



# New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club

Chapter 41 - Classic Thunderbird Club International

## The Thunder Heard

### April 2009

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## CRUISING AND SHOWS START

### 2009 Meeting Schedule

April 25	Mike & Wendy Meehan
May 16	Tune Up Clinic
May 16	Bruce & Aileen Corbett
June	Rich & Lois Martin
June 27	Chatterbox Cruise
July	Ken & Linda Herb
July 11	Race Track Show
August 2	MINI CONCOURS
September	Vince & Mary Ann Ucci
October 19	Fall Cruise
October	Henry & Judy Semmler
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY

The April Meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by:

**Mike & Wendy Meehan**  
48 Mackenzie Rd  
Convent Station, NJ 07961  
6:30 PM  
RSVP 973-267-2958 or  
[wendymeehan@verizon.net](mailto:wendymeehan@verizon.net)

**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 here!! – Spring is finally here – car shows and fun driving times are just around the corner.

I took a trip with the Bergen County mob a couple of weeks ago to a secret location in PA. Inside of two buildings were about 40 Little Birds in various states. Several “E”s and “F”s there too. I am sure elsewhere in the newsletter there is more about it.

I got my 57 ready for the season. Changed the oil, greased it and checked the fluids. I also put in a new rug, fixed a broken wing window and hinge. Polished it (3 coats) with Zano. I'm ready !!! Next I will get the Merc ready.

The Chatterbox opens May 2<sup>nd</sup>, but I will be crusin' before that. If you know of any good shows or cruises, let Paul know so he can put it in the newsletter.

Out last meeting at the Perruso's was very well attended and a great array of delicious food was served by our hosts Bob and Arlene. We covered a lot of old business and some up coming events. Financially we are in good shape. Let's keep up the good attendance at our meetings.

Again, let me encourage everyone to get the cars out and enjoy them. Let's come up with some ideas to do things as a group for the season.

Happy T Birding  
Pat LeStrange





### A few words from Alec

As I write this in the 1st week of Spring, old man winter has not yet released his icy & cold grip on our region of the greatest country in the world.

On a more positive note a group of our members and a few other car people had a small cruise night (Wycoff) during a break in the cold last week.

I am looking forward to the coming season with lots of nice weather to enjoy the many upcoming events.

I hope everyone is healthy and weathering the current economic conditions.

Happy Motoring  
Alec

### My TBird – Joe Kubat



Classic lines, sleek styling with great details is why I developed a passion for the Thunderbird.

I used to stand on the street corners in Little Ferry and watch all the cars go by. I always liked the Thunderbird, but when I was seventeen years old I knew I could not afford one.

In 1957, my dad, who knew I wanted a TBird, bought me one, a red 1957 matchbox car. He thought he was being funny. I still have that car in my collection. I always had an interest in cars and always had to have a nice one.

In 1991 I finally got my wish from a friend of mine who knew I liked TBirds. He owned a lot of antiques of all kinds so he gave me a 1955. That was my first of three TBirds. This car was in terrible shape. (Continued on Page 5)



### . Vice President's Message

Well, they say Spring has sprung – still waiting!!!

Pretty soon it will be time to get those little Birds out of storage (some of us already have – ed.) and have some fun. Sooooo, if you guys have any work to do on your cars (see notice about Tune-Up Clinic below-ed), make sure you get it done now then you will be able to enjoy the next few months going to cruise nights, car shows and other fun related car events.

Ladies, if you have a recipe to share with us, please send it to Paul (only thing-if he gets any of the ingredients wrong he will not be held responsible).

Arlene



# Membership News

## ANNIVERSARIES



Judy Semmler April 12  
Lucille Chabala April 27



Walter Strohmaier

**FOR SALE**

## Grill Plaques

New grille plaques are now available. These are lighter, made out of aluminum. Same size, without brass anodizing. Cost is \$30.00, but for first time plaque buyers the club is subsidizing 1/2 or ~\$15.00. Contact Paul Schroll if interested. Will deliver at a club meeting or make other arrangements.



Happy Passover

## NJORTC 2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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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



Happy Easter



## CLUB EVENTS

### February Meeting

Our hosts were Bob & Arlene Perruso. Great food and nice company – a few pics.



### TBird Day at the Chatterbox

We are planning for a TBird Day at the Chatterbox Restaurant cruise on June 27<sup>th</sup>. A special area will be set aside for us. The Chatterbox is a 50's type facility which hosts a cruise every Saturday. Please contact Pat if you are going as we need a count for the space they will set aside. Meeting time and place to cruise there will be announced later. See Page 6 for location.

Any items you want us to publish in the newsletter must be received before the 1st of the month. They can be e-mailed directly to me. Pictures, articles, tech, etc. Paul Schroll pts1231@aol.com



### Tune Up Clinic-May 15th

Bruce and Aileen Corbett are hosting a Tune Up Clinic at their home from 9 am to 3 PM on 5/16. Address is 65 Ponderosa Place, Hewitt, NJ 07421. It's a good time to get that TBird ready for the new season. Please call Bruce or Aileen if you are going to attend. Let them know if you have a project so they can be prepared. The May meeting will follow the clinic

### TBirds at the Meadowlands

We have been invited to the WMTR Meadowlands Race Track Show by John Pestrichelli, of the Garden State Mustang Club (Ponies and Birds??) This will be on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and held in the Paddock area. We must get a count as space may be limited. If you are interested in taking your TBird to this show, please contact Pat as soon as possible.

### Future TBirders? Alec's twin granddaughters Ashley and Lauren



In his retro Bird – Age 18 months



5 years old - 2008

## My TBird – continued



It was totally stripped, the doors were off, it needed a paint job, chrome and everything was missing. That is why I got it for nothing. It took me two years to finally turn it into a driver.

In 1995 I sold it and bought a restored 1957. It was a good driver, in #3 shape, but the car was not flashy enough for me. I wanted a flashy colored car.

Finally I saw the car I wanted – it was a 1955, goldenrod yellow. The car was owned by a former TBird member. I loved the car as soon as I saw it. It had been restored, but in addition it was modified. Under the hood was a 5.0 HO from a 1989 Mustang and had a Paxton supercharger. New headers with Thrush exhaust tips were fitted to create the right amount of rumble. All the work was done three years before. My friend knew I loved the car and would take care of it and asked if I wanted to buy it, and of course I did. Since I bought the car, the trans was changed from a three speed to a five speed, changed the wheels, put on wide whitewalls, chrome engine pieces and added the continental kit.

The car is loud, it's fast and its fun.

In 1999 at our regional show Dennis Gage, from MY Classic Car, spotted my car. He likes modified cars and I took him for a ride. It actually straightened his mustache (really Joe!!!). I was truly excited.

I love to drive my car with the top down. I go to cruise nights and car shows and I enjoy every minute of it. I love my Goldenrod Yellow TBird.

**April is National Car Care Month – take care of your everyday driver as well as your TBird**

## TECH TIPS

### Wire Wheel Liners

At Home Depot (or probably any plumbing/HVAC supply house) they sell a black vinyl tape used in the heating and air conditioning business that is made by Nashua Tape, Franklin, KY

([www.tycoadhesives.com](http://www.tycoadhesives.com) or [www.covalenceadheives.com](http://www.covalenceadheives.com)). It comes in 6 inch wide rolls, is black, fairly thick for vinyl sheets and has an adhesive backing that just strips off as you apply it (found in the heating/air conditioning/plumbing supplies section at Home Depot).

Cut a strip of the tape wide enough to cover the interior of the wheel where the wire spokes come through and tape it in that channel. Usually a three inch wide strip will do.

I did this three years ago. When I switched from bias to radial tires about 5 months ago, the tape was in perfect shape on all wheels.

From Jerry Landry – Yahoo Groups – Classicbirds

Another option is the use of a 12 inch Fatso Inner Tube (??), cutting a 3.5 inch “rubber band” concentrically from the middle of the tube and stretch it over the inner rim covering the spoked area. This works on both 56 and 57 (15 inch and 14 inch wheels).

From J. C. Cole - Yahoo Groups-Classicbirds.

### Another Race TBird

Out of a barn comes another race TBird. This 56 ran out of Long Island, NY and raced at Suffolk Cty Raceway, NY National, Englishtown and Island in the 60's and early 70's. Ran in the 10.20s at around 130 mph. It had a small block, 4 speed and Pontiac rear, Hilborn injection. The car was sponsored by Century Speed & Sport.

Custom touches included Merc station wagon taillights, radiused wheel openings and was a metallic maroon. Now being restored to its race day condition.

See Pictures Page 6 and 8



Arbor Day 4/27



## CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

- April 17-19 Englishtown
- April 19 Franklin Lakes-Franklin & Pulis Avenue(flyer)
- April 26 Butler, NJ Rte 23 Automall All Ford Show(Flyer)
- May 1-3 Rhinebeck, NY (AACAA? meet)
- May 2 Rock & Roll Party, Ronnies Dance Studio, Hopatcong, NJ (Flyer)
- May 2 Haskell-Ringwood Ave -Haskell Elementary School
- May 2 Blirstown Sycamore Park, Lambert Road (flyer)
- May 3 Floram Park-(AACAA meet) 50 Hanover Rd – Automatic Switch Co.
- May 17 Pearl River-401 N. Middletown Rd (Wyeth Pharm)
- May 17 Upper Saddle River (Pearson Education)
- May 24 Franklin Lakes
- May 24 Hackettstown 800 High St (Mars Co.)
- May 29-31 E. Durham,NY Contact Joe Kubat(info)
- June 5-7 Carlisle, PA - All Ford Meet
- June 13 Pompton Plains – No. Jersey TBird Show(flyer)
- June 14 Canterbury, NH-put on by the New England Vintage TBird Club (I have contact info)
- July 3-6 CTCI Regional – Tulsa, OK  
TBird Race Car – see Pg 5



## CRUISE NIGHTS

- Monday  
Hawthorne-Goffle Grill, Goffle Road – Start 4/6
- Tuesday  
Elmwood Park-River View East, 455 River Dr. 4/14  
Succasunna- McDonald’s, Rte 10 4/28  
Wayne-Wendy’s-Rte 23 NO. May 5
- Wednesday  
Bear Mountain, NY Start May 6  
Wycoff – Greenwood Ave Start 4/1 ??  
West Caldwell-Taco Bell 900 Bloomfield Ave 4/15  
Denville-Wendy’s-Rte 46 4/29
- Thursday  
Hackettstown-Lowes-Mountain Ave 4/30
- Friday  
Midland Park-Center St. Train Station 4/24  
Boonton-Walmart-Wooten Street 4/31
- Saturday  
Chatterbox-Rtes 15&206, Augusta Start 5/2



Charles' #2 car comes home



## Atlantic City

Six of us (John P, Pat, Alec, Paul S, Dennis, Bill J) plus two guests went down to the Atlantic City Auction. Bill Selby was there with the TBird that is to be raffled off.

They rearranged the swap meet? section (which seemed ok) because the swap meet has been very poor in the last number of years.

Some very interesting cars. We really didn't pay much attention to the auction itself, but there were plenty of cars to look at. A number of little Birds, some E Models.

Prices seemed down and since we didn't follow the cars going over the block we don't know how many sold.



Chow and rest time



Take a chance



## Atlantic City



An "E" Bird in your future ?

## March Meeting

This meeting was held at the Eagle Rock Diner

Some highlights of the meeting:

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The Secretaries minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The new grille plaques are completed and ready for members.

Phil Guidone reported the at everything was set for the Mini Concours at Doe Meadow, Lewis Morris Park, on 8/2/09

Pat LeStrange is scheduling a Saturday Cruise at the Chatterbox, Augusta NJ for June 27<sup>th</sup>

Arlene Kubat reported that the Holiday Party has been booked for the San Carlo for December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pat reported the the Garden State Mustang Club has invited us to bring our cars and join them at the Meadowlands on July 11.

Ron Case gave out copies of the NJ State Police Bulletin regarding the use of the front license plate on QQ cars

Vince DeAndrea mentioned the 50's concert on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder that next meeting is at Wendy & Mike Meehan's

**“Secret” TBird Parts Location**

Charlie needed some parts so a bunch of us went with him so he wouldn't get mugged. Tons of parts, owners personal cars (57's only) include about 15 E & F birds. Parts are in PA. Some of the “stash” below. Parts email: birdland567@wmconnect.com



**Parts everywhere**



**Frame anyone?**



**These are For Sale**



**Learning more about TBirds**



**One of the owner's 'F' Birds**

**Race Bird - see Page 6**



**Eagles may soar but chickens don't get sucked into jet engines**

**Directions to Mike & Wendy Meehan's**

**48 MacKenzie Road**

**Convent Station, NJ**

**From Rte 24:**

**Take exit #2A for Rte 511 West (Columbia Tpke) to Morristown. Go 1 ¼ miles (through 4 lights). Mackenzie Road is on the left at the bottom of the Hill (opposite Bayer sign). #48 is the 4<sup>th</sup> house on the right (yellow cape).**

**From Rte 287 North:**

**Take exit #36A for Morris Avenue East to Morristown Airport and Florham Park. Go ½ mile and bear right at the “Y” toward Morristown Airport and Florham Park (road becomes Columbia Tpke). MacKenzie Road is the 3<sup>rd</sup> street on the right, just seconds after the concrete divider ends (opposite the Bayer sign).**

**From Rte 287 South:**

**Take exit 36 for Morris Avenue. Turn left at the 1<sup>st</sup> light onto Ridgedale Ave. Turn left again at the “T” onto Morris Ave. You will cross back over Rte 287 at the top of the hill. Go ½ mile and bear right at the “Y” toward Morristown Airport and Florham Park (road become Columbia TPKE). Mackenzie Road is the 3<sup>rd</sup> street on the right, just after the concrete divider ends (opposite the Bayer sign). # 48 is the 4<sup>th</sup> house on the right (yellow cape.)**