



San Antonio, Texas



MAY 2026



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Welcoming all years of Thunderbirds in the San Antonio area.



Presidents Message For May 2026

The comments I have received are indications that those who participated in the displaying of their Tbirds at the Randolph AFB Air Show featuring the USAF Thunderbirds again, May 1-3 are very good. They thoroughly enjoyed the attention the huge crowd gave their beautiful Tbirds. Everyone thought it was an excellent event to participate in again, though Friday was cancelled due to rain. Many heartfelt thanks go out to those who participated 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.

May was a double dipper month with two major events the STTC participated in! Though I was out of State and not able to attend, Stan A tells me we had another enjoyable event at the Saturday May 16th Thunderbird Appreciation Day hosted by our Sponsor, Northside Ford. Good use was made of those big blue awnings over of the Tbird display. We also had members of the SACTC Little Bird Club joining us in this activity. Northside Ford provided food and drink. Many made good use of their lawn chairs for this one! We had an excellent turnout last year and another one this year. Dené was out of pocket for this event, but Stan A & Marilyn C did the picture taking, with Stan getting a short video taken which I used to create the STTC Video from. Below in The Rear View, you will find the link to the Videos of these events.

The STTC Activities Committee has revised our Activities for the remainder of the year somewhat due to some changes of activities which had to be cancelled. We will have social luncheons for June, and August as we stay intown during these hot Summer months. See the changes in Upcoming Events below. Our July meeting will be a Business meeting at our Sponsor Northside Ford dealership location. This is an excellent opportunity for ya'll to bring all the toys you, hopefully, have been collecting from family, friends, or others and turn them into Danny and Kathy. The proposed cruise to the Toyota Plant is OFF. Stan A has informed me that our Sep-WEDNESDAY 23rd-Return trip to CAF San Marcos is ON! Lunch TBD. A good number of you had been asking for a return trip to CAF, especially those of you who were not able to make the last visit with them several years ago. This IS a weekday Cruise because many of their WW2 aircraft are out flying at other events across the Nation on the weekends. They don't return until Monday, often, then get cleaned up during the week to hit the air again for the next air show later in the week.

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

Best Regards, Ray Clark, STTC President





Birthdays & Anniversaries

M A Y

BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn C	5/13
Linda D	5/21
John W	5/24
Jonnie M	5/26
Barbara C	5/29

ANNIVERSARY

Stan & Olga 5/24



Monday May 25, 2026



Sunday May 10, 2026

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





The Rear View



A few pix of activity of the Air Show. For a better view of the videos by Dené put your mouse on the link & push It. A small Finger should come up. click on the link. Go Full Screen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVYq1LWOElw>

THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

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 16th 2026.

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 21 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





The Rear View



Pix From Northside Ford Thunderbird Appreciation Day Saturday, May 16, 2026. See the short STTC YouTube Video by Stan. Put the mouse on the link. A small Finger should come up. Click on it! Go Full Screen! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4oLY6UApoc>

**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

STTC Schedule of Events

Jun- Saturday, 27th, 11am Social Lunch, Alamo Café, IH-10W

**Jul-Saturday 25-Business Meeting-10AM-11:30AM,
Northside Ford, Lunch TBD Bring Toys!**

**Aug-Saturday 22nd, 11am Social Lunch La Madeleine Café
IH-410**

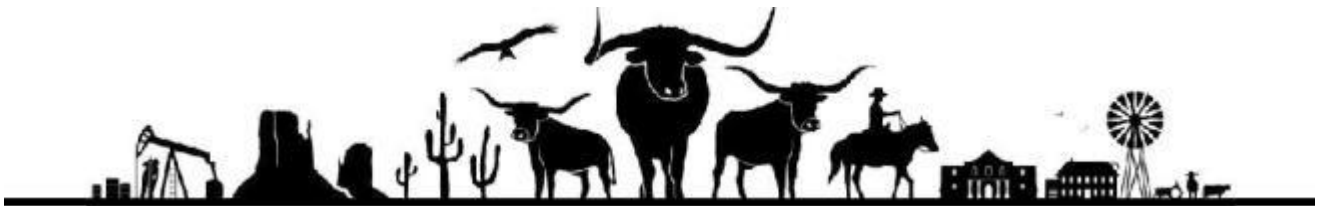
**Sep-WEDNESDAY 23rd-Return trip to CAF San Marcos-Lunch
TBD**

**Oct-Saturday 24th-Revisit Stonehenge II, Ingram (Open again)
Lunch-Billy Gene's 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



Two Great Thunderbird Clubs One Incredible Convention



Owners • Enthusiasts •
All Thunderbird
Generations Welcome

2026 Thunderbird Convention



Flagstaff Arizona
September 8-13



Convention Registration Info:

www.azthunderbirdclub.com/registration

Host Hotel:
Little America/Flagstaff
Use the QR code to Reserve
Your Room Now



2026 THUNDERBIRDS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION		VTCI REGISTRATION FORM	Sept. 8 th -13 th
Name _____		Phone Number _____	
Spouse/Guests _____		Phone Number _____	
Mailing Address _____		City, State, Zip _____	
E-Mail Address _____		E-Mail Address _____	
VTCI Number _____		VTCI Chapter Affiliation _____	

Are you willing to serve as a judge? ☐ yes ☐ no Do you want to be an exhibitor in the Swap Meet? ☐ yes ☐ no
Are you a First Timer? ☐ yes ☐ no [Event/Membership Form for Non-VTCI Members Wishing to be Judged/Attend on Website www.azthunderbirdclub.com](http://www.azthunderbirdclub.com)

Are bringing your Thunderbird? ☐ yes ☐ no / Driving ☐ Trailered ☐ Year _____ Model _____ VIN _____	
Non-Judged Divisions Judged Divisions VTCI Membership Required (See Volume 1 of the Concours Rules on the VTCI Website)	☐ Senior Participation T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention ☐ Display Open to All Years ☐ Senior T-birds having received 1st Place in Primary Division at a VTCI International Convention and eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" Award. ☐ Primary Eligible for "Best of Show/Larry Seyfarth" award: 1955-1979. Path to obtain Senior Status. ☐ Driver 1955-1979 only. Engine compartment, trunk & undercarriage not judged. ☐ Late Model 1980-1997 300-point system; all areas judged. ☐ Modified 1955-1997 only. 300-point system; all areas judged. ☐ Touring 1955-1997 only. Undercarriage not judged; modifications for safety, reliability & comfort allowed. See Volume 1 Concours Rules. ☐ 2002-2005 100-point system; undercarriage not judged ☐ 2002-2005 Modified 100-point system; undercarriage not judged ☐ Wixom Preservation & Authenticity Award Advance Notice / Separate Application Required; minimum 30 days in advance

** Registration deadline for cars to be judged-August 8, 2026 (No Exceptions)**		QTY	COST	TOTAL
Registration Fee	Couple/Family (children under 18 included) (Enter #1 for a couple)		70	
	Single (Individuals over age 18)		45	
Tuesday Sept 8th	3PM-6PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"			
	Explore Flagstaff Area or Historic Downtown (Convention Packet includes Flagstaff Route 66 Places of Interest & Restaurant Listing)		incl	
Wednesday Sept 9th	8AM-5PM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"			
	10AM VTCI Board of Directors Meeting & General Membership Meeting		incl	
	2PM Tour - Lowell Observatory includes "Cosmic Highways: A Centennial Tour Experience" - exploring how Route 66 paved a path of astronomical discovery		30	
	7PM "Get Your Kicks at the Evening Mix" - Hors d'Oeuvres and Cash Bar		27	
Thursday Sept 10th	8AM Convention Check-in Little American Hotel/Flagstaff; DIY "Bird Bath"			
	8AM-11AM VTCI Judge Training			
	1PM-4PM Tour - Riordan Mansion - includes Route 66 Centennial Exhibit		18	
	6:30PM "Fun, Fun, Fun" - Thunderbird Buffet with Cash Bar		68	
Friday Sept 11th	8AM-8:30AM Owners/Operators Meeting		incl	
	9:00 AM VTCI Concours Judging		incl	
	12 Noon Judge's Lunch - All other attendees Lunch on their own		incl	
	2:30PM Tour - Museum of Northern Arizona includes "Route 66: Wagon Road to the Mother Road" Exhibit		18	
	5:30PM Guest Speaker - Jim Hinckley, internationally acclaimed author, historian, expert on Route 66, the American Southwest, and the American automobile industry.		incl	
Saturday Sept 12th	7AM-9AM Swap Meet		incl	
	8AM Driving Tour Option #1 - Route 66 Roadtrip - Seligman, Ashfork, Williams Breakfast & Shopping in Seligman, Visit Ash Fork's Route 66 Museum, Williams Lunch, Historic Route 66 Downtown District & Grand Canyon Railway Depot		N/C	
	9:30AM Pickup Box Lunch for Driving Tour Option #2		30	
	10AM Driving Tour Option #2 - Sunset Crater Volcano & Wupaki National Monuments National Park Service Requires Entrance Fee of \$25 per vehicle - Free w/America the Beautiful Pass.		N/C	
	5:30PM Cocktails w/cash bar / 6:30PM Awards Banquet; Plated. Mark preference.		72	
	Chicken ☐ Salmon ☐ Prime Rib ☐ Vegetarian ☐			
Polo Shirt	S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL ☐		38	
T-Shirt	S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL ☐		25	
Hat			25	
2027 Calendar			25	

Make Check Payable to > VTCI (Vintage Thunderbird Club Int'l) Cutoff Date For Mail Registrations: August 8, 2026	MAIL to: VTCI c/o ROGER INGRAM 6137 W Poinsettia Drive Glendale, AZ 85304-2515	\$
HOTEL: Little America Hotel 2515 E Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86004 Rate: \$189 per night (Cutoff Date: August 8, 2026) (800) 352-4386		
Reservation Link: Thunderbird International Convention - http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=5193916&hotelID=4649 (Please Let Reservation Clerk Know You Are With The Thunderbirds International Convention.)		Total Enclosed (US Funds)

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...)



"Blonde In The Blue T-Bird" Walter Egan YouTube Video. Go Full Screen!
On your Computer put your mouse on the Link. A small Finger should come up.

Click on the link and the Video should come up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DP245cJ-kDc>



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.



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Facebook and Instagram icons are also present.



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Sunday: Closed

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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.

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About South Texas Thunderbird Club

San Antonio Texas Thunderbird Club (STTC) Inc. has been in existence for 47 years 1979-2026. 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: 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 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



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WWW.VINTAGETHUNDERBIRDClub.NET



**SOUTH TEXAS THUNDERBIRD CLUB
VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB INTERNATIONAL
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 Rick Grindel
Secretary Stan Andrews (210) 296-4726	Website Assistance Ray Clark (210) 875-1411	Executive Secretary Renea Steffens
Treasurer Danny Varella (210) 215-7163	Historian Marilyn Carron	Treasurer Randy Mattson
	Co-Quartermasters Laura Chapman Jerry Cowan	Concourse Director Vacant
	Activities Chairman Gary Fought	Technical Director Alan Tast
	STTC Photographer Stan Andrews	Publications Director Larry Mead
	STTC Videographer Dené Ballantine	Public Relations Director Jim Capuzzo
		Country Store Manager Scott Steffens

South Central Regional Director
Vacant



Websites
www.southtexasthunderbirdclub.com
www.vintagethunderbirdclub.com





Membership Application

www.SouthTexasThunderbirdClub.com

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

VTCl 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.