

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



The Thunder Heard

September 2015

And Fall Comes Again

2015 Meeting Schedule

Sept 26	Mike & Wendy Meehan
October 25	Gene & Diane Szura
October 18	Fall Cruise
November	Charlie & Izabella Costa
December	Christmas Party

The September meeting will be hosted by Wendy and Mike Meehan on Sept. 26th. RSVP 973-267-2958 or wendymeehan@verizon.net See Page 4 for details

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



Summer is unofficially coming to an end, but there will still be plenty to do, so don't think about putting the 'Birds away yet. The Fall colors cruise will be coming up before you know it.

Can't say enough good things about the Picnic. Thanks to all who helped (which was almost everyone) and especially Picnic Chairman Bill Downing and Food Chairman Arlene Kubat. Giant turn out with about 85 people and 18 Baby Birds, 5 Mustangs, 1 GTO and 1 Retro Bird. (numbers are as close as I could figure). As usual our meeting was abbreviated and no real business discussed.

Joanne & I just got back from Albuquerque New Mexico after attending the CTCI Regional Convention hosted by the Pajarito Thunderbird Club. Good job to Bill and Donna Jessie and Walt Strohmaier and Marianne Dennig for driving their T Birds there. We had 10 NJ Attendees; Me & Joanne, Bill & Donna Jessie, Walt Strohmaier, Marianne Dennig, Rich & Lois Martin, and 1st timers, Valerie Kriney and Leslie Herman. We did a lot of sightseeing and rode the Rt.66 "Musical Highway" There was too much to list but a lot was posted to our NJORTC Facebook page and as soon as I can, the pictures and videos will be on the web site NJORTC.org.

Congratulations to Bill and Donna for their Gold award and their "Longest Distance Driven" award. Congratulations to our newsletter editors Paul Schroll and Alec Johnstone on their Gold award. We are proud of all of you.

Joanne Seiler was officially told she will be the new Region 1 Director. Rich Martin has 2 other people running against him for Director at Large. He will need all our votes so get those ballots in, they will be in the Sept/Oct issue of the Early Bird. If you know any members in other Chapters, please encourage them to vote for Rich, we know he is the best choice.

Now it's off to Lead East for us and Dead Man's Curve for several other members. Whichever you choose have a good time and stay safe. Always proud of this great club

Pat LeStrange





A few Words From Alec

Now that the end of summer is around the corner it is time to look forward to cooler days to enjoy taking our Tbirds out in the daytime in more reasonable temperatures - I prefer the cooler days and nights of Autumn much more than the broiling heat of summer.

I hope everyone that went to the New Mexico Convention had a great time and got home safe and sound. I hope to hear about it at our next meeting.

Happy motoring, Alec

August Meeting

A brief meeting was held at the picnic. Motions were made to dispense with the reading of the prior meetings minutes and treasurer's report. No other business was taken up.

Highlights of the Business meeting

No business conducted



For the early risers



Woman's trivia winner - Lois



Vice President's Message

It's been hot, hot, hot, but that is what the summer is all about. Cruise nights have been great, except for Tuesday nights at Wendy's in Wayne, it seems like it's always raining or it looks like a threat of rain so, Tri County Cruisers and Wendy's canceled the cruise night and then it turns out to be real nice. Oh well it is what it is. Make sure you get those little birds out, because before you know it, Fall will be here and cruise nights will be over. There are still quite a few car shows left, so enjoy. Carol and Charlie Ehms car show is coming up in October. It's a great show, let's get out there and give them our support.

Congratulations to Toni and Bob Sabino on their recent marriage. We wish you all the best and happiness there is. At our picnic we celebrated their marriage with a beautiful sheet cake and our DJ Pat played their wedding song as they cut the cake.

Bob Heissler is home from rehab after his very bad fall. He said he is feeling better every day. He wants to thank everyone for all your well wishes. Keep up the good work Bob, pretty soon we will be seeing you at our meetings and club functions.

We have a few members that are not doing to well. We need prayers and well wishes for Dorothy Dobres and Bob Belli. Also I hope that Dorothy Guidone, Alec Johnstone and Judy Semmler are feeling better. Lucille Chabala has had some medical problems, but we saw her at our picnic, she is feeling better and looks great.

We had our annual Club picnic on August 16th. It was a very hot day. Thank goodness we had three pavilions and three fans donated by Pat and Joanne. I want to thank Bill Downing for a great job in running the picnic, also Martha for all her help. We had a super great day, so much fun. We had 84 people including kids., there was so much food. All you ladies who made a dish, I want to thank you for all your work. Everything was delicious. Also thanks for the help in setting up and cleaning up. We had a cookie and brownie /blondie contest, , our daughter-in-law, Kelley Kubat won with her chocolate chip cookies and the brownies/blonde contest which Donna Jesse won. We had a trivia contest for men about cars (what else), Nichole Gaeta won and contest for the ladies was won by Lois Martin. We also had an egg toss, I partnered

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Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Bill & Martha Downing 9th
John & Sandra Pyrros 16th



Mike Meehan 11th
Ron Case 17th
Walter Strohmaier 29th

Get Well Soon!

Bob Heissler
Judy Semmler
Dorothy Dubres
Bob Belli
Dorothy Guidone

FOR SALE



oops



Winners of the egg toss

2015 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President

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

Vice President

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

Treasurer

Carol Ehm 973-696-1713
cehm1219@optonline.net

CTCI Representative

Lois Martin 973-728-8652
Loislane21@optonline.net

Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Sandy Pyrros 201-487-2943
sandypy@optonline.net

Editors: Thunder Heard

Paul Schroll 201-652-7027
51 Glen Ave. Midland Park, NJ 07432
ptschroll@aol.com

Alec Johnstone 201-934-4058
1267 Paddington Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430
bronzebyrd@optonline.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	Bruce Corbett
Asst. Master at Arms	Alex Johnstone
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Joanne Seiler

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

Autumnal Equinox

Sept 23rd is the start of Fall. Unfortunately, this means the start of the end of the cruising season.

Picnic - Super

Once again our annual club picnic was held at Schooley's Mountain Park in Long Valley. Although the weather cooperated it was HOT. A big thank you goes to Joanne and Pat, who brought a number of box fans to help keep us cool, and there were a lot of us. Counting members and guests this year's attendance was 83, and counting the retro's 19 T-birds.

As is tradition the morning started off with coffee, bagels, doughnuts and crumb cake. There was plenty of help to set up, so we all had time to socialize and enjoy the morning. Once again Pat brought his PA system and supplied us with a wonderful selection of music, including several Elvis Presley songs in memory of the 38th anniversary of the "King's" passing.

The morning seemed to disappear and it was time for lunch. Members brought a terrific selection of appetizers and salads, and the club supplied hamburgers, hotdogs, kielbasa, chicken and pulled pork. Once again, Arlene did a great job and there was plenty of food for all. Special thanks go to Charlie Ehm, Drew Van Hook and all of their helpers for grilling and serving. Also thanks to John and Sandy Pyrros for supplying coolers and soda.

After lunch the afternoon activities began with the third-annual egg toss, this year won by Pat's grandson Jace Howhannesian and his friend Mc Conn. The activities continued with a "slogan" contest for the ladies where they had to name the product and manufacturer based on slogans and spokespersons from the 50's and 60's. Lois Martin was the big winner with 24 of the 42 correct. For the men there was a "So you think you know cars" contest where they had to name the make model and year for a number of cars. With 16 of 42 right Susan Gaeta's daughter Nicole was the winner. Paul Adamoff was gracious enough to supply gifts for the winners.

The food contest this year was Brownies versus Blondies. Donna Jessie's Amaretto Brownies were the judge's favorite besting my Black and White Blondies. There was also a cookie contest won by Arlene's daughter Kelly and her chocolate chip delights.

As a special treat Pat projected a slide show of Toni and Bob's wedding from the day before, and Arlene supplied cake for all to

Events

September Meeting

The hosts for the September meeting are Wendy and Mike Meehan and it will be on Sept. 26 (Saturday). Time is 6 PM at their house, 49 Mackenzie Rd, Convent Station, NJ. Be sure to RSVP (see page 1) including regrets.

October Meeting

The October meeting will be on October 25th. See next month's newsletter for info.

October Fall Car Cruise

This is tentatively scheduled for October 18th. I'm sure Phil has a nice place picked out. Always a great time. Make sure your Tbird is ready. Details to follow.

New Member



Welcome to Dan Shalit. Dan has a 55, Thunderbird Blue and hails from Morristown.



Dan's 55

Picnic (cont'd)

share. We were all having such a great time that we ran out of time to play trivia this year. I noticed that the girls had posted a score of 52 to 0 with them as the trivia winners. However, they will have to wait until next year to try and make good on that claim.

Like all of our club events, everyone pitched in to help so that we could all enjoy the day. Another club event with great friends and great food.

Bill Downing

Car Shows-Swap Meets

- 9/3-6 Parsippany-Lead East
9/3-6 Mahwah- Sheraton (Dead Man's Curve)
9/11 Ridgewood-Ridgewood Ave (evening)
9/13 Clifton-Schumacher Chev 999 Rt 46East
9/13 Clifton-Van Houghton St Fair 639 Van Houton
9/13 Ridgefield Park 100 Challenger Rd.
9/13 Great Meadows-Island Dragway-Old Times Drags and car show 20 Island Rd
9/13 Ewing-College of NJ 2000 Pennington Rd.
9/19 Dover-Home Depot 530 Mnt Pleasant Ave
9/20 Elmwood Park Elwood Park High School 375 River Rd
9/20 Clifton Allwood Atrium 2-4-6 Brighton Rd
9/20 West Caldwell Konner Chev. 950 Bloomfield Ave
9/27 Haverstraw NY Bowline Point Park, Samsondale Ave (see page 10)
9/27 Oakland - Copper Tree Plaza 350 Ramapo Valley Road
9/27 Lyndhurst - Whisky Cafe 1050 Wall St.
9/27 Wayne -Willow Brook Mall, Rte 46
9/27 Closter-Closter Commons 570 Piermont Rd. 11AM to 3 PM
10/3 Lincoln Park First Reformed Church 60 Chapel Hill Rd (see Page 9)
10/3 Closter St Mary's Church 20 LegionPlace
10/3 Holmdel Hop Brook Farm

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

Vice President's Message (Cont'd)

with Bob Notar and lost. I do not know who won, but it was fun. We had movies of different events our club has had in the past. The kids had plenty of activities to keep them busy. Thanks again Bill, like I said a great, great day. Next week, August 27th is the Regional Convention in New Mexico. The Jessie's and Walter Strohmaier are driving out there with Marianne and Pat, Joanne, Rich, Lois, Valerie and Leslie are all flying. I hope all have a safe trip. Also have a great time out there.

Labor Day weekend is the biggest 50's party known as Lead East, held in Parsippany and Dead Mans Curve in Mahwah. Whoever is going where have a great time. Have a fun, safe Labor Day, see you soon.
Arlene

Cruise Nights

- Monday
Fair Lawn-14-26 Plaza Rd. Railroad Tavern
Tuesday
Clifton, Rutt's Hutt
Wayne, 1560 Rte 23 N Wendy's
Saddle Brook-405 N.Midland Ave-Bennigans)
Wednesday
Wycoff- Greenwood Ave
Paterson-Pep Boys Speed 261 McLean Blvd
Clifton - 1116 RTE 46W-The Hearth
Dover - Applebees, Rte 46
Thursday
Wayne - 1800 Rte 23 N Kohl's
Hackettstown Mountain Rd Wendy's
Friday
Boonton-Wooten St, Wal-Mart Shopping Ctr.\ Midland Park, Godwin Ave, Wendy's
Saturday
Lyndhurst -1050 Wall St (Formerly Whiskey Cafe)

Road Rally

Interested in trying your Tbird in a Road Rally? There is one scheduled for 10/11 put on by two local sports car clubs. It's a tour of the Highlands. Info:
www.highlandsroadralley.eventbrite.com



Egg Toss Initial Entrants



All the kids had fun

Thanks to Joanne & Linda for the pictures

My TBird - Fifties Forever

In 1957, the popular TV kids show Junior Frolics offered a Thunderbird Junior as first prize in a name the puppet contest. That the prize was a great looking battery powered car created quite a stir with all of the preteen neighborhood kids. Although I didn't win the contest, the show created a lasting impression of the TBird. It could also be mentioned here that in those days the fall introduction of each new model year of Detroit cars created a high level of excitement. A whole generation couldn't wait to get a glimpse of the new model year offerings, particularly Ford and Chevy. It was a much anticipated event culminating in the wildly successful introduction of the Ford Mustang.

As the days and years slowly passed by, I was finally old enough to get my NJ drivers license. I bought a 1951 Ford Victoria two door hardtop flathead automatic for fifty bucks and I immediately converted it to stick. While I enjoyed my first car, I couldn't wait to move on to something newer.

In 1971, after owning a number of Fords and Chevys, I was told about a one owner black 1957 TBird 312 automatic for sale for three hundred dollars. I went to look at the car and bought it on the spot. The rocker and lower quarter panels had rusted through but otherwise the car was in good running condition. I got a fiberglass body putty repair kit from a local auto parts store and sanded and primed the entire car. It looked pretty good, but even before I got a chance to give it a final paint job, someone offered me nine hundred dollars for it, so I sold it realizing a sizable profit that enabled me to get another car. I really enjoyed the two seat convertible but couldn't wait to get something newer.

As the years began to pass by more quickly, spending time and money tinkering with old cars took a back seat to home and family responsibilities. As two daughters grew into womanhood and left home and I approached retirement, my thoughts turned to getting into the old car hobby- The first six vehicles that I owned were American cars of the fifties that included a TBird and a Corvette. I started thinking about getting one or the other to drive around, but which one? Both are fine classic mid-century American cars, but since

the TBird production numbers exceeded those of the other two seater by about four to one, the price of the TBird, along with the styling and overall drivability, favored the TBird.

In 2010, I found a colonial white 57 TBird at a classic car dealership in Wake Forest, North Carolina, that appeared to be in good condition, but not so perfect that it couldn't be a good driver. It had upgrades of an Edelbrock carb, front disc brakes with dual master and chrome wire wheels. Original options included automatic trans, power steering, power windows and memory seat. Since the car needed a battery and complete servicing before being driven 500 plus miles, it was transported by enclosed trailer to NJ. Upon closer inspection, the exterior paint showed signs of past repairs of an older restoration. So I brought the car to a friend's auto body shop to be painted. Surprise! After the paint was removed, a very bumpy blemished bondo barge emerged. So I bit the bullet, ordered some new sheet metal, had repairs made and the car painted with modern urethane and clear coat in the original colonial white. I have enjoyed a number of cruises with NJORTC and look forward to many more in the future. Steve Handy





Donna-winner of the brownie contest



Men's Trivia-name that car



TRIVIA
**What question can never be answered with yes?
Henry Semmler got the correct answer for last
month's - the Knox**





Happy New Year

Brownie Contest

VJ Day

Sept 2nd marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII

Variation Law

If you change lanes, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

"For the



Birds"



FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF LINCOLN PARK
5TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR/TRUCK/MOTORCYCLE SHOW
 (CARS AND TRUCKS MUST BE 20 YEARS OR OLDER)



**SPACE IS VERY LIMITED
 PRE-REGISTRATION IS
 ENCOURAGED**



WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
(RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2015)



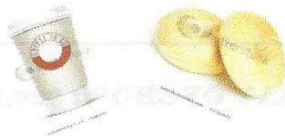
WHERE: 60 CHAPEL HILL ROAD
LINCOLN PARK, NJ 07035



RAFFLES

COST: \$15 PRE-REGISTRATION (BY 9/26)
\$20 DAY OF SHOW

TROPHIES



Coffee, Tea, Breakfast Items



FOOD AVAILABLE



Lunch Items

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SPECIAL PROGRAMS OF THE FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF LINCOLN PARK

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN FORM OR REGISTER ON-LINE AT www.frc-lpnj.org



Save the Date



neighborhoodcruisers.org

**CRUISIN' FOR KIDS
BENEFIT 2015**



**Car, Truck & Motorcycle
Show With
Vendors & Swap Meet for
Automotive Related Items**



**Sunday September 27th
2015**

(Rain Date October 4th, 2015)

**8am-4pm Bowline Point Park
Haverstraw, NY**

on the Beautiful Hudson River

PRESENTED BY

NEIGHBORHOOD CRUISERS

A 501 (c) 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

IRS DI-0677575

NYS Charities Reg. No 21-40-1B

From Route 9w

East on Westside Ave. -
Third Left onto Samsondale
Av., First Right into Bowline

From Palisades Pkwy

Exit 13 East on Route 202.
Cross Route 9W onto
Westside. Third Left onto
Samsondale. First Right into
Bowline Park

Pre-Register NOW

- Outstanding grounds
- Food Concessions
- Plenty of parking
- Car Show open to ALL Vehicles
- Convenient to all major Highways, P.I.P., 87/287, Garden St. P'kway, NY Thruway

Club member cars are not judged

Please Remember...

- Must follow Park Rules
- No transportation vehicles or trailers permitted in Car Show area. Unloading in paved area only.
- No unauthorized food or drink for sale in car show or flea market area.
- No stakes may be driven into pavement
- No scooters or bicycles permitted on show field
- Must use designated cooking areas
- No alcoholic beverages allowed
- Clubs must call ahead to park together

Compliance with these rules is appreciated. This show is run by car club volunteers for everyone's enjoyment. Please give them your cooperation.

Car Show Registration

8am till 12 noon
Vehicles must be registered and parked by noon to be judged.

Car Show Fee (per spot)

Pre-registration
(Post marked by 08/15/15)...\$20.00
Day of Show ... \$25.00
(Space permitting)
Fee for Spots Reserved
My Voluntary Contribution+
Total Amount Enclosed.....=

♥

I agree to release Neighborhood Cruisers from any liability for damages, injury, losses or judgments and/or claims suffered By participants.

**I WANT YOU
to help us in
helping others.
Proceeds being
donated to
Local Families**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____
Must have phone or cell to advise if rain date needed

E-Mail _____

Make, Model, Year of Vehicle _____

Signature _____

**Please send 1 check (total) payable to:
Neighborhood Cruisers c/o Cruisin' For Kids
P.O. Box 325
Tomkins Cove, NY 10986**

For additional vehicles please photocopy

