



# New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

## Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



# The Thunder Heard

## August 2011

## P I C N I C - L E T S   G O

### 2011 Meeting Schedule

August 14	Mini Concours/Picnic
September	
October	Pat LeStrange, Joanne Seiler
October	Fall Cruise
November	John & Sandra Pyrros
Dec 3	Holiday party

The August meeting will be the picnic at Schooley's Mtn. Notify Mike Meehan or Arlene Kubat if you are going.

**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.

# August



### President's Message



Now we have more weather to gripe about. First way too cold, then way too wet and now way to hot. At least you don't have to shovel the heat away. I'll still take the summer over the winter but it's been too hot to even go to car shows and cruise nights.

Things are set for the Mini Concours. The South Jersey club has expressed a lot of interest in attending. There may be some prospective members there too. Please make sure you let Mike Meehan and Arlene Kubat know if you are coming.

I still have a few posters from the 2002 Convention as well as dash plaques from the 2007. If you want one let me know and I will bring them to the Mini.

The June meeting, at the Costas, was again a very well attended one. Good job Charlie and Izabela. We covered most items on the agenda. Next month, of course, will be the Mini Concours and the meeting will be very short.

It is official. I have submitted my resume for the Region 1 Directors job and received a letter from CTCL thanking me for running.

Good luck to all the members going to the Omaha convention. As usual, several of our members will be driving their little Birds. You are the people that make T-Birding what it should be. Driving a great automobile around a great country. What is better than that?

This is the greatest Thunderbird Club in the World.

Thanks  
Pat



### A few words from Alec

Well, here it is the middle of summer already! It has not been a particularly pleasant summer as far as I am concerned - too hot most of the time with a lot of rainy days with a few really nice days sprinkled here and there. Not really a top down cruising summer.

Anyway, looking forward to our club picnic the 14th and going to Omaha for the Regional Convention Aug 24th to 28th. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather to help salvage the season.

Happy Motoring (and dry),  
Alec

### June Meeting

The June meeting was hosted by Izabela and Charlie Costa. Not many Birds but lots of members. They filled the Costa's living room to overflowing. Little Zack showed off his battery powered car and even knew what to do when the battery got low. Charlie must be teaching him good. Izabela had a great food spread. Everybody was having such a good time the BS session lasted forever.

Talk about far out odds - Lois won the 50/50 for the second time in two months.

Thanks to Charlie and Izabela for a great time.



### The Vice President's Message

Weather - HOT HOT HOT!!! Now it looks like we need rain because everything is too dry. We cannot win, but it is summer!!

Pat submitted his resume to CTCI for consideration for Region 1 Director. Good luck Pat. You know you have our support.

Phil, Joe, Sandy, John and Rich are showing interest in going to the Barret-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, AZ (Sandy is going to visit family out there). If any one is interested in going please let Phil know as soon as possible because hotel reservations must be made. These hotels fill up quickly. I am sure it will be a lot of fun watching all types of antique cars cross the block and listen to the auctioneer for hours. This will be a great WINTER CRUISE. Wednesday Jan 18th through Sunday Jan 21st.

August 14th is our annual Mini Concours/Picnic at Schooley's Mountain, Long Valley, NJ. If you did not attend last year you missed a great picnic. The park is great and just in case it should rain we have a pavilion that we can hide under. We are planning various games (if you have any outside games please bring them), looking at our TBirds and eating plenty of food. I am sure it will be a fun day. Please notify Mike or myself if you are coming so I know how much food to buy. Pat is bring the music, so maybe we can even dance. Let's make sure we have a lot of fun, fun., fun!!!

If it is not too hot out, get your TBirds out to cruise nights and car shows as the summer goes by too fast.

See you at the Mini Concours.

Arlene

### Wanted - a great big hat, size XXXXXXXL

The latest issue of Old cars Magazine did an article on the VA convention and Joe Kubat's 55 was front and center of one of the pictures. I hear Joe is charging \$5 a pop for his autograph. Congrats Joe, did you get this pic in the magazine the same way you got the ice cream?

If you can, get a copy - your car may also be in it.

# Membership News



Rich & Lois Martin 6th  
Phil & Dorothy Guidone 7th  
Henry & Judy Semmler 11th



Sheryl Adamoff 1st  
Al Cirinelli 13th  
Joanne Notar 15th  
Wendy Meehan 18th  
Shelly Belli 18th  
Joe Kubat 22nd  
Bob Belli 27th  
Diane Marsiglio 27th  
Mara Madden 30th

**Get Well Soon!**

Henry Semmler

## Condolences

To Diane Szura and her family on the passing of her father

**FOR SALE**

Got any stories about the past regarding a NJORTC event, preferably with pictures, that you would like to tell us about? Write them up and send it to me along with the pictures and we will use it in the newsletter.

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Membership Chairman	Alec Johnstone
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Jackets	Joe Kubat
Grill Plaques & Hats	Frank Chabala
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Wendy Meehan

## New Members

A welcome to our newest members, Charles and Lisa Musto. They hail from PA and Charles is the owner of a number of 57's. Glad to have you aboard Charles and Lisa.





## July Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Charlie & Izabela Costa.

### Highlights of the business meeting:

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

Mike Meehan reported on the picnic. The permit is in hand as is the insurance certificate.

Charles Musto submitted his application to join. He was accepted as a member.

Joanne passed out new membership packets. If you want one or two for prospective members contact her or Paul Schroll. Paul Schroll has them on his computer so he can email them to you.

Joanne has the preliminary meeting schedule for 2012 which will be sent to members. It has been decided to combine the May meeting with the Tune Up Clinic at the Martin's.

Phil reported that they are looking for accommodations for the Fall Cruise. Phil is also organizing a winter "flying cruise" to the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale.

Pat mentioned the Blues Cruise Car and Bike Show in Knowlton on Aug 8th.

Next meeting is the picnic at Schooley's Mtn.



**Point a camera at Zack and he stays still.**

**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.**

**Pictures, articles, tech, etc. Paul Schroll**

**[ptschroll@aol.com](mailto:ptschroll@aol.com)**



## Club Events

### Mini Concours/Picnic

The picnic (formerly the Mini-Concours) is on August 14th at Schooley's Mountain. Start time is 10AM. Burgers, dogs and drinks will be provided. Bring your own chair. Call either Mike Meehan or Arlene Kubat if you are going. Call Arlene for food contributions. This has always been a great outing and this year's should be the same.

### Barrett-Jackson (Scottsdale) Trip

Phil Guidone is setting up a "cruise" to the Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale. Get to Phil if you want to go. Dates are 1/18 to 1/22/12. Don't wait as rooms have to be booked now.

### Fall Cruise

Phil is sure a busy guy, good thing Dorothy does the leg work. As usual, this will take place in October. The place and date are not yet set, so keep October open so you can enjoy the outing.





## CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

8/6 Thiels, NY-No. Rockland High Sch.-Hammond RD (F)  
8/6 Ramsey-615 E Crescent Ave (Model Electronics) (F)

8/7 Knowlton - Blues Cruise Rt 94, Exit 4 off Rte 80(F)  
8/7 Whippany-111 No. Jefferson Rd. (Birchwood Manor)

8/14 Warwick, NY 900 Kings Hwy (Mid Orange  
Correctional Fac.) (F)  
8/14 Passaic-VanHouten & Passiac Ave-Third Ward Park  
in Passaic Park

8/27 Garfield-186 Passiac St. (Walmart/Applebees) (F)

8/31 Montville-65 River Rd -The Hot Rod Farm

9/9 Ridgewood-E Ridgewood Ave (Friday evening)((F)

9/11 Ridgefield Park Spruce Ave & Cedar St. (Ridgefield  
Park Elks) (F)

(F)-I have flyer

For additional listings, go to [www.njcarshows.com](http://www.njcarshows.com)

### July Meeting



Look at those tomato plants

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



## CRUISE NIGHTS

### Sunday

Jackson-2010 W. County Line Rd (Clifmar Diner) 3rd  
Sunday of the month

### Monday

Saddle Brook-427 Market St (Advanced Auto)  
Hawthorne-Goffle Road (Goffle Grill)  
Stoney Point, NY- Gennaros Rest, 146 Rte 9W

### Tuesday

Tappan, NY-51 Rte 303 (Liberty's American Grill)  
Carlstadt-645 Washington Ave (The Grasshopper)  
East Rutherford-49 Rte 17S (Cheeburger-Cheeburger)

### Wednesday

East Rutherford-Rte 17N (Lowes/Chili's)  
Wycoff - Greenwood Ave

### Thursday

Wayne-Kohl's Shopping CTR, Rte 23 N  
Moonachie-195 Moonachie Rd (Burger King)  
East Rutherford-49 Rte 17S (Cheeburger-Cheeburger)  
Hackettstown-Mountain Ave (Lowes Shopping Ctr)  
Emerson-Emerson Shopping Ctr, Kinderkamack Rd.  
Norwood-Livingston St. (Dunkin Donuts)

### Friday

Boonton-Wooten St (Wal Mart shopping center)  
Midland Park - Greenwood Ave (Hot Dog Caboose)

Saturday Chatterbox, Rtes 15 & 206, Augusta

### Island Dragway (Great Meadows near Hackettstown)

Again this year Island has a barbeque night on the 2nd  
and 4th Wednesday of the month-through . Cost is 15  
bucks (driven in-muffled). Included is a barbeque.  
Want to make one night a club function and try your car  
at the track? You need seat belts and a helmet if racing  
(helmets can be rented at the track). Let Rich know - we  
can make it a group thing

### CTCI Convention-Birds at Beale

For 2012 - the Memphis National Convention. Rich  
& Lois have gotten a preliminary schedule of  
events and it looks like it will be a really big show.  
Elvis fans should certainly plan to attend and the  
list of events includes plans for a riverboat cruise on  
the mighty Mississippi and a Memphis Music Tour  
to name a few. Plus the show is inside. Make your  
plans now and get your Bird ready.

### OMAHA-CTCI Regional

This is still on for Aug 24th. Probably too late to  
register, but you can still have a good time



## River Edge Car Show

A few of us attended the River Edge Car Show. There were at least 100 cars from all eras and from stockers to modifieds. Weather was kind of hot, but John P brought his tent and we kept relatively cool. One of the nice things about us getting together for the show is going out for a nice breakfast. Thanks to Charlie and Izabela for delaying the meeting til 4PM so we could enjoy the show.



Why are these called "Dagmars?"



## Tech Tips

### Temp Gauge Sending Unit

The temperature gauge sending unit for the 55-57 Birds are located on the drivers side portion of the engine near the firewall. It is screwed into the top rear portion of the left side cylinder head. The sending unit is almost directly below the mounting bracket for the carb linkage. It looks similar to a spark plug with one wire attached to it and is clearly visible and easy to access. The sending unit functions much like a thermometer. It does this by moving the needle on your temperature gauge as your car's coolant temperature rises. For those of you who may have a "stuck" temperature gauges, this tip is for you.

To test your temperature gauge, simply disconnect the wire attached to the temperature gauge sending unit and touch it to any good ground. Do this quickly and remove it. If left on for more than a few seconds, the gauge will burn out. Your dash gauge needle should move. If it does, your temperature gauge is functioning properly and the problem is probably the sending unit. If the gauge does not move at all, then the problem is either a loose or cracked wire and/or a bad gauge.

To remove the sending unit it will be necessary to drain enough coolant to leave your radiator about one half full. Now you can safely remove the ending unit from the cylinder head without spilling anything all over that nice clean engine. Depending on what year TBird you have, you will need a box wrench or a deep socket 5/8" to 3/4" to unscrew.

Usually you will not need a sealant like Teflon tape or sealant in a tube when replacing. If Teflon tape is used, make sure the bottom two threads are exposed so none of the tape will get into the cooling system. After the unit is installed and with the engine running, gradually pour the drained (or new) fluid back in. Allow a few minutes in between fillings to make sure the thermostat has opened and the coolant is circulating. Turn your heater to the "on" position for maximum circulation. The blower need not be to be engaged, but the heater valve needs to be opened. This helps prevent any air pockets from forming.

Once the engine has heated up, check for leaks and if the gauge is working.

From the Early Bird

**The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb**





### MINI Car Show

Four of our members participated in a mini car show for the benefit of the Van Dyke Assisted Living Center. The cars being shown ranged from a brass era 1910 Model T to 1960's cars. TBirds were well represented by Alec's and Paul A's birds. A few pics. The residents seemed to enjoy the cars.



### Some Shots from Richmond



August is national Eye Exam month - get yours checked.



# WIN THIS CAR!

## or \$20,000 Cash



**Winner 2007**  
Terry Holling  
San Bernadino, CA



**Winner 2008**  
Sandra Rue  
Columbus, NJ



**Winner 2009**  
Mark Ferro  
West Haven, CT



**Winner 2010**  
Bruce Tucker  
Malvern, PA



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