



San Antonio, Texas



**JANUARY 2025**

**WELCOME  
2025**



**Adios  
2024**

*Life*  
IS A  
**JOURNEY**  
*Enjoy the*  
**RIDE**



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**Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio**



## Presidents Message for January 2025

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 a cruise to the Buggy Barn Museum, a Wildflower Cruise, a Cruise to Gateway Classic Cars, celebration of Thunderbird Appreciation in May and much more.

As a result of the very enjoyable KENS5-TV Bill Taylor Toy Drive in November, we have been invited to become a “Participating Contributor” of their campaign for 2025 and the Club membership has voted to accept. We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys/stuffed animals for needy children in hospitals, and other 1-17-year-olds with needs. Additional information forthcoming. Those members who have not contributed so far are encouraged to bring their personal donations to our meetings.

I am also pleased to announce that new STTC Member Dr. Dené Ballentine Ph.D M.Msc of the Austin area has joined our Club with her Beautiful Retrobird. She did the videotaping of our Christmas Party for us & has agreed to be our official videographer for STTC! She is a Woman with many gifts, earlier in her life, a Pan American Airlines Bursar, based in London, now retired from Integrative Health & Wellbeing, a published Author, Model, Singer, excellent award-winning Harpist, airplane pilot, world-wide lecturer, blogger, podcaster, performs, and speaks around the world, motorcyclist & I probably missed a few things!

I am sorry to report that we have lost our Awarding Winning Newsletter Editor. Bruce has indicated to me that he no longer has the time to contribute to those duties. Any volunteers to take the load off of me?

The time for one to renew their Paid Membership with the STTC has passed. If you have not renewed and intend to do so, just print out the STTC Membership Application form from the website. If there are no changes to your information just indicate NO CHANGES, send it and your \$20 to Danny for renewal.

Best Regards, Your STTC President

*Ray Clark*





# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## JANUARY



### BIRTHDAYS

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### ANNIVERSARY

Krista Pepau	01/03
Jeremy Brownlow	

Seth & Becky Nelson	01/07
---------------------	-------



January 9, 2007  
iPhone Is Launched



### January Zodiac Sign

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

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



Capricorn



Aquarius







# JANUARY

OKAY!  
Light the  
candles!



## 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

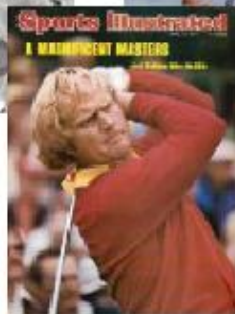
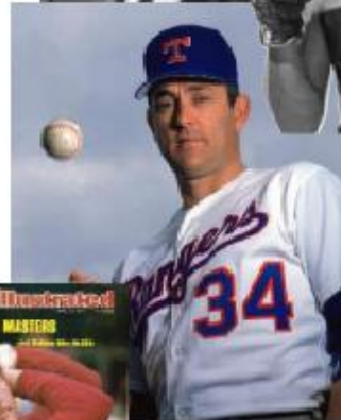
January 17, 1942 – Mohammad Ali, heavyweight boxing champion

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







## THE TIME MACHINE

# JANUARY

## 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.

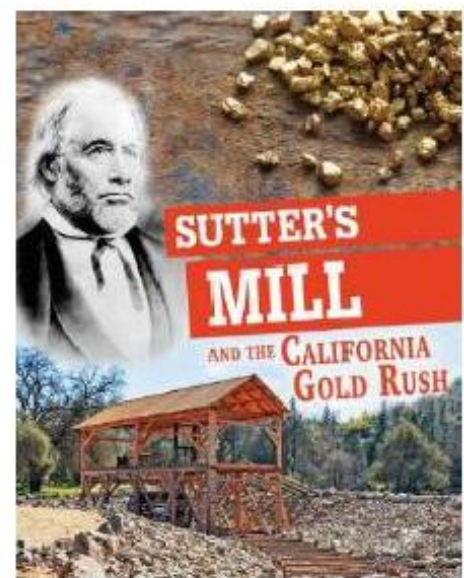


**January 21, 1976** – The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.



**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.







# JANUARY

## 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 fiancée's farm.



### Specifications

#### 1965 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350

##### ENGINE TYPE

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

Displacement: 289 in<sup>3</sup>, 4727 cm<sup>3</sup>

Power (SAE): 306 bhp @ 6000 rpm

Torque: 329 lbs-ft @ 4200 rpm

##### TRANSMISSION

Transmission: 4-speed, all-synchro



# JANUARY

## 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.





# JANUARY

## Automotive Notable Events

January 12, 1904 – Ford sets new land speed record

Continued – From Previous Page



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



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS!**

## **STTC Schedule of Events**

**Jan: 25 Saturday Business meeting 10am** Jordan Ford followed by lunch at Mama Margie's.

**Feb: 22 Saturday Cruise to Blanco Buggy Museum. Combined Cruise with Little Bird Club**, lunch in Blanco at Redbud Cafe. (830) 833-0202 | 410 4th Street, Blanco TX 78606. More details to come.

**Mar: 22 Saturday Wildflower Cruise yet to be set.** Gary Faught is to ask about visiting someone's field property for photos with his classic cars. More later.

**Apr: 26 Saturday Return to Gateway Classic Cars in New Braunfels** as featured club. Lunch at Freidman's Store. More details to follow.

**May: 17 Saturday Thunderbird Appreciation Day.** Northside Ford. More details to come.

**Jun: 28 Saturday. Nothing set up.** Activities Committee to meet to set activity.

**Jul: 26 Saturday. Nothing set up.** Activities Committee to meet to set activity.

**Aug: 23 Saturday 10am. Business meeting** to cover Club's participation in the VTCl convention held in North 23 Texas in September.

**Sep: 27 Saturday 11am. Nothing set up.** Activities Committee to meet to set activity.

**Oct: 25 Saturday. Possible Cruise** to Stonehenge II or return visit to Neon Sign store.

**Nov: 15 or 22 STTC Christmas Party.** Activities Committee to discuss this.

**Dec: No STTC Activity** planned due to Christmas.



# "Stronger Together '55-'05 in '25, Driving The Past Into The Future"

Don't Miss the Mega-Event  
of the Year

Tours, speakers,  
separate VTCI  
& CTCI concours Judging



**HOTEL: EMBASSY SUITES – N.GRAPEVINE, TEXAS  
SEPTEMBER 09-13, 2025**

**SEPTEMBER 09-13, 2025 HOSTED BY**



**CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL  
(CTCI) AND  
VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL  
(VTCI)**





# EDITOR'S

## BOOK CORNER



## 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.

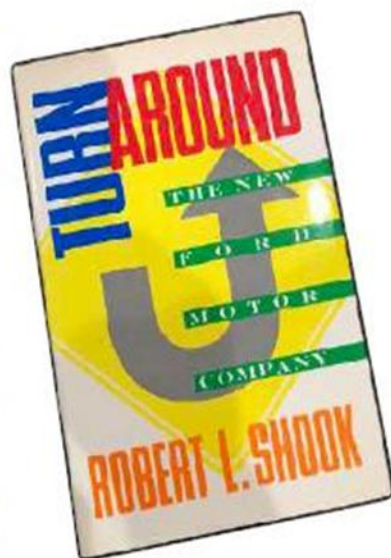
Since my last name is "Reader" I tend to do a lot of reading.

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



Continued - Next Page

## EDITOR'S

## BOOK CORNER



## 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 one 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.

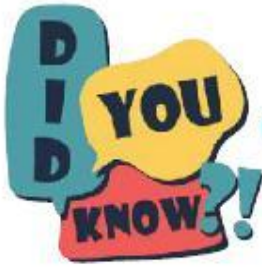


ebay

amazon

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"





# JANUARY

## 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, in Detroit, 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).

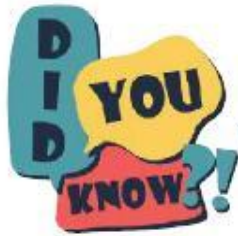
Henry Ford managed the manufacturing plant at 1343 Cass Avenue and Amsterdam in Detroit; initially with no pay until he left his job at the Detroit Edison Company, after which he was given a monthly salary of \$150 (\$4,555 in 2019).

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.



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



# JANUARY

## 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

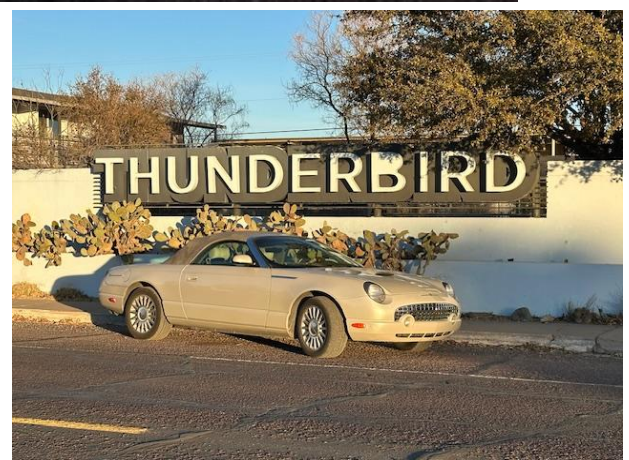




# The Rear View



During the latter part of December, STTC Members Seth & Becky Nelson loaded up their 2005 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Retrobird and headed to West Texas to see the sights! They were mainly in Marfa and Ft. Davis. Here are some pix of their Cruise! Enjoy!







# The Rear View Continued!







# The Rear View Continued!







# The Rear View

## January Business Meeting



Lunch at Mama Margie's Mexican Restaurant in Schertz after the Jordan Ford Business Meeting. The bottom picture is the toys that the Members donated at the Business Meeting to kick off our KENS5-TV Bill Taylor Bill's Elves Toy Drive.





# PARTS / SERVICE



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# PARTS / SERVICE



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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.

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**THUNDERBIRDCENTER**

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Classic Car Restoration  
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Fax: 740-949-1957  
[tbirdcenter@sprintmail.com](mailto:tbirdcenter@sprintmail.com)  
[www.hillsresto.com](http://www.hillsresto.com)

Tim Hill  
Parts Manager

**CS**  
CONCOURS AUTO SALON

2450 Babcock Road # 138  
San Antonio, Texas 78229  
Phone 210-616-9669  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00-6:00  
Saturday: 8:00-1:00  
Sunday: Closed  
[info@concoursaautosalon.com](mailto:info@concoursaautosalon.com)



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# PARTS / SERVICE



## List of Dealers for Parts

58-66 Bird Nest 800-232-6378 [www.tbirdparts.com](http://www.tbirdparts.com)

55-72 Classic Auto Parts 800-654-3247 [www.classicautoparts.com](http://www.classicautoparts.com)

55-86 Concours Parts 800-722-0009 [www.concourspartd.com](http://www.concourspartd.com)

58-94 Thunderbird Ranch 715-884-6546 [www.tbirdranch.com](http://www.tbirdranch.com)

55-57 Casco 800-374-0914 [www.classictbird.com](http://www.classictbird.com)

55-57 Hill's Classic Cars 740-949-2217 [www.hillsresto.com](http://www.hillsresto.com)

Rock Auto [www.rockauto.com](http://www.rockauto.com)

02-05 Retrobird Used Parts

TbirdBob-[www.TbirdBob.com](http://www.TbirdBob.com). Bob Sinickas

Specializes in FEM & REM rebuilding.

219-992-0953 Email: [Retrobird@outlook.com](mailto:Retrobird@outlook.com)





## About South Texas Thunderbird Club

San Antonio Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC) Inc. has been in existence for 45 years 1979-2024. 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 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:

<https://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.southtexathunderbirdclub.com](http://www.southtexathunderbirdclub.com)

- if you prefer



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

STTC OFFICERS	COMMITTEE DIRECTORS	VTCI OFFICERS
---------------	---------------------	---------------

**President**  
 Ray Clark  
 (210) 875-1411

**Vice-President**  
 Stan Andrews  
 (210) 296-4726

**Secretary**  
 Stan Andrews  
 (210) 296-4726

**Treasurer**  
 Danny Varella  
 (210) 215-7163

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Bruce Reader  
 (630) 464-8200

**Auto Technical Advisor**  
 Ray Clark  
 (210) 875-1411

**Website Assistance**  
 Ray Clark  
 (210) 875-1411

**Historian**  
 Marilyn Carron  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Name Tag Coordinator**  
 Jerry Cowan  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Activities Chairman**  
 Gary Faught

**President**  
 Robert McNeil

**Vice-President**  
 Vacant

**Executive Secretary**  
 Jake Wake

**Treasurer**  
 Randy Mattson

**Concourse Director**  
 Paul Prokop

**Technical Director**  
 Alan Tast

**Publication Director**  
 Terri McNeill

**Country Store**  
 Renea & Scott Steffens

**South Central Regional Director**  
 Brian Carron



# 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.southtexas thunderbirdclub.com](http://www.southtexas thunderbirdclub.com)





The New VTCI Country Store Manager is Renea Steffens - [vtcicountrystore@gmail.com](mailto:vtcicountrystore@gmail.com)

# VTCI COUNTRY STORE



**\$3.50**  
INCLUDES SHIPPING

HAT/LAPEL PIN



TRAVEL MUG

**\$17.50**  
INCLUDES SHIPPING

LARGE DUFFLE BAG



**\$49**  
INCLUDES SHIPPING

WINDSHIELD DECAL

**\$2.50**  
INCLUDES SHIPPING



To view all products for sale or to purchase online, please visit the Country Store

[WWW.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDClub.NET](http://WWW.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDClub.NET)





[www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com](http://www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com)

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

- 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](http://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 [STTCJ, 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](mailto: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.