

T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Established 1981

January 2026

Volume 45 Issue 1

President's Message...



Happy New Year!

To both the Water
Wonderland Thunderbird
Club and The American Road
Thunderbird Club!

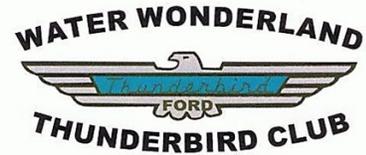
A Special Welcome to Members of
The American Road Thunderbird Club

See page 2 as to how we are combining!

Visit: www.MichiganTbirds.org · WWTC · P.O. Box 51027 · Livonia, MI 48151 · 586.703.4435



2026



January 2026

Dear Thunderbird Members,

On behalf of the leadership teams of both The American Road Thunderbird Club and the Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club, we are excited to officially welcome you to the newly unified **Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club!** This combining of clubs brings together the strengths, passion, and traditions of both clubs, forming a stronger, more dynamic community for all Ford Thunderbird enthusiasts.

By combining our resources, talents, and shared love of cars, we're entering an exciting new chapter—one filled with expanded events, a larger and more diverse membership, and even more opportunities to learn, connect, and enjoy the road together. Whether you come for the meets, the cruises, the builds, or simply the camaraderie, we believe this combination will enhance your experience in every way.

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing details about upcoming events, leadership roles, member benefits, and ways to get involved. Your voice matters, and we are committed to ensuring that every member feels valued and included as we move forward.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Here's to new friendships, unforgettable drives, and the exciting journey ahead!

With appreciation,

Barry Burnham

Barry Burnham, President

Club Events 2026

January 17th - Historian Jerry Franchina to present Ford Village Industries. See the flyer

February 6th - Ford Engineering Laboratory Archives.

March 15th - Ford Historical Michigan Central Train Station Tour

April 19th - Milbury Classic Car & Truck Museum, Milbury, Ohio.

May tbd - Spring Dust Off

June 7th - Bakers Car Show

July 19th - WWTC Club Picnic

August 9th - Pre- Woodward Dream Cruise

September 13th All T-Bird Day

October 18th - Hines Park Cider Cruise

November 7th - 2027 Planning Meeting

December 6th - Annual Club Holiday Party

Event Details and Other Car Events Will be in the Newsletter

Something New is Coming!

We will list the weekly car shows when information is available during the May through September issues of the newsletter. If you don't see one listed—send me the information, thanks.

Meet the American Road Thunderbird Club

The **Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club** is happy to welcome the members of the **American Road Thunderbird Club** (TARTC) as new members. TARTC has a rich 60 year plus history as a Ford Thunderbird Club originally celebrating the 1955, 1956, and 1957 model years. There members have stood through the times of change and witnessed many new designs and innovations. As many clubs are experiencing the aging out of their core membership, clubs must continue to look for new ways to attract younger car enthusiasts and share the historic elements of design and function of cars like the iconic Ford Thunderbird. The Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club is celebrating its 45th year and together with the joining of the American Road Thunderbird Club I know we will reach new heights and secure a place in the future. We are by far now the largest Ford Thunderbird Club in Michigan and proud that we will be able to share our love of Thunderbirds with even more people throughout southeastern Michigan. Let us all get ready as we start to explore all of the possibilities of the 75th anniversary in 2030.

Watch for the history of TARTC in February!





January Presentation
Henry Ford's Village Industries
presenter
Historian Jerry Franchina

Industries focus on the Middle Rouge River Region. They
provide employment for local residents and farmers

Saturday, January 17, 2026
12:00 - 3:00 PM

Gateway Classic Cars, 15011 S. Commerce, Dearborn, MI
(Please enter at back door)

Pizza, Salad, Desert, Water \$10.00 person (pay at the event)

RSVP to JoAnn via phone/text 248-719-0160 or email
joannbill801@comcast.net **by Wednesday January 14, 2026**

WWTC · P.O. Box 51027 · Livonia, MI 48151

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Presents

Ford Engineering Laboratory (FEL) Tour

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 10:00 am

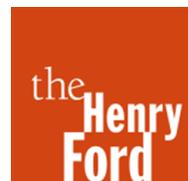
21500 Oakwood Blvd.
Dearborn, MI 48124

Gathering at **Buddy's Pizza**
immediately following the tour!

For a reservation: r.s.v.p to sclegel@comcast.net or
text to 313.492.6525 by

January 6, 2026 · NOTE EARLY DEADLINE!

No Food or Drink Allowed on Tour!





Membership Renewal Form

Please complete only information that has changed

* Renewal Information Required

First and Last Name* _____

Birthdate: Month and Day : _____

Spouse/Partner First and Last Name* _____

Birthdate: Month and Day: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Email Address* _____

Phone C or H _____ Spouse/Partner _____

Membership in other club (s) _____

Year _____ Body Style _____ Color _____

Description of your Thunderbird _____

Year _____ Body Style _____ Color _____

Description of your Thunderbird _____

Please mail payment and membership form with changes to:

WWTC
P.O. Box 51027
Livonia, MI 48151

Dues { \$25.00, with email
\$35.00, without email

Things We Do:

- ◆ Monthly Activities
- ◆ Sponsor club events and day cruises
- ◆ Publish a Club Newsletter
- ◆ Publish a Club Directory
- ◆ Maintain a Club Website
- ◆ Enlist Technical Advisors
- ◆ Offer a vocational scholarship

Received: Amount \$ _____, check # _____, cash _____, Date: _____

Bird Talk



Happy Birthday Members!

4	David Lau	21	Karen Southworth
4	Daniel King	22	Jim Harrington
11	Greg Baranyai	23	Loreto Manzo
11	Pam Bentley	24	Bill Long
15	John O'Brien	24	Ed Ross
19	Bob Kohl	25	Greg Nutter
19	Steve Legel	27	Aleta Meskin
19	Christine Marschall	29	Stephen Sieczka
20	Reno DeFrank	31	Sue Wells

January



Welcome! New Members

Joe Mooradian can be reached at : motorworld@gmail.com

Members of the American Road Thunderbird Club

Car models will be published in the new directory

Something to Sell or Trade?

List it here!



70th Anniversary Pin

While Supplies Last!

\$10.00 each

Celebrating the

Thunderbird

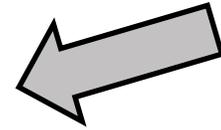


Order Today! Mail check and indicate quantity to:
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

P.O. Box 51027

Livonia, MI 48151

Pin size 1.25" w ◦ Supporting our scholarship program ◦ 586-703-4435



Who Owned Your Car?

Curious? Vehicle title history records are available by mail for \$15.00, or \$16 if certified.

To request a copy of your vehicle's record, complete the [Record Lookup Request form](#) online and return with payment made out to State of Michigan to the address on the form. You can also email me at barry.burnham@me.com and request a form to mail in.



Have you checked out our brand new website?

Michigantbirds.org

Please let me know what you think too!



Executive Board

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248-464-1597
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Larry Seyfarth, Advisor
313-436-8327
larryseyfarth@yahoo.com

Don't Wait Any Longer!

Pick an event, get your Tbird
ready and join us!

We Want You!



Happy New Year!



Barry Burnham, Newsletter
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