PM
 AUTOMOTIVE/AUTOMOTIVE CAR SWAP MEET - CAR SHOW - CAR CORRAL - MUSIC
 FREE CAR SHOW ENTRY WITH PAID EVENT ADMISSION
 CAR SHOW TROPHIES - CASH PRIZES
 EARLY BIRD SIGN UP
 VENDORS - DEALERS - COLLECTORS
 USE COUPON CODE SAVE50 AND SAVE.
ADMISSION \$10.00
 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE
www.SouthFLCarSwapMeets.com
 (954) 205-7813

(PLEASE CALL AND VERIFY DATES AND TIMES)



UPCOMING CLASSIC CAR EVENTS-CAR SHOWS



DANIA POINTE
CARS @ THE POINTE
3rd Sunday of the Month
10 AM - 2 PM



COBRA JOE
PRODUCTIONS
@DANIAPINTE DANIAPINTE.COM

OPEN CAR & TRUCK SHOW
1401 N. Powerline RD. Pompano Beach FL 33065

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21
10am - 3pm




ALL CLUBS WELCOME

- Top 40 Awards
- Dash Plaques: First 100 vehicle
- \$100 Best of Show
- 4 \$25 Gift Cards
- Flat Screen TV Raffle
- Judging 11:30am to 2:00 pm

Jumpin Jack 355-514-2277 (CARS)

Cruisin South Florida *Calligraphix.com* Social Distancing Required *Jumpin Jack Productions.com*

GENERATION OLDSCHOOL
Classic cars and trucks cruise 40s, 50s & 60s
February 28 cruise to Robbins of Islamorada
71522 Overseas Highway, Islamorada



Meet up location La Carreta in Kendall between 8 and 9am
11740 SW 88 Street, Miami FL

THE CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

OPEN CAR SHOW ALL CARS WELCOMED

SUNDAY APRIL 25, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM
CITY OF WEST MIAMI - COOPER PARK | 8841 SW 16th STREET, WEST MIAMI, FL 33165
PLEASE GO TO www.tbirdfl.com FOR LATEST UPDATES & SHOW CAR REGISTRATION

SOLD OUT
NO MORE SHOW CAR REGISTRATIONS
FREE FOR THE VIEWING PUBLIC
COME TO THE SHOW APRIL 25
AND SEE ALL THE FINE CARS!

15 TROPHY CLASSES • BEST OF SHOW • BEST CLUB REPRESENTATION • LONGEST DRIVE TO THE SHOW
FIRST 50 REGISTRATIONS - DASH PLAQUE & GIFT

BUSEYE *THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT* *Family Fun Day*
FREE FOR THE VIEWING PUBLIC
Bring The FAB! - DJ Spin! - Food Vendor - Playlist

PLEASE GO TO www.tbirdfl.com FOR LATEST UPDATES & SHOW CAR REGISTRATION

300 MILE RALLY

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION CLOSES
FEBRUARY 13
Register Before Feb - 13
And we'll include Lunch & Stopwatch



SATURDAY
MARCH 13, 2020
www.tbirdfl.com

FINAL REGISTRATION CLOSURES
MARCH 1
NO GATE REGISTRATION

ROUTE CHALLENGE TROPHY DASH PLaque EVERYTHING ELSE
BREAKFAST - RALLY - DINNER - CAR SHOW

10th Anniversary

500 CARS
FLORIDA CAR MARATHON
PRECISION CAR RALLY
www.floridacarmarathon.com

~~2021~~
April 30-May 02

POSTPONED

NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Dear Florida Car Marathon Participants and Enthusiasts, We regret to inform you that the organization has come to the decision to postpone the 10th edition of Florida Car Marathon until a new date can be confidently confirmed. The constant change in Government health policies and the recurrent extension of restrictions due to the pandemic make it impossible for us to plan an event of the characteristics and level that we intend and that our friends and participants deserve. Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm throughout all these years, and we look forward to continuing sharing our passion for rallying in the future.

www.floridacarmarathon.com/info@floridacarmarathon.com

NO GATE REGISTRATIONS

PLEASE GO TO www.tbirdfl.com FOR LATEST UPDATES & SHOW CAR REGISTRATION

31st Annual Spring

DAYTONA

Turkey Run

COOL WHEELS CAR SHOW

10th Annual

DEERFIELD BEACH, FL

MAR. 26TH - MAR. 28TH

FRI - SAT 8AM-4PM \$10 SUNDAY 8AM-2PM \$5
KIDS UNDER 11 ARE FREE

www.turkeyrun.com

(PLEASE CALL AND VERIFY DATES AND TIMES)

5 GREAT SOURCES FOR On-Line CAR SHOW INFORMATION



Benefitcarshows.com



CruisinSouthFlorida.com



Flacarshows.com




Southdadecarshows.com



CobrajoeProductions.com



PROUD PRINTER OF THIS NEWSLETTER



Follow us
minutemanpress_doral

2818 NW 79th Ave
DORAL FL, 33122
ph_(305)477.2817
miami@minutemanpress.com
www.doralprinting.com

Celebrating 50 Years
Thunderbird Specialists
CA500
SINCE 1969
Serving the Thunderbird Hobby

CLASSIC AUTO SUPPLY CO.
800-374-0914

Visit our new illustrated web site!
classictbird.com

1955-57 Thunderbird Parts & Restorations



Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida



3140 S. Ocean Dr. FL 33009
Tel/Fax (954) 456-4887
E-mail: leolashlarue@aol.com
www.thunderbirdclub.us

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

Peter Klein
First Vice President, Wealth Management
Financial Advisor
Portfolio Manager

Wealth Management
220 Alhambra Circle, 10th Fl
Coral Gables, FL 33134

tel 305 460 7825
fax 305 448 5738
toll free 800 637 4394

Morgan Stanley

www.fa.smithbarney.com/peter_klein
peter.klein@morganstanley.com



PRIMETUNE
Complete Auto Repair



2620 NE 5th Avenue • Pompano Beach, FL 33064
Call Paul at (954) 785-7779

- Comp. Reprogramming & Reflashing
- Computer Diagnostics
- Starter/Alternator/ Batteries
- Radiators/ Cooling Systems
- Major/ Minor Engine Repair
- Air Conditioning
- Brakes
- Front end work
- Carburetors
- Hi-Performance Work

www.primetuneauto.com

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)
Card Size_ \$95.00 (Members only)



TRATTORIA PAMPERED CHEF
Classic Italian Cuisine

"Very Good" MIAMI HERALD
"A SOLID HIT" TRAVEL HOLIDAY,
GOOD VALUE DINING GUIDE

Catering • Parties • All Occasions

GABRIAL NASH

7347 MIAMI LAKES DRIVE
MIAMI LAKES, FL 33014

TEL.: (305) 825-8919
CELL.: (786) 210-3539
FAX: (305) 825-8918

Toll free order line 866-949-1956
Tech Support 740-949-2217
www.hillsresto.com



*Check out our website for Cars for Sale and Restorations in Progress
*Full & Partial Restorations Available
*Classic, Antique, & Muscle

Your first choice in: 1955-1957 Thunderbird Sheet Metal; Used & NOS Parts

"We have everything you need...to make your vision come true!"




Larry's THUNDERBIRD
& MUSTANG
PARTS

Dedicated to Excellence



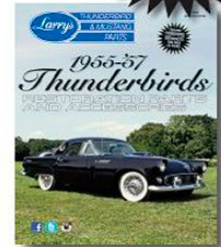
Teamco
GO FOR THE QUALITY

**Supplying Concours-
Quality, Parts
Upholstery and
Accessories
for Over 45 Years!**

**Restoration Parts
& Accessories**

Order your
FREE
Catalog!

- ★Great Prices!
- ★Huge Inventory!
- ★Experienced
Parts Specialists!
- ★Fast Shipping!



Call Today!
(800) 854-0393

Larry's Thunderbird & Mustang Parts • 1180 California Ave. #B • Corona, CA 92881
Find us On The Web At: www.larrystbird.com

PAT WILSON'S

PARTS '58-'66

Thunderbird
NEW • USED • REPRO • REBUILT



www.wilsonbird.com

We Buy, Sell, Trade Parts, Trade Cars, and Part Out Many Cars
Info: 973-579-7205 • Toll Free: 1-888-262-1153 • info@wilsonbird.com

CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG





CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

OUR DELIGHTFUL MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS

NOW, THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH



CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

ANNUAL OPEN CAR SHOW - APRIL 25, 2021

THIS SHOW IS SOLD-OUT PARTICIPATE - PLEASE EVERYONE COME AND ENJOY AND SUPPORT THE COMPETITORS

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

NO PETS

NO TENTS

MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE DOOR PRIZES
THIS EVENT IS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED PERSONS

**NO INDIVIDUAL MUSIC FROM CARS OR OTHER SOURCES
SHOW DJ MUSIC ONLY**

AWARDS WILL BE BY DIRECT VOTE OF REGISTERED CAR OWNERS
CAR OWNERS CANNOT VOTE FOR THEMSELVES
MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE TROPHIES

BEST OF SHOW TROPHY

Awarded by the Mayor of West Miami

SPECIAL TROPHIES

Best Club Representation
Furthest Distance Driven

THREE TROPHIES PER CLASS

Best of Class
Second Place
Third Place

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN THE CLUB IS A LOVE OF THE THUNDERBIRD OR ANTIQUE CARS YOU DO NOT NEED TO OWN A T-BIRD OR EVEN AN ANTIQUE CAR TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP VISIT OUR CLUB WEBSITE AT www.TbirdFl.com FOR MORE INFORMATION



DJ ELVIS LOUNGE PLAYLIST



Top 10 Valentine's Countdown

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 10 | I Don't Want to Miss A Thing | Aerosmith |
| 9 | Because You Loved Me | Celine Dion |
| 8 | I Will Always Love You | Whitney Houston |
| 7 | I'll Make Love to You | Boyz II Men |

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 6 | By Your Side | Sade |
| 5 | For Your Precious Love | Jerry Butler |
| 4 | When A Man Loves A Woman | Percy Sledge |
| 3 | Unchained Melody | Righteous Brothers |
| 2 | Can't Help Falling in Love | Elvis Presley |
| 1 | Hold Me - Thrill Me - Kiss Me | Mel Carter |



Member's Car Page

“BO’s BIRD” our 1955 Thunderbird

by Ed Raabe



Our Thunderbird story begins with a search for Edsel “Dog Dish” hubcaps in Hershey PA, 2011. I was looking for original hubcaps for our 1959 Edsel and thought that a trip to the AACA Hershey October Meet would be just the place to find what I needed. I have waited a long time to go there and since our daughter, Ashley and son-in-law, Thomas, were living in Baltimore we thought a nice family weekend up to the show would be fun. I dragged Thomas around the Swap Meet lots for 8 hours in the blazing sun (it didn’t rain that year) looking for those stupid hubcaps. Finally, we met a great Edsel guy named Henry Klinger, but some Scandinavians had just wiped him out of all his hubcaps, among other rare Edsel parts! He was a great connection and since then we have had many satisfactory parts transactions.

The Car Corral at Hershey is famous for its’ vast selection of divergent Classic cars for sale. The next day with my wife Arlene and Ashley along we strolled up and down the Corral, which as you know can take hours. Suddenly we came upon 3 Thunderbirds. Now Arlene, my wife, and I have discussed owning a Thunderbird for a while. It is for us, “the ultimate classic car”. Of course, it had to be “that turquoise-teal color” which we all know is really blue, THUNDERBIRD BLUE! Well, one of the three cars is a 55 (my favorite Early Bird) and it IS Thunderbird Blue. We look it over, think it’s really nice and say to ourselves “one day, that’s the kind of T-Bird we’ll get”, then keep on walking!

That night we talk some more about THAT Thunderbird. It has what we want, and it’s represented by Marvin Hill, of Hills Automotive one of the most respected Thunderbird restorers in the USA, so no worries about the build quality. And then there is that C.D. we have that’s not doing anything for us in the bank!

Thomas and I get up early the next day and go back right to the Corral and it’s NOT THERE.



The other 2 cars are, but not “our Bird”! So, I call the girls and tell them “too bad I guess it got sold” and to relax and come over in a little while, “Thomas and I are going to look around at the Vendors for some Die Cast cars”.

Two hours later they show up and we walk the Corral to see if anything new has showed up. As we approach the Hills cars, there it is, “Our TBird”! So, we go over and start asking questions. When was it restored? How many miles on the engine rebuild? etc. etc. I go for a test ride with Marvin Hill’s son and I am impressed. Starts right up, shifts strong, moves out like a ‘Bat out of Hell” It’s “all good”. When we get back I tell Arlene if we are going to do it, this really is “the one”, so we meet Marvin and work out a deal, BUT we are in PA and we live in FLA! (Transportation is costly and if I can get it thrown in, I’ll close). Marvin brings over his partner Jim and tells us he has a home in Daytona would we be interested in picking it up there. YES, we have a deal!

Now we are all family and Jim says “Hell, I’ll bring it right to your home in Ft Lauderdale”!

About a week later Jim arrives in his “football field long” enclosed car carrier with our new Thunderbird inside.



We are the 3rd owners, the first being Betty and Gary Sheppard of Parkersburg, West Virginia and the second Mr. James Bishoff of Belpre Ohio, for whom Hills Automotive restored the car. Being a low-mileage car, the restoration was performed without the need to remove the body from the frame. Born on July 26th , 1955, at the Dearborn MI. factory as a P-Code 292cu.in V8 with automatic “air cooled” transmission, power steering and power brakes, we are still in the process of researching an original bill of sale, but have had no luck so far, since most of those records for the 55 T-Birds are lost. The CTCI archives do not have the build sheet or Bill of Sale.

We joined the CTCI and Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida right away. We were welcomed enthusiastically to our local club by the founder, Felipe Cos, whose Thunderbird experience went back to pre-Castro Cuba where he had the reputation for the “Fastest Thunderbird on the Island”. He was always ready to help a club member with any Thunderbird issue that came up and was



still restoring cars at his home at 78 years old! He even published a book answering the most common Thunderbird repair issues called Thunderpedia. Sadly, Felipe has now passed, but his Legend lives on.

We also became members of The AACA South Florida region and have had the honor of our car to be chosen for the Havana Nights Memory Lane Exhibit in 2012. We attend many AACA sponsored Events and have made some great friends in the Club. One of our favorite Events is Art Deco Weekend in the South Beach district of Miami. Classic cars are lined up along the beach among the Deco Hotels, Restaurants and Artists booths making for a spectacular showing of Classic Cars.

I have a lot of fun maintaining our Thunderbird in top running condition. We forget how much routine maintenance the older cars required, which includes a minimum of a weekly drive for at least 30 minutes to keep the “juices” flowing. It’s a tough job, but somebody needs to do it! Since owning it I have made over 50 small improvements to make it ready for an AACA regional judging, including replacing the tires with original bias-ply wide white walls, like the kind it left the factory wearing, new carpeting and dozens of adjustments and tweaks. In 2016 we attended The AACA Winter Regional and won a First Junior Award.

Among other awards, our Thunderbird has won a Blue Ribbon for Best in Class at the Boca Raton Concours de Elegance, 2012 and 2016, The AACA South Florida Region Miracle Mile Best of Class, 2014 and The Dave Siegel Memorial Award for Best of Show, 2014. Dave was a well-respected former Thunderbird owner, Thunderbird Club President and AACA member, who is memorialized each year with a show in his name.

With awards for originality behind us we decided adding air conditioning was a necessity for driving in Florida. That of course meant the “originality” goes out the window. This installation was not without its complications. The generator is replaced by an alternator to produce a lot more than the stock 30 Amps. Added was an electric fan and a new radiator with greater cooling capacity as well as a baffle for the water pump for efficiency.



The first installation was not satisfactory, and within a few months was falling apart, so I had Paul from Prime Tune give it a complete work over. We changed the alternator for one that could produce 120amps and new brackets for the AC compressor, which was a big improvement. Now we don't suffer on a midsummer day if we want to take a drive. We kept all the original components in case the next owner wants to put it back to “Original” condition.

We are truly fortunate to be members of Classic Thunderbird Club of South Florida. We especially love the Rallye Events, which was Felipe Cos' passion. His mantra was “don't just look at your classic, drive it” Every year there is a Rallye in his name thanks to the efforts of Oscar Castro and Elvis Patron. Over the years and have seen the Club grow from 24 to over 87 members! Now over 20 years old we see a long future for the Club as it embraces members who own, not only the Early Birds, but Thunderbirds of all iterations and other Collectible Cars and Trucks as well.

Thank you for allowing me to tell our story,

Ed Raabe

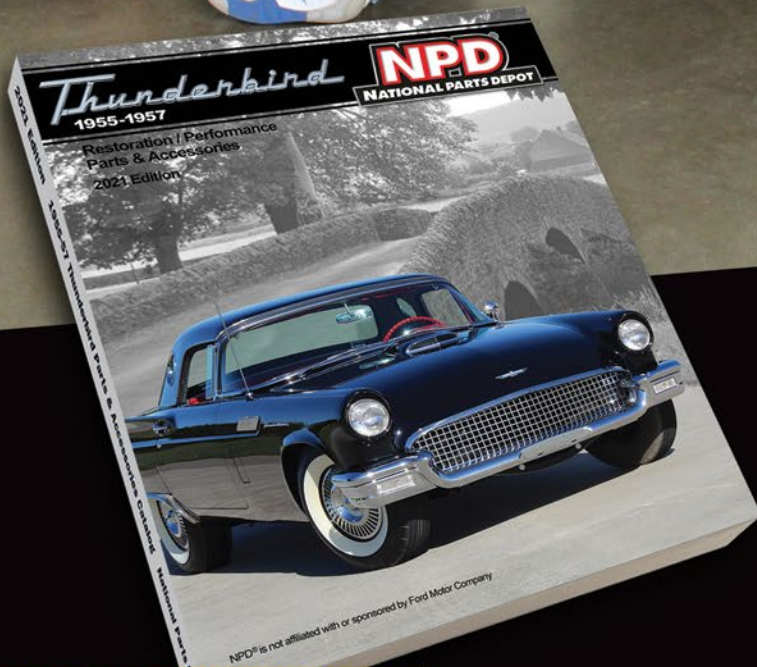


We're here for you.

NPD[®] NATIONAL PARTS DEPOT



And we'll be here for them.



- Five-Star Service since 1976
- Over 135,000 parts in stock
- 1-3 day delivery to most of U.S.
- 24/7 phone support

3 Warehouses Nationwide

Florida: 800-874-7595

Michigan: 800-521-6104

North Carolina: 800-368-6451

For your free catalog or to order, call:

800-874-7595 or visit **NPDLink.com**

Copyright © 2021 by National Parts Depot All Rights Reserved

MECUM Official
AUCTIONS Restoration Parts
Supplier



Thunderbird
news