



San Antonio, Texas

FEBRUARY 2024



Nothing Says Love Like A Thunderbird



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Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area.



Presidents Message for February 2024

Here we are already into February with Winter headed towards Spring! How time flies when you are having fun! Speaking of Fun, I think the STTC Activities has come up with an interesting and exciting series of activities for the first six months of this year, with possible further activities for September, and October also being considered. December is a given with the STTC Christmas Party. Rather than list those upcoming activities here you will be able to view them in the STTC February Newsletter that our intrepid Editor is about to unleash on us! Having previewed it, I can tell you that it will be another Reader Rousing Report of last month's activities! I can tell you that the Cruise to LBJ Ranch is off by membership vote for reasons cited in my email.

On to Plan B that involves our newest STTC member Cathy Miller of Marble Falls. In December she had called me on regarding selling a Classic Mustang, hopefully to someone in our area. In the course of our conversation, she told me that she also owns an excellent 1957 Dusty Rose Little Bird that is presently apart, having been recently re-painted. I mentioned to her that the Club might be traveling in her area in March to view the Wildflowers. She immediately said that if so, we should come to her home and have lunch there if we decide to Cruise in her area. I readily accepted her offer and suggested we do a Pot Luck Lunch and she agreed. There has been some concern regarding the distance to Marble Falls and transporting of perishable food on the trip. First regarding the distance. From the center of town, it is 83 miles there, just about 15 minutes and 22 miles further from Johnson City. For some it may be a two-hour drive, and for others a shorter one. Here is my suggestion regarding possible perishable food. Put it into a small container with ice and it should be fine. We will do lunch first and then go Wildflower hunting. Cathy knows of an old abandoned farm house that is famous for its Wildflower displays around it.

At the STTC Business meeting at Jordan Ford there were several items of importance that came up and they will be provided to you in the Minutes of that meeting. One was the discussion that Brian Carron, the outgoing CTCI President and I have been having for some time now. He has also had conversations with the SA Little Bird President on the same subject. That President is now Gerry Busald, fellow long time STTC member! Over the years, members of STTC have also been members of the SA Little Bird Club

Continued – Next Page



Presidents Message for February 2024

and vice-versa. Gerry had been considering forming their own Activities Committee for their club when I pointed out to him that their Club could make use of our Activities Committee since 2 of our Activities Committee members are also SA Little Bird Club Members! It was a no brainer, and as a result of conversations between the three of us, and in view of the excellent recent turnout of the two combined Clubs at Stinson Field, it made sense to do more activities together. A decision has been made to work together and involve both Clubs in future Tbird Club activities. We welcome members of the SA Little Bird Club to provide your CTCI/STTC members, and Gary Faught, Stan Andrews, or Danny Varella or their Spouses with information regarding future activities you would like to do together.

Another matter discussed involves the STTC to become part of the 2025 VTCI International Convention, probably to be held in the DFW area. STTC would NOT be responsible for hosting this by themselves, as we have in the past and would be relieved from providing ALL the manpower to put on this event, just some of it. The VTCI will be in control and each VTCI Chapter was asked to donate \$2,000 to cover the Convention expenses with the caveat that our funds would be returned to us if the event is a financial success. Brian pointed out that the VTCI conventions have ALWAYS been a financial success. Based on that information 12 members volunteered to assist the VTCI and the membership present voted in favor of extending \$2,000 to the VTCI to assist in funding this 2025 International Convention.

I am looking forward to our next activity this month, having travelled past this place many times but never having stopped. I think we will do lunch first and then visit. Details on the lunch location are being worked on. Happy Valentines Day this month of Bissextile (February) and Bisextis (29 February) Leap Year! And Nooo, those words do not mean anything you might think they do! Lol. Those who were born on a February 29th, finally get to celebrate their birthday this year!

Best Regards, Your STTC President

Ray Clark





A couple of "Big Thank You's -

First – It was suggested by one of our club members, **Danny Varella**, (Club Member & Treasurer) that I should call the book review "Reader's Great Reads". I thought to myself, Brilliant-What a Capital Idea. After all, my last name is "Reader". So thanks to Danny - whenever we do a book review for the newsletter it is "**Reader's Great Reads**".



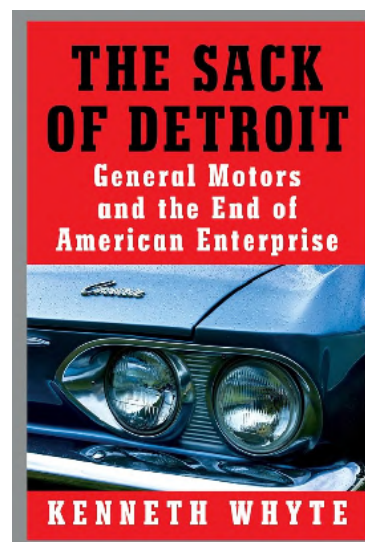
Second – This month's book feature is presented by **Stan Andrews** (Club Member, Vice-President & Secretary). It is great when members of the club participate in newsletter. Of note: when Stan suggested this book I immediately ordered the book and just received it.

Stan's Take on "The Sack of Detroit"

This book I recommend to those who enjoy looking back at the events and situations that have shaped how we live today. Whyte has written other books I have read and enjoyed covering political climates at any given time that changed how the US functions.

In this book, Whyte centers on the General Motors Corporation because by the 1950's they were the biggest and most influential of all the US auto industry. He covers the growth of the big chrome covered land yachts and the race into the 1960's and the issue between luxury cars and the horse power race that began in the late 50's.

Some of the chapters cover the legal river that began with Robert Kennedy and Abraham Ribicoff attacking the auto industry titans and how these people were effecting the US and generally the world that relied on the automobile to live day to day. Questions about the advertisements of planned obsolescent vehicles and that everyone needed the latest car and all the fixings. Then, there's the union and its demands for the workers. Whyte covers the rise of Ralph Nadar in the 1950's and his constant attack on the safety of the automobiles and even the highway structures that the cars used.



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And of course, there is the shift around 1960 to the foreign built “economy” car and its rise in popularity. Detroit’s response with cars such as the Ford Falcon, Chevrolet’s Vega and a host of small cars from Rambler to those of Chrysler Motors all made an attempt to hold on to the US buyer and still.

This is a good read for those who want to get a better understanding of the effect a concentrated effort by a group can have on a business behemoth not to say the industry in general.

Submitted by Stan Andrews



Your editor with his just received copy



Book is available in hardback, digital or audio formats.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KENNETH WHYTE is the author of *Hoover: An Extraordinary Life in Extraordinary Times*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and *The Uncrowned King: The Sensational Rise of William Randolph Hearst*, a Washington Post and Toronto Globe and Mail Book of the Year, and a nominee for four major Canadian book awards. He is a publishing and telecommunications executive and chairman of the Donner Canadian Foundation. He was formerly editor in chief of Maclean’s magazine, editor of the monthly Saturday Night magazine, and founding editor of the National Post. He lives in Toronto.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Peter Glawe 2/06
Bryce Huntsman 2/27

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

ANNIVERSARY



LOVE



Valentine's Day

Punxsutawney Phil predicts
an early spring for 2024



February Zodiac Sign

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

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



Amethyst
THE BIRTHSTONE OF FEBRUARY





F E B R U A R Y

OKAY!
Light The
candles!



Notable Birthdays

February 2, 1937 – Tommy Smothers, actor, comedian of “The Smothers Brothers”

February 4, 1902 – Charles Lindbergh, aviator

February 5, 1934 – Hank Aaron, Hall of Fame Baseball

February 7, 1962 – Garth Brooks, country singer

February 8, 1931 – James Dean actor

February 12, 1809 – Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President (1861-1865)

February 15, 1820 – Susan B. Anthony, Women’s Suffrage

February 17, 1936 – Jim Brown, Cleveland Browns, greatest runner in NFL history

February 22, 1732 – George Washington, 1st U.S. President (1789-1797)

February 24, 1955 – Steven Jobs, co-founder of Apple Computer

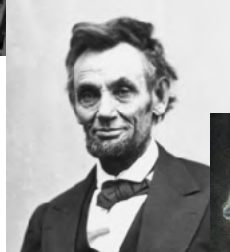
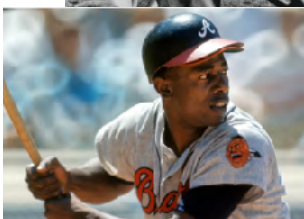
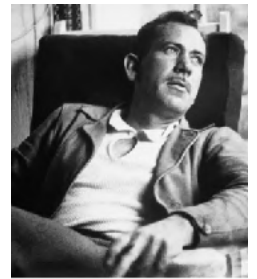
February 25, 1943 – George Harrison, one of the four “Beatles”

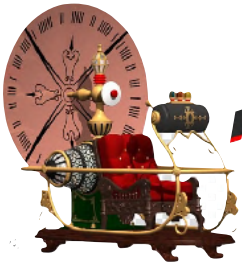
February 26, 1829 – Levi Strauss, inventor of denim jeans

February 27, 1902 – John Steinbeck, author of “Grapes of Wrath”

February 27, 1932 – Elizabeth Taylor, actress

February 28, 1940 – Mario Andretti, race car driver





**THE TIME
MACHINE**

FEBRUARY

Notable Events

February 1, 1964 – G. I. Joe toy action figure hits the market. It originally sold for \$2.49 by Hasbro.

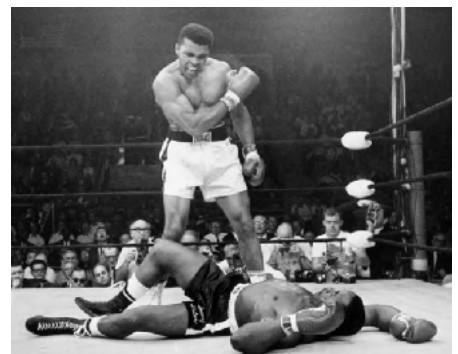
February 2, 1949 – The first 45 RPM vinyl record is released.

February 4, 1949 – Ruth Handler invents the Barbie Doll.

February 7, 1964 – The Beatles arrive in the U.S. for the first time. **February 9, 1964** – The Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan Show.

February 20, 1962 – John Glenn becomes the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth.

February 25, 1964 – Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) wins his first World Heavyweight Title, defeating Sonny Liston.





F E B R U A R Y

Automotive Notable Events

February 24, 1909

Hudson Motor Company Founded

In Detroit, eight businessmen met to establish a company under Michigan state law that would produce automobiles selling for less than \$1,000. This meeting marked the start of the Hudson Motor Car Company. The company was named after Joseph L. Hudson, who was a Detroit department store entrepreneur and one of those eight businessmen.

A little over four months after that organizational meeting, the company's first automobile rolled out of a Detroit factory that is pictured above. This automobile, which was called the Hudson "Twenty," sold for only \$900. "Here's a car that is good looking," proclaimed a Saturday Evening Post advertisement for the new roadster-type vehicle. "It is big and racy. Note the graceful and harmonious lines. Observe the sweep of the fenders and the frame."



The Hudson Twenty, which is pictured above, became the first low-cost automobile equipped with a selective sliding gear transmission. More than 4,000 units were purchased that first year, setting a new sales record for the automobile industry record. The Hudson Motor Car Company jumped to 17th place industry-wide when it came to overall sales by 1910 — all the more remarkable when considering that there were hundreds of firms marketing and selling motor vehicles at that time.

The Hudson Motor Car Company built on that strong start by unveiling and popularizing a host of other automotive innovations over the next several years. These innovations included the first low-priced automobile to reach 60 miles (96.6 kilometers) per hour; the placement of the ignition system inside each vehicle, and the steering wheel to the left and the shift lever in the center; and the introduction of dual brakes as well as dashboard oil-pressure and generator warning lights. The Hudson Motor Car Company remained in business until 1954, when it merged with Nash-Kelvinator Corporation to form American Motors.



1909 Hudson (First)



1909 Hudson



1957 Hudson (Last)



FEBRUARY

Famous Texans Born In February

Charlie's Angel

First up is Farrah Fawcett, the heart throb of every teen boy in the 70s. She was born February 2nd, 1947 in Corpus Christi, TX. The Emmy Award and Golden Globe nominee rose to stardom with her performance in Charlie's Angels and starred in other famous works such as The Burning Bed and Extremities.



Fleet Admiral Nimitz

Next is a Fredericksburg native, Chester W Nimitz. He was born February 24th, 1885 and was a fleet admiral of the US Navy. The Admiral played a major role during World War II commanding all air, land, and sea efforts of the Allied forces. He ruled with Texan strength, leading the Allies to win the war.

Note: The Nimitz National Museum of the Pacific War is located in Fredericksburg.



Michael Dell

Born in Houston Texas on February 23, 1965, Michael Dell started upgrading computers from his dorm room at the University of Texas in Austin. He left college after his freshman year to focus on Dell Computer and eventually grew it into a multi-billion-dollar technology firm. Michael Dell lives in Austin with his family.





The Rear View – JANUARY –



STTC BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2024 - Jordan Ford

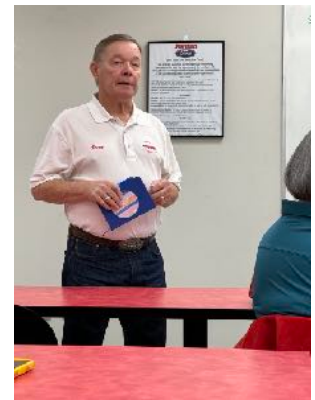
Our first meeting of 2024 is a Business Meeting



"The Prez"



**Danny checking who's paid
"dues"**



**Gary presents STTC
2024 events**



**Brian give "update" on
VTCL activities**



**Getting the latest from
"Rumor Control"**



Pre-Meeting Confabing



UPCOMING EVENTS!

STTC Schedule of Events

February 24, 2024
Train Museum of San Antonio



March 30, 2024
Cruise to Marble Falls - Pot Luck & Wild Flower Cruise



April 27, 2024
Botanical Gardens of San Antonio



May 25, 2024
Live Oak Parade & TBird Appreciation Day



June 29, 2024
Wimberly Glass Works





Events That May Interest You



VTCI 2024 International
August 7th-11th

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.

CANYON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC
MAY 4, 2024

5th ANNUAL
CADETS & CARS
CAR SHOW & EVENT

TROPHIES & PRIZES

VENDORS & CONCESSIONS

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

Gateway CLASSIC CARS

PERFORMANCE
Auto & Truck Repair

SHOW: 9AM-2PM FREE TO SPECTATORS AWARDS: 1PM
LOCATION: CLHS 8555 FM32, FISCHER, TX
WWW.CLHSHAWKBATTALION.COM

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

Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

I recently had the opportunity to take a gander of some “vintage” Early Bird Magazines that a friend loaned to me. While there were only (2) of them, what a treat to look back in to yesteryear - 1978 – 79. The publication was produced by the “Classic Thunderbird Club International” out of Culver City, California.

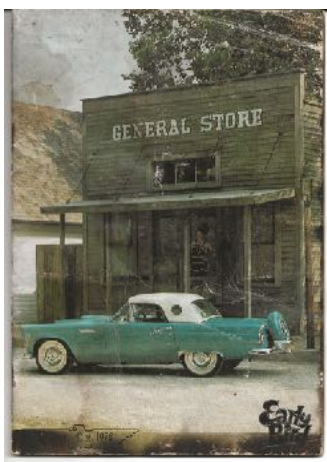
What’s interesting is that Linda (wife) and I were living in Southern California at the time albeit NOT owning a Thunderbird but very familiar with a number of the references in the magazine. What a HOOT!

Bear in mind, there was NO internet back then much less “personal computers” - it was all done via phone call, fax or personally showing up.

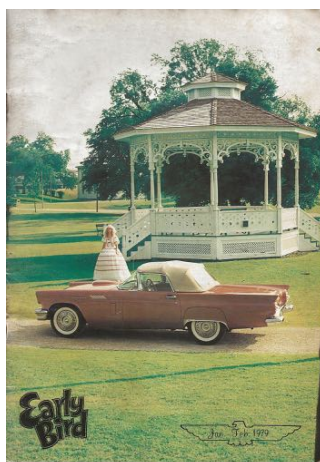
Never the less, when you put the time frame in perspective the “Early Bird” publication was first class.

I randomly looked up a couple of the businesses that were advertised in the publication - “low and behold” they are still in business today. One such business is “Prestige Thunderbird” in Santa Fe Springs, CA not just a few blocks from the tractor dealership I worked at for many years. The other business is “Larry’s Thunderbird Parts” out of Fullerton, CA. Another business that was very close to where we lived and another tractor dealership I worked at. Now they are located in Corona, CA - another area I am very familiar with.

I would love to peruse other issues as it is chocked full of information was well as being quite nostalgic today. **TOO bad that I must return these to Ron - Thanks Ron**



Early Bird Cover - 1978



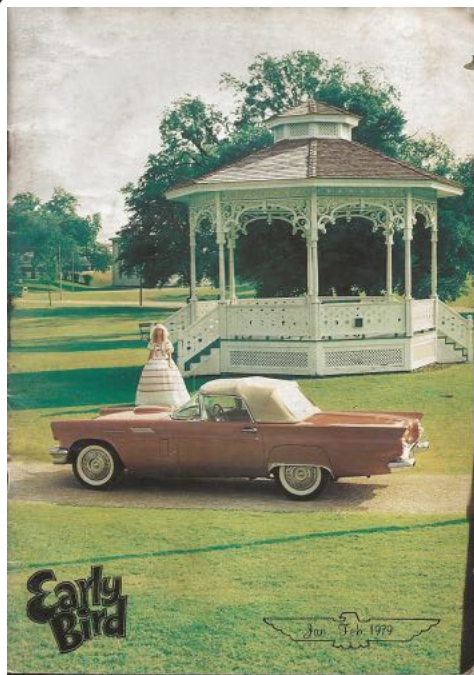
Early Bird Cover - 1979



My Friend - Ron

– Continued On Next Page –

Larry's Thunderbird Parts Ad in Early Bird 1979



January-February 1979 Page 14

LARRY'S THUNDERBIRD PARTS

Specializing in 1955, 1956 and 1957 THUNDERBIRDS

Phone TOLL FREE for FREE Catalog and Vinyl Samples.

IN A HURRY? C.O.D., BankAmericard and Master Charge Accepted.

PARTS & CATALOG ORDERS
TOLL FREE WHATTS
(800) 854-0497
From Outside California

511 S. Raymond Ave.
Fullerton, Calif. 92631
(714) 871-6625
8075 1/2 S. 206 Ave.
CLARK COUNTY

NEW & NEW REPRODUCED PARTS: Only genuine N.O.S. (New Old Stock) hard parts or reproduced parts made to duplicate the original is money about.

USED PARTS: We try to maintain a large inventory of processed parts from the California cars we are dismantling. The so-called "hard to get" parts are usually in stock at "not as hard to get" prices. Only the better maintained parts are offered for sale.

AUTHENTIC LICENSE PLATES: We do not hesitate to go about our operation. We have all the original colors, in the correct grain, for all three years. We also do all our own "one knee you are going" "The Best" number of plates.

MY POLICY: To service you, my customers, with the best new, used, and reproduced parts and upholstery at fair prices. With less money to save you, expert personnel to help you, the largest and most complete inventory anywhere in your area. 24-hour service and instant money back guarantee, full time (What's new, use have seen) the site of the biggest and the best in our field. We also provide free information concerning, to help you choose your best interests, the best time, when you go to see us. Please give us a chance to serve you.

Thanks Larry Gordon

Larry's Thunderbird Parts "Today" on the internet - Still Goin'

February 2024 800-854-0497 Open / PM-4PM Monday-Friday Pacific Time Login

Larry's THUNDERBIRD & MUSTANG PARTS **COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE**

1955-1957 THUNDERBIRD 1958-1966 THUNDERBIRD 1965-1973 MUSTANG 1964-1967 FORD PASSENGER CAR COVERS CART

THE BEST QUALITY AND SERVICE SINCE 1969

SEARCH NOW FOR PARTS

Search Now

To our valued customers: We are in the middle of a renumbering program for all parts on our website and warehouse. The old system featured initial letters signifying to which vehicle type the part belonged: T for Little Birds, B for Big Birds, M for Mustangs and P for Passenger.

The new system features a unified parts group with either an A or B prefix. We are logging all parts to make them easy to find by your vehicle type. If you enter your year, make and model followed by a keyword, you can narrow your search almost instantly to the exact part you're looking for.

We hope to complete this renumbering project in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have trouble finding your part, please call us at 800-854-0393 or [click here to email us](#).



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

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Prestige Thunderbird ad in Early Bird magazine 1979. Ad announces “new” location in Santa Fe Springs.




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January-February 1979

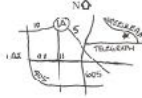
Prestige THUNDERBIRD

ANNOUNCES ITS NEW LOCATION AT:
10215 Greenleaf Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, California 90670
New Phone: (213) 944-6237

Come in and see our brand new 15,000 square foot building. With the latest security alarm system and complete building sprinkler system, you can now at ease when your T-Bird is with us.




- Complete Restoration and Service
- All NEW Parts Department
- Vary T-Birds available for sale
- Sit in and view T-Bird
- Comfortable atmosphere to discuss your needs



Page 13


All New Parts Department

- Genuine Ford Parts
- Complete Upholstery
- Authentic Reproductions
- Many NOS Items
- Quality Rebuilds
- Used Parts



Call in your order today on our
New Number: (213) 944-6237


★A1 New — The latest most complete catalog is now available — Request yours by phone or mail.



- Restoration and Service Department
- Upholstery Installation
- Hand or Soft Top Work
- Engine and Mechanical
- Body and Paint

Visit our restoration area with over 20 Thunderbirds in the restoring process. See them in all stages from a run down “heap” to a beautifully finished show car.

Prestige Thunderbird “Today” - Internet Site



Prestige Thunderbird Inc. - 10215 Greenleaf Ave, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670, USA - Business Yab

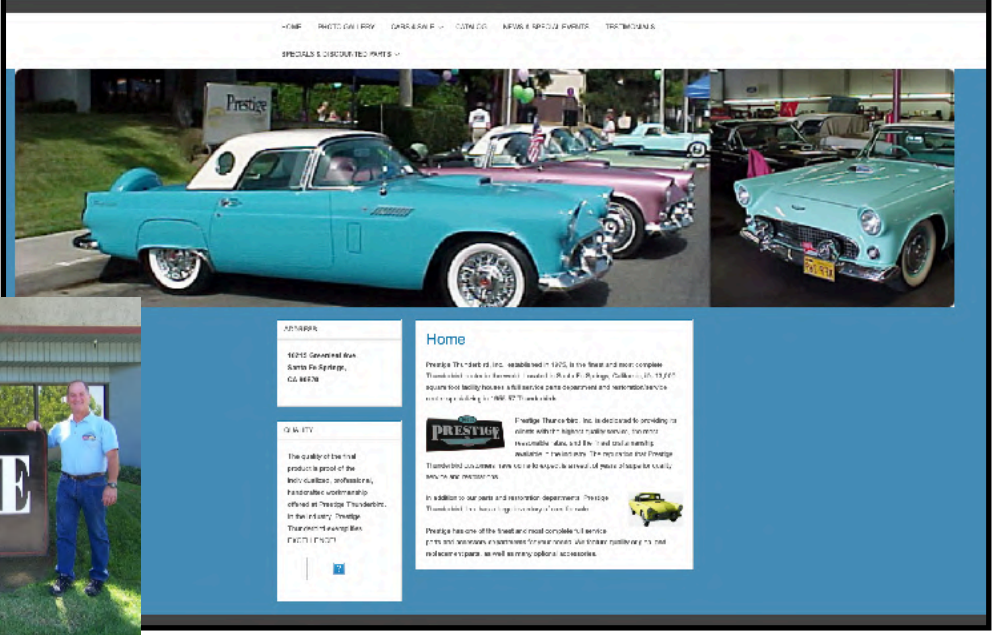


PHOTO: CAR HISTORY CAR & SALES CO. COLUMBIA NEWS & SPECIAL EVENTS TOP BROTHERS

SPECIALS & DISCOUNT PRICES

10215 Greenleaf Ave.
Santa Fe Springs,
CA 90670

GM, FV

The quality of the Ford product is great. The best quality professionals, personalized understanding offered at Prestige Thunderbird. In the early '70s, Thunderbird was a great place to be. (213) 944-6237

Home

Prestige Thunderbird Inc. established in 1975, is the finest and most complete Thunderbird restoration and service center in the world. Our 15,000 sq. ft. building houses a full service parts department and restoration service center. We are proud to be a part of the Thunderbird community.

In addition to our parts and restoration departments, Prestige Thunderbird has a large inventory of cars for sale.

Prestige has one of the best and most complete service centers and workshops in the country for your needs. Our master craftsmen and restorers repair as well as many optional accessories.

– Continued On Next Page –

Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

September-October 1978

GETTING TO KNOW YOU... by Patricia H. Fullerton

CONTINUING SAGA OF THE THUNDERBIRD LOVE AFFAIR

A perfect day for "Thunderbirdin'" and talking Thunderbirds with Elmer and Ann Knitter. A warm day with warm and friendly hosts.

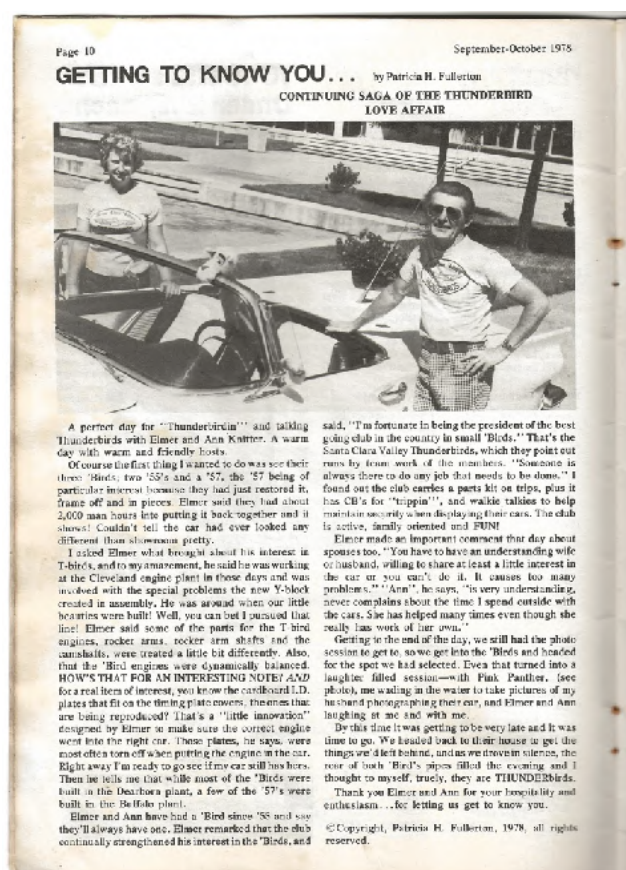
Of course the first thing I wanted to do was see their three 'Birds; two '55's and a '57, the '57 being of particular interest because they had just restored it, frame off and in pieces. Elmer said they had about 2,000 man hours into putting it back together and it shows! Couldn't tell the car had ever looked any different than showroom pretty.

I asked Elmer what brought about his interest in T-birds, and to my amazement, he said he was working at the Cleveland engine plant in those days and was involved with the special problems the new Y-block created in assembly. He was around when our little beauties were built! Well, you can bet I pursued that line! Elmer said some of the parts for the T-bird engines, rocker arms, rocker arm shafts and the camshafts, were treated a little bit differently. Also, that the 'Bird engines were dynamically balanced.

HOW'S THAT FOR AN INTERESTING NOTE?

AND for a real item of interest, you know the cardboard I.D. plates that fit on the timing plate covers, the ones that are being reproduced? That's a "little innovation" designed by Elmer to make sure the correct engine went into the right car. Those plates, he says, were most often torn off when putting the engine in the car.

Right away I'm ready to go see if my car still has hers.



Page 10

September-October 1978

GETTING TO KNOW YOU... by Patricia H. Fullerton

CONTINUING SAGA OF THE THUNDERBIRD LOVE AFFAIR



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Elmer and Ann have had a 'Bird since '55 and say they'll always have one. Elmer remarked that the club continually strengthened his interest in the 'Birds, and

said, "I'm fortunate in being the president of the best going club in the country in small 'Birds." That's the Santa Clara Valley Thunderbirds, which they point out runs by team work of the members. "Someone is always there to do any job that needs to be done." I found out the club carries a parts kit on trips, plus it has CB's for "trippin'", and walkie talkies to help maintain security when displaying their cars. The club is active, family oriented and FUN!

Elmer made an important comment that day about spouses too. "You have to have an understanding wife or husband, willing to share at least a little interest in the car or you can't do it. It causes too many problems." "Ann," he says, "is very understanding, never complains about the time I spend outside with the cars. She has helped many times even though she really has work of her own."

Getting to the end of the day, we still had the photo session to get to, so we got into the 'Birds and headed for the spot we had selected. Even that turned into a laughter-filled session—with Pink Panther, (see photo), me wading in the water to take pictures of my husband photographing their car, and Elmer and Ann laughing at me and with me.

By the time I was getting to be very late and it was time to go. We headed back to their house to get the things we'd left behind, and as we drove in silence, the roar of both 'Bird's pipes filled the evening and I thought to myself, truly, they are THUNDERBIRDS.

Thank you Elmer and Ann for your hospitality and enthusiasm...for letting us get to know you.

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Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

– Continued From Page –

Then he tells me that while most of the 'Birds were built in the Dearborn plant, a few of the '57's were built in the Buffalo plant.

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Elmer made an important comment that day about spouses too, "You have to have an understanding wife or husband, willing to share at least a little interest in the car or you can't do it. It causes too many problems." "Ann", he says, "is very understanding, never complains about the time I spend outside with the cars. She has helped many times even though she really has work of her own."

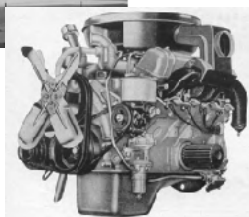
Getting to the end of the day, we still had the photo session to get to, so we got into the 'Birds and headed for the spot we had selected. Even that turned into a laughter filled session-with Pink Panther, (see photo), me wading in the water to take pictures of my husband photographing their car, and Elmer and Ann laughing at me and with me.

By this time it was getting to be very late and it was time to go. We headed back to their house to get the things we'd left behind, and as we drove in silence, the roar of both 'Bird's pipes filled the evening and I thought to myself, truly, they are THUNDERbirds.

Thank you Elmer and Ann for your hospitality and enthusiasm...for letting us get to know you.



Elmer worked at the Ford Cleveland Engine plant at the time the Y-Block was being manufactured, some of which ultimately were installed in the Ford Thunderbird.



Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

Page 14

September-October 1978

"QC-1 HAS COME AND GONE, BUT THE MEMORY LINGERS ON"



s like a line from a song, doesn't it? poker hand Don Phillips.
er, it is the beginning of a new era. Alternately by five a area; those belong to a "Fresno", Central Valley Bay, and Santa Ana. The mercury stood at 72, July 22nd at noon. The annual get together was held in a central area, the through the patio of the hotel. This hostelry was the original hotel which had been lately, the original architect kept to the original early California style of architecture and



Kenton at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1957. ILLUSTRATION: CORBIS

Jazz Great - Stan Kenton's '57 Thunderbird For Sale in the Early Bird Magazine 1978

According to the ad the person advertising the car was the second owner of the TBird. Apparently the owner wanted prospects to "bid" on the car starting a \$15,750.

Note: This caught my eye as I am a big Stan Kenton fan, have many of his records.

categories were set up and winning on time and distance was Les Christiansen (again) and for the Bakersfield chapter in 1979.

1957 CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD FOR SALE

Original owner (Stan Kenton, Bandleader) invoice. Second owner reluctantly selling after 15 pure pride of ownership years. Westcoast car. Fully automatic—Fully powered—radio/heater. Hardtop/black vinyl snakeskin pattern. Ragtop/black. Body/deep blue. Interior/black. Good to excellent condition throughout. All major repair work done on car backed up by garage repair orders. Bidding to start at \$15,750. For contact to see you may write



Toni Macante, 501 Vermont Street, San Francisco, CA 94107 or phone (415) 626-8390.



Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

January-February 1979

Page 21

TECH TIP EARLY BIRD STYLE 1979



The text here has been converted to read on the next page(s).

1955 T-BIRD HARD STARTING PROBLEM SOLUTIONS(?)

by R. W. Dickson

Much has been discussed and written on this subject. There has been a myriad of solutions suggested and used. Many mega-bucks, and thousands of Man/Woman hours have been expended on this problem in the last 23 years, not to mention the Birds sold by disenchanted owners.

This is old hat to many members, but to the uninitiated, it can be, and is, a King Size problem. This then is an attempt to summarize for them, the most economical, effective solutions from all this experience!

The basic problem evolves from the 55's six volt system and accumulative component deterioration over the years. A hot engine and/or over heating usually aggravates the problem. In many cases the "Hot Hard Start" is the only problem experienced.

Several things are essential to assure easy, quick starting:

1. The engine compression must be good. Hopefully the original or replacement heads have **not** been milled to the degree that it will raise the compression enough to cause hard starting. New or rebuilt engines often do offer enough friction to cause it.

2. The battery must not only be good, but have a high capacity rating. The batteries in most Little Birds which are driven infrequently, are seldom fully charged and thereby lose needed starting power. The battery must be maintained in a near fully charged condition.

Note: Inexpensive Group 1, 6 volt batteries have only 55-60 ampere hour ratings. Ideally, the battery should be 90 amp hours, or better. Some truck/tractor batteries can be obtained with up to 120 amp. hr. ratings, but these are usually over size. Local rebuilders have, and can provide a high capacity battery in the original size of 11 1/4 x 5 1/4 x 8 which is a 29NF.

3. The starter must be in top condition with no drag, good brushes, commutator, windings, etc. The contention by many, that most "Hot Start Failures" result from heat build up which causes insulation breakdown of the old started windings seems to be justified.

A complete chapter in the shop manual is devoted to starter problem diagnosis, trouble shooting and remedies. (Chap. II part 2, P. 120.) Starter rebuilders can provide standard wound, or special heavy duty wound starters with high torque windings, if requested. Exterior appearance is identical for both kinds. No show problems.

4. The battery cables should be the heavy duty 6 volt, no. 1 gauge (not 12 volt, smaller diameter wire). The engine to body ground strap (near accelerator linkage on firewall) and starter solenoid must be good. Connections and wires from the ignition switch to solenoid must be good, also tight. Connections at the battery, solenoid, starter and grounds, must be clean and free of rust, paint, etc.

5. The engine must be in good tune, i.e.; plugs, points, ignition wiring and timing, and carburetion which can be critical.

6. The original 55 "Christmas Tree Jug" carburetor when at rest leaks gasoline (due to power valve wear) into the intake manifold.

It also evaporates gasoline, because of poor float bowl cooling, thereby necessitating many turns when cranking, to fill the float bowl.

The accepted solution to this (for non-show cars) is an electric fuel pump, installed between the tank and existing mechanical fuel pump, ideally near the gas tank.

Later, Holley and Motorcraft or Ford/Autolite two and four barrels offer some improvement, but are non-stock and have some inherent problems also, plus required manifold changes, etc.

Many owners have converted to the 56-57 12 volt systems to cure the problem. It is expensive and renders the car non-stock. Many have now reverted back to 6 volts.

The auxiliary 12 volt (series) or 6 volt (parallel) or 12 to 6 volt dual battery with auto converter systems employ an extra 6 volt battery, usually behind the seat or in the trunk and is switched in only for starting. These systems usually work well, but are non-stock, extra work and expense and can also introduce more problems, such as battery charging and balance, etc.

Many owners have tried special 8 volt batteries, with some success. This does cause a voltage regulator problem, and is rough on light bulbs and other electrical components, it is not recommended.

The greatest number of knowledgeable, experienced people do seem to agree, that if procedures, such as those outlined in paragraphs #1 through #6, are followed, other systems and solutions discussed here will not be required. In almost all cases the problem will be resolved.

It is recognized that this subject is highly controversial and perhaps subject to some debate, but if it helps just one of our members (and there are several) out of his or her dilemma, it is worth that risk! Good luck.

Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine**1955 T-Bird Hard Starting**
Problem Solutions (?) by *R.W. Dickens***TECH TIP**
EARLY BIRD STYLE
1979

Much has been discussed and written on this subject. There has been a myriad of solutions suggested and used. Many mega-bucks, and thousands of Man/Woman hours have been expended on this problem in the last 23 years, not to mention the Birds sold by disenchanted owners. This is old hat to many members, but to the uninitiated, it can be, and is, a King Size problem. This then is an attempt to summarize for them, the most economical, effective solutions from all this experience!

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Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

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Vintage Early Bird Thunderbird Magazine

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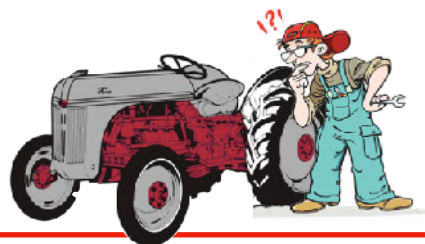
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Good Luck.

I wonder how many of our club members have experienced that issue?



Some members are aware I spent my career in the tractor business (as we affectionately call it “the iron business”. When I started back in the day I was service tech and there were still many tractors being used from the 40’s/50’s that were on 6 volt. The Ford Tractor in particular the 8N/9N models had this very issue of hard starting. They would crank over so slowly - even on a good day. Many a customer converted their 6 volt tractors to 12 volt and replaced the old generator with a “Delco-Remy” alternator. That pretty much cured the hard starting.

Note: I recognize, understand and not suggesting anyone resort to that as it compromises the “OEM” factor. Interesting the correlation between the two industries.

Cheers – Editor



MARKETPLACE

In The Market / On The Market

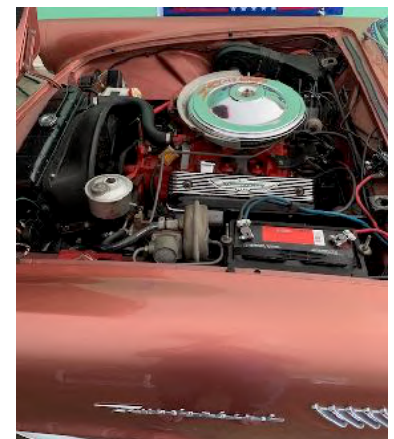


1957 FORD THUNDERBIRD

- Location: Central San Antonio
Near North Star Mall
- Color: Thunderbird Bronze
- D code
- 312 v8
- Holly 4bbl. Newly rebuilt.
- Power steering
- Power brakes
- Power windows
- Overall very good condition.
- Many maintenance items taken care of.



Asking \$49,500.



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Van Baines 210-373-4351



MARKETPLACE

On The Market / In 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.

Call him for further details at
210-478-0560

if you have a serious interest in it.

On The Market



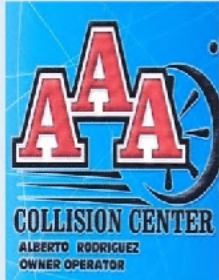
On The Market



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"

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Facebook and Instagram icons are also present.



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Sunday: Closed

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- ▼ 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/electronicrepairs/oem-navigation-dvd-ed-charger-repair/>
- ▼ Rick Monroe "Straightnshinybygolly" Chrome Straightening & Polishing
Phone: (210) 584-5856. Email: mongooserpm@gmail.com





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 Hats



STTC Brochure



STTC Patch



STTC Club Cards



STTC Member Name Tags



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	VTCL OFFICERS
President Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Newsletter Editor Bruce Reader (630) 464-8200	President Bob McNeill
Vice-President Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Auto Technical Advisor Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Vice-President OPEN
Secretary Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Website Assistance Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Executive Secretary Jake Wake
Treasurer Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	Historian Marilyn Carron -----	Treasurer Randy Mattson
	Name Tag Coordinator Jerry Cowan -----	Concourse Director Randy Rychlik
	Activities Chairman Gary Faught	Technical Director Alan Tast
		Publication Director Terri McNeill
		Country Store Renea Steffens
		South Central Regional Director Brian Carron



Websites
www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com
www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com





www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com

Membership Application

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: _____
first / last month / day
anniversary date: _____ VTCI #: _____
if currently a member
address: _____
street city st zip
telephone: hm (_____) _____ - _____ cell (_____) _____ - _____
email: _____

T-birds owned: year: _____ model: _____
year: _____ model: _____
year: _____ model: _____

Waiver And Release From Liability

As a member of the South Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC), I am solely responsible for any damage or injury to third parties, or to myself resulting from anything connected with STTC Club activities. I agree to indemnify and hold STTC Club, and Officers harmless for, or in any claim, loss, damage, injury, or liability, that may be asserted by me, or by any third party as a result of my activity. The foregoing covenants of exculpation and indemnity are intended to be and are complete, general and without restriction and include, but are not limited to, negligence (active or passive) or willful reckless or wanton activity. I further warrant that I carry automobile liability insurance on the vehicle, meeting or exceeding all Texas statutory requirements and that this insurance will be in force and effect for all STTC activities in which I participate. This release will be active for all STTC Club activities/events in which I participate.

member's signature: _____ date: _____

spouse's signature: _____ date: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB

mail application (with check) to: Danny Varella
27302 Park Loop Road
New Braunfels, TX 78132

for more club info, please contact:
Ray Clark rayclark07@att.net (210) 875-1411



revised 11.28.22

VTCI Membership Application Form

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROVINCE _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: _____

YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

US and
Canada

All Other
Countries

January / February \$40.00

\$60.00

March / April \$35.00

\$55.00

May / June \$30.00

\$45.00

July / August \$25.00

\$40.00

September / October \$55.00

\$90.00 includes next year

November / December \$50.00

\$80.00 includes next year



VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

(if different from above-please print) _____

Signature _____

Please make check payable & mail to:
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.