



Established 1981

Chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International

www.michigantbirds.org

October, 2014

Volume 34 Issue 10

"HAPPY HALLOWEEN"

Oh my, oh my . . . Where has this year gone? Although it is now fall and the trees are beginning to turn their vivid colors you have to admit the weather for September has been close to perfect. I hope that many of you have had a chance to take your Thunderbirds out for a cruise during this beautiful weather. There is lot's more color to see on our WWTC Fall Color & Cider Cruise which will take place Sunday, October 12, 2014. We are planning some changes for this year and we are hoping you will enjoy the cruise. I HOPE that you have already sent in your reservations. We will be having a special catered dinner at the Mill Race Village in Northville and we needed to have an accurate participant number for our caterer. (Additional information for the Fall Color & Cider Cruise is on Page 2.)

I hope that most of you had a chance to attend the WWTC "ALL T-BIRD DAY" that was held on September 14th at the historic Wilson Barn in Livonia. The weather was just about perfect for an all day car event. Not too cold, not too hot and NO rain. I truly appreciated talking with many of our club members during the show. People always ask "how many cars do we have at the show". That is a bit difficult to answer because cars are constantly moving in and out of the show field. My best count was over 75 Thunderbirds. That is a VERY good participation rate considering it is a local show that focuses on

only one make and one model vehicle and those are our beloved *Ford Thunderbirds*. My thank you to all of you that participated in the 2014 ATD. I'm already looking forward to the ATD show for next year.

Speaking of the ATD I can't say enough THANK YOU's to all of the wonderful volunteers we had throughout the day. From the set-up teams to the registration people to the car parkers, the raffle ticket sales guys, the photo takers and all of you who worked at the various tables. We could NOT have had a successful ATD without YOUR help. We truly appreciated your help . . . you made my job an easy one. Thank you again!

Moving on, please continue to check out the WWTC website for news on future events and special features. I have already mentioned above the 2014 Fall Color & Cider Cruise that is planned for Sunday, October 14, 2014. That will be a rain or shine event so I look forward to seeing many of you there. Another very SPECIAL EVENT is the 60th Anniversary of Thunderbird that will be held in Dearborn, Michigan next June 25-27, 2015. So mark your calendar NOW . . . you will NOT want to miss this historic salute to the 60 years of the Ford Thunderbird. This event is still in the planning stages so please stay tuned for future updates. (Additional information regarding the 60th Anniversary event

(continued on Page 3)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 12, 2014

Annual WWTC Fall Cruise

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Forgotten Harvest Warehouse 1:00-4:00PM

Additional:

Saturday, October 4, Kirby Kruisers
7th Annual Car show, Flat Rock

Saturday, October 11, Great Pumpkin
Classic Car Show, Howell

Sunday, October 19, Packard Proving
Grounds Fall Open House

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**Water Wonderland
Thunderbird Club
P.O. Box 621
Allen Park, MI 48101**

WWTC Board Members

Bob Smillie, President

18215 Blue Heron Dr. W
Northville, MI 48168

rsmillie@comcast.net

Merle Morton, Vice President

22651 West River Road
Grosse Ile, MI 48138

mortonmerle65@yahoo.com

JoAnn Rodriguez , Secretary

12801 Harrison Rd.
Romulus, MI 48174

Joannbill801@comcast.net

Nelson Zuchetto, Treasurer

15207 Philomene
Allen Park, MI 48101

nelsonzuchetto@hotmail.com

**Jim & Marie Brucker,
Membership Directors**

191 Liddy Dr.
Brighton, MI 48114

m.brucker@comcast.net

Bob Craik , Tech Advisor

17416 Whispering Pines Dr.
Macomb, MI 48044

bcraik@hotmail.com

Hope You'll Join Us

When: Annual WWTC Fall Color Cruise, Sunday, October 12, 1:30 PM

Where: Meet in Chili's Parking Lot, North side of Ford Road just West of Southfield Freeway

We'll start our cruise on Hines Drive about 2:00 PM and gather in Northville for our early dinner/late lunch in the Church located on the grounds of Mill Race Village. We'll be parking some of our Thunderbirds in the Village so please follow directions for parking when you arrive.

The buildings will be open with docents to answer questions and provide information about their history. About 4:00 PM we'll gather in the Church for our meal. Of course, cider and donuts will be delivered prior to your departure for home.

We're departing from past cruises, but hope you'll enjoy your visit to this historic site and as always enjoy the fresh donuts and refreshing cider!

When: Forgotten Harvest Warehouse, Saturday, October 25, 1:00-4:00

Where: 21800 Greenfield, Oak Park



Last year several members gave of their time to give back to our tri-county area by working in the warehouse at Forgotten Harvest. We assisted with re-packaging donated food products for agencies serving the less fortunate. We didn't work that hard, but we

learned about this agency, re-packaged a lot of hummus, had some laughs, but most important left with a good feeling since we were helping people. Listed below are requirements of the warehouse:

If you are sick, stay home.

Leave all personal items and valuables at home.

Do not wear jewelry other than wedding rings.

Wear close-toed shoes and NO high heels; you may want a sweater as it can be chilly in the warehouse.

No gum chewing or beverages in the work area.

You will be provided with gloves, a hairnet and an apron.

You will be asked to sign a Volunteer Release of Liability form.

Please RSVP: JoAnn Rodriguez, 248-719-0160 or

email: joannbill801@comcast.net not later than Monday, 10/20/14.

Is included here in the October newsletter and on the WWTC website, www.MichiganTBirds.org.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you that have been saying a special prayer for my dear wife, Suzanne. As many of you know, she has been stricken with ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. Your prayers and cards mean a great deal to her. We both appreciate it very much. Sue would like to attend the Fall Color Cruise and if the god Lord will help her, she will be there.

Best regards,

Bob Smillie, President



Many thanks to some of the folks



who made this day possible.



SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Thunderbird

Thursday, June 25 -- Saturday, June 27, 2015

We'll have some interesting activities on Thursday afternoon and Friday, with the highlight being the All Thunderbird Car Show at Ford World Headquarters on Saturday.

The Host hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton located on Ford Road and the Southfield Freeway. Reservations are now open. You may register online by holding down the CTRL key & double clicking on **HOTEL** or call the hotel at 313-982-3983 and mention TBird 60th Anniversary to ensure the group room rate.

The committee is working to finalize the Event Agenda and Registration Form.

Be sure to check www.MichiganTBirds.org often for further announcements and updates.

ALL THUNDERBIRD DAY 2014 WINNERS

Class A 55-57: 1st Paul Coleman
2nd Nelson Zuchetto
3rd Al Foubert



Class B 58-60: 1st John Sadek
2nd Charles Lane
3rd Larry Seyfarth



Class C 58-60 Hardtop: 1st Jerril Paval
2nd Randy Talkowski
3rd Richard Thompson



Class D 61-63 Convertible: 1st Jim Brady



Class E 61-63 Hardtop: 1st Buck Carver
2nd Jim Duncanson
3rd Paul Donoghue



Class F 64-66 Convertible: 1st Carol Bader
2nd Don Shearer
3rd David Bolla



Class G 64-66 Hardtop: 1st Paul Nichols
2nd Greg Joganic
3rd Wally Wigand



Class H 67-82: 1st Carol Armstrong
2nd Jim Picotte
3rd Richard Davis



Class J 83-97: 1st Mike Bennett
2nd Gary & Janet Whitfield
3rd Brian Rork



Class K 02-05: 1st Herbert Pfabe
2nd Richard Antonik
3rd Myles Nugent



People's Choice:

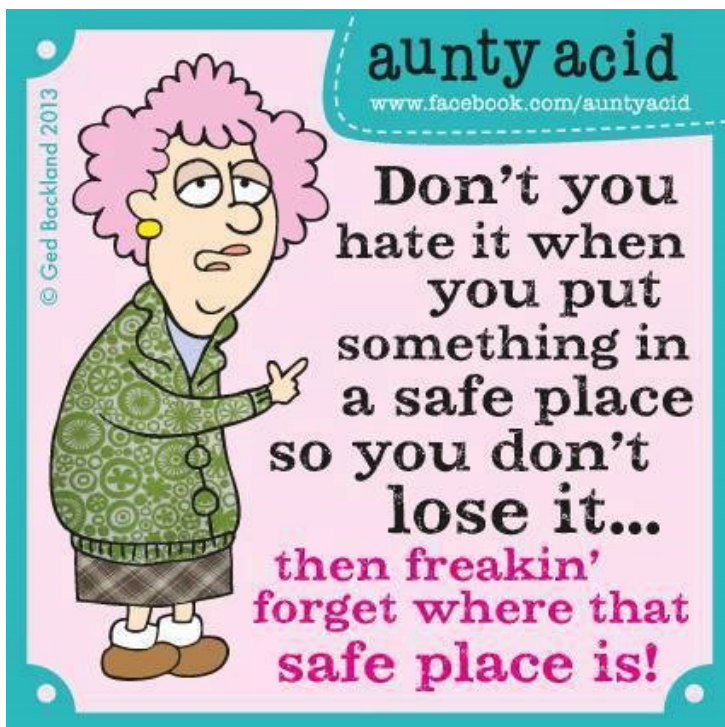
John Sadek



Cornwell's Turkeyville

Some of you may remember that we tried to get tickets for lunch and theater matinee at Turkeyville last year but we were too late. So, I started early this year and was amazed at how quickly they sell out for their Christmas theater production.

I have 10 tickets for the Saturday matinee at 11:30 AM. Turkeyville is located at 18935 15-1/2 Mile Road, Marshall, MI. This year's production is the classic Dickens Christmas tale of transformation, but with a bit of a riotous twist. **Tickets are \$39.50 per person and includes lunch and the play. Contact: Merle Morton, 734-675-1575 or email: mortonmerle65@yahoo.com**



FOR SALE

Ad Rates

WWTC Members: 3 Months Free
Non-Member: \$5.00 for 2 months

1965 Ford ThunderBird Coupe, White Exterior, 390 V8, Auto, P/S, P/B, Aqua Interior, (Car's exterior was originally Aqua Mist). Have many extra parts to go along with the vehicle. Asking \$6,500. Contact Barry Wolf, 248-624-1904

2 NOS '55 Front Fenders

1 Restore '55 intake manifold/carb (rebuilt)/chrome air cleaner (restored)
1 New (?) 1957 radiator in the box
1 original equipment/used '55 radiator (8000 miles)
1967 & 1968 TBird shop manuals

Contact Robert Lewis 810-220-6511 or email: robert.h.lewis@att.net

Pair 1958-59 lower roof side mouldings, ribbed style. They have been rechromed but need to have the black painted in the grooves. Asking \$200 for pair. Contact Don Shearer, 519-252-5108.

Autolifter 4 Post Lift asking \$2,400.

4 Post Lift
Lift Caster Set
Sliding Jack Platform
100% Steel Dip Pans
Detachable Ramps

Picture available upon request. Lift is located in Brighton. Contact Robert Lewis, 810-220-6511 or robert.h.lewis@att.net

1995 Thunderbird, 38,000 original miles, one owner. Non-smoker, garage kept, new tires and brakes, Pearl White, never hit or repaired. Asking \$5,000. Contact: Sandra Kyte, 313-318-2380

Member Page

Profile: Martin Micallef (new WWTC Member)

My wife and I are first generation Maltese. Our parents were born in Malta and came to the U.S. after WWII.

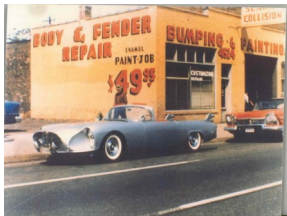
Mary and I have 4 children ranging from ages 22 down to 11. Mary and I were born in Detroit but we now live in Dearborn.

I grew up in the automotive industry. My Uncle owned a collision shop in Detroit on Michigan Ave. and 28th Street called Seaway Collision. I grew up working there throughout my childhood. After high school I went to work at Ford Motor Co. I have been at Ford for 25 years working as a Master Modeler. In other terms I work in the Design Center as a Clay Sculptor, in our Truck Studios creating clay models for all our truck programs.



As for the vehicles I own, I have a mild custom 1954 Ford Customline. The 1956 TBird that I just bought from my Aunt in July, and I am restoring a custom show car that my

Dad and his brothers built from 1953 to 1958 at their shop. Once it was done they toured it in the Autorama show circuit until 1970 in the Hand Build category. In which they always came home with a first place trophy.



In regards to the TBird my Aunt has owned it since 1966. In 1966 she went to Torrance, CA to visit her Uncle. There he owned a used car lot. She saw the TBird for sale on his lot. It was white both tops. Loaded with all the goodies, 312, power steering, power brakes, power windows, safety package, wire wheels and white walls. She was hooked and proceeded to phone her father back in Michigan to ask him if she could buy the TBird and drive it back to Michigan. So she did!

Once she married my Uncle who also worked at our family collision shop, he painted the car red and changed the color of the interior to black. In the seventies where they lived in Detroit the hardtop was stolen. They continued having fun with the car until 1994 (that was the last time the car was driven regularly). So it sat from 1994 until I bought it. In that time it started to show some aging from not being used.

Back in the winter she called me and asked if I was interested in the car because she could not stand to see it just sitting. So the 4th of July week my wife and daughter drove up north to the U.P., Munising, MI, to visit and bring it home. Until I went to bring it home she sent me pictures of it. But I noticed in the pictures the data plate on the firewall was missing. So the

Welcome New Members

Larry Brown, 1961 Red Convertible

Paul Donoghue, 1962 Green Coupe

Aaron & Ann Evans, 2004 Silver

Al & Sharon Foubert, 1955 Red

Greg Joganic, 1966 Green Hardtop

David & Lynda McKelvey, 1993 Red Super Coupe

Tommy Salisbury, 1962 White Hardtop

Larry Sanford, 1966 Brown Hardtop

Judi Sedlak, 1994 Blue Super Coupe

John Seeley, 1963 Blue Hardtop

Donald & Machele Shearer, 1964 Turquoise Conv. & 1990 Red Super Coupe

Eric & Shirley Watson, 1960 Blue Hardtop

& Returning Member

Jonathan Lowe, 1963 Red Convertible

vehicle info and options were a mystery to me.

The car needs to be reconditioned to be safely driven. I have pulled the fuel tank and had it reconditioned. I am installing new fuel lines, new brake lines, repairing a leaky trans, replacing the leaky power steering ram, retrofitting the intake, carb, and distributor to the '57 items.

The body needs some TLC eventually. Both rocker panels need replacing and so do the lower quarter panels. And since I have had it now I got a set of steel wheels and '56 hubcaps. But now that I have the invoice I will be looking for the correct wire wheels.

I have also joined the Classic Thunderbird Club International. Through them and the American Road Thunderbird Club I have purchased the original sales invoice for the Bird. So now I have the specifics of the car from the first owner to restoring the body and interior. I want to go back to the white exterior and red and white interior.

Well there you have it! A brief intro to myself and love for cars!



Save The Date

Friday, February 21, GM Heritage Collection

Saturday, March 22, Social Saturday

Saturday, April 26, Motor City Solutions

Sunday, May 18, Wills Ste. Claire Museum Cruise

June 22, Piquette Plant Tour

Sunday, July 13, WWTC Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 9, USAF Thunderbirds at Yankee Air Museum

Sunday, August 10, Pre-Dream Cruise

Monday, September 8, Cruise In at Daly Restaurant

Sunday, September 14, All Thunderbird Day

Sunday, October 12, WWTC Annual Cider Cruise

Saturday, October 25, Volunteer at Forgotten Harvest

November TBA

Sunday, December 7, WWTC Annual Christmas Party



Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Merle Morton

P.O. Box 621

Allen Park, MI 48101