



T-Bird Topics

The official publication of the

Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club

Established 1981

August 2025

Merlot 2005

Volume 44 Issue 8

President's Message...



What a busy month we had in July! I hope you had the time to join us as we celebrated more of our 70th Anniversary events and enjoyed the weather. Thank you to **JoAnn, Pam and Keith, George and Rick**, and everyone on the picnic committee. The food was great and **Bob Witt** purchased the key that opened the *Treasure Chest*!. He won an outdoor patio pizza oven! What a gift!

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 ever there was a year to register for this event, it is this one as we continue to celebrate our **70th Anniversary**. Every month until the end of the year you will notice that the "banner" color theme changes for the newsletter. Each month we will celebrate a special Ford Thunderbird color. This month it is Merlot which was a great color in 2005.

Be sure to welcome our new members into our club as you meet them. You will find the list on page 8 of this newsletter.

I recently had the honor of attending the first **Thunderbird Summit** meeting with the *Maumee Valley Thunderbird Club* and the *American Road Thunderbird Club*. Look for the write up of that meeting in the September newsletter.

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

See you all soon in your Thunderbird, President Barry



Club Events...

August 10th: Pre-Dream Cruise meet at Regional Medical Imaging (RMI) parking lot, 26454 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, MI (east side of Woodward between Lincoln & 11 Mile). Meet at **2:00 pm** leave at **3:30 pm** traveling north on Woodward to the Moose Preserve Restaurant for a 4:00 pm reservation. **RSVP to JoAnn** text 248-719-0160 (please leave your name) or email to joannbill801@comcast.net. The restaurant is located at 43034 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield, MI (n of Square Lake Road)

Other Events...

August 3rd Troy Traffic Jam, 201 W Big Beaver, Troy, 10-3:00 pm, Thunderbirds featured for 70th Anniversary. Register online at troystorichvillage.org/troy-traffic-jam

August 14th Birds, Cats, Ponies Noon to 4:00 pm Gateway Classic Cars, 15011 Commerce Dr., Dearborn

August 15th Thunderbirds featured at Kellogg Park, Plymouth, 70th Anniversary Celebration, Concerts in the Park - more on page 3 and page 6

August 17th All Ford Show, Ford Motor World Headquarters, Dearborn. Mocsem.com/registration

August 22nd Gateway Classic Cars, Dinner for Thunderbirds, Dearborn, [313-771-5480](tel:313-771-5480)

August 24th Hines Park Cruise, 25 yrs. or older. Meet at Knolar Bend, \$5.00

September 14th (Sun) All Tbird Day Car Show at Wilson Barn, 10-4:00 pm. Pg 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, watch for flyer.

Blast From the Past



T-bird Family Fun

By Roger Hayman

Our Granddaughter, Jaden, stopped at our Chelsea home Tuesday with her Mother on the beginning of their trip to return to Marina Del Rey, CA where they live with my Son, Brian. Jaden sat in the Jr 2 years ago where it was stored on a trailer in the back of our Car Barn. At that time, she could not reach the button on the floor to make it go. Plus it was not running due to a dead battery. The last few weeks, I have been working day and night to extricate it from the back of the building 42' into a 48' deep building. With Lois' help we got it out, off the trailer and running. We opened the house garage door and she saw the Jr sitting there ready to roll. Her comment was "I did not think you would ever get it off the shelf". There was so much stuff around it she could not tell it was on a trailer in the building. She enjoyed riding it around our circle drive. As you may know there is a 6 volt deep cycle golf cart battery under the hood. There is a 6 volt starter motor under the trunk area. There is a lever on the dash that you turn one way to go forward and the other way to go backward. There is a headlight dimmer switch on the floor that you push down to supply the power.

Friday Night Concert

August 15, 2025



Bring Your Thunderbird!

Featuring ZANG

Come and join the fun and entertainment **Friday, August 15th** from **4:00 pm to 10:00 pm** at the **Kellogg Park** town square in historic Plymouth, Michigan. We will have a Thunderbird car show in the "Gathering Space" pavilion and a designated area on the lawn while we sit and listen to the **Friday Night Concert** in the park featuring the band **ZANG**, Rock, Pop & Country music.. Let JoAnn know you will be attending at joannbill801@comcast.net.

Plymouth is home to some of Metro Detroit's finest restaurants from gourmet burgers to fine dining-and all within walking distance from Kellogg Park.

Your Friends at the Water Wonderland Thunderbird Club!

Additional Parking Available!



Kellogg Park
350 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170

Bring a lawn chair too!



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

Kellogg Park Car Show!

August 15th: The **City of Plymouth** will be featuring our **Ford Thunderbirds** during the **Friday Night Concert in the Park**, located at **Kellogg Park** in downtown Plymouth. **David Lau** has arranged to have our cars parked in the covered **Gathering pavilion** next to the **Penn Theater** and behind the **band shell**. There is room for at least 15 cars. Spaces will be available starting at 4:00 pm. Additional parking available. The concert starts at 7:00pm. There are plenty of restaurants all within walking distance. Park your car, bring your lawn chair and join us for an open air evening of fellowship and entertainment. Please let JoAnn know you will attend by emailing to joannbill801@comcast.net ASAP!

See you there!

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.



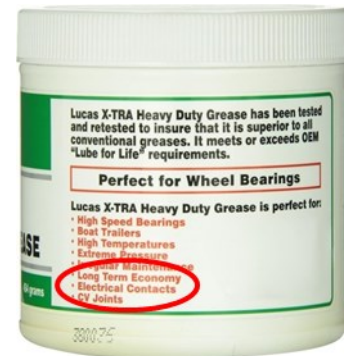
Tech Talk

Classic Thunderbird Maintenance Tech-Tips

The subject of this month's tech-tip is intermittent electrical problems. It wasn't until the 1980's when the U.S. based auto manufacturers started to address this issue by providing a protective coating on electrical connections to inhibit galvanic corrosion. They used dielectric silicone grease that can protect, improve and maintain electrical conductivity.

Unfortunately our old cars did not have this protection during initial assembly. Furthermore, our collector vehicles sit unused most of the time this is when galvanic corrosion can take place. When you experience electrical issues such as intermittent lights do not be in a hurry to buy new parts until you've verified that the component needs replacement. Do this by inspecting the connection for obvious signs of corrosion or even a loose connection. Clean the connection with a small stainless steel bristle brush. Apply a small amount of grease for protection and ease of assembly. My go to grease is pictured below I use it for everything! It's readily available and reasonably priced.

By Rick Charniga





**WATER WONDERLAND
THUNDERBIRD CLUB**

Rick Charniga
Technical Director

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Livonia, MI 48151

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rickcharniga@gmail.com


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



Bird Talk



Happy Birthday Members!

August			August
	Marie Brucker	1	
	JoAnn Rodriguez	2	
	Susie Bennett	5	
	Dave Millerick	16	
	Brandon Antonik	18	
	Denise Sikora	20	
	Jennifer Bladow	25	

Welcome! New Members

James Egyed: jmegyed@aol.com	2002 retro
Randy & Michelle Giannini: ran65gian@yahoo.com	1967 blue 2dr
Craig & Rhonda Setser: craigsetser@yahoo.com	2004 retro, Merlot
Dylon Maki: dylonmaki2018@gmail.com	1966 Landau, Champagne
Bruce Irey: bruce.irey@gmail.com	1955 Torch Red

In Memoriam



Make a Connection—Member to Member

1955 Ford Thunderbird Torch Red, 292 V8 with a 4 Barrel Car, 3 Speed manual Transmission w/ overdrive. Kelsey-Hayes chromed wire wheels. Runs well. **Asking \$25,000.00 Call Bruce 248.302.5697**



Annual Picnic Pix



Treasure Chest Hopefuls!



Professional Lock Smith



Future Pizza Maker!



Brought His Own Keys!



Executive Board

Barry Burnham, President
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barry.burnham@me.com

Keith Bentley, Vice President
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JoAnn Rodriguez, Immediate Past President, ex officio
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Nancy Seyfarth, Entertainment Director
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Larry Seyfarth, Advisor
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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.

