



## March Meeting

The meeting was held at a new venue this month. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day and the cars did not come out of their bird houses. The meeting was well attended. Even the snow birds have flown back. The food was great - most of it was home made by Diane. Many thanks to Diane and Gene for hosting.

### Highlights of the Business Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved as well as the treasurers report.

The business meeting was relatively short.

Pat & Rich went over the retro bird question

Pat requested pictures of any members who have passed so he can include them in the memorial section of the web page.

Mike Perillo went over the Spring Cruise that is on the 28th.

Rich talked about the Tune Up Clinic coming up on May 5th, which is also the business meeting.

Pat announced that the 2020 CTCI International Convention will be held in Sarasota Florida on May 4-9.

Suzanne said she is working on artwork for new jackets.

Next meeting 5/5 at Rich & Lois



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

### From our CTCI Rep

Please don't forget, the Early Bird Magazine will be arriving soon and there will be a Retro Bird committee report in it (not sure how good it will be). Please take the time to read it and PLEASE vote as that will follow shortly after the magazine arrives.

Joanne



### Vice President's Message



Hope everyone hope had a nice Easter or Passover.

I believe that Spring has Sprung. It's time to get our little Birds out on the open road. Hope that you all marked your calendars for May 5th, Tune Up Clinic, once again hosted by Rich and Lois Martin. Sooo if you have any minor problems with your TBirds you can notify Rich and tell him what's wrong, he will tell you what parts you need and then you can work on the car at the clinic.

Please continue to keep Wendy in your prayers. She enjoys getting cards from us, so let's keep thinking of her. I understand Walter is feeling better. I have good news for myself. I had procedure done on Monday. Doctors thought I had a blocked artery in my heart and that I would need a stent, but thank god no stent was necessary and heart is good. Now just a little recuperation from procedure.

On Sunday, April 28th is the Spring Cruise to Branch Brook Park to look at the beautiful cherry blossoms, the Basilica in Newark and then to McLoone's Boathouse for brunch. It sounds like Mike Perrillo put together a great cruise.

In the next Early Bird magazine the ballot to vote to have or not have retro birds will be in there, please vote.

Before you know it CTCI Regional Convention will be here. If going I hope all your plans are made. Flagstaff here we come!!!

Our next meeting hosted by Joanne and Pat is the same day as the Tune Up clinic. If you are not going to the clinic, the meeting will be around 1:00 also at the Martins.

Happy Mother's Day to all you wonderful ladies.

See you soon, Arlene

**5/8/33 Eastchester Township, NY was the first to install radios in their police cars connecting the cars to headquarters**

# Membership News

*Happy Anniversary*

Bob & Joan Notar 25th

*Happy Birthday*

Lorraine Cirinelli 2nd

Tom Mirro 7th

Pat LeStrange 7th

Jayne Braun 7th

Lisa Musto 8th

Gene Szura 13th

Bob Sabino 22nd

Theresa Perillo 22nd

Linda Antenucci 30th

**GET WELL  
SON!**

Wendy Meehan

Joanne Seiler

Valery Kriney

## VCTI National Meet 2019

This is being held in Princeton, NJ on August 8-11

## CTCI International Convention 2020

It has been announced that the 2020 convention will be held in Sarasota FL on May 4 - 9

Our snow birds, Rich and Lois, have already got the #1 registration



May 12

## 2019 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

### President

Pat LeStrange 201-920-7226

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

### Vice President

Arlene Kubat 862-221-9773

[finallyak@yahoo.com](mailto:finallyak@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Steve Handy 201-337-1746

[stevehandy85@gmail.com](mailto:stevehandy85@gmail.com)

### CTCI Representative

Toni Sabino 201-366-436

[tonisabino@yahoo.com](mailto:tonisabino@yahoo.com)

### Recording/Corresponding Secretary

Toni Sabino 201-366-4368

[tonisabino@yahoo.com](mailto:tonisabino@yahoo.com)

### Editor: Thunder Heard

Paul Schroll 201-652-7027

[ptschroll@verizon.net](mailto: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](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

## April Meeting





## Club Announcements

### May Meeting

The May meeting will be on the **5th** at the Martins. Start time is 1 PM. Hosts are Pat & Joanne. Be sure to RSVP Pat or Joanne, including regrets.

### Tune Up Clinic

This event is **May 5th** at the Martin's Please notify Rich if you want to do some work on your car. Be sure to bring any parts you will need, including oil and any other liquids.. Also notify Rich or Lois if you are coming to the clinic but not going to work on your car.

Starts at 8:30 AM. Coffee and will be available for any early "Birds"  
Regular meeting will be held here.

### June Meeting

The June meeting is scheduled for **June 23rd**. Additional information about the meeting will be announced later.



A picture from yesteryear



## April Meeting







## Cruise Nights

### Monday

Wayne - Hooters 25 Rte 23 South

### Tuesday

Clifton - Rutt's Hut

Wayne - Wendy's 1560 Rte 23 North

### Wednesday

Wycoff-422 Cedar Hill Ave-Christian  
Ref. Church

### Thursday

Wayne-Kohl's 1800 Rte 23 North

### Friday

### Saturday

Hawthorne-. 8 AM to 1 PM-MGM Auto  
Body Supplies, 344 Wagaraw Rd

### Sunday

West Caldwell-Franco's Pizza 407 Bloomfield  
Ave

**Is Boonton open??**

## Car Shows-Swap Meets

5/1 Washington-Warren Hills High Sch

5/4 Park Ridge-115 Colony Ave

5/4 Pompton Plains-PV Park, Marvin Rd.

5/5 Morristown 161 E. Hanover Rd Mennen  
Arena AACA show & swap

5/5 Carlstadt 179 Washington Ave

5/18 Nanuet, NY 103 Church St Nanuet High

5/18 Midland Park 250 Prospect St Midland  
Park High School

5/18 Ringwood 139 Skyline Dr. Maggies

5/19 Paramus 400 Paramus Rd Bergen  
Comm. College

5/19 Stirling South Warren Ave Longhill  
Community Center

5/19 Edison 2849 Woodbridge Ave  
Victorian Plaza

5/26 No. Haledon 515 High Mountain Ave  
High Mtn School

5/26 Hackettstown -800 High St Mars

5/27 Englewood Demarest Ave & Dean St.  
Veteran's Park

6/1 Mt Tabor 16 Country Club Rd.

6/1 West Milford 126 Airport Rd Greenwood  
Lake Airport

6/2 Waddwick 4 Hewson Ave. Waldwick  
Train Station

6/2 Demarest 150 Knickerbocker Rd No.  
Valley-Demarest High Sch

6/2 Pompton Plains Jackson Ave Street  
Festival



## Harold's Deli

Another great outing. Harold's always has good food and this trip was no different. We had two of our newer members join us there for the first time and I think they took home more than they ate. We had 38 people attending, one of our larger crowds. It was scheduled a little later than usual so some of our snow birds could attend. Toni was in charge of the arrangements and did a fab job, even had little bunny rabbit table pieces.



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



# FOR SALE

## 1957 TBird

312, 3 speed overdrive. White on white, originally dusk rose paint code. Driver quality. Over \$11,000 in receipts for improvements in the last two years. Price reduced Vince Ucci, 973-980-4312

## Parts For Sale

4 wire wheel covers for a 56. Good shape.  
4 stock wheel covers for a 56  
Call Vince 973-980-4312

## 1957 TBird

Orig CA car, azure blue, blue soft top, white hardtop. 2 tone blue interior Senior CTCI award. Some extra parts. Front discs, P/S. Original Coral Sand. Contact Jo Dunn  
blue57bird@gmail.com

NOTE: I have some pics-Paul

## 1926 Model T

Roadster pickup, runs well Very nice condition \$10,000. Call Mike, 973-267-2958  
NOTE: I have pic-Paul

## 1930 Model A Roadster

Pristine condition. Asking around \$18,800 U.S. For information email Barry Miller  
millersbr@gmail.com



Thanks to Joanne for some of the pictures.



Remember and Honor May 27th



May 18





**Tuna Sandwich**



**Sundae**





## Tech Tip

### Fuel Filter Maintenance

The fuel filter should be changed regularly to avoid two problems. The first is the obvious which is the replacement of the filter itself. The other is to be sure to replace the gasket that seals the glass bowl to the lid. This gasket is usually included when you purchase the filter and is also available by itself.

Changing this gasket is important because as time goes by the gasket can dry out and

not adequately seal the glass bowl to the lid. Since the fuel level in the bowl generally doesn't completely fill the glass bowl, you won't see a leak. A poor seal can allow air through and cause hard starting or fuel bleed down issues.

Also, periodically recheck and retighten the bowl clamp by tightening the star nut under the glass to insure a tight seal - but don't overtighten as it may break the bowl or warp the lid. From the Conn. Area Classic Tbirds

## Retro Bird Manifesto ?

Fellow CTCI member:

Very soon you will receive an email from CTCI asking you to vote for or against a proposed By Law change. This change will allow the 2002-2005 Thunderbirds (commonly called Retro Birds) into CTCI with full equal standing with our 1955-1957 Classic Thunderbirds.

I strongly urge you to vote on this change. Per our By Laws this change requires a 2/3 majority to pass so I know that those in favor will be pushing hard for your vote.

One of the big statements that proponents are making is that CTCI will gain thousands of new members. I feel this is a gross overstatement. Many of those pushing for the Retro Birds are already members as owners of a 1955-1957 Classic Thunderbird. And if for some reason thousands of new members do join within a few years the Classic Thunderbirds will be outnumbered and will lose control of the club.

There is an old analogy about camels. The desert Bedouins know they must keep the bottom of a tent firmly staked down or their camels will shove their noses into the tents. Once the camel gets his nose in he keeps pushing until his entire head is in. Then soon his neck is in, and in short order he will lift the tent and the camel will be completely inside. This is all to say that regardless of the claims "we don't want anything special, just membership". Once membership is granted soon they will be wanting judging rules, tech articles, and authenticity rules to be written.

I thought of the camel analogy when several members related to me how new Mustangs and new Corvettes have completely taken over their respective clubs. When going to a Mustang or Corvette show very few of the early vehicles are present. I don't think we want to see CTCI become the RTCI (Retro Thunderbird Club International).

Currently the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI) and the International Thunderbird Club (ITC) both recognize all Thunderbirds from 1955-2005. There is also a club dedicated to the Retros that goes by the name Thunderbird Nest (TBN). All three of these organizations already accept the 2002-2005 Thunderbirds and are the obvious proper organizations for these vehicles. I feel strongly that by focusing on only three years (1955-1957 as spelled out in the club Bylaws) of vehicles CTCI can do a much better job of meeting our member's needs. Yes, CTCI has fewer members now than in the past but we can (with everyone's help) reverse that trend.

CTCI is in a strong financial situation but I can see that being drained with the inclusion of a totally different class of cars. Having that different class of cars in the club would necessitate searching out tech experts to write responses to owners of the new cars when they pose questions. An unknown at this time is if we will be required to publish for purchase technical manuals for the Retros as we have done for the Classics. CTCI has a fantastic, award winning, magazine called the *EarlyBird*. If the Retro Birds are included in the club we will see the articles related to the 1955-1957 Thunderbirds cut in half, or we will have to dramatically increase the number of pages. That larger *EarlyBird* would obviously increase the cost of production and distribution.



There are numerous Retro Bird owners already in CTCI that agree with my beliefs and do not see it as advantageous to CTCI to recognize the Retros. There are also numerous CTCI members that have indicated they will leave CTCI if the Retro initiative passes. Several of these have been, and some still are, in various leadership roles. Many of those will be greatly missed.

When the founders of CTCI began the club the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of Thunderbirds were already on the street. However, their plans were to build a club that did not include those later vehicles. Over the many years since multiple generations of Thunderbirds have come and gone and not one of those has ever been considered to be part of CTCI. The Bylaws state in Article III: Purposes, paragraph a) *To operate and maintain an organization to encourage and promote the admiration and ownership, care and maintenance, with safe and courteous operation, of the "Classic Thunderbird", defined herein as a two-passenger 1955, 1956 and 1957 Ford Thunderbird automobile.*

Even though they already knew that Ford was going to produce many variations of the Thunderbird nowhere did they make allowances for later generations. Their intent was for a club of 1955-1957 Thunderbirds only. During the time since the founding of CTCI many members, officers, and chair people, have donated thousands of hours of tireless work to build the club into what it is today. Let's not breakdown all of that work for this change.

There is a claim that the term "Classic Thunderbird" does not define only the 1955-1957 in Chapter Charters. That statement is true; however, it is very clearly stated in the Bylaws. Also CTCI's Articles of Incorporation with the State of California state in Article II Paragraph A: *"To operate and maintain an organization to encourage and promote the admiration and ownership, care and maintenance, with safe and courteous operation, of the "Classic Thunderbird", defined herein as a two-passenger 1955, 1956, and 1957 Ford Thunderbird Automobile."*

Again, I urge you to vote when you receive your ballot.

And if you agree with me please feel free to forward this to all of the CTCI members in your contact list.

Thank you for your time!

Joanne Seiler CTCI # 37086  
Region 1 director 2016-2019







# TUNE-UP CLINIC



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**SUNDAY May 5th 2019 AT 8:30 AM**  
**RICH & LOIS MARTIN'S HOME**  
**SPRING TUNE UP'S, BRAKES,**  
**OIL CHANGES, ECT**



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**\*BIG PROJECTS CALL RICH AHEAD OF TIME**

**Some of you will be driving to Arizona!**



**Club meeting to follow at 1 PM at the Martins.**  
**Meeting hosted by Pat LeStrange & Joanne Seiler**  
**Pat [rolodexp@aol.com](mailto:rolodexp@aol.com) 201-920-7226**  
**Joanne [ladytbird567@yahoo.com](mailto:ladytbird567@yahoo.com) 551-404-3646**



**LOIS WILL HAVE BAGLES & COFFEE IN THE MORNING**  
**LADIES ARE WELCOME TO COME HANG OUT CHAT AND WATCH**  
**THE GUYS WORK. PLEASE JUST LET LOIS KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING**



[martinmotors@optonline.net](mailto:martinmotors@optonline.net)



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**15 Stonehedge Way, West Milford NJ 07480**

[loislane21@optonline.net](mailto:loislane21@optonline.net)

**973-728-8652**



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