



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

December 2022

2022 Meeting Schedule

December 3	Christmas Party
<u>Proposed</u>	<u>2023 Schedule</u>
Jan/Feb	Charlie Costa
March	Sue Gayet
April	Rich Martin
May	Frank Gloss
June	Jere Klein
September	Paul Dorne
October	Gene Szura
November	Jayne Braun

The next meeting is November 13. Bob Heissler is the host. RSVP 908-361-1265 or baronvonheissler@gmail.com

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



Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I spent mine with my Family at my Daughter's home.

Our Christmas Holiday Party will be here very soon and I am looking forward to seeing a good turn out. It is the club biggest event. Be sure to bring a gift for the toy drive. Remember it is in a new location. AIDeLa in East Rutherford.

As it is the off season for car shows, there isn't a lot to talk about. We had a good attendance at the November meeting hosted by Bob Heissler. Toni Sabino cast the official vote for the uncontested election of Vice President Arlene Kubat and Treasure Steve Handy. Congratulations to both.

We do not have a December meeting due to the Christmas party so our next meeting will be in January or February, so if I don't see you at the party I will see you then.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday season and a great new year.

Pat LeStrange





Vice President's Message

Hi all. Winter is not officially here yet, but boy it's cold outside, plus some of us have seen our first snow of the year. Oh how exciting it is !!! Just kidding, not a fan of this weather!!! I assume it is just about time to put our cars to sleep for the winter because they get cold too!!!

Thank Bob Heissler for hosting our November meeting, you did a great job. It was a good meeting.

Hope everyone who is having health issues are starting to feel better. Let us try to bring in the New Year happy and healthy. I pray for everyone's good health.

Steve Handy and myself have once again been voted in as Vice President and Treasurer for a two year term. It was a good election and we both appreciated you voting for us, I know it was a tough race□□□ We will continue to do our best. Donna Jesse is now our new CTCI Representative.

We set our date for our Sweetheart Brunch at McLoone's Boat House. We are working on Spring Cruise also planning a trip to Harold's Deli in April or May. It's great that our Club is starting to show interest again.

Remember, December 3rd is our Christmas party at AIDiLa's in East Rutherford, NJ. As of now we have 56 people attending. I am so happy, it is one of our highest attended parties. My wish is that we can all be together and have a great time, good food, good music and dancing, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Happy Hanukkah to those who celebrate. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night

Next meeting will be in January or February 2023. Charlie Costa is the host. Toni Sabino is in charge of monthly meetings. Please let her or me know two months in advance if you can host a meeting. If not you must try to switch with someone who is on the 2023 list. Monthly meeting hosts are on our web page and also listed in this newsletter.

See you soon Arlene



November Meeting

A great turnout of members. Three little birds made it, looks like some have flown back to their garages for the winter. Back to Delizia's where the food is always good as was the company. Thanks to Bob Heissler for hosting.

Highlights of the Business Meeting

As the minutes of the last meeting were not available, the reading was waived. The Treasurer's report was made and accepted. There wasn't a lot of businesses that had to me discussed, some of the highlights:

AS was mentined last month, the actual "vote for Vice President and Treasurer was put on hold as the Secretary was absent. So the Secretary, being present, cast the vote for both as provided in the by-laws because the the nominees ran unopposed.

Pat reported he is adding additional pictures to the webpage and updating the roster. He also noted that the schedule for next years hosts are on the webpage. Lucille said the Sweetheart Brunch is schduled for Feb. 12 at McLoones Boat House

Pat brought calendars donated by Hill's Restorations which were passed out.

Arlene spoke about opening the clothes store. I f anyone wants club attire get a hold of her.

Arlene said everything is set for the Christmas party.

Theresa Parillo won the 50/50
Next meeting Dec 3 (Christmas Party)

November Meeting Pics



Membership News

Happy Anniversary



Bill Jessie 3rd
Toni Sabino 4th
Tom Brevia 11th
Paul Schroll 15th
Bruce Corbett 20th
Mike Perillo 21st
Lois martin 21st
George Gayet 25th

**GET WELL
SON!**

Gerry Ingersoll
Bob Sabino

November Meeting Pics



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.

2022 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Paul Schroll
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Rob Sabino
Activities Coordinator	Julie Ann Morrison
Webmaster	Pat LeStrange



Club Announcements

Christmas Party

Not too early to plan, the Christmas Party is on **December 3rd**. Time **5 PM**. New location, the AL-DI-LA, 1 Hoboken Rd, East Rutherford.

Cost is the same as last year, 65.00 per person. Same deal on credit for dues for next year. We will have Toys for Tots so bring a toy. Send check to Arlene or bring it to the November meeting., make payable to NJORTC. Kind of late to sign up, but contact Arlene, I'm sure she can get you in .

Sweetheart Brunch

The brunch is **February 12th**. Same venue as last year, McCloone's Boathouse, 9 Cherry Lane, West Orange. Time and cost info not available. Contact Lucille or Julie Ann. This has always been a good time with good food and lots of it.

More October Meeting Pics



Winter Solstice

12/21 is the Winter Solstice marking the start of winter. Shortest day of the year
Additionally, the days start getting longer

Car Shows/Swap

Cruise Nights

Most cruises have shut down. Check for your favorite location to see if still open

Cars & Coffee

Saturday - 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month - Franklin Lakes-649 Franklin Ave. Crossroads Church 10/8 through winter weather permitting. BS sessions inside on bad weather days. 8 AM til ???



FOR SALE

1955 Thunderbird

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

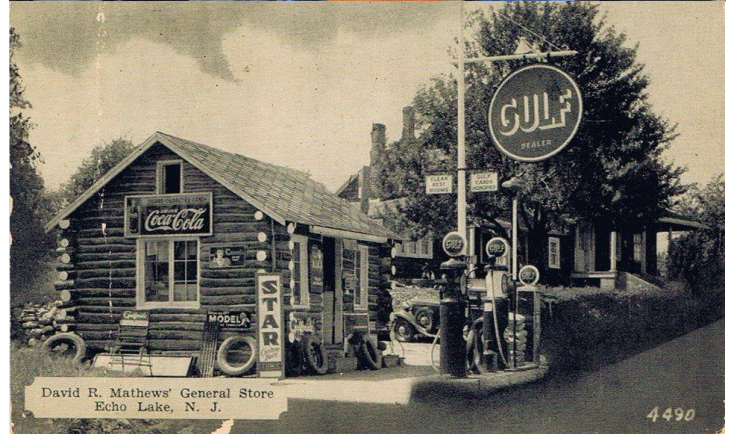
VINNY'S
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VINCENT UCCI
978-980-4812 CALL/TEXT
VINCENTUCCI@GMAIL.COM



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



One of the last shows - Perth Amboy

Reminders for Meeting Hosts

An email was recently sent out showing whose turn it is to host a meeting in 2023. As a reminder to those who are hosting for 2023 and in the future, please keep these in mind:

If anyone has a problem with hosting their month please contact someone else on the list and switch with them.

Usual attendance is 30-50 people, the host does provide something to eat and it should be kept simple.

Meetings usually last 3-4 hours and are usually held about 2 PM on a Sunday. Time and day can be adjusted with enough notice.

Meetings can be held at a venue of the host's choice, including their home if so desired.

Hosts should plan their meeting at least two months ahead and notify the meeting coordinator of the date, time, location and contact information. This provides enough time to notify everyone in the club, get the info into the newsletter and make any changes if necessary.

FYI - There are only nine meetings held a year, January/February are held as one due to the possibility of bad weather. The host may choose any date during these two months to host their meeting. August is our family picnic and a very short meeting is held then and December is our holiday party and no meeting is held

Contact the meeting coordinator or Vice President if there are any questions about hosting.

Reminders to Members in regard to meetings

Members attending a meeting are asked to RSVP to the host with a weeks' notice so the host can get a count of members attending and prepare as necessary. RSVP also means responding if not attending



Notes on the CTCI International Concours Convention

**San Antonio, Texas
October 25 - 30, 2022**

After two years without having a convention, CTCI brought back the event this year with an International Concours Convention in San Antonio under the catchphrase “T-Birds Flock to Texas.” The event took place at the beautiful and sprawling Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa located on a 300 acre site about 15 miles west of downtown San Antonio’s historic Alamo and entertainment center known as River Walk. Convention attendees had the opportunity to take a bus trip to see the Alamo up close and enjoy a barge cruise on a portion of the San Antonio River along the River Walk that was created by a 1930’s flood control project of a canal that has evolved into an entertainment complex that includes numerous restaurants, hotels and shopping venues. On our afternoon cruise we witnessed elaborate preparations being made for a grand celebration to be held later that night called “Dia de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead), a celebration of Mexican origin of remembrance of past friends and relatives. Preparations included bands setting up, costumed characters and hundreds of chairs lining the canal sidewalks in anticipation of a boat parade.

But I am jumping ahead. The first convention event after our arrival and check-in and check-out of the hospitality/vendor room was an outdoor S’mores Party on Tuesday night where we roasted marshmallows on a stick over a fire pit and then brought the browned marshmallows to a table with crackers and chocolate for assembly. A fun dessert.

The CTCI Membership meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon followed by the “Ask the Experts” Tech session that included a talk by John Kraman who is a TV commentator for Mecum auctions. A number of members made comments at the Membership meeting. The first speaker recommended that the club spend some of the proceeds from the sale of the CTCI building on the membership. Board response was that proceed withdrawals would be subject to a 21% tax. The next member to speak asked if the membership could look forward to more information about the investment portfolio. Board response was that dissemination to the membership of the investment reports the Board gets will be considered. The remaining comments concerned maintaining the status quo or entertaining the inclusion of retro Birds. After a number of technical issues were discussed at the Tech session, John Kraman gave an interesting talk about Mecum auctions. He gave some statistics summarized as follows:

Mecum holds 16 auctions per year

An average of 35 cars per hour cross the auction block

It takes 300 people to set up an auction

About 1600 55 - 57 T-Birds have traded at Mecum in the past 10 - 11 years

The median age of auction attendees is 50 - 70

There are two types of buyers; Nostalgia Buyers (Experienced the 50’s) and Legacy Buyers (Younger people)

He then went on to discuss the nuts and bolts of the bidding process including costs. An interesting bit of information is that Mecum charges the seller a lower commission on No Reserve cars than Reserve cars (6% vs 10%). For anyone who spends time watching auctions on TV, it was an interesting and informative session.

Later on Wednesday evening, the Welcome to Texas Party with hors d oeuvres and cash bar and an Octoberfest Oompah band took place at an outdoor pavilion. The host club drew various tickets for freebies given to convention attendees, as well as a Fifty/Fifty raffle drawing.

Judges training was held early Thursday morning and was followed after lunch on our own by the afore mentioned trip to the Alamo and River Walk. After returning from the trip, we had dinner on our own at Charlie’s Long Bar in the hotel. The popular bar features cowboy decor with cowhide covered bar stools at a very long copper clad bar.

The concours judges and owners meeting was held early Friday morning, but due to an overnight rain judging was delayed by two hours. Once things began to dry out and cars were re-cleaned, the

judging of about 55 cars proceeded as usual. Our team was comprised of five people that examined seven 1957 T-Birds that exhibited a wide range of quality with some very nice examples of the marque. The day's activities concluded with a Texas barbecue of beef and chicken with all the fixins with music by a Country Western band.

On Saturday, we went on a Texas Hill Country Driving Tour to a Texas BBQ restaurant for lunch. On the first leg of a round trip of 150 miles, we had some excitement with the breakdown of a red 55 T-Bird driven by two sisters from Iowa. The problem of a broken alternator wire was readily diagnosed, but the highway repair took awhile causing a delay in our trip of about 45 minutes. Fortunately, the 55 had no further difficulties.

The Awards Banquet was held on Saturday from 7 - 9:30 pm with a revised format from previous conventions. First, the dinner and dessert were served buffet style, and second, as award recipient names were called, they proceeded to the back of the room to get their award instead of going to the podium. This speeded up the ceremony, but it was less personal. A brief talk about next year's convention was given by a member of the Central Florida Classic Thunderbird Club #67 to be held on October 25 - 29, 2023 at the 151 room Brownwood Hotel in the Villages. After CTCI President remarks thanking everyone for coming, the convention officially ended and a few weary attendees headed to the Long Bar for a nightcap.

Steve Handy



Did You Know

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years

Interesting summary of the 55-57 T-birds.

https://www.hemmings.com/stories/buyers-guide-1955-ford-thunderbird/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=EDaily&utm_campaign=



Merry Christmas



June 2-3-4, 2023

Sacramento Classic Thunderbird Club

Thunderbird Extravaganza II

Lions Gate Hotel

3410 Westover Street McClellan, CA 95652

Events include:

Car show - Swap Meet - Vendors - Movie night
Raffles and Gift baskets - secured parking
Aerospace Museum Tour - Ladies' Event



Make your reservations now!

916-640-0835 or lionsgatehotel.com

Registration forms to follow.

Contact Ross Woodman, Event Chair

rossw@juno.com 916-691-6626



Dearborn, MI REUNION

August 22-28
Double Tree-Hilton Hotel Detroit, MI

THUNDERBIRD

FROM SPORTS CAR TO RACE CAR, THE THUNDERBIRD HAS A LONG, BEAUTIFUL HISTORY.

FROM: CORPORATE.FORD.COM



The initial guidelines called for a two-passenger, canvas-topped open car that would make maximum use of standard production components. The design objectives included a weight of 2,525 pounds, an Interceptor V-8 engine, a balanced weight distribution, acceleration better than the competition, and a top speed of more than 100 miles per hour. The new Ford sports car also was to retain Ford product characteristics and identification to the extent necessary for a ready association with the standard production car.

While the production of the car was nearing completion, Ford had a problem—they lacked a name for their new sports car. 5,000 names for the vehicle were suggested including Beaver, Detroit, Runabout, and Savile. These names were unimpressive to the team working on the sports car. Crusoe offered a \$250 suit to anyone who could do better. Ford stylist Alden Giberson stepped up to the challenge and recommended the name that the team would go with—Thunderbird.

The first appearance of the Thunderbird was February 20, 1954 at Detroit's first post-war auto show. The vehicle featured a more personal than sports car concept with its two-seater feature and build that would allow it to carve its own niche in the existing vehicle market. The first Thunderbird came off the line at the Dearborn Assembly Plant in September of that same year. With a price tag of between \$2,695 and \$4,000 the vehicle was an immediate hit, with buyers describing the car as a "morale builder that is real fun and sport to drive."



The vehicle was also adapted into a special racing package that was used in motorsports. The Thunderbird appeared in NASCAR in 1959 and won six races in the top division that year. The 1982 restyled Thunderbird arrived on the NASCAR scene in that year, and since then won 150 races in NASCAR's top division, including four wins at the Daytona 500. Additionally, pieces of the Thunderbird were tweaked and used in other performance projects for Ford Motorsports.

The design of the Thunderbird continued to be fine-tuned and evolved over the decades it was on the market. The Thunderbird ceased production in the mid-1990s, but a Heritage Edition was created in the early 2000s. The vehicle celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 despite not being fully produced for fifty years. In that same year, Ford Motor Company announced that the Thunderbird would be discontinued and the nameplate put on hiatus.

Yet the vehicle left a legacy for its speed, agility and then later its luxury and comfort. The Thunderbird or T-Bird was referenced in pop culture regularly showing the cultural significance of the vehicle. The vehicle showed Ford Motor Company's ability to carve out its own niche and build something unique.

The vehicle would evolve throughout its production time. The changes included increased safety features, adding more engine options, Dial-O-Matic power seats, a radio that automatically adjusted the volume in proportion to the speed of the engine, adding the option of four seats, increasing interior space within the vehicle, a flat line roof, a rear window, and many other features.