



The Wing

Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 45, Issue 1

JAN/FEB 2021

Nor Cal Vintage Club Status

Yes we are still alive and waiting for this year to be better than 2020.

The following lists the status for the club and some of our plans for the coming year (hopefully)!

1. You are still all members in good standing. Since last year didn't exist for the club we have decided that your 2020 dues will be applied for 2021. You will still need to pay your dues for Vintage Thunderbird Club International.
2. All club offices are open for re-election this year. We will hold open all positions waiting for you to volunteer to help direct and manage the club for 2021. Please contact Craig Cuslidge, Bill Kinsey or Russ Carr to volunteer. We need help from everyone to continue this year. We will announce new officers in the next issue of the Wing.
3. We plan to hold some get togethers as soon as allowed. These may just be "no contact" driving tours with a picnic lunch. Any suggestions would be welcome.
4. The Wing will resume monthly issues and we need articles, pictures, tech notes and other inputs to help make it interesting for everyone.
5. We still have plans for Horse and Feathers in August and a National Meet in Oregon in August. So with this lockdown you still have time to get those TBirds tweaked up and polished for the coming year.

Your editor; 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 1955 through 2005 in a common effort to enjoy and preserve these fine cars.

President

Garry Grainger
209-380-0136
gdqno1@aol.com

Vice President

Craig Cuslidge
209-463-2793

Secretary

Julie Kinsey
juliekinsey@comcast.net

Treasurer

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

The Wing Editor

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

Immediate Past President

Bill Kinsey
925-683-0278
William_Kinsey@comcast.net

Board at Large

Vic Quarello
510-527-1402
nspite@netzero.net

Bill Kinsey
William_Kinsey@comcast.net

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

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

Hello Fellow Cub Members,

I hope each and everyone of you had the best of holidays. Alas it is time to swing the steering column to the right and slide out of the driver's seat.

I've enjoyed being president this last term, but it's time to hand the keys over to a new person. 2019 was a very pleasurable year with some great events. The trip to Treasure Island, Birds on the Wharf, Miki's Grove, and Migration come to mind placing a big smile on my face. 2020 on the hand was very trying for us all. The front discs were not only slammed on as far car events but for life as we know it. Looks like things are going to changing soon and we can get back to life.

I've always enjoyed my time spent with the club at events, outings, drive tours, etc. It is our love of all things Thunderbird that brought us together, but it's the fantastic people and friends we have made on this great ride that really make this a awesome club.

All though I've relocated to the state of Wisconsin, my membership will remain current to keep up on the happenings. I will travel to California on occasion, so I may show up some time in the future for a club event. Maybe cross paths at a regional or international event.

As view my term in the rear view mirror remember, 'it's not goodbye but until we meet again!'

Garry Grainger



From the Editor:

Many thanks to the members of Nor Call Vintage for the honor of the Member of the Year award. This has special meaning since LeRoy was the first person that introduced us to the club and helped us realize that we could make our cars a little better. He showed us what we could do to improve our cars and he did it in a way that was helpful without being negative. We revere his mentoring.

Thanks Again: Russ

Hello to all. Let me share my first Midwest automotive adventures. It's no secret that I moved to Iowa Wisconsin last November to start a new chapter called retirement. Iowa is of course the home to the Iowa Car Show, which is billed as the largest in the Midwest. I was really looking forward to this. Regularly it happens second weekend of July each year. A three day event drawing over a 100,000 people. This is a really big deal in this area, the population of the county is 51,000. Oh what to do? This is a major fund raiser for many nonprofits, service clubs, and school organizations. So early June the cry was heard!

RALLY FOR IOLA

It was decided that a road rally would work, people would be asked to stay in or next to their vehicles. The car show is also a nonprofit, they have several buildings, plus staff, acres and acres of mowed grounds.

Over 1,500 cars showed up! The rally started at the show grounds. The cars were released in groups of approximately 200 with a several minute break between.



Lead off on a tour of the county along winding backroads, through several small villages. Waupaca county Sheriff's department led each group with their lights flashing. People were scattered along all back roads. Once in the villages they lined the route. Local fire departments had their trucks out with lights going. This was really an experience not to be forgot.

The rally ended at the car show's campgrounds (yes they have their own). As you drove in there were a few lanes for you chose the type of lunch you wanted and it was set up as drive thru. Order, drive thru, pick up your food, then park and dine in car. There were also picnic tables spaced for social distancing if you were dining with friends. It was a huge success for the nonprofits, car show and participants.

Things were quiet until third week of September, then the Wild Rose annual car show was held. This was the first time they had over 400 cars on display. I think with my states fluid Covid regulations people really wanted to get out before summer was over. Lots of spectators, some vendors and a couple of biplanes doing tricks over the grounds added to the day.

Lastly for my automotive summer was The Cruise For A Cause, this was a 4



day event held in Wisconsin Dells a huge resort and tourist area. It included a swap meet, daily drive tours, car show, autocross, and 8th mile time trails. Autocross you drove one of their race preped Mustangs of which there were 3.

The event filled up in an hour on the first day registration. The drive all featured different points of interest. The Retro and Lincoln were winter preped and put away early November. I took Nell's 62 out on Dec 1st it was 35 degrees heater works great, we hadn't had any snow yet in our area. So dry unsalted road, totally safe the pride and joy of the garage. Sounds like things are going to better for us all the way around in 2021, so keep washing your hands, social distance and please wear a mask.

Garry

More pictures from Wisconsin. (Thanks Garry)



NORCAL VTCA MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2020

It is with great that pleasure that the NorCal VTCA presents the 2020 Leroy Seibert Member of the Year Award to Russ Carr in recognition of outstanding service to our members through his continued production of The Wing newsletter during the regional lockdowns and stay-at-home orders of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the prohibition on public gatherings and closure of public facilities, Russ provided our members with camaraderie and an opportunity to stay in touch through the continued production of The Wing on the regular bi-monthly schedule. Russ and Marilyn stayed active with their Thunderbirds as circumstances allowed, and shared stories and photographs of their travels as a model for other members. Over the course of 2020, Russ made sure to share the stories and experiences of those members who also found opportunities to enjoy their Thunderbirds under the constraints of the times. Additionally, Russ attended the two meets that the club was able to hold in 2020 and faithfully reported on them.



In addition to his commitment to the NorCal VTCA, Russ is also active with the Morgan Hill chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America, and brings to our club valuable experience and lessons-learned in the care and maintenance of car clubs.

The Wing newsletter provides our members with timely and relevant information and an opportunity to share the experiences of vintage Thunderbird ownership. Noting that newsletters do not write and distribute themselves, the officers and directors of the NorCal VTCA offer Russ Carr sincere thanks for his service and commitment.

For the Board,
Bill Kinsey, member at large

HISTORIC ROUTE 40/LINCOLN HIGHWAY

Julie & Bill Kinsey

Greetings Clubmates, raise your hand if you remember Northern California before Interstate 80. Between 1916 and 1964, the transcontinental route from New Jersey to San Francisco was the Lincoln Highway, later known as U.S. Route 40.

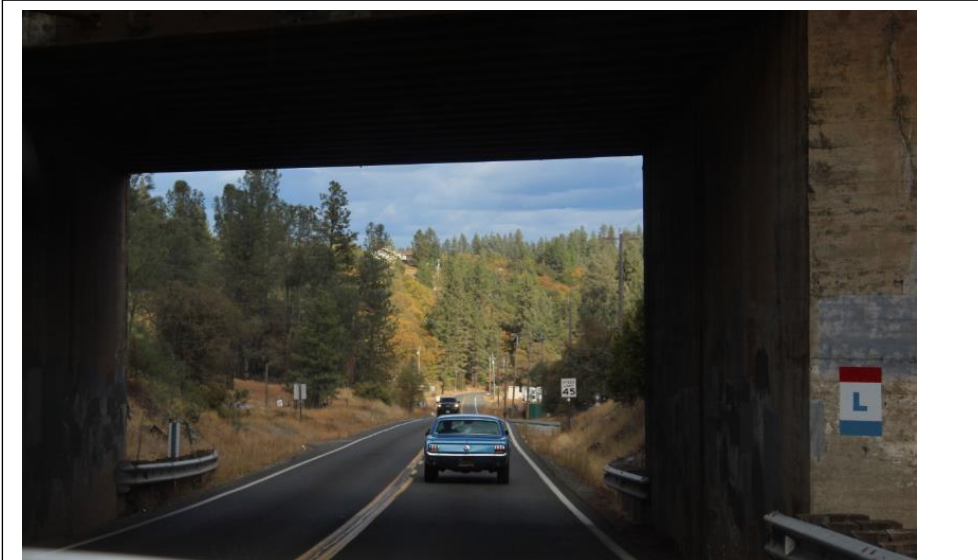
There's a lot of historical detail to the names and the routes and the dates of these two roadways all across the country. Here in Northern California we've got remnants of the route that are marked as Historic Route 40 and Lincoln Highway, perhaps you've seen some. Cruising Texas Street in Fairfield one afternoon we saw some signs and got interested. Figuring that a hunt for Route 40 markers would provide a good focus for Thunderbirding, we set out in November to find what we could.

Much has been written about the evolution of automobile roadways in America and the impact of the Interstate system. One major difference between the old U.S. Routes and the Interstates that replaced them is that the Routes were intended to connect towns, and Interstates were intended to bypass them. Segments of Route 40 run adjacent to I-80, and the difference is stunning. Our first run was between Rocklin and Colfax, two points on both roads. Our nephew Christian Kinsey in his 1966 Mustang led us on the meandering two-lane Route 40/Lincoln Highway through Loomis and Newcastle, downtown Auburn, on to Applegate and downtown Colfax at the train station, and other towns marked only as offramps on I-80. We stopped for photos here and there and didn't keep track of the time as morning turned to noon.

As you parallel 80 on the old 40 coming into Colfax, the 80 traffic is whipping past at 21st Century speed and Rocklin is a mere 30 minutes away.



Lincoln Highway/Route 40 display near Newcastle



Between Auburn and Colfax. Lincoln Highway marker red, white, blue on right.

HISTORIC ROUTE 40/LINCOLN HIGHWAY



Applegate



California "C" road markers that pre-date Route 40 can be found in Placer County.

Later in the month we turned to Solano and Yolo counties on the hunt for Route 40 remnants. The linking of towns is evident here as Route 40 incorporated main drags through Fairfield, Vacaville, Dixon, and Davis. We saw no Lincoln Highway markers here, and there is controversy as to its route through this area.



Texas Street, Fairfield



Solano College near Cordelia



Dixon

C.W. McCall, the singer who gave us "Convoy" in the 1970s, described "the mighty Lincoln Highway" as being a million memories long and two lanes wide. We're happy to have added a few memories to the count. We did it with the help of: Emily Kinsey, photos; Christian Kinsey, Placer County; Mike Sebastian, Yolo & northern Solano counties; Dan Fitzpatrick, southern Solano County; D&H Enterprises' awesome mechanics, keeping El Jefe in motion.

See you down the road, Julie & Bill



First St.. Davis



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

Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



From eBay: 600 hp Lemans style race car. Sold for \$35K.

INSIDE
CLUB STATUS FOR 2012
REPORT FROM WISCONSIN
MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD
NOT MUCH!!!
EXCEPT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
VOLUNTEERS FOR 2021 OFFICERS