



New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

October 2013

AUTUMN IS HERE AGAIN

2013 Meeting Schedule

Sept.28	50's Dance
October 13	Fran & Lucille Chabala
October 20	Fall Cruise
November 10	Walter Strohmaier
December 7	Holiday party

The October meeting will be on the 13th at 2 PM and will be hosted by Frank & Lucille Chabala. See Page 4 for location. RSVP 973-731-9133 or luluchab@aol.com

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

Please let Joanne Seiler 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



It's September and our travelers are back from their 39 day (and 6,300 mile) trip. Glad to have you all back safe and sound. Congratulations on your awards.

I would like to welcome our newest members, Paul & Harriet LoPiccolo from Brooklyn Heights, NY with their Minter 1957 gunmetal gray TBird. Also welcome Theresa Parrillo, Mike's wife to her first meeting. Thank you to Joe & Lorri Matrone for hosting the meeting at the Grand Buffet.

We have a lot of activities in the agenda - first is the 50's Dance, then the Fall colors cruise, then the "Memphis movie" drive in at our house, then the Christmas party. In between will be the October and November meetings, club shirts and jackets and calendars. So lets not put our Birds away yet - there is plenty of time for FUN, FUN, FUN.

Bill Downing has taken over the job for submitting articles to the Early Bird magazine. Thanks Bill, this has been needed for a long time. Please send him things to go into it.

Joanne announced we have had over 6,600 hits to our web site. Good job, Joanne.

Condolences to Carol Ehm on the passing of her mother.

I found out that I am unapposed for the Region 1 Director's job and there were no other nominations for the NJORTC Presidency and CTCI Representative . Formal elections will take place at the October meeting. Hope to see all of you at the Dance.

Remember October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Try to help any way you can.

We are truly an amazing club. I thank you one and all.

Pat LeStrange.





A few Words From Alec

I don't know how I could have had a better time at the end of this past summer. First off I traveled with members of our great club to attend the San Jose Convention. We rented a van and drove to Reno to attend an annual event called "Hot August Nights"- an event not to be missed. I flew home and then left to spend two weeks with my son in Florida.

How was your summer?(Maybe we should have members do an essay - What I did on my summer vacation- I did mine-Paul)

Alec

September Meeting

Joe and Lorri Matrone were the hosts for the June meeting. A nice sunny day brought out a large number of members. Many thanks to Lorri and Joe for hosting a great meeting.

Highlights of the Business Meeting

The Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were given and accepted.

We had to guests attending, Paul & Harriet LoPiccolo. Paul just bought a 57.

Nominations were requested for President and CTCI Rep. Non were submitted. Pat and Lois had previously been nominated. Election is in October.

Joanne reported on the web site and noted that people were reaching out to the club because of it.

Pat reported about the 50's dance and asked for volunteers for setting up on Friday the 27th.

Phil reported on the Fall cruise (See info on Page 4).

Arlene reported on the Holiday Party set for Dec 7th. Joanne distributed some of the new club jackets and noted that some items were delayed. There was a discussion on colors for the shirts. Members said they would like to go with colors other than red for shirts. It was decided to go with this, but jackets would remain black.

Pat mentioned that he had completed the Memphis video/movie and invited everyone to his house Oct 12 to view it in a outdoor theater setting. See page 4.

Toni Ragosta is the chair for the calendars. She need photos for it by Oct 12.

Walter, Paul & Rich reported on their trip across the country.

Next meeting 10/13 at DeLizia Pizza Kitchen.

50/50 won by Dorothy G.



Vice President's Message

This weather has been absolutely beautiful. Take the little birds out for a cruise, because pretty soon we will have to put them to sleep for the winter.

We have some sad news. Carol Ehm's mom passed away last week. Our prayers are with you and your family. May she rest in peace.

I want to welcome the boys back from their month long trip. It sounds like they had a great time. They did a lot of sight seeing, took a lot of pictures and when they got to the two conventions received plenty of awards.. Good going guys. We also had other club members fly out to CA and others who drove to IA. Our club did very well in getting awards for their cars and Paul & Alec won a gold for our newsletter. Fantastic!!!

We had a very well attended Club Picnic in August. Thank you Bill Downing for making it a success. It was a lot of fun. The pie tasting contest was a lot of fun - all the pies were very good. We played horseshoe games, egg throwing contest (it was just too funny) and a trivia contest which was also a lot of fun. Bill and Martha put in a lot of work on all the questions and answers. Thanks to our chefs the food was plentiful and good. Thanks to all who brought salads, snacks and desserts.

Our next event will be the 50's dance. It seems that ticket sales are down. Last year we had a great time so we voted on having the dance again this year. It is a few days away from the dance which is this Saturday night. So TBird members, if you cannot get anybody to come, please, at least you come.

We have the Fall Cruise in October, please let Phil know if you are going. This is always a great time, cruising in our cars and seeing all the beautiful fall colors and then to a great restaurant for lunch.

Pat & Joanne are also having a drive in movie in October-the featured movie will be the TBird convention in Memphis. Pat put the movie together and I'm sure it will be great because we had a great time in Memphis.

HO HO HO-pretty soon it will be our Christmas Party (boy did this year fly by). Saturday Dec. 7th. 5PM to 6:30 cocktails . More on this next month.

Car cruises are coming to an end, but we still have car shows left. Enjoy your Thunderbird.

See you all soon. Arlene

Membership News

Anniversary

Todd Salamon & Mara Madden
17th

Bob & Shelly Belli 25th
Paul & Pauline Schroll 26th



Dominick Tucci 12th
Anthony Gaeta 7th
Pat Selby 13th
John Pyrros 18th
Don Dobres 28th



Everybody seems healthy-Good

FOR SALE

55 TBIRD

12 Volt - no more info on this car. Call Frank, 973-697-4405

1974 Ford

LTD, 57K, supposedly Little Old lady car 351, auto, air. Garage kept call 908-581-3288

Wanted

57 TBird Hubcaps Call Ron 973-214-0539

Condolences

To Carol Ehm on the passing of her mother.

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John Pyrros
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Lucille Chabala
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Lucille Chabala
Bruce Corbett
Alex Johnstone
Joanne Seiler
Joanne Seiler

October is Cookie Month, so dig into those chocolate chip/oatmeal cookies.



September Meeting



Frank's Birthday was the same day



Our newest members, Jan & Joe Seville. They hail from West Milford. Jan has a 57 Starmist blue while Joe has an EJag.

There are some other new members whom I haven't met yet. I hope to get their pictures in next month

Officer Nominations

Pat has been nominated for President and Lois for CTCI Representative. At the September meeting no one made any additional nominations. Elections to be held at the October meeting.

I want your input. Please send any items to be included by the middle of the month if possible. They can be e-mailed or snail mailed to me.
ptschroll@aol.com

Club Events

October Meeting

Lucille & Frank Cabala will be our hosts. Date 10/13. Location will be at Delizia's Pizza Kitchen in Boonton, NJ, 308 Wootten Street in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. 2 PM, remember to RSVP the Chabalas either way.

Fall Cruise

Phil has this all set up for Oct 20th. We will be traveling to the Inn at Millrace Pond in Hope, NJ. with additional stop(s) on the way.

We will meet at Schooley's Mtn (picnic site) at 10AM Phil always has coffee and donuts so get there early. See last page for all the info.

Contact Phil right away if you are going. Always a great time so don't miss it. Get that bird out of the garage and exercise it - that is what they were made for.

Holiday Party

December 7th. San Carlo Catering, 620 Stuyvesant Ave, Lyndhurst. Price is \$50 per person. Start time 5PM. As in the past, one half of the amount will be credited toward your next years dues \$25 per single, \$50 per couple). Contact Arlene if you are going. Frank gets the check. The chicken man has mentioned that he may not be there, but I bet his ego will not let that happen. Santa, grab bag, lottery ticket raffle and other gifts. For the grab bag, \$25 gift, buy a gift, get a gift.

Memphis Movie

The movie of the Memphis Convention has been completed by Pat. He has invited all the club members to view it in his back yard in a "drive-in" theater type setting. The date is October 12th at 5 PM, movies to be shown at 6 PM. Let him know if you are coming.

2014 Meeting Schedule

January/February - Ron & Merry Case
March - John & Sandra Bolger
April - Frank Gloss & Mary Green
May - Bill & Donna Jessie
June - Charlie & Lisa Musto
July-Paul & Sheryl Adamoff
September - Al & Lorraine Cirinelli
October - Bill & Pat Selby
November - Alec Johnstone

Subject to change

2014 Calendars

Toni Ragosta is doing the calendars. Get your pictures to her by 10/12. send to: bettyboop1259@yahoo.com
One free one to each guy, order extras if you want them.

Cruise Nights

Monday

Hawthorne-Goffle Grille-to 3rd wk in Oct.

Tuesday

Clifton, Rutt's Hutt

Wednesday

Wycoff, Greenwood Ave.-to week of time change

Clifton -The Hearth, Rte 46-to 3rd wk in Oct.

Most cruise nights have shut down for the season.
If anyone knows if there are any still going, please
let me know

September Meeting



Trivia Quiz

What car delivered the first production V12 engine?

Winner of last month's Trivia Quiz was Lorri
Matrone the answer was Norway.

Car Shows-Swap Meets

Oct 5-Allendale-NJ Transit Parking Lot (at the end of W.
Allendale Ave.)

10/12 Lincoln Park, 60 Chapel Hill Road (First Reformed
Church). This is the show put on by Carol and
Charley. Raffles. Reg. online @ www.frc-lpnj.org

10/12 West Milford, Pinecliff Lake, 1577 Union Valley Rd.

10/13 Pompton Lakes, Wanaque Ave (Downtown
Pompton Lakes)

10/2-10/6 Carlisle Swap Meet

10/9-10/12 Hershey Swap Meet

11/3 Riegelsville, PA Swap & Show

For more shows go to
<http://holtononline.com/carshows.html>
www.newjerseycarshows.com
www.njortc.org

The Picnic in Pictures



Sign at a Tire Shop

"Invite us to your next blowout

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

The Picnic

The picnic got off to a shaky start when it was discovered there was no electricity. A call to the proper people and it was quickly restored - meanwhile Pat used a bunch of extension cords plugged in to the rest rooms to get the coffee going.

Sandy and John and Arlene and Joe arrived early and got the drinks and food ready while Pat set up the music. Ron, Carol, Charlie Ehm and Joanne pitched in setting things up. The morning was spent socializing over coffee, donuts, bagels and the delicious crumb cake that Henry brought. By noon, fifty six members and friends had arrived, along with 18 Tbirds including the 57 starmist blue of new members Jan & Joe Seville.

Horseshoes were played in the morning and Ron Case was breezing through it until Dominick and his son Ron showed them how its done!!!

The burgers and dogs were cooked by Phil, Frank, Charlie Ehm, Carol and John P - this was not a case where too many cooks spoiled the broth as burgers and dogs were great. Members brought salads and desserts and guests Diane & James Gumsby brought fresh corn which they shucked and cooked. There was plenty of food and no one went hungry.

After lunch the fun began. 12 members entered pies for the judging, all which looked and tasted super. Paul A led Dominick, Bob S., Steve and Vince and Julia Ucci who were the judges. Awards were given for best looking, best tasting and most unique. Ribbons went to Lucille for her CMP pie, Dorothy for her blueberry, Arlene for her chocolate peanut butter and Judy for her chocolate brownie pie.

Next in line was the egg toss. Players partnered with some one other than their spouse (guess why!!) and all present got into the action. After quite a few broken eggs, Carl and Bob Notar edged out Martha and Paul A.

The final game was a trivia contest which pitted the gals against the guys. The gals jumped to an early lead but relying on Bob N.'s music knowledge and Phils world events the guys came back for a narrow victory.

It was a great way to spend a Sunday in August - with great weather, great food, great music, great cars and most important great friends. Thanks to all for making this picnic a success

Bill Downing



Columbus Day Oct 12th





Ick!!!



The agony of defeat



Cruise - On Water

Want to go on a different type of old car cruise? Go to www.classiccarcruise.com for a 7 night ocean cruise with a classic car theme, cruising the Caribbean. February 8 -15, 2014. We have no connection with the operators of this cruise, just a heads up for a possible winter vacation. Two of our members went last ear and they said they had a very good time.



Happy Halloween

The Grand Tour

As you all know, Rich, Walter and I (with Bill Jessie as Rich's navigator) went on a grand tour in which we were going to the CTCI Regional Conventions in San Jose, CA and Des Moines IA. as well as various other stops. Bill flew back from San Jose, we continued on to Reno, Des Moines and home.

The trip started out great - partly sunny day which made driving easier. Rich led, I was in the middle and Walter was the tail gunner. The trip was uneventful until we got to Chicago where Rich and I, with Walter, got separated going into a toll booth (as an aside, instead of Land of Lincoln as Illinois's motto, it should be Land of Toll Booths because of the number of them). Rich's GPS told him to go one way, mine another way so we were separated for about two to three hours-out of the toll booths I got a little ahead of Rich. We didn't get together until we reached our scheduled stop in Madison, WI. (Later learned that Walter, who was behind me in the toll booth, was very worried about the separation as his GPS told him Rich's way was correct). The time we were separated was the worst of the trip. Not only was I worried that my GPS screwed up, but the road we were on (I-90) had construction on it (for about 100 miles and was a very narrow two laned road on each side). As we approached Wisconsin it started to rain and then it poured. If it wasn't for the white line I would have been in a lot of trouble (with Walter behind me). I thought it would never end and I was getting soaked. The semis were passing me on the right and left-they didn't slow down for the rain. It was raining so hard the wipers were no good. However, we made it to our scheduled stop ok and got together. I learned that Rich was only about a few miles behind me and couldn't catch up to me because of the construction. Due to a gas stop Walter and I made Rich reached the hotel ahead of us. It turned out that this was the only rain we had while driving.

The remaining trip out to Oregon was pretty much of a breeze. Walter had problems with his fuel pump and computer for the fuel injection (which pretty much bothered him for the remainder of the trip). One of the times it malfunctioned was when we were going up a very steep mountain on a two lane road. Thanks to two good samaritans, one who towed and another who provided a tow strap, Walter was able to get his car towed to a spot where it could be worked on. One stop that we made Rich noticed some water leaking out of the front of his engine and after a good examination discovered that he didn't tighten the water pump bolts on his new engine tight enough. A wrench fixed that for the rest of the trip.

On the way, we stopped at Mt Rushmore after a very circuitous route by our navigator who apparently misread the GPS (giving him the benefit of the doubt) so we made a wrong turn which had us going up and around a mountain then down until we ended up about two miles back from the turn we made. Mt Rushmore was very impressive. We then went to the Crazy Horse Monument, which included a museum which had very impressive collection of Indian artifacts. The construction of the monument is privately funded and work is very slow. Our great grandchildren may be the first to see it finished.

The next stop was a one day tour in Yellowstone National Park where we saw Old faithful and the hot springs. This is a magnificent park. The scenery, including the lake, was spectacular.

One of our stops was in Cody, WY. Every evening they put on a skit of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Pretty funny, very touristy but a nice diversion from being in the car all day.

From there it was on to Oregon where we met some old friends. On the way into the Portland area, we hit some cross winds that was blowing the cars all over the road - the worst I have ever been in. We had to slow way down to keep control. We made a stop at Mt. Hood, a mountain that has snow 365 days a year. I was in a panic climbing Mt Hood. Seems I didn't plan my fuel supply for the trip there and by the time we started ascending the mountain I was really low. I was in a state of panic because (1) was not sure I could make it to the top and (2) if I did, did I have enough fuel to get down as brakes alone going down would not be a viable option. All for naught, as I made it up ok and made it down using the engine as a brake. I heard about this the rest of the trip when ever we were going over any mountains. Mt Hood has a long ski lift and we were dared to go up it by Rich (who had gone up it previously), but we chickened out (besides it was freezing at the top of the mountain). We also visited a monument called the Vista House which is located high on a mountain and overlooks the entire Columbia River Gorge. The view is spectacular-you can see for miles in every direction. The climb to there was really circular and I had my GPS on. The GPS didn't know how to handle the changing directions. By the time we got up there the GPS had gone haywire. Never worked right after that. It went in the trash can. Should have shut it off. However, I did get a GPS to replace it in Reno.

We met friends in Hood River, OR and then onto Grants Pass where we went on a river boat cruise. One thing I learned on a riverboat cruise - never go on one unless you are wearing a bathing suit. While the cruise was great, the operator made all kinds of twists, turns and immediate stops (yes he did, on the water) so we were thoroughly soaked by the time we got back-and we still had to go some two hundred miles that day. We ran into the effects of a huge forest fire while in Grants Pass, the sun was a very odd color, the sky was gray and ash was falling everywhere. It stank and breathing was horrible.

Then it was on to San Jose. John, Sandy, Pauline, Alec, Lois, Donna and Marianne joined us there. The show was very good, almost 100 cars. My car was filthy despite some cleanup along the way. We all won awards, Rich and Walter in touring, a silver for me in Concours (seems that I didn't clean the car good enough). The newsletter won a Gold Award and I got Long Distance-seems that Rich lives about 5 miles closer to San Jose than I do. The driving tour for the touring cars was to the Santa Cruz wharf, hence "Birds by the Bay". Saw a bunch of sea lions lazing around the wharf.

After the show, we stayed in San Jose a few days to do some touring. We went to this old house owned by the widow of the owner of the Winchester Arms Co (rifles). Real odd ball person who supposedly had seances and added to and remodeled the house according to what she supposedly heard from the spirits. Lots of blind alleys, stairs to nowhere and real oddball changes to the structure.

The next day we took a tour which included a trip to Muir Woods, which is a primeval forest which has many 1,000's year old redwoods. Even though only trees, it was a nice experience. Then it was to the wine country where we visited three wineries. The final stop was an overlook of the Golden Gate Bridge, which was impressive. We found out one other thing while we were in San Jose - you can get very good Italian food on the West Coast if you hit the right place.

Then to Reno to Hot August Nights. Old cars of every description, some which you didn't know were still in existence. Every hotel had its share and you could drive around and park in any of them. Then disaster struck. I was having some minor problems with the generator light coming on but it seemed to be working good enough. One night we decided to join the cruise and while getting to the start location the charging system completely failed. With the headlights on, the battery went dead. Thanks to AAA, I got the car back to the hotel. The next morning Rich did a check of the electrical system and found out it was the regulator. Fortunately, I had a spare (bought from Alec). We put it on and didn't have any problems from there on out. We stayed at the Peppermill Casino/Hotel. One night there we had the second rain (It poured) - luckily, my car was in the hotel lot (got it cleaned) while Rich and Walter's were in another hotel's parking garage (we were eating there). It must gotten three inches of rain.

After the show, Walter left Reno to go back to visit relatives in Oregon and Rich and I continued our trip to Des Moines. Since we had plenty of time to get there, we did not cover as many miles per day. At our stop in Tooele, UT, we visited the Miller Motorsports facility, a big all encompassing auto race track. We had already planned to spend some time there, so we decided to do some go-carting and spent about two hours in three sessions racing around the go-cart track. First time and lots of fun. The facility also included a museum of rare racing Fords owned by the late Mr. Miller. Again, a forest fire nearby spewed ash on us.

The next day we hooked up with Walter and continued our trip to Des Moines.

Marty Bierman had invited us to their TBird Club meeting so on the 18th we met him and his club members at a private home of a man that collects just 1958 Fords. He had about 20 1958 Fords of all Models - convertibles, pick ups, Rancheros and sedans, all fully restored. A very nice collection.

Then to Des Moines. The show was very nice, again almost 100 cars. Donna and Bill Jessie (who drove their 56) , John and Sandy Pyrros and Pauline joined us in Des Moines. Another incident-the brand new car vac I bought for the trip went kaput-something else for the trash can. Rich got a first in Touring, I a first in Expanded Touring, John a Gold in Concours and the Jessies a second place in Touring. The touring class tour was to a facility that manufactures updated Corvettes and does all kinds of restoration and custom work. All high end stuff. The second part of the tour was to a collection of brand X cars (okay, Chevies). The collection included at least one of every convertible or open car Chevy ever made up to the 60's, including an original 1917 V8 touring car. A lot of the very early cars were unrestored originals in quite good condition.

After the show, it was the last leg to home. The trip back was without any problems. The last night out, we hit the third rain of the trip. Luckily, it was later in the evening and by morning it was over.

One of our stops on the way home was in South Bend, Indiana where we ate dinner at the Studebaker mansion - a very ornate home built by the founder of Studebaker wagons and cars. The house was built with no cost spared.

The trip was 6,295 miles by my speedometer. Total gallons of gas used was 450 so I got about 14 MPG.

It was a great trip. Walter, Bill and Rich are great traveling companions. The scenery, from Pennsylvania to Oregon to San Jose was always spectacular, whether it was the mountains or the desert. You can never see how great this country is without driving it from coast to coast. Once you get near the West Coast, the weather consists of very cool nights and very hot days. A 40-50 temperature difference was almost normal

Overall, the 56 performed very well. Even though there were a number of days that the temperature soared during the day, the car never lost a drop of water (couldn't say the same for the oil) and climbed all those mountains without a problem (although I got a little vapor lock going up a few). I met some people I hadn't seen in 5 years (when Rich and I made a similar trip) and met a bunch of new people. A big thanks to Lois Martin who coordinated and made reservations for all our stops.

Next year to going to Springfield, Missouri should be a piece of cake. Gonna join us?

Paul

Post Script

Two weeks after I got home (probably less than 50 miles after getting home) the heater control doohickey on the intake (I modified mine so it was just a water conduit) started leaking terribly. Talk about good luck. Below are pics I took on the trip. Walter and Bill also took some which I hope to include in later editions of the newsletter



On the road



Second stop - Crazy Horse Statue



1st stop - Mt Rushmore



Museum rendering - finished statue



moving right along



Yes-we climbed this



1/2 way Up



3rd Stop - Yellowstone



Yellowstone - Hot Springs



Old Faithful Geyser



4th Stop - Mt Hood, Oregon



**5th stop - Vista House (didn't get a pic of the "house")
Columbia River Gorge in background**



6th stop - river boat cruise



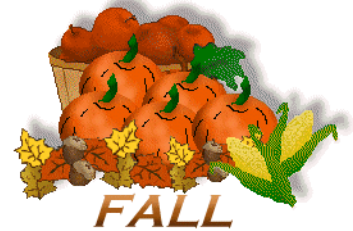
San Jose-Welcome reception



I got you to San Jose - next month additional pictures from the trip

NEW JERSEY OPEN ROAD THUNDERBIRD CLUB 2013 ANNUAL FALL CRUISE

OCTOBER 20, 2013



Phil and Dorothy found a **NEW DIRECTION** for this year's cruise! This fall we will travel to the beautiful Inn at Millrace Pond, Hope, NJ! The Inn sits on 23 acres in historic Hope, NJ and was founded in 1769 by Moravian pioneers. The Inn consists of three buildings, a grist mill, a landmark limestone building constructed in 1769-70, the Miller's house and cottage. There is a wonderful view of the historic water wheel inside the inn. The inn offers excellent cuisine in a charming location. We hope you will join us for a delicious buffet brunch. We will need a minimum of thirty-five (35) people to attend. With the size of our club, this should be easily met.

The price is 38.25 per person, all inclusive (excluding liquor). We need to know if you plan to attend by October 1, 2013 and we will need your check at that time as well, payable to N.J.O.R.T.C. sent to our address. There will of course, be some prizes and games. At the present time, we are in the process of planning our route so stay tuned! Our expected time of arrival is 12:45 p.m. at the Inn.

We will meet at **SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN PARK** (same location as our picnic) at 10:00 a.m. The address is East Springtown Road, Long Valley, NJ. Coffee, donuts, etc will be provided. Please note that this is a rain or shine event and hopefully shine, so let's get those T-Birds out! We are a showstopper every year with our multi-colored T-Birds all lined up!

We hope to see as many of you as possible. A spectacular drive through the fall foliage, along with good food and good friends promises a memorable day!

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