



T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Established 1981

September 2025

Baltic Blue 1960

Volume 44 Issue 9

President's Message...



The pre-Dream Cruise proved to be another great event well attended by our club and this year our combined effort with the **American Road Thunderbird Club**. It makes sense that our club should partner from time to time with our sister clubs in the area.

We had another good turn out as we were featured at the **Troy Traffic Jam** in Troy as we celebrated our **70th Year Anniversary**. Thank you to everyone that supported our first involvement in this well presented event.



We are getting ready for our big event this year, the **All T-bird Day** that will be held at the **Historic Wilson Barn in Livonia, September 14th**. *If you have not registered, please do so today!* The registration form is on page 4.

If you would like to read the summary of the Summit recently held in Bloomfield with the Maumee Valley Thunderbird Club and the American Road Thunderbird Club, please turn to page 8. It will be great to share ideas with other local Thunderbird clubs.

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

Club Events...

September 14th (Sun) All Tbird Day

Car Show at Wilson Barn, 10-4:00 pm. See pages Pg 3 & 4

October 19th (Sun) Hines Park Cider Cruise watch for the flyer.

November 8th (Sat) 2026 Planning Pot Luck Meeting tbd

December 7th (Sun) Annual Club Holiday Party. DeLuca's Restaurant, Westland, MI.

Weekly Car Show—Oval Auto Cruise/Big Boy 37123 Six Mile, Livonia Saturday 6:00 pm—9:00 pm



Blast From the Past

A Little Girl and An Old Car

by Nancy Talkowski

Randy and I have been going to the Motor Muster at Greenfield Village over Father's Day Weekend for 20 plus years now and we always take the black 1960 Thunderbird. This year as we sat behind the car (as you do) and a man walked by seeming as though he was looking for something in particular. I asked him if I could help him and he said he was looking for a black 1960 T-Bird that he had seen here in years past, I told him to just turn around.

Standing by the car was his wife and daughter (Riley) who had been looking for our car earlier in the day. They showed us pictures of Riley & Randy in and around the car circa 2007. At that time she was 3-1/2 years old and we don't need to know old Randy was. Riley is now 21 and wanted to make a second series of pictures re-creating those from the past. So that they did! We now have both the old pictures and the new ones. We also had a very good visit discovering that Riley will start her Senior Year at Central Michigan University this fall. We ended with making a date to meet at the Motor Muster 10 years from now and do it again, maybe she will have started a family of her own, we can't wait to find out, might have to find out how many we can pack into the Blackbird.

This is one of the many reasons we let children sit in our car and pretend they are driving (with an occasional honk or the horn). Keeping young ones interested in the old cars can be fun and interesting!



Ford Thunderbird
70th Anniversary



Thunderbird Club
44th Anniversary



Our 44th Anniversary
All Years of Thunderbirds Welcome!

All T-Bird Day 2025

Sunday, September 14th

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Historic Wilson Barn—Livonia, MI • 29350 W. Chicago Rd. @ Middlebelt Rd.

- ◆ Dash Plaques to first 50 T-Birds
- ◆ Live DJ
- ◆ 50\50 Cash Raffle
- ◆ Class Awards Prizes
- ◆ Food Vendor
- ◆ Stuff the Box

Registration: Member Fee \$20\car prior to Sept. 10th
Non-Member Fee \$25\ and after Sept. 10th
Yes, I would like a 70th Anniversary Pin –add \$10.00

For More information and Registration Forms call:

Pam Bentley - 734-812-4781

ALL T-BIRD DAY REGISTRATION FORM

September 14, 2025

Date: _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

EVENT FEE CARS: Members: \$20.00 per car preregistration
Non-member & day of event: \$25.00 per car

Year _____ Body Style* _____ Color _____ \$ _____

Year _____ Body Style* _____ Color _____ \$ _____

***Open** = Convertible; **Closed** = Hardtop

VENDOR: I wish to reserve a Vendor space - \$20.00 per space \$ _____

CAR CORRAL: I wish to reserve _____ spaces in the Corral \$20.00 ea. \$ _____

(the Car Corral is reserved to display cars for sale)

70th Anniversary Pin: \$10.00 ea. \$ _____

Total Enclosed Cash \$ _____ Check # _____ \$ _____

Contact: Pam Bentley at 734-812-4781. Please mail check or money order with registration form to arrive:
No later than Tuesday September 10, 2025 to:

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club • P.O. Box 51027 • Livonia, MI 48151

Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Please no smoking or alcoholic beverages on premises · Website: www.michigantbirds.org



70th Anniversary Pin

While Supplies Last!

\$10.00 each

Celebrating the
Thunderbird

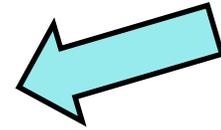


Order Today! Mail check and indicate quantity to:
Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

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.



Tech Talk

Classic Thunderbird Maintenance Tech-Tips

The subject of this month's tech-tip is keeping your Thunderbird well lubricated. Lubrication is number one on the maintenance list for our collector vehicles. Proper lubrication can insure many trouble free miles while maximizing your enjoyment and protecting your investment. I recommend keeping a record of lubrication intervals. One of the most often overlooked drivetrain components for routine lubrication maintenance is the rear axle differential. The rear axle installed in millions of Ford products was the Ford 9 inch which became a legend in the automotive industry renowned for its durability and longevity. It was standard equipment on the 1957 Thunderbird and subsequent design variations were used for decades on our Thunderbirds. If you can't remember when your axle lubrication was serviced, have it checked. Many of the fast oil change outlets will also change the rear axle oil. Below is my oil choice for rear axle and manual transmission lubrication.

By Rick Charniga



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Rick Charniga Technical Director |
| P.O. Box 51027 Livonia, MI 48151 | 734.740.3556 rickcharniga@gmail.com |

*Send your question to my email
address and I will post the
question/answer in next month's
newsletter.*



Make a Connection—Member to Member



A Labor of Love 



The story of the 1956 Thunderbird:

This car was the first car purchased in 1956 by a young 20-year-old immigrant from Italy. While he was going to high school and later to college, he worked many parttime jobs and when he graduated, he had saved enough money to purchase the "first love of his life" the 1956 Thunderbird convertible and has been the sole owner for 58 years.

As a young 20-year-old driving a sports car, he was the Envie of many and unfortunately was challenged to race from pretty much all that he met: a race that by the way, he always won.

It was during this time that he met and married the 'second love of his life' and many more wonderful memories were made. One of the most precious was driving his pregnant wife to the hospital where his first child was born.

During the many years that he worked as an engineer for Chrysler, he drove many one-of-a-kind prototype automobiles and purchased several beautiful ones. However, the only one that he kept for 58 years was his beloved Thunderbird.

All parts cataloged including screws!

Email: Roger DeLuca: claradeluca@yahoo.com

Summit Summary!

Summit Meeting for Thunderbird Clubs

June 25, 2025

Present: Barry and Nancy Burnham, Steve and Norma Johnson, David Campbell, Gene Nelson

Barry asked David to tell us about the American Road Thunderbird Club and Steve to tell us about the Maumee Valley Thunderbird Club.

The American Road Thunderbird Club (TART) was established in 1967. Their current membership is 60 but only a few turn-out for events. Covid took a toll on their club and they haven't seemed to recover from it. TART had some events (summer picnic and Pre Dream Cruise) scheduled for the summer and those have been cancelled for various reasons. The Traffic Jam is the only one still on the schedule.

They would like to do the Pre Dream Cruise, similar to what WWTC does and meet at the Moose Preserve and usually they do it. They know only about 5 will attend. David asked if they could join in with us. No decision was made.

David mentioned he sends out a list of events and does not get any response. A newsletter goes out to the membership as well. David stated he does send out a lot of reminders etc. about events. Steve Legel has also tried to get them to participate in Downriver events without success. David stated the members want to do things to socialize but don't want to sit at car shows.

The Maumee Valley Club has a lot of events and usually a drive to a restaurant. They have about 20 to 25 people who show up. Steve and Norma have done a lot of events at their house. Seymour now does the summer picnic at his home and another member usually does Christmas at their home. Norma stated their club has done some "Progressive Dinner" type events to three different restaurants (appetizers, main entrée and dessert) for dinner.

Everyone agreed the clubs are aging out, and it appears WWTC is the only one that has acquired a few younger members recently. Everyone also agreed the scholarship program is a great idea. TART and Maumee Valley had not thought to reach out to the school systems. Both TART and Maumee Clubs liked the WWTC scholarship program and what we do, the tech talk and let the kids look at the cars with a car show at the school. Norma suggested they would try to present a scholarship at an annual event (maybe an award presentation with their club or the school system).

Everyone agreed partnering with other Thunderbird Clubs is a good idea. It provides an opportunity to meet other people, share what your club is doing, sharing newsletters, co-sponsor larger events, carpool with others to events when cars may not be available, promote good will, circle of friendship and promote social events when cars are not involved (like winter activities).

Some suggestions for all of the clubs were: add a member profile with a photo of the member and their car to the newsletter, provide a list of reputable service places, list people looking to sell their Thunderbird in other newsletters too, as people from other places may be the one to buy that car.

Some ideas for coming events: The Milbury Museum in Ohio is a great place to visit, lots of cars to view. Norma thought of "Birds Come Home To Roost" for the 75th Anniversary out at Menards in Wixom, and it's not too early to start planning that event.

Everyone thought it is a great idea to continue to do what WWTC and Maumee Valley does with the picnic. There could be more events like that and include TART in these events too.

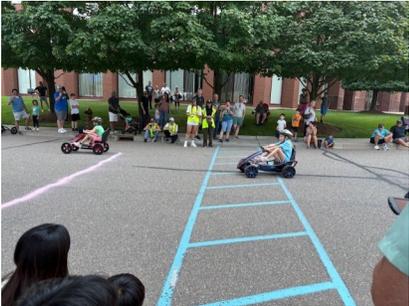
David mentioned GR Auto Gallery in Commerce Twp. Is a great place to view cars. They also sell cars on consignment. They are located at Oakley Park Rd and Haggerty. Clubs can arrange for a tour of the Gallery.

Steve mentioned the Maumee Club's website is MVTC.info

Troy Traffic Jam Fun!



More Troy Traffic Jam Fun!



Pre-Dream Cruising!





Celebrating with the American Road Tbirds too!



Birds in Kellogg Park







Executive Board

Barry Burnham, President
586-703-4435
barry.burnham@me.com

Keith Bentley, Vice President
734-812-5404
klbentley01@yahoo.com

JoAnn Rodriguez, Immediate Past President, ex officio
248-719-0160
joannbill801@comcast.net

Nancy Burnham, Secretary
586-747-6805
nburnham1152@gmail.com

Pam Bentley, Treasurer
734-812-4781
pcbentley21@yahoo.com

Directors

Denise Sikora, Membership Director
313-719-1588
56tbird@sbcglobal.net

Rick Charniga, Technical Director
734-740-3556
rickcharniga@gmail.com

David Lau, Technical Director
734-358-6071
toomanycars@charter.net

Nancy Seyfarth, Entertainment Director
313-436-8327
nancylouseyfarth@gmail.com

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!



Our **70th Anniversary** lapel pins have arrived. JoAnn and I will have them now at all of our events. You may get a reminder if you pre-ordered your pin.

