



The Wing

Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 42, Issue 5

SEP/OCT 2018

Pam and Tim Van Raam on the 4th of July



Current Events

Sept 29th TBirds on the Wharf
– Santa Cruz

Oct 27th Migration – Alameda

See calendar for full year of
events

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUNDAY-SUNDAY-SUNDAY NITRO-BURNING FUNNY CARS, GROUND-POUNGING ACTION, BE THERE!

Greetings clubmates, I went to the NHRA Sonoma Nationals drag races at the former Sears Point back in July, and boy-howdy was that a hoot. Upon completion of the first competition run one of my pals asked "What did you think of that?" I replied, "I think I need a 4.11 rear-end in my Thunderbird."

Drag racing is unabashedly fun. There's no reserve, no catching up on the next lap, no conserving resources for a day-long battle of attrition lap after lap. You're bringing it all right now, and the next heat is going to be riding the loser's wheelie bars if he doesn't get out of the way. And then there's the whole spectrum of competitors from kids on the junior circuit, locals, classics, motorcycles, big-buck professionals, and what the heck even a jet powered blue flash of a this or a that at the end of the day. You can cycle a lot of stuff across the starting line four seconds at a throw. Noise like you can't imagine, smoke and fumes stinging your eyes, and crazy power blowing of out eight cylinders and two honkin' drive wheels that shakes the grandstands and rattles your bones. What's not to love?



Some facts:

- Nitromethane racing fuel brings its own oxygen to the combustion party (BYOO?). More fuel in the chamber means more available oxygen at combustion which, when delivered and managed correctly, means more go-fast at the drive wheels. This single fact permeates the sport. Fuel line diameter is 2.5"; upstream of the fuel line is all the apparatus it takes to keep the pipe fuel full; downstream is all the stuff and magic that it takes to apply what the pipe delivers. Here's another thing delivered by that fuel line. cheering fans in the stands
- Distance for the nitro burners is now 1000 feet, rather than the long established $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, for safety purposes. This is relatively old news and is due to a crash a decade or so ago that involved spectators. 1000 feet is covered in 3-4 seconds at speeds of 280-330 mph. I did see one 330 mph run, and I nearly missed it, it was over so quick.
- In the 3-4 seconds it takes to run 1000' the dragster's engine, turning at 8500 rpm, will make around 500 revolutions

See you down the road,

Bill



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.

President

Bill Kinsey
925-683-0278

Vice President

Craig Cuslidge
209-463-2793

Secretary

Julie Kinsey

Treasurer

Miki Smith
209-463-2793
mikismith@outlook.com

The Wing Editor

Russ Carr
408-568-3782
oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Mike Press
1-510-558-4037
mjprgp@infionline.net

Board at Large

Gary Grainger

Vic Quarello
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/>

Note from the Editor

Special thanks this month to Gary Grainger for his article and pictures on the VTCA 50th Anniversary National Meet.

I could sure use some help with other articles, tech notes or interesting stories about your car or adventures with your cars. Just send them to me at the address below and I can format them.

Sorry this issue may be a little late since this Colorado mountain location we are in has NO cell or internet service. Closest is about 20 miles away.

Russ

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****September 29th - Birds on the Wharf – Santa Cruz**

**** October 27th - Migration in Alameda**

**** November 25th -Tree Trimming at California Auto Museum – Sacramento**

**** December 16th - Holiday Dinner – Pasta Pelican - Alameda**

All members are requested to consider hosting a tour in 2019.

****Club functions**

***Other items of interest**

Flight Log #1

Classic Cars West and Art Tour

By with Pics by Vic and Russ

Parking was difficult but we all made it. Classic Cars West had only a few cars on display when we arrived but we roamed around their displays a little before we sat outside for our lunch.



This was a vegetarian café and I now know why I eat meat. I've been told that a lot of meats "taste like chicken" (alligator, snake, rabbit, etc) but this didn't. Oh well maybe it is an acquired taste.

From here we all regrouped and traveled a short ways to the home of our long time member Jim Stewart. THIS MADE THE TOUR! Jim is an amazing artist and he works with what he can find in nature.



The tree stumps in the front yard were turned into whimsical animals and then we were invited into his house. Driftwood, twisted roots, and other natural finds had been turned into fascinating works of art. On to the backyard and garden building where

every turn had a new creature or whimsy to capture your attention.



My words can't describe the quality and quantity of the art we saw at Jim's home. We are sorry you might have missed this event, but we do express our thanks to Jim for this unique experience.

Flight Log #2

Pinole Car Show
By Russ with Pics by Vic

Your editor was on his way to the mountains of Colorado so I don't know who won all of the raffle prizes or who ate the most hamburgers but Vic was kind enough to send some pictures of the event.



Vintage Thunderbird Club International

50th Anniversary 1968 – 2018

Tulsa, Oklahoma July 11-15, 2018

Large colorful birds and 80% humidity.....Paradise?

No, Tulsa in July. For 3 days it was paradise for approximately 160 Thunderbird owners and enthusiasts. The 50th anniversary gathering where it all started 50 years ago....Tulsa!

Flight Log Day One. Most attendees load on to a couple of large tour buses. Air conditioned!

We set off for the Heart of Route 66 museum. Home of the largest gas pump in America. Standing at 66 ft tall, it came into view before the museum did.



A nice selection of cars and also home to military vehicles. This was a former armory. Back on the buses we cruised past the Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza and viewed the full size bronze sculptures. Stop at an older part of the city that had been revitalized as a kind of restaurant, shopping area. Some of us had our picture taken standing at the center of the universe!



Probably the largest landmark of the day was the Golden Driller, Erected in the 30's and restored at a more recent date. We finished our touring for the day with a visit to Philbrook Museum. This was the mansion constructed by Waite Phillips, founder of Phillips 66. Part was left as the home was back in the day and the rest turned into a large museum housing a wide variety of art.



Flight Log Day Two. This was a full day. Many chose to drive their birds and spread their wings. Most of the day would be spent driving portions of Route 66, the rest of us would board another smaller bus. While waiting to board a man walked up and said he had room for one passenger, I raised my hand.

While walking along the flock of birds waiting to depart he goes “oh yeah, were not in a t-bird” while pointing to a Ford Focus. The man was Allen Tast. Former club president and author. Excellent conversation, I also got to photograph each car on tour in motion. Front and rear as he worked our way up to the front and dropped back to rear of caravan.



A little over an hour of driving we arrived at The Darryl Starbird National Rod and Custom Hall of Fame. A full house of various custom creations by him and several others. I saw at least two 61 T-birds, one was done in the 60's and the other early 2000's.



Then it was off to lunch for the hungry flock. We swooped in on Clantons Café in Vinita. Great food and great services. Back on the mother road we set our sights on the Totem Pole Park, then on to the Nut House.

The stop I was looking forward would be next, I saw it briefly on an episode of American Pickers.... The Blue Whale! Upon arriving back at hotel it was time for brief nap, or a stop in hospitality room. Dinner was a BBQ style meal.



Flight Log Day Three. An early morning thunder storm washed down the show field and the Thunderbirds. Owners had plenty of time before judging to dry things and get them in order. Approximately 51 spectacular Thunderbirds of many colors graced the show field. There were several senior cars, all fabulous. I met a lot of great people on my trip. This was my first national meet, but not my last.

Many Miles And Smiles, Garry







**Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club
Invites All**

**Classic ('55-'57) Vintage ('58-'66) & Retro ('02-'05) Thunderbirds
To The 21st Annual**

Thunderbirds on the Santa Cruz Wharf

Saturday, September 29, 2018 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Rain or Shine

**Goody Bags, Dash Plaques, Raffle, Scavenger Hunt & Awards,
Spectacular Ocean & Mountain Views
Restaurants, Shopping on the Wharf & Santa Cruz Boardwalk**

Please complete and return to:
MBCTC, PO Box 2721, Aptos, CA 95001-
2721 by September 22, 2018

**Entry fee: \$40.00 in advance - \$50 on-site
Proceeds benefit Partnership for Children.**

Name: _____

Address:

_____ **Email:** _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:**

Club Affiliation _____ **Car Info: Year** _____ **Color** _____

SIGNED: _____ **Date:** _____

*Participants accept and assume full responsibility for any injury or loss to themselves or family or property and agree to release from any and all liability the Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club and/or the City of Santa Cruz, California.

Your cancelled check serves as registration confirmation.

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.

Advisory Board of Past Presidents

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Craig Cuslidge #15



The Wing Editor
13400 Center Ave.
San Martin, CA 95046
Phone: 408-568-3782

Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



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SPECIAL VTCI NATIONAL REPORT

UPCOMING

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OCT 27TH MIGRATION - ALAMEDA