



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

August 2025

2025 Meeting Schedule

August 10	Picnic
Sept 14	Phil Guidone
October	Rich Iuso
October 19	Fall Cruise
November	Bob Notar
December 7	Christmas Party

We have the picnic this month instead of a meeting. RSVP Arlene.
finallyak@yahoo.com, 973-900-1921

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.

August



President's Message



Well it's August, hope it is not as hot as July was. The picnic is almost here, Aug. 10. Please make sure to let Arlene know if you are coming and if you are bringing someone, she has to know how much food to buy. This is a free event.

Our last meeting had good attendance and we welcomed a new member Robert Strauss.

The club sent flowers to Paul Werner's Memorial service.

It appears no NJORTC club members will be attending the CTCI convention in Texas.

I hope most of you has had the chance to see the flyer for the Fall cruise. Mike P. has done a lot of work setting it up. I believe he will be looking for payments and confirmations at the picnic. It looks to be a great time.

Patrick Le Strange
President NJORTC





Vice President's Message



The Summer is going way too fast! It has been rainy and very hot and humid. A lot of car cruise night have been cancelled due to weather. Plus almost every weekend it rains, so with that said , it has not been a good classic car season. Praying that August is better weather ☐ On a good note, September and October should be good. So like I always say let's get those cars out on the open road!!!

Praying Donna Jessie is feeling better after her surgery. As always are prayers are with you for a quick recovery. Hope all that had health issues lately are feeling better.

Looks like Mike Perrillo Tours is working on a great Fall Cruise, a boat ride up the Hudson.

Now to talk about the picnic! I asked Pat to send out a reminder to please let me know if you are attending or not attending the picnic. For those who answered, thank you. I am still waiting for a few more members to notify me. Finallyak@yahoo.com. Please any new members we would like to see you come. It is a fun day. It's a good day to meet our members, plenty of good food, desserts (including ice cream bars) and fun trivia games. So please contact me. Have to have a total of people coming so we can get right amount of food. As of now we have 46 people coming. Again, Finallyak@yahoo.com. **PICNIC DATE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH 9:00 AM FOR SET UP (COFFEE, DONUTS, BAGELS, CRUMB CAKE FOR BREAKFAST) 11:30 PM PICNIC STARTS, ENDS WHEN IT ENDS, RAIN OR SHINE. IT IS HELD AT SCHOOLEY'S MTN COUNTY PARK, GPS ADDRESS:91 EAST SPRINGTOWN ROAD, LONG VALLEY, NJ (DIRECTIONS TO PARK ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER).**

If going on vacation, have fun and be careful.

See you at the picnic, Arlene

July Meeting

A nice day and some members brought out their Birds. Not much going on, the business meeting was brief. Had a different pizza, Bruschetta, which was very good. Good food and good meeting. Thanks to Steve Handy for hosting.

Highlights of the Business Meeting

The reading of the minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted, as well as the the treasurer's report.

We had a guest, , Rob Strauss, who joined the club at the meeting'

Arlene mentioned that Donna is running for CTCI Region 1 Director.

Pat mentioned that he is updating the web page

Pat said that the Paul Werner Memorial service was today . Seven members said they were going.

Arlene went over the final plans for the picnic. She passed around signup sheets for attendance and food.

Pat said he had a small black leather wrapped 56/57 steering wheel. Anyone interested in it call him.

Al Cirinelli gave an update on Walter - he is doing good and that his Tbird is up for sale.

Lois and Vince mentioned the car shows each had an interest in(ED's Note - see car show listing in red print.)

Paul A won the 50/50

Next meeting - 9/10 picnic



Tom Mirro's car at the special Thunderbird display at Ford Carlisle this past June.

Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Bob & Toni Sabino 15th
Rich & Lois Martin 6th
Phil & Dorothy Guidone 7th
Miles & Esther Yengst 24th
Mel & Carmen Ramos 27th

HAPPY Birthday

Steve Herman 3rd
Sheryl Adamhoff 1st
Donna Diebner 10th
Al Cirinelli 13th
Joan Notar 15th
Joe Kubat 22nd

GET WELL SON!

Donna Jessie

Welcome -New Members



Robert Strauss (spouse Michelle). They live in Metuchen and have a red 57

July Meeting PICS



2025 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President

Pat LeStrange

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Vice President

Arlene Kubat

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Phil Guidone

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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



Club Announcements

August Meeting

There is no August meeting as we have the picnic. **August 10th.** Location Schooley's Mountain , same as last year. Things start at **9 AM for set up, 11:30 start.** RSVP Arlene if you are coming. Do not wait till the last minute. Coffee, donuts and other goodies for the early "birders". If you are bringing something for the picnic, make sure you let Arlene know. See attached for directions.

September Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for **Sept. 14th.** Time and place to be announced later.

Fall Cruise

This event is on **October 19th.** Mike has a nice event planned. He has sent out a flyer on it. If you have not received it let me (Paul) know, RSVP Mike if you are going. \$65 per person. Check to NJORTC. He will be collecting at the picnic.



Cars & Coffee

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

Cruise Nights

Monday

Hawthorne- 1140 Goffle Rd-Goffle Grill

Tuesday

Wayne -Wendy's-Plaza Sq. Shopping CTR-637 Hamburg TPKE (**New Location**)

Elmwood PK 95-111 Rte 46W Pizza Town(4/1)

Wednesday

Wycoff 422 Cedar Hill Ave-Christian Ref. Church (4/16)

Thursday

Wayne-1800 RTE 23N-Kohl's

River Vale 636 Westwood Ave-Dunkin

Friday

Boonton-Walmart Shopping Center

Saturday

Towaco-446 Main St-Diane's Dairy

Car Shows/Swap Meets

8/9 Tenaflly-55 Hudson Ave-Bright View Sr. Living

8/10 Rutherford-201 Rte 17 N

8/10 Metuchen-Halsy St parking lot #6

8/17 Hawthorne-Grand Ave.

8/24 Mahwah-475 Corporate Dr-Town Hall

8/27 Montville-65 River Rd=Hot Rod Farm
Start 2 PM

8/27-31 Parsippany- Lead East

8/28-31 Somerset-Dead Man's Curve

8/31 Clifton-900 Clifton Ave

9/5 Ridgewood-E. Ridgewood Ave 6-9 PM

9/6 Parsippany-50 Parsippany Rd. -IBEW Local 102 (Rich's union show)

9/6 Midland Park-183 Godwin Ave

9/6 Montclair-233 Bloomfield Ave-Lackawanna Plaza lot

9/7 Saddle Brook-55 Mayhill St-Municipal Complex

9/7 Washington TWSP-701 Ridgewood Road-Westwood High School

9/13 Park Ridge-123 Colony Ave-town pool

9/14 Wayne-475 Valley Rd-Municipal BLDG

9/14 Clifton-1255 Brod St-

9/14 Rockaway-White Meadow Lake

9/27 Fairfield-12 Hollywood Ave-St Thomas Moore Church (Vince's car show)

For Sale

Steering Wheel

15" Steering wheel for 56 or 57 Thunderbird asking \$225 Call Pat 201-920-7226


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

PEOPLE WANTED

Vince Ucci is looking for two people to judge Thunderbirds at the show on 9/27. Contact Vince at 973-980-4312

WANTED

Gas Filler Lid Spring for a 1957 Thunderbird. one original spring (no repos). Call Sean Dillon 201-819-0300.



TIPS FROM THE BIRD DOCTOR



“Ford-O-Matic Transmission “

Introduced in the early 1950s, parts of this transmission's basic design are still used in today's models. Written by: **Jim O'Clair** from April 2013 issue of Hemmings Motor News Ford's first automatic transmission, which appeared in its 1951 models, was referred to as the Ford-O-Matic. This basic unit was designed by Borg-Warner and would become the platform from which many later model automatic transmissions would evolve.

Developed as a three-speed automatic, the Ford-O-Matic used a cast-iron case and would normally be started in second gear. For this reason, you often see the Ford-O-Matic referred to as a two speed, although the only actual two-speed units were produced from 1959-'64, and they had aluminum cases.

A sprag was added to the planetary assembly in 1958 so that you could select whether to start out in first gear or second, and the Ford-O-Matic name was changed to Cruise-O-Matic. They were later upgraded to the FX and MX series Cruise-O-Matics, then the single FMX transmission, and eventually, they evolved into the overdrive AOD transmissions used in the 1980s and 1990s Ford cars and trucks.

The Ford-O-Matic was manufactured in three different case sizes. It was initially offered in both small case from 1951-'60 and medium-case from 1951-'68 (often referred to as the Merc-O-Matic); large-case versions were also used in 1958-'65 Lincolns.

The 1951-'60 three-speed models can be identified by an oval aluminum tag mounted on the left side of the transmission case just above the oil pan; 1961 and newer units have a tag on one of the oil pan bolts.

Transmission ID numbers were three digits long from 1951-'54 and started with "1P"; 1955 and newer Ford-O-Matic ID numbers were four letters and started with "P." The ID number will tell you if you have the small, 97/8-inch case or the medium, 107/32-inch Merc-O-Matic case.

Large-case units were 107/8 inches from 1958-'60 and 115/8 inches long from 1961 to 1965. They can be found in 1958 Edsel's; 1958-'60 Mercury's and Lincolns; 430 V-8 equipped Thunderbirds, and 1961-'65 Lincolns.

Some Fords listed here used the Merc-O-Matic medium case, but Mercury, Edsel and Lincoln interchanges are not shown with these Ford interchanges, because most transmissions Ford produced after 1956 were built based on each manufacturer's engine displacement and performance options.

Although some of these units are over 60 years old, several aftermarket transmission parts suppliers still stock repair pieces for the Ford-O-Matic. Check in the "Ford 1954 and Up Parts" section and FoMoCo listings in the "Interchangeable Parts" section.



FLASHBACK



The only problem in posing this picture was getting the two Fords to stand still.

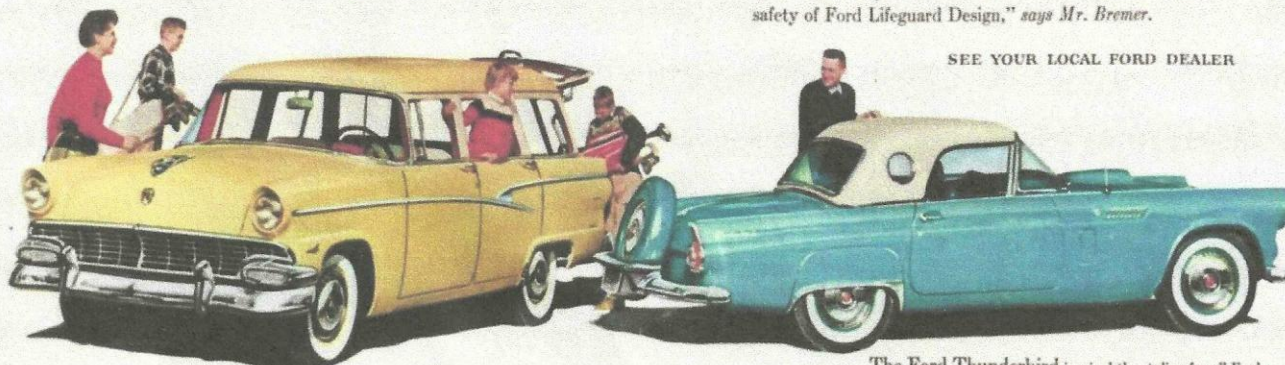
Seven good reasons for two FORDS

To free their family from one-car captivity the Bremers got two Fords: a Country Sedan and a Thunderbird—the car that inspired the styling and performance of all '56 Fords.

“We saw the need for a second car even before our first youngster arrived. If you’re married you know why. The five children just made two Fords *more* necessary. I need a car for business. My wife needs one for ferrying the family.

“*Why are they Fords?* In the first place, you can’t beat Ford’s looks at *twice* the price. You get extra zip in a Ford V-8, too. That’s why it’s the world’s best seller! It’s a good investment, too. Nothing at the price keeps its value like a Ford. And, of course, you don’t need children to appreciate the extra safety of Ford Lifeguard Design,” says Mr. Bremer.

SEE YOUR LOCAL FORD DEALER



The Country Sedan, one of six Ford do-it-alls, has 4-doors, lots of room. And its 292-h.p. V-8 is the most powerful standard “8” in its field.

The Ford Thunderbird inspired the styling for *all* Fords. And you can have its own 225-h.p. Special V-8 in most of them.

Join the 300,000 **TWO FORD** families!

New Jersey Open Road

Thunderbird Club

Annual Picnic



Schooley's Mtn County Park

Nestled among the hills of western Morris County, Schooley's Mountain Park offers visitors 797 acres of active and passive recreation facilities. The Park is named for the Schooley family who owned a considerable amount of land in the area during the late 1700s.

GPS Address: 91 East Springtown Rd, Long Valley, NJ 07853

Directions:

From Rt.80 west...**Go to Exit 26, "BUDD LAKE/HACKETTSTOWN"**

Continue West on Rt. 46 for **7 Traffic Lights** approx. 5 miles

Light # 1. International Dr. .4 miles

Light # 2. Village Way (Trading Post on left/Home Goods on right) .2 miles

Light # 3. Woodland Rd. (BP Gas on left / Budd Lake Diner on right) .5 miles

Light # 4. Mt. Olive Rd. (Valley Bank on right, Valero Gas on left) .7 miles

Light # 5. Sand Shore Rd. (CVS on left, Budd Lake on right) .3 miles

Light # 6. Smithtown Rd. (small strip mall on right) 1.1 miles

***Light # 7.** Naughtright Rd. (Johnson Dodge on far left corner) 1.3 miles

***As you approach the 7th light be in the left turn lane**

Then:

Turn **LEFT** onto Naughtright Rd. go 3.3 miles

Turn **RIGHT** onto East Springtown Rd. go .4 mile

Turn **LEFT** into Park straight to the end of the road

(Handicap: after entering park turn right at sign "Family Picnic Site/Boat House" etc. Go to end, "Authorized Vehicles Only" sign, turn left go up hill to Handicap parking, next to restrooms and to the right of the Pavilion.)

August has no national holidays, but here are some things to think about
U. S. Coast Guard Day 4th; Nat'l S'mores Day 10th; Nat'l Watermelon Day 3rd; Nat'l Picnic Month
and Nat'l Peach month. And to top it all off, Nat'l Marshmallow Toasting Day 30th.