

T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Established 1981

February 2026

Volume 45 Issue 2

President's Message...

Welcome again to our new friends from The American Road Thunderbird Club as the Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club celebrates its 45th year! Be sure to read the letter by David Campbell, the past president of The American Road Thunderbird Club on page 2.

I have created a new position called the **Transition Team Committee** to ensure that as we go forward, the needs and concerns of TARTC members are addressed. I am excited to see their cars and meet our new friends during the 2026 events and programs. I am happy to announce that Chapter 5 belonging to The American Road Thunderbird Club in the Classic Thunderbird Club International will be transferred over to our newly joined Thunderbird Club. We now are Chapter Clubs in the three national Thunderbird organizations.

We had a great time in January listening to the Ford historian talk about the village industries that dot the area. Thank you to **Larry and Nancy** for arranging a great presentation. And, this month we have a rare opportunity to visit the Ford Archives in Dearborn for an historic look back to the cars of yesterday. Thank you to **Steve and Iris** for putting the archives tour together. Be sure to check out our calendar for all upcoming events! Get ready for our March tour of the Michigan Central Train Station. Ford Motor Company invested nearly a billion dollars to restore this Detroit gem and landmark.

If you have an idea for the newsletter or something you would like me to share with the members, please feel free to reach out to me. Let's talk!



Happy Valentine's Day

Get the most out of this newsletter. *Take a moment to read every page!*

See you all soon in your Thunderbird, President Barry

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

2026

To the members of TARTC:

As we close the books on our Club, I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the many years we have been together. Through the years, we have traveled to many places together, shared many new experiences, have learned a great deal about our classic cars and, most of all, we have made many great friendships.

I wish to especially acknowledge the fantastic work of Gene Nelson and Jim Zych whose efforts have made all of this possible.

The upcoming merger creates a new chapter in our Thunderbird experience. The Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club is comprised of many great, enthusiastic people who have the same dedication to preserve and enjoy the Thunderbird experience. They have welcomed us with open arms and have a strong desire to treat us as equal partners in the merged club.

The merger creates the largest Thunderbird club in Michigan and will have the benefit of being a chapter of all three international clubs: Classic Thunderbird Club International, Vintage Thunderbird Club International and International Thunderbird Club. These international clubs are working together for a possible convention here in Detroit in 2030 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Thunderbird.

I ask that you get involved in our merged club and help shape our combined organization into one that meets the desires of all of us. I will be serving on a transition committee and you can funnel any concerns that you may have through me.

I wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Dave Campbell

Club Events 2026

February 6th - Ford Engineering Laboratory Archives. See flyer pg 4

March 15th - Ford Historical Michigan Central Train Station Tour

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

May tbd - Spring Dust Off

June 14th - 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.

Other Great Events

May 7th—T-Bird Appreciation Day

June 20-21—Motor Muster

June 20th—Down River Cruise

June tbd—Maumee- Valley Picnic

June 6th—Back to the Bricks

June 27th—Chelsea Car Show

July 11th—Cruise US-12, Wayne

July 11th—Grosse Ile car show

August 17th—Hines Park Cruise

August 8th—Troy Traffic Jam

Sept tbd—Old Car Festival

Watch for details in upcoming issues.

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club presents

Ford Engineering Laboratory (FEL) Tour

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 10:00 am

21500 Oakwood Blvd.

Dearborn, MI 48124

The Archives are housed in the old Ford Engineering Laboratory. The building is nestled between the Henry Ford Museum and the Automotive Hall of Fame. You can see it from the Henry Ford Museum parking lot, but it is a separate entity.

The Driveway to the FEL (Ford Engineering Lab) is just north (just past the Automotive Hall of Fame, heading north from the Henry Ford) (or just before the back of the Automotive Hall of Fame if you are coming from the north (Michigan Ave). The driveway has a sign for the FEL. Parking is near the west entrance to the building.

Please see the map for driveway entrance, parking and entry door.

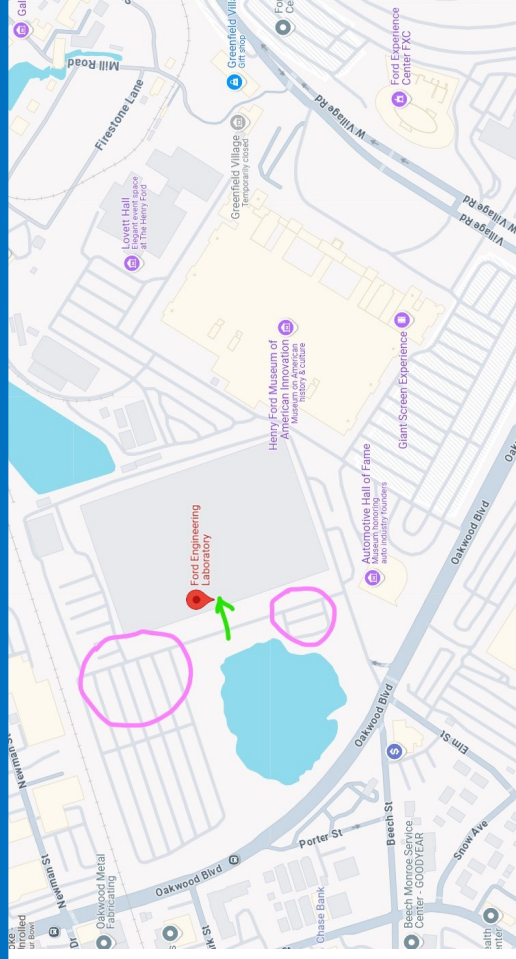
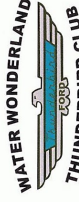
We have almost 40 members signed up to attend, and we will break up into smaller groups for tour.

I have reserved seating at Buddy's Pizza on Michigan Ave for lunch at 12:30. Cost of lunch will either be flat fee, or on your own off menu. TBD.

Please let me know if you plan to come to lunch so I have headcount. Thanks

Steve Legel
313 492 6525

* No Food or Drinks while on the tour



Gateway CLASSIC CARS



What a great informative and educational program presented by the Henry Ford Heritage Association! Thank you Larry and Nancy!



Thank You
Todd Bryan, President
Jerry Franchina, Presenter

Happy
Valentine's
Day



Nice to see former TARTC members too!





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!

20	Frank Childs	19	Sharon Osborn
7	Ed Sikora	19	Dave Salzmann
9	Jean Ross	20	Christine Griffin
10	Larry Day	22	Alfred Burch
10	David Holt	23	Dana Panetta
14	Donald Miller	27	Larry Redman
15	Glenn Barrie		Karla Coll
17	James Herrera		
17	Bob Kolvedt		
17	Sally Struck		
19	Jeff Littleton		

February



Welcome! New Members

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

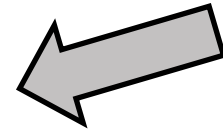


Order Today! Mail check and indicate quantity to:
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

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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Standing Committees

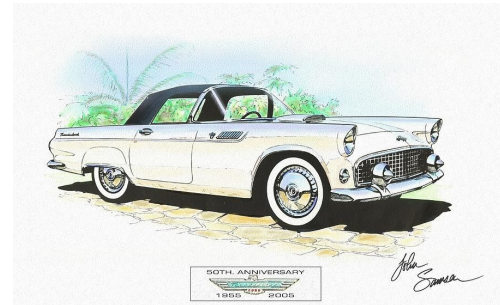
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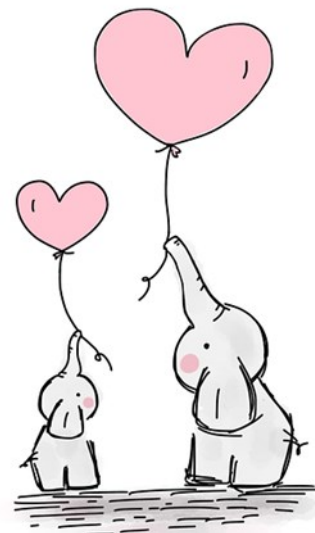
David Campbell, Transition Team
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Don't Wait Any Longer!
Pick an event, get your Tbird
ready and join us!



Happy Valentine's Day



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