



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

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MAY/JUN 2020

2020 VTCA EVENT SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Location	Clubs
3/14/2020	Day at the Races	CANCELLED	
May 30 th	Classic Car Races Sonoma	CANCELLED	
5/1/2020(Fri)	Lunch and Gallery Tour	CANCELLED	
5/2/2020(Sat)	Car Show	CANCELLED	
6/12- 14/2020	Graffiti Weekend	CANCELLED	Many various clubs
7/11 /2020(Sat)	Bay View Model Tour	Pending	VTCA & Golden Gate
8/11-16/2020	National Club Meet and	Pending	Portland
8/22/2020(Sat)	Horse and Feather	Micki Park – Lodi	Many clubs
9/19/2020(Sat)	Apple Hill Tour	Placerville	Open
10/1/2020(Sat)	Birds on the Wharf	Santa Cruz	All Tbird meet
10/24/2020(Sat)	Migration	Treasure Island	TBird clubs
11/29/2020(Sun)	Tree Trimming Potluck	Sacramento	Many various clubs
12/13/2020(Sun)	Holiday Party	Alameda (?)	VTCA

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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/>

Fellow Club Members:

During this difficult time it is a little difficult to provide a list of things that we are going to do and have done. I have run the full schedule on the front page so everyone is aware of our plans.

Our Vintage Race Day at Sonoma was rescheduled then cancelled. So maybe this is on our list for next year.

Our July tour to the Bay Model in Sausalito is pending due to restrictions in Marin County. If this location opens in July then the tour is still on. The building with the Bay Model is huge and keeping safe distances from others is not a problem. But it has to be open for our tour to take place.

The National Meet in Portland is still on but only if the restrictions in Oregon are relaxed. Right now they are looking at plans to move to 2021. We will keep you informed on this one in the next month's issue.

Micke Grove Park is scheduled to reopen this month so maybe we will be allowed to have our tour in August. Stay tuned for more.

This month's issue is a little different since we have no club history but we do have some stories, no matter how unusual they are. Let me know what you have been doing to keep you rides ready to "break out" when our restrictions are over.

Thanks again to Bill Kinsey for his contributions to this issue.

One other note If you are trying to get in touch with this Editor please use the phone number listed here and not the home phone number listed in the Roster. We have cancelled our landline of 45 years since only robo callers have used it in the last 6 months!

Your restricted Editor

Russ

EL JEFE'S ON LOCKDOWN, NOW WHAT?

Bill Kinsey

Greeting clubmates,

If I lived in my Thunderbird then the stay at home orders wouldn't constrain my automotive lifestyle. Ain't much room to move around in, but the surroundings are stylish.

Suffice it to say that since lockdown El Jefe hasn't tread much asphalt, though we have managed a couple of jaunts to the hardware store in Concord via Marsh Creek Road and Brentwood (note to those unfamiliar with my locale: Ace Hardware on Clayton Road in Concord is 2.5 miles west of my house, Brentwood is 21 miles to the east). We're not supposed to go out unless it's essential, I get that, but El Jefe needs regular exercise and I can sit at a computer screen dreaming of driving my car for only so long.

El Jefe's last excursion prior to the lockdown was a photo expedition with my daughter for her college photography class. We took a ride to the Montezuma Hills in southern Solano County among the windmills. In those rolling hills and dozens of towers are a few old Aermotor rotary windmills running pumps or spinning in the breeze. The Aermotor was a wonderful technological development in its day that has a significant presence in American history. We see them as clunky old things today, but farming, ranching, and raising a family in the arid West would have been impossible without them. On our expedition we managed to get a few shots of old and new windmill technology coexisting.



Speaking of farming and ranching in the arid West, those trips to the hardware store I've been taking are in support of my new gardening hobby which coincides almost completely with the lockdown. I've dabbled half-heartedly in the garden over the years, including 4-H membership in my youth. All things being equal I'd rather go for a ride, but here we are with nowhere to go and plenty of unused space. Call me Farmer Bill until the Governor lifts the order. Taking the gearhead's approach to gardening of course allows for liberal use of the rototiller. Along with the Aermotor and the Colt Peacemaker, the rototiller helped tame the West, one backyard at a time. While mine is far from being the Thunderbird of rototillers, I drive a 2004 Craftsman 24-inch front-tine tiller with a torquey 5hp Briggs & Stratton one banger. It replaced my 1970 Snapper, a true classic, that didn't survive being loaned to a friend years ago. I had a '63 Nova that suffered a similar fate.

Back when I was running boats for Uncle Sam I'd practice search pattern maneuvering with my lawn mower and my rototiller. While the yard can't serve up tides and currents, it can provide a flat surface to run the appropriate compass headings on. Also, your datum marker won't float away. Here's a tip if you want to try this on your lawn: change the Expanding Square pattern to a Diminishing Square and you won't have to start in the middle.

See you down the road,
Bill

Flight Log #1

ESCAPE!

By Russ

So maybe we can escape as long as we don't get around any people. The gas in the TBird needs changing. The battery needs recharging. We need refreshing! So we take the 'Bird and go birding!



Pack a lunch to eat in the car. Find an open park that few know about so we don't have any crowds. And ESCAPE for a day in the sun. Drove to Grant Ranch on the Mt. Hamilton Road and found only about a dozen cars in the whole park. Had a good day birding the feathered kind with 45 different species. This Western Kingbird was one of the good ones.



We do spend some of our time on our travels watching for birds other than TBirds. We get a wide variety at home since our property is "bird friendly" with water and food available all year. This year we had a Bewick's Wren nest in on old cast aluminum teapot that was just out as yard art. The female is cleaning house removing the babies poop while the male is waiting with the next meal. We were also lucky to get numerous Rufous Hummingbirds stop by on their travels from wintering

in Central America to their summers in northern US and Canada.



This Green Heron was also found on our travels.



It was such a nice day we continued all the way up to Mt. Hamilton (closed) and over the top and down to Livermore on the Old Mines Road. Didn't get near any people and stayed safe but had a great day.

This is our other "bird watching".

TOUR TO US ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS BAY MODEL

July 11, 2020 10:30 AM



This location is presently closed but if restrictions are lifted it will be a good location since the building is huge and it will be very easy to keep our distances from others. No charge entrance. Lunch after the tour will be decided when restrictions are posted.

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.



WHAT IF #2 I got no comments on the Thunderbird station wagon so.....



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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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



**INSIDE
FLIGHT LOG – EL JEFE LOCKUP
ESCAPE!**

**UPCOMING
JULY 11TH BAY MODEL - SAUSALITO**