



## Joint Thunderbird Event in Texas

In October 2019 Texas Thunderbird Clubs from Austin, Houston and San Antonio joined together for a two-day cruise and event to the Round Top Festival Hill Institute. The event was planned by Merlin Hoiseth and Greg Rich.

On Friday, The Austin Thunderbird Owners, Vintage Thunderbirds of Houston and South Texas Thunderbird Club San Antonio met up for lunch at The Southern Flyer Restaurant at the Brenham Airport. Parking was on the tarmac next to the restaurant. There were: two 1955's, two 1956's, five 1957's, one 1965, five modern Classic Thunderbirds, with two cars from San Antonio, six cars from Austin, and seven cars from Houston.



After lunch the group caravanned to the Blue Bell Creamery, where they observed the ice cream facility through the observation deck, enjoyed samples of Ice Cream in the Parlor and shopped in the Gift Shop.



The Blue Bell Creamery was started on a hot summer day in 1907. A group of local businessmen in Brenham, Texas, decided to establish the Brenham Creamery Company and make butter from excess cream brought in by area farmers. A few years later, the creamery began making ice cream and delivering it to neighbors by horse drawn wagon. It was in 1930 that the company changed its name to Blue Bell Creameries after the native Texas bluebell wildflower. Butter was produced until 1958 when Blue Bell began to focus full time on making ice cream. Today, Blue Bell Ice Cream is distributed to supermarkets and food stores through their direct store delivery program. Direct store delivery means that no one other than a Blue

Bell employee handles the product from the time it is made until it reaches the grocery store. This is one of the ways that Blue Bell ensures consumers receive the freshest possible ice cream. Blue Bell is sold in 22 States and is considered one of the best ice cream companies in the country.

Friday evening our group met for dinner at Volares an Italian Restaurant in downtown Brenham. To enhance the Joint Event, the three clubs intermingled in the restaurant at separate tables where we were treated to outstanding menu offerings and more enlightening conversations and Thunderbird tales for a truly memorable dining experience.

Saturday morning, the group caravanned from Brenham to visit Festival Hill, located in historic Round Top, Texas. Round Top Festival Institute founded in 1971 by world-renowned concert pianist James Dick. The Institute began with just a handful of gifted young pianists in rented space around town and grew to what is now an internationally acclaimed music institute for aspiring young musicians and distinguished faculty.



Since 1971, with the help of its patrons and friends, The James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts has developed superb year-round music education and performance programs. It has also created a unique 210-acre campus "Festival Hill" containing major performance facilities, historic houses, extensive gardens, parks and nature preserves. Through its singular collection of rare books, manuscripts, archival material, music and historic recordings, photographs and objects, Round Top Festival Hill Institute is also known as an important center for research and scholarly study.

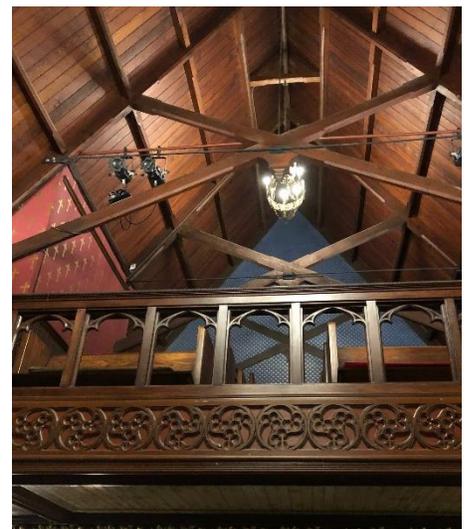
The Institute main mission is to educate and train about 120 young students from conservatories and universities in the United States and abroad to pursue their musical studies under the guidance of an international faculty. Through an intensive six-week summer music education program from June through July they have a comprehensive series of public performances. Throughout the rest of the year the Institute presents educational forums and music events featuring distinguished musicians, musicologists, original productions of new compositions, operas, dramas and ballets for the general public are presented. While the number of Festival-Institute alumni is in the thousands, the project manages to give each student the personal attention that has been a hallmark of its program. It is both a festival and an institute, where students and faculty perform for appreciative and large audiences. The concerts are broadcast through a yearly program titled "Live at Round Top" over public radio stations from coast to coast.



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The Festival Concert Hall, completed in April 2007, is one of the best in the country, acoustically speaking as well as strikingly beautiful. The Hall has been constructed from repurposed materials. The woodwork in all the buildings have been completely formed by hand. In the main hall there are handcrafted wood medallions all around the room and each is completely different. The side walls and ceiling are made with diamond shapes, one on top of another to help create a smooth true acoustical musical sound. The acoustics in the Hall are second only to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

The main campus, famous for its gardens, rare trees, herbal collections, fountains and unusual landscaping, is a destination for visitors from all over the world. An outreach program of public service concerts, featuring students and faculty, extends the benefits of the Festival-Institute to the surrounding community.





Our tour of the Institute was led by a very informed Docent providing interesting stories and anecdotes about several of the structures. If you are ever near Round Top, Texas it is well worth making an appointment to see this World-Renowned Festival Hill Musical Institute.



After the tour, the group ate lunch in Round Top at Teague's Tavern and were able to park in front as prearranged by the Manager and Merlin. Our Thunderbirds attracted quite the crowd browsing the shops around the city square.

It was a wonderful two-day joint cruise event. But, most importantly it was a great opportunity to meet like-minded Thunderbird enthusiasts and create some wonderful friendships.

Everyone is excited about our next adventure together.

Submitted by

Marilyn and Brian Carron  
South Texas Thunderbird Club, San Antonio

