



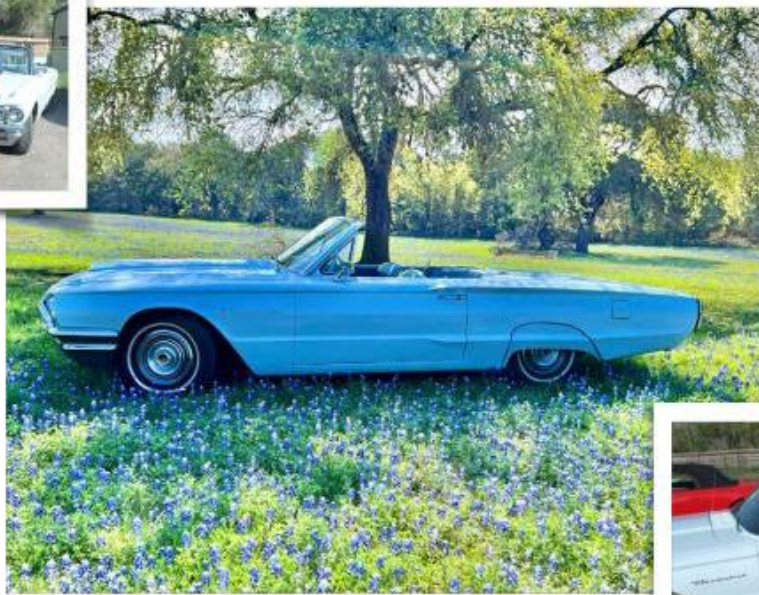
San Antonio, Texas



APRIL 2025



BLUE BONNET BIRD



JB & Krista's 1964 Thunderbird



Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area

Presidents Message For April, 2025

I hope those that made the Blanco Buggy Barn Cruise March 1st enjoyed it as much as I did! I reported on it in an email Newsletter along with the video's that Dené recorded for us. She did a fantastic job of recording

much of the activity. She and I put together the many short videos she took and made one video clip of all of them. The Buggy Barn was so pleased with it that they asked permission to put it on their Facebook Page and I gave them permission to do so. Our usual Wildflower Cruise was a bust this year due to poor weather conditions for Wildflowers and 3 fires in the area of Texas we were planning on traveling to. Instead, we had an enjoyable social luncheon at Alamo Café, Hwy 281N with a good turnout of 22 members. Below will be pix of this event. Enjoy them!

I am looking forward to the upcoming Activities that the Activities Committee have come up with. We will be doing some more Cruising out of town and staying in town during the Summer heat, enjoying social luncheons. Then later in the year we will be hitting the road again with our Tbirds! See ya later this month!

Best Regards,

Ray Clark

STTC President





Birthdays & Anniversaries

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

Seth N	4/01
Walt C	4/23
Michael P	4/25



ANNIVERSARY

NO APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



April 17, 1964 – Ford unveils the Mustang at the New York World's Fair. This iconic automobile has been produced by the millions and remains very popular to this day.



April Flower
Daisy & Sweet Pea

April Zodiac Sign

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

They are

ARIES (March 21 – April 19)

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)



April Birthstone
Diamond

Additional Birthdays Steve B 4/13 & Tex L 4/30

**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

STTC Schedule of Events

April 26. Saturday: Return to Gateway Classic Cars in New Braunfels as featured club. Lunch at Freidman's Store.

May 17: Saturday Thunderbird Appreciation Day. 10AM-4PM. Northside Ford Dealership.

June 28: Saturday, Social Luncheon, location TBD.

July 26: Saturday, Social Luncheon, location TBD.

August 23: Saturday, Business meeting to cover club's participation in the VTCI convention held in North Texas in September. 10AM, Lunch TBD.

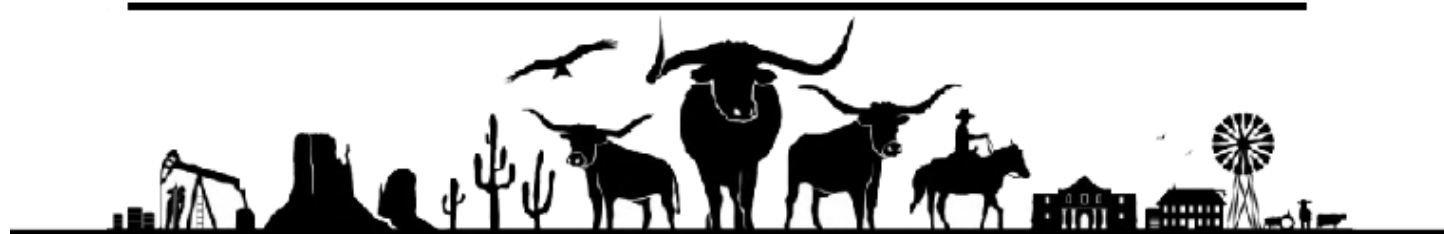
September 27: Saturday TBD.

October 25: Possible Cruise to Stonehenge II or return visit to Neon Sign Store of John Talbot.

November 22: Saturday-Christmas Party Location TBD. Bill Taylor KENS5-TV Toy Drive dates TBD.

December- Bill Taylor KENS5-TV Toy Drive dates TBD.

Additional information will be provided for each event as we approach the date for each activity.



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

*Don't Miss the Mega-Event
of the Year*

*Tours, speakers,
separate VTCL
& CTCL 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
(VTCL)**



THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

10AM-4PM

AT

HOSTED BY NORTHSIDE FORD – SAN ANTONIO

Owners of Ford's Thunderbird From Around The World Will Be Sharing Their Iconic Cars With The Public on **THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY** Saturday May 17th 2025.

Join The San Antonio Tbird Clubs: San Antonio Classic Thunderbird Club (Classic Thunderbird Club International (CTCI)) And South Texas Thunderbird Club (Vintage Thunderbird Club International (VTCI)) As We Display Our 1955-2005 Thunderbirds, At Northside Ford. What A Great Way to Celebrate These Beautiful Cars, Market Benefits Of Club Membership, and enjoy some fun and fellowship. Northside Ford will provide lunch and drinks.

With Over 4 Million Thunderbirds Produced By Ford Motor Company From 1955-2005, It Is Still Not Common To See Them On The Road Today, Even Later Models.

For A Vehicle That Has Been Out Of Production For 20 Years, Their Presence Is Still Felt Worldwide. Thunderbird Owners Can Be Found All Over North and South America As Well As Japan, Australia, New Zealand, The Middle East and Europe.

Come Meet Thunderbird Owners As They Show Off Their Thunderbirds And See That These Automobiles Are "Unique In All The World".





The Rear View

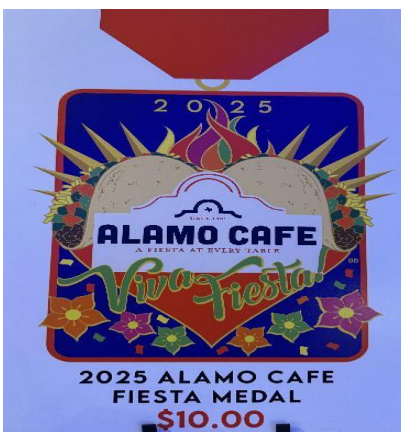


In lieu of a Wildflower Cruise this year for reasons previously stated, we had an enjoyable social luncheon at the Alamo Café on Hwy 281N. It has been a few years since we have been there and it was good to return to their well-known restaurant and enjoy the good variety of their menu. We were pleased to have new members Lisa & Peter Horst join us briefly and complete their STTC Membership application! We also welcome Steve Brown to STTC!





The Rear View





Editor's Chinwag



This month I would like to shout-out about "THE SCOOP" - VTCI's magazine. If you are NOT a member of VTCI then you are probably not receiving a copy of the magazine. That would be a shame - it is chocked full of interesting stuff.

Seth & Becky's Retro Bird made the cover of the "SCOOP"



*Have
You
Got a
Story
to
Tell?*

Still asking all members to write up a story, about their Thunderbird, with pictures. Tell us how you acquired your car, why it is special and what you enjoy doing with your Thunderbird. First, it will be placed on the website under "Featured Club Story" and then moved to "Club Members Stories" under News when another member's story is featured. Can't wait to read and share everyone's story!





Remember TV Car Stars!

77 SUNSET STRIP

It was hip to be on the "Strip"

1958 to 1964 (206 Episodes)

Starring

Efrem Zimbalist Jr.
Roger Smith
Edd "Kookie" Byrnes
Richard Long



Dino's Lounge - Actually owned by Dean Martin



In the intro, we see Bailey hop into his convertible at Dino's Lodge, Kookie's workplace. The restaurant was real, a joint opened by Dean Martin at 8524 Sunset Boulevard in 1958. Don't go looking for it. A few years ago, the entire block was demolished.



In 1959, Byrnes cut a novelty tune for the newly formed Warner Bros. Records. The actor teamed with Connie Stevens for "Kookie, Kookie (Lend Me Your Comb)," a teen pop number that would become the No. 37 song of the year.





TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Sources for 2002-2005 Retrobird PCM-ECM-ECU units.

<https://www.fs1inc.com/ford-lincoln-mercury.html?make=96&model=59&year=138>

All Computer Resources - 2002 Units

<https://store.allcomputerresources.com/searchresults.html?query=2002+Ford+Thunderbird&pp=36&sort=rel&page=1>

2005 Units

<https://store.allcomputerresources.com/searchresults.html?query=2005+Ford+Thunderbird>

FEM & REM Units: Tbird Bob 219-992-0953 tbirdbob.com

FEM & REM Units: Thunderbird Specialties

<https://thunderbirdspecialties.com>

Clock Spring Steering Wheel & Turn Signal operation.

An Internet source: clockspringexperts.com

Example-2004 Spring 3W6Z14A664AA

(A clock spring has nothing to do with the Clock!). You can obtain a new one from Northside Ford dealership. It is a really tricky thing to do on your own to replace it. A mistake could trigger your airbags. A new, reliable Retrobird service source for this is: Belden Automotive & Tires 22000 Bulverde Rd, 78259 210-481-3330 and they have other locations. Thanks to a possible new STTC Member, James Wedding, who is pleased with the quality of their work!

The Emergency Trunk opener. As you know there is no key slot on the Retrobird trunk to open it if you need to get to the battery and lost power on the Bird. Right behind the Driver's seat, about 6 inches from the floor is the slot where you put your key into and it should open the trunk for you.

Recently, some Retrobird owners have had problems with their windows dropping down and not being able to get them back up again. This is probably not the fault of a FEM or REM unit but something else. I have found an easy way to fix and reset this and here is how you do that.

The steps to re-alien the windows in a Retro T-Bird are below. The need to do this is whenever the door windows will not go up or down fully.

- 1) Start the car in Park and keep running.
- 2) Push the window button down and hold for 4 seconds.
- 3) Do the same for the up button and hold 4 seconds.
- 4) Do the same procedure on the opposite door.

It sometimes takes a couple of tries to get the windows going as they should. This usually happens after battery replacement, or other power interruptions. It is a simple procedure but it works. Courtesy of Stan Andrews & also Tbird Bob!



TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Summer Means Keeping Your Cool!



The summer is rapidly approaching and it is already getting warm. With the summer brings the potential of your vehicle overheating. Considering that many of the cars in the club are vintage the risk of overheating increases. Consider that the Thunderbird covers the years 1955 up to 2005. During that time a lot of changes have occurred with respect to engine cooling.

If you have not already given thought to your cooling system, NOW would be a good time to. Making sure your cooling system is up to snuff in Texas is paramount - especially if you have older vehicles. Nothing worse than taking a leisurely cruise seeing the temp gauge climb or steam puffing out from under the hood.

This month's "Tech Tip" is about things to think about your beloved "Birds" engine cooling system. The information is general in nature and not directed to any particular make/model vehicle.

Let's start with popping the hood and taking a peek at your cooling system. The cooling system comprises of more than just a radiator and cap.

HHMMM . . .
What do we have here?



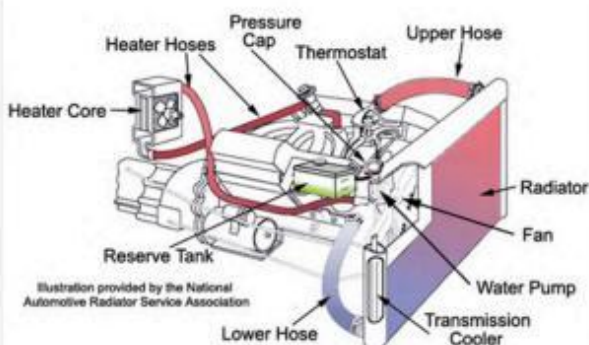


TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Summer Means Keeping Your Cool!

Inspection -



Radiator - what is the condition? Has it ever been replaced, if not, has it ever been removed and boiled (as they say) to remove debris and corrosion within the core. Are the fins straight - damaged fins that have been rolled over reduces cooling capacity.

Inspect around the upper and lower tank - these are soldered

to the radiator core and is a potential for leaks. Note: modern radiators have gone to plastic upper and lower tanks that are crimped to the radiator core.

Check your radiator hoses-Your cooling system's primary radiator hoses are what they refer to as a upper and lower radiator hose. HOWEVER, the cooling system comprises of a number of additional hoses that need to be inspected and they are subject to wear, deterioration leading to failure.

There are the heater hoses - usually (2), there is the water pump by-pass hose. On the "Retro-Birds" there are a number of hoses that need to be inspected. The "Retro-Birds" have an auxilary coolant circuit as well as the engine oil cooler tied into the engine coolant system.



Radiator Hose Failures



**Brown Coolant
NOT GOOD**



TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Another area of your cooling system is the “water pump”. Which usually has the engine fan attached. However modern vehicles such as the “Retro-Birds” there is NO fan attached to the water pump (they are electrical). On your older vehicles the water pump generally has what is referred to as a “weep” hole below the water pump shaft that the fan attaches to. This is where the pump shaft bearing and seal are located. IF you observe rust or wetness coming from the “weep” hole - you have a problem - it needs to be retified ASAP. Obviously the loss of coolant will lead to overheating. Worse, the pump shaft bearing could be going out which potentially may lead to the shaft failing and the fan flying around the engine bay wreaking all kinds of havoc. It is a “pay me now, or pay me later” moment.

At the same time you are inspecting the water pump you need to inspect the water pump/fan belt. I am going out on a limb and say that most of us have had a fan belt fail in our lifetime - it is always at the most inopportune time. I am a firm believer that a fan belt should be replaced at a scheduled maintenance period - BEFORE it fails. Also to note - your water pump may have more than one belt as there may be other accessories being driven off the fan belt - for example - the alternator and/or AC compressor.



Water Pump Weep Hole
Located at bottom of pump
shaft



Tell Tale Sign of Water Pump Leak



TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



A word about coolant -

Coolant or as some would say “anti-freeze” has changed considerably in the last 75 years. The Thunderbird was produced at various times from 1955 to 2005. The anti-freeze (coolant) requirements are different based on the years of production.



There are three types of antifreeze available: Inorganic Acid Technology (IAT), Organic Acid Technology (OAT), and Hybrid Organic Acid Technology (HOAT).

- IAT is mainly used in older vehicles, is usually bright green, and has to be replaced every 30,000 miles.
- OAT antifreeze/coolant is usually orange, yellow, red, or purple, and lasts much longer — 150,000 miles — but doesn't contain any silicates or phosphates for additional engine protection.
- HOAT antifreeze/coolant is typically orange or yellow and can last for 150,000 miles.

Antifreeze/coolant now comes in so many brands and formulations that you can't rely on color alone to understand what you're pouring into your engine. Almost all of it is pre-diluted with water for convenience, but using a pre-diluted product also means you're paying more for less coolant.



Coolant Compromised



TECH TIP OF THE MONTH



Things to Remember

Here are a few other points to remember when it comes to your engine coolant choice:

1. Coolant type cannot be accurately identified by color. Both OAT and HOAT are often orange or yellow, so they can be easily misidentified.
2. Automakers don't adopt new coolants on a simple schedule. It's entirely possible for two vehicles from the same manufacturer to use two completely different coolant types.
3. Just because a vehicle had one type of coolant when it left the factory doesn't mean a different type of coolant wasn't installed at some point in the life of the vehicle. When changing back to the factory recommended coolant, a complete cooling system flush should be performed first.

One great way to ensure you get the right coolant to keep your vehicle on the road and running smoothly is by having your vehicle maintenance performed at a [AAA Approved Auto](#)

Never mix different types of coolant

Unless you're an expert on the exact chemical composition and reactions of the various types, keep it simple and stick with what the manufacturer recommends. **Mixing the wrong types could cause radiator and cooling system damage** (which could lead to engine/waterpump damage) and a repair bill that'll make you pass out on the floor. Which could then lead to an expensive doctors bill. Check the owners manual.





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



The New VTCI Country Store Manager is Renea Steffens - vtcicountrystore@gmail.com

VTCL COUNTRY STORE



\$3.50

INCLUDES SHIPPING

HAT/LAPEL PIN

\$39

INCLUDES SHIPPING

GRILL BADGE



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



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www.penabrostrim@yahoo.com

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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.



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Tim Hill
Parts Manager



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Saturday: 8:00-1:00
Sunday: Closed
info@concoursautosalon.com



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List of Dealers for Parts

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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

55-57 Casco 800-374-0914 www.classictbird.com

55-57 Hill's Classic Cars 740-949-2217 www.hillsresto.com

Rock Auto www.rockauto.com

02-05 Retrobird Used Parts

TbirdBob-www.TbirdBob.com. Bob Sinickas

Specializes in FEM & REM rebuilding.

219-992-0953 Email: 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.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com

- if you prefer

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 Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	President Bob McNeill
Vice-President Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Auto Technical Advisor Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Vice-President Vacant
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 Paul Prokop
	Activities Chairman Gary Fought	Technical Director Alan Tast
	STTC Photographer Stan Andrews	Publication Director Terri McNeill
	STTC Videographer Dené Ballantine	
		Country Store Renea & Scott Steffens

South Central Regional Director



Websites
www.southtexas thunderbirdclub.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. By becoming a member, you give consent to STTC to use photographs and video of you, the members in your party, and your vehicle(s) for promotion in print, online, and broadcast television. 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 4.15.2025

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.