



A few words from Alec

Wow! Where did the summer go? It feels like we were just looking forward to the car season – I couldn't make Portland due to a medical problem requiring a four day hospital stay, but I'm feeling good and back on the road.

Pat LeStrange and myself won another silver award for our newsletter from last year.

Also congrats to Paul Schroll and Rich & Lois Martin for driving to and from Portland in their TBirds.

Paul won long distance and Rich won 1st place in open hood touring.

Happy Motoring

Alec

My TBird – Dennis Chirico



In June of 2003, Gail and I were visiting our daughter's family in Chester and decided to take our grandchildren, Kyra and Stephen, to town for ice cream. As we were approaching the town we realized that the main street was blocked off for a "main street" car show. We parked and looked at all the beautiful cars. As we turned the corner, Gail stopped and stood there staring. She motioned to me to look to the right and there she was – a shining mint green 57 TBird. It was definitely love at first sight. Our grandchildren thought it was the coolest car they had ever seen. We walked over and kidded the owner- was it for sale? Yup, it was. We couldn't walk away so in two weeks we brought it home. The car was restored in 1989 in Ohio and had won the National First Prize of the National Automobile Club of America .

The first week we had it we went over to Old Tappan to the cruise night to show it off. In just two minutes, no-maybe one after we pulled in we had these three guys swarming around the car



Vice President's Message

Well soon it will be September-summer is over (not for our little Birds though-we still have cruise nights and car shows through September and early October). Do not forget we have out fall cruise to enjoy and just maybe we can go to Harold's Deli for one of our last cruises before we have to put our Birds to sleep for the winter.

For those who missed our Mini Concourse, we had a great time, even when we got rained on we were able to hide under a gazebo. We had plenty of good food and plenty of great desserts. Thanks to all for bringing salads and desserts. Even though there was the threat of rain, we still had T-Birds and other old cars out for the day.

One last thing- we were glad to see Rich, Lois and Paul back from Oregon safe and sound. They said it was a lot of driving, but would do it again.

Arlene Kubat

Upcoming events

Our **fall cruise** is October 19th. Phil Guidone has planned a great cruise. See Page 8 for all the information. See you all there.



checking out the paint, under the hood, the interior, under the car, the good, the bad, etc. Little did I realize that these three busybodies (John, Alec, Pat) would turn out to be the new brothers/best friends a guy could have. After a time we met our new friends at the Open Road, never realizing that this car would change our life.

Membership News

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Arlene Perruso Sept 1
John & Sandy Pyrros Sept 19
Bob & Christina Calvo Sept 21



Ken Herb Sept 5
Mike Meehan Sept 11
Frank Chabala Sept 25
Ron Case Sept 17
Adrienne Malanga Sept 26
Walt Strohmaier Sept 29

Apology

To Gene & Diane Szura - I omitted by mistake their 42nd anniversary which was July 2nd and Diane's birthday which was July 21st. Belated wishes on both counts

GET WELL SOON



Eva Tucci

Alec Johnstone

FOR SALE

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Membership Chairman	Alec Johnstone
Name Badges	John Pyrros
Jackets	Joe Kubat
Grill Plaques & Hats	Frank Chabala
Club Historian	Lucille Chabala
Club Photographer	Lucille Chabala
Sunshine	Lucille Chabala
Master at Arms	Bruce Corbett
Meeting Schedules & Activities Coordinator	Joanne Seiler
Webmaster	Wendy Meehan

In Memoriam

Mildred Strohmaier

To all of us, Mildred was always a very gracious lady. May she rest in peace after her long struggle. To Walter and the rest of the Strohmaier family, our sincere condolences.

PORTLAND SHOW

The show in Portland was great. We had good representation there – Mike & Sandy Meehan, Dennis & Gail Chirico, Rich & Lois Martin, Paul & Pauline Schroll, Bruce & Aileen Corbett and John & Sandy Pyrros

There was about 125 little Birds. A nice showing.

The host club did an outstanding job. The hospitality room was always stocked with food and beverages starting early in the morning to late in the afternoon. We did not have to go out for either breakfast or noon time. The tours were great, especially the rose garden which John Pyrros really went crazy for. The hotel facilities were very good.



The group at the banquet. Missing are Dennis & Gail who had to leave early and Lois & Rich who were at the CTCI table.

See additional comments on Page 7

HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

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

MINI CONCOURS

We had a very good turnout for this. The park setting was very nice. Paul Schroll and Rich and Lois Martin had just returned from Oregon and had their cars there, none the worse for wear. The chef was Frank Chabala who did his usual good job. Henry Semmler also handled some of the cooking chores. There was plenty of food and drink for everyone, and the selection of “fat food” (desserts) was great. Many of our Birds were there despite the some what dismal weather forecast.

It did rain at the end, but everyone had their fill of food by that time and we all enjoyed a very nice conversation session under the gazebo

Mike and Wendy Meehan put it all together and they did an excellent job.



More pics on Pages 5 & 9

JULY MEETING

The meeting was held at Pat and Joanne's home on July 20th.

Highlights of the business meeting:

The secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved.

The Fall Cruise was set for October 12th

Grill plaques were discussed. Wendy Meehan was unable to get info from old supplier. Samples of the supplier recommended by Paul Schroll were requested.

Club shirts were discussed. All past styles have been discontinued. There was the question if we should get new shirts. Wendy Meehan passed around a flyer with the styles available. It was noted that anybody can order a shirt and the club will partially subsidize. Motion was passed to purchase "Jerzees" style.

Joanne Seiler put together an article with information on NJORTC for the Early Bird publication.

The Mini-Concourse was discussed. Work assignments were made.

The Oregon convention was discussed.

Discussion was held regarding holding meetings at a diner in emergency situations. It was decided it would be okay to do so rather than cancel the meeting.

Lucille Chabala updated the club regarding paid members.

Bill Selby mentioned the Concours d'Elegance in Buckingham Township, PA on Sept 4th.

50/50 won by Ken Herb.

TECH TIPS

In Portland, Nick Brann gave a talk on spark plugs. He passed out information on available spark plugs for the Yblocks and 55-57 TBirds in particular.

His hand out is on Page 9. Nick, a long time TBirder and also a spark plug company tech man has recommended the following spark plug gaps:

Regular ignition .040
Electronic Ignition .050

Mini Concours



Frank relaxing after a hard day at the grill

School starts this month – be careful at crosswalks and school zones and look out for the kiddies

CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

August 28-31 Lead East – Parsippany NJ.

Aug. 31 Paterson Car Show– McBride Ave – Dayton Raiders. (Flyer)

Sept 5-7 Lake George, NY

Sept 7 Ridgewood (Downtown) This is a Sunday-no Friday show this year (flyer)

Sept 7 Ridgefield Park ,Street Legends Car Club, Elk's lodge #1506 Spruce and Cedar Streets 9AM. Flyer attached to last month's newsletter

Sept 7 Ol' Daze drags, Island Dragway Show and/or race (flyer)

Sept 7 Lyndhurst – Whiskey Café (flyer)

Sept 7 Florida, NY, Rte 17A – Cops & Robber of NY (flyer)

Sept 12-14 Goodguys, Rhinebeck, NJ

Sept 14 Butler-Rte 23 Automall-All Ford Car Show-Separate TBird class (flyer)

Sept 14 Franklin Lakes (Franklin & Pulis Aves) (flyer)

Sept 14 West Caldwell-Konner Chevrolet (flyer)

Sept 21 Pearl River, NY-Central Avenue Field (flyer)

Sept 21 Buckingham Concours D'Eleg.-Holicong Park-no modified cars allowed. Pre registration only (flyer)

Sept 27 Oakland, NJ, Indian Hills High School, 97 Yawpo Ave. 9AM Benefit Class of 09 (flyer)

Sept 28 Hacketstown-1720 Rte 27 Tri Cty Vol Fire Dept

Oct 5 Lodi-Main Street (K-Mart) (flyer)

Oct 5 Teaneck-Armory (flyer)

CRUISE SPOTS

Monday

Hawthorne-Goffle Grill – Goffle Road
Stoney Point, NY – Gennaro's Rest., 146 Rte 9W
(Prev. Annies, new loc is about 1 mile north)

Tuesday

Clifton-Rutts Hut
Wayne – Wendy's- Rte 23 North (just before DMV)
Elmwood Park-River View East, 455 River Dr.
Old Tappan-BY-State Plaza, Old Tappan Road

Wednesday

Wycoff-DMV Parking lot-Greenwood Ave.
Moonachie-Burger King-Moonachie Rd
Keansburg-Keansburgh Amusement Park

Thursday

Riverdale Armory – Newark Pompton Tpke-Paramus-Panera's Rest. (Behind Kohl's) Rte 4 West 7PM

Friday

Midland Park-Center St & Greenwood Ave (train station)
Boonton-Boonton Plaza (Wal-Mart) Wooten Street
Sayreville-Peter Pank Diner-Rte 9 North

Saturday

Chatterbox-Rtes 15&206, Augusta
Whiskey Café-Wall St, Lyndhurst
Cruises start 6-7 pm unless otherwise noted

For other cruise locations go to
<http://www.wmtram.com/biglistcarshows.htm>

If there are no stupid questions, then what kinds of questions do stupid people ask? Do they get smart just in time to ask a question?

THE PORTLAND TRIP

Some additional comments

Well, we made it. Against all advice (and some who thought we had gone off the deep end), we started our westward trek in late summer and made it over the Rockies (and the Cascades) before the snow flew (and made it back again).

Portland was great. About 125-130 little Birds and a great host club that made our stay a very pleasant one. People's choice was a very nice 55 with (gasp) a BBC (sorry, I can't say or print the brand). Rich took 1st place in Touring despite a 2,800 mile trip that included three rainstorms, Wyoming mud, tons of bugs and the Nebraska desert. I got long distance (seems as Midland Park is 3-4 miles farther away than Hewitt) and our club newsletter (Pat and Alex as editors) won a silver in the Concours division. Congratulations to both of them and Rich.

All in all, in my opinion, a very nice drive to Portland – rain was minimal despite running into the three storms, no breakdowns and lots of breathless scenery. In my opinion, you cannot appreciate nor imagine the size and beauty of the United States until you see a vast section at ground level. The mountains and the mountain views are spectacular. The land is beautiful and immense.

I did have a front brake cylinder go bad on me while at the show, but it was fixed in no time with the help of two members of the host club who scoured up the necessary parts.

The return trip was pretty uneventful except for a down pour that threatened to drown us, but we made it through it ok but a little wet. TBirds don't leak, right??

I would like to thank Rich and Lois for the opportunity to make a once in a lifetime trip and for their much appreciated company, help and advice. Extra thanks to Lois who plotted our course, made all the room arrangements and kept Rich and me out of trouble.

Total mileage, around 5,700, cost of gas – don't ask

Go again? – well, maybe not next year, but yes I would do another drive across the U.S. in my TBird.

Paul Schroll, Editor

SOME PORTLAND TRIP PICTURES



Bear Lake – Utah/Idaho boarder



The Vista House-Columbia River Gorge

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NEW JERSEY OPEN ROAD THUNDERBIRD CLUB ANNUAL FALL CRUISE

New Date - October 19, 2008

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

We will be dining at the Centre Bridge Inn, 2998 River Road, New Hope, Pennsylvania, just over the New Jersey border. A wonderful buffet menu has been planned which will include a choice of two salads, pasta, two entrée's, dessert 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 1705 and 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, 2008 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. (Please keep a record of your driving distance, T-Birds only)

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
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More Portland



Bruce and Grandchild Ada at Portland-new Tbird owner?



Rare air



Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum – Home of the Spruce Goose-TBird owner unknown



Mini Concours



Bruce's retirement plan??



July 2008

'55-57 Thunderbird Mini Plug Catalog

Brand:	Copper:	Platinum/ Premium:	Colder:	Hotter:
Accel	378		375/ 675	
Autolite	46/ BSF82C	AP46 APP46 (double platinum)	45	
Bosch	7551/ DR10BC	6200/ DR9BPX*	7550/ DR8BC (copper) 4226/ DR8BPX* (platinum)	
Champion	21/ RF14YC	2021	22/ RF11YC	11/ RF18YC
Denso	5006/ MA9PR-U			
Motorcraft	631/ BSF82CF6		420/ BSF42CF4	BF92C
NGK	2438/ WR5	2901/ WR5GP		

The accuracy of this list is not guaranteed.

FIRST NUMBER IS STOCK # USED BY AUTO PARTS STORE. SECOND # IS ACTUAL PLUG #

* Both of these two Bosch Platinum numbers are pre-gapped to .044".

Nick Brann CTCL, CTKC