

New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club  
Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



# The Thunder Heard

April 2015

## Warmer Weather?

### 2015 Meeting Schedule

April 12	Pat & Joanne
April 19	Spring Cruise
April 26	Dinner & Play
May 23	Paquito D'Rivera
June 7	Tune Up Clinic
June	Bill & Martha Downing
July	Carol & Charlie Ehm
August 16	Picnic
Sept	Mike & Wendy Meehan
October	Gene & Diane Szura
October	Fall Cruise
November	Charlie & Izabella Costa
December	Christmas Party

The April meeting will be hosted by Pat & Joanne on April 12. RSVP Joanne at 551-404-3646 or ladytbird567@yahoo.com  
See page 4 for location

**If you cannot host your meeting as scheduled, it is your responsibility to get someone to switch with.**

Please let Joanne Seiler know at least

**2 months** before your scheduled month that **YOU WILL BE HOSTING** the meeting and give the date/time/etc.



### President's Message



Spring has sprung, the grass and trees are a beautiful shade of white! Really? We know it's coming, the Spring cruise is only a couple of weeks away

Our hearts are broken due to the passing of our long time friend, Treasurer and picnic chef Frank Chabala. He is missed by all.

The biggest happy news is the highly successful 50's dance. Complements and kudos have been coming in from everyone. Thank you to all the hard working members who made it possible. Please go to the web site's members area and view all the pictures. At the same time look around to see the other updated albums. Hopefully you can hear all the great music attached to them. While you are at it, leave a note on our guest book page

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see information on the Spring cruise to Branch Brook Park. If you have never been there when the cherry blossoms are in bloom, it is quite a sight to see and all the pictures in the world don't do it justice. Bring your cameras. If you can't make the cruise try to get there on your own time to check them out. There are 5000 cherry trees of at least 2 different types. The Blossoms only last about 2 weeks.

Hope to see you at Joanne and my meeting in April  
Pat Le Strange

# APRIL



### A few Words From Alec

Here it is the first week of spring and winter refuses to give up the ghost. Any way, this past winter should make this spring and summer all the sweeter. Looking forward to enjoying waking my early bird from its long winter nap (only started it twice and never took it out of the garage).

Hope to see you all on the road this summer and make up for lost time.

### March Meeting

John and Sandra Pyrros hosted this meeting. It wasn't the best day weather-wise, but Walter brought his Tbird and Bill Jessie took delivery of the newly powered (Ford, natch) 56 Merc . We had a large crowd attending. The food was great and I know Rich and Joe K. really liked the Klondike's. Thanks to Sandra and John and John's sister and daughter who helped out.

### Highlights of the Business meeting

The first order of business was a oral memorial of Frank Chabala's contribution to NJORTC by Joe Kubat and then a moment of silence was held in remembrance.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as was the Treasurer's report.

Arlene recognized Dorothy Dobres, Marianne Denning and Alec who were attending after a recent illnesses.

Pat reported on the NJORTC board meeting. Among items mentioned:

Calendar will be discontinued because of cost.

Price of Holiday party was raised to 130.00 because of increased cost by the hall .

Events for the year were set up

Paul S reported that he has submitted a newsletter for the CTCL newsletter contest.

Pat mentioned his attendance at the CTCL board meeting and that a report was emailed to the members.

Joe and Arlene reported that no location has been chosen for the spring cruise. Looking at locations.

Paul S reported that the only supplier that would do the plaques as we wanted will charge \$15-20 each, unpainted. Paul will do the painting. The members voted to order 12 units.

Martha asked about budgets for each activity. Pat said we have guidelines but no formal budget.

Phil Guidone asked the group about a Barrett-Jackson "cruise" in 2016. Many members were in favor and he will look into it.

Continued on Page 4



### Vice President's Message

I think that spring is here although the temperatures do not show it!!!!

As we all know by now, we lost our dear friend Frank Chabala. We extend our sympathy to Lucille and her family. Our prayers are with you.

We had our 50's dance this past weekend - it was great. We had good music, root beer floats and a lot of 50's desserts. As usual I want to thank Pat and Joanne for putting this together. All I can say that they think of everything - decorations, toys on the table, 50's kind of candy. This year we had "Elvis in the house". Pat brought a head of Elvis with shoulders wearing a leather jacket. He talked whenever you walked in front of him plus he sang, moved his eyes and lifted his lip like Elvis did. It was definitely a little freaky. Also, I want to say we had a lot of club participation in decorating the hall, serving food, helping in the kitchen and breaking down. Thanks for all your help. We have the best club ever.

On April 18th we will have our club Spring Cruise. (see page 4 for all the particulars-ed) Let's hope that it is a beautiful day and that the cherry blossoms are still in bloom. After the tour we will lunch at the Russian Hall in Little Falls. Please let Joe or myself know if you are going. Let's get our little Birds on the road. Payment to Carol.

On April 26th we will be going to see West Side Story. Donna Jesse is the Chair and has put together a nice day. Joe and I are not able to attend, so have a great time and I hope you enjoy the play.

Once again Bill Downing put a nice article in the Early Bird magazine. We are getting recognized in CTCL. Other clubs are getting to see that we are quite active. Thanks Bill

Do not forget our website. Great job Joanne and Pat. Also thanks Paul for a great newsletter every month.

See you at the meeting hosted by Pat and Joanne on April 12th.

Arlene

### Laws Of Commercial Marketing

As soon as you find a product you really like, they will stop making it.

# Membership News

Happy Anniversary



Judy Semmler 12th  
Charles Musto 16th  
Lucille Chabala 27th

Get Well Soon!

I hope everyone is well

**FOR SALE**

## 1957 Thunderbird

Red, Power steering and brakes. Both tops - good driver. 312 and Automatic. Basically an estate car as owner has passed away and the widow is selling. Asking 25,000. Also for sale - Copies of the Early Bird May/June 1969 to March/April 2004. Staten Island 718-667-5176

## 1957 Thunderbird

Painted 55 TB Golden Rod Yellow. Yellow/black interior. Auto, power windows and steering, power disc brakes. Rebuilt 312. CD player. 55 Fairlane headlight doors. Hard top only. Original sheet metal. Asking 35,000. Located in Oregon. Frank Stubbs 425-228-1012

## Condolences

To Lucille Chabala and her family on Franks' passing

## Congratulations

To John & Sandra Pyrros. Their first grandchild, John James. 3/4/15

I want your input. Please send any items to be included by the middle of the month if possible. They can be e-mailed or snail mailed to me. [ptschroll@aol.com](mailto:ptschroll@aol.com)

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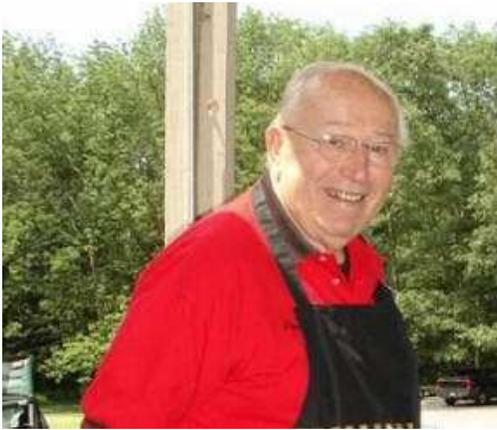
Mailing Address: NJORTC, PO Box 615 Hewitt, NJ 07421

web site: [www.njortc.org](http://www.njortc.org)

Registered Agent	Phil Guidone
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Membership Chairman	Paul Adamoff
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Asst. Master at Arms	Alex Johnstone
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Joanne Seiler



## In Memoriam Frank Chabala



Frank passed away March 2nd at age 81.

He had many antique cars, including three classic Thunderbirds, one of each year. He loved to go to the garage after dinner and Saturday mornings to talk to the many people who would stop by the garage and see the cars.

Besides NJORTC, Frank was a member of the Mercedes Club. With NJORTC he was the Treasurer for 23 years. He enjoyed being the chef at our picnics and he had so much fun playing Santa Claus at the Christmas parties and having the ladies sitting on his lap to take pictures with him in the Santa costume. He would tease the ladies just to make them laugh. He was a big tease.

His favorite thing to do was to go to Duncan Donuts every morning and get two glazed sticks and a cup of coffee. On Sundays he would get a box of donuts to bring home so he and Lucille could enjoy them. The first picnic I attended after joining NJORTC was where I met Frank. We just clicked and became good friends. We would talk on the phone two to three times a week and just talked about cars, his business and my trucks. I already miss talking to him. For over 23 years, we always sat next to one another at our meetings. I felt very lost at our last meeting when he was not there. Rest in peace Frank, I will miss you as will all your friends from NJORTC.

Joe Kubat

### Minutes of March meeting (cont'd)

Rich advised members who are having work done to their cars at the Tune Up Clinic to notify him.

Arlene recognized Bill Downing's efforts for the picnic and his Early Bird articles.

Next meeting Pat & Joanne hosts, April 12  
Walter won the 50/50

## Events

### April Meeting

The April meeting will be held at the Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge # 1506, located at the corner of Spruce & Cedar Streets, Ridgefield Park. Time is 2 PM. Be sure to RSVP (or regrets) to Joanne

### Westchester Broadway Theater

There is still time to get in on this. Dinner and play. This should be a good outing. The date is April 26 and will be on a Sunday, approx. 11:45 to 4:30 Call Donna if going. email: tbandmetro@aol.com or 845-786-2985

### Spring Cruise

The Spring Cruise is on April 18 (Saturday). The cruise will be to Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and then to the Branch Brook Park in Newark, hopefully to see the cherry blossoms. Then to the Russian Hall for lunch. Price is \$32 per person. We will meet in Boonton /Wal-Mart Shopping Center at 9:30. Contact Arlene or Joe Kubat if you are going. Keep your fingers crossed for a nice sunny day. Rain or shine event. Send your check to Carol Ehm

### Tune Up Clinic

Time to tune up for the new season. This is on June 7th at the Martin's. Notify Rich if you are going to do or have any work done on your car. Be sure to bring any parts you will need, including oil and filter if changing. Come (with your Bird) even if you have no work to do on your car and enjoy the day BS-ing and to help out. 9AM Start. Ladies invited to socialize. Let Lois know if you are coming.

### CTCI Convention

#### Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 26 - 30

If you plan to attend, get your hotel reservations in now. It will be held at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel. For reservations call 800-325-3535 or 505-830-5781(direct). Ask for the Pajarito Thunderbird Club rate (\$99 single, \$109 double). Additional details can be found at the CTCI website or [www.thunderbirdsnm.com](http://www.thunderbirdsnm.com)

Walter and Bill and Donna Jessie are driving out to the convention. If you wish to join them, contact Donna as she has set up motels and the routes out and back

## Car Shows-Swap Meets

- 4/11 Medford NJ Flying W Airport, 60 Fostertown Rd Car Show
- 4/12 Watchung Show & Swap Longhill Com. CTR.
- 4/17-19 Englishtown Show and Swap
- 4/22-26 Carlisle, PA Spring Carlisle
- 4/25 Red Bank 700 Shrewsbury Ave-George Wall Ford Mercury
- 5/1-3 Rhinebeck NY Show & Swap Dutchess Cty Fairgrounds 6550 Spring Brook Ave (RTE 9)
- 5/2 Netcong-34 Bank St Power Portal Products.
- 5/3 Florham PK 50 Hanover Rd-Auto. Switch Co
- 5/16 Montville Hot Rod Farm
- 5/17 Upper Saddle River 1 Lake St-Pearson Educ.
- 5/17 Chester-Main Street

For more shows go to  
<http://holtononline.com/carshows.html>  
<http://www.newjerseycarshows.com/>  
[www.njortc.org](http://www.njortc.org)

## Cruise Nights

### Tuesday

Clifton, Rutt's Hutt

Wayne 1560 Rte 23 N Wendy's (Start 5/5)

### Wednesday

Paterson-Pep Boys Speed 261 McLean Blvd (3/25)

### Thursday

Wayne - 1800 Rte 23 N Kohl's (start 5/7)

Hackettstown Mountain Rd Wendy's (Start 4/30)



### TRIVIA

Triple Header - Who opened the first drive in gas station? Name, year and location. Got to get all three for the prize

The answer to last month's trivia was the Acme Auto Co. Answered by Lorri Matrone.

## 50's Dance

The dance went off with a bang. We had a large crowd. The DJ kept the attendees on their feet dancing the night away. The food, supplied by the Market Basket, was plentiful and delicious and the desserts included Twinkies, delicious brownies by Sandra Pyrros, a delicious crumb cake, moon pies and other items.. The food was topped by root beer floats served in Coke glasses which the attendees could take home.

Our own Julia won the hoola hoop contest and other prizes were won in dance contests. There was a fifty/fifty drawing which a lucky guest won \$225.

Many thanks to Pat and Joanne who not only supplied the decorations but ran the dance. And thanks to the members who helped set up, ran the various activities and broke down the hall.



Happy  
Easter

## March Meeting



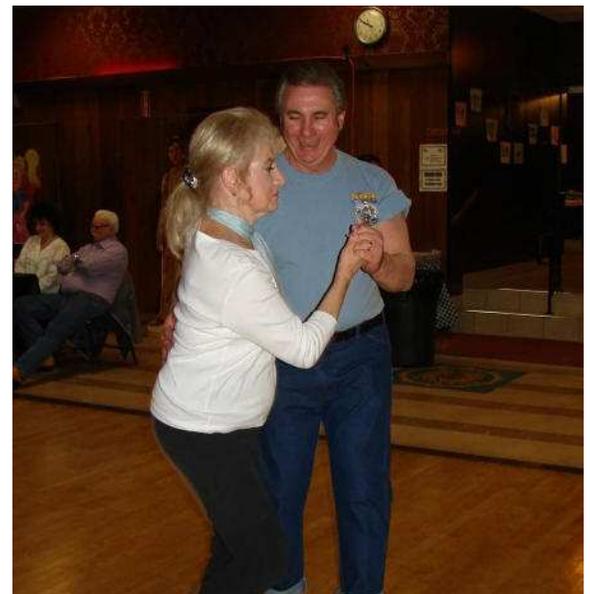
50's Dance



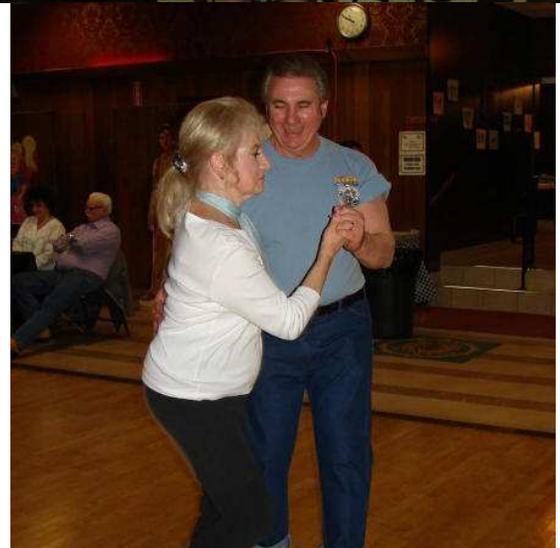
## Pittsburgh TBird Anniversary Show July 16-19

The Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club, in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, is hosting a 60th anniversary celebration of the Tbird. The TBird display will be the centerpiece of the car show. You can drive your Tbird on the road race track on Sunday (2.3 miles). Activities include a tour to the Flight 93 Memorial, tours of the pit and paddock areas of the race track and the parade lap. Some dinners and lunches are provided. For full information, hotel accommodations and a schedule of events go to [www.pittbirds.org](http://www.pittbirds.org). Click on PVGP. Registration fee is \$100 plus 50.00 for the Flight 93 Tour and Banquet. The host hotel is the Comfort Inn at RIDC Park 412-963-0600. There is a special rate of \$109 plus tax

Let Paul S. know if you are interested in going



**Signs**  
On a Taxidermist's Window  
"We really know our stuff"



As Arlene mentioned in last month's newsletter, a number of the club members went on an ocean cruise to the Caribbean. The total for the auto themed group was over 100.

Here is a group shot of the local contingent  
The guy in front is a stripper, Von Hot Rod who did demos on the trip



# NJORTC ANNUAL SPRING CRUISE



Saturday April 18, 2015



## The Russian Hall ...since 1930

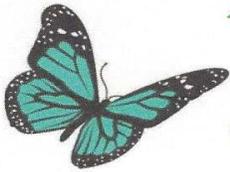
973 256-9634

4-6 Woodhull Avenue; Little Falls NJ 07424



Located off Route 23 in Little Falls, simply turn by the 7-Eleven at Bradford Avenue and proceed straight for two blocks. The Russian Hall is located at the corner of Woodhull and Bradford.

**\$32 per person, Lunch Buffet, soda included, cash bar available**



Time to get those little birds out, although not required but encouraged.!

Daily drivers if preferred or necessary.

Other classic cars welcome too.

We will meet 9:30am at Boonton/ Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr, depart at 10 am for a cruise to Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart then through Branch Brook Park's Cherry Blossoms, both are great photo ops so bring your camera!

Then on to the Russian Hall for a Buffet Lunch.

Contact **Arsene & Joe Kubat** [finallyak@yahoo.com](mailto:finallyak@yahoo.com)

cell> 973-900-1921 or home> 862-221-9773 let them know who and how many plan to attend, send check to our Treasurer

Carol Ehm 24 Pleasant Ave Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

RSVP's must be in by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

