



Established 1981  
Chapter of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International  
[www.MichiganTBirds.org](http://www.MichiganTBirds.org)

Chapter of the International thunderbird Club

May, 2020

Volume 40 Issue 5

## Presidents Report

May 2020

This is a very trying time for all of us and we are unsure what the summer will bring. The “Stay at Home” is still in effect but this has not stopped some of us from getting the T-Bird out and getting it ready to roll.

**Saturday May 23** – Per David Lau, coordinator of this event, he has submitted the following:

Unless we are still under a stay-at-home order, we will proceed with the drive, but in a contracted mode that accommodates proper distancing. It will not include stopping for lunch at a restaurant or other gatherings. Basically, we would meet in my driveway as before (6870 N. Territorial, Plymouth) drive a predetermined route you’d get in advance, then peel off and head home. If you pick up an FRS radio (2-way walkie talkie) to bring along, we can confirm the turns and chit-chat along the way. We agreed that simply driving around together in a very safe way to get out in the cars and have some fun and even converse if you have a radio.

We will send a notification as the May 23<sup>rd</sup> day nears with updates and you can RSVP to JoAnn via phone/text (248) 719-0160 or e-mail [joannbill801@comcast.net](mailto:joannbill801@comcast.net).

If you visit our web site PLEASE use only [www.michigantbirds.org](http://www.michigantbirds.org).

I hope we are all following the “Stay at Home” order and only venture out as needed and I hope to see everyone soon.

Stay Safe

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to all our mothers.

JoAnn Rodriguez

President

**WWTC Board Members**  
**P.O. Box 2597**  
**Taylor, MI 48197**

**JoAnn Rodriguez, President**  
248-719-0160  
[Joannbill801@comcast.net](mailto:Joannbill801@comcast.net)

**George Roscoe, Vice President**  
[egroscoe@charter.net](mailto:egroscoe@charter.net)

**Nancy Seyfarth, Secretary**  
[nancylouseyfarth@gmail.com](mailto:nancylouseyfarth@gmail.com)

**Elaine Roscoe, Treasurer**  
[eroscoe626@icloud.com](mailto:eroscoe626@icloud.com)

**Jim & Marie Brucker, Membership**  
810-227-5379  
[m.brucker@comcast.net](mailto:m.brucker@comcast.net)

**Deb Jameyfield, Newsletter Editor**  
[debjohnson@accesstoledo.com](mailto:debjohnson@accesstoledo.com)

**Rick Carniga, Tech Advisor**  
[rickcarniga@gmail.com](mailto:rickcarniga@gmail.com)

**Dave Lau, Tech Advisor**  
[toomanycars@charter.net](mailto:toomanycars@charter.net)

**Advisor:**  
Larry Seyfarth 313-436-8327  
Bob Smillie – 248-910-8031

## **2020 Schedule of Events:**

**Jan 18 (Sat)** – Larry Seyfarth presentation – Ford Racing.

**Feb 23 (Sun)** – Chi Town Train and Prime 7 for Lunch (JoAnn)

**March 14 (Sat)** – Feather Bowling

**April 26 (Sun)** – Tech Talk (David & Rick)

**May** – Date TBD – Annual Dust Off (David)

**June** – Date TBD – River Cruise (George)

**July 12 (Sun)** – Annual Club Picnic – Merriman Hollow (JoAnn)

**July 31 (Fri)** - Non sanctioned Club Event – Chelsea Car Show and Jiffy Mix Tour (George)

**Aug 9 (Sun)** – Pre-Dream Cruise (JoAnn)

**Aug 30 (Sun)** - Non sanctioned Club Event – Hines Park Cruise (JoAnn)

**Sept 17-19** - 65th Anniversary & ITC National Convention

**Oct 18 (Sun)** – Annual Hines Park Cider Cruise (Nancy & JoAnn)

**Nov 14** – 2021 Planning Meeting – (JoAnn & Marie)

**Dec 6 (Sun)** – Annual Christmas Party (Venue and Entertainment TBD) (Nancy & JoAnn)

Well after 53 years of ownership, I sold the white 60 convertible to my son Christopher. After using it in our wedding, and all three kid's weddings, I thought it was a great way to keep it in the family. But I found I couldn't be without a square bird altogether, so it wasn't 2 weeks before I found another to replace it. The new one is a 59 convertible with only 69k miles and 3 pedals. Yup, only 2% of Square bird production were sticks (after all it was a luxury car!), and only half of those had the overdrive, which mine does. It's a hoot to drive!

The body is great, nicely untouched original; mechanicals, interior, and paint very good, but electrical was scary. I found melted wires and bad attempts at repairs, so that's where I started. I installed a new headlight switch to get all dash and courtesy lights working, plus voltmeter, oil pressure, and tach gauges. Electric wiper conversion was next (a real fiddly challenge getting the vacuum motor out). I installed a 6-circuit fuse block powered from a new accessory-switched 30-amp relay to handle the new and some old loads to relieve the original wiring and to replace those hideous inline fuses you can't reach up behind the dash. I used lots of plastic wire loom to protect new and old wires from sharp metal edges. Just getting the turn signals to cancel took many hours of fiddling and two replacement assemblies!

The overdrive is a strange combination of electrical and mechanical control, With it enabled via a pull/push cable to the transmission, an electrical governor energizes a relay over about 25mph which fires a solenoid which inserts a pin into a planetary gearset when you lift the throttle and makes the upshift to overdrive. To take it back down, you floor the accelerator for about a half second which closes the "kickdown" switch under the pedal. This shorts the points to kill the ignition (and remove engine torque) so the pin can come back out, and you're back in direct drive! It feels exactly like a forced downshift on an auto transmission.

The original Autolite carb is so worn the accelerator pump "wouldn't" until you got to half throttle. It wanted to die on tip-in - which is a pain with a manual, although I've improved it temporarily with a zip-tie around the pump linkage to take up the slack. I decided on an Edelbrock replacement carb until I realized I'd have to cut the original air cleaner a bit and mod all the original metal fuel and vacuum lines, so I changed my mind and ordered the ethanol-friendly rebuild kit for the Autolite. That, and wiring it for backup lights, will be this week's project.

Working on the car has been my "day job" throughout this stay-at-home period, but having a rewarding project has kept me sane. Jo and I have taken it out on some "essential" food trips to get in some test drives. I can't wait for some car shows to get rolling so I can show it off. Hopefully we don't have to wait for the 65th celebration in September!

David Lau



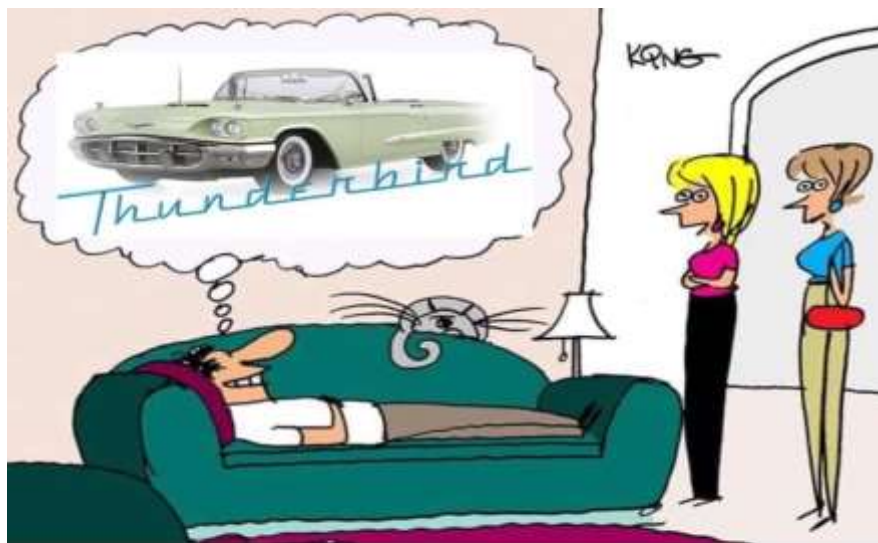


## For Sale

1956 Thunderbird, Original California car, always kept in a conditioned building. 46,328 original miles, with hard & soft top.

Car is located in the Detroit, MI area, please call 734.770.6071 to set-up appointment to see the car.

Asking \$30,000 OBO    Cash deal only!    Selling car in "as is" condition.



***"How sweet, he's smiling. He must be dreaming about me."***



## **Thunderbird 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **International Thunderbird Club (ITC)**

#### **WWTC Members**

Our own 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the launch of the Thunderbird, originally planned for September 18-19 has been upgraded to the 2020 National Convention of the International Thunderbird Club! This means the event is expanded to 3 days, Thursday through Saturday Sept 17-19. Now as an ITC National, our T-birds can be Concours judged if so desired, and there will be an awards banquet Saturday evening. And thanks to the wide reach of the ITC, there will be many more people to meet and greet and T-birds to admire. But more than that, it means we ALL need to pitch in to make an event of this scope a success. It promises to be a fun, memorable party if we organize it properly and staff it fully. The ITC affiliation does give us a head start on many things like goodie bags and insurance, but we need to staff committees in many key areas. So, look over the list below for inspiration and let us know in what areas you might enjoy contributing some time and talent.

Advertising – seeking out support from businesses and cities

Logo Design – For T-Shirts and Bags

Hospitality Suite – What do we need there.

Goodie Bag – Contact businesses for donations

Awards Dinner – Saturday Night – Dinner, Decorations, Band

Silent Auction – Obtain items for Auction

Car Show – Parking lot organization by class – Larry Seyfarth – Chairperson

Food Truck & DJ – Obtain for Car Show

These are just a few of the items we need assistance with. If you have questions or can volunteer to help please call JoAnn Rodriguez 248-719-0160 or Nancy Seyfarth 313-436-8327 or contact any board member by e-mail

Details: These events will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, 5801 Southfield Expressway, Detroit and the Car Show Saturday September 19 at the Automotive Hall of Fame, 21400 Oakwood, Dearborn (across the parking lot from Henry Ford Museum. All Thunderbirds and Thunderbird clubs are invited to participate.

JoAnn Rodriguez, President



# Quarantine Events

## Cruisin Quarantined

**1pm Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020**

**Hines Drive - Ann Arbor Trail – Outer Dr**

**Stay In Your Vehicle**

**Show & Go 45th Anniversary Car Show - Virtual online**

### Event Details:

**Start Date:** 06/01/2020 00:00 EDT

**End Date:** 06/01/2020 23:59 EDT

All FORD Powered Virtual Car Show and Car Corral. Classic, Vintage, Collector, Modern/Muscle, Team Shelby, and Track Cars are welcome.

Virtual Track Day MONDAY 6/1/2020 past SAAC-MCR WHRRC videos.

Virtual Car Show Registration deadline May 24th. Virtual Car Show Registration forms are on the website [www.saac-mcr.com/2020](http://www.saac-mcr.com/2020)

Events Virtual Car Show. Open to MI, OH, IN, IL, WI participants.

Cost Virtual Car Show \$10, Virtual Car Corral \$5, Virtual Spectators FREE.

Rain or Shine. Contacts: Virtual Car Show visits [www.saac-mcr.com](http://www.saac-mcr.com) for class details and instructions.

Classes will be Judged. High-Quality Photos Please. 4 Photos - Exterior, Engine, Interior, Trunk.

Event Location: SAAC-Motor City Region online

Address: 1965 Carroll Shelby American Rd online

City: Virtual Dearborn

State: MI

Hosted by SAAC - Motor City Region

**Water Wonderland Tunderbird club**

**PO Box 2597**

**Taylor, MI 48197**