

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



The Thunder Heard

MARCH 2010

SPRING IS HERE

2010 Meeting Schedule

March 7	Walter Strohmaier
March 14	Bowling Outing
April	Bob & Shelly Belli
April 17	Edison Tour
May 2	Tune Up Clinic
May	Dominick & Eva Tucci
June	Phil & Dorothy Guidone
July	Susan & Anthony Gaeta
August 8	Mini-Concours
September	Donna & Bill Jessie
October	John & Sandra Bolger
November	Frank Gloss/Mary Green

The March meeting will be on the 7th at 2 PM and will be hosted by Walt Strohmaier
31 Brentwood Drive, E. Hanover
RSVP 973-887-7726 or
wstrohma@optonline.net

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



We're getting closer to Spring, (I wish). Last Summer it rained all the time, now it snows all the time. I am really missing driving the TBird. But so far, I have received 3 Car Show flyers (care to send me copies Pat?-ed) so we must be getting close.

The meeting hosted by Ron & Merry Case was well attended. We also held our annual board meeting prior to the regular meeting.

Our Sweetheart Brunch went very well with a good turnout. Thanks Lucille.

We are planning to get together for a run down of the people and cars going to OHIO. Let us know if you are going and how you are getting there.

For anyone going to the AC car auction let us know what interested you there. Tell Paul for the newsletter. Pictures if possible.

Please let Walter know if you are going to his meeting on March 7th.

Condolences to Sandy and John Pyrros on the passing of Sandy's mother.

Joanne's and my 50's dance went very well and we raised \$1,500 for the Elk's Charities (mostly for Handicapped Children and Vets). Thanks to the club members who attended. I hope you had as much fun as we did. Congratulations to Lorraine Cirinilli for winning the bubblegum blowing contest.

See you next meeting.

Pat LeStrange

MARCH



A few words from Alec

Hopefully, this winter will end soon. As I grow older the winters seem to last longer and the summers seem to become shorter.

There is a lot of interest among club members concerning the upcoming CTCI Convention in June of this year. We will try to have a discussion at the March meeting to determine how many members are going – taking their cars (driving or trailering) and how many would like to travel there in a caravan.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Happy Motoring
Alec

My TBird-Walt Strohmaier(and adventure) Cont'd from last month



I went to the Tulsa convention, on to Phoenix to visit friends then on to Seaside, OR to stay with family. I did side trips to Bend, OR car show, Portland for car upgrade (springs re-arched) and visit friends. Then I went to Richmond, BC for the CTCI convention where the Bird got the long distance award. I then met up with Lucy Clark (57 Betsy Bird), Doc. Dockter (56 Doc's chick magnet) Gordon Peterson (57IRA) and the four of us (Golden Eagle) drove to Bellingham, WA and got on the Alaska Marine Highway ferry (Aug 21) to Skagway, AK. We had stops in Ketchikan, Wrangell, and an overnight in Juneau.

From Skagway we started our 2000 mile tour of Alaska on the Klondike Hwy to Whitehorse. Next stop was Beaver Creek, then Fairbanks. We visited the Univ. of Alaska Museum of the North and went on to Denali Park and (Cont'd on Page 5)



Vice President's Message

Hi everyone. I hope you are enjoying all the snow and cold weather. All I can say is UGH!!! Soon spring will be here (I hope) and we can get our little Birds out of storage and on the road. I am starting to see flyers coming in the mail for 2010 car shows (share the wealth with me please-ed).

The weekend of February 26 thru 28 is the Atlantic City auction (show). I know a lot of you guys (ladies too) are looking forward to it.

Thanks Lucille for running the Sweetheart Brunch – as usual the food was great. We had a great turnout of members and guests . Also thank you Pat for the beautiful roses (mine still looks good) and Joanne for the bag of goodies.

Did everyone enjoy Valentine's Day? We all should have received hug and kisses. What better day than to show our loved ones how much we love them.

I hope Lois , Donna and Eva doing better. I wish then all well.

See you all at Walter's meeting on March 7th at 2 PM



Membership News



Pat & Bill Selby 12th
Bruce & Aileen Corbett 30th



Joanne Seiler 5th
Susan Gaeta 9th
Bob Perruso 28th

**GET WELL
SON!**

Vince DeAndrea
Lois (Lane) Martin
Eva Tucci
Donna Jessie

Condolences

To Sandy Pyrros on the recent passing of her mother

Club Dues

The 2010 club dues are now payable. Please send your payment to Frank Chabala. They should be paid by 3/31



It's here March 21st

Roster Update

Please submit any changes for the club roster (after you have paid your dues (if still owing). New telephone numbers (cell and land line), spouse, address, email. Send to Pat.

NJORTC 2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

<u>President</u>	Pat LeStrange	201-920-7226 rolodexp@aol.com
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	Mike Meehan	973-267-2958
	V. DeAndrea	732-548-6533
	John Pyrros	201-487-2943

Registered Agent	Vince DeAndrea
Awards/Plaques	Dominick Tucci
Membership Chairman	Alec Johnstone
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Jackets	Joe Kubat
Grill Plaques & Hats	Frank Chabala
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Wendy Meehan

Some good Questions

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movies and ON TV

Why do doctors leave the room while you change?

They see you naked anyway

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him

Sweetheart Brunch

We had a great time. A lot of members turned out. Pat played Cupid and handed out flowers and Joanne played Ms. Cupid and handed out favors for the ladies. And the men got their own little gift. The food was excellent and plentiful. Thanks to Lucille for arranging this outing.



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. Pictures, articles, tech, etc. Paul Schroll pts1231@aol.com

CLUB EVENTS

Bowling Outing

A bowling outing is being scheduled for March 14. Place and time are not fully settled but once it is it will be announced on the website and in an email to you.

Thomas Edison Tour

Lucille has made all the arrangements for the tour of the Edison Lab and home, which is scheduled for **April 17th**. Cost is 7.00 per person. We will meet at the Lab parking lot on Main Street, West Orange at 9:30 AM where you will receive passes to the Glenmont Estate where we will start our tour at 10:00AM. We will tour the grounds including the house, greenhouse, the famous round table garage and the graves of Edison and his wife.

Then we will depart for the Lab where you will see all of Edison's inventions.

Make sure you put this on your calendar and let's hope for a sunny day to debut our TBirds for the new year. Contact Lucille Chabala. Payment has to be made before the day of the tour.

Tune Up Clinic

This is scheduled for May 2 at Rich Martin's house. This is a good chance to get to those items that have to be taken care of before the drive to Dayton.

FOR SALE

WANTED

Pat is looking to borrow a 8mm VCR PLAYER/CAMCORDER. This is the type that plays 8mm or HI 8 video tapes His is broken and he is trying to convert his old VCR tapes to DVD. Please contact Pat if you have one or know where one can be found.

My TBird – Continued



Mt. McKinley (which was covered by clouds). On to Wasilla and the residence of Mr & Mrs Arthur Isham where we were treated to a terrific lunch and tour of a 13 car collection (including a 56 Bird). Then on to Anchorage where the local TBird club met us for dinner, fellowship and guided tour around the seaplane lake to see the rescued PBY from WWII.

We started our return up the Glenn Hwy. to Glennallen with a stop at Palmer, the Matanuska Glacier and the Eureka Roadhouse. On to Tok, down to Whitehorse and Skagway. Coming down the mountains, the scenery was beautiful and constantly changing. I did not want this trip to end. At 5AM on Sept 6 we boarded the ferry for Juneau, stayed till 4 AM Sept 8th and then boarded the ferry for Billingham, WA We arrived in Billingham Sept 11 and I drove to Seaside, OR for the Wheels and Waves car show and visit with family. I then went to Portland, then to Boulder, CO and on to New Bern, NC, all to visit friend and family. Then was the final trip home, stopping in Chocowinity, NC to visit friends, Ellicot City, MD to stay with daughter's family and finally home on Sept 29th. Ninety days and 11,000miles, a trip cherished with new friends and great adventure with a ground level view of this Great Country.

I would like to end this with a BIG Thank You to some folks who helped greatly during this adventure: Heritage Ford in Weatherford, OK (road gator damage), J Richardson of Advanced Collision Repair (brake repair), Guy Williams (exhaust) and Oregon Spring (rear springs).

TECH TIPS

Front Spring Replacement

This article was written by Barry Thomas and appeared in the Early Bird of Sept-Oct 1979 and has been somewhat edited and has material added by your editor which was not in the original submission. It is the second of a series by Barry

This job is not any more difficult than that outlined in the Ball Joint Replacement article. The same tools and equipment required for the Ball Joint article are again needed for front coil replacement .

Jack up the front, placing blocks under the frame in front of the muffler. I prefer wood or cement blocks. If you use stands, don't use the 3 leg stands, go with the four leg stands. They are much more stable. Be sure to jack the front end high enough to allow the lower A frame to hang nearly straight down from its pivots.

Proceed as follows, remembering that while the compressed spring contains a lot of potential energy, if you handle it properly and carefully you will not get hurt.

1. Remove the wheel and tire, the shock absorber and the stabilizer bar end.
2. Place the jack under the A frame between the ball joint and shock absorber hole.
3. Run a heavy chain around two coils of the spring and the frame. This is a safety precaution if the spring decides to take off.
4. Remove the lower ball joint stud per steps 3, 4 and 5 of the ball joint removal article (protect the threads on the ball joint if it is going to be reused. If you are using the porta power method, keeping a nut on the ball joint stud will serve as adequate protection).
5. SLOWLY lower the jack supporting the lower A frame. This will allow the spring to "relax" and safely release its energy
6. Remove the safety chain and remove the spring from its seat on the A frame by pushing the A frame down as far as possible with your foot. Removal is complete.
7. Place the upper spring rubber (and any spacer if so equipped on the driver side) on the top of the new spring. Tape will hold both in place for assembly purposes.
8. Position the top of the spring into its recess in the frame and position the coil's lower end on the A frame making certain the cut off end of the coil is in its "pocket" on the A frame

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Allentown Swap Meet

Seven of the members went to the swap meet in Allentown, PA and then to the Allentown Automotive Museum. The swap meet was pretty big with just auto items. The museum had a nice collection of cars, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles. We met up with some members of the No. Jersey TBird Assn.



CRUISE NIGHTS

CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

Feb 26-28- Atlantic City Auction

March 28-So Jersey AACA Swap Meet & Car Corral
Salem County Fairgrounds

April 11 Stirling, NJ Flea Mkt-Long Hill Comm. Ctr
South Warren Ave

April 16-18 Englishtown Swap & Car show

April 21-25-Spring Carlisle, PA

April 25-Butler, Rte 23 Automall (Flyer)

If any one has info on shows and swap meets and please let me have the particulars for the newsletter.

Sweetheart Brunch.



CTCI Int'l Convention

This is being held in June 15-20, 2010 at the Wright-Paterson AFB. Make your plans now for attending. Already we have about 8 cars that are going. Book rooms early as there may be a shortage

January/February Meeting



January/February Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Ron & Merry Case. While a truly miserable rainy day, we had a large turnout. The food was good and it was a productive meeting. Thanks to Merry and Ron.

Some highlights of the meeting:

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

There was a guest attending, Bob Notar from Pompton Plains who owns a 57 TBird and a 65 GTO. Apparently Bob liked what he saw and joined at the meeting.

Rich Martin suggested that we send a donation to support the Dayton Club organizing the Int'l convention. After a discussion, the club authorized a donation of \$500.00.

Pat reported that before the meeting, the Annual Board Meeting was held. A financial audit was completed and future activities were discussed.

Joanne Seiler went over the calendar of events for 2010 for comments. She also handed out membership cards.

Wendy Meehan reported that the updating of the web site is complete, including the members only section.

The Tune-Up Clinic has been scheduled for May 2nd at Rich Martin's house.

Per Lois Martin, a second regional in 2011 will be held in Omaha, Neb. (other in Richmond, VA).

Paul Schroll would like to put the newsletter in the public portion of the web site, rather than in the Members Only section. A discussion followed based mainly on privacy issues. Subject was tabled for future discussion.

In order to have a good record of our events, an "Event Expense" form was made up and is to be used for recording costs and other information.

Kudos were given to Mike Mehan (calendars) and Arlene Kubat (Holiday party).

Phil Guidone won the 50/50

March is National Women's Month and March 8 is International Woman's Day.

WWII gave us major gas rationing – Does anyone know why? The correct answer gets a free subscription to the newsletter. Answer next month.

Pat & Joanne's 50's Dance

Ten members attended the 50's dance. Lorraine beat everyone in the bubble gum blowing contest. There was plenty of good food and drink and Elvis was taken from his grave to do some numbers (at least it seemed so!!!!). A great time.



The winner in fine form



If you need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of your sleeve (Henry Ford)

More Sweetheart Brunch



Tech Tips (Continued)

9. Lift the lower A frame up by the ball joint end and place the jack under the A frame (in the same position as before) once you have raised the A frame as high as your strength allows- which won't be too high.
10. Slowly jack the A frame up until the ball joint stud slips into the spindle hole
11. Reassemble the ball joint nut and use a new cotter pin. Torque to specifications
12. Replace the shock absorber, stabilizer bar and wheel. Check all parts for wear and replace as necessary.

Again, have the front end aligned as the TBird will now be sitting at a higher level which changes the relationship of the suspension parts with the frame and thus requires realignment for proper handling.

Got any stories about the past regarding a NJORTC event, preferably with pictures, that you would like to tell us about? Write them up and send it to me along with the pictures and we will use it in the newsletter. I would like to continue the "MY TBIRD" column so how about it – send me the story and pics of your TBird.