

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



# *The Thunder Heard*

**March 2017**

**2017 Meeting Schedule**

March 5	Walter Strohmaier
March 19	Harold's
April 2	Bob Heissler
April 22	50/60's Dance
April 30	Spring Cruise
May 21	Mike Perillo
May 21	Tune Up Clinic
June	Phil Guidone
July	Bob & Joan Notar
August 2-6	Convention
September	Lucille Chabala
October	Paul & Harriet LoPiccolo
Nov	Bill & Dot Hyde

**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



Well, winter is almost over. Since the last newsletter we held our Annual board meeting. We did an audit of the books and officially turned them over to Steve Handy. We also set up our activities for the coming year. Minutes of the meeting can be read in the members section of the website. Joanne and I as well as Rich and Lois Martin attended the CTCI Board meeting in California. As Region 1 Director, Joanne will a report this in the newsletter and also at the general meeting.

Harold's Deli trip is on March 19, let Sandy Pyrros know if you are going.. The dance is on April 22 ,we have sold several tables already. Please do your part and try to sell some tickets, just one extra pair per club member will fill the place up, Printable flyers are available on the website. We are having the spring cruise on April 30. Let Carol Ehm know if you are going.

Don't forget to let Rich Martin know if you are planning any major repairs on your Birds for the Tune-up clinic May 21, which also will be T Bird Appreciation Day nationwide. So if you are not at the clinic at least try to get your T Bird out for a ride. All flyers are available on the events page on the website. As always if any activity requires a check, make it out to NJORTC.

Convention meetings are completing a lot of the job lists. We have sold out our room block at the Marriott and are filling up the overflow hotels. Find out the "numbers" at the meeting as they are changing daily. The registrations are out and are coming in every day. It's going to be bigger then we had imagined. We will be ready and can handle it

Enjoy the Spring  
 Pat LeStrange



## January/February Meeting

It was a very nice, but cool day. Not many cars, but a very good attendance at the meeting hosted by Joe and Lorrie Matrone. Since Lorrie was unable to attend, Joanne took over some of the duties in setting up the meeting. The food was good and so was the company. Thanks to Joe and Joanne .

### Highlights of the meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer's report was done by Pat who is covering for Steve Handy who is down in sunny Florida.

Pat reminded the group that dues were past due.

Joanne mentioned that the web site has been updated for the convention, including the registration form, and for the Christmas party pictures.

Pat reported on the Executive Board meeting held in January. The voting issue was discussed and it was decided to leave it as is for the time being, the audit of the books was done and everything was in order and the events for the year were discussed.

Arlene recapped the Christmas party.

Joanne reported on the activities that are scheduled (from the Board meeting) and asked for any suggestion for additional activities.

Wendy reported on the convention.

Phil discussed the program booklet and provided information on the sponsorship and donation letter.

Walter advised his meeting will be March 5th.

## Sweetheart Brunch

Despite a snowy and icy morning, there was very good attendance at the brunch. Like last year, we also had some members of the local Mercedes Club joining us. As usual, the food was good and plentiful. Cupid (aka Pat) gave a rose and candy to each lady and the gents got lottery tickets (the editor won a whole \$1.00 on his). Many thanks to Lucille who coordinated the outing.

## March Milestones

3-17-1966 The last Studebaker was built in Hamilton, Ontario

3-31-32 The Ford V8 was publicly unveiled for sale



## Vice President's Message

Winter is still with us. We really cannot complain that much. The weather has been up and down. Unfortunately, there has been colds, flu and virus going around. If you have been sick, hope you are feeling better. Spring will be here soon enough, I hope.

I know John Bolger had to have radiation treatments. Hope he is better. Joe and Jan Seville are down in Florida. Joe is doing ok and Jan is doing better-she is doing rehab. Dot Hyde has had some problems with her mouth. She bite her tongue and had to have stitches in it, then stitches fell out. Had to go back to oral surgeon have tongue re stitched and jaw bone had to be closed up (not right termination) so tongue could heal. She cannot have any solids for two weeks. She had pain, but feeling better. What a freaky thing. Feel better Dot.

We have quite a few members who have become "snow birds". Martins, Pyrros's', Sevilles, Steve Handy, Joan and Don Dobres. I know some of you have gotten together and looked like you were having fun. Hope you all enjoy yourselves.

February 12th was our Sweetheart Brunch at the Bethwood. We had a great turn out of members and guests even though the weather was bad. Nothing will hold us back from food and good company. Women received heart necklaces, box of candy, plus beautiful roses given out by Pat. Men received lottery tickets and the kids received little stuffed teddy bears. Thanks Lucille for organizing this event. March 19th we will be traveling to Harold's Deli to eat again. Email Sandra Pyrros if you plan to attend, because she has to make reservations.

On April 22nd we are having our annual 50/60's dance. As usual sales are going slowly, I know we always pull through with a good turn out of people, so please get your tickets from Pat or Joanne. Pat and Joanne work very hard to put this dance together, please try and sell as many tickets as you can.

Please check our website. Pat and Joanne work very hard to keep it up dated. Plus it's time to check out all what's going on with our (continued on page 7)

# Membership News

Happy Anniversary

Bill & Pat Selby 12th  
 John & Sandra Bolger 23rd  
 Bruce & Eileen Corbett 30th



Vince Ucci 1st  
 Joanne Seiler 5th  
 Susan Gaeta 9th

GET WELL SON!

John Bolger  
 Jan Saville  
 Joe Saville



March 17th is also National Corn Beef and Cabbage Day

## 2017 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President  
 Pat LeStrange

Vice President  
 Arlene Kubat

Treasurer  
 Steve Handy

CTCI Representative  
 Lois Martin

Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
 Sandy Pyrros

Editor: Thunder Heard  
 Paul Schroll

Trustees:  
 Paul Schroll  
 John Pyrros  
 Phil Guidone

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

**web site: [www.njortc.org](http://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

**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. email [ptschroll@verizon.net](mailto:ptschroll@verizon.net)**

### Special Days in March

9th Panic Day - Time to go APE  
 14 Nat'l Pi Day (3.14)  
 22 Goof Off Day

## The 2017 Convention

Registration forms are posted on the club website (on the 2017 Convention page) as well as hotel information. Get the forms in soon. We have received 50 final registrations plus a lot more pre-registrations. Special rate rooms are all booked, but others may be available at regular rates. There are overflow hotels at the special rate. Events and excursions are finalized. All information is on the web site. Planning meetings are continuing and members are invited to attend

### Sweetheart Brunch



## Club Announcements

### March Meeting

The March meeting is on the **5th** at **2 PM**. Location is the Florham Park Diner, 182 Ridgedale Ave, Florham Park. RSVP Walter the host, including regrets. See page 1

### Convention Committee Meetings

The next convention committee meeting is scheduled for **March 18** at **6 PM** at Joe and Arlene's home, 19 Alpine Drive, Lincoln Park. Members can attend and any suggestions are welcomed.

Notify the host if you are attending.

### April Meeting

The April meeting is April 2nd at Delizias. Bob Heissler is the host

### Coming Events

Harold's Deli **March 19th**. See flyer attached. Sandy Pyrros is handling this event. Contact her if you are attending. This is a pay-as-you-go event, no advance payment

50/60's Dance **April 22nd**. See flyer attached. Tell your friends and sell them tickets. Set up a table for them. Get your tickets from Pat or Joanne. Volunteers wanted on Saturday morning for set up.

Spring Cruise **April 30th** See flyer attached. It looks like a real interesting outing. Old cars, a zoo and then a nice dinner at the Lamp Post in Vernon. Carol is the chair for the cruise this spring.

Tune Up Clinic **May 21st** Information forthcoming. If you want to do any service or repair of your TBird notify Rich. The May business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Tune Up Clinic.

### Dues

2017 Dues are now **PAST DUE** Amount is \$50.00. Get yours in ASAP. Send to Pat who is subbing for Steve Handy while he is away. Make checks out to NJORTC

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

## Car Shows-Swap Meets

3/26 Woodstown, NJ-AACA Swap & Car Corral-  
Salem Cty Fairgrounds 735 Harding  
HWY (Rte 40)  
4/1 Medford NJ Flying W Airport, 60  
Fostertown RD

<http://holtononline.com/carshows.html>  
<http://www.newjerseycarshows.com/>  
[www.njortc.org](http://www.njortc.org)

## More Sweetheart Brunch



## Cruise Nights

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Clifton - Rutts Hut

Thursday

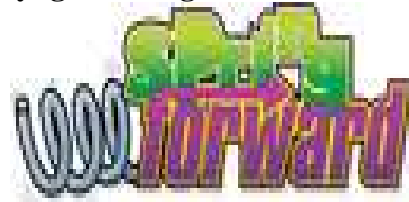
Friday

Saturday

Hawthorne-this is a inside get together for any car person. Car optional. Free coffee and munchies. 8 AM to 1 PM-MGM Auto Body Supplies, 344 Wagaraw Rd



Daylight Savings Starts March 12



Set your clocks one hour ahead



July - August 1982

**NEW JERSEY OPEN ROAD  
THUNDERBIRD CLUB**

On May 8th the New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club (55-56-57) ran it's first (and hopefully, annual) all Ford show. The show was open to all Ford, Lincoln, Mercury products up to early 1970 models.

The show was held at The Fette Ford Dealership, Jct. of Rt. 3 and 46, Clifton, N.J.

A fair turnout of cars arrived during the day. Some very nice jewels from Model A on up. Unfortunately the skies were over-cast and the weathermans calling for chance showers seemed to scare some people from bringing cars. Spectators were high and there was some good fun day car talk going on. We had a '57 Retractable that was nice, a fine looking factory sunroof '60 T-Bird among other fine assortment of 55-56-57 Birds. A nice looking '57 Ranchero came from way out in Long Island to participate. There was a beautiful '51 Crestliner playing oldies on his record player, under the dash of course. One of the nicest cars and a dream of mine was a member of our club, '56 Crown Victoria with a glass top. Hank Semler, black with black and white beauty got my vote, too!

Participants and spectators cast their votes during the day and twenty trophies plus participation plaques were handed out at the end of the show.

Most people were probably home before any of the possible scattered showers ever arrived. Those listed below were happy they took their cars out on a chance of rain day:

PLACE	
1. D. Bartle	55 Bird
2. D. Williams	31 A pickup
3. A. Rose	30 2-dr. coupe
4. G. Szura	57 Bird
5. H. Semler	56 Crown Vic
6. G. Gabryelski	51 Crestliner
7. T. Rose	31 2-dr. sedan
8. P. Wilson	60 T-Bird
9. M. Spillane	65 T-Bird
10. R. Perkins	40 pickup
11. B. Shepard	39 Conv.
12. J. Sigretto	57 T-Bird
13. E. Becker	29 Firetruck
14. C. Hauser	57 Bird
15. N. Montanino	57 Bird
16. V. Manno	55 Bird
17. P. Hess	70 Shelby
18. G. Plonski	57 Ranchero
19. F. Lucas	31 A
20. R. Marion	54 F 100

We would like to run this show again next spring, in May, and make it bigger and better. If anyone is interested in being mailed info next year please contact me by mail. Gene Szura, P.O. Box 318, Kearny, N.J. 07032. Your request will be placed in our file for a future mailing list.

—E.J. Szura #7112

**NJORTC Sweetheart Brunch**

Nasty day sleet, snow and rain  
Some more of winter over again  
Weather back set only temporary  
Not a reason to be melancholy  
Up and out, going to breakfast/lunch  
Lucille arranged our club's sweetheart brunch  
Bethwood red and white for Day Valentine  
Beautifully presented fare on which to dine  
Another NJORTC event well attended  
Members enjoying themselves, splendid  
Soon it was over and time to go  
Back out into the cold and snow  
Warm inside happy and content  
A lovely few hours, time well spent  
**Rich Iuso, NJORTC Poet Laureate?**

**Joke Time**

Jim decided to tie the knot with his longtime girlfriend. One evening after the honeymoon he was cleaning his brake shoes.

His wife was standing there watching him. After a long time she finally speaks

"Honey, I've been thinking - now that we are married I think it's time you quit working on that old Ford. Maybe you should sell the car"

Jim get a horrified look on his face.

She says "What's wrong"

"There for a minute you were sounding like my ex-wife"

"Ex-wife" she screams, "I didn't know you were married before"

"I wasn't"



**March 20 is the Vernal Equinox - First day of Spring. Equal day and night**

# FOR SALE

## 1957 Thunderbird

312, 3 speed, triple white (original dusk rose paint code), 48K miles, hard top, nice driver  
\$ 28,500

## 1990 Corvette

6 Speed, 95K , red exterior, black interior.  
Very good.....\$5,500

## 1955 Thunderbird

Automatic, 54K original miles, new black show quality paint, black & white interior, both tops, excellent condition.....\$35,500  
Call Cousin Vinny..... 973-980-4312

## Technical

### Fire Extinguishers

It goes without saying tire extinguishers can minimize car-fire damage. They should be carried inside the car so you can get to it fast. Mount one between or under the front seats or on a panel under the dash next to the door. The key word here is "mount". You might not be able to find a loose extinguisher that has been rolling around.

Carrying one in the trunk is not the best idea. By the time you open the trunk and remove the extinguisher it could be too late. In a TBird, putting it between the seat and the step plate is a handy position. Check the extinguisher routinely for state of charge and operating condition.



## Vice President's Message (Cont'd)

Regional Thunderbird Convention which will be here before you know it, August 2nd - August 6th. Also thank you Bill Downing for your great articles in the Early Bird magazine.

We just had our monthly convention meeting. Thank you Wendy for all your hard work with registrations, etal. I would not even know where to begin. Wendy is doing a superb job. We are all starting to put our committees together. This convention is going to be great. If anyone has not put their name on the volunteer list, please let me know.

Believe it or not daylight savings time will be on March 12th. You have to turn the clocks ahead. Next meeting is March 5th at the Florham Park Diner at 2:00 hosted by Walter Strohmaier, please RSVP him, including regrets.

Next convention meeting on Saturday March 18th at 6:00. Hosted by Joe and myself

See you soon, Arlene



**Report on CTCI Board of Directors Meeting  
February 3-4, 2017**

The 2017 Board meeting was held at CTCI Headquarters in Signal Hill, CA.

The TARTC (The American Road Thunderbird Club) from Dearborn Michigan had delivered the Thunderbird invoices that they have maintained through the years, as promised. Last year we made a deal with them that CTCI would become custodians of these invoices and they delivered. The office had to make some preparations to house them and they did a wonderful job. CTCI is and will continue the sale of these invoices just as TARTC did.

Officers elected for the 2017 year are: President > Chuck Thompson, Vice President > John Smith, Secretary > Pocahontas Cole. Congratulations to all. Unfortunately we do not have a treasurer at this time. We do have someone interested and the Board is reviewing his background.. The Board has decided to do an audit in the first quarter of 2018.

Unfortunately we lost 144 memberships last year over all, we have 5,233 members. Times are changing into an electronic world; we need your help with ideas how to attract new members. As we get older and sell our TBirds where are they going? We need to let these new owners know about the local clubs and CTCI and pass on the history behind these cars. If you have any ideas please pass them along to me as your Director I will see your message gets to those who can help.

This past year Chapter 7 Early Birds of Southern California and Chapter 24 Classic Thunderbirds of San Diego hosted the CTCI International Convention *Fun Fun Fun in the California Sun* and it was a success, with 152 TBirds, and 563 people attending. As a result of such a great turn out they were able to return some of the seed money to those clubs who sent in money to help get them started. Congratulations to them. This year Chapter 41 New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club is stepping up once again to host this year CTCI Regional Convention. They are getting a huge response so far so if you plan to attend contact them asap. *Follow the Open Road to NJ 2017*, find info at [www.ctci.org](http://www.ctci.org) or [www.njortc.org](http://www.njortc.org) . They are planning a NYC Bus Tour ending up at the 911 Memorial & Museum, A Circle Line “Best of NYC” Boat Cruise, and much more!

In 2018 Chapter 116 The Smoky Mountain Classic Thunderbird Club will host the 2018 CTCI International Convention *Thunder 'n Lightnin in the Smokies* August 14-19, 2018 Knoxville TN. They are well on their way to putting together a bunch of wonderful things to do so please watch out for coming announcements. They will be at the NJ convention with more information.

There is no word on anyone stepping up to host a 2019 Convention. Won't you consider hosting? CTCI and NJ Open Road Thunderbird Club are both willing to assist you in putting together an event. Let's talk about it! NJ has experience; we hosted Regionals in 1991, 1998, 2007, and an International in 2002. Many of these members are still with us helping with their knowledge to put this year's 2017 convention together. CTCI purchased a temporary Event Management program to help with online registrations for conventions, NJ will be the first to use this then TN will use it. Jack Gray Managing Director at Headquarters office is looking to upgrade all systems in the office and hopes to have a more permanent event management program with it. This program is something each chapter can adapt their convention to so it will be easier to process registrations.

There were 12 Action Items needing attention that were assigned to teams from the 2016 Board, 8 of them were completed, 4 are still open being worked on. The 2017 Board has 19 Action Items assigned to teams to work on through the year. The Board is always looking for ways to keep up with the changing times and the electronic world and to make things easier and user friendly for our membership.

The online member roster went live earlier this year. Going online with the roster saved us over \$4000, it has been well received by the membership. Only 7 printed copies have been requested. The only complaint is members would like to set their own password, and that is being worked on.



Office Condo Complex News: Upgrades to the office such as new windows and fixtures with energy efficient bulbs were replaced at no cost to CTCI. The facility exterior repairs are ongoing, and our building will be completed in 2018-2019. The interior still needs paint and carpet, this is pending a budget and Treasurer. Liz Gray office Manager joined us as a full time employee officially in July. So when you call into CTCI say hi and welcome. Her grasp of the office flow and process, application of modern computer skills to the office work, her interaction with the members has been a benefit to CTCI.

Jack Gray Office managing Director has been with us now a little over 4 years, he continues to excel in his duties. He goes above and beyond and he is a part time employee. Even when not on the clock he is available to the Board anytime. Jack had some heavy duty tasks this year such as implementing the Thunderbird Invoices to CTCI Headquarters in Signal Hill, CA and what a great job he did. He is a great asset to CTCI.

The *Early Bird Magazine* was once again awarded the Golden Quill Award from Old Cars/Krause Publications. Now that our magazine is full publication it's been upgraded to the top class of awards called "National Luxury" This is the 13<sup>th</sup> award which is based on continued improvement. Congratulations to Editor Lin Somsack.

Thunderbird owners will be showing off their iconic Ford vehicles in a first ever "Thunderbird Appreciation Day" Sunday May 21st, 2017. The three large Thunderbird clubs; Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI), Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) and International Thunderbird Club (ITC) are encouraging their members to take their Thunderbirds out, individually or in groups, to places for the general-public to see, to learn more about and to just plain enjoy. See the events page on CTCI's website for a full story and flyer for this event.

In an effort to try and seek new members and to keep interest in the Little Birds CTCI and the Regional Directors are going to try and keep in closer contact with their chapters. So I'm asking you please send me monthly updates on your club events. I already receive newsletters from a few chapters; I'd like to receive them from all my chapters. Please email the newsletter to me at [jseiler@ctci.org](mailto:jseiler@ctci.org). I'd like to get to know my chapters a little better; I did visit a few of you last year. Please let me know if you are having a special event maybe I can make arrangements to join you. For example, last year I was invited to the Classic Thunderbird Club of Delaware Valleys 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, I brought them their certificate and presented it to them. It was so much fun and it was an honor. NJ will be hosting the 2017 Convention I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you, and if at any time you need me or have a question please don't hesitate to send me an email. If you know of anyone or group trying to put together a chapter let me know I will help them get started. Below are the names of this year's Board of Directors, their state and Region.

### 2017 CTCI Board

President: Chuck Thompson AZ  
Vice President: John Smith MO  
Treasurer: *none at this time*  
Secretary: Poca Cole TX

### Directors

Region 1 NJ Joanne Seiler  
Region 2 OH Jim Brown  
Region 3 WA Roger Kelly  
Region 4 TN Bob Witt  
Region 5 TX Sandra Hood  
Region 6 AZ Chuck Thompson  
At Large: NJ Rich Martin  
At Large: MO John Smith  
At Large: AZ Chris Ames

Thank you  
Region 1 Director

*Joanne Seiler*

Joanne Seiler



Who wants to eat???

We're going to ...



**HAROLD'S**  
**DELI RESTAURANT** *New York*

*The World's Best* BREAKFAST • CHEESECAKE • CORNED BEEF • PASTRAMI

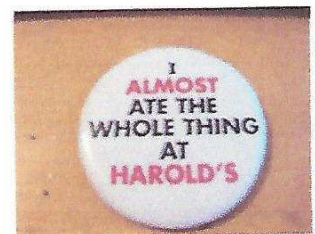
**POSTAL ADDRESS** 3050 WOODBRIDGE AVE, EDISON, NJ 08837  
**GPS ADDRESS** 1173 KING GEORGES POST RD., EDISON, NJ 08837

*The holidays are over, it's time to eat again, won't you join us for a winter get together, and we're going to our NJORTC Annual Harold's Lunch guaranteed to fill you up*

*Sunday March 19, 2017 arrive by 1:45 pm for 2pm seating  
Reservations required.*

*Please contact Sandy Pyrros [sandypy@optimum.net](mailto:sandypy@optimum.net)  
201-487-2943 and let her know who's coming.*

*No advanced payment we pay as we go.*



**OUR 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**New Jersey Open Road Thunderbird Club**

# 50/60 DINNER & SOCK HOP

American Legion Post 147  
1 Legion Place  
Elmwood Park, NJ 07407

April 22, 2017  
Saturday

**DOORS OPEN at 7:00PM**  
**7:30PM to 11:30PM**

Tickets \$45

Includes

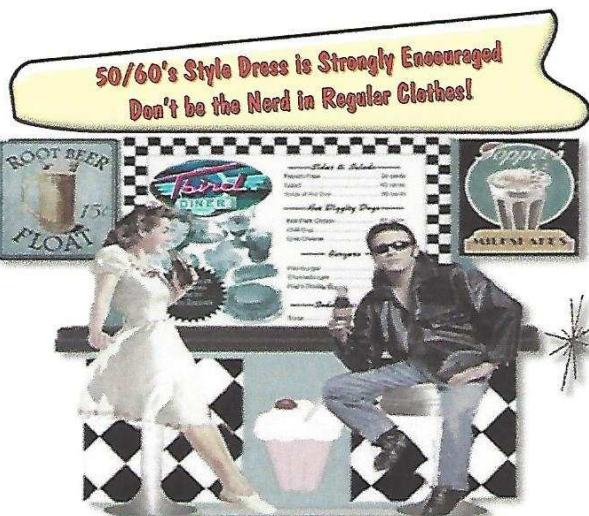
50's Style Dinner  
Beer, Wine & Soda  
Also Cash Bar for Liquor

For Tickets See Any Member of the  
NJ Open Road Thunderbird Club  
Or Call Pat 201-920-7226  
E-Mail: [njortcdance@njortc.org](mailto:njortcdance@njortc.org)

Food Catered  
by the  
Market Basket

**DJ JEANMARIE  
PLAYING  
THE OLDIES**

Entertainment with  
Sophistication



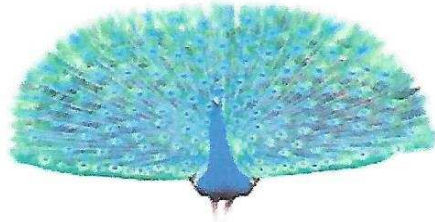
**Dance & Hula Hoop Contests  
And Much More**

**PLENTY OF SAFE PARKING  
FOR YOUR OLD RIDES**



Food, Drink &  
ENTERTAINMENT

**DON'T WAIT...TICKETS GO FAST!!!!**



# NJ OPEN ROAD THUNDERBIRD CLUB JOIN US FOR THE 2017 SPRING CRUISE



Sunday  
April 30, 2017



MEET AT DELIZIA'S 9am (BOONTON)

## CRUISE TO SPACE FARMS ZOO & MUSEUM IN SUSSEX, NJ

In addition to the many zoo animals, Space Farms also has an Auto Museum, which is home to over 50 antique cars and motorcycles. From the 1906 Buick Model G to the 1954 Kaiser Daren, the antique car display will amaze car buffs. Walk down the Antique car museum and imagine gangsters hopping out of the 1930's depression era automobiles. Imagine the whimsical wispy hats on the ladies and goggles on the gents in the open air touring cars. Or feel the cool air that mysteriously surrounds the Ford 1922 Model T Snowmobile.

## CRUISE TO THE LAMP POST

Buffet including antipasto, tossed salad, chicken francese, shaved sirloin, penne vodka, roasted red potatoes, vegetables, apple crisp w/ice cream, coffee/tea/soda. (cash bar available)



\$45/person

(Includes admission to Space Farms and Buffet & tip)

RSVP BY Saturday April 15th

Make checks payable to NJORTC and mail to:

Chairperson: Carol Ehm 24 Pleasant Avenue ; Lincoln Park, NJ 07035

Questions email Carol [cehm1219@optonline.net](mailto:cehm1219@optonline.net)