





San Antonio, Texas

### JANUARY 2024



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Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area.



#### **Presidents Message for January 2024**

I hope all of you enjoyed a very Merry Christmas with family and friends and had an enjoyable and safe venture into the New Year over the weekend. As your President, I am looking forward to this coming year of STTC events that our Activities Committee is putting together for us. Much of the year has already been planned with some additional planning to be done. That includes the possibility of a Cruise later in the year to the Commemorative Air Force Centex facility in San Marcos! They have a larger selection of War Birds to see, including an operational B-25 named "Yellow Rose"! Ya know I gotta see this one! We will see if it will be possible to pose our Tbirds among those aircraft as we did at Stinson Field. More information regarding this in the future I hope. We plan another March Wildflower Cruise this time into an area of the Hill Country that we have not visited in the past. In May we are planning on attending a local Parade either as a Club or on an individual basis with a social lunch nearby. We have learned that May is a difficult month to plan due to the number of high school and college graduations that occur at the time of month. There is a possibility of a local cruise during Summer months to the new Boing Technical Center (and possible lunch there) at what many of us know as Kelly Field. There are other local area events being considered during the hot Summer months.

Our first meeting of 2024 is a Business Meeting Saturday, Jan. 27th at 10AM (NOT 11AM the time we usually meet) (probably only two planned for this year) at our Sponsor, Jordan Ford Dealership. See the Award Winning STTC newsletter and the Website for the full information on that event. It is important that as many of our members attend this meeting as we will be discussing information that may effect our VTCI Club greatly in the next few years. We will need your personal attendance at this meeting to allow you to provide us with your input regarding the subjects to be discussed.

This is the time of year for one to renew their Paid Membership with the STTC. Those of you who were unable to attend the Christmas Party and renew there, are reminded to print and fill out the STTC Membership Application form on the Website and send it and your check for \$20yr to

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#### **Presidents Message for January 2024**

Danny Varella. If there are any changes to address, phone number, email, Tbirds, or other information, please indicate them on the form so that Danny can update our STTC Roster. Do it now so you do not forget to do it later on.

Reflecting back on the STTC activities of last year I am left with the impression and pleasure in enjoying a good number of activities with each other. Some of the most enjoyable times to me have been the Pot Luck lunches we have spent together recently. These have been great successes and pleasures for me and others who have told me the same thing. They have given us the opportunity to spend more personal time with each other, getting to know each other much better and enjoy the togetherness we share at these events. I am pleased to say that there is a possibility of having another Pot Luck Lunch this coming year. I have had someone step forward and offer their home for this event. Details are being worked out regarding this.

See ya ALL this month at our January Business meeting!

Best Regards, Ray Clark STTC President



EDITOR'S



### **Book Review**

I am always "thinking" - my wife believes I do way too much "thinking". Especially when I am "thinking of doing something". Well as thinking would have you I thought it would be nice to occasionally add a different (new) element to the T Bird Tales Newsletter. As such I thought an element of books, books that may be of interest - at least to someone.

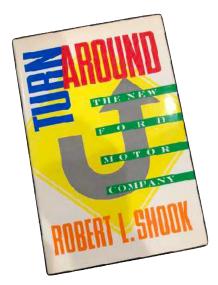
Since my last name is "Reader" I tend to do a lot of reading.

The book I have chosen for "The Book Corner" is automotive related (imagine that). In addition it is related to the Ford Motor Company. The book is - Turn Around, The New Ford Motor Company by Robert L. Shook.

The book examines the one of the greatest turn arounds in automotive history. Some may find the read to be business oriented but I found it to be entertaining and filled with numerous behind the scenes stories related to the auto industry in particular Ford.

Excerpt from the inside book cover -

Between 1980 and 1983, the ford Motor Company lost a staggering \$3.3 billion (that is a B), the most severe loss ever suffered by any corporation. Ford, a notional institution long synonymous



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### **Book Review**

with American automobiles and ingenuity, stood on the verge of meltdown, a collapse that would have shaken the entire U.S. economy to its core. Yet Ford not only survived but emerged as on of the most admired and profitable companies in the world. Here is an behind-the-scenes account of Ford's near disaster and spectacular comeback — the greatest turnaround ever achieved in American industry. It is a story played out in the Glass House boardrooms and plant assembly lines, in small-town courthouses and big city newspapers — a story of corporate power plays, billion-dollar gambles, dismal failures, and dramatic successes.

There is something for anyone interested in the drama played out in auto industry. Many stories that provide historical perspective, such as Henry (The Duce) Ford II mission to kick Enzo Ferrari's ass at LeMans. How the Ford Taurus came about.



Robert L. Shook

The book is out of print but there are used copies available - eBay being one source. I also noticed that Amazon has used editions as well.



If any STTC members have a book recommendation that may be of interest to other members please let me know and I will put it in the "Editor's Book Corner"

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

## JANUARY

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Ron Fullen 01/06
Nellie Williams 01/18
Helen Powers 01/25



#### **ANNIVERSARY**

Krista Pepau
Jeremy Brownlow

Seth & Becky Nelson



01/03

01/07



### January Zodiac Sign

There are (2) Zodiac Signs that encompass the month of December

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)











## Notable Birthdays

January 8, 1889 – Edward Elijah Perkins, creator of Kool-Aid.

January 8, 1935 - Elvis Presley, King of Rock 'n Roll

January 15, 1929 - Martin Luther King Jr.

January 16, 1853 - Andre Michelin, inflatable auto tire inventor

January 16, 1935 – A.J. Foyt, race car driver

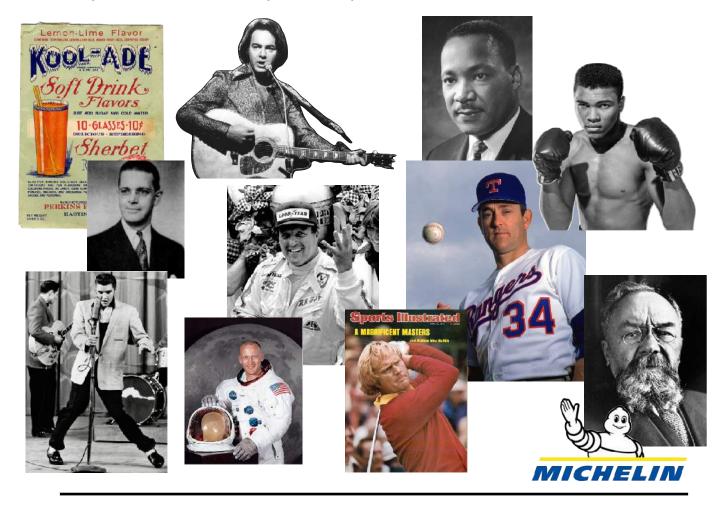
January 17, 1942 - Mohammad Ali, heavyweight boxing champion

January 20, 1930 - Edwin "Buzz Aldrin, Astronaut, walked on the moon

January 21, 1940 – Jack Nicklaus, "The Golden Bear", one of the greatest golfers

January 24, 1941 - Neil Diamond, Singer, composer

January 31, 1947 - Nolan Ryan, MLB pitcher





### Notable Events

**January 1, 1963** – 1963 was the first major step in the Concorde's life. After a quick flick through a thesaurus by a British Aircraft Corporation senior figure, the name Concorde is created.

January 21, 1976 – The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.

**January 21, 1981** – Celebrating its 5th birthday, the Concorde's magnificence is starting to be appreciated. With an astounding record of over 700,000 passengers, 50,000 flying hours, and over 15,800 flights, the craft is given its rightful place as one of the best planes of all time.

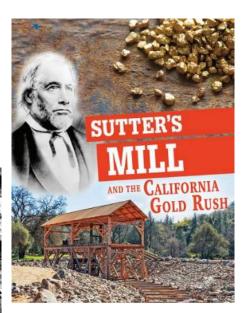
January 24, 1848 – The California gold rush began with the accidental discovery of the precious metal near Coloma during the construction of a Sutter's sawmill. An announcement by President Polk later in the year caused a national sensation and resulted in a flood of "Forty-niners" seeking wealth.













### Automotive Notable Events

#### January 27, 1965 Shelby GT350 is Launched

On this day in 1965, car designer and automobile racer Carroll Shelby introduces the 306 horsepower V8 engine Shelby GT 350 — a version of the Ford Mustang named after designer and World War II aircraft. The long hood and short rear deck beauty, sold almost 22,000 after debuting in Ford showrooms across the U.S. and more than 400,000 in the first year of production. Carroll Shelby was born in Leesburg, Texas, in 1923. Shelby raced his first quarter mile drag meet in January of 1952, after serving in World War II and becoming a father to three children.

Rumor has it, Mr. Shelby was a bit of a romantic. He was a flight instructor during WWII and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas. During longer missions he'd stuff love letters in his combat boots and drop them over his fiancee's farm.







### Specifications

#### 1965 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350

#### ENGINE TYPE

Water-cooled V-8. cast iron block, 5 main bearings

Displacement: 289 in3, 4727 cm3 Power (SAE): 306 bhp @ 6000 rpm Torque: 329 lbs-ft @ 4200 rpm

#### TRANSMISSION

Transmission: 4-speed, all-synchro



### Automotive Notable Events

January 12, 1904 - Ford sets new land speed record

Before Henry Ford ever started the car company that would bear his name, he collaborated with a bicycle racer named Tom Cooper to build two racing cars in

1902. The vehicles were relatively interchangeable, both featuring a 1156 cu.in. (18.9 L) inline-4 engine that produced between 70 and 100 hp. Two weeks before their first scheduled race, the cars would not start. Fearing another failure and on the brink of losing his second car company, Ford sold his stake in them for \$800 to Cooper and pioneering auto racer Barney Oldfield. However, being the marketing man he was, Ford retained rights to any publicity and promotions surrounding the vehicles.



Henry Ford, standing, and Barney Oldfield in 1902, with the "999" racing automobile.

Painted red and yellow and named 999 and Arrow, respectively, the bare bones cars would prove ferocious on the track. Oldfield won the first race he ever entered driving the 999, a five mile race called the Manufacturer's Challenge Cup. Henry's obsession with speed seemed like it may pay off, but it soon became deadly.

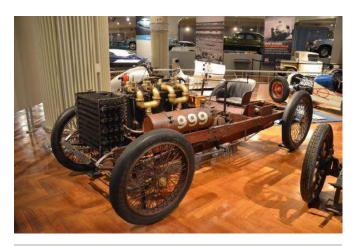
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### Automotive Notable Events

January 12, 1904 - Ford sets new land speed record

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The 999 at The Henry Ford Museum

The car dubbed Arrow also had a successful career, until driver Frank Day crashed the car in September 1903, killing himself in the process. Following the wreck, Henry Ford bought the vehicle back hoping to capitalize on its existing publicity. He and his mechanics repaired it and dubbed it the new 999, as the original red car had been retired from the race track. Then on this day in automotive history in 1904, Henry took the 999 to New Baltimore,

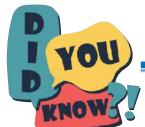
Michigan and drove the vehicle himself with mechanic Ed Huff at the throttle. The pair set a new automobile land speed record of 91.37 mph (140.05 km/h) on the ice over Lake St. Clair. At this point, the Ford Motor Company had yet to have its first birthday, but this success attracted new investors. Ford's achievements behind the wheel may be all but forgotten, but they helped him build a global car company.



Henry Ford racing the "ol 999"



**Barney Oldfield** 



### Notable Automotive Event

#### The Detroit Automobile Company & Henry Ford

The Detroit Automobile Company (DAC) was an early American automobile manufacturer founded on August 5, 1899, inDetroit, Michigan.

It was the first venture of its kind in Detroit.

Automotive mechanic Henry Ford attracted the financial backing of twelve investors; Detroit Mayor William Maybury, William H. Murphy and others. As with many early car ventures the company floundered, and it was dissolved in January 1901.

Twenty vehicles were built and \$86,000 (\$2.61 million in 2019) of investment was lost.

The company was founded with a paid-up capital of \$15,000 (\$455,490 in 2019).

Henry Ford managed the manufacturing plant at 1343 Cass Avenue and Amsterdam in Detroit; initially with no pay until he left his job at the Detroit Edison Company, after which he was given a monthly salary of \$150 (\$4,555 in 2019).



The Detroit Automobile Company factory with its first product, a delivery truck, parked in front. The factory would later house Cadillac.

He refused to put a car into production until he had perfected it to his satisfaction, infuriating investors who quickly began to lose confidence in Ford's ability to bring a product to market.

The company's primary objective was to make a profit for its investors, who had seen the Oldsmobile plant, where the Curved Dash Oldsmobile was built, which was profitable for its owner Samuel Smith.

**Continued – Next Page** 



### Notable Automotive Event

The company's first product was a gasoline-powered delivery truck engineered by Ford and completed in January 1900. It received favorable coverage in a local newspaper, but was not without its flaws; it was slow, heavy, unreliable and complicated to manufacture.

Later in life, Ford recalled this period as one that was driven by profit rather than innovation.

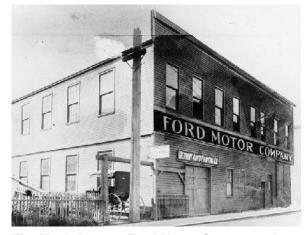
A catalog produced by Detroit Automobile Company in 1900 showed, with a cost analysis, that the automobile was cheaper to maintain and operate than a horse and vehicle.

Little is known about the company's designs.

The Detroit Automobile Company was reorganized into the Henry Ford Company on November 20, 1901,

after Ford gained further backing from investors because of his racing success. It later became the Cadillac Company under the ownership of Henry Leland, who came in subsequently after Ford had left.

The factory location for the Detroit Automobile Company is less than a mile away southeast from Mr. Ford's Piquette Avenue Plant, which opened four years later.



The Mack Avenue Ford Motor Company plant.



The company's first product was a gasoline-powered delivery truck engineered by Ford and completed in January 1900



# The Rear View - DECEMBER -



## STTC 2023





# The Rear View - DECEMBER -

**STTC 2023** 



While the annual Christmas Party is NOT a business meeting, there is always some items need to discussed.

Our STTC President, "The Prez, Bloodhound" Ray Clark provided some information regarding the past year as well as the "new year" begins for the club.

VTCI South Central Regional Director, Brian Carron updated the group on some items related to VTCI activities. In addition, Brian presented to the STTC Membership their Gold Award for the STTC TBird Tales newsletter. Bruce accepted the award on behalf of the members of the South Texas Thunderbird Club.



"The Prez" making some announcements to the club members prior to the STTC Festivities . . .

That is "Our STTC Festivus for the Rest of Us!"



Representing the STTC Members acceptance of the newsletter Gold Award.





















January 2024 Edition











### STTC Schedule of Events



### STTC BUSINESS MEETING

#### JANUARY 27, 2024 - 10:00 AM - Jordan Ford

Our first meeting of 2024 is a Business Meeting Saturday, Jan. 27th at 10AM (NOT 11AM the time we usually meet) (probably only two planned for this year) at our Sponsor, Jordan Ford Dealership.

Jordan Ford Ltd 13010 IH 35 North San Antonio, TX 78233





NOTE: Refer to important details in "Presidents Message" on page 2





### **Events That May Interest You**

More Details at the January STTC Meeting





# GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

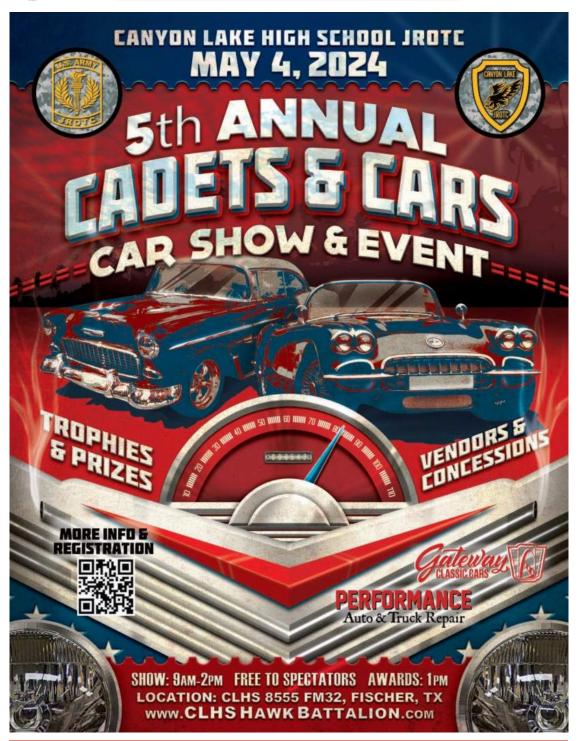
VTCI 2024 International Convention
August 7th-11th
Included On the agenda...

The Gilmore Car Museum
Meijer Sculpture Gardens
Gerald Ford Museum as tours

... Plus dozens and dozens of Thunderbirds.



### **Events That May Interest You**



Contact for questions, call or text: Laura 210-268-2899 or email clhshawkbattalion@gmail.com

## MARKETPLACE

### In The Market / On The Market



#### 1988 Ford Thunderbird Sport

5.0 V8, Power steering, power disc brakes, 4 speed auto overdrive. Power windows, power door locks, remote trunk release, remote gas door release, 15" alloy wheels, disc brakes, quadulink rear suspension (4 shocks, consol center with floor mounted shifter, tinted windows, factory dual exhaust, clear coat red medium metallic paint, AM/FM radio with cassette (original in box) now has Alpine AM/FM with CD player installed, new radiator, new fan clutch, new power steering pump, AC has original R12 freon and works great, heater works great, 90% tire tread ware left, front end recently checked and aligned, recent oil and filter change, 6 way power red velvet seats, remote control rearview mirrors

Asking \$9000.00 Overall, car is in great shape.

Any questions please call Jack Dowda at 210-862-7510

## MARKETPLACE

### In The Market / On The Market

Jay Tartell, San Antonio has a 2002 Yellow Retrobird for sale. He has owned it for many years. It has 110,000 miles on it. He has a lot of new parts on it, AC, Brakes, PS Pump, Alternator, Hard Boot Yellow Cover. It is accident free and he has all the maintenance records on the Tbird. Details on the Tbird are available.

On The Market

Call him for further details at 210-478-0560

if you have a serious interest in it.

#### On The Market



Samantha Mahler recently contacted me regarding Tbird parts she has for sale. She is not a member of this Club, but I am assisting her in disposing of these parts after the Passing of Her Father. She will be reviewing these parts shortly to determine which might be NOS and which look to be Used.

"Hi there! My name is Samantha. My Father recently passed away and left behind a collection of vintage car parts, mostly for his '55-'63 Tbirds. He had sold his cars a few years back but still had these parts. I am looking to sell these car parts either as a whole or individually. I'm based in Houston, and am willing to meet with anyone who is interested in buying the Lot of these parts. Respond via this email: mahlersamantha@gmail.com or you can call or text me at 361-455-2397. Thank you! Samantha Mahler"

## PARTS / SERVICE









Thunderbirds Southwest 4635 E. State Highway 71 La Grange, TX 78945

https:thunderbirdsouthwest.com/

Owner Lance E. Herrington
Full-Service Thunderbirds
1955-1979
Featuring restoration,
mechanical service,
consignment,
sales, and parts.



~Delivering Professional Solutions for Your Classic Car!

35 Rust Lane, Boerne, TX 78006 (830)336-4680 www.HotRodGarageBoerne.com

## PARTS / SERVICE



Pena Bros. Upholstery Co. Automotive Interior Center 5305 Bandera Rd San Antonio, Texas 78238 210-647-4200 Fax 210-520-1854 Rudy G. Pena



www.penbrosroautotops.com www.penabrostrim@yahoo.com Southwest Chrome Plating 9023 IH -10 East

Converse, Texas 210-658-8087

Email: swchrome@hotmail.com

Affiliated with Pulido Plating, will pick up
and deliver back to this location for your
chrome plating needs. Email is the best way
to get hold of them from the website or
call the Balch Springs location.







## PARTS / SERVICE



#### **List of Dealers for Parts**

- **58-66** Bird Nest 800-232-6378 www.tbirdparts.com
- 55-72 Classic Auto Parts 800-654-3247 www.classicautoparts.com
- 55-86 Concours Parts 800-722-0009 www.concourspartd.com
- 58-94 Thunderbird Ranch 715-884-6546 www.tbirdranch.com
- ▼ 55-56 Casco 800-374-0914 www.classictbird.com
- 55-56 Hill's Classic Cars 740-949-2217 www.hillsresto.com
- Rock Auto www.rockauto.com
- Hi-Tech Electronic/Radio Repair Service, (Modern ClassicT-Birds and more)

  Van Nuys, CA, 818-785-8085
  - Service@Hitechserv.com
  - or https://hitechserv.com/electronicsrepairs/oem-navigation-dvd-ed-charger-repair/
- Rick Monroe "Straightnshinybygolly" Chrome Straightening & Polishing Phone: (210) 584-5856. Email: <a href="mailto:mongooserpm@gmail.com">mongooserpm@gmail.com</a>





### About South Texas Thunderbird Club

San Antonio Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC) Inc. has been in existence for 44 years 1979-2023. STTC is a family-oriented organization with the goal of enjoying, having fun and preserving our Thunderbirds among friends and elevating the interest of these beautiful cars within our community. Our annual membership is \$20.00 and prorated throughout the year for new members. These dues entitle members to a club roster and the club's monthly newsletter. Most importantly membership provides the opportunity to contribute and participate in Regional/International Conventions. Dues are due on January 1st and no later than January 31st.

#### We welcome all Thunderbirds from 1955-2005



#### **Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI)**



South Texas Thunderbird Club Inc. (STTC) is a chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International. This organization is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all Ford Thunderbirds 1955 - 2005. If you are not a member of VTCI and would like to join, you can go to VTCI's website at

#### www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

download an application form, include fee and mail it to

**VTCI** 

P.O. Box 75308

Wichita, KS 67275

– or –

fill it out online.

– or –

You can join through our website

www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com

if you prefer.



### South Texas Thunderbird Club Support Material





STTC Brochure

South Texas

Bruce

San Antonio

STTC Patch





STTC Member Name Tags

STTC Club Cards



STTC Website
Providing Club News, Activities, Membership, Gallery
www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com



# SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

STTC OFFICERS	COMMITTEE DIRECTORS	VTCI OFFICERS
President Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Newsletter Editor Bruce Reader (630) 464-8200	<b>President</b> Rod Wake
Vice-President Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Auto Technical Advisor Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Vice-President</b> Bob McNeill
Secretary Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Website Assistance Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Executive Secretary</b> Jake Wake
Treasurer Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	<b>Historian</b> Marilyn Carron —————	<b>Treasurer</b> Randy Mattson
	Name Tag Coordinator  Jerry Cowan  ———————	<b>Concourse Director</b> Paul Prokop
	<b>Activities Chairman</b> Gary Faught	<b>Technical Director</b> Alan Tast
		Publication Director Terri McNeill
		<b>Country Store</b> Laura Wahrmund

South Central Regional Director
Brian Carron



#### Websites

www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com







#### www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com

**South Texas Thunderbird Club** (STTC), located in San Antonio, Texas, is a local chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI)

- STTC dues are \$20.00 per year, prorated at \$2 per month
- VTCI dues are \$40.00. You can apply on their website: www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net

Member info:	your name:	birthday:		
	first / last	,	month / day	
	spouse's name:	birthday:	month / day	
	anniversary date: VTC		•	
			•	
	address: street city	st	zip	
	telephone: hm ( ) cell ( _	)		
	email:			
T-birds owned:	year: model:			
	year: model:			
	year: model:			
	Waiver And Release From Liab	ility		
to myself resulting harmless for, or in of my activity. The restriction and inc warrant that I carr that this insurance	e South Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC), I am solely responsible from anything connected with STTC Club activities. I agree to any claim, loss, damage, injury, or liability, that may be asserforegoing covenants of exculpation and indemnity are intended tude, but are not limited to, negligence (active or passive) or y automobile liability insurance on the vehicle, meeting or excessively be in force and effect for all STTC activities in which I particulates in which I participate.	for any damage indemnify and I ced by me, or b to be and are co willful reckless reding all Texas	hold STTC Club, by any third part omplete, general or wanton activ statutory requi	and Officers y as a result I and without vity. I further rements and
mem	ber's signature:	date:		
spou	se's signature:	date:		
	PAYABLE TO: SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD C (with check) to: Danny Varella 27302 Park Loop Road	CLUB		VINTAGA
	New Braunfels, TX 78132			Thunderbird

for more club info, please contact:

Ray Clark rayclark07@att.net (210) 875-1411



NAME:			
SPOUSES NAME:			
MAIL ADDRESS:			
CITY	ST.	ATE /PROVINCE	ZIP:
COUNTRY:			
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
LIST NAME IN ROSTER?	YES   NO	]	
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	US and	All Other	NATAGE SORTOR
Personal Angelogy Commission	Canada	Countries	Thunduchind
January / February March / April	\$40.00	\$60.00 \$55.00	
May / June	\$30.00	\$45.00	Trenvicto"
July / August	\$25.00	\$40.00	
September / October	\$55.00	\$90.00 include	
November / Decembe	88	\$80.00 include	es next year
VISA / MasterCard (cir	cle one)		
Card #	- 1 to 1 t		
Expiration Date			
Name on Card			
(if different from abo	ve-please pri	nt)	
Signature			
Please make check pa Vintage Thunderbird (			
P.O. Box 75308 Wichit			
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