



San Antonio, Texas



JANUARY 2026

**WELCOME
2026**



**Adiós
2025**



Life
IS A
JOURNEY
Enjoy the
RIDE



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Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area



Presidents Message for January 2026

I hope all of you enjoyed a safe and Happy New Year with family and friends. As your President, I am looking forward to this new year of STTC events that our Activities Committee has put together for us. The Activities for 2026 were determined right before the Monthly Business meeting by the Committee. There will be some new activities and some that we have done before in past years. Those were chosen because many of our members asked that we include them again, as some of them missed them in past years. Also because many of our members are new. See the email I sent out or the Activities listing below. I hope ya'll will like the change of location and new Sponsor of Northside Ford. We will not have to contend with the traffic jam of Loop1604N & IH-35.

In November we will be participating in the KENS5-TV Bill Taylor Toy Drive again. We doubled the number of toys over our 2024 efforts to the tune of \$2,000. I covered the details on conducting the Toy Drive for this year in our February Business Meeting. As usual, we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys/stuffed animals for needy children in hospitals, and other 1-17-year-olds with needs. Once again, we can drop off any toys collected at each monthly meeting we have. Danny and Kathy did their usual fantastic job of collecting and storing them as they came in. Danny also once again will set up the Toy Drive with the Bill Taylor coordinator. Ask your friends, family members, and other social contacts to become a "Participating Contributor" of our campaign for 2026. Additional information will forthcoming later in the year.

I am also pleased to announce that our newly formed STTC T-Bird Trio featuring Lou Paliani, Dr. Dené Ballentine, and Becky Nelson will be performing again at our November Christmas Party. We will all sing our new T-Bird Christmas song that Dené created for us, and some different Christmas songs. The location will be the same as last year. I look forward to seeing her again at our February meeting which she should be videotaping for us again! She has been vacationing in Mauri.

The time to renew your Paid Membership with the STTC has passed. If there are no changes to your information indicate NO CHANGES on your check, send it and your \$20 to Danny for renewal. If there are changes, then fill out the form to indicate the changes and send it in. If you need the form just print out the STTC Membership Application form from the website.

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

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

LOVE



**AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY – JANUARY 12,
1904 – Ford sets new land speed record**



January Zodiac Sign

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

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20)

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



January GARNET



Peace, good health,
friendship and prosperity.

The name 'garnet' is from the Latin 'granatum', meaning pomegranate.

The most valuable variant of garnet, Demantoid, is green!

In medieval times garnets were thought to protect the wearer from poison.

If you're a nervous traveller wear garnet to keep you calm and ensure you arrive safely at your destination.



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

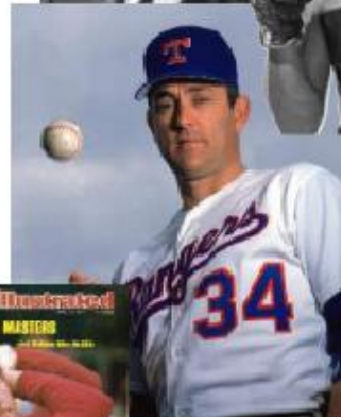
January 17, 1942 – Mohammad Ali, heavyweight boxing champion

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.

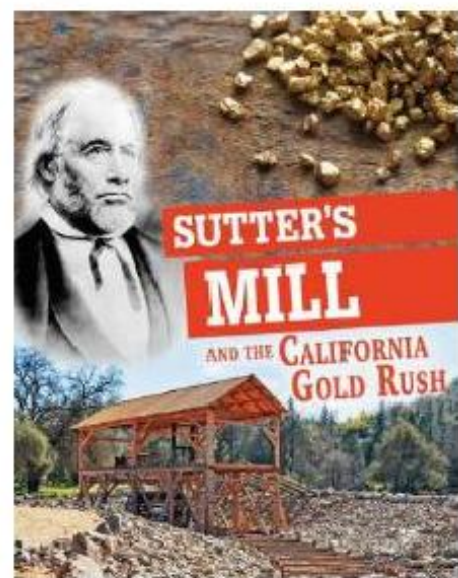


January 21, 1976 – The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.



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 in³, 4727 cm³

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,

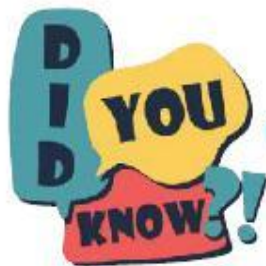
Michigan and drove the vehicle himself with mechanic Ed Huff at the throttle. The pair set a new automobile land speed record of 91.37 mph (140.05 km/h) on the ice over Lake St. Clair. At this point, the Ford Motor Company had yet to have its first birthday, but this success attracted new investors. 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



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

STTC Schedule of Events

Feb-SAS Plant tour-THURSDAY 26th 12:15pm-They have 12 Classic Cars on display! 101 New Laredo Hwy, 78211 210-924-6507. Restaurant 10:30am-Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant 1526 SW Military Drive San Antonio, Texas 78221 210-922-3511.

Mar-Sat 28-Wildflower Cruise (Wild Seed Farm) Lunch Backwoods BBQ Fredericksburg

Apr-24-25 FRI/SAT-Overnight Lake Buchanan Boat trip (if approved by members)-Lunch on Boat or Brownbag

**May-1-3 FRI-SUN-Randolph AFB Air Show/Car show event-Brownbag lunch
Sat 16 -Thunderbird Appreciation Day-Northside Ford-Food provided by Northside Ford**

Jun- Sat 27-Gateway Class Cars-Lunch Freiheit Country Store Hwy 1101 & Creekside Crossing

Jul-Sat 25-Business Meeting-10AM-11:30AM, Northside Ford, Lunch TBD

Aug- THURSDAY 27-Possible afternoon Toyota Plant Tour-Lunch TBD

Sep- WEDNESDAY 23rd-Return trip to CAF San Marcos-Lunch TBD

Oct- Sat 24-Revisit Stonehenge in Ingram (Open again) Lunch-Billy Gene' Restaurant Kerrville

Nov-FRIDAY 20th-Toy Drive

Saturday 21st-11AM Christmas Party at Outback Steak House ~ STTC T-Bird Trio Performs!

Dec: No STTC Activity planned due to Christmas.



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.

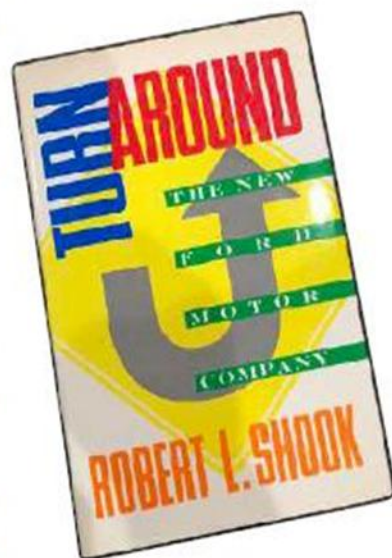
Since my last name is "Reader" I tend to do a lot of reading.

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

The Rear View

January Business Meeting



Lunch at Walk On's Sports Bistreaux Restaurant after the Northside Ford Business Meeting.

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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

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About South Texas Thunderbird Club

San Antonio Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC) Inc. has been in existence for 46 years 1979-2025. 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 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 Tom Przedwojewski
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 Jack Wake
Treasurer Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	Historian Marilyn Carron	Treasurer Randy Mattson
	Quartermaster Jerry Cowan	Concourse Director Randall Rychlik
	Country Store Manager Laura Wahrmond	
	Activities Chairman Gary Faight	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 Brian Carron



Websites
www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com
www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com





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



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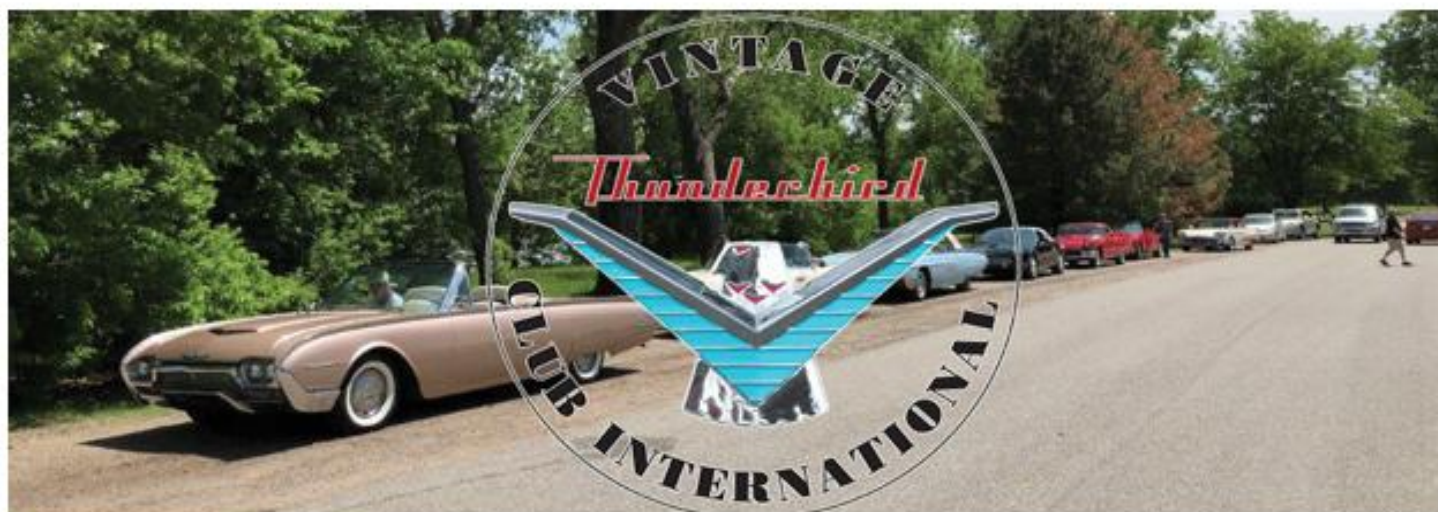


WINDSHIELD
DECAL



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

WWW.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDCUB.NET





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

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 (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: \$55.00 United States and Canada, \$75.00 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	\$55.00	\$75.00
March / April	\$50.00	\$70.00
May / June	\$50.00	\$70.00
July / August	\$95.00	\$140.00 includes next year
September / October	\$95.00	\$140.00 includes next year
November / December	\$95.00	\$140.00 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.