

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



# The Thunder Heard

**June 2023**

| 2023 Meeting Schedule |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                 |
|                       |                 |
| June 11               | Jere Klein      |
| June 25               | Spring Cruise   |
| July                  | TBA             |
| August 13             | Picnic          |
| September             | Paul Dorne      |
| October               | Gene Szura      |
| November              | Mark Santimauro |
| December 9            | Christmas Party |
|                       |                 |
|                       |                 |

The next meeting is June 11th. Jere Klein is the host. RSVP jere.e.klein@gmail.com or (845) 781-6988

**If you cannot host your meeting as scheduled, it is your responsibility to get someone to switch with.**  
 Please let Arlene 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**



The unofficial start to Summer is here. many car shows and cruise nights have begun, so get out and have some fun.  
 Our May meeting and tune up clinic was very good. Thanks to Tom and Sue Mirro for hosting the Clinic and thanks to Paul Adamoff for hosting the meeting. Tom basically did all the mechanic work. I had a few things done on my Bird as well as Mike Parillo and Tom Brieva ( good to see you Tom) We covered our upcoming events as well as the Florida Convention and the Thunderbird Reunion in Dearborn, Hope to see you at our Lake Hopatcong Cruise. The boat holds 40 people and we have reserved 32 places. The club has laid out the full fare, so please get you money in NOW! If you said you are going and your plans have changed you are still responsible for the payment. \$65 per person See you at the June Meeting

*Pat LeStrange*



**Tom Brieva's white 57  
 (See page 7)**





### Vice President's Message



I do not know what to say about the weather!!! I think when it finally gets warm, it's going to get hot and stay hot. We will still enjoy our little Birds. Cruise nights and car shows are in full swing.

Thank you Tom and Sue Mirro for hosting our yearly tune-up clinic. We had a few cars worked on (small jobs). All jobs well done. The hosts put out bagels, muffins, donuts, coffee, etc. We also had plenty of Thunderbirds come out for Thunderbird appreciation day. We also had our monthly meeting hosted by Paul Adamoff, which was also held at the Mirro home. Thank you Sue and Tom for letting us use your beautiful home all day. We had great food, great friends and a successful day.

Sending prayers to Don Dobres who is having surgery on May 31st. He has a mass on his lung, so they will remove the mass and just pray it's negative. Please continue to say prayers for Joan McMillan. She stopped the chemo infusions. it's taking a toll on her, so now Drs. are looking at other treatments. She is a little weak, but spirits are good. Saw Lois Martin, she looks great and is starting to get around a little more each day.

Last month I mentioned that Pat LeStrange's granddaughter, Lia is graduating high school and attending Boston University, she would love to become a Doctor. Joan McMillan has two grandchildren graduating high school. Her granddaughter, Kelsie is attending Marquette University, Minneapolis, MN. Joan's grandson, AJ is attending York College in York, Pa. For Sports Management and Marketing. Paul and Pauline Schroll's granddaughter, Allison is graduating high school and attending University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Mass. Allison wants to become Veterinarian. She has known since she is three years old that she wanted to take care of animals.

Good luck to all four of you. NJORTC wishes you success in all you do.

Next meeting Sunday, June 10th hosted by Jere Klein at Delizias, 2:00 pm

June 25th Brunch Cruise on Miss Lotta around Lake Hopatcong. Boat leaves at 11:00 am, but we are meeting in the cruise parking lot at 10:00 am.

If you have not paid, please send your check to Steve Handy. Cost is \$65.00 per person, \$130.00 a couple. As of now we have 32 of us going. If

anyone else wants to go they have to contact the Miss Lotta themselves, because the Club had to pay for the cruise in advance. After the cruise we will be going for ice cream.

Starting to work on Club picnic, which is Sunday, August 13th. Starting time between 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Held at Schooly's Mountain. I am the Chairperson this year and Joyce Santimauro is the co-chairperson, thank you Joyce for stepping up.

Please remember to notify Jere Klein if or if not going to the meeting.

Hope all had a good and safe Memorial Day weekend. Thanks to all our Vets.

**See you soon, Arlene**

### May Meeting

**A good meeting . Good attendance. The weather was good and the little birds came out and showed themselves. Food was tasty and plenty of it. It was held at the Mirro home, Paul A. was the host. Thanks to Paul who hosted the meeting and to the Mirros, Tom & Susan.**

### Highlights Of the Business Meeting

**The reading of the minutes from the last meeting was waived as the Secretary was not present. The Treasurer's report was made and accepted.**

**Sue gave updated info on the boat cruise.**

**Arlene requested that members who have not written an article about their TBird for the newsletter do so.**

**Arlene mentioned the picnic in August. Same venue, August 13th**

**Pat mentioned the memorial car show for his brother is scheduled for August. No date given.**

**A discussion on insurance options for our cars was made.**

**Paul A won the 50/50  
Next meeting June 11th.**

### Meeting Pictures





# Membership News

*Happy Anniversary*

Mark & Joyce Santimauro 7th  
 Ron & Merry Case 19th  
 Jere & Linda Klein 22nd  
 Marco & Danya Totaro 24th



Arlen Kubat 1st  
 Carrie Meehan-Moore 18th  
 Valerie Kriney 20th

**GET WELL  
 SON!**

Lois Martin  
 Aileen Corbett  
 Don Dobres  
 Joan McMillan



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|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Registered Agent       | Phil Guidone       |
| Awards/Plaques         | John Pyrros        |
| Membership Chairman    | Paul Adamoff       |
| Name Badges            | John Pyrros        |
| Club Historian         | Lucille Chabala    |
| Club Photographer      | Paul Schroll       |
| Sunshine               | Lucille Chabala    |
| Master at Arms         | Rob Sabino         |
| Activities Coordinator | Julie Ann Morrison |
| Webmaster              | Pat LeStrange      |

### Auto Museum Tour

Donna Jessie is trying to set up a museum tour of the Gasoline Alley Automotive/Ford Museum located in Stafford Springs, CT. This is a private collection and reservations in advance are required. Many Ford cars and memorabilia. Proposed dates Sept 17 or 24. Contact Donna directly if you are interested in going. In addition, maybe a side trip the next day to the Mystic Seaport

## Club Announcements

### June Meeting

The June meeting will be **June 11**. Jere Klein is the host. Venue is Delizia's. Same time, **2 PM** Be sure to RSVP, including regrets

### July Meeting

No information on either a host or date

### Spring Cruise

A cruise/brunch on Lake Hopatcong is on **June 25th**. The cruise starts at 11 AM. We will be meeting at **10 AM** in the cruise parking lot.

Address is 37 Nolan's Place, Lake Hopatcong, If you haven't signed up for this and want to go, contact the vendor to see if there is an open seat as reservations were made in advance.

### Club Picnic

The date for the picnic is **August 13th**. Keep the date open as we always have a good time. Additional information to follow.



## Car Shows/Swap Meets

5/31-6/2 Carlisle, PA-Ford Nationals-Carlisle Fairgrounds

5/31-6/2 York PA. NSRA East Nat'ls York Fairgrounds

6/3 West Orange - Main Street

6/4 Waldwick-4 Hewson Ave-Waldwick Train Station

6/11 Demarest-162 Knickerbocker Rd Demarest High School

6/11 Basking Ridge-101 S. Finley-Gallaway & Crane Funeral Home

6/11 Randolph-906 Rte 10W Performance Ford

6/11 Saddle Brook 55 Mayhill St

6/11 Paterson-61-127 Preakness Ave JFK High

6/11 Hackensack-80 South River Rd

6/17 Emerson-600 Kinderkermack Rd-Stop & Shop

6/17 Rockaway-140 Green Pond Rd Christ Ch.

6/18 Succasunna 72 Eyeland Ave-Horseshoe Lake

6/25 Wayne-475 Valley Rd. Munciple parking lot

6/25-Bergenfield-Vreeland Ave Bergenfield High Sch

7/2 Paramus-165 Rte 4 West Panera Bread

7/9 Oradel-55 Pyle St-River Dell High Sch. (River Edge Show)

7/9 Paterson-61-127 Preakness Ave JFK High School

## Cruise Nights

### Monday

Rockaway-Red Hut Diner Rte 46 E

### Tuesday

Elmwood Park-Pizza Town-89 Rte 46W **5/16**

### Wednesday

Carlstadt-317 Washington Ave **5/17**

### Thursday

Rockaway-Miller's Ale House-Rockaway Mall

Hackettstown-Wendy's-219 Mountain Rd

### Friday

Boonton-Walmart Plaza

### Saturday

## Cars & Coffee

Saturday - 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month - Franklin Lakes-649 Franklin Ave. Crossroads Church

**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.**





### Tune Up Clinic

It was a great day for our Tune Up Clinic. In conjunction with the monthly meeting, it brought out those sleeping Birds as evidenced in the pictures here. While only three cars needed some extra help, it was a great time. Pat needed an oil change and a new trans seal. The trans seal seemed to be a bit of a problem as it didn't want to accept the driveshaft after the seal was installed but Tom made it happen. No more leak. Tom Brieva had door window and door latch problems - the windows were taken care of but the latch problems needed new parts to fix although Tom did help with the doors closing. . Mike Perillo had some small items that needed attended to and these were taken care of. Many thanks to Tom who not only provided his garage but also his labor in handling the repairs with his expertise.







## Tech Tip

### How Old are Your Tires ?

#### Date Codes

Tires made from 2000 to the present day-the date code is four digits long. The first two represent the week of production the second two the year. A tire marked 1412 was made in the 14th week of 2012

1990 to 1999 - the date code is three digits long followed by a triangle. The first two represent the week, the third the year.

1980 to 1989 - The three digit code was also 3 digits, but w/o the triangle.

If the tires do not have any of these markings, they were made before 1980

#### From the Mouth of Babes

Teacher: How old is your father/

Student: He is 6 years

Teacher: How is this possible ?

Student: He became a father only when I was born



June 21

## My Engine Saga

### Tom Brieva

The colonial white 57 is finally back on the road and hopefully won't be adding to its history of sitting! The car sat for about 30 years and then spent 10 years in a frame off restoration including an engine and transmission rebuild. Not too long after the car became roadworthy in its restoration journey, it had a catastrophic engine failure on Sep 6, 2020 and finally got back on the road on Apr 22, 2023. This failure and recovery adventure is the topic of this story.

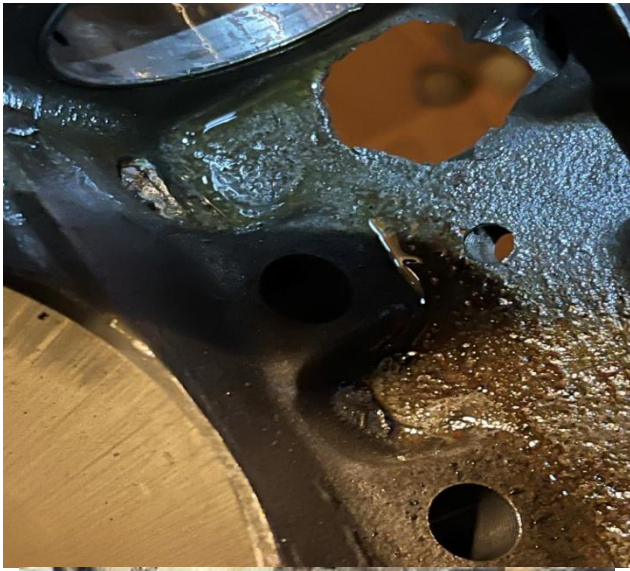
The original engine was rebuilt using the y265S mild cam from Mummert. Presumably due to the cam, it ran differently than my other very smooth car. Although the less smooth idle was expected, I was uncomfortable with the base ignition timing and the vacuum both being quite unsteady. I noticed a couple of errors made by the engine builder and corrected them, but it made me wonder what else I might find wrong. I met a Y-block expert and he thought the engine sounded great, so I didn't prioritize further checking the engine so I can work on the unfinished interior. Then one day it started running very poorly, so I pulled it back into the garage, during which time it worsened and white smoke came out of the right exhaust. I found that the pushrod for cylinder 1 intake was completely out of contact with the lifter and rocker. The lifter wasn't even visible. After the NJORTC members taught me how to remove the oil pan with the engine in the car, I saw a broken and dislodged lifter. I pulled it out and antifreeze poured onto my face. The cam had pushed the broken lifter through the cooling jacket, destroying the block. Luckily I stopped the engine quickly enough that metal was not spread all over.

After a lengthy grieving period, it was time to start over by finding a new 312 block and reusing as many parts as I could. I had an extra block, but its bore was more than .060 over and I decided to not get involved with excessive bore or sleeving. A difficult search led to a long block a 3 hour drive away and the seller loaded it on my truck via a tree that I feared would break and destroy my truck and the engine. The new engine shop reported that it was .030 over and could be bored to .040 over with no problems and no observed cracks. At this point my friend and I removed the original engine from the car and brought it to the shop for the rebuild into the new block. During that brief time when the colonial white T-bird was at the shop and the black T-bird was elsewhere to make room, I had an eerie first experience with no T-birds in my garage. The engine builder and I curiously took a look at the disassembled original engine and found four broken lifters, only one of which had been dislodged to end up pushed into the block. The cam also seemed to be hitting adjacent lifters simultaneously. That, along with the shaky timing when the engine was running, suggests that the cam might not have been shimmed right resulting in lateral movement. There may have also been an issue machining the lifter passages because the wear on one of the broken ones indicated that it was not rotating. I waited 6 months in line for the engine to get its turn to rebuild, at which time an issue in the main webbing was found. I was disappointed that this was not found in the first place and caused another delay. A more desperate search led me to a farm in North Jersey that had a dumpster full of engines and parts. I spent several hours there and found a 312 with a crankshaft but no pistons and rods. The owner conjectured that his father took the rods for racing in another car. The engine builder found it to be standard bore and believed it was never disassembled other than to grab the rods. I decided to be safe and bought a whole set of new parts from Mummert including the same mild cam. The engine seller needs help getting his father's Y-block started and hopefully I will be able to help him.

This time the engine rebuild went successfully and faster. I prayed extra hard that nothing would go wrong. To ensure no issues like the original, the builder ran it on the stand at the shop (see YouTube. <https://youtu.be/PmLGjIny3ZM>). It took about 15 hours for my friend to reinstall the engine with my help, more than double the time to take it out and label all of the parts and hardware. We addressed various odds and ends that needed attention along the way since the car was on the lift.

It was a surreal experience to drive the car home under its own power. It seems to be running well and the base timing is now fully steady. I will be nervous and watching for problems for a while, but my new engine builder did not seem to make any of the mistakes I noticed with the original builder. Now I get to resume the finishing touches where I left off on the unfinished restoration and finding places for the tons of extra engine parts. The next steps are to get the door latches rebuilt so that the doors can close. I hope that the next adventures with the car do not include any failures.





Happy Father's Day

June 18th



## For Sale



### **1955 T-Bird**

Goldenrod yellow clearcoat. 1989 Mustang H.O. , Fuel Injection, Paxton supercharger. 12 Volt. Griffin radiator. T-5 trans, Hurst shifter. Disc brakes (Lincoln Versailles), dual master. Continental Kit. Flowmaster mufflers. Traction bars. Power steering. Hard (white) and soft (black) tops. 55 Fairlane headlight rims. 56 Merc station wagon tail lights. Wire wheels and radials. Custom Sound radio with 10 CD changer. Located in New Jersey. \$ 48,000. For additional information and pictures contact Joe Kubat 973-900-1923

### TBird New and Used Parts

Interior door handles  
Heater box – New  
Heater coil – used  
Rear window stainless trim – NOS / used  
Stone guards for rear quarter panels  
Distributor caps  
Kenwood 12 volt AM / FM stereo w/ disc player & remote control  
JVC 12 Disc player w/ remote control  
Spin on oil filter adapter – new  
Air cleaner w/ dry element  
SEVERAL other items must see  
Predator portable 5 gallon gasoline generator, battery electric / hand start w/ wheels – used 3 hours. 9500 w, 115/-240 V outlets \$1,600.00.  
Contact Paul A, 201-286-4781



### **1955 T-Bird**

Black, Auto, p/s, p/w, B/W interior, TC radio, continental kit, many mechanical upgrades. White porthole hardtop \$29,995. Call Vince, 201-973-980-4312

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### Engine Cherry Picker

\$150.00. Must be Picked up in Rockland County, NY  
Contact Bill Jessie: 845-304-1257







# *Lake Hopatcong Brunch Cruise*

*Sunday, June 25th • 11:00am*

**Meeting time 10:00 am in Cruise parking lot  
37 Nolans Point Park Rd  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849**

**Drive to Cliffs Ice Cream afterwards!**