



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

June 2021

2021 Meeting Schedule

Tentative

June	Lucille Chabala
July	Paul Werner
August 8	Picnic
September	Bob Notar
October	Mike Parillo
November	Vince Ucci
December	Christmas Party

No meeting is scheduled for June

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.

June



President's Message



We had a great turn out for the May 23 meeting and tune up clinic at Mike Meehans new home, it was nice to see everyone again, Thanks to Bob and Toni for hosting the meeting. Everyone was very happy to see Joanne, who as you know was recently in the hospital for 13 days. There was a lot of T Birds but only one was worked on. At the meeting..there wasn't too much business to deal with either, We talked about the picnic and some other future events.

CTCI announced that the Signal Hill Building was sold for 1 Million dollars. No announcement on how these funds will be spent.

I will be looking forward to getting out this summer and stay updated on club events.

Pat Le Strange



An oldie from 2003



Vice President's Message



Hi everyone, it was great to see you all at the Tuneup Clinic and meeting. It felt so good to get together finally. The weather was perfect and thank you Mike and Carrie for sharing your beautiful new home. Mike it's a good thing your retired, you have a lot of work to do to keep up with your property. Thanks Toni and Bob Sabino for hosting the meeting. Food was great.

Weather has been good, cruise nights have started so get your cars out and about. Drive safe and enjoy.

Hope that Lucille is feeling better, she has a long road to recovery. Say a special prayer for her to heal fast. Pat is doing good, his voice is coming back, as we all know because we were able to hear and understand him at the meeting. Joanne is going through a rough time right now. She just got out of the hospital, (she was there for 13 days), As we know she is a strong strong lady and a fighter, she will get through this bump in the road as she always does. What she needs is your prayers because they sure are helping. Joe's foot is healing, still going everyday for antibiotic therapy.

Jackie Werner was unable to attend the meeting so we were unable to discuss the picnic. They are hosting the July meeting, we will put it all together then.

Joe and myself have just moved to new condo. We have been working hard to unpack. It has been very tiring

I know it's far away, but I think we will be having our Christmas party.

Hope everyone has a great Memorial Day. Let's remember why we celebrate Memorial Day. Thank you to who have served in the military. Let's also pray for all our fallen fighters who did not make it home. See you soon - Arlene



Tune Up Clinic/May Meeting

We had a great turnout for both parts. It was a lovely sunny spring day. It was really good to see all our friends again, some we haven't seen in almost a year. Only one car needed any work (the usual one) but many members showed up early eager to aid if needed. 10 members drove their TBirds, with Mike Perillo introducing his recent acquisition. For some reason it seems there was an epidemic of owners overfilling their power steering units. Three had to be attended to for this reason. Something in the spring air?

The meeting itself was especially well attended. Bob & Toni had some delicious food.

Many thanks to Mike and Carrie for providing their home for both the clinic and meeting and for Bob and Toni for hosting the meeting itself.

Highlights of the Business Meeting

The reading of the minutes of the last Meeting (October) were waived. The Treasure's report was read and accepted.

The forms for the picnic were submitted to the state. The request was for August 8th.

Pat thanked Bill and Martha Downing for the "picnic" trivia that they ran throughout the covid shutdown.

Pat stated that he has updated the website
Next meeting is scheduled for July
There was no other business.

Tune Up Clinic/Meeting photos



I want your input. Please send any items to be included by the middle of the month if possible. Email is best, snail mail ok.

Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Joe & Lorrie Matrone 22nd
Mark & Joyce Santimauro 7th
Jere & Linda Klein 22nd
Marco & Danya Totaro 24th



Arlene Kubat 1st
Diane Clark 10th
Bill Selby 18th
Drew Fotta 25th
Al Clark 29th

**GET WELL
SON!**

Joanne
Lucille

Join CTCI now if you haven't yet. The Early bird magazine alone is worth the dues.

**Keep Healthy & Safe
Use your mask**

While mask mandates are being relaxed, they are not all gone. They are required in certain places. And if you're one of those people that think the vaccine is a hoax, then you should still wear a mask so you won't infect the like minded others when you come down with Covid 19.

Happy Father's Day



June 20th

TBIrd Trivia

Deck Mounted antennas were an option in 1957 only

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Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Rob Sabino
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
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Club Announcements

No meetings are scheduled for June

June Ford Trivia

6/20/1925 The 20 millionth Ford was built
6/4/1896 Henry made a successful run of his Quadricycle



57 Hardtop For Sale

Black porthole hard top with rolling stand.
\$1,000. Call Frank Gloss 845-986-2030

Mufflers and resonators For Sale

Stainless mufflers and resonators for 56 TBird.
used \$300. Call Bill 845-304-1257



Lucille sent this Note

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to help me celebrate my milestone birthday! Each and every card and personal note brought so much sunshine to my day. I have read each card several times and appreciated all of your sweet messages. It was so nice to be on the receiving end for a change. I can't tell you how special you all are and how much I have appreciated your support since Frank passed as well.

As you may have heard, I had a bad fall back in April. I am making very slow progress and will be going for some additional testing and follow up in the next few weeks. It has been a tough time but you all made those days brighter! I hope to see you all very soon!

Love, Lucille

Car Shows

6/6 Demerest-162 Knickerbocker Rd-Demerest High School
6/6 Waldwick-4 Hyson Ave-Waldwick RR Station
6/12 Chester-Main & Perry Streets
6/12 Carlstadt-137 Wahington St.
6/13 Washington Township-701 Ridgewood St.-Westwood Reg. High School
6/13 Paterson-61-127 Preakness Ave-JFK High Sch
6/13 New Milford-1 Patrolman Ray Woods Drive-Teaneck Elks
6/27 Paramus-200 Rte 17 NO. Paramus Elks(behind Raymour & Flanagan)
7/11 Pompton Plains-1 Perrin Ave- P.L. Elks
7/11 Oradell 55 Pyle St -River Dell High Sch. (this is the River Edge Show)

Cruise Nights

Tuesday

Wayne-1560-Rte 13 North- Wendy's
Clifton-Rutt's Hut-417 River Road
Mahwah-219 Ramapo Valley Rd-Mason Jar

Wednesday

Wyckoff -422 Cedar Hill Ave-Christian Ref, Church

Clifton-147 Huron Ave-Athena Vets

Thursday

Wayne-1800 Rte 23 North- Kohl's
Hackettstown-219 Mountain Rd-Lowe/Wendy's

Friday

Boonton-Wal Mart Shopping Center

Saturday

Oakland-Lenape Valley Grill-176 Ramapo Valley Rd (RTE 202)

Clifton-1116 Rte 46W- Maple Valley Diner

Please let me know if you have information on other cruise nights or car shows



Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job



Tech Tip - For You 55 and 56 Owners

From last month's Tech Tip on the 55 and 56 optional wheel covers, Rich Iuso sent this information

A suggestion pertinent to the tech tip provided in the newsletter (last month's) regarding the clips that hold the beauty ring on 1955 and 1956 wheels. Deflating the tires to 20 lbs as well as dipping the top of the clip in a soapy water solution prior to installation will allow the clips to slip onto the rim more easily. It is also advisable to remove the rubber bumper at the top of the clip before tapping the clip top with hammer as a cleaner blow (tap) to the clip top may be struck this way. Then replace the bumper. The individual who came up with these clips must have enjoyed watching Tbird owners get their feathers ruffled



One of Mike and Carrie's Menagerie



Longest day of the year June 20th

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket

A Story of Two Thunderbirds

Tom Brieva

The story of the two 1957 T-birds owned by the Brieva family, like many others, is a story of family and of cars. When my father, Hernando Brieva, came to the United States in 1965, he was happy to see many more of the Ford cars from the 1950's that he loved seeing at his old home in Colombia. In addition, one of the first things he viewed when arriving at the airport was a circle of new 1965 Mustangs being promoted. He fell in love with both Thunderbirds and Mustangs; and ended up owning three of each within a short time. This love of the cars themselves was also tied to his love of his new country and appreciation for the opportunity to live there. T-birds were his favorite, a love spread to me, his son, and two of the T-birds remain with children and grandchildren.

The three Thunderbirds each have a story of their own. The 1955 has an unfortunately short story. It was stolen while my dad was exercising at the YMCA. Although the car was eventually recovered, the hard top was destroyed and he couldn't bear to take the car back without it.

The two 1957's are Raven Black from June 1957 and Colonial White from October 1957. The black one was purchased as a white car with Ford wheel covers and without fender skirts. According to the invoice, it was ordered with a hard top and not a soft top, but a soft top was purchased somewhere along the way before I was born. It was still a decent running car when I was a child. Unlike the white T-bird, it lived with our family at our house. However, in the late seventies the family bought a new car that took over the one car garage and the T-bird was displaced to the back yard under a cover. The outdoor environment exposed the poor restoration work done by previous owners. One day when we took the cover off of the car, we were shocked to see that the paint had begun to chip off, exposing the original black paint underneath. It became apparent that rust had been "repaired" with filler. My father began to disassemble the car towards a better restoration. I remember very much enjoying helping to bleed the new brakes, lines, etc as a child. Eventually the family moved to a house with a two car garage and the car had an indoor home again. A local shop called Rustoration cut out all of the rusted panels and replaced them with panels from another local shop Custom Autocraft. As part of the restoration, original fender skirts were purchased and fit in with the new panels. The car and hard top were painted black and the red interior was replaced, all in accordance with the data plate. A large portion of parts were largely reused. The car has been driving on this restoration since 1989 and seems like it will always remain 90% done. I bought new Diamonback white wall tires last year and replaced the Ford wheel covers with Thunderbird wheel covers. The old restoration shows its age, but it still looks fine enough and is a great contrast to the white T-bird. At the end of last season, the passenger door latch stopped working and the door is stuck closed. Hopefully I will be able to figure out how to disassemble the door and get it to open correctly again.

The Colonial White 1957 was blue as long as I can remember and some green paint was unveiled during the restoration. When my parents got married in 1974, the car was left behind on jack stands in my aunt's garage. From childhood through when the car finally came home in 2007-2008, it was always a treat to grab the keys to the garage from my aunt and visit the car. It always had junk on and in it and also survived a major building renovation. My father remembered buying the car from some restaurant owners in the city for a great price because the owners were convinced that the transmission was damaged because it only used two gears. Dad knew better. According to the invoice, the car came from factory with Dial-O-Matic seats and both tops. This car spent about a year and a half with Bob Pratkanis for a frame off restoration. The car and hard top were painted Colonial White in accordance with the data plate. Instead of black and white, the interior was replaced with red upholstery that is still not completely installed. The engine was rebuilt using a mild Y-265S cam from John Mummert. I worked on it to get it sufficiently working as my dad's health rapidly declined. Although not complete, I was able to get it driving and to him at the nursing home a month before he passed away. I wasn't sure if the car would make it there and back, but I was determined to meet that goal. I continued to progressively

tune the engine and it ran very nicely, although I didn't drive it very much. Unfortunately, an internal failure occurred of either a broken lifter or a wiped cam lobe. Now I need to find somebody to pull the engine back out so I can get the broken parts replaced and metal cleaned out. Hopefully I will get this done before too much of the season passes.

The family side of the story is typical. My father and I spent time together working on the cars, finding parts for the cars, and occasionally driving them. The entire extended family always saw the cars as part of Hernando's identity. My cousins also remember getting yelled at to stay away from the cars. Although my sister was not particularly interested in the cars, she now pays attention in order to feel the connection to her dad. My boys (age 11 and 5) both enjoy taking rides and occasionally attending car shows. My wife enjoys when I get the boys out of the house with the cars. My hope is that the boys will both continue our T-bird family legacy.



During WWII American forces landed on the beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944

6/6/44 D-Day Always Remember





Classic Thunderbird Club International

Dataplate Decoder - Code Tables

Interior Trim

Code	1955 Thunderbird
XA	Black and White (Early cars "A" only)
XB	Red and White (Early cars "B" only)
XC	Turquoise and White (Early cars "C" only)
XD	Black and Yellow (Early cars "D" only)
1956 Thunderbird	
XA	Black and White Vinyl
XB	Red and White Vinyl
XC	Dark Peacock and White Vinyl
XF	Green and White Vinyl
XG	Brown and White Vinyl
1957 Thunderbird	
XA	Pleated Raven Vinyl and Pleated Colonial Vinyl
XH	Pleated Flame Vinyl
XJ	Pleated Bronze Vinyl
XK	Pleated Colonial Vinyl
XL	Pleated Dresden Vinyl and Pleated Starmist Vinyl
XM	Pleated Cumberland & Pleated Willow Vinyl

Exterior Paint

Year	Code	Color	Year	Code	Color
1955	A	Raven Black	1957	A	Raven Black
	E	Snowshoe White		E	Colonial White
	R	Torch Red		F	Starmist Blue
	T	Thunderbird Blue		J	Willow Green
	V	Goldenrod Yellow		N	Gunmetal Gray
1956	A	Raven Black		Q	Thunderbird Bronze
	E	Colonial White		V	Flame Red
	J	Buckskin Tan		X	Dusk Rose
	K	Fiesta Red		Y	Inca Gold
	L	Peacock Blue		Z	Coral Sand
	M	Goldenglow Yellow		H	Gunmetal Gray
	T	Thunderbird Gray			Started May 1957
	X	Navajo Gray	1958 Colors		
	Y	Sunset Coral	1957	G	Sun Gold
	Z	Thunderbird Green		R	Torch Red
				L	Azure Blue
				N	Seaspray Green

Months Of The Year

Month	First	Second
January	A	N
February	B	P
March	C	Q
April	D	R
May	E	S
June	F	T
July	G	U
August	H	V
September	J	W
October	K	X
November	L	Y
December	M	Z

Sales Areas (Districts)

Code	Location	Code	Location	Code	Location
11/SD	Boston	33/DD	Detroit	55/SL	Saint Louis
12/BF	Buffalo	34/NP	Indianapolis	61/DP	Dallas
13/BX	New York	35/FX	Lansing	62/SU	Houston
14/PI	Pittsburg	36/LX	Louisville (Deviations)	63/GB	Memphis
15	Newark	41/CX	Chicago	64/NR	New Orleans
21/NK	Atlanta	42/RG	Fargo	65/KL	Oklahoma City
22/CE	Charlotte	43/KE	Rockford	71/LP	Los Angeles
23/DI	Philadelphia	44/SP	Twin Cities	72/SK	San Jose
24/KJ	Jacksonville	45/DQ	Davenport	73/SC	Salt Lake City
25/RP	Richmond	51/DN	Denver	74/SE	Seattle
26/DC	Washington DC	52/DS	Des Moines	82/EX	FMC Export NJ
31/CI	Cincinnati	53/KS	Kansas City	84/HO	FMC Transportation and
32/CL	Cleveland	54/NB	Omaha		Equipment Department

Engine Codes

Year	Code	Eng.	Carb.	Transmission	HP
1955	P	292	4V	3-Spd Manual	193
	P	292	4V	Fordomatic	198
	P	292	4V	Overdrive	198
1956	M	292	4V	3-Spd Manual	202
	P	312	4V	Overdrive	215
	P	312	4V	Fordomatic	225
1957	C	292	2V	3-speed	212
	D	312	4V	Fordo or O/D	245
	E	312	8V	Any	270&
	F	312	4V	Any	300*

& Available 10/1956

* Supercharged Engine Available 2/1957

Transmission & Rear Axle Ratios

Code	Transmission	Code	Axle Ratio
1	3 spd Manual	1	3.10 to 1
2	Overdrive	2	3.56 to 1
3	Fordomatic	3	3.70 to 1

First And Last T-Bird Numbers (Intermixed With Passenger Cars)

Model	1955	1956	1957
Start	09/09/54 P5FH 100001	10/17/55 P6FH 102661	09/14/56 D7FH 100010
End	09/14/55 P5FH 260557	08/24/56 P6FH 359516	12/13/57 E7FH 395813
Total	16,155 T-Birds	15,631 T-Birds	21,380 T-Birds