



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International

The Thunder Heard

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

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Happy New Year

2009 Meeting Schedule

Jan/Feb	Robert & Arlene Perruso
Jan 11	Harold's Deli
Feb 8	Sweetheart Brunch
March	Mike & Wendy Meehan
April	Ed & Sandy Burnette
May	Paul & Pauline Schroll
June	Rich & Lois Martin
July	Gene & Diane Szura
August	MINI CONCOURS
September	Vince & Mary Ann Ucci
October	Henry & Judy Semmler
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December	HOLIDAY PARTY

The Jan/Feb Meeting will be hosted by :

Bob & Arlene Perruso
At 6:30 PM, Feb 21st
RSVP 973-228-3802 between
6 - 7:30 PM
44 Ridge Road
Rosedale, NJ 07068

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

Here it is 2009 – doesn't seem that long ago that we were celebrating the millennium! Joanne and I wish everyone a great 2009.

Let's try to make 2009 an active year. If you have any ideas for a club activity let us know. We need more car oriented activities, but as we are a family club we are open to other things members may be interested in. Joanne and I may run a true "drive in movie" at our house this summer. Some of you attended our last one (2 years ago). I now have my own projector, screen and popcorn machine. We are also running a 50's dance for the Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge on Jan 24th. We may have some seats left so let me know if you are interested in coming. I have one table (ten seats) set aside but, may be able to open another. \$30 pp, open bar and 50's styled food.

On January 10th we will hold the annual Board meeting. We will go over the "books" and whatever other important issues that arise. I will let you know the results of the meeting in the next newsletter and meeting.

Everyone who attended the Holiday Party had a great time. If you could not make it you missed a very nice event. The blankets were great, good work Joanne and Arlene. Congratulations to everyone who made the party a success.

I guess the next car "thing" will be Atlantic City Feb 26-Mar 1. I know the Bergen County mob attend every year, and I will be with them. Hope to see some of you there.

Dues are due in January. Don't forget they were raised last year to \$50. Of course, anyone who bought a ticket to the Holiday Party only owes 1/2 of that and if you bought two tickets your dues are paid in full.

Be sure to RSVP the Perruso's for the February meeting
Happy T Birding
Pat LeStrange



RSVP MEETING HOSTS NO LATER THEN 1 WEEK BEFORE A MEETING, YES or NO



A few words from Alec

I, for one, am really looking forward to the coming car show and cruise night season!

It will be interesting to see what the prices are going to be at the upcoming Barret-Jackson circus in Arizona

My wish for the New Year is good health and happy motoring as soon as the roads are free of salt.

Happy Motoring
Alec

My TBird – Ron Case



It all started when my brother, Tom DeYoung, picked up a 72 Corvette from one of his customers and he started to go to car shows that I went along to see. Tom and his son Jerry would make fun of me every time I saw a TBird as I would go straight for it. That is how I found the “boys” Alex, John and Pat all together with their little Birds.

After thinking about it, I decided I wanted my own TBird (toy).

The real story begins when I started looking for that special TBird. I asked around and no one knew of any TBirds for sale at that time. That is how I met Bill, a TBird broker. I made an appointment to meet Bill at his house in PA to look at a few TBirds that he had there and to look at some pictures of others TBirds he knew about. The TBirds at his home were not the color or price which I had in mind.

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. Vice President’s Message

I want to wish all our members and their families a Happy and Healthy New Year. I never got to see the ball drop because I fell asleep right before midnight and Joe woke me up right after midnight- oh how exciting. As they say whatever you do on New Years, you do for the rest of the year. I guess I will be getting plenty of sleep HA HA HA.

The holidays were good, now is the time to put decorations away – ugh, more work.

At our next meeting we have to decide whether we want to have our Holiday Party in the same place and whether we want a dinner like we had or a buffet. From what I heard we have some mixed feelings about the sit down dinner. If anyone has any ideas, please bring them to the meetings or e-mail me. I know it sounds funny, but we have to reserve a place ASAP.

If any one has any ideas about things to keep us active during the next few months, please let us know. No matter what we do we always have a good time.

I hope to see you a lot of you on January 11th at Harold’s Deli. If not see you at our next meeting

Arlene



February 16th. Happy Birthday to George and Abe

Roster Update

Any one who has a change in address, telephone (cell and land), email address, etc, please notify Pat LeStrange so he can update the roster

Membership News

ANNIVERSARIES

Charlie & Izabela Costa Feb 8



Donna Jessie Jan 20
Merry Case Jan 29
Rich Martin Jan 30
Dorothy Guidone Feb 1
Eva Tucci Feb 6
Vince DeAndrea Feb 16



Vince DeAndrea

FOR SALE

Kwicklift for sale - call Charlie
201-757-4341

Milestones

Congratulations to John & Sandy Bolger on the marriage of their daughter in December.

Condolences to Pam Agrati on the passing of her mother in December
And on a happier note,
congratulations to Pam on the birth of her third granddaughter in December

Happy Valentine's Day

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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	Lucille Chabala
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Wendy Meehan



CLUB EVENTS

Harold's Deli

Another great trip to the land of humongous sandwiches and monstrous apple turnovers (right Joe?) is on January 11th at 2PM. 3050 Woodbridge Ave Edison, NJ 08837. Call Vince DeAndrea. 732-906-2264

Sweetheart Brunch

The annual brunch is being held on Sunday, February 8th at 11:30 AM. Like last year, it is at the Bethwood, 38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa, NJ. Cost is \$40.00 per person. Please RSVP Lucille Chabala at 973-731-9133 before February 3rd. Everyone who went last year had a great time. Come join us for a lot of fun and good food.



Membership dues must be paid this month (January) \$50.00 – if you paid for one ticket to the Holiday Party, you are half paid up. If you paid for two tickets then you are all paid up. Send to Frank Chabala, 6 Brook Way, W. Orange, NJ 07052



For you old timers-Can you guess what year this is?
And who is that guy with the blue shirt? Thanks Ken

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

RACE THUNDERBIRD

This is a 55 that was built about 15 years ago for Bonneville racing. The story goes that when fired for the first time, one of the superchargers wasn't getting any oil so the owner shut it down and mothballed it. It is powered by a heavily modified 312 with Hilborn injectors and twin McCulloch's. It was recently "brought out of the barn" and the current owner is putting a street engine in it, with the race parts being gone through in preparation for an assault on Bonneville. The car has a hand made top, aluminum doors, hood and deck lid



Yes – twin superchargers blowing into Hilborn fuel injection

See Page 6 for more pictures.

My TBird - continued



When I looked at the photos, I found two that I liked, so we went home and thought about it for a couple of weeks. I also talked to Merry and Tom as to what I should do and they said it was up to me. Boy – what a mistake that was. I chose the green one from the photo, paid Bill the broker and had it delivered.

My TBird was going to PA but instead it was delivered to me because Bill was away at a car show with Dan Evans (a great car guy). The truck driver called me and asked if I would take delivery because he was in NJ already. This is when the fun started. The driver said he had to jump start the car to back it off and also noticed something leaking. It was the water pump which was shot, the grill was rusted, the interior was all damaged and the paint on the car was dripped dried. (In other words, the car was a wreck)

I called Bill back and told him we had a problem and he said he would take care of it when he got back. I brought the car to Bill to fix – he took care of it all right!! He replaced the battery and that was all. The burn marks on the seat cover and all the other things which were wrong with the car were never taken care of.

This is how I met Dan Evans. Bill tried to get Dan to detail the engine compartment (didn't happen). I then asked Dan to help me out and this is when we became friends. He put in a complete new interior and got it running good so I could take the car home.

I finally got the car to the point of being restored at last. After numerous repairs and ordering of parts the car looks great now on the inside and on the outside after being repainted the color I wanted, which was Sea Spray Green.

This was an experience I will never forget because Merry and I have found a bunch of great people because of this happening, which makes it all worthwhile.

TECH TIPS

Adjusting the Neutral Safety Switch

When making the adjustments, you may want to use a multimeter. Set it to ohms + 1 so that when you touch the leads together you get a full scale reading or if the multimeter has a buzzer, you can use it to check when the switch closes. When the switch closes, you will get a full scale reading or a buzz.

Put the car on a lift or on jackstands so you can easily get under the car.

Loosen the screws on the switch enough so you can slide it but will stay where you put it. Use some alligator clips with your meter leads and connect them across the two center wires on the switch. With the transmission in neutral, move the switch until it closes and you get a full scale reading or a buzz. Tighten the screws while watching the meter to insure that the switch is still closed.

Follow the same procedure for the backup lights with the ignition switch on and the transmission in reverse. To check the backup lights you must connect the meter to the other set of wires on the switch that are used for the backup lights.

If you have trouble keeping the proper adjustment, you may have a worn switch

NEW MEMBERS



A welcome to our newest members, Alex and Diane Marsiglio. Their address is 227 E Crescent Ave. Ramsey 07446. Tel 201-327-1481. They have a 57 Bird, white. In addition, Alex has a 51 Merc coupe and a 48 Ford panel truck

CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

Jan 16-18 Allentown PA (Inside swap meet)

Feb 26-Mar 1 Atlantic City

April 17-19 Englishtown

May 23 Rhinebeck, NY

May 17 Upper Saddle River (Pearson Education)

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

July 3-6 CTCI Regional – Tulsa, OK

August 18-20 CTCI Regional – Vancouver, BC
Book rooms by February 28th \$30 increase 3/1
Rock River Casino Resort , Richmond BC
866-748-3718 Rates \$139 and \$239



More 55 Race Bird Pics.

Some Good Questions

Can you cry under water?

Why do you have to 'put your two cents in'...but its only a 'penny for your thoughts'? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you are in heaven, are you stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

Why is it that people say the 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?



Another Old gas Station – what's that car?



Does this look familiar?



A YEAR IN REVIEW – DOWN MEMORY LANE

2008 started with Pat LeStrange being elected our new President and Arlene Kubat being appointed Vice President for the unexpired term. Mike Meehan and John Pyrros were appointed as Trustees.

There was a dues increase from \$36.00 to \$ 50.00 which was long in coming.

With the economy deflated and our gas and oil prices soaring everybody took it in stride and accepted it with a smile?

Our club had a rough year with many illness and accidents – Gail, Sandy, Joanne, Vince, Eva, Alec, Paul A, Henry, Dennis and even Lucille. It's good to see that they are all better.

And the loss of our gracious lady Mildred Strohmaier. She will be missed by all

All our meetings were well attended

January & February hosted by the Selbys which brought us out of our holiday blues

February was our Sweetheart Brunch at the Bethwood.

March was hosted by Alec Johnstone at his clubhouse

April was hosted by Izabela and Charlie Costa, again at the clubhouse

April 17 was our Night at the Races event arranged by Bob Belli

The May meeting was hosted by Gail and Dennis Chirico, the last time in their house before their big move.

May 18 was our 1st event at Harold's Deli, arranged by Vince DeAndrea

June was held at the Eagle Rock Diner, a last minute change which worked out well

July was hosted by Pat LeStrange and Joanne Seiler

August was our Mini Concours. We had a good turnout despite almost burning the eating area down. Our chief cook

Frank Chabala did his wonderful job of cooking for us with his able assistant Phil Guidone (and Henry Semmler).

They make a great team.

The September meeting was hosted by John and Sandy Pyrros

The October meeting was hosted by Vince DeAndrea.

October was our Fall Cruise arranged by Phil Guidone. A great trip.

November was a very special meeting held at the home of the Chabala's to celebrate Eva and Dominick's 60th wedding anniversary. We had a mock wedding with our wonderful officiate Ken Herb and a touching champagne toast by Vince DeAndrea. The club gave them a nice gift along with the other gifts brought by other guests. A wonderful time was had by all.

December was our Holiday party. Arlene and Dominick did a wonderful job of arranging the festivities. And of course Santa (Frank) appeared and gave kisses and gifts to all our beautiful ladies. The club also gave a beautiful red blanket with the NJORTC initials in gold to all our couples. And we can't forget the chicken man.

We say goodbye to 2008 and welcome 2009. May it be a year of good health and binding friendships for us all.

Happy New Year and may all your wishes come to pass.

Lucille



January is blood donors month – if you can, give