



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

January-February 2026

2026 Meeting Schedule

Jan/Feb	John Pyrros
February 8	Sweetheart Brunch
March	Irene Douma
April	Lucille Chalaba
May	Vince Ucci
Tune Up	
June	Miles Yengst
July	Rich Burns
August	Picnic
September	Donna Jessie
October	Al Cirinelli
November	Bob Heissler
December	Christmas party

The next meeting is February 22nd.
John Pyrros is the host.
RSVP 201-417-7788 or
sandypy@optonline.net

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

Please let Arlene and Toni know at least **2 months** before your scheduled month that **YOU WILL BE HOSTING** the meeting and give the date/time/etc.

January

FEBRUARY



President's Message



I hope the holidays went well for you and your families and just like that here we are - it's 2026. I am wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year. I am looking forward to another great year of meetings and events. I am proud to say I am entering my 18th year as your club President and with the help of our Board, we will continue to have a great club.

I believe everyone enjoyed the Christmas party. I know I did as it was the first time seeing most of you since my health issues. Thank you for all the prayers and get well cards.

Speaking of the Christmas party, thank you to Arlene Kubat and her team for another job well done.

Stay safe and healthy
Patrick Le Strange
President NJORTC





Vice President's Message



Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone. Hope everyone had a good time celebrating the New Year, 2026, I cannot believe another year has gone by. They say the older you get the faster the time goes, oh boy that is so true!

Also hope everyone enjoyed whatever holiday they celebrated, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Hope you enjoyed family, good food and plenty of deserts and just plain old good time with family and friends with plenty of laughs.

Other than George Gayet, who we should pray for and Pat who is doing fantastic, I believe we are all doing okay. Hopefully 2026 will keep us all healthy and safe.

We had our Christmas party, which was very well attended once again this year. Believe me that makes me very happy. We had a beautiful day, so there were no problems getting there or getting home. There is more written about the Christmas party in another section of this newsletter. All I want to say is thank you everyone of you that helped me run this party. Without your help I could not do it all.

Our next activity is our Sweetheart Brunch, which is on February 8th. There is also more information in this newsletter.

We will be having our next meeting sometime in January or February and in January we will be having our annual Board meeting. If you want anything discussed at the Board meeting, please let one of the Board members know.

Have a great year, see you soon Arlene

December Meeting

There was no meeting in December as we had the Christmas party

The Chrietmas Party

One of the best Christmas parties in the near past. We had over 60 people. Lots of fun. Shrimp plus other food for hors d'oeuvres. The food was good and was topped off by a TBird themed cake.. An open bar contributed to the good time. The DJ belted out good tunes and people got up and danced (Phil & Dorothy "cut a good rug") and you could get your favorite song played.

There were some very nice table decorations made by Toni which included cups of M & M's and other chocolate goodies. Diane made up cookie baskets for the tables.

There were 5 raffles consisting of a 50/50, a large chocolate Santa, a money tree, a hand painted on wood American flag (made by club member Jerry Conway) and a homemade candle piece (made by Diane Szura).

As usual, Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance and greeted all the members. 2026 NJORTC calendars, made by member Susan Gayet were passed out as well as framed pictures of the members (by Arlene)

As we have done in the past, members contributed toys for charity.

Thanks to Arlene for putting it together and for those who helped her. Here are some pics of the party, see the web site for all of the pictures.



Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Susan Mirro Feb 8th
Charlie & Izebela Costa Feb 8th



January

Steve Handy 6th
Julie Ann Morrison 3rd
Jackie Werner 13th
Michelle Strauss 13th
Steve Schmidt 16th
Peggy Conway 17th
Donna Jessie 20th
Miles Yengst 23rd
Kinga Kosmala 24th
Martha Downing 26th
Merry Case 29th
BobHeissler 29th
Rich Martin 30th

February

Dorothy Guidone 1st
Paul Dorne 7th
Sean Dillon 19th

**GET WELL
SON!**

Lynda Burns

Annual Board Meeting

While not yet scheduled, if you have any ideas for outings, or any other matter related to the club contact Pat, Arlene or any Trustee ASAP



6 more weeks ?

2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President

Pat LeStrange

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Face Book: www.facebook.com/NJORTC/

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



February 17th

Club Announcements

Sweetheart Brunch

This is scheduled for **February 8, 2026**. See the attached flyer for full information.

January/February Meeting

The Jan/Feb meeting is on Feb. 22nd. Start time is **2 PM**. Location is Delizias Resturant, 308 WoottonSt, Boonton, NJ. (Wal-Mart shopping Center)

March Meeting

No info yet

Dues

For those that did not attend the Christmas Party (and got the dues credit) the payment of dues is January. If you attended the party solo, one half of the dues (\$25) is payable.



You may be one person in the world but you may also be the world to one person

Cars & Coffee

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

Cruise Nights

Car Shows/Swap Meets



For Sale
WANTED

Peacock Blue 1956. Top dollar paid.
Call Vinny 973-980-4312

**WHAT'S MY
CAR WORTH?**

Call Vinny!

We can arrange a complimentary informal appraisal and on-site inspection of your prized classic. Including competitive market values and tips to prepare your vehicle for top-of-market sale.



**VINNY'S
VINTAGE VEHICLES**
VINCENT UCCI
973-980-4312 CALL/TEXT
VINCENT.UCCI@GMAIL.COM
WWW.VINNYSVINTAGEVEHICLES.COM



Toy Donations



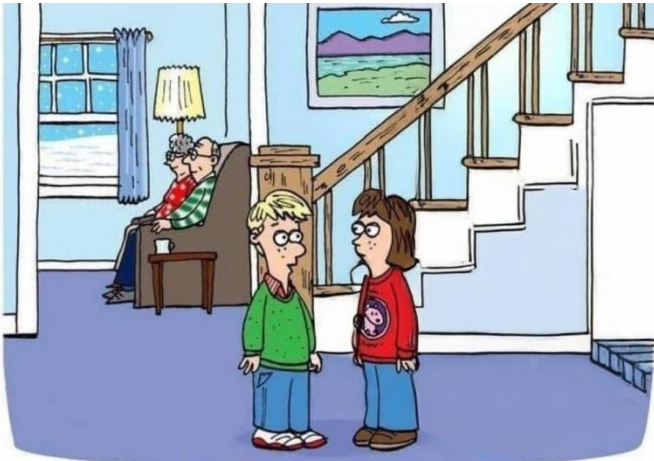
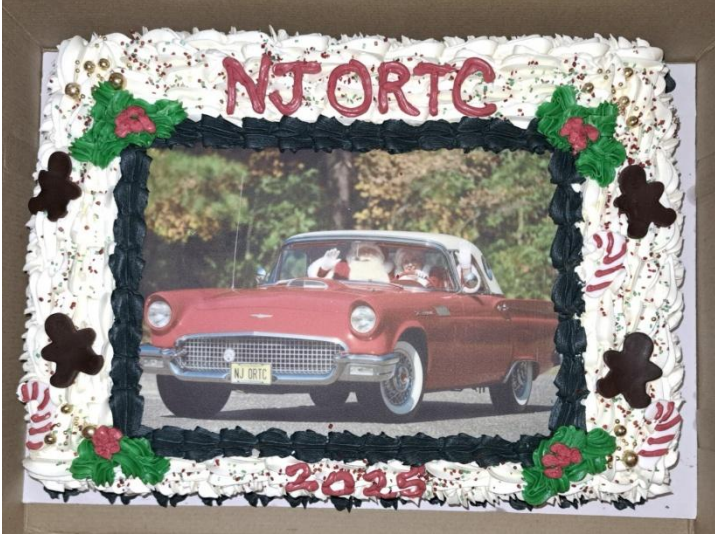
The toys were donated to the Haverstraw NY youth center



The raffles

The 50/50 was won by the Kleins.
The chocolate Santa by Rob Burns, who also
won the candle piece
The money tree by Pat
The American flag by the Corbetts





Unless you have three hours
to kill. I wouldn't talk to
him about his T-Bird
from Pete Crosta (edited)

February is National Chocolate month - so
enjoy

February also is National Grapefruit month -
drink healthy

.HAPPY.
Valentine's
Day



Is Dish Soap Safe On Car Paint?

By Alvin Reyes

Dish soap might seem great for washing cars. For starters, it's right there in your kitchen, and you don't need a lot of it to fill a bucket of water with heavy suds. That colorful, fragrant, gooey liquid works wonders in removing grease, stains, and grime from your pots and pans, but it could wreak havoc on your car's paint. Car wax brands are right in saying that dish soap works a little too well to be used for cleaning cars, and using it frequently can do more harm than good to your car's paint. Common dish soap brands share a similar formula that uses hydrophilic and hydrophobic dual-action surfactants to emulsify grease and suspend it in water. It's for that reason why dish soap should never touch your car's paint or the entire vehicle in general. Auto paint has a layer of wax to protect the clear coat and bring a natural shine. As it so happens, car wax is typically made from oil or plant-based ingredients like carnauba and beeswax.

The oil-busting properties of dish soap mean it can literally dissolve and wash away the wax on your car's paint, leaving it more vulnerable to intense UV exposure and weathering. Some silicone-based waxes, long-lasting ceramic coatings, or graphene waxes may take longer to fade, but persistently using dish soap will slowly eat away at any type of protective layer on the clear coat. The ultimate result is a dull finish with no trace of water beading, which is a telltale sign that the paint is literally starved of protection. If left unchecked, your car's paint will begin to crack, fade, or oxidize with time. At that point, no amount of polishing or waxing will undo the damage. Dish soap will also degrade plastic and rubber trim

With that in mind, we're one with the wax brands in saying that dish soap is one of the worst things you can use to clean any car or motorcycle. You not only risk dulling or damaging the paint, but also washing away the essential oils that keep those rubber and plastic trim pieces looking great and protected from the elements. Things like rubber door seals, window seals, roof strips, headlights, tail lamps, and any black plastic or rubber trim

will inevitably begin degrading with time and consistent weather exposure. However, repeated washing with dish soap will hasten the aging process, leading to a faded, discolored, or dried-out exterior trim. On top of that, dish soap is also harmful to paint protection film (PPF), which is usually made from thermoplastic urethane. PPF can last five to 10 years with holistic maintenance, but don't expect it to last that long if you habitually wash the vehicle with dish soap. It's the same story with vinyl wraps; harsh cleaners like dish soap can prematurely dry out or damage them with repeated washing. You won't ruin your car's paint by washing it often, but you surely will if you insist on using dish soap.

Believe it or not, there are instances where it's okay to use dish soap for cleaning cars. Since it can literally strip off wax or sealants from the clear coat, dish soap is fine if you plan on detailing or waxing your car after washing. Meanwhile, a drop or two of dish soap in a spray bottle is a quick-fix solution for removing tree sap or bird droppings.

What's the best alternative to dish soap? Instead of dish soap, the best things for washing cars are, of course, car wash soap or car shampoo. Unlike the harsh surfactants in dish soap, the best car shampoos have a balanced concentration of surfactants, lubricants, conditioners, and easy-rinse chemical formulas. Reducing friction on the paint as you wipe or wash is the main goal to prevent scratches or swirl marks, and it's why car shampoos contain lubricants to do just that. You should also stay away from dish soap if your car has matte paint, which requires frequent washing with matte-specific products like Dr. Beasley's Matte Body Wash to clean effectively without harming that velvety matte finish.





Please join us for our Sweetheart Brunch

Sunday, February 8, 2026

11:00AM

Stone Water

125 NJ-181 and N Alpine Drive

Lake Hopatcong NJ 07849

***Cost: 65.00/person includes tax and gratuity (Checks to
NJORTC)***

***alcohol will NOT be covered by the club. You are responsible
for your own bar tab.***

Please send payment to :

Julie Ann Morrison

2620 Fallow Hill Lane Jamison, PA 18929

Email: julemorr3@gmail.com

Phone: 812-480-4412