

New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club
Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International



The Thunder Heard

January-February 2021

2021 Meeting Schedule	
	Tentative
March	Bruce Corbett
April	Joe Kubat
May	Bob Sabino
June	Lucille Chabala
July	Paul Werner
September	Bob Notar
October	
November	
December	
No meetings are scheduled due to the pandemic	
<p>If you cannot host your meeting as scheduled, it is your responsibility to get someone to switch with.</p> <p>Please let Joanne Seiler know at least <u>2</u> months before your scheduled month that <u>YOU WILL BE HOSTING</u> the meeting and give the date/time/etc.</p>	



President's Message



All the excitement of 2020 is over, now we will pick up the pieces. I hope our official club masks are working out ok. Joanne and I are on the waiting list for the vaccines.

This is the first news letter of 2021 and looking forward to a great T Birding year. I hope all is well with everyone and can't wait to see everyone when the weather gets better. We have events planned so stay tuned. We received our club clothing orders and they look great but still have not worn any.

It took Joanne and me 3 days to hand deliver the club calendars, driving about 400 miles. We actually had a good time doing it as we were bored and this gave us something to do, the only other time we are getting out is to go to doctors which is at least 3 times a week.

I don't know what to think about what is going on at CTCL. Toni Sabino has some info elsewhere in this newsletter.

I did get around to working on my T Bird installing new spark plug and wires, cap, rotor and coil. I cleaned up the engine compartment too. My brother Mike wanted a project to work on so I gave him the Valve covers to clean and polish and they turned out great.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I had started voice therapy. Sorry to say it did not work. I am going in for surgery on Feb. 1st and hoping to get some voice back.

Joanne is still fighting her fight with health issues but is still going strong. She is an inspiration to everyone combating their own health issues. We are praying for them all.

Congratulations to Toni and Bob Sabino on the birth of their new Grandson.

We will be having a video Board meeting later this month and will update everyone in the next newsletter.

Keep up with all the club news with the newsletter, Website and Facebook page. Let me know if there is anything you would like to see in any of these or how we can help you with anything.

Stay Healthy and Pray for our members and their families, who are going through bad times

Pat Le Strange



Tribute

As we go forward with this pandemic, we would like to reflect on the tribute that our club arranged last Fall. As you know we had two drive-bys; the second one on November 20, 2020 at the Hackensack University Medical Center. Please see the following photos of the event.

The weather was perfect and the smiles on the medical workers made it worthwhile.

Going forward in 2021... I know we are all tired, stressed and maybe depressed but.. We need to reflect on these front line workers and what they are risking for all of us.

Please try to be as careful as you can not to risk yourselves, your loved ones and the workers that are trying to save lives and keep the case numbers down. We are all in this together and we can get through this with patience, kindness for each other and prayers.

Donna



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

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you are in deep water



Vice President's Message

Happy New Year to all. Hope your Holidays were joyous and the New Year finds you happy and staying healthy. Hope 2021 is better than 2020. Please try and get the COVID vaccine. I am having trouble locating the vaccine. All I get when they say make an appointment, it turns around and says no vaccine available at this time!!! I will keep trying.

I have not heard any reports on Marianne. Hope she is feeling better. Joanne is having some issues, but she is hanging in there. She is one strong lady. She might not feel 100%, but she looks great. Pat is having surgery on his vocal cords on February 1st. Hoping he will get his voice back after surgery. Good luck Pat. I have not heard about any other problems. If anyone has any health issues, I hope you are on the road to recovery.

Congratulations to Bob and Tony Sabino on becoming grandparents to a beautiful baby boy.

If any of you new members want to share your story on how you got your Thunderbird, we would love to hear it. Please send it to Paul so he can put in the newsletter.

Hope you have been reading all the emails from our Region One Director, Darcy Knapp. She is keeping us updated on CTCI. We have a new Board for 2021. We will not be having a Convention this year because of Covid 19. We will be having a virtual Convention showing pictures of our Tbird, entering logos. Best logo will go on shirts, hats, etc. More details to follow. All Tbirds to be included. Toni Sabino is our CTCI Rep. and is doing a great job. Once a month they have zoom meetings. If we ever have a meeting she has a lot to say.

Our Board of Directors will be having a zoom meeting after Pat's surgery. If anyone wants anything discussed please let one of us know. As of right now, we do not have anything planned for the next few months. Hopefully things will start to get back to some kind of normal and our club can get back together. I miss our meetings and all you guys.

Have a Happy Valentines Day, stay healthy and hope to see you soon. Arlene

There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity

Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Tom & Susan Mirro Feb 8
Charlie & Izebela Costa Feb 8



Steve Handy Jan 6
Steve Schmidt Jan 16
Joe Matrone Jan 22
Donna Jessie Jan 20
Martha Downing Jan 26
Merry Case Jan 29
Bon Heissler Jan 29
Rich Martin Jan 30
Dorothy Guidone Feb 2
Paul Dorne Feb 7
Sean Dillon Feb 19

GET WELL SON!

Club Dues

As the Christmas party was canceled, dues must be paid (\$50.00). Send to Steve Handy during February.

Giana's Video

Joanne send out a notice about this last month but I am including a note for those that may have missed it. Mike Parillo's granddaughter Gianna put a video together for us. This is the link to it <https://njortc.smugmug.com/2020-NJORTC-Year-in-review/>



2021 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President

Pat LeStrange 201-920-7226
rolodexp@aol.com

Vice President

Arlene Kubat 862-221-9773
finallyak@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Steve Handy 201-337-1746
stevehandy85@gmail.com

CTCI Representative

Toni Sabino 201-336-4368
tonisabino@yahoo.com

Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Toni Sabino 201-336-4368
tonisabino@yahoo.com

Editor: Thunder Heard

Paul Schroll 201-652-7027
ptschroll@verizon.net

Trustees:

Paul Schroll 201-652-7027
John Pyrros 201-487-2943
Phil Guidone 908-879-6261

Mailing Address: NJORTC, PO Box 615 Hewitt, NJ 07421

web site: www.njortc.org

Registered Agent	Phil Guidone
Awards/Plaques	John Pyrros
Membership Chairman	Paul Adamoff
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Joanne Seiler
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Rob Sabino
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Joanne Seiler



Club Announcements

Remaining Meetings

All future meetings have been canceled due to the virus.

Tribute



FOR SALE

Vinny's Vintage Vehicles

1993 Camaro, Black/Silver Pace Car 29K
\$13,000

2002 Avalance, 203K Z71 PKG, loaded \$5,000.
Deck lid lock cylinder with keys Pad - deck lid
lock cylinder 55/56

Set 4 orig. 55/56 wire hubcaps with clips B/O
Bird white tonneau cover B/O

1993 Corvette 40th Anniv., conv 38k \$15,000
Call Vince, 973-227-4001 or 973-980-4312

1947 Pontiac

Convertible - Recent restoration. Original
owner car. Contact Gene Szura for
information and pictures 201-991-8459

1957 Cylinder Heads

"G" cylinder heads (2) . Seems to be uncut,
with valves and springs. Probably needs to be
refurbished. Fits all Y blocks, best of all Y
Block heads. \$275 for the pair. Call 201-652-
7027 Paul

Ford History In January & February

1/18/37 Ford's 25 millionth car was produced
1/30/42 All civilian auto production was ended
2/15/54 Thunderbird was selected as the name
for the new sports car
2/20/54 Thunderbird was debuted at the Detroit
Auto Show

Tech Tips

Fire Extinguishers-Part 2

We should carry a Fire extinguisher in our old cars as well as our new cars. Here is some information gleaned from another chapter's newsletter.

Typical Extinguishers for Sale

Dry chemical extinguisher can damage engine and electronics, but the damage is less than an uncontrolled fire. Less damaging (if you believe the hype) would be Fireside 2000, Nitro Strike, Halotron or H3R. However, there are drawbacks. These require confined space, may rekindle and are not Class A, B or C. Consider using potassium bicarbonate (Class B & C extinguisher "Purple K") which is non-corrosive and cleans up with a vacuum, sweeping or a water flush. Halon is no longer sold, but is allowable if you already have one. The replacement for it is HALOTRON, but it is expensive. FYI, Amerex and Buckeye fire equipment is being counterfeited and the international brand does not have UL approval.

FIRE CHIEFS RECOMMEND A CLASS A, B, or C DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER, 5 to 10 POUNDS

They should be stored at EXIT(S) in escape routes and in the car (NOT IN THE TRUNK).

Gas tanks do not explode most of the time. However, if it's hot and there is vapor, it will ignite.

When disposing of old or used extinguishers, take them to a local HAZMAT facility.

The Bird Word, Smokey Mtn Classic Tbird Club

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.

Keep Healthy & Safe

Use your mask

Some groups think they lose their personal freedom or can lose their masculinity by wearing a mask in public. They are self centered persons who have no respect for others or don't care about their personal health in these times. Or they think they may look silly. In a hospital, with a tube down your throat, you do not look any better. Mask wearing is smart. This virus is not over - people in NJ are still getting infected and dying on a daily basis. The second wave is here. Even if you have no symptoms, you can be a carrier

More Tribute Photos



Gene stops for a burger after the Tribute

Old Farmer's Advice
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tom Mirro's TBird is the featured car in the latest AACA magazine



Ford Thunderbird – the Original Personal Car



Ford introduced the Thunderbird roadster as a direct competitor to Chevrolet Corvette. While the 1955-1957 Thunderbird resembles Chevrolet's sports car in many ways, it offered higher level of comfort to its passengers. This overlap of sportiness and creature comforts meant that Ford has discovered a new niche, which they named the "personal car".

There are two versions of the Thunderbird's origin story and you are welcome to make your own judgement. Ford states that the idea was conceived in 1951 when their executives Lewis D. Crusoe and George Walker were visiting Paris and admiring European sports cars, and Crusoe suggested that Ford should make something like that. Walker, responsible for the development of new models, said that there was something very similar in the works. Actually, there was no sports model developed at that moment, but Walker shared the idea with the headquarters in Dearborn, US and by the time Walker and Crusoe returned, the car was already being developed.

Another version of this story is not as romantic, it suggests that the development of Thunderbird began in early 1953, immediately after the Corvette prototype was presented. Ford developed the car so rapidly, that in February of 1954 it was officially presented to the public in the Detroit Auto Salon. The secret to such swift development was using off-the-shelf components of models from Ford and its subsidiaries. The frame itself was a shortened version of the components used in other Fords of the era, it was adapted to match the exact length of the wheelbase of the Corvette, 2.59 m. Although Ford claimed the size of the car was determined by looking at European counterparts, namely Jaguar XK 140. When the car reached production in 1955, Thunderbird's 4.8-litre V8 was sourced from Ford's Mercury marque, putting out reasonable 198 hp. Thunderbird shared multiple exteriors and interior components, including headlights and taillights with other Fords at the time.

Even though Ford and Chevrolet are essentially Coca-Cola and Pepsi of automotive world, their sporty products differed quite significantly. Firstly, Corvette utilized a lightweight fiberglass body, which lacked the refinement that Ford's fully-steel counterpart was offering. Roofless Corvette did not match the structural rigidity that Thunderbird had, thus there were far fewer squeaks when driving the latter. In addition to that, the first-generation Corvette was offered with inline 6 engines, while the Thunderbird only came with V8. Thunderbird was also less focused on going fast through the twists on a track, so it was not exactly a sports car. Instead, Ford discovered it would best suit a niche of its own, which they dubbed a "personal car" class

No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car

No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning



1956 model year Thunderbird featured several changes, among which, a new higher performance engine was offered. Ford Y-block 5.1-liter V8 had 4 bbl Holley carburetor and produced 225 hp. The standard engine was still on offer, with its power bumped up to 202 hp. Thunderbirds design was revised as well, most notably the car had a relocated 'Continental Style' spare wheel, which was mounted in the back of the trunk. Other minor tweaks included bumper-exiting exhausts and optional round rear side windows to aid the visibility. 1956 was also the year when Thunderbird was converted to modern 12-volt system.

For the last year of the T-bird, 1957, some more changes were in line. The front grille got bigger to aid cooling and the trunk has been elongated with more prominent jet-inspired tailfins. The spare wheel was moved back into the trunk, making the lines cleaner and trunk access easier. Normally, this being an American sports car, the revised model was even more powerful, with improved engines across the range. A new top of the line supercharged version of the 5.1-litre V8 was added, capable of 300 bhp. All Thunderbirds of this iteration had soft padded dashboards, which were considered a safety feature back then, but are a laughable innovation today.

Ford's first attempt at a "personal car" was replaced by a new four-seater in 1958. Just over 53 000 of first-gen Thunderbirds were produced over the three years. The nameplate was used for eleven generations of the car in total, although it was less sport-oriented in later versions. The eleventh generation of T-bird came out in 2002 and was clearly a homage to the first cars, featuring retro styling and mechanics derived from Lincoln LS.

First generation Thunderbirds in good condition are sold for 30,000 € and upwards. Unsurprisingly, they are easier to find in the US, but plenty is available in Europe as well. The upkeep of these roadsters should not cause too much of a headache, as the components are shared with other Fords, Lincolns and Mercurys of the era, making the parts easier to come by.

From: Sal Perrotta Thunderbird Owners of New York, Reprinted from [Dylar.com](https://dylar.com) (<https://dylar.com>)



From Trail Bird News



*February 15
Abraham Lincoln Feb. 12
George Washington Feb. 22*

CTCI News from Toni Sabino

Hi Everyone I hope all is well with you and your families. I want to share with you a synopsis of my zoom meeting on January 19th with the now defunct Advisory Board.

The meeting started at 7:05 PM est.

Ross started the meeting stating there is a large agenda to go through. It was stated by Ross that the CTCI president Brian Carron was invited to join the meeting but he declined.

Cathy Stubbs said that the 2020 board passed a motion to list the California building for an extra six months on the market. Darcy Knapp stated that the building can't be sold in the condition it is in now, the facade is falling off and needs to be fixed.

Liz Robinson asked many questions about what would happen when and if the building is sold with the memorabilia, invoices etc. that is held inside.

Jim Montavan stated that there is no communication with the members about selling the building and what will happen when sold.

Sue Smith stated that the property taxes will triple in Wyoming.

The last item that was address was the "Advisory Council".

Chris Klein had asked if Brian would entertain the idea of revising the Advisory Council, Darcy stated that he wouldn't because too many feathers were ruffled in the past.

It was voted on that there will be an Virtual Chapter formed with our new name Friends of CTCI, we do want the board to know we aren't here to go against them but only want to work with them.

A Virtual chapter is formed with 6 members or more of CTCI, there won't be any dues, by laws need to be written, paper work needs to be filled out and presented to the board, it takes a year for a chapter to be formed. Meetings are held through zoom or any other internet connection, there isn't any shows, activities etc.

Meeting ended at 8:15PM If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call, text or email me and I will try to answer your concerns, if I can't I will get an answer for you. You can reach me at 973-618-8085 or at tonisabino@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you all soon. Toni Sabino NJORTC Secretary, Friends of CTCI member



Raising teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree

