

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



The Thunder Heard

August 2015

Picnic Coming Up

2015 Meeting Schedule

August 16	Picnic
Sept 26	Mike & Wendy Meehan
October	Gene & Diane Szura
October	Fall Cruise
November	Charlie & Izabella Costa
December	Christmas Party

The August meeting will be the picnic on August 16th. A brief business meeting will be held. At Schooley's Mtn Park

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



July has been a good month. As we celebrated Independence Day, I was asked to provide my 56 Ford in the Ridgefield Park parade to carry some VFW veterans. It was a great honor. Arlene was in the car behind me with the ladies auxiliary. Then on the 16th, 12 of us with 6 Thunderbirds went to Pittsburg for the 60th Anniversary of the Thunderbird during the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. The event was much larger than we expected it to be. We were invited on a parade lap of the course. We were also surprised to see Steve Handy and Joan there. We visited the 9/11 Flight 93 Memorial and several other sights. All in all a good time.

July 26 saw another very well attended meeting. Many items were covered, you can read the minutes on the web site. Another wonderful decision made, was to let the picture page of the web site go public. You can now invite friends and relatives to see all the activities we do.

We welcomed new member Drew Eckmann

Last is to let Bill Downing know if you are going to the picnic and what you can do to help.

So see you all there.

Pat LeStrange





A few Words From Alec

I wish to thank everyone at the last meeting for all the good wishes and congratulations of my mile stone birthday. One of the best things that I have done in my life was to join this club that has enriched my life with good friends.

I have attended many conventions with fellow members and traveled all over our great country and I have many wonderful memories of the good times we had traveling together. It's a good feeling to be able to still be here and looking forward to many new adventures with all of my fellow TBird owners. At last count I have owned 9 TBirds from 1956 to a retro '03 Bird.

Thank you all for the great memories.

Happy motoring, Alec

July Meeting

Hosted by Charlie & Carol Ehm it was a well attended meeting. Very nice day and the TBirds were in abundance. We even had the company of Michelle who took care of the food. Thanks to Carol and Charlie

Highlights of the Business meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as was the Treasurer's report.

A new member, Drew Eckmann, was introduced

There was a discussion on whether we should have the web site pictures open to the public (they are only open to members). The members voted to open up the pictures to everyone.

Pat reported on the recent trip to Pittsburgh.

Bill Downing reported on the picnic preparations. Pat mentioned that CTCI Director's election ballot is going to be in the Sept/Oct Early Bird and that Joanne and Rich are running for Directors.

Pat is asking around for meeting sponsors. Joanne mentioned that she is going to send out an email for the 2016 meetings and hosts.

Pat said he will be calling a special board meeting to clarify some club bylaws and other matters.

Various car show and dates were mentioned.

Travel Plans (part 3)

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older

One of my favorite places is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart. At my age I need all the stimuli I can get

I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there. (Thanks to Sandy P for all of these)



Vice President's Message

First off, I want to say we had a great meeting. Thanks to Carol and Charlie's for hosting the meeting and serving delicious food. Also celebrating Alec Johnstone's 80th birthday. Many happy returns Alec. Hope you enjoyed your birthday. Hope you celebrate many more.

Bob Heissler is still in rehab after his accident. Bob, hope your starting to do better. We are all thinking and praying for you. Lucille Chabala had some surgery. She is feeling better everyday. Everyone has been asking for you and praying for a fast recovery.

Hope all you guys and ladies are getting your TBirds out. Cruise nights have been rained out a lot. The last 8 Tuesday's it has rained, we have not been able to get to Wendy's on Rte. 23 in Wayne yet this summer. Weekend car shows are on going, hope our TBirds are getting awards.

Our next event is our yearly picnic. Please if you are coming notify Bill Downing, also if you are planning on bringing a salad or any other dish, please let Bill or myself know. It is important that you let us know ASAP. Bill has plenty of things to do, (an egg toss, which is a lot of laughs), a cookie and brownie contest, trivia contest for men on car related questions and also a contest for the ladies on slogans (not exactly sure if that's right, but I know it will be fun), there will be different games for adults and children. Please come and have a great time. Picnic is at Schooley's Mtn. State Park. (same park as the last few years), August 16th, 10:00 - 4:00, rain or shine. Don't forget to bring your Thunderbirds, plenty of parking for the cars.

I want to thank Joanne for our website with all the info she has put on it, also for all the music attached to the site done by Pat. It's a lot of work to keep it up to date. Also I want to thank Paul Schroll for doing a great job on the newsletter and also Bill Downing for the good articles in the CTCI magazine. Like I have said many, many times, we have a fantastic club.

I want to wish good luck to Joanne Seiler for running for Region 1 Director and Rich Martin for running for Director at Large. Ballots will be in the next Early Bird magazine. Please support Joanne and Rich. Good luck guys.

Enjoy your summer, cruise nights and car shows. See you soon Arlene

Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Rich & Lois Martin 6th
Phil & Dorothy Guidone 7th
Henry & Judy Semmler 11th



Sheryl Adamoff 1st
Al Cirinelli 13th
Joan Notar 15th
Wendy Meehan 18th
Shelly Belli 18th
Joe Kubat 22nd
Bob Belli 27th
John Bolger 31st

Get Well Soon!

Bob Heissler
Lucille Chabala
Judy Semmler

FOR SALE

1991 Cadillac Alante

Super over all condition. 67K Drives like a Caddy.
Vince 973-980-4312

1957 TBird Hardtop

Porthole hardtop. Paul LoPiccolo 516-510-6308

1955-56 Parts

Miscellaneous parts. Paul A.

Bob Heissler

Bob is still at Kessler and is up and walking with a walker. I'm sure he would like to hear from you. See the July newsletter for contact information.

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Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Asst. Master at Arms	Alex Johnstone
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Joanne Seiler

Signs

At the electric company
We would be delighted if you send in your payment
- However, if you don't, you will be

Pittsburgh

We had a great time on our Pittsburgh trip. We had six cars and 12 members attending. The host, the Pitt Birds, had a special 60th anniversary outing in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, which was in its 33rd year.

The trip out was uneventful (the way we like it). On Thursday we met with the club members and other attendees at a local restaurant. Friday was the tour to the Flight 93 Memorial, a sad remembrance of 9/11. It is a pretty stark memorial with just the name of those who died engraved on a stone wall. After that we traveled on part of the old Lincoln Highway to a very nice rustic inn. On our way back, the planners had scheduled a stop at an ice cream shop so we had a nice cold snack.

Saturday was our first day at the Vintage Grand Prix. It was show day. Tons of cars. Some marques had their own area. Near us was the English cars. Lots and lots of Jags, MG's and other makes. The Italian cars also had their own section and were the featured marque. The Third section had about 80 cars of all years up to 2005. Saturday was time trials for the race cars, which were limited to small displacement engines. We toured the pits (the paddock) and saw the racers preparing their cars.

Sunday was race day. The race track was actually the roads in the area. Before the races started, the TBirds did a parade run on the race course and then we relaxed for the rest of the day. In the late afternoon, we decided to do a little Pittsburgh tour and ended up at the Duquesne Incline tram where we took a ride. While up there, we had dinner overlooking greater Pittsburgh where the Mongahela, Allegheny and Ohio Rivers meet.

The trip back on Monday was also uneventful. The only real rain we got was on Sunday evening as we ate. From our high vantage point at the restaurant we could see the storm approaching.

The Pitt Birds really put on a well organized outing. They even planned a pit stop on Friday morning on the way to the memorial as well as the ice cream stop. The hospitality tent they set up had lots of food and drink. They are super people, having some one lead us back and forth to the hotel each day as well as a greeter on the day we arrived. Some of the nicest people you will ever meet. Since they do an outing every year at the Grand Prix, it would be nice to go back.

Paul

Events

Picnic

Don't forget the picnic - August 16 at Schooley's Mountain Park, the same place as last year. If you are bringing a dish (salad, dessert, etc) let Arlene know. Notify Bill if you are going to attend and how many you are bringing. Relatives are invited. If you need directions, email Paul Schroll.

September Meeting

The hosts for the September meeting are Wendy and Mike Meehan and it will be on Sept. 26 (Saturday). Additional information will be in next months newsletter.

New Member



Welcome to Drew Eckmann. Drew has a torch red 55 and resides in Ringwood, NJ

The Carol & Charley Show

Keep Oct. 3rd open for this show at Lincoln Park. All sorts of stuff. Details next month

CTCI Convention

Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 26 - 30

If you plan to attend, get your hotel reservations in now. It will be held at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel. The hotel is fully booked, but there are others for the same price. For reservations call 800-325-3535 or 505-830-5781(direct). Ask for the Pajarito Thunderbird Club rate (\$99 single, \$109 double). Additional details can be found at the CTCI website or www.thunderbirdsnm.com

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.
ptschroll@aol.com

Car Shows-Swap Meets

- 8/1 Boonton-Boonton United Meth. Church 616
Lathrop Dr. 2 - 6 PM
8/2 Whippany-Birchwood Manor 111 No Jefferson
8/8 Budd lake Vasa Park, Wolfe Road
8/15 West Milford-Greenwood Lake Airport 126
Airport Rd.
8/15 Parsippany-Lanidex Plaz (off Parsippany Rd.)
8/23 Wayne-Montclair State Univ-Yogi Berra
Stadium
8/23 Boonton-Boonton Main St. 2 - 6 PM
9/3-6 Lead East
9/3-6 Mahwah Sheraton (Dead Man's Curve)
9/11 Ridgewood-Ridgewood Ave (evening)
9/13 Clifton-Schumacher Chev 999 Rte 46 East
9/13 Ridgefield Park 100 Challenger Rd.
9/13 Great Meadows-Island Dragway-Old Times
Drags and car show 20 Island Road
9/13 Ewing-College of NJ 2000 Pennington Rd.

For more shows go to
<http://holtononline.com/carshows.html>
<http://www.newjerseycarshows.com/>
www.njortc.org

July Meeting



Cruise Nights

Monday

Fair Lawn-14-26 Plaza Rd. Railroad Tavern

Tuesday

Clifton, Rutt's Hutt

Wayne, 1560 Rte 23 N Wendy's

Saddle Brook-405 N.Midland Ave-Bennigans)

Wednesday

Wycoff- Greenwood Ave

Paterson-Pep Boys Speed 261 McLean Blvd

Clifton - 1116 RTE 46W-The Hearth

Thursday

Wayne - 1800 Rte 23 N Kohl's

Hackettstown Mountain Rd Wendy's

Friday

Boonton-Wooten St, Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr.)

Midland Park, Godwin Ave, Wendy's

Saturday

Lyndhurst -1050 Wall St (Formerly Whiskey Cafe)



Happy Birthday Alec

My TBird - Pinky

From the time I was a teenager, I loved classic cars. My first car, though not yet a classic, was a 1967 Camaro (6 cylinder). After our second child was born, the Camaro was replaced with a station wagon. Upset that I had to part with my beloved Camaro, Charlie, told me that when we had a house with a garage, we would get another one. Four years later, in 1985, we bought a house with a one-car garage, but it needed a lot of work so there was no money for a collector car. But...I continued to look at the classifieds and “dream.” As I looked, I would also see ads for Baby Birds, but I knew that we’d never be able to have enough money for one of those – that was really a dream! Thirteen years after buying a “house with a garage,” Charlie got a deal on a 1970 Chevelle. Well...there went my garage for a Camaro!!! Since the garage was not very roomy, we added on a 2nd garage in 2000. A couple of years later, I began my search for a 1967 Camaro to fill the new space. Baby Birds were still out of our price range. It took me 3 years to find the “perfect” Camaro, but in March 2006, it was delivered and filled the new garage. Charlie always dreamed of owning a 1956 Chevy Nomad. He even had a dream one night that he owned one that was Sierra Gold and Adobe Beige. In 2008, we found the exact car out in Arizona. So...while most people in our neighborhood had pools in their backyards, ours saw the construction of a 3-car detached garage, with room in the middle bay for a lift.

Over the years, attending many cruise nights and car shows, I still yearned for a 1956 T-bird. When Charlie would ask me what I wanted for Mother’s Day, my birthday, or Christmas, I would tell him I wanted a 1956 T-bird in Sunset Coral or Peacock Blue. On a Friday in April 2012 my co-workers and I were on our way to lunch – to Delizia’s in Boonton – where there happens to be a Friday night cruise night. As we turned onto the street, just ahead of us at the light, was a flatbed truck with a 1956 Sunset Coral T-bird on the back. At the time, Charlie worked at a classic car restoration shop down the road from the Delizia’s. I jokingly said to my friends, “Look, Charlie got me what I wanted for Mother’s Day and he’s going to hide it where he works!” Well...that’s not where they were going – they were going to Delizia’s, too. When the men came into the restaurant, a couple of them looked familiar to me. I said to my friends, “Great...somebody local is getting this car and I’m going to have to see them with it at cruise nights!”

Mother’s Day came and I got a blow dryer! The brand was “Silverbird.” I told Charlie that, not that I didn’t appreciate the blow dryer, but I said “Thunderbird”! A couple of weeks later, we were at the Friday night cruise night. As we walked around, we ran into our friend, Joe Kubat. Charlie told him that I was interested in buying a T-bird. The gentleman with Joe said that he had one for sale. (The gentleman was Rich Martin). I asked what year. He said it was a 1956. Perfect! Then I asked what color and he said “pink”! I said, “You mean ‘Sunset Coral,’ don’t you?!?” I then looked at him and said...”Wait...it was you! You were the one who was here a few Fridays ago!” He said that they had bought the car in Pennsylvania. It had been in a barn for many years. We inquired as to the asking price and it was very reasonable. We made arrangements to go to his house that Sunday to see the car. He told us that the T-bird club would be at his house for a tune-up clinic. As we drove up, Charlie told me not to get too excited because he was sure that the car was going to have major issues, especially being in a barn for that long, and wouldn’t be worth buying. When we got to Rich’s house, there were a lot of T-birds, but only one Sunset Coral. Charlie looked the car over and was surprised at how solid it actually was. The club members were all sitting around in the garage. (I later found out that they wouldn’t leave until they saw who was interested in buying the car!)

Everyone offered suggestions as to the best places to buy parts, etc. We made arrangements with Rich to go back the next night, when he would have the car in the garage, so Charlie could look under it. As the men talked, Lois kept me company. She told me about the New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club and all the wonderful activities that the Club did. She told me about CTCI and the conventions. At the end of the evening, I told Charlie that we were buying the car just so we could join the Club! On May 31, 2012, “Pinky” (as Lois nicknamed her and she’s become known as) was delivered.

Over the past three years, Charlie has been making improvements to Pinky. In fact, she was off the road most of last year, but she’s back now!

Not only did I acquire the car that I thought was beyond my wildest dreams, but we have made the most wonderful friends. We have enjoyed many events with our new “family,” from car cruises to ocean cruises. Hopefully, Pinky and our friendships will be around for many years to come.

Carol Ehm

Pinky



Seen at Pittsburgh - Companion for Pinky?

TRIVIA

What car was referred to by owners as "Old Porcupine?"

Henry Semmler got the correct answer for last month's - Royce Hailey's Pig Stand, Dallas TX.

Retro Spec (tive) - Getting to where your going by knowing where you've come from

Pittsburgh



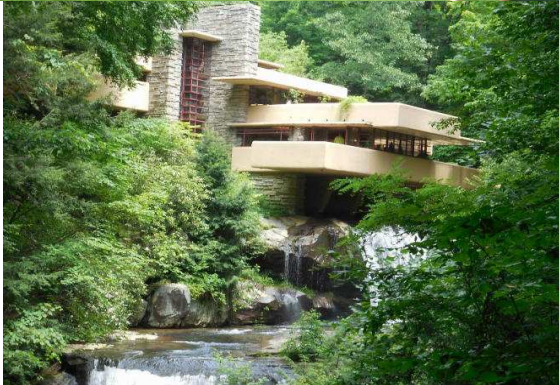
More Pittsburgh



E-Jags - for Joe Saville-a lot more than just these



And a Metro for Bill Jessie



Frank Lloyd Wright House-Laurel Highlands



Story Board(1 of 3) at Flight 93 Memorial



Thanks to Bill & Martha Downing and Sandra Pyrrros for pictures

NJORTC ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

Sunday August 16th 10 am ~ 4 pm



Club members and their families are invited.



Some special guests are welcome.



Schoolzy's Mtn State Park.

Bill Downing will have a fun filled day planned with games, horseshoes, much more. He will be hosting a cookie contest again this year; details for the contest will be coming soon. Frlene Kubat is asking for volunteers to make side dishes such as salads and appetizers, dishes to go along with hamburgers and hot dogs and chicken. Also desserts other than cookies.

This is a rain or shine event, we do have a very large pavilion to sit under. In the past some of our rain picnics have turned out to be some of the best times.



Questions: contact Bill Downing wdowning@optonline.net

Contact Frlene Kubat re food dishes finallyak@yahoo.com

More discussions will be done at the next meeting July 26th