



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

# *The Thunder Heard*

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

## *Summer Winding Down*

**2009 Meeting Schedule**

September 19	Paul & Pauline Schroll
October 18	Fall Cruise
October 17	Henry & Judy Semmler
November	Joe & Arlene Kubat
December 5	HOLIDAY PARTY

The September meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM and will be hosted by Paul & Pauline Schroll  
 The meeting will be held at the Paddington Sq. Club house, Mahwah (Alec Johnstone's location)  
 RSVP 201-652-7027 or pts1231@aol.com  
 Please call for directions

**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**



To say the Mini-Concours was a bit different this year is an understatement. First I would like to thank Mike Meehan for organizing the picnic. Mother Nature, who was not officially invited, did show up and was not happy. Everyone who supplied food, cooking, tents and worked hard that day, not knowing what they were in for, should be commended. For those who missed this (hopefully) once in a lifetime weather conditions on our Mini-Concours, we have pictures and great stories. Not only was the storm and wind frightening, when we decided to leave we found out all exits from the park were either flooded or blocked by fallen trees. Oh, I forgot to thank the Parks Commission for the beautiful bathrooms that ended up as our dessert dining room. All in all, it was a day to remember and we all survived with out too much damage. George (Wendy's TBird), sat through the whole storm. Thank goodness it made it unharmed.

We had a great turnout for the Vancouver, as well as the Tulsa, convention. I am especially proud of Walter Strohmaier. Walter left NJ just a few days before the Tulsa convention in his 57. He drove to Tulsa, with few mishaps along the way. He arrived there but missed the owners meeting and judging, so was not able to have his car judged. After Tulsa, he took off for Vancouver, stopping to visit friends and relatives. Now after the Vancouver convention, he is on his way to Alaska. Walter – I hope you are making a journal and taking lots of pictures. We will all be very interested in this remarkable trip.

As the summer“”” winds down, we are entering a busy time for club activities as wall as personal ones. Joanne and I are looking forward to “Lead East” and to my daughter’s wedding.

I hope everyone with health problems improves and before you know it we will be doing the chicken dance.

Happy T Birding  
 Pat LeStrange



### A few words from Alec

We just got back from the convention in British Columbia. 8 members of our club attended including Walter who is touring the country in his 57 Bird. A great time was had by all. It was a well run and attended convention. We had a great tour to view three private collections of collector cars- and no rain in the whole time we were there.

Looking forward to 2010 and the International in Ohio – start making your plans now to attend this.

Happy Motoring  
Alec

### My TBird – Paul & Pauline Schroll



One of the cars I always wanted was an early TBird. They always seemed out of reach price wise and I never actively looked for one. Besides, I had my 48 Conv. and 54 Victoria and wasn't really looking for another car. In Dec. of 2006, I was browsing ford barn.com and saw an ad for a 56 Bird my favorite year, in GA. It was in my price range. I got pics from the seller and as all cars do, it looked great in the pictures. I hired some one to inspect it, which I think turned out to be a "good ole boy" to the seller as the report he sent me omitted some important facts which I did not realize were missing. He never actually drove the car as he said it was "raining". A deal was made and the car was shipped to me.

Looking at the car after it was unloaded, I was very surprised to find the interior was missing almost all the trim pieces and the upholstery was shabby (unmentioned in the report and I did not pick this up through the pics). (Cont'd on Page 5)



### Vice President's Message

Now is the time for my monthly weather report- WAY TO HOT!!! Either it is raining or we are overcome by heat. We cannot win this summer!!! If you are brave and can take the heat, get your cars out to cruise nights-it is a slight bit cooler.

I hope our club member who went to Vancouver had a great time and a safe trip. Looking forward to seeing pictures and hearing about the convention.. (Wonder how the weather was there?)

Now it is time to talk about our Mini-Concours. What can I say except that the members who braved the beautiful?? weather that day are CRAZY!!! Even though the rain and wind ruined most of our food, we were still able to enjoy dessert in an enclosed area. At least we got out of the rain and back into a safe area. The enclosed space was the LADIES ROOM in Dow Meadow. (Brand new bathroom and very clean). We put table cloths over the sinks and put out our desserts. Desserts were very good, thanks to the women who had baked. Thanks to Pat, we even had music there. We all looked like wet mops – it was quite an experience.

Hope everyone is well. I hear Vince is coming along, so glad.

See you at our next meeting hosted by Paul & Pauline.

See you all soon.

Arlene



September is National Apple Month – remember  
"An apple a day keeps....."

# Membership News



**Bob & Arlene Peruso 1st**  
**John & Sandy Pyrros 19<sup>th</sup>**



**Ken Herb 5th**  
**Mike Meehan 11th**  
**Frank Chabaala 15th**  
**Ron Case 17th**  
**Adrienne Malanga 26th**  
**Walt Strohmaier 29th**

Teddy says  
get well!



**Vince DeAndrea**

**FOR SALE**

## CTCI Int'l Convention

This is being held in June 15-20, 2010 at the Wright-Paterson AFB. Make your plans now for attending. Already we have about 5 cars that are going.

## September Meeting

This is on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – see page 1 for details.

## NJORTC 2009 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

<u>President</u>	
Pat LeStrange	201-920-7226 <a href="mailto:rolodexp@aol.com">rolodexp@aol.com</a>
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V. DeAndrea	732-548-6533
John Pyrros	201-487-2943

Registered Agent	Vince DeAndrea
Awards/Plaques	Dominick Tucci
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



**The economy is so bad.....**  
**Motel Six won't leave the light on**

## CLUB EVENTS

### Vancouver

While not a “club event”, eight members ventured to the Regional Convention in Vancouver.

Everything was super. The weather co-operated by being sunny every day and the temperatures were moderate. There were about 75 TBirds entered, which made judging easier.

The host club did a great job in putting on the show. They arranged for two tours, one to the Aquarium which was very nice even if you are not into fish. The second tour, which was the driving tour for the touring class cars, consisted of three legs, each one to a private car collection. At the second, we were served lunch. This location was set up in a 50's type theme with a small lunch counter and lots of memorabilia. The wall murals had a 50's main street motif. The car collection at the other two locations was amazing and both also included lots of memorabilia as well as great cars. On our “free” night we had dinner at a revolving restaurant high on a building with showed all of Vancouver and surroundings by daylight and by night. We all had a great time.

Walter, in his cross country tour, was there, looking none the worse for wear as was his TBird. It was good to see that he made it okay. He is now going to Alaska.



The Vancouver attendees

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

[pts1231@aol.com](mailto:pts1231@aol.com)

### Annual Fall Cruise

Our annual fall cruise will take place October 18<sup>th</sup> and will end up at the Sergeantville Inn. Notify Phil Guidone if you will be attending. See Page 9 for all the information. This is always a great outing – plan to attend.

Phil has arranged for Ken Schlager of the New Jersey Monthly Magazine to accompany us on our fall cruise. We would have some coverage of the cruise in the next October (2010) edition as we would be too late for the 2009 edition. It is their usual fall getaway issue.

So let's have a nice turnout of the TBird – you never know, your car could be in the magazine.

### Vancouver



Judgment day



Driving it to the house, I stepped on the brake and it almost made a left turn. Some of the gauges did not work. After my inspection, I found a number of things wrong and was very disappointed. The saving grace was that the body was in pretty good condition, the engine sounded very good and the trans worked good.

Rather than sulk, I started working on it. New brakes all around (saved the drums) including the rear steel lines and parking brake cable. Replaced the bushings in the front end (all that was needed). I pulled the dash and replaced the entire interior, all wiring (which had a meltdown prior to purchase) and bought a soft top (it came with a hardtop). Electric wipers were installed. It took from January to October to fix the car. I did it myself except for the upholstery work. Fortunately, even with the amount I had to put into the car after I bought it, the overall price was still reasonable for the condition it was now in.

While fixing the car I went to the “farmers” (NJTA) show in June where I met Alec, John, Pat and others belonging to NJORTC. Alec gave me a membership application and we joined NORTC in July. We are very happy we did. We have had a great time with the activities the club has put on and enjoyed the fellowship of the members. Driving the car to Portland OR. was a dream come true.

As a side note, one cruise I attended while fixing the car I met member of the NJTA. We talked about the NJORTC and joining a club and he advised me not to join NJORTC, as they were a “bunch of stuffed shirts” or something to that effect. I am glad I did not listen to him.

## **TECH TIPS**

### **Troubleshooting TBird handling Problems** **Part 2 of 2 parts**

Last month we discussed the front end. This month we will discuss the rear but before we do here is an additional front end comment.

The rubber bushings in the upper and lower A Arms can cause poor handling problems as well. These should be inspected as they can dry rot . If there are any questions on front end items consult a front end specialist.

Now looking at the other end of the car for answers: A common handling problem is caused by loose U-bolts that fasten the axle housing to the leaf-spring stack. You may notice telltale symptoms when the car darts in one direction upon acceleration and then heads in the other direction when braking hard. These U-bolts must be very tight. When you check them, or attempt to tighten them, don't use an impact wrench. There is a lot of rubber in this assembly that will absorb the energy supplied by the wrench and the nuts won't tighten the way you have seen nuts tighten in other applications. . Use a 3-foot-long cheater bar, take them up to 75- ft-lbs and apply it evenly. When you do, you may break a sweat.

The list above is by no means an exhaustive list for handling problems in your TBird or any other car. However, these are some common causes. You might get lucky and find one or more of the above hints to be just what you needed to get your Bird back on track.

By the late Walt Nuckels, from the Puget Sound Early Birds

I asked my wife ‘Where do you want to go for our anniversary? It warmed my heart to see her face melt in sweet appreciation. ‘Somewhere I haven't been in a long time!’ she said. So I suggested ‘How about the kitchen?’ And that's when the fight started....

From Al Cirinelli – Senior Discounts from the Federal and state governments, utilities etc.  
[https://www.benefitscheckup.org/moreprograms.cfm?partner\\_id=0](https://www.benefitscheckup.org/moreprograms.cfm?partner_id=0)

## CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

- Sept 6 Closter-Tenakill School 275 High St. (flyer)
- Sept 13 Ridgefield Park-Elks Lodge 1506, Spruce Ave. & Cedar Street (Street Legends) (flyer)
- Sept 13 – Ol' Daze Drags-Car Show and Racing-Island Dragway (flyer)
- Sept 13 Franklin Lakes-Franklin & Pulis Ave's (flyer)
- Sept 13 Edgewater Commons, River Road
- Sept 19 Greenville (Slate Hill) NY-Town park, U.S. Rte 6
- Sept 19 Pequannock-Greenview Park (flyer)
- Sept 20-Butler-All Ford Show-Rte 23 Auto Mall (flyer)
- Sept 20 West Milford-Bubbling Springs Park, Macopin Rd. (flyer)
- Sept 27 Holicong, PA, Holicong Park,Rte 202
- Sept 27 Wayne-Maquet Cardiovascular,45 Barbour Pond Drive Tri-County Chamber of Commerce (flyer)
- Sept 27 Pearl River, NY- Central Ave. Field-Franklin Ave (flyer)
- Oct 3 Park Ridge-Mill Pond Assisted Living, 124 Noyes Drive (flyer)



Vancouver-Rosie's Diner-Mural

## CRUISE NIGHTS

- Monday  
Hawthorne-Goffle Grill, Goffle Road
- Tuesday  
Elmwood Park-River View East, 455 River Dr  
Succasunna- McDonald's, Rte 10  
Wayne-Wendy's-Rte 23 NO.  
Paramus-The Fireplace, Rte 17 No.
- Wednesday  
Bear Mountain, NY  
Wycoff – Greenwood Ave  
West Caldwell-Taco Bell 900 Bloomfield Ave  
Denville-Wendy's-Rte 46  
Hot Dog Hut-Wayne,126 Mt View Blvd(Rte 202S)  
Fairfield- Huddle Inn, 31 Passaic Ave.  
Bloomfield – Bloomfield Ave (on the street)
- Thursday  
Hackettstown-Lowes-Mountain Ave  
Riverdale Armory-Newark Pompton Tpke  
E. Rutherford-Lowe's, Rte 17 N  
Lebanon-Spinning Wheel Diner, Rte 22
- Friday  
Midland Park-Center St. Train Station  
Boonton-Walmart-Wooten Street
- Saturday  
Chatterbox-Rtes 15&206, Augusta  
Montgomery,NY McDonald's Rte 208  
Lyndhurst-Whiskey Café, 1050 Wall St
- Sunday  
Midland Park-Burger King, 55 Godwin Ave.



Vancouver-Rosie's Diner-Mural.

## Mini-Concours



Dessert in the Ladies' room

## August Meeting

As you know, the August meeting was the Mini-Concours. And what a meeting is was. With a promise of no rain from the weather man, the day started out overcast. When we arrived, it had started to rain, but not heavy. Coffee and doughnuts were ready. Tents were set up and it was fairly comfortable. There were 25 members that came. Frank (The Chef) Chabala and Phil Guidone started cooking (under a tent) and we all ate the well prepared food. Just about as we were finishing, the sky really opened up (with thunder and lightning) and then the wind came. Tents started lifting and we held on to them trying to prevent them from blowing away. We were mostly successful, and very little damage occurred. We got soaked trying to save everything. The food that was on the table got soaked as well.

Luckily, the desserts had been covered and survived. In waiting out the storm, we retreated to the brand new rest rooms the Park built and set out the desserts and finished up. We found out from the Park Police that the entrances/exits were closed due to flooding or downed trees. So we waited till the trees were cleared. What an adventure!!!!

Mike and Wendy did a suburb job of getting everything together and if it wasn't for the weather, it would have been a great outing.



A lonely TBird waiting out the storm



**More Mini-Concours**



**The cooks**



**A haven under the eaves**



**Crossing the stream-the aftermath**

**More Vancouver**



**Cake at Welcoming Party**



**The Judging Field (partial)**



**Walter in line for the tour**



**More Vancouver**



**Tour-1st leg-partial collection**



**More of 3rd leg of tour**



**2nd leg – Rosies Diner**



**Old gas station on side of road**



**3rd leg- partial collection**



**Entrance to Awards Dinner**

**NEW JERSEY OPEN ROAD THUNDERBIRD CLUB  
ANNUAL FALL CRUISE**

**October 18, 2009**

Come one, come all, as we journey to Sergeantville, New Jersey for our annual Fall Cruise.

We will be dining at the Sergeantville Inn, 601 Rosemont-Ringoes Road, Sergeantville, New Jersey. A wonderful menu has been planned which will include a salad, choice of three entrée's, choice of two desserts and coffee or tea.

We will need a minimum of fifteen people to attend. Hopefully we will exceed the minimum as we have in the past. The Inn has a long history dating back to 1700's. I'm advised that we'll have ample food to satisfy your appetites after the cruise.

The price per person is \$32.00, all-inclusive. We need to know if you plan to attend by October 1, 2009 and we will need your check at that time as well, payable to N.J.O.R.T.C., sent to our address. There will be some prizes and games.

Point of departure will be Lewis Morris Park (same location as our picnic), Morristown, at 10:30 a.m. Please note this will be a rain or shine event.

Come join us as we enjoy the fall foliage, fine dining and most importantly, good friendship.

**Phil & Dorothy Guidone  
39 Dogwood Drive  
Cester, NJ 07930  
Home: 908-879-6261  
Business (Phil): 908-879-6169  
Email: phil@pguidone.com**



# STRIKE OUT AGAINST



## BREAST CANCER

Join us for a

### ROCK'N BOWL

(Music and lighting effects)

Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Sparta Lanes

43 Theatre Ctr; Sparta, NJ 07871 973-729-6135 [www.spartalanes.com](http://www.spartalanes.com)

Warm-Up Party ~ 9pm - 10:30pm

Bowling ~ 10:30pm - 12:30am ~  
unlimited games

\$15 per person includes shoe rental

Come one Come all it's for a good cause. We're supporting

### AVON'S WALK FOR BREAST CANCER

I'm Joanne Seiler, and I'm participating in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in NYC on October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I have pledged to raise a minimum of \$1800.

Visit my web page at [www.avonwalk.org/goto/ioanneseiler](http://www.avonwalk.org/goto/ioanneseiler) to learn more about my walk.

If you can't make it to the ROCK' N BOWL you can also help support my walk by making a tax deductible credit card donation at my web site.

>>!!Please RSVP by Sept 6<sup>th</sup> with how many people will be bowling. We're shooting for 100 bowlers!!<<

Joanne [got2bmeo8@yahoo.com](mailto:got2bmeo8@yahoo.com) 551-404-3646 OR Stephanie  
[ladydancer829@yahoo.com](mailto:ladydancer829@yahoo.com)

Raffles

50/50

Games