

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



# The Thunder Heard

APRIL 2010

## CRUISING STARTS THIS MONTH

### 2010 Meeting Schedule

April 25	Bob & Shelly Belli
April 17	Edison Tour
May 2	Tune Up Clinic
May	Dominick & Eva Tucci
June	Phil & Dorothy Guidone
July	Susan & Anthony Gaeta
August 8	Mini-Concours
September	Donna & Bill Jessie
October	John & Sandra Bolger
November	Frank Gloss/Mary Green
December 5	Holiday Party

The April meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM and will be hosted by Bob & Shelly Belli  
57 Longview Dr. Emerson 07630  
RSVP 201-265-2393 or  
BelliBMWBob@aol.com

**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



Glad to say it looks like the weather is getting better. I hope everyone came out safe from the storms and flooding.

The March meeting was productive and we had a very good turnout. Thank you Walter Strohmier. There were a lot of little Birds and retro Birds. During the meeting we discussed the itinerary for the Ohio trip. If you are going, contact Paul Schroll and he will fill you on the details. Also be sure to get your registration in.

Welcome to our newest members from our Winter meetings, November-Joe & Lorrie Matrone, January-Bob & Joan Notar, March-Bill and Dorothy Hyde.

We were mentioned in the Early Bird Magazine that we were going after the Ford Johnson Award (most mileage to CTCL events). Right now it looks like we are 3rd but I know we can move up. I hope everyone is getting ready. Speaking of getting ready, if you are coming to the Martin's Tune Up Clinic in May order your parts from your parts supplier now, so you'll know if they are right before the day of the clinic.

I took my '57 Thunderbird out for a ride on the 20<sup>th</sup> and went to the Chatterbox. There were a lot of old cars there even though the official start isn't until the end of April. It was a great day for a cruise.

See you at the April meeting at the Belli's, be sure to RSVP. Also note that the meeting was pushed back to 3PM due to a lot of members attending the Blue Oval Ford Show..

See you then.

Pat LeStrange





A few words from Alec

Here's hoping that we have seen the last of this winter and we can take our BIRDS on The OPEN ROAD again.

We had a nice day for our last club meeting at Walter's house on March 7<sup>th</sup> and a surprising number of Early Birds attended. Our next meeting should see even more Early Birds.

We are all making plans for the Int'l Convention in Ohio. If you have not made plans to attend, time is getting short.

I hope to see every body at our April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting

Happy Motoring  
Alec

Idiot Sighting

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered it was unlocked. Hey, I announced to the technician, 'its open!' His reply: I know, I already got that side.

Supposedly true story from a Ford dealership in Canton, MS

Getting Ready for the New Season & Dayton

A number of our members are redoing their cars for the new season. John B and Alex M are redoing the front end (bushings, etc) of their cars. Alec J is replacing the radiator and repainting various engine compartment parts. John P is doing those little items for those extra points that could mean a Gold at Dayton. Charlie C is still feverishly working to get Peacock Blue #2 ready. Paul A has done some major work on his 55 and is now ready.



April is National Car Care Month



Vice President's Message

Happy Spring to everyone. Last week we had quite a bad rainstorm. I do not ever remember such heavy rain. We live in Lincoln Park, high up so no threat of a flood, but we are not far from the Lincoln Park and Wayne flood areas. It is like we are on a private island up here-only one way out-what a mess. I hope no one was flooded and if so not to bad. If you lost power, hope it was not for long.

After the terrible storm, the weather turned out to be beautiful. As far as I am concerned it could have stayed like that all the time, but it was just a tease. Now we have more rain. While the weather was beautiful, I hope many of you were able to take your cars out of storage and take them for a much needed ride.

Pretty soon the cruise nights will start. I know that there is a cruise day at the Falls Grill on Rte 3 in Clifton between 12 noon and 3PM.

Fliers are starting to come in the mail for car shows. I believe the first is April 25<sup>th</sup> (the same day as our meeting) hosted by the Mustang Club at Rte 23 Automall, Butler. After the car show whoever is going can cruise down to Bob & Shelly Belli's meeting at 3PM.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the club members will be visiting the Edison Museum and Lab in East Orange. Please make sure you tell Lucille if you are attending (sorry I can't make it because of my daughters bachelorette party in AC. Can't wait, oh what fun-I will try to behave myself.

This years Christmas party will be at the Brownstone in Paterson on Sunday Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Thanks to Paul Adamoff for the suggestion. I know everyone will like it. More details to follow.

One last thing - let us pray for all the flood victims , they lost so much.  
See you soon.



# Membership News



Judy Semmler 12th  
Lucille Chabala 27th

**GET WELL  
SON!**

Vince DeAndrea  
Lois (Lane) Martin  
Eva Tucci  
Donna Jessie

## Club Dues

The 2010 club dues are now payable. Please send your payment to Frank Chabala. They should be paid by 3/31

## Roster Update

Please submit any changes for the club roster (after you have paid your dues (if still owing). New telephone numbers (cell and land line), spouse, address, email. Send to Pat.

## New Jersey Emergency Vehicle Law Change

If any patrol car or any other emergency vehicle is pulled over to the side of the road with its emergency lights on,, you MUST change, if possible, to the next lane away from that vehicle or slow down to 20MPH. This law took effect in 2009. The fine is \$500 and up plus points on your license

Many other states have enacted this law

From Paul Adamoff

## NJORTC 2010 OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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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

## A Welcome to Our Newest Members

Bill and Dorothy Hyde of Totowa, NJ  
57 Bird, 53 Ford Panel, 67 Corvette



## March Meeting

The meeting was held on a beautiful pre spring day. Although snow was still on the ground the sun showed clearly and the temperatures were moderate. Walter surely knows the right people when planning a meeting. There were five little Birds and two retro birds in attendance as well as a large turn out of members. By the time the meeting was over, the membership had increased by two. See page 7 for the highlights of the meeting. The eats were great and the meeting was the same. Thanks to Walter.



Our Best  
Wishes On  
Passover

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)

## CLUB EVENTS

### Thomas Edison Tour

Lucille has made all the arrangements for the tour of the Edison Lab and home, which is scheduled for **April 17<sup>th</sup>**. Cost is 7.00 per person. We will meet at the Lab parking lot on Main Street, West Orange at 9:30 AM where you will receive passes to the Glenmont Estate where we will start our tour at 10:00AM. We will tour the grounds including the house, greenhouse, the famous round table garage and the graves of Edison and his wife.

Then we will depart for the Lab where you will see all of Edison's inventions. Lunch will be after the tour.

Make sure you put this on your calendar and let's hope for a sunny day to debut our TBirds for the new year. Contact Lucille Chabala. Payment has to be made before the day of the tour.

### Tune Up Clinic

This is scheduled for May 2 at Rich Martin's house. This is a good chance to get to those items that have to be taken care of before the drive to Dayton. If you are planning to do some work at Rich's house, as Pat suggested above, order your parts now so you will have them in time.



**FOR SALE**

### Radio Repair

Thanks to Bill Hyde-he found a man who repairs old radios, including TBird Town and Country. Bill & John P had their's done and Bill reports that the radio works real good.

The repairer is Howard Foulds, HF Enterprises. He is located in Pompton Plains. 973-694-0686, [mrgrandprix@att.net](mailto:mrgrandprix@att.net). He has all kinds of old radios.

## March Meeting



Bill & Dorothy Hyde – our newest members

Got any stories about the past regarding a NJORTC event, preferably with pictures, that you would like to tell us about? Write them up and send it to me along with the pictures and we will use it in the newsletter. I would like to continue the “MY TBIRD” column so how about it – send me the story and pics of your TBird.

## TECH TIPS

### Rear Spring Replacement

This article was written by Barry Thomas and appeared in the Early Bird of Nov-Dec 1979 and has been somewhat edited and has material added by your editor which was not in the original submission. It is the third of a series by Barry

**Tail end draggin? Headlights pointing at the trees?**

Seriously, if your rear springs are straight or curve down rather than up, and the ride goes to h\*\*l when there is only your wipe rag in the trunk, you need rear springs.

Overload shocks with coil springs will restore the correct height but not the ride. New springs can be purchased from the TBird suppliers or a well equipped local spring shop. (Note – the 55's springs differ from 56/57's). Springs can be re-arched, but may not last as long as new ones. The parts that wear are as follows:

- 5741-Insulators, two per spring
- 5780-Bolt – front of spring
- 5781-Bushing, front and rear
- 5630-Shackles

It might be wise to replace the U bolts & nuts  
Always replace both springs to keep things level.

A few days before you start the job, soak the U bolt nuts, the forward spring nuts and bolts and the rear shackle nuts with a good penetrating oil such as PB Blaster. The more you put on over a period of days the easier it will be to remove the nuts.

- No special tools are needed, but patience is.
1. Jack up the rear of the Bird, placing blocks or stands under the frame directly in front of the forward spring perch.
  2. Remove the wheel and tire assemblies
  3. Unfasten the lower end of the shock absorber.
  4. Remove the U Bolt nuts attaching the rear end housing to the spring. If you can't remove them by unscrewing or they snap the U Bolt, the new U Bolts recommended will come in handy.
  5. Lift the rear end assembly an inch or two off the spring and support it on a block or stands.
  6. Remove the rear shackle nuts and the outer half of the shackle.
  7. Slip the spring off the shackle and lower it to the ground. If there is a lot of rust between the spring and the rubber insulator this can be a chore. If you encounter a problem like this, it may be better to use a heavy hammer and drive the shackle out. **(Continued on page 7)**



## CAR SHOWS/SWAP MEETS

April 9-11 NYC Auto Show-Javirs Center

April 11 Stirling, NJ Flea Mkt-Long Hill Comm. Ctr  
South Warren Ave

April 16-18 Englishtown Swap & Car show

April 21-25-Spring Carlisle, PA

April 24-Oakland-Indian Hills High School

April 25-Butler, Rte 23 Automall (Flyer)

May 1 & 2 Rhinebeck, NY (AACCA show)

May 15-Montville-Conklin's farm(Radir Wheels) Free with  
old car, SwapMeet

May 16-Upper Saddle River Lake St.(Pearson Ed.)

May 22/23-West Milford-Car and Aircraft show. Green-  
wood Lake Airport (www.greenwoodlakeairport.com)



## CRUISE NIGHTS

Sunday

Monday

Hawthorne-Goffle Grille, Goffle Road Date ???

Tuesday

Wednesday

Wycoff-Greenwood Ave

Thursday

Friday

Boonton-Wal Mart-Wooten Street (Start 4/23)

Saturday

Chatterbox, Rtes 15&206, Augusta (Start 4/24?)

Clifton-Falls Grill, Rte 3W 12noon

If any one has info on shows and swap meets and please  
let me have the particulars for the newsletter.

### More March Meeting



### 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 10 cars that are going. Book rooms early, as there may be a shortage and get your registrations in.

### Tech Tips (Continued)

8. Remove the nut from the forward spring pivot bolt (5780) and slide the bolt out of the spring eye and frame. The spring is now out. This sounds easy-sometimes it is-most of the time it isn't. Many times the bolt will seize in the frame or the spring eye bushing due to rust or wear. Since it is impossible to get a straight shot at the end of the bolt due to some designers' non-ability to foresee maintenance problems, this is the point where you need the patience mentioned earlier. Try all available hammers. Penetrating oils usually will not work its way in despite repeated applications. Don't use heat because of the gas line in the area. I've had luck with cutting the bolt on both sides of the spring between the hanger and the spring and the spring and the spring with a saw. Then drive the remaining portion of the bolt out of the frame with a drift and hammer. I've also had luck with a foot long 1 : diameter steel bar held on the end of the bolt by a trusting helper and whacking the other end of the bar with a sledge hammer.
  9. Make sure the bushings are installed in the new spring then position the forward eye of the new spring in its hanger and slip in the new WELL LUBRICATED bolt. Install and tighten its nut.
  10. Install the new rear shackle bushings in the rear of the spring, slide the spring on to the shackle, install the outer plate and assemble and tighten the two nuts.
  11. Position the rear end housing on the spring being certain that the mounting plates and rubbers (5741) are installed in the proper order and the housing is located on the positioning pin head. If you don't locate the housing correctly, the car will "crab" as you drive.
  12. Reassemble the U Bolts over the rear end housing and through the lower shock mount plate. Make sure the plate is in the correct position for the shock . Install and torque (70 ftlbs) the nuts.
  13. Reattach the bottom of the shock absorber to the plate (replace if necessary).
  14. Replace the wheel
  15. Do the other side in the same manner.
- Suspension work on TBirds, like any other car, is dirty and often time consuming but is easily accomplished.

### March Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Walter Strohmaier. It was a beautiful day we had a large turnout of both cars and members. The food was good and it was a productive meeting. Thanks to Walter

#### Some highlights of the meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted and the Treasurer's report was given and accepted.

There were two guests attending, Bill and Dorothy Hyde from Totowa. Bill owns a 57 TBird, a 53 Ford panel truck and a 67 Corvette. Apparently Bill liked what he saw and joined at the meeting.

There was discussion on the Holiday party. The Brownstone was suggested. Paul Adamoff and Arlene are going to meet with the catering manager to discuss our needs.

Dominick discussed the membership pins. Price-\$7.00 each. He will order 50 at this time.

Paul Schroll talked about the plans for the trip to Dayton. He is coordinating the trip for those who want to go together.

Paul Adamoff spoke about the DVD with talk he saw at the Cadillac club meeting about the Rte 66 tour one of the members took in his old Caddy.

The Tune-Up Clinic has been scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rich Martin's house.

Lucille reported that the Edison tour was set. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Lois Martin reported on the CTCI board meeting at CTCI headquarters. Items discussed at the meeting included the Richmond, Va. And Omaha NE regionals in 2011, the new CTCI website (which will have club info), gathering and placement of various TBird archive materials and the possible addition of retro Birds with CTCI.

Susan Gaeta won the 50/50



**Remember April 15th**





**PATERSON GREAT FALLS ROTARY**  
presents

# ATHLETES

*Making A Difference!*

## BEEFSTEAK FUNDRAISER

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT:

- Free Throws For AIDS • Boys' & Girls' Club of Paterson
- Paterson YMCA • AAU Basketball Program of Paterson
- Little League Football • Little League Baseball
- YWCA • Operation Link-Up

**Thursday, May 6, 2010**

**7:00 pm**

### The Brownstone

351 West Broadway  
Paterson, NJ

Donation: \$55.00

*Entertainment*

*50/50*

*Silent Sports Memorabilia Auction*

For tickets, contact: Robert Wood  
973-200-0013 / 732-771-3713 / robertdavidwood@gmail.com

For additional event info, contact:  
Wayne Cesa 973.427.7267 / 862.262.9009

### *Honored Guests*

- ★ VANESSA PAYNTER
- ★ ESSENCE CARSON
- ★ MIKE ADAMS
- ★ TIM THOMAS
- ★ GERALD HAYES
- ★ RORY SPARROW
- ★ JOHNNY BRIGGS
- ★ NATALIE JORDAN
- ★ MARCEL SHIPP
- ★ JOE GRIER
- ★ ED COTTON
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- ★ LATE LARRY DOBY SR
- ★ LATE TYRONE COLLINS