



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 40, Issue 3

May/June 2016

IN MEMORIAM



Peter Harmon 1953 - 2016

Current Events

June 4th – Migration
Dave Brubeck Park-Concord

June 26th Pinole Car Show
Cruisin in the Sun

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

Our website is at

<http://norcal-vtca.org/> and
the facebook location is
[www.facebook.com/norcalvt
ca?ref=stream](http://www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream)

President's Message **By Craig Cuslidge**

It's with a heavy heart that I am writing the President's Message this month. I'm filling in as President because Nor Cal President Peter Harmon passed away in April, surrounded by his loving family. He will be so very missed.

Peter had been a club member for many years and worked hard in the last three years in his position as club president, accomplishing much. He was instrumental in bringing us onto the internet so we could be accessed by people who would otherwise not know about the club. He reconnected our club with the national club, V.T.C.I., making us, once again, an official chapter. He worked hard also on migration 2015, which was held at Dave Brubeck Park in his town of Concord. We had a fabulous turnout of 40 T. Birds that day, which was the largest flock of Birds we'd seen in some time. He represented the best of our club and he was our friend.

I'll try my best to carry on the momentum started by Peter, and for the rest of the year conduct the club as he would like to see it done.

We will hold a memorial migration picnic on Saturday, June 4, at Dave Brubeck Park in Concord. Peter started the leg work on this meet so we want to make sure we keep the event going, holding it in memory of our late president. Info and aps are in this issue of the Wing.

Regarding other matters, our club just concluded our April run to Grass Valley. Weather was perfect and the 350 cars lining the street of this historic town were an awesome sight. Check out the Flight Log also in this issue.

I hope to see all of you at Migration 2016 and the other fun outings we have planned for 2016.

Happy Birding,

Craig Cuslidge

Note from the Editor

Craig has stepped up to now do two jobs for the club and he could use some help from all of you. It is a big job to arrange all of the tours and get together for this club, so if you have any tour ideas or would like to host a tour please let him know. I will help with getting the flyer designed and printed for any tour that you find. Remember a tour just needs a place to get together with our cars, food and FUN.

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

Front Page Picture

Peter Harmon's 1965 Thunderbird. This picture graced the back cover of a recent issue of the Scoop, the magazine of VTCl.

Picture of last Month

Some were close but not the correct year. 1959 Chrysler Imperial. Check the hubcaps and slanted chrome strip at the front of the fender.



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4th **Memorial Migration
Dave Brubeck Park - Concord

June 26th – **Pinole Car show
Cruisin in the Sun

July – OPEN

*4th of July Cruise 'n Show Morgan Hill

Info at www.mhfreedomfest.com under the car cruise and show heading

August

**Horse and Feathers in Lodi

September

** TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz

*Taste of Morgan Hill on Sunday after Wharf

October – OPEN

November – OPEN

December

**Holiday Luncheon

The 2016 Calendar has numerous open months waiting for you to sign up to host a tour. Call Craig at 209-463-2793 and he will help you arrange a tour. The Wing editor will design and publish a flyer for the tour.

**Club functions

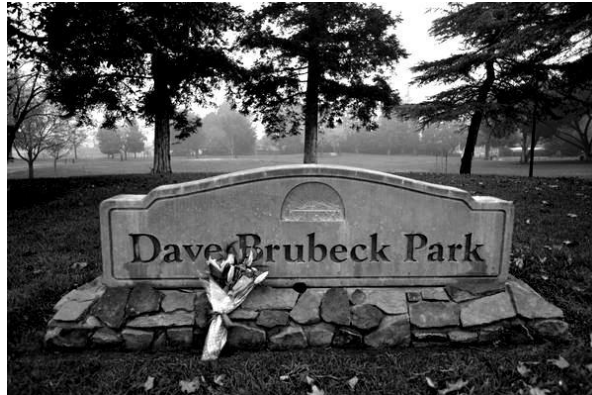
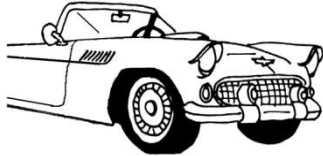
*Other items of interest

HANDOUT BUSINESS CARDS

Vic Quarello has designed and printed a very nice handout business card to give to potential members that you may run into at shows or other locations. Contact Vic at nspite@netzero.net or Russ at oldcarr.rc@gmail.com for cards to be delivered to you at future tours.

MIGRATION 2016

ALL T-BIRDS 1955 - 2005 WELCOME



Honoring the memory of Peter Harmon 1953-2016

***Peoples Choice Trophies for '55 thru '57, '58 thru '66,
Post '66 and Retro 'Birds***

Saturday, June 4, 2016

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Dave Brubeck Park in Concord, CA

Hosted by the **Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club**

This is our annual May event, rescheduled this year due to conflicting events. Come relax and enjoy a day at the park surrounded by cars and the people who love them. Meet new friends, eat good food, kick a few tires, and maybe win a trophy or a great raffle prize! Mark your calendar or to do list and plan on spending a day enjoying our cars and a great part of our national history.

\$25.00 ENTRY INCLUDES – Grass parking, commemorative dash plaques for the first 50 participants, photo ops, and entrants choice car show with awards. **There will be no optional concours judging for Vintage ('58 – '66) cars this year only.** Judging will return at next year's event. Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day for donated items from our sponsors (we also encourage entrants to donate raffle items). Late entry on day of the show is **\$30.00**

BBQ Lunch Available – Burger/Hot Dog and Beans Barbecue available, includes fruit and green salads and drink. \$6.00/person

PLEASE COMPLETE ENTRY FORM ON OPPOSITE SIDE AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED BEFORE MAY 29th. *Attendees will be notified of receipt of their entry and receive driving directions via mail or e-mail*

MIGRATION 2016

ALL '55 THRU '05 T'BIRDS

Please complete the following registration form and send with a check made payable to Norcal VTCA to Miki Smith 2053 Telegraph Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204. Call 209-463-2793 with questions. Entries must be postmarked by May 28. (**\$25.00 Pre-registered - \$30.00 day of show**) Entry fee is non-refundable.

Information? Call (510) 558-4037 or e-mail mjprgp@infionline.net

----- Clip & Mail -----

MIGRATION 2016 Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Year: _____ Model: _____ Club Affiliation: _____

Check for Concours Evaluation (Vintage Only) __ (N/A) __

Vehicle Entry \$25.00 _____

BBQ Lunch \$6.00 x _____ = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages which may result in my participation in the Migration 2015. By my signature below, I release the Dave Brubeck Park, the City of Concord and the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club of any and all liability of property or loss to myself or said vehicle.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



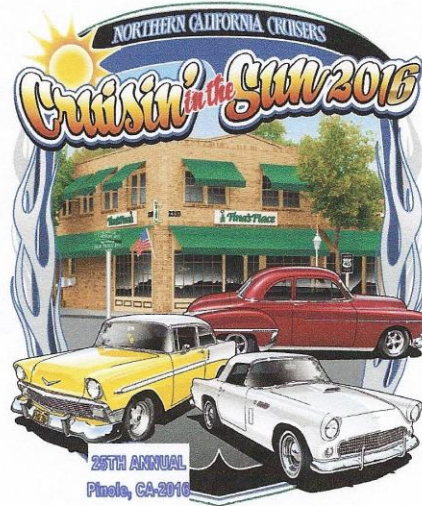
25th Annual "Cruisin' in the Sun"

Car Show in Downtown Pinole

Sunday, June 26, 2016

from 8am-5pm

Pre-registration is required and will be limited to the FIRST 325 American made, pre-1975 car registrants, . Providing space is available other vehicles will be admitted **AFTER 8:00**
(Rain or Shine the car show will happen)



Pre-Registration fee is \$35.00, (\$40.00 day of show) please make checks payable to:

NCC 2016 Registration
c/o 410 Arroyo Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

Vendors, Raffle Awards

Breakfast available
at the Pinole Senior
Center and local
restaurants

For more information contact:
Cathie at (510) 233-0721 or visit our website at
www.northerncaliforniacruisers.com

Name _____ Car make: _____ Yr. _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Club Affiliation _____ email _____@_____.com

T-Shirts sell fast, Pre-order for a guarantee, your shirt will be held for you at the event, at the T-Shirt Booth

Sm. \$18 _____ Med. \$18 _____ Lrg. \$18 _____ XL \$18 _____ 2X (\$20) _____ 3X (\$20) _____

Registration	\$35.00
T-Shirts	\$ _____
Grand Total	\$ _____

In consideration of the acceptance of participants to the 25th Annual Cruisin in the Sun Car Event by execution of this entry form, I/We hereby release the City of Pinole, the Northern California Cruisers Inc., their members, Officers and anyone else connected with this event from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries, liabilities, losses, judgments and/or claims arising from any causes whatsoever that may be caused by the participation in this event. I/We accept responsibility for Bank fees or returned checks.

Flight Log #1 Day at the Races

By Russ with Pics by Russ

As we pulled off the freeway this yellow SUV was on his horn behind us at the stop light. Couldn't he see that the signal was RED.....OOPS... it's just Miki and Craig joining us for a day at the races. Again Marilyn's convertible '63 T'Bird was the only one in the parking lot but Bay Meadows still recognized the club in the program and on the tote board for the 3rd race.



By the time the 3rd race came around we had already strolled through their fantastic buffet once or twice to make sure we got a plate full of the main course and a second plate of their desserts.



Some were lucky (or talented) and won on the races and others helped Bay Meadows turn a profit.



After the 3rd race a number of members joined the winning jockey at track side for a photo opportunity. Only 175 miles on HER63TB.

Flight Log #2 Winery and Grass Valley Show

By Russ with Pics by Russ

We didn't have to meet until 12 noon so that meant the Carrs only had to get on the road by 8AM. Better than some tours. Thought we were going to be late as the first few miles were in commute traffic but it soon cleared and we were on our way. We met at the same 76 gas station just before Grass Valley. Same group as last year with Dave Kuhn, Vic Quarello and Miki and Craig waiting for us when we arrived.

Shortly we had another person come up and ask us if we were a Thunderbird Club. See the Car of the Month later in this issue for that outcome.

Then off to the Naggier Winery for some tasting and a light lunch. The trip to the winery was great with green hills and various wildflowers. The mile long gravel driveway was just a little dusty and the car cleaned up fine the next morning.



We had a great dinner at the Holbrook that evening and everyone called it quits early so we could be ready to go at 7 AM to get a good spot.

Last year it rained and most cars showed up late in the morning. Not this year! By 7 AM the streets were quickly filling up. We didn't get together but were still close to the Holbrook. Miki and Craig again had a room overlooking Main Street and all of the cars that we used for a hospitality room.



This year the show was sold out (since it didn't rain) with more than 350 cars. Great show, great food, great people, good shopping (ask Marilyn) and a lot of fun had by all. You should really put this on your list to attend next year.

Longer trip this show as Marilyn's T^hBird racked up 415 miles at 16.4 MPG.

Tech Note Follow Up

By Russ

A couple of issues ago Mike Press told us about some potential problems with the quality of oil filters. I just ran into a study of oil filters done by a group at www.GMtruckcentral.com.

The following website details the testing methods used and the results. Price DOES NOT mean a better filter. <http://www.gmtruckcentral.com/articles/oilfilterstudy.html> .

The website for the oil filter grading chart is <http://www.gmtruckcentral.com/articles/oilfiltergradesheet.htm>

I think these results have been well accepted and this group proceeded to also test air filters. You can find those methods and results at <http://www.gmtruckcentral.com/articles/air-filter-study.html>

I can't get the charts to reduce to a size for the Wing so if you aren't internet savy let me know and I will print a copy of the chart and send it to you.



The 1975 Thunderbird grew to it's largest size in 1975 and 1976. This year is the same size as the Lincoln Continental Mark IV which didn't fit in most garages of the time.

Cause and Effect Tech Mysteries and Luck

By Mike Press

Have you ever found that sometimes working out one problem clears up others? This is often true with our somewhat elderly cars. Case in point; Our Florida friend Gabe's multiple problems with one ultimate cure.

Gabe takes pride in the way he maintains his '64 Roadster and is usually right after the least little thing that isn't right. However, just before moving to Florida he had some indications that his alternator wasn't charging correctly. The car, of course, went to a local high end classic car service shop – which here will not be named. Of several people in the shop Gabe was directed to the “electrical specialist”. The problem was correctly diagnosed as a bad alternator and the alternator was “rebuilt”. Shortly thereafter Gabe returned to the shop with a complaint that the Charge indicator was again registering discharge at idle.

Upon explaining the problem to the “electrical specialist” Gabe was told that this sometimes occurs in this particular alternator but that it was easily fixed by replacing the standard pulley with a smaller one – which was done. The problem seemed fixed and Gabe then shipped the car to Florida where he was making his new home.

After a short while in Florida it was noticed that the charge indicator was still on the edge of discharge at low speed, there was also some noise in the radio and somewhat reduced engine performance both of which Gabe felt was likely caused by old ignition cables. Of course Gabe put in brand new cables and did some carburetor adjusting Things seemed a bit better after that but still not quite right, looking at vacuum readings revealed a marginal and varying vacuum though the compression was nearly

excellent on all cylinders. Then the charge indicator again started showing heavier discharge at stop lights.

There are two people who Gabe uses as his tech advisors, a retired Ford mechanic in Florida and me. He contacted both of us with his problem. The consensus was that one or some of the diodes in the alternator were bad. “But it was just rebuilt” came Gabe's reply. Again the response was unanimous; that there was a diode problem. Gabe at this point hadn't mentioned the radio noise or poor performance.

The Ford mechanic recommended a local alternator repair service and Gabe took the alternator to him. Yes – there were bad diodes. The cause is unknown as is the quality of the California rebuild but it seems that the small pulley was used to mask the problem which actually started occurring in California.

The repaired alternator with a correct pulley was placed on the car and the charge showed normal, the radio was also working much better, engine performance improved and the vacuum reading became excellent. Again the question of why was asked. When asked if he had electronic ignition Gabe's reply was that he had a Pertronix system. Electrical noise will certainly cause this type of system to intermittently behave poorly and will cause a radio to become noisy. What likely happened was that the bad diodes were creating noise pulses, rapid pulsed drops in voltage faster than what could be handled by the voltage regulator, to get into the car's electrical system. The ignition system and radio were being influenced by this and the ignition system was causing misfiring that could create a poor engine vacuum.

While no one put an oscilloscope on the system the proof seems to be that when Gabe finally had a properly operating alternator all of the other problems disappeared. Sometimes mysteries are solved by serendipity.

CLA\$SIFIED

1965 Thunderbird Convertible pictured on the front cover. Peter Harmon had this car since 1991 and he was the third owner. The car has less than 60K miles and is in original condition with no modifications. Many of you have seen this car on numerous outings and know it is in excellent condition. More information can be obtained by contacting Marlene Harmon at 925-672-7978 or 925-408-5981 (cell). Asking price is \$25,000.

Car of last Month

The 1963 ITALIEN

The article on the Italien in March issue was copied and added to a modified Thunderbird site in the next few weeks. Soon after I received an email from Tom Maruska who had restored the Italien. He directed me to his website that has a more detailed description of the history and restoration. Go to the site listed below for a detailed and fascinating story. <http://www.tbirdsquare.com/italien/msc01.html>

Car of the Month

NEW MEMBER 1964 LANDAU

1964 Thunderbird Landau shown below is owned by Ron and Maria Bigelow. They are our newest members. Ron has a sharp eye and when he saw four Thunderbirds grouped together at a gas station outside of Grass Valley last week, he just had to stop. After a sales pitch about our club (he was really an easy sell) he joined right on the spot. He gave Miki his dues and I gave him a recent issue of The Wing with a membership application. As luck would have it Craig and Miki didn't get to bring the '65 so they had a spot in the Grass Valley Show that was going to be empty. Ron took over the spot and joined us on Main Street in Grass Valley the next day. Welcome to Ron and Maria and hope to see you on future tours.



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

Bob Mabe

1958-1966 Convertibles/Sunroofs
650-941-6534

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.

Advisory Board of Past Presidents

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Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
Bobbi Killion †	Doreen Gibbs
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Dr. Gordon † & Nell Richmond #25
Craig Cuslidge #15



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Migration 2015

INSIDE

PETER HARMON 1953 - 2016

FLIGHT LOG - DAY AT THE RACES

GRASS VALLEY WINERY AND SHOW

UPCOMING

MIGRATION

PINOLE - CRUISIN IN THE SUN