

T-Bird Topics

WATER WONDERLAND THUNDERBIRDS

Established 1981

Chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International

www.michigantbirds.org

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Volume 35 Issue 2

Greetings!

Didn't we have a fantastic Potluck! Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this a fun winter afternoon. I lost count of the different types of chili at four or five, but tasted all of them.

As you know, 2015 will be a busy year for Thunderbird people and with that said, we're asking the membership to plan some activities for us. Please support your fellow members who will be working on interesting things for us to do in February (Sharon Osborne & Nelson Zuchetto), March (Ed Fairchild & Bob Witt), April (Bob Van), May (Denise & Ed Sikora & Paul Coleman), September (Ted Monticello) and November (Dave Lau & Ron Trella).

February, the month of Valentines, presidential birthdays, more winter, and our special event of the month is a tour of the Detroit Masonic Temple. It is the largest building of its kind in the world. It was completed in 1926 to accommodate the various freemason organizations, lodges, and their growing membership. The opening of the theater was celebrated during a concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on February 22, 1926 and the formal dedication ceremony was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1926. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is part of the Cass Park Historic District established in 2005.

Thanks to Sharon Osborne and Nelson Zuchetto for making these arrangements for us. See Page 2 for details about our visit.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 21, 11:00 AM
Tour Detroit Masonic Temple
Lunch at The Traffic Jam

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM
Engines Exposed, The Henry Ford
Lunch in the museum at either
the Michigan Café or The Michigan
Dog House

Other Automotive Events
March 6-8, 2015, Autorama at
Cobo Hall

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DON'T GO . . .

You'll be missed! Since we didn't receive your dues as of January 31, 2015, we're guessing you've left us. Therefore we won't be sending you any more newsletters. We hope you will reconsider and re-join the Club.



Hope You'll Join Us

When: Saturday, February 21, 2015, 11:00 AM

Where: 500 Temple Street, Detroit, MI 48201

Directions: Parking is behind the Temple and we will gather there to begin our tour. There will be a tour fee of \$5.00 per person (please have exact amount).

Details:

Our Masonic Temple was built to provide a lodge for our local freemasons. Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that traces its origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of masons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Today's basic answer to "What's a Mason?" is: A member of a fraternity known as Masonry. They join together because: a) There are things they want to do in the world. b) There are things they want to do "inside their own minds." c) They enjoy being together with men they like and respect. Some of their charities include Shriners Hospitals for Children and Burns Institutes, Childhood Language Disorders Clinics, Centers and Programs and The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory.

But, you may also have heard about the mysteries surrounding Free Masons. Some believe they secretly control our government, counting founding fathers George Washington, Ben Franklin, John Adams and others as masons.

We'll have an opportunity to look behind the scenes at the beautiful architecture of this historic property, then, on to the Traffic Jam for lunch.

The Traffic Jam is located at 511 West Canfield Street, Detroit. We'll head East on Temple to Cass Avenue, turn Left. Continue North on Cass, turn Left on W. Canfield and park in the lot. You have probably dined here before, the food is wonderful and you may be persuaded to try one of their beers brewed in-house at the FIRST Michigan brewpub.

RSVP: It is important that you sign-up for our activities. As you become more involved in planning an activity for each month, you will understand how our venue selections and restaurant selections make the number of guests necessary.

SOOO . . . PLEASE LET JOANN RODRIGUEZ KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO THIS EVENT. You may contact her at: 248-719-0160 or email: Joannbill801@comcast.net.

Let us know if you feel you would like to come, it is easier to cancel if you are unable to attend at "zero" hour and to suddenly have 10 people show up that we didn't know about.

Muchas Gracias!!

60 Years of Thunderbird Excitement

The Okanagan Classic Thunderbird Club is inviting all Thunderbirds to gather in Kelowna, British Columbia to participate in '60 Years of Thunder' May 20-24, 2015. The registration deadline is April 10, 2015. This is the VTCI International Convention and while it is a judged show, there is also a "Non-Judged Division" for Senior Participation and Display that is open to all years of Thunderbirds

Planned activities include a steam railway tour with dinner, a ladies only boat tour, wine tour, parade of classics, and awards banquet.

You can find details in the January/February edition of The Scoop or by going to www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net.

ALSO

WWTC is privileged to have some great friendships with other TBird clubs who are supporting our event in June. One of them is the Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club in Pittsburgh, PA. Each year their club hosts a wonderful event during the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix at Schenley Park.

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is the nation's largest race event, covering ten full days – with Thunderbirds participating at each event. The culmination of the 2015 Grand Prix Race Week occurs on the July 18-19 weekend. The Thunderbird display will be part of the 2,000 car international car show. The PVGP car show covers an entire golf course in Schenley Park. It features both auto manufacturer displays and thousands of personal vehicles. While all of that is going on, vintage race cars are competing in the actual Grand Prix.

You can register to take your Thunderbird onto the race track for a parade lap during the opening ceremonies on Sunday from 11:00 AM till noon. Nearly 100,000 spectators will cheer you on as you take a full lap of the 2.3 mile circuit.

The Pitt Birds Thunderbird Club will be hosting a picnic lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Longstreth at gll1231@msn.com, phone 1-412-466-9091. For more information about the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, race to www.pvgp.org.



Please welcome our new members:

Casey & Nancy Strucienski, 1968 2-door Coupe

Harold & Betty Jo Rex, 2002

Robert & Judy Kohl, 1955 & 2003

Ronald & Deborah Marek, 1964 Hardtop

Daniel King, 1955

If you see a new face at the next gathering, introduce yourself!

What's Happening in 2015

The Potluck in January was a big success! With the help of everyone there we've got some big plans for the year. You know about our February tour. So here's a preview of the rest of the year.

Hitsville came up in our conversations and it's amazing how many of us want to go and have never been (that's the original Motown of Berry Gordy). The Henry Ford Museum has a special "Engines Exposed" exhibit that gives us a peek under the hood of more than 15 rare cars – we'll be there! There may be a train ride in our future, along with some professional detailing lessons. We'll plan the annual WWTC activities, Picnic, Pre-Dream Cruise, Cider Cruise and Christmas Party (more on that in a bit). However, with the big 60th celebration in June, we have decided to cancel All Thunderbird Day.

Christmas Party will be BACK at Dearborn Hills Golf Course & Banquet Center on Sunday, December 6th. It seems that the golf simulator idea flopped last year. We're locked into a date and we'll be celebrating in Victorian style (stay tuned).

Enchantment unlimited . . . the new Ford THUNDERBIRD

From Automotive Mileposts

It is 1955 . . .

RCA Victor offers a \$35,000 recording contract to Elvis Presley; the first McDonald's Restaurant opens; Lee Merriwether from California is named Miss America; James Dean dies in a single car crash at the age of 26; it costs \$.03 to mail a letter first class; and people are going to the movies to see Picnic, Rebel Without a Cause and East of Eden.

Thunderbird was the car that started it all. It was an instant classic and it became an American icon. It defied classification: It was sporty but it wasn't a sports car; it was luxurious, but it wasn't a luxury car; it was both a hardtop and a convertible.

The 1955 Thunderbird was a sensation on America's roadways, and there was absolutely nothing else like it anywhere. Overnight, it made the 6 cylinder Chevrolet Corvette seem underpowered, uncomfortable due to its plastic side curtain windows, and utilitarian with its lack of accessories and color choices.

This car changed forever the way Americans looked at cars, and singlehandedly brought new excitement and glamour to the automotive world. It opened the door to the trend setting and inspiring Thunderbirds that would bear its name in the future.



1956 . . .

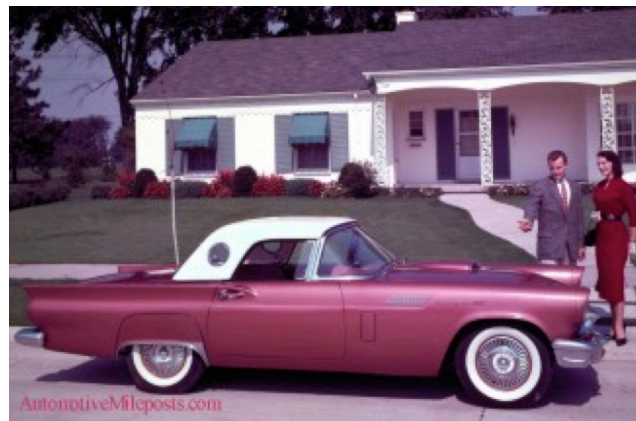
Elvis Presley appears on the charts for the first time with Heartbreak Hotel; Grace Metalious's book Peyton Place hits the best sellers list; the DNA molecule is photographed for the first time; and the population of the United States is 168,903,031.

First year for "port" window in hardtop
First and only year for standard rear-mounted spare tire
Lifeguard deep dish steering wheel and double grip door latches introduced as standard
First year for 12-volt electrical system
Door-mounted wind wings introduced as standard
Front fender air vents introduced to improve air flow to interior
Thunderbird Special V-8 engine option with 2 x 4-barrel carburetor

1957 . . .

Leave It to Beaver premieres on CBS television; on October 31, 1957 Toyota exports its first automobiles to the United States; Oklahoma celebrates its 50th anniversary since statehood in part by burying a brand new 1957 Plymouth Belvedere in an underground concrete vault in Tulsa . . . it is to be unearthed as part of the 100th anniversary celebration in 2007; Cadillac debuts the Eldorado Brougham, priced at \$13,074 it was the most expensive production car to date; and the baby boom climaxed in 1957 with 4.2 million American babies born.

New styling: front fenders, doors, rear quarters, bumpers, grille, interior upholstery, etc.
New full wheel cover design
All-white interior introduced (trim code XK)
Speed-sensitive Volumatic radio receiver option introduced
Dial-O-Matic automatic power seat option introduced (1957 only)
Brake lining area increased
Round Thunderbird ornaments introduced on hardtops without port windows
Thunderbird Special Supercharged V-8 engine option introduced (engine code F)
Last year for standard factory tachometer



CLASSIFIED ADS

Ad Rates

WWTC Members: 3 Months Free

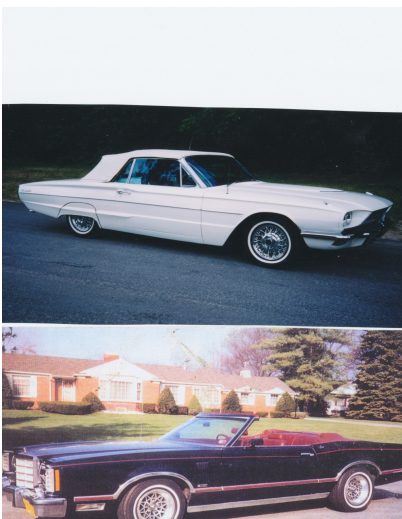
Non-Member: \$5.00 for 2 months

5 BF Goodrich Silvertown 6.70-15 4-ply tubeless tires. Asking \$150 OBO. Call Ed @ 313-409-1144.

Dear Bird Lovers,

This really is a "Want Ad" to sell my two Thunderbird convertibles. But first I want to thank those who either visited, phoned or sent me get well cards while I was at the Henry Ford Village Health & Rehabilitation Center for 62 days to repair my damaged left arm and broken hip. I'm still using a walker or cane while undergoing at home physical therapy to walk without a walker or cane.

Back to the T-Birds. One is my 1966 Corinthian white with a white top and red interior. The car has "full" power, air conditioning, and five white wall tires. The steel wheels have wire coves with three-pronged spinners capped with T-Bird emblems. The car has been restored and needs no further attention. Asking \$24,500. The other is a black 1979 with a red interior. It has full power, including factory air and the original black top. The car has brand new white with gold tires and only 28,000 original miles. Price is open for discussion. I still have lots of T-Bird parts for sale: 1961-1966. Call for your needs. Dick Klein (No. 3 WWTC Member), 313-278-7323



Celebrating 60 Years of Thunderbird

In June, 2010, your club hosted Thunderbirds from all over North America to a 3-day event commemorating the 55th Anniversary of Ford Thunderbird. Many of you attended the car show and some of the activities leading up to that day. Whether you attended in 2010 or not, we hope you are planning to join us Thursday, June 25 through Saturday, June 27, 2015 for the 60th Anniversary.

On Thursday afternoon we will be visiting the Ed Meurer Automobilia Collection. It's been awhile since our club visited and we can anticipate it's even more impressive today. There's something for everyone and some fun memorabilia from our youth in addition to the beautiful automotive collection. Thursday evening there will be a "Strolling Dinner" at the DoubleTree Hotel featuring food products from local Michigan companies.

On Friday we've chartered a bus to take our tour group to the Piquette Plant. Yes, we were there recently, but even more work has been completed and it's worth the trip. Lunch will be at the Piquette Plant before our bus heads on to the Edsel & Eleanor Ford estate in Grosse Pointe. While on the bus, Steven Stanford (remember him from Mama Mia's) will be sharing Ford history. We'll finish the day with a Thunderbird parade in Hines Park to Nankin Mills for a tour of the Mill and Pig Roast at the Pavilion. Rumor is that Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Harvey Firestone will be joining us.

Saturday after the car show, we'll return to the 1950's for a dinner dance featuring "Streetcorner". Break out your poodle skirts and bobby sox and join us!

Registration Forms available at www.MichiganTBirds.org.



Save The Date

Saturday, February 21, 11:00 AM Tour Detroit's Masonic Temple

Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM Engines Exposed Exhibit at The Henry Ford

Thursday, June 25-Saturday, June 27 Celebrating 60 Years of Thunderbird

Sunday, July 19, Annual WWTC Picnic NEW LOCATION Nankin Mills Pavilion, Hines Park

Sunday, December 6, Annual WWTC Christmas Party, Dearborn Hills Golf Course & Banquet Center

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Merle Morton

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