



San Antonio, Texas



# MAY 2025



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



# Presidents Message For May 2025

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The comments I have received indicate that those who participated in the displaying of their Tbirds at the Gateway Classic Cars event in New Braunfels April 26, 2025 thought it was an excellent event to participate in. There were more than two dozen STTC member families (25 members) who signed up and joined us in this endeavor. Many heartfelt thanks go out to them, and especially to Stan A & Dené B who did the photography for us and Dené the beautiful videotaping. Weather conditions on Saturday was good, with no rain and an overcast sky to keep the temperature down. Since we are collecting new and unpackage toys for the KENS5-TV Bill Taylor Toy Drive each month we were able to add to our growing collection also. Everyone I spoke with seemed to have enjoyed this special event and hopefully, as a result of the turnout, we will receive a nice donation from Gateway to our toy fund. We all seemed to have enjoyed the many classic cars on the floor that are available for sale. There are some great classics in their collection!

We are certainly looking forward to the upcoming Thunderbird Appreciation Day celebration at Northside Ford dealership again this year. It is Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10am-4pm. We are looking forward to the SACTC Little Bird Club joining us in this activity. We should be under cover again this year and Northside Ford will be providing food and drink again. Make sure to bring your lawn chairs for this one! We had an excellent turnout last year and are looking forward to another good one. Dené should be here to videotape this event, and also intends to do some video interviewing of our membership!

I was saddened to hear of the passing of longtime STTC Member Jack Dowda, after a long battle of health issues. More information regarding funeral arrangements are forthcoming.

The STTC Activities Committee will be meeting soon to plan 2 social luncheon events for June and July. It is our intent to stay intown during these hot Summer months. More information will be forthcoming on them. Our August meeting will be a Business meeting at our Sponsor Jordan Ford dealership location, IH-35 & 1604N.

See details in this newsletter and here. <https://southtexasthunderbirdclub.com>

Best Regards, Ray Clark, STTC President





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### M A Y

#### BIRTHDAYS

James A	5/1
John C	5/14
Marilyn C	5/13
Michael H	5/19
Linda D	5/21
Perry D	5/26
Barbara C	5/29

#### ANNIVERSARY

Stan & Olga 5/24

LOVE



Monday May 26, 2025



Sunday May 11, 2025

#### May Zodiac Sign

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

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



TAURUS



GEMINI



May Birthstone  
Emerald





## The Rear View April Events



EdP-1955 Red Babybird





# The Rear View April Events







## The Rear View April Events







# The Rear View April Events





# The Rear View April Events



Barbara C.



After



Kathy V-Marilyn C-Barbara C







## The Rear View April Events







## The Rear View April Events



Barry & Judy B & Gary & Carolyn F



Olga A-n- Old Fords







**"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  
& 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  
(VTCl)**







CANYON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC



6th Annual

# Cadets & Cars

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MORE INFO  
& REGISTER



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BROKEN WARRIORS ANGELS PRESENTS

# VETERAN'S CAR SHOW

QR CODE FOR VENDORS & REGISTRATION

VENDORS WELCOME \$20 A SLOT!

FREE FOR SPECTATORS!

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REGISTRATION 9-11AM • 50/50 DRAWING • CAR COMPETITION

20th ANNUAL

FREDERICKSBURG CARFEST

JUNE 7-2025

Fredericksburg CAR FEST

JUNE 7, 2025

\*BENEFITING FREDERICKSBURG MORNING ROTARY

WWW.FREDERICKSBURGCARFEST.COM



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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".



# 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.



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"



## SOUNDTRACK OF THE TIMES

### Blonde in the Blue T-Bird

Walter Egan

A moonlight night, the highway shines  
A pair of beams approaches mine  
And as she pulls up close  
We share a glance; my heart awoke

The blonde in the blue T-Bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-Bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-Bird

We drove along a long, long way  
I followed in my Chevrolet  
And soon it became clear  
The reason why she brought me here

The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird

And in the dawn my car looks fine  
A night of love can make it shine  
But as my engine whines  
The blue T-bird is on my mind

The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird

The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird (blue Thunderbird)  
The blonde in the blue T-bird

(Blue Thunderbird, Blue Thunderbird)  
(Blue Thunderbird, Blue Thunderbird)  
(Blue Thunderbird...)







## A Little Humor



Marketing 101 - Humor Imitates Life  
It's All How You Spin It . . .

### INDUSTRIAL THESAURUS

- NEW . . . different color from previous design
  - ALL NEW . . . parts are not interchangeable with the previous design
  - EXCLUSIVE . . . made in Italy
  - UNMATCHED . . . almost as good as the competition
  - DESIGN SIMPLICITY . . . costs cut to the bone
  - FOOLPROOF OPERATION . . . no provision for adjustment
  - ADVANCED DESIGN . . . Sales Dept. doesn't understand it
  - FIELD TESTED . . . manufacturer doesn't have the time.
  - RUGGED . . . too heavy to lift.
  - LIGHTWEIGHT . . . lighter than rugged.
  - YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT . . . finally got one that worked.
  - UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE . . . nothing we ever had before worked this way.
  - FUTURISTIC . . . can't figure out why it looks like it does.
  - ENERGY SAVING . . . achieved when the unit is shut off.
  - NO MAINTENANCE . . . impossible to fix.
  - HAND CRAFTED . . . too complex for machining operations.
  - PERFORMANCE PROVEN . . . good chance it will operate through the warranty period.
  - MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS . . . ours, not yours.
  - IMPROVED RELIABILITY . . . you will get one more day out of it than the last one.
  - SATISFACTION GUARANTEED . . . our's, upon receipt of the check.
-



## 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.





# PARTS / SERVICE



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Facebook and Instagram icons are also present.



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

<https://thunderbirdswest.com/>

**Owner Lance E. Herrington**  
**Full-Service Thunderbirds**

**1955-1979**

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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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Tim Hill  
Parts Manager



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





The New VTCI Country Store Manager is Renea Steffens - [vtcicountrystore@gmail.com](mailto: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.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDCUB.NET](http://WWW.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDCUB.NET)**





# SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL CLUB

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

STTC OFFICERS	COMMITTEE DIRECTORS	VTCL OFFICERS
<b>President</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>President</b> Bob McNeill
<b>Vice-President</b> Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	<b>Auto Technical Advisor</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Vice-President</b> Vacant
<b>Secretary</b> Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	<b>Website Assistance</b> Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	<b>Executive Secretary</b> Jake Wake
<b>Treasurer</b> Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	<b>Historian</b> Marilyn Carron	<b>Treasurer</b> Randy Mattson
	<b>Name Tag Coordinator</b> Jerry Cowan	<b>Concourse Director</b> Paul Prokop
	<b>Activities Chairman</b> Gary Faught	<b>Technical Director</b> Alan Tast
	<b>STTC Photographer</b> Stan Andrews	<b>Publication Director</b> Terri McNeill
	<b>STTC Videographer</b> Dené Ballantine	<b>Country Store</b> Renea & Scott Steffens
		<b>South Central Regional Director</b> Brian Carron



Websites  
[www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com](http://www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com)  
<http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net>





[www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com](http://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](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 (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: Denny 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 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
January / February	\$40.00
March / April	\$35.00
May / June	\$30.00
July / August	\$25.00
September / October	\$55.00
November / December	\$50.00

All Other  
Countries

\$60.00
\$55.00
\$45.00
\$40.00
\$90.00 includes next year
\$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.