



The Wing

Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 45 Issue 3

April 2021

Here's to 2021



Current Events

May 15th Bay Model Tour

See calendar for full year of
events

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Freedom*

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President' Message April 2021

Hello to All:

Well it seems strange to be only creating a President' Message rather than the whole Wing, but I will get used to it. I hope this finds most of you with one or two shots in the arm and on the way to a better year in 2021. Marilyn and I have both had both shots with no after effects. Since we are gradually opening the State, I thought it time for you to have an excuse to get those Thunderbirds out of the garage and back on the road again. Later in this issue you will find the info for our FIRST tour of 2021.

The Bay Model is a fascinating place and can give you a good idea of this unique estuary called the San Francisco Bay and Delta. If you have every done any boating in the Bay or Delta you still might be surprised at the extent of the waterways. We have extensively cruised the Delta and have made a couple of trips down to the Bay and even out under the Golden Gate. Only on a calm day since a 48' houseboat is not the best for the wind and tides of the San Francisco Bay. We hope you can join us on this tour and finally see some of your old friends from the club.

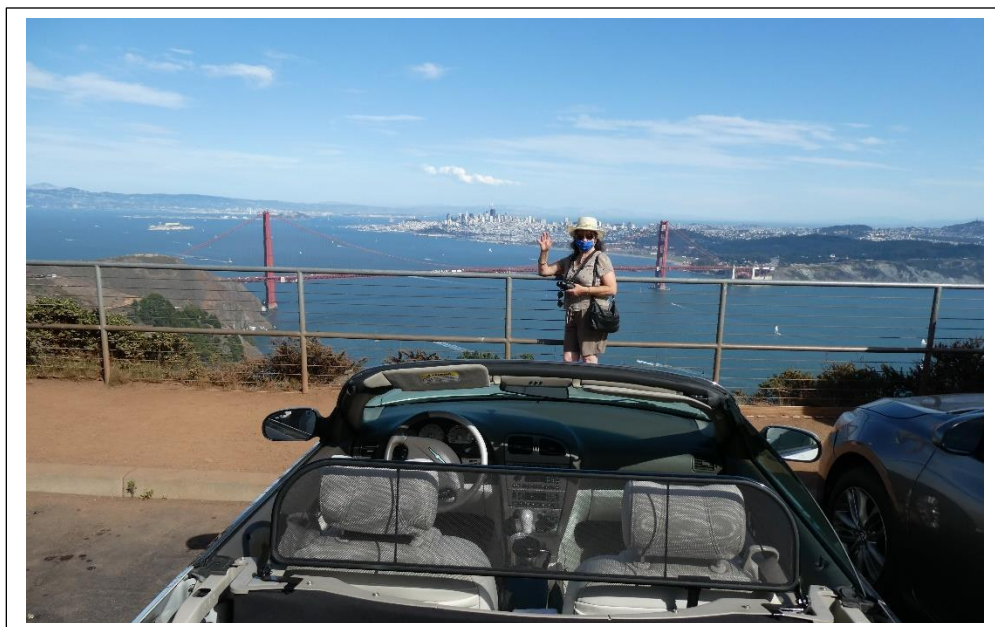
We are still looking for volunteers for a few club positions and ideas for future tours. We do want to play it safe and have tours outside or in areas where we can practice responsible distancing. I might suggest some driving tours with stops at parks or other locations where we can picnic and play it safe. Please contact any of our officers with your ideas and we will help you set it up.

The last request I have is for everyone to help Bill Kinsey out with his new job as Wing Editor. He can use articles, photos, tour write ups, Tech Tips or stories of your cars or travel experiences.

Remember the Wing and the club can be only as good as all of the member and their contributions.

Hope to see you all soon as we have missed you!

The Old Carr - Russ



Board of Directors

Founded on September 26, 1976, the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club of America, Inc. (NORCAL VTCA) unites owners and enthusiasts of ALL Ford Thunderbirds built in 1956 through 2005 in a common effort to enjoy and preserve these fine cars.

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510-527-1402
nspite@netzero.net

*The above officers are here to
serve the members of this club*

Our website is at
<http://norcal-vtca.org/>

Email

Tbird94101@gmail.com

Note from the Editor

It figures that since I'm in the publishing business I would end up as the newsletter editor. It isn't the first time and I'm happy to lend a hand at the press. Brilliant at it as I am, it's your story and photos that I'm most interested in showing and telling. Send them my way and we'll get you in print.

I'd like to echo is my predecessor's request that you consider "going digital" with the Wing. It is cheaper, it arrives in color, it arrives sooner AND it is much easier for the editor to send out especially when traveling.

2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below would normally be the schedule of activities for the year, but circumstances have intervened otherwise as you all know.

Those circumstances are changing and here's our chance to get out and shake a T-Bird tail feather or two. We are reviewing plans for some tours in the coming months, and your suggestions welcome at tbird94101@gmail.com

MAY 15 - Bay Model, Sausalito**

JUNE

JULY 11 - National Collector Car Appreciation Day

AUGUST - Horse & Feathers, Nat'l Meet, stay tuned

SEPT

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

**Club functions (Set in stone)

*Tentative functions

Tour to US Army Corp of Engineers Bay Model

Saturday, May 15, 2021 10:30 AM



This tour was scheduled for July last year and was cancelled. It is a good location since the building is huge and it will be very easy to keep our distances from others. No charge entrance. Masks are required. Lunch after will be confirmed next month but we are leaning towards the Officer's Quarters at Ft. Baker.

Great location to see the whole San Francisco Bay and Delta and observe the changing tides. The tides cycle every 15 minutes so it is easy to watch currents and tidal interactions. Just a hint to see the water movement use a reflection from the skylights. This is an accurate model of the complete estuary

from the Golden Gate to Stockton and Sacramento.

There is an interesting museum that chronicles some of the World War II ship building in the Sausalito area. Truly amazing what was accomplished in a short period of time.

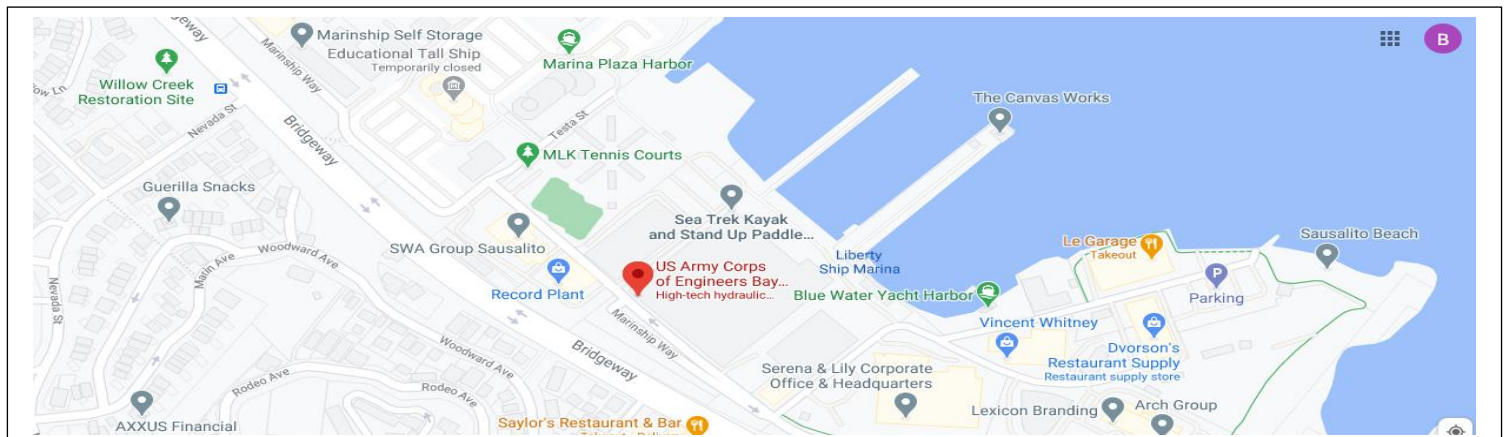
Directions:

Coming north or south on 101 take Sausalito-Marin City exit. From the north take a left under the freeway then right at the stop light on Bridgeway. From the south continue straight on Bridgeway. Continue thru town and watch for Harbor on the left. Turn left and almost immediately turn right on Marinship Way. Follow the sign to the Bay Model.



Please confirm your attendance at oldcarr.rc@gmail.com or call 408-568-3782.

IT'S TIME TO GET THE THUNDERBIRD BACK OUT AND ON THE ROAD AGAIN.



A LEG UP ON FREEDOM
Bill Kinsey

“Wherever we want to go, we go. That’s what a ship is, you know. It’s not just a keel and hull and a deck and sails. That’s what a ship needs. But what a ship is, what the Black Pearl really is, is freedom.”
Captain Jack Sparrow, PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Greetings clubmates, my friend Mike Sebastian recently experienced a situation that put his freedom at risk and he’s offered to share some of the story. Mike lost part of his right leg and he was unable to drive as a result. Mike’s not a guy to sit around, so here’s what he did:

“My adventures began in August 2019 when I had to have my right leg amputated just below the knee. 56 years old I was instantly non-mobile and had to rely on my family to go to my appointments and physical therapy. I had a goal set in my mind that I was going to walk and drive again as soon as possible. Two days before Christmas 2019 I got my ‘training leg’ prosthesis. It was an experience to learn how to walk and balance again. This went on until the summer of 2020 when I felt comfortable enough to drive again. Problem was that I don’t have movable parts in my prosthesis so it was time to research hand controls for my Ford Expedition. “

After weeks of research Mike contacted Mobility Works in Sacramento and set up a plan. A nine-day, 18 hour training course was required to get certified to drive with the hand controls. “Since I had one good foot still, I qualified for controls using my right hand instead of full controls on the steering wheel (something reserved for those in wheelchairs).” The training vehicle was a Prius, and Mike notes that getting in and out of it was more difficult than operating its controls.

“The control itself is designed similar to a boat accelerator and easy to use.”



“Mounted on my right side of the center console, it has 2 bars going to the brake and accelerator. I pull down the handpiece to accelerate and push up to brake. There is a locking mechanism to set the brake to put the car into gear or in park. “

“In September I had it installed at a bit of a cost. It was \$6,000.00 for the driving school and equipment installation. I don’t think I have ever spent that kind of money to enjoy my freedom.” Mike’s up and running on his own and can drive anywhere he needs or wants to go. “I really took that freedom for granted until I was unable to just get up and go. This is the outlet for all disabled people to have some normalcy and freedom and I recommend it highly!”

“The first solo ride was to Bodega Bay for some chowder. I was very nervous about driving that far alone, but it went smoothly. No problems, and my foot wasn’t tired from driving!”

Mike met me for lunch one day in September after the installation and his certification. The location was about an hour’s drive from his house. Like a lot of things in life, meeting for lunch sometimes is about more than lunch.

See you down the road, Bill

MARKET REPORT

Recently closed on Bring A Trailer online auction



9,300-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$22,000 on 4/7/21



428-Powered 1962 Ford Thunderbird Coupe 6-Speed

Bid to \$19,250 on 4/5/21



No Reserve: 1,900-Mile 2005 Ford Thunderbird 50th Anniversary

Sold for \$42,250 on 4/2/21



1955 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$43,000 on 4/1/21



7k-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$20,000 on 3/31/21



3,700-Mile 2004 Ford Thunderbird

Bid to \$16,500 on 3/24/21



1955 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$30,250 on 3/23/21



1957 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$27,500 on 3/22/21



1957 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$55,000 on 3/15/21



33-Years-Owned 1957 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$25,200 on 3/12/21



28k-Mile 2003 Ford Thunderbird 007 Edition

Sold for \$26,500 on 3/12/21



1957 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$52,500 on 3/8/21



14k-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$18,250 on 3/5/21



43-Years-Family-Owned 1955 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$28,000 on 3/1/21



34k-Mile 2005 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$16,250 on 2/26/21



No Reserve: 1965 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$14,000 on 2/23/21



Ex-Jeff Gordon 1991 Ford Thunderbird Super Coupe 5-Speed

Sold for \$15,924 on 2/16/21



1957 Ford Thunderbird E-Code

Sold for \$58,000 on 2/11/21



6,900-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird

Sold for \$23,500 on 2/10/21



1957 Ford Thunderbird

Bid to \$16,000 on 2/10/21

Need Help and Information?

Our Technical Advisors

This list is under review. If you would like to be added or removed please contact Russ Carr.

Craig Cuslidge

1958-1966 Concours Detail
1960 sunroofs
1965 General/Restorations
209-463-2793

Bill Edwards

1958-1966 General/Mechanical/Convertibles
510-223-2365

Mike Press

1958-1966 Concours Details/Parts/Services
1961-1963 General/Restoration
510-558-4037

Russ Carr

1961-1963 General Coupe and Convertible repair
408-568-3782

Concours Manuals

Available from Mike Press for \$15.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. Rules plus single series sections available for \$7.00 plus \$2.00 shipping. Contact Mike at 510-558-4037 to order.

Good Guys List

A list of service providers that have done particularly good work on members cars – Available free to members from Mike Press (510) 558-4037, mjprgp@infionline.net. Also, contact Mike if you would like to add to the list.

General Information

Membership

To become a member, please send annual dues to the Treasurer. (\$25.00 if Wing to be delivered electronically and \$30.00 if to be delivered by USPS).

Change of Address

Please send address change notices to the Secretary

Correspondence

General correspondence should be sent to the club President. Submissions to The Wing should be sent to the Editor (see Publication Deadline below).

Nametags

Order through Craig Cuslidge at 209-463-2793.

Advertising

Send all advertising with payment to The Wing Editor. See advertising pages for rates.

Publication Deadline

The Wing is published bi-monthly on the 1st of January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions must be received before the 20th of the month preceding the issue(s) for which they are intended. E-mail submissions must be in .doc or .docx format and pictures in .jpg format. Hard copy submissions gladly accepted.

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