



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

The Thunder Heard
JUNE 2009

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June is the start of Summer

2009 Meeting Schedule

June 14	Rich & Lois Martin
June 27	Chatterbox Cruise
July	Ken & Linda Herb
July 11	Race Track Show
August 2	MINI CONCOURS
September	Vince & Mary Ann Ucci
October 19	Fall Cruise
October	Henry & Judy Semmler
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY

The June Meeting will be on the 14th and will be hosted by:

Rich & Lois Martin
 15 Stonehedge Way(Lois Lane)
 Hewitt, NJ 07421
 2 PM
 RSVP 973-728-8652 or
Loislane21@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



May's Tune-up clinic/meeting was very well attended, thanks to the Corbetts. Mike Meehan put a new idler arm on his (Wendy's) Bird. I was going to have the valves adjusted on mine but it was determined it was not needed. We had several members either helping or learning.

After a tour of the Corbett "farm" we held our May meeting.

At the meeting we went over some of the upcoming club summer events and the standard meeting items. We spoke about our mending members Vince, Alec and Walter. Guys, get better fast.

The upcoming Conventions were talked about. We have several members attending both.

There are still a few hold outs for 2009 dues, so if you have not paid yours please do so now. If you are not going to renew your membership please let us know.

The new grille plaques are ready, contact Paul Schroll if you want to purchase one.

Car show season is in full swing so get the Birds out. Don't forget to let me know (rolodex@aol.com) if you are going to the Chatterbox on June 27 and what car you are driving. I can only get reserved spaces for old cars. Naturally we are looking to make a good Thunderbird showing but if yours is not on the road and you have another old car, bring it. Regular "grocery getters" will have to park in the spectator section. It will be a fun night. Try to be there about 5ish or earlier if you plan to eat. They get very busy and an hour wait is not unheard of. Also, I won't be able to hold the reserved spots after around 6 unless you let me know that you are on the way. My cell number is 201-920-7226.

We need names and counts for members wishing to attend the Meadowlands Paddock Park car display on July 11. We are being invited by the Garden State Region Mustang Club.

Have a fun and SAFE summer season

Happy T Birding
 Pat LeStrange





A few words from Alec

Now that the cruise night and car show season is in full swing, is it just me or do you feel that we don't have a spring season any more – we go right from chilly rainy weather with a few nice days sprinkled in to a hot and humid summer ?

Anyway, let's hope the rest of the year will allow us to enjoy our Birds as much as possible.

Looking forward to attending the Regional Conventions this summer

Happy Motoring
Alec

My TBird – Rich & Lois martin



Once upon a time in the early seventies I worked with a guy who was looking to buy himself a Little Bird. One of our co-workers said he had a couple in a barn for \$1,600 – a green 55 and a black 56 (and that was for two-\$800 each). Since I knew a little more about cars than he did, we went together to look at them. Of course we each bought one even though I wasn't looking. Needless to say my friend did not become hooked the way I did.

What started out as a project to put in a drive train, spruce up the dents, take care of a lot of rust and throw on a paint job turned into a chassis off restoration (You know the might-as-wells). I was never into concours original cars and since I didn't really care for the continental kit, my car was going to be non-original. No continental, a souped up engine and drive train sort of hot rod in disguise. In went the Shelby Hi-Performance 289, 4 speed top loader trans and a 9 inch rear. I did keep the rest of the body and (Continued Page 5)



Vice President's Message

The nice weather is finally here. I hope everyone had a fantastic Memorial Day and weekend. Joe and I were down the shore, had a houseful of company and weather was good. NO RAIN!!!! We lucked out. I heard there was rain in North Jersey, so I hope you were able to get in some cat shows.

I also hope that this newsletter finds everyone well. Vince is doing better, our prayers are with him. We miss you (Vince) at the meetings.

I am looking forward to going to the Chatterbox on June 27th. The food is good and there are a lot of nice cars to see, so I hope we can get as many of our T-Birds there as possible.

Enjoy the weather, cruising and car shows. See you at Lois' and Rich's house for our monthly meeting.

Arlene

Vince DeAndrea

Rich Martin reports that Vince is progressing but expects to be in rehab at least to the end of next month. He appreciates all the calls, visits and cards – however is cell phone minutes are going crazy and requests that any calls be made to his rehab number, 732-839-9626



Happy Fathers Day

Membership News

ANNIVERSARIES

Frank & Lucille Chabala 2nd
 Alex & Diane Marsiglio 7th



Alex Marsiglio 14th
 Arlene Kubat 1st
 Nick Malanga 6th
 Gene Szura May 13
 Bill Selby 18th

Teddy says
 get well!



Vince DeAndrea

FOR SALE

1957 TBird. White with all red interior. Wire wheels. Asking \$24,500. Located in Rhode Island. Nice driver and cruise night car. Call 401-651-2295 for info and pictures Tom Laferriere (Note – I have two pic's, will send them to you upon request-Paul)

Statues

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle

If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

From The Classic TBirder, Roanoke Va (Star City Classic T-Birds)

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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



Flag Day – June 14



CLUB EVENTS

April Meeting

Our hosts were Ailene & Bruce Corbett. Great hospitality as usual. A few pics



TBird Day at the Chatterbox

We are planning for a TBird Day at the Chatterbox Restaurant cruise on June 27th. A special area will be set aside for us. The Chatterbox is a 50's type facility which hosts a cruise every Saturday. Please contact Pat if you are going as we need a count for the space they will set aside. Meeting time and place to cruise there will be announced later. See Page 6 for location.

Any items you want us to publish in the newsletter must be received before the 1st of the month. They can be e-mailed directly to me.

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



TBirds at the Meadowlands

We have been invited to the WMTR Meadowlands Race Track Show by John Pestrichelli, of the Garden State Mustang Club (Ponies and Birds??) This will be on July 11th, and held in the Paddock area. We must get a count as space may be limited. If you are interested in taking your TBird to this show, please contact Pat as soon as possible.

Mini Concours

As noted in the 2009 meeting schedule, this will take place August 2nd, so please keep this in mind. Location will be the same, At the Doe Meadow grounds.

Tune Up Clinic

We had two cars scheduled for maintenance – Mike & Wendy's 56 and Pat's 57. Mike installed a new idler arm and Pat was going to have his valves adjusted. As it turned out, Pat used some tune up in a can which fixed his problem (just a sticky lifter?) Mike proceeded to change the idler arm with the help of some of the other members. The only casualty of the clinic was a drop light which was left behind a wheel, but was fixed by some handy bodywork by Bruce. A pic (Also see Page 8)



Mike toiling under the car

Beer is as exciting for us as handbags are for you



the interior completely original and stock piled all the parts. My thinking that maybe some day I would want to make it original or a new owner would like to change it.

After five years of work, I trailered it to the CTCI Convention in Cleveland (1980). We took Best Non-Original first time out (they did awards differently back in the day). Then we trailered it to Bend, Or. in 1986. Along we went-57 Ford Wagon tow car, homemade enclosed trailer, Grandma and the kids. This was our first distant adventure. We took Best Amateur Restoration, the first award of that kind, no longer given. We had now been traveling to CTCI events and other local and short distance shows for 30 years straight. We crossed the country at least twice-not always with a car but always for the fun.

After the Chicago Int'l Convention in 2000, we decided no more trailer. We were now going to have a driver. The car was starting to show some wear after 21 years of showing and we were no longer in the mood to clean with toothbrushes and q-tips. So we created a touring car. Over the next few years out came the Shelby engine, in went a 1988 HO 302, in went a 6 speed trans and air conditioning (only way to get Lois to travel across the country in a black Bird in the summer. Our first long distance driving trip was with Mike and Wendy Meehan to Wichita, KA in 2006. This turned out well enough that with a little pushing (Continued on Page 8)



TECH TIPS

Keep that Gas Tank Vented

The gas tanks on our 55-57 TBirds were designed to be vented. That is to allow air to come into the tank to fill the void as the fuel is removed. If the tank is not vented the fuel being pumped out of the tank will create a vacuum in the tank with potentially damaging results.

In an unvented tank the fuel pump will be attempting to pull the fuel from the tank and push it on to the carburetor and at the same time the vacuum in the tank will be attempting to pull the fuel in the line between the pump and the tank back into the tank. The usual result is that the engine will be starved for fuel and will die. Further cranking will not restart the engine. If the pump is strong the tank will actually collapse as shown in the photos (page 7).

This will occur most often when a car is freshly restored and/or when a new gas cap is installed. If this situation is occurring you will hear a rush of air when the gas cap is removed. If this occurs you can get home by simply removing the gas cap and driving home with it off. Once home you can eliminate further problems by simply drilling a 1/16th hole through the cap.

The 1955 recessed center cap, the 1956-early 57 cap with ribs and many replacement caps do not have a visible hole through the cap. With these caps the venting ports are incorporated into the design and it should not be necessary to drill a hole into these.

Here are some do's and don'ts:

1. **Do** check your tank with the cap on tight before you install a new tank or cap.
2. **Do** be sure to remove the cap and check for air being sucked into the tank if your engine dies mysteriously. There might be so much vacuum in the tank that the cap may actually be difficult to remove.
3. **Do** be sure to either drill a small hole through the cap or return it to your vendor if the cap is new.
4. **Do Not** force the engine to run by putting fuel directly into the throat of the carburetor – this will only create an even stronger vacuum in the tank. (continued on Page 7)



CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

May 29-31 E. Durham, NY Contact Joe Kubat(info)

May 31-Upper Saddle River-corner of Lake St & E. Saddle River Road (Hopper-Goetshius House Museum)

May 31-Newburgh, NY Sunshine Ford-Lincoln-Mercury, 40 Rte 17K Fords only (Flyer)

June 5-7 Carlisle, PA - All Ford Meet

June 7 Waldwick-Hewson Ave (train station) (flyer)

June 13 Pompton Plains – No. Jersey TBird Show(flyer)

June 14-Washington Twp-Westwood High School (flyer)

June 14 Canterbury, NH-put on by the New England Vintage TBird Club (I have contact info)

June 20-Knowlton, NJ-Tunnel Field, Rte 94 –Free (Flyer)

June 21-Succasunna, Horseshoe Lake (off Rte 10)

June 28-Hewitt-Marshall Hill Middle School, Marshall Hill Road (Flyer)

June 26-28 Rhinebeck, NY – Goodguy's

July 4-Livingston-Livingston High School, Livingston Ave. (Flyer)

July 3-6 CTCI Regional – Tulsa, OK

July 12-River Edge, Memorial Park, Continental Ave. flyer

July 26-Hackensack-Bergen Cty Courthouse parking lot-River Road (flyer)

July 31-Aug2-Macungie, PA (Antique cars)

For additional car shows and cruise nights locations go to www.njcarshow.com



CRUISE NIGHTS

Monday

Hawthorne-Goffle Grill, Goffle Road

Tuesday

Elmwood Park-River View East, 455 River Dr

Succasunna- McDonald's, Rte 10

Wayne-Wendy's-Rte 23 NO.

Paramus-The Fireplace, Rte 17 No.

Wednesday

Bear Mountain, NY

Wycoff – Greenwood Ave

West Caldwell-Taco Bell 900 Bloomfield Ave

Denville-Wendy's-Rte 46

Hot Dog Hut-Wayne,126 Mt View Blvd(Rte 202S)

Fairfield- Huddle Inn, 31 Passaic Ave.

Thursday

Hackettstown-Lowes-Mountain Ave

Riverdale Armory-Newark Pompton Tpke

E. Rutherford-Lowe's, Rte 17 N

Lebanon-Spinning Wheel Diner, Rte 22

Friday

Midland Park-Center St. Train Station

Boonton-Walmart-Wooten Street

Saturday

Chatterbox-Rtes 15&206, Augusta

Montgomery, NY McDonald's Rte 208

Lyndhurst-Whiskey Café, 1050 Wall St

Island Dragway Family Night

Again this year Island Dragway is having it's Food-Fun-Racing night on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month starting May 6 and ending Oct 21st. For the entry fee of \$15 you can come to watch or race and enjoy a barbeque. For additional info, go to www.islanddragway.com

If you are interested to going to one of these as a club activity, please contact me. Please have in mind what dates you would prefer. If you decide to go racing, you will need a helmet (available at the track for a rental fee), an overflow can for the radiator (easy fix) and seat belts. If you prefer, you can just sit in the stands and watch me beat the britches off Rich Martin and the rest of the TBirds.

The economy is so bad.....

A truckload of Americans got caught sneaking into Mexico



May Meeting-Some more pics



May Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Aileen & Bruce Corbett, following the Tune Up Clinic. Aileen set out a great food table and everyone had their fill. Thanks Aileen and Bruce. The weather was not ideal, but a few die-hards brought their Birds out anyway.

Some highlights of the meeting:

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The Secretaries minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Rich reported that Vince DeAndrea is in rehab and had some complications. Walter is doing better and working on his car overhaul.

Nick Malanga brought a guest who has a 56 TBird.

Mike Meehan reported that the plans for the Mini Concours (Aug12) are on schedule.

Arlene commented on the "Cruise to Nowhere" she recently went on and will get information on it for a possible club event.

By a show of hands, 6 members are going to the CTCI Tulsa show and 8 were going to the CTCI Vancouver show

Pat reported that Joanne was working on membership cards and wanted to put the years of membership on them.

Reminder that next meeting is at the Martins on June 14 at 2pm

Tech Tips continued

5. Do Not be alarmed if you hear this sucking sound with your late model iron – many of these are designed to operate under a slight vacuum. The cap should indicate this.

By Bill Brown, Early Bird, July August 1984 with permission





Tune-Up Clinic (cont'd)



Old and new parts



A weighty discussion



Job well done



My TBird – continued

Lois agreed to take the trip to Portland, Or. in 2008 with Paul Schroll. All three cars took awards after driving to these events. We have had many great times and adventures (and a few minor ordeals) but we wouldn't change a thing. We totally believe that the best people in the world are TBirders and the best of friends are the NJORTC members.

But we are not done yet. We are planning to drive to Dayton, OH 2010 for the CTCI Convention. We want to know how many members we can get to make the trip. We can't wait for more FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

Grille Plaques are still available – call Paul Schroll



June is American Beer month, so everybody celebrate

