



THE CLUB WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1979 BY WILLARD A. LANG AS THE ALAMO AREA VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB (AAVTC), CONSISTING OF 20 CHARTER MEMBERS. CARROLL BROWN WAS ONE OF THOSE 20 CHARTER MEMBERS. WE WERE, AND REMAIN, A CHAPTER OF THE VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB OF AMERICA (VTCA), NOW KNOWN AS THE VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB, INTERNATIONAL (VTCI). OUR FIRST PRESIDENT WAS HAROLD HILL. WILLARD LANG, THE TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VTCA WAS ALSO A MEMBER, JUST AS THE VTCI PAST PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY, LOU & MARILYN PALIANI ARE TODAY.

ACCORDING TO THE SEPTEMBER 1981 NEWSLETTER, CLUB LEADERSHIP WAS STEVE HALL, PRESIDENT; BART HARRIS; VP, ENOS GARY; SECRETARY-EDITOR, CURT BURLEIGH; TREASURER. IN THE JANUARY 1982 NEWSLETTER, STEVE HALL REMAINS AS PRESIDENT; JOHN FIELDER IS VP; DON WUNDERLICH AND CURT BURLEIGH REMAIN IN THEIR PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED POSITIONS. IN SEPTEMBER 1983, CURT BURLEIGH IS PRESIDENT; WILLARD LANG AS VP; TRISH FIELDER AS SECRETARY; FRANK WHITAKER AS TREASURER. IN SEPTEMBER 1984, CAROL BROWN REPLACED TRISH FIELDER AS SECRETARY WHILE THE OTHER OFFICERS REMAINED IN PLACE. CAROL & CARROLL BROWN HAVE RETURNED TO THE CLUB AFTER BEING AWAY FROM THE CLUB FOR SEVERAL DECADES.

ACCORDING TO THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS DATED JANUARY 21, 1984, OUR CLUB WAS LED BY CURTIS BURLEIGH. IN 1985, THE AAVTC SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER LISTS DAN LANIER AS PRESIDENT; DICK GABEL AS VP; MARY BETH WHITAKER AS SECRETARY; AND MIKE MANTOOTH AS TREASURER. THE LEADERSHIP REMAINED IN PLACE THROUGH DECEMBER 1988.

IN 1986, THE AAVTC HONORED ITS FOUNDER, WILLARD LANG, BY RENAMING THE CLUB AS LANG'S ALAMO AREA VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB (LAAVTC), AND IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS, OBSERVED FOUNDER'S DAY EACH SEPTEMBER. IT IS NOTED IN THE RECORDS THAT THE CLUB HELD A SEPTEMBER 25, 1988 FOUNDER'S DAY EVENT AT BROOKS AFB TO HONOR WILLARD LANG, WHO BY THEN HAD PASSED AWAY.

THE NEWSLETTER OF JANUARY 1989 REFLECTS THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LAAVTC PASSED TO DICK GABEL; MIKE TALLY BECAME VP; BARBARA TALLEY, SECRETARY; AND BEVERLY FREELAND, TREASURER. IN 1990, LOU PALIANI HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE AND MARILYN JOINED THE CLUB AFTER BUYING A 1960 RED SQUAREBIRD CONVERTIBLE. HE ALSO INFORMED ME THAT DURING THAT YEAR THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP VOTED TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE CLUB FROM LANG'S ALAMO AREA VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB (LAAVTC) TO SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB (STTC) FOR TWO REASONS. ONE WAS TO CREATE A LESS CUMBERSOME CLUB NAME AND THE OTHER WAS TO MAKE IT MORE INCLUSIVE OF THE SURROUNDING AREA AND NOT JUST SAN ANTONIO.

THE APRIL 3, 1994 EDITION OF "TV NOW" FEATURES A PICTURE OF SPURS PLAYER VINNY DEL NEGRO WITH A NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AND THE SPURS COYOTE AT THE WHEEL OF A RED SQUAREBIRD CONVERTIBLE (PROBABLY THE PALIANI'S 1960 SQUAREBIRD) HIGHLIGHTING A LIBRARY TELEFEST EVENT. THERE IS ALSO A PICTURE OF RICHARD HAILEY, PRESIDENT OF THE PIG STANDS COMPANY, BEING SERVED WHILE SITTING IN HIS RED BULLETBIRD WITH TONNEAU COVER. THE PIG STAND IN SAN ANTONIO TODAY REMAINS A GATHERING PLACE FOR CLASSIC CAR LOVERS. THE CLUB ENJOYED A FAIRLY RECENT RETURN VISIT TO IT. THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS DATED AUGUST 27, 1994, REFLECTS MARILYN PALIANI AS THE PRESIDENT AND DESIGNATED CONTACT POINT FOR THE CLUB.

THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS DATED AUGUST 11, 1996 FEATURES AN ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB WAS HOSTING THE VTCI 1996 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN ANTONIO. THE ARTICLE FEATURES A PICTURE OF THE PALIANI'S 1960 RED CONVERTIBLE, AND LISTS MARILYN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE STTC

THE REMAINDER OF OUR CLUB HISTORY IS CONTAINED IN OUR MEETING MINUTES AND OTHER RECORDS ACCRUED OVER TIME.

THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED HISTORICAL RECORDS WILL BE STORED BY THE STTC HISTORIAN.

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