

New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

OCTOBER 2009

FALL CRUISE OCT 18 - SIGNUP

2009 Meeting Schedule

October 17	Henry & Judy Semmler
October 18	Fall Cruise
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY

The October meeting will be on the 17th at 2 PM and will be hosted by Henry & Judy Semmler
 435 Bogert Road
 River Edge, NJ
 RSVP 201-262-5508, 201-280-0193 or tbirdhs@yahoo.com

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



Gee-wiz, could it be October already? Only two more meetings before the Christmas Party!!!. Save the date, December 5th.

Cruise nights are just about over, but some good shows are still coming.

Please make sure you have let Phil Guidone know if you are going to the Fall Colors Cruise on October 18th – that's always a good time.

All in all the car show season was not too bad considering the bad weather. I would like to thank all the club members who supported the Street Legends Car Show. That is a show that John P, Alex J, Joanne, me and several others put on for the Ridgfield Park Elks Lodge to raise money for the handicapped children and veterans.

Joanne and I am getting ready for my daughter Danielle's wedding on Friday, Oct. 2. Sorry I could not invite all the club members, but you can bet I will have pictures to look at.

The September club meeting was well attended. We took nominations for President and Advisory Council (CTCI Rep.). I was nominated for President and Lois Martin for Advisory Council. So I would like to thank everyone for their vote of confidence. We will formally vote at the October meeting.

As I am thanking people for a great year, I would also give special thanks to all who contributed to Joanne's Avon Breast Cancer Walk. You were all very generous.

Don't forget to RSVP the Semmlers, Henry & Judy, if you will attend the meeting on October 17th.

Happy T Birding
 Pat LeStrange





A few words from Alec

Well, it would appear as I am writing this on a dark, dank gray day that our summer, as brief as it was, is rapidly coming to an end. There's always the hope that there will be an Indian summer to rescue the car season in our part of the country.

We in our club have events to look forward to in our club calendar. We also have next year's International Convention that is within driving distance of our area. Make your plans now to attend.

Happy Motoring
Alec

Naming the Thunderbird

There were 5,000 names considered for the all new 1955 Thunderbird from Ford. Hep Cat, Beaver, and Detroit were early but undistinguished front runners. Also selected were Runabout, Arcturus, Savile, El Tigre and Coronado. Ford executive Louis D. Cursoe was unimpressed and offered a \$250 suit to anyone who could do better (remember this was 1955). A young Ford stylist, Alden "Gib" Giberson, submitted the name that he would quickly earn approval and eventually acclaim: Thunderbird. He thought of the name because he had once lived in the southwest where the legend of the **Thunderbird** was well known. According to the legend, the **Thunderbird** ruled the sky and was a divine helper of man. The great wings-invisible to mortal man-created the winds and the thunder and provided rains in the arid desert, where fate brought these Native Americans. The name was fitting for a car that has become an American icon.

Chief Stylist Frank Hersey, also a southwesterner and an enthusiast, spotted the name on Giberson's list and picked it for the new car. When it became time for Giberson to claim his prize, the designer passed on what would have been the equivalent of a \$800-\$1,000 suit today and settled for \$95 and an extra pair of trousers from Saks Fifth Avenue. From Old Cars Report-Car of the Week (Thanks to Paul Adamoff)

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Vice President's Message

Weather Report: Finally beautiful. We can live with this weather all year round. This is the kind of weather we want for our fall car shows. Sooo get those TBirds out there and show them.

Unfortunately, some cruise nights will come to an end at the end of the month (Sept), so take advantage while you can. Get our beautiful cars out there!!! It is now fall and soon we will be putting our cars away for the long winter months. UGH!!!

I am looking forward to our fall cruise on October 18th. I hope we have a good show of members and their cars. The fall colors are beautiful and worthwhile seeing.

Before you know it, it will be time for our Christmas party on December 5th. I hope you are ready for our annual chicken dance. Eva Tucci is already making or should I say made out Christmas center pieces. What a lady.

I am glad to hear that Vince and Dominick are doing better. Keep up the good work guys.

Walter should be heading home from his long, long trip across country in his TBird. I am sure he will have many stories to tell us.

Well, I guess that's enough for this month.

Hope to see you all soon.

Arlene



October is National Cookie Month

Membership News



Joe & Arlene Kubat 5th
 Susan & Anthony Gaeta 7th
 Dennis & Gail Chirico 10th
 Bill & Donna Jessie 14th
 Bob & Shelly Belli 25th
 Paul & Pauline Schroll 26th



Anthony Gaeta 7th
 Dominick Tucci 12th
 Pat Selby 13th
 John Pyrros 18th

Teddy says
 get well!



Vince DeAndrea
 Dominick Tucci

FOR SALE

Price Reduced Non-Porthole top. Excellent condition. Fits all 55-57 TBirds. Cover and rolling cart included. \$2,800. Will not ship-you pick up. Will deliver within 50 mile radius of Lincoln Park, NJ. Call Joe, 973-900-1923

For Sale: Like new radial tires 215-75-R14. Not wide whites. Call Rich 973-728-8652 or martinmotors@optonline.net

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 7 cars that are going.

NJORTC 2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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

October Meeting

This is on Oct 17th – see page 1 for details.
Directions-From the PKY North exit at #61, Rte 4 East. Get to left lane of service road to enter Rte 4 east. Go about 1/2 mile and exit onto Forest Ave. Bear right onto Forest, go over Rte 4. About 1/4 mile, turn tight onto Howland Ave. Go about 1/2 mile on Howland to first traffic light and make a left onto Bogert Rd- # 435 on left. 201-280-0193 Drive-way reserved for little Birds.

Memoirs from a Concours D'Elegance

John & Sandy Pyrros, along with Bruce & Aileen Corbett and Bill & Pat Selby, recently attended the Concours D'Elegance in Buckingham Township, PA. Bruce and Bill are past winners of this, while the Pyrros' attended this for the first time. Sandy had written her impressions of the show:

With a bagel and some hot coffee in the van and our "bird" on the trailer behind we started off this Sunday for our first Concours D'Elegance. It was going to be a new adventure for John and I, and with the weatherman promising perfect weather, I was ready for a new experience.

We arrived and the Concours location and followed the signs to trailer parking, unloaded the car and proceeded to the show field. We were pre-registered so we were handed our envelope and goodie bag and directed to parking alongside four other birds, one of which was the car won last year in the raffle. We also visited with the Corbetts and Selbys, who had parked in the "winners circle" area of the field. A full breakfast, including a Mimosa, was served to the participants inside a beautiful white tent with flowers and candles.

After a time, we walked the show field and enjoyed the opportunity to see some beautiful and rare award-winning cars. This was very different than the usual shows I've accompanied John to. I oohed and aahed over many of the Rolls Royces, Packards, Jaguars, Corvettes, Model A's and T's, Caddys, Porsches, Lincolns, Mercedes plus too many more to list. All in the very best of shape. It was a show like no other. The sun shone down on their shiny chrome and paint and they sparkled under the blue skies.

We spoke to many of the friendly owners and learned so much. It was an exciting event and we enjoyed the pleasure of a day in the country.

Now on my *bucket list* I've added a visit to the Concours D'Elegance in Pebble Beach! Sandy Pyrros

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

Annual Fall Cruise

Our annual fall cruise will take place October 18th and will end up at the Sergeantville Inn. **Notify Phil Guidone if you will be attending.** See Page 9 in last month's newsletter for all the information. This is always a great outing – plan to attend.

Phil has arranged for Ken Schlager of the New Jersey Monthly Magazine to accompany us on our fall cruise. We would have some coverage of the cruise in the next October (2010) edition as we would be too late for the 2009 edition. It is their usual fall getaway issue.

So let's have a nice turnout of the TBirds –your car could be the magazine's star (maybe a cover?).

Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party is scheduled for December 5th at the San Carlo Restaurant in Lyndhurst. Mark this on your calendar. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Concours D Elegance



Pics from Street Legends and Rte 23



A nice custom 50 Ford



The line up at Rte 23. In order to get together we agreed to meet in Home Depot on Rte 23. However, one member, who shall remain nameless, had something else in mind. The time to meet came and went, with a no show of that member. After a frantic phone cal, we found that he had gone to the Home Depot in Mahwah!!.

Taking your own advice

Last months' tech article dealt with improving the handling of your TBird with emphasis on the U-bolts holding the axle housing to the springs. After typing in the symptoms I realized that my TBird experienced just what was mentioned. Later, I raised the rear of my Tbird and checked the nuts on the U-bolts. They were no where near the recommended torque setting so I tightened all of them to the recommended 75 foot pounds (didn't need a cheater bar). A test drive showed a big improvement in the handling. Editor

TECH TIPS

Door Latch Plates

To 55 and 56 TBird owners who are tired of striker plate problem, there is a solution to this recurring problem of worn out 55 and 56 striker plates.

All 57 TBirds came equipped with an improved version of the striker plate. This later design has a hardened steel insert which the door latch star wheel works against. This hardened insert was retained with a safety plate which was secured with 2 5/16-24 flathead phillips screws into the door jams. This later improved unit is a direct replacement to all 56 TBirds. If you install this unit on your 56 you will never need a new striker plate again. Forever.

This 57 striker plate can also be used on 55's as well but may require a bit more expertise. I have done this many times so don't think that it can't be done. The secret is not to include the safety plate when using this assembly in a 55. The 55 latch star wheel would interfere with the safety plate so secure the steel insert with 5/16 flat washer under the flathead screw. Also install a flat washer under the other retaining screw as well because the hole is counter sunk too deep without it. When the retaining screws are torqued to about thirty foot pounds the washers will become coned shaped as the screws tighten up. The washer will secure the insert quite nicely. The screws must be pulled down as far as possible as you don't want them sticking up. Clearance between the screws retaining the thicker 57 striker plate and the back of the door is now a real possible problem. Necessary clearance can then be obtained by pounding on the newly installed striker plate with a heavy kind faced hammer. Pounding will move the surface of the door jamb inward, but not so far as you can see with your eye. I have done this modification on several 55's and never cracked the paint even on freshly restored cars.

By the late Walt Nuckels



CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

Sept 30-Oct 4 Carlisle, PA Swap meet and car show

Oct 3 Park Ridge-Mill Pond Assisted Living, 124 Noyes Drive (flyer) Rain date 10/4

Oct 4 – Whiskey Café (wind up show)

Oct 4 Short Hills-150 JFK Parkway(Near mall) (Flyer)

Oct 7-11 Hershey Fall Show and Swap

Oct 10 Wantage-Veteran's Memorial park, Sherman Ridge Rd (flyer)

Oct 11 Mahwah-Lincoln Tech-70 McKee DR (flyer)

Oct 11 – Tri County Chamber of Commerce(rain date) Wayne, 45 Barbour Pond Drive

Oct 18 NJORTC Fall Cruise (Sign up now)

Oct 18 Paramus- Elks, 200 Rte 17 NO. (flyer)

Oct 18 Pompton Lakes-Wanaque Ave (flyer)

Oct 25 Paramus-Berkeley College 64 Midland Ave (flyer)



Last night, my wife and I were sitting in the living room and I said to her, 'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug'.

She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out my beer.

CRUISE NIGHTS

Monday

Hawthorne-Goffle Grill, Goffle Road (end 10/12)

Tuesday

Elmwood Park-River View East, 455 River Dr

Succasunna- McDonald's, Rte 10

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

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

Montgomery,NY McDonald's Rte 208

Sunday

Midland Park-Burger King, 55 Godwin Ave.

Some of the above may have ended



Concours D'Elegance-Model A's all in a row.

September Meeting



Some of the TBirds at the meeting

September Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Paul & Pauline Schroll at the Paddington Square Clubhouse. The day was beautiful which brought out the TBirds, old and new. It was a great gathering.

Some Highlights of the meeting:

No minutes were read because the lasr meeting was the mini-concours.

The treasurers report was read and accepted.

Lucille is still following up on the membership pins.

Members – It was reported that Vince and Dominick were progressing and that Pat recently had a procedure done.

Phil Guidone reported on the fall cruise. Everything is ready and the reporter from the NJ Magazine is still going to accompany us.

Reminder of the Holiday party on Dec 5th.

Nominations were made for the new terms. They were: Pat for President, Sandra for Secretary and Lois Martin for CTCL representative. Elections are to be held at the October meeting.

A discussion was held regarding a new location for the Minin-concours. Some members are going to look at possibilities.

Phil Guidone mentioned articles in Hemmings and Motor Trend regarding the the 55-57 TBirds.

The CTCL convention in Dayton was mentioned. About 7 members are going to attend, most with their cars. If we get enough cars being driven, we are in the running for most mileage driven taking into account Walter's recent cross country trip which included Tulsa and Vancouver.

Joanne Seiler went over the list of members who are supposed to host meetings for 2010.



Rte 23 Automall Show

This was a very nice show on a beautiful day (one of the few this year. Free coffee and donuts. There were about 200 cars and while a greater percentage were Mustangs, the others represented a very good variety of cars. Charlie, Alec, Pat, Paul A, and Paul S attended with their TBirds. Charlie and Paul A won awards. A few pics:



Street Legends Car Show

Another great car show on another great day. A great mix of cars. Eight members brought their cars (Paul S, Paul A, Rich, Pat, John P, John B, Charlie and Alec). Plaques were awarded to all those in attendance. But no free coffee and donuts



Pat, Paul S missing from middle picture.

**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
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