

New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

April 2022

2022 Meeting Schedule

April 24	Joe Kubat
May 15	Bruce Corbett
May 15	Tune-Up Clinic
May 22	Spring Cruise
June	Donna Jessie
July	Al Cirinelli
August 14	Picnic
September	John Pyrros

The April meeting is on April 24h. .
Hosts are Joe & Arlene Kubat. RSVP
them at 973-900-1921 or email
Finallyyak@yahoo.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](#)



Spring is in the air, time to dust off the Birds. May 15 will be our tune-up clinic, so let Mike Meehan know if you need to have any work done.

Our Spring Cruise is shaping up and looks like a good time. Congratulations to Bob and Toni Sabino on getting a T Bird, good luck and travel many safe and happy miles. Our last meeting was hosted by Lucille and Julie Ann. It was well attended and the food was very good. We covered a lot of business as we have not had a meeting in several months. You can check the web site to read the minutes.

I would like to thank Paul Schroll for taking on the job of keeping our Face Book up to date. You are doing a good job. thanks to all who have stepped up and taken on any other jobs. Julie Ann is doing great as our event co-organizer. Let her know if you have ideas for new events. We are a club so don't be shy to keep our club interesting.

Pat LeStrange





Vice President's Message



Spring is slowly on its way, temps are getting a little warmer. Before you know it cruise nights will be here and our little birds will be back on the road. Drive safe and enjoy.

Thank you Lucille and Julie Ann for hosting our March meeting. We welcomed Pat back as our President after taking a short leave. We had a great meeting. We had more than enough food and it was very, very good.

Julie Ann and Sue Gayet are working on a Spring Cruise. Sue is planning a trip to Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ. And lunch at Rats on May 22nd. She has already sent out a group email to Club members to see who is interested in going. It is important you respond to her ASAP so we can make reservations. She has been working very hard on this, so please get back to her.

Walter Strohmaier had an operation last Wednesday he is in a hospital in Maryland which is by his daughter. He will be there for a little while yet, then going by his daughters house to recover. He will stay there till he is strong enough to come home. He is reading his emails but not talking on phone. If you mailed a card to his home, it was or will be forwarded to his daughters house. You can mail him a card to his daughters address: 3003 Wooded Knoll Court, Ellicott, Maryland. 21042. When he comes home his new address will be: 175 Quaker Church Rd., Apt. 1216, Randolph, NJ 07869. He would love to receive cards from us. Walter, we pray for a speedy recovery, do as you are told to do!!! We miss you and love you.

Phil Guidone filed for the permit and Certificate of Insurance for our picnic. As of now our picnic will be August 14th.

Congratulations to Vince Ucci and Sandra on their recent engagement. We wish you guys all the best.

If you have not paid your Club dues, please pay NOW!!! You are overdue!!!

For all you members who have put articles in the newsletter about your cars, I want to say thank you. Everyone of you guys have told great stories. I for one loved reading them.

Joe and myself will be hosting the next meeting on Sunday, April 24th at 2:00. It is going to be held at Anthony Franco's in Wayne. Please let me know if you are coming or not coming by April 14th. My phone No. 973-900-1921 or email address Finallyak@yahoo.com.

Arlene

March Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Lucille and Julie Ann at Anthony Franco's. There was a good turnout. The food was good, as was the company. The little Birds were still tucked in their nests though. Thanks to Lucille and Julie.

Highlights of the business meeting

The reading of the minutes was waived as was the Treasurer's report. Minutes of the recent Board Meeting were read.

Arlene noted that Walter had an operation and is in the hospital.

Pat reported that he is working on the web page and new roster. Updates are also being made to our Facebook page by Paul S.

Pat noted that dues are now past due. Non payers will receive notices.

Pat talked about the upcoming CTCI convention in San Antonio, Texas in October

Sue talked about the Spring Cruise slated for May 24th. at the Grounds for Sculpture.

Members planning to go should contact her now so arrangements can be made with the venue. Arlene and Pat spoke about the new venue for our Christmas party

Arlene said the picnic is scheduled for August 14th.

The issue of club clothes was brought up and Sue said she will look into it.

Julie Ann mentioned a car show/street fair in West orange on June 4th

Next meeting - April 24th.



April Fool's Day

Watch Out

Membership News

Happy Anniversary



Mel Ramos 1st
Annette Schmidt 13th
Charles Musto 16th
Paul Werner 24th
Lucille Chabala 27th

GET WELL
SON!

Walter Strohmaier

March Meeting



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Phil Guidone
John Pyrros
Paul Adamoff
John Pyrros
Lucille Chabala
Paul Schroll
Lucille Chabala
Rob Sabino
Julie Ann Morrison



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.

Club Announcements

April Meeting

The April meeting is scheduled for **April 24th** at **2 PM**. Joe & Arlene are the hosts. The meeting will be at Anthony Franco's Ristorante, 1176 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne NJ. Be sure to RSVP Arlene or Joe, including regrets

Spring Cruise

The date has been set - it is **May 22nd**. The location is in Hamilton, NJ at Rat's Restaurant and the Grounds for Sculpture. Cost is 75.00 per person. Contact Sue Gayette now if you plan on going Additional details to follow

May Meeting/Tune Up Clinic

A two in one get-together. Mike and Carrie are the hosts for the clinic, the Corbetts for the meeting. **May 15**. Details to follow



FOR SALE

55-57 Parts

Front engine mount 80.00; 4 blade fan 20.00; 3 blade fan 20.00; 55-56 Front bumper iron-inner, left and right new repros 50.00, 55/56 left door shell for parts or restore 20.00; stock water pump spacer 10.00 Paul, 201-652-7027

5-56 Wheel Covers

Set of wire wheel covers with hub caps & clips for a '55 or '56 T-Bird or Ford sedan. Asking \$300.00

Contact Paul Adamoff 201-286-4781

Misc Parts

Steel outer ring tire cover for Continental Kit Asking \$160.00

2 used T5 manual transmissions

Asking \$350.00 each

1 used T5 Shifter Asking \$60.00

Contact Paul Adamoff 201-286-4781



you never learn to swear until you learn to drive



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Keep Healthy & Safe
Use your mask

While mask mandates are somewhat relaxed, they are not all gone because of the new Omicron variant. They are required in certain places. And if you're one of those people that think the vaccine is a hoax, then you should still wear a mask so you won't infect the like minded others when you come down with Covid 19. Over 97 percent of new cases (and deaths) are unvaccinated

The fastest reflex in the human body is the one that taps the brakes when you see the police

Car Shows

- 4/20-24 Carlisle, PA-Spring Carlisle
- 4/24 Totowa-490 Totowa Rd
- 5/1-Clifton 1116 Rte 46W Maple valley Diner
- 5/6-8 Rhinebeck NY, Dutchess CTY Fairgrounds
- 5/7 Park Ridge 123 Colony Drive
- 5/15 East hanover 175 Rte 10-Nielson Dodge
- 5/22 Hackensack-390 Hckensack Ave
- 6/4 Edison-Charles St & Ashland Ave

Cruise Nights

I haven't heard of any opening

Tech Tip

Safeguardng your Thunderbird

If you have an automatic transmission there is a little known safety measure that will "lock" the car's gear shift lever into the "Park" position rendering the car inoperable, thus the car is un-moveable. A gear shift lever that won't go into Drive" should discourage most car thieves. And you don't have to buy anything.

The procedure is simple. Place the gear shift into "Park". Turn the engine off. Turn the knob of the gear shift lever counterclock wise until the push button in the center will not release the shifter out of "Park". Do not unscrew the knob higher than your button because it would risk the removal of the gear shift knob from the lever. To unlock, simply turn the gear shift knob clockwise until snug on the lever. This procedure may save your car if a thief tries to steal it.

From an article by the Classic Thunderbird Club of Chicagoland

Where is it Made ?

You can tell where a product is made by the first three digits of the barcode

- 690-692... **MADE IN CHINA**
- 00 - 09 ... **USA & CANADA**
- 30 - 37... **FRANCE**
- 40 - 44... **GERMANY**
- 471 .. **Taiwan**
- 49 .. **JAPAN**
- 50 ... **United Kingdom**



Reprinted from OLD CARS WEEKLY



Daytona Beach 1956



My Thunderbird Story Jere Klein

I never considered myself a car guy - still don't really. That said, I have for a long time been infatuated by the way a car looks. That's been especially true about the 1955-1958 Tbirds. For a long time before I bought my car, I considered the '56 with the Continental kit and the port hole windows to be my "dream car" even though I had no intention of buying one.

After I retired, however, things changed. The fantasy of having the car became a possibility and the possibility became a reality. After looking at the cars that I had in mind, I discovered one that seemed to suit me. I hadn't really thought of the buckskin tan color in my earlier fantasies; I'm not even sure that I knew that color existed. But I loved the color; I thought that it was low key and classy.

The problem became how to go about buying it. I had an idea about prices but virtually no knowledge about what to look for in an older car. But I did know someone who truly was a "car guy." I asked him if he would be willing to fly with me to Houston to check out the car. It was a great trip. The car checked out in good shape and we had some delicious BBQ as well. I had the car shipped to me.

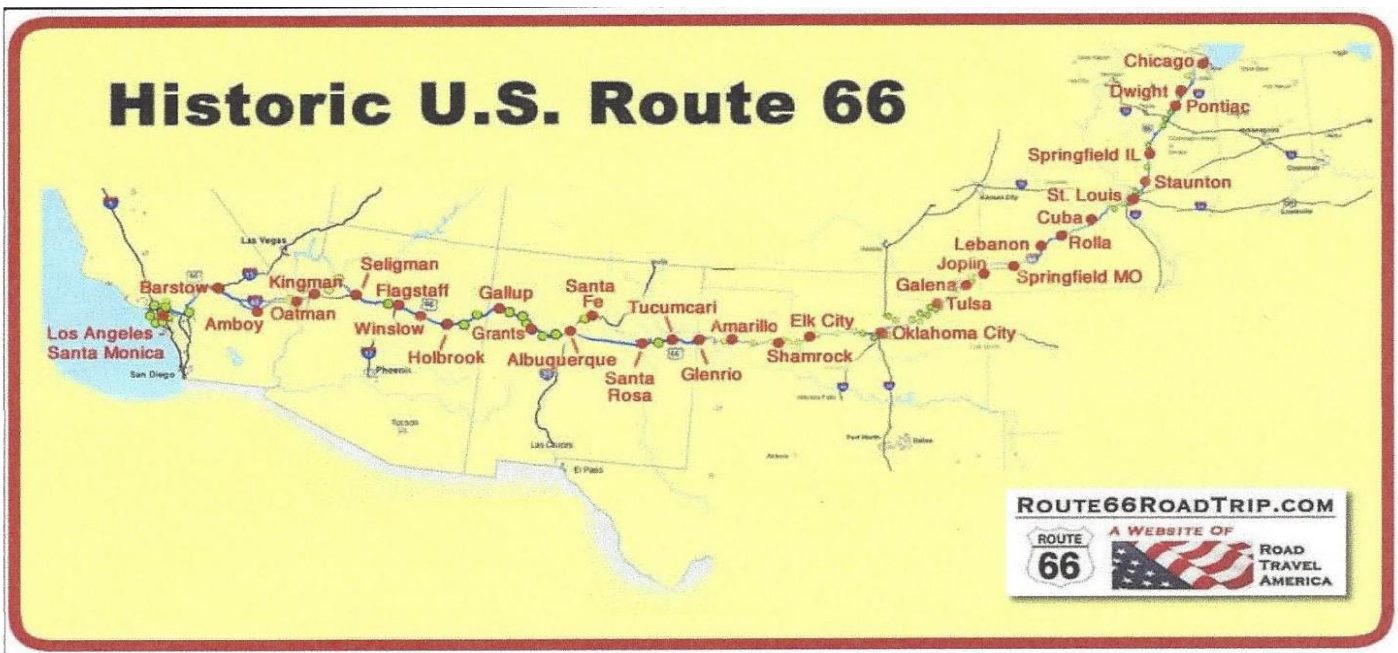
I love driving the car. I have met and talked with numerous people with whom the car has been the impetus for striking up a conversation. I am so appreciative of our club. My wife and I have been welcomed with open arms. I particularly appreciate the amount of knowledge about the car that was been so warmly shared with me. A special shout out to Rich Martin who worked on my car and brought it back to health when I had no idea what was ailing it. Also, Rich has been very kind and generous in letting me come by and spend time with him while working on my car or other cars. He is a wealth of knowledge.

I am looking forward to many more great times with the car and with our club. I loved the trip down to Knoxville - the camaraderie of the club was just awesome.

I'd like to close by expressing my thanks to all of you in NJORTC. You have helped make owning this car so pleasurable. I don't know how I could have owned this car without the ongoing support that I always feel is available. Thank you.



April 29



U.S. Route 66, also known as the *Will Rogers Highway*, the *Main Street of America* or the *Mother Road* was one of the original highways in the U.S. Highway System. US 66 was established on November 11, 1926, with road signs erected the following year. The highway, which became one of the most famous roads in the United States, originally ran from Chicago, Illinois, through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona before ending in Santa Monica, CA, covering a total of 2,448 miles. It was recognized in popular culture by both the hit song "(Get Your Kicks On) Rte 66" and the *Route 66* television series which aired from 1960 to 1964.

US 66 served as a primary route for those who migrated west, especially during the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, and the road supported the economies of the communities through which it passed. US 66 underwent many improvements and realignments over its lifetime, but was officially removed from the United States Highway System in 1985 after it had been replaced in its entirety by segments of the Interstate Highway System. Portions of the road that passed through Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico and Arizona have been communally designated as National Scenic Byway by the name "*Historic Route 66*"

From the Trail Birds of Florida



Tips for Getting a Car Ready for Spring

Another dreary winter is almost behind us, which can only mean one thing: We're that much closer to football season.

Okay, so it means two things, because it's also the perfect time to get your prized ride back into shape for spring. And the good news is that getting your car back in road-ready condition is far less labor-intensive than getting it ready for storage — though it's far more rewarding. And so without further ado, here's our eight-step guide to getting your ride ready for spring.

- **Get Ready to Ride**

Whether it's been stored in your own garage or another indoor storage facility, it's been under wraps for a few months now, so peel the cover off and take a step back to admire your chariot.

This is also the ideal time to reverse the pest-prevention and odor eating steps you took at the onset of winter.

That means removing both the baking soda from inside the car and the mothballs spread around it. This would also be the time to crack the windows and open the doors to get some fresh air inside.

- ***Perform a Thorough Inspection***

It's easy to get a little too eager and skip a few steps in the process, but this one is crucial. Time isn't very kind to cars, and particularly classic ones, so it's important to check for issues like cracked hoses and belts. These rubber parts can dry out quickly, and so they should be first on the inspection sheet.

Equally important are components like gaskets and seals, which should be checked for possible leaks. Check all the lights to make sure they are operating correctly. It's all a little time-consuming, sure, but it could save on expensive service bills in the near future.

Again, if you followed our winter storage tips then you'll be benefitting from the car being on jack stands right about now.

- ***Prep the Tires to Hit the Pavement***

If you removed the wheels and tires now is a good time to check the brakes. Regardless, the condition of the tires, they should be checked for both adequate tread life and the quality of the rubber. Rubber, like any composite material, breaks down over time and needs to be replaced. It's better to nip this potential issue in the

bud. Last but not least, check to ensure there's enough air pressure in each tire before lowering it back down to solid ground.

- ***Check the Battery and Fluids***

This is the point at which the decision to replace your car's fluids late last year looks like a particularly fortuitous one. Not only did doing so prevent harmful contaminants from working their way through your vehicle's vital components, but it also means it's that much closer to being road-ready. The same goes for the

battery, which should have been removed and stored separately or hooked up to a battery tender. Reconnecting the battery terminals is a big step towards getting your classic or sports car back on the road, so do it with pride.

- ***Fire it up for the first time***

Finally, after months of leaving it idle it's time to turn the key and let your car run. If it sounds rough, well, that's probably because it's running rough. The fuel, oil and coolant systems have been starved for months, and so it's important to let it run for 10 minutes or so to get everything operational once again. This is also the perfect time to check the dash for warning lights — something no car guy or gal wants to see when out for a night on the town.

- ***Cleanliness is Next to Godliness***

Washing and waxing your car before putting it away for the winter provides an extra layer of protection against corrosion; now it's time to take it a step further. Doing the same thing before your first cruise down the boulevard will remove that potentially damaging layer of dust and dirt, not to mention keep your car looking its best.

- ***Take it for a Spin***

Now that it's spick and span both inside and out, it's time to take your prized possession out for its first public appearance. This isn't, however, the time to show your car off — at least, that's not the only objective. Instead, this inaugural cruise provides the perfect opportunity to check for any alignment issues or other ailments that may be affecting your automobile. Don't let your ambitions cloud your judgment; if it's running rough then it's best to deal with it as soon as possible.

- ***Enjoy It***

Of all the steps listed above, this one is the most important. Classic car ownership is a labor of love to be sure, so be sure to love it while you can. Appreciate your time together, and remember that for every one car like yours there are dozens of people who would be happy to own it. So enjoy it while you can — because winter's right around the corner.

From: Dennis Benfante



Remember - April 15th