New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International

The Thunder Heard

March 2026

2026 Meeting Schedule	
March 15	Irene Douma
April 19	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 March 15th.
Irene Douma is the host.
RSVP
wikd705@gmail.com

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.

President's Message

I hope everyone made it through the snow storm and frigid temperatures' . We were sorry to cancel the 2/22 meeting, but we felt it may not be safe coming or leaving.

The next meeting is 3/15 (more info in this newsletter), we should have a lot to discuss as our last meeting was in November. We held our annual Board meeting in Feb.

We had a very good turn out for the Sweetheart Brunch. a big thank you the Julie Ann and Lucille for a job well done.

Donna is keeping up with all the news concerning CTCI, See some info in newsletter.

Our membership is staying steady at around 41 members and the finances are in good shape

Stay safe and healthy
Patrick Le Strange
President NJORTC

Vice President's Message

Unfortunately we could not have our monthly meeting because Mr. Winter does't want to stop!!! I am so done with this winter and I believe a lot of people agree with me!

George Gayet was doing pretty good then he ended up with COVID and then other complications set in, so, of course, he is in the hospital. Now Sue has Covid and she cannot or will not visit George until she is better. Poor George always one thing after another. As of now I believe we are all hanging in there.

We had our Sweet Heart Bruch on the coldest day of the year or years at the Stone Water in Lake Hopatcong. We had a good turn out of members and guests. Thanks Julie Ann and Lucille for hosting the brunch, once again and did a great job. Also thank you Rich Iuso for bring chocolate candy hearts. Sooo good. Pat gave out beautiful pink roses and Julie Ann gave out hot/cold cups with our logo on it. Next outing Harold's Deli. Cannot wait! (Rich Martin, I promise you I am going to try the corn beef this year:):):))

Mike Perillo is working on Spring Cruise.

Donna will give a CTCI Report at next meeting.

Really do not have much to talk about since we have not had a meeting since November.

If Mr. Winter stays away and leaves us alone our next meeting is March 15,2026, at Anthony Franco's, Hamburg, Turnpike, Wayne, NJ at 12 noon (note new time)

Have a great year, see you soon Arlene

Jan/Feb Meeting

The meeting was canceled because of bad weather.

Sweetheart Brunch

See Arlene's column regarding the Sweetheart Brunch. It was one of those cold and windy days but getting together warmed everything up. The food was good and plenty of it. Complimentary mimosas and champagne were part of the brunch. 33 people attended. It was nice to see everyone, last time was early December at the Christmas party. As Arlene said, thanks to Lucille and Julie Ann for putting this together. Here are some pictures.

Membership News

Bruce & Aileen Corbett 30th

Vince Ucci 1st
Bruce Daily 8th
Ester Yengst 18th
Joyce Santimauro 29th

Lynda Burns
George Gayet
Bob Heissler

March 20 is also earth day - so plant a tree

2026 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
Pat LeStrange
rolodexp@aol.com

Vice President
Arlene Kubat
finallyak@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Steve Handy
stevehandy85@gmail.com

CTCI Representative
Donna Jessie
tbandmetro@aol.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary
Toni Sabino
tonisabino@yahoo.com

Editor: Thunder Heard
Paul Schroll
ptschroll@verizon.net

Trustees:
Paul Schroll
John Pyrros
Phil Guidone

Mailing Address: NJORTC, PO Box 615 Hewitt, NJ 07421
web site: www.njortc.org
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

March Meeting

This meeting is scheduled for March 15th, Location is Anthony Franco's, 1176 Hamburg TPKE, Wayne Time is 12 noon (Note the time change) Be sure to RSVP Irene (She has requested RSVP's by 3/11)

April Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for April 19th. Time and place in next newsletter

Cars & Coffee

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

Cruise Nights

Nothing open yet that I can see

Car Shows/Swap Meets

4/19 Randolph 906 Rte 10W Performance Ford
4/26 Boonton-Main Street
4/26 Totowa-Union Blvd

I have flyers for most of the above

From Donna Jessie, CTCI Representative

Hi All I was hoping to report the following at our February meeting. I wanted to give an update on the CTCI legal situation. I spoke to David Berkey, Director at Large regarding the hearing that took place on February 19, 2026, The hearing was between the attorneys for " The Majority Board" and "Minor Board". The Minor Board requested that the hearing be moved to a district court instead of the federal court,

The "Majority Boards'" attorneys presented their case, no one testified and the judge advised that a decision would be forthcoming in two weeks. The "Majority Boards" attorneys were very happy with the way things went. Hopefully, I will be giving you a further update on or about March 6, 2026,

It's here - the Vernal Equinox. March 20th

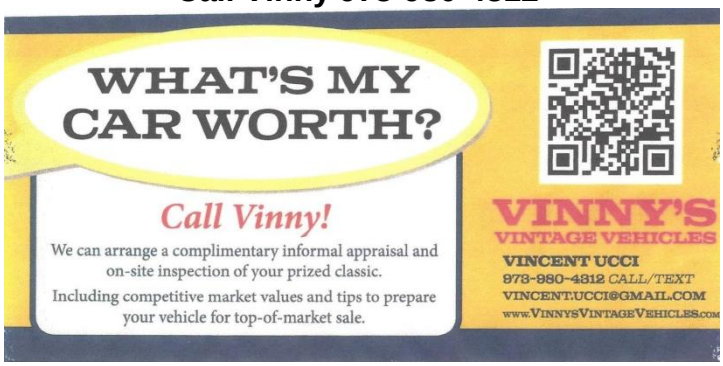
For Sale

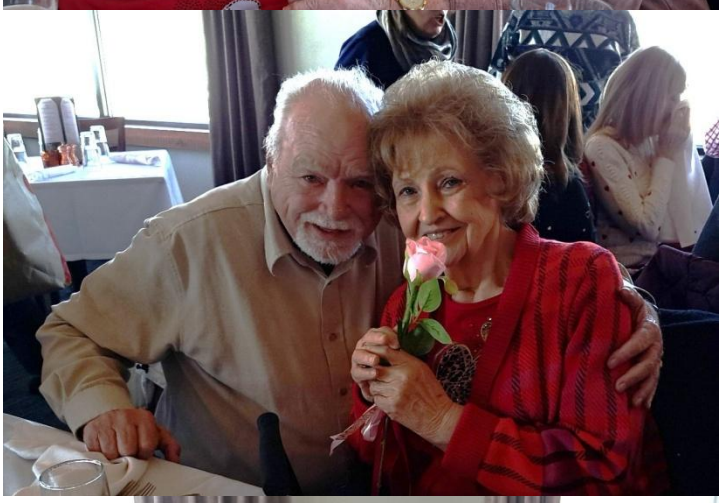
TBird Radio

56/57 Tbird upgraded radio brand new in box……paid $850 with shipping …$ 700.00
973.980.4312 Vinny

WANTED

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





Lesser Known Trivia for March

March 14 is Nat'l PI - why - because PI equal 3.14

March 22 is Nat'l Goof Off Day

Custom 1955 Ford Thunderbird "Moon Rocket"

This was built built shortly after the owner bought it new. Besides the complete customization, the engine was a 331 Cadillac.
From Gene Szura

It was a 1957 Oakland Roadster show winner. It was restored in 2010-11 by a new owner.. It recently went up for sale at Bring A Trailer. Current bid is $39,000

If

Daylight Savings Time Starts March 8th

It is a little late (hopefully) but Paul A sent this:

1. **If you park your vehicle(s) outside & it's going to snow, take plastic bags & wrap each outside mirror. Just remove & your mirrors are clean.**
2. **Do NOT use your cruise control during snow or heavy rain. This can cause Hydroplaning & loss of control.**
3. **During extreme cold, NEVER use your emergency/parking Brake, it can freeze locked up**

Blast from the Past- Sunrise Lake, 1983

From Gene Sura

Spring is just around the corner (at least we hope) and, hopefully, get our cars back on the road So take off the cover and get the car ready for the car shows and other outings for this year.

Spring start-up: Tips for getting your Thunderbird back on the road

You may have grumbled when Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, even though you realize a startled groundhog really can't predict an extended winter. You will wait up all night on Feb. 28, just to see if March would come in like a lion or a lamb. For classic car owners in northern states, the long wait for spring can be excruciating. The good news is, it's almost here. Take advantage of the time you have left by prepping your car before its first drive. You'll both be better for it.

Start with your battery. If it's been on a trickle charger all winter, disconnect it from the charger and reconnect the battery. If you simply removed the battery and stored it in a warmer spot for the winter, time to charge it up.

Check your fluids. Start with a walk-around and examine the floor beneath the car. Drips are common and expected; puddles are not. A fresh oil change is recommended since water or other fluids may have found their way in your crankcase. While you're at it, replace the oil filter. Also check your other fluids — brakes, coolant, transmission, windshield washer. Do they look dirty? Are they at the recommended level? Smell your transmission fluid. If it smells burnt, change it. Generally speaking, if you can't remember the last time you drained and flushed any particular fluid, it's probably time to do it again.

As for gasoline, you should be good to go if you put Stabil in the tank before storing your car. If not, you might consider adding a water absorbing product or — if you're really worried about it — just drain the tank.

Check your belts and hoses for cracks and decay. Since rubber breaks down over time, examine the condition of your tires, too. Make sure they're inflated to the correct air pressure. And don't forget the spare.

Water can not only damage your engine, but it can cause brake problems, as well. If your car has been sitting for a while, consider bleeding your brakes. They should feel firm when you push the pedal.

By this point, you should already know if any mice spent a comfortable winter in or around your engine. Also check inside the passenger compartment, especially under the seats and in the glove box.

And one last thing — check the headlights, turn signals and brake lights, which may require the help of a friend. It's finally time to start your car. If you're just testing the engine, make sure an exit door is open enough to allow exhaust to escape. If the weather allows for a drive, make that first one fairly short — after a warm-up, a half hour or so should put the car through its proper paces. And before you take drive No. 2, do the ol' walk-around again. No major leaks? Tires look good? Let 'er rip, and enjoy a safe driving season

By: Jeff Peek – Hagerty.com and the Pitt Birds

Editors Note: It is recommended that oil should be changed at least once a year, even if the mileage is low.