



# New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International

## The Thunder Heard

### AUGUST 2009

EDITORS: Paul Schroll [pts1231@aol.com](mailto:pts1231@aol.com) 51 Glen Ave, Midland Park, NJ 07432  
Alex Johnstone [BRONZEBYRD@OPTONLINE.NET](mailto:BRONZEBYRD@OPTONLINE.NET) 1267 Paddington Rd, Mahwah, NJ 07430

## SUNNY WEATHER IS HERE?

### 2009 Meeting Schedule

August 2	MINI CONCOURS
September 19	Paul & Pauline Schroll
October 18	Fall Cruise
October	Henry & Judy Semmler
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY

The August meeting will be the Mini-Concours.

**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



Oh boy – is this summer going fast. I can't believe its August already. Still, the best car shows are late Summer and early Fall.

By the time you read this, we will have had the Mini-Concours and if the weather holds out we should have a great turnout. We have invited some possible new members and some old members

As I am writing this, I am getting ready to get another artery cleared out. But if you made the Mini-concours you will know how I did.

We had a good turnout at the Herb's home for the July meeting. Thanks everyone for attending.

Also, good luck to all who are going to Vancouver, B.C. for the CRCI convention. Bring back some good news and have a safe trip.

Happy T Birding  
Pat LeStrange

**Mini-Concours coverage will be in next month's newsletter.**





### A few words from Alec

There were 8 club members at the Tulsa convention – even there we couldn't escape the rain – it poured on the day of judging and I mean it poured. 90 + TBirds in the judging field with very poor drainage. Deep puddles everywhere. The best day weather wise was Sunday when we took a tour of the Will Rogers museum.

Now looking forward to the convention in British Columbia in mid August.

Our newsletter won a Gold award in the CTCI Golden Quill contest for newsletters around the country.

Look for a report in the next newsletter concerning the convention in B.C.

Happy Motoring  
Alec

### My TBird – Phil & Dorothy Guidone



In the early 1970's a neighbor had a number of classic cars, including a 1957 TBird. My wife admired the TBird, although it was in need of work (don't they all). The owner, last name Fonda and related to Henry Fonda the movie actor, advised us that he had to sell some of his classics, including the TBird. I was thinking – what a great car, but it would be out of our financial ability. The \$2,500 price was a lot of money with two children, a mortgage, etc. so I didn't push the idea much. To my surprise, Dorothy said "Why don't we buy it?" We scratched the money together and purchased the car. Thank you Dorothy!!

We kept the car in its repainted color, TBird Blue. However, as time went on, it was showing its age. A friend repainted it to its original color code, black, which lasted for many years and with many enjoyable memories (Cont'd on Page 5)



### Vice President's Message

I believe summer has finally arrived!! Get out there and enjoy your cars. I have gone to some cruise nights and have enjoyed talking to everyone.

Congratulations to Paul & Alec on receiving the Gold Award at the CTCI Regional Convention in Tulsa, OK. I believe everyone who went to the convention had a good time.

I am looking forward to our Mini-Concours on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I hope we have a great turn out of members and guests and most important pray for good weather. There is nothing worse than having the Mini-Concours in the rain. Been there, done that.

I am also glad to hear that Vince is home from the hospital.

Ladies, send Paul your recipes. I am sure you ladies would like to share a special recipe with us, so please get started.

See you all soon

Arlene

### Vince DeAndrea

Vince is progressing and has been home. He is due to have the pins removed soon. It's good to see he is recovering.

### Milestones

Condolences to Paul & Sheryl Adamoff on the passing of their nephew



August is National Chicken Month – so let's all go to our favorite chicken joint and celebrate.

# Membership News

## ANNIVERSARIES

Rich & Lois Martin 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Henry & Judy Semmler 11th  
 Phil & Dorothy Guidone 7th



Sheryl Adamoff 1st  
 Dennis Chirico 9th  
 Al Cirinelli 13th  
 Wendy Meehan 18th  
 Shelly Belli 18th  
 Joe Kubat 22nd  
 Bob Belli 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Diane Marsiglio 27<sup>th</sup>

Teddy says  
get well!



Vince DeAndrea

**FOR SALE**

**Wanted:** 312 Block or full engine to rebuild to replace my cracked block. I am a member of the Midwest TBird club, live in Winona, MN. Email [jimmyjet10@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyjet10@gmail.com) Would appreciate any leads

**For Sale:** Non-porthole hard top. Excellent condition. Fits all 55-57 TBirds. Cover and rolling cart included. \$3,500. Will not ship – you pick up. Will deliver within 50 mile radius of Lincoln Park, NJ. For more info call Joe at 973-900-1923

## NJORTC 2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

**President**  
 Pat LeStrange 201-920-7226  
[rolodexp@aol.com](mailto:rolodexp@aol.com)

**Vice President**  
 Arlene Kubat 862-221-9773  
[finallyak@yahoo.com](mailto:finallyak@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer**  
 Frank Chabala 973-731-9133  
 c/o Lucille [luluchab@aol.com](mailto:luluchab@aol.com)

**CTCI Representative**  
 Lois Martin 973-728-8652  
[Loislane21@optonline.net](mailto:Loislane21@optonline.net)

**Recording/Corresponding Secretary**  
 Sandy Pyrros 201-487-2943  
[sandypy@optonline.net](mailto:sandypy@optonline.net)

**Editors: Thunder Heard**

Paul Schroll 201-652-7027  
 51 Glen Ave. Midland Park, NJ 07432  
[pts1231@aol.com](mailto:pts1231@aol.com)

Alec Johnstone 201-934-4058  
 1267 Paddington Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430  
[bronzebyrd@optonline.net](mailto:bronzebyrd@optonline.net)

**Trustees:**  
 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



August is also National Eye Examine Month. Get those peepers checked.

## CLUB EVENTS

### July Meeting

Our hosts were Ken and Linda Herb. Seems that Ken, not only a pseudo minister, is also a great pseudo chef as he prepared great tasting burgers and dogs. See Page 7 for highlights of the business meeting. A few pics



My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in bout 3 seconds'. I bought her a scale. And that's how the fight started

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](mailto:pts1231@aol.com)

### Annual Fall Cruise

Our annual fall cruise will take place October 18<sup>th</sup> and will end up at the Sergeantville Inn. Notify Phil Guidone if you will be attending. See Page 9 for all the information.

### Mini Concours

As noted in the 2009 meeting schedule, this will take place August 2<sup>nd</sup>, so please keep this in mind. Location will be the same, At the Doe Meadow grounds. See last month's newsletter for all the info.

### TBirds at the Meadowlands

We had 6 cars in attendance. It was a fun night and Merry Case seemed to be the big winner playing the ponies. Especially nice was the food chit we got. Thanks to John Pestrighelli of the Garden State Region Mustang Club for the invitation to our club.



See page 7 for more pics

## My TBird – continued



Under restoration

About six or seven years ago we decided to do a complete restoration. After a disastrous start with another supposed quality body shop (another long story – the car had been at this other shop for over a year with sporadic work, poor quality, broken promises, etc.). In desperation, I asked Frank Chalaba for a recommendation. The name given to me was Bob Antilla in Connecticut. In the meantime, I had the engine completely overhauled while Bob did other substantial work – transmission, front end, brakes, etc., in addition to the body work – all on a timely basis at a fair price.

Dorothy and I have enjoyed the car and the many friends we met in N.J.O.R.T.C.

### River Edge Car Show

We had seven cars at this show. The day was sunny, something pretty much unheard of so far this summer and the temp was just right. Joe Kubat was the trophy winner, plus he hoped to get some models drooling over his car.



## TECH TIPS

### Troubleshooting TBird handling Problems Part 1 of 2 parts

Maybe you've noticed that your TBird doesn't handle the way it did once upon a time. There can be a lot of reasons and here are a few comments on why:

As a result of wear caused by use, your car may develop looseness in the steering assembly. Some of this "slack" may be found in the drag link and the tie-rod portion of this critical part of your car. If your Bird is equipped with power steering, you should expect 1/8 of an inch of slack in the control valve when the engine is not running. When the engine is running, this will not be evident because the energized control valve and steering ram cylinder adjust for this travel.

A greater amount of slack can usually be attributed to worn tie rod ends, steering boxes, idler arms and rarely, ball joints.

But don't replace the ball joints on your Bird just because they are 50 plus years old. They almost never wear out and just may be the best ball joints ever used on any type of automobile. The very same parts were used on cars made by the Checker Motor Corp. from the mid-'50's through the end of production. Even the yellow cabs couldn't wear them out. Only extremely poor maintenance will result in premature failure. If they have been serviced they are probably still good. If unsure about the ball joints, check with an experienced front end specialist.

Front-end alignment, or the lack of it, makes a huge difference in the handling and drivability of your car. Tire choice will determine how your TBird should be aligned. Toe-in should be set a zero inches for radial tires. Bias-ply tires should have toe-in set at about 1/8 to 3/16 of an inch. Radial tires are the single best improvement ever made on a TBird. Recommended size is 205 for all three years.

Part 2 will be next month

By the late Walt Nuckels, from the Puget Sound Early Birds

## CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

Aug 8 Clifton-Fette Ford, 1137 Rte 46 **5-9PM-Ford Powered Vehicles only** (Flyer)

Aug. 9 Wayne Town Hall, 475 Valley Road (Flyer)

Aug 23 Paramus Elks 200 Rte 17 North (flyer)

Sept 13 Ridgefield Parks-Elks lodge 1506 Spruce Ave. & Cedar Street

Sept 13 – Ol' Daze Drags-Car Show and Racing-Island Dragway (flyer)

Sept 19 Greenville (Slate Hill) NY-Town park, U.S. Rte 6

Sept 20-Butler-All Ford Show-Rte 23 Auto Mall (flyer)

Sept 20 West Milford-Bubbling Springs Park, Macopin Rd. (flyer)

Sept 27 Holicong, PA, Holicong Park,Rte 202

Sept 27 Wayne-Maquet Cardiovascular,45 Barbour Pond Drive Tri-County Chamber of Commerce (flyer)

Sept 27 Pearl River, NY- Central Ave. Field-Franklin Ave (flyer)

For additional car shows and cruise nights locations go to [www.njcarshow.com](http://www.njcarshow.com)



The Tulsa crew (Lois, Donna and Walt missing)

## 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.

Bloomfield – Bloomfield Ave (on the street)

### 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

### Sunday

Midland Park-Burger King, 55 Godwin Ave.

### Island Dragway Family Night

Again this year Island Dragway is having it's Food-Fun-

Racing night on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month starting May 6 and ending Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. 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](http://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.....  
CEO's are now playing miniature golf.**

## More Meadowlands



## July Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Linda & Ken Herb. Ken showed off his culinary talents. It was a beautiful day with great food and greater company. Thanks to Linda and Ken.

Some highlights of the meeting:

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Lucille reported that Vince DeAndrea is home and is making progress in healing.

Pat mentioned that our newsletter received a Gold Award from CTCI.

John Pyrros reported that there were 6 of our TBirds at the Meadowlands Event.

Mike Meehan reported on the Mini Concours. Responsibilities for the different aspects were gone over.

Lucille will do some additional research on the club membership pins.

There were 8 members that attended the regional in Tulsa. Walt Strohmaier drove but arrived late due to a late departure.

The Fall Cruise is set (Oct 18<sup>th</sup>). A NJ magazine representative is scheduled to accompany us.

Reminder that the next meeting is the Mini Concours in lieu of a formal meeting.



**More pics**



**More River Edge**



**Tulsa Regional**

8 members attended the regional at Tulsa. The weather was hot and humid but sunny except for Saturday, the judging day when it poured in the morning. However, all cars got judged. There were 98 cars among all the classes. Walt Strohmaier drove all the way with only minor problems, arriving late because of a late start.

Extra activities included a visit to the Will Rogers Museum and a local showing of the play "Oklahoma" which was forced to close early because of an impending storm. The hospitality room was exceptional and was located in huge ballroom with plenty of tables and food. All had a good time. A few pics:



**The Judging Field (partial)**



**Oklahoma**



**NEW JERSEY OPEN ROAD THUNDERBIRD CLUB  
ANNUAL FALL CRUISE**

**October 18, 2009**

Come one, come all, as we journey to Sergeantville, New Jersey for our annual Fall Cruise.

We will be dining at the Sergeantville Inn, 601 Rosemont-Ringoes Road, Sergeantville, New Jersey. A wonderful menu has been planned which will include a salad, choice of three entrée's, choice of two desserts and coffee or tea.

We will need a minimum of fifteen people to attend. Hopefully we will exceed the minimum as we have in the past. The Inn has a long history dating back to 1700's. I'm advised that we'll have ample food to satisfy your appetites after the cruise.

The price per person is \$32.00, all-inclusive. We need to know if you plan to attend by October 1, 2009 and we will need your check at that time as well, payable to N.J.O.R.T.C., sent to our address. There will be some prizes and games.

Point of departure will be Lewis Morris Park (same location as our picnic), Morristown, at 10:30 a.m. Please note this will be a rain or shine event.

Come join us as we enjoy the fall foliage, fine dining and most importantly, good friendship.

**Phil & Dorothy Guidone  
39 Dogwood Drive  
Cester, NJ 07930  
Home: 908-879-6261  
Business (Phil): 908-879-6169  
Email: [phil@pguidone.com](mailto:phil@pguidone.com)**



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *RUSTY SWARTZ* MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT**

**LIVE CONCERT WITH  
SHIRLEY ALSTON REEVES**

**Original Lead Singer of the Shirelles  
Member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame**

**Soldier Boy, Mama Said, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow  
Foolish Little Girl, Baby It's You**

**AND**

**THE HAPPENINGS**

**See You in September, I Got Rhythm, Go Away Little Girl,  
Proud to Be an American**

**With**

**BUTCH BARBELLA'S  
STREETS OF THE BRONX BAND**

**Hosted by Vince DeAndrea**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009**

**8:00 P.M.**

**EDISON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, New Jersey**

**VIP Seating \$45.00 General Admission \$35.00**

**TICKETS CALL (732) 548-6533**

**(During regular business hours)**

All net proceeds will be donated to the Rusty Swartz Memorial Scholarship Fund, a part of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics at Rutgers the State University of New Jersey