



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 43, Issue 1

JAN/FEB 2019



Happy New
Year

Current Events

January 16th Board Meeting
Livermore Cattleman's
February 9th Sweetheart
Lunch at Pier 29 Alameda

See calendar for full year of
events

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Revving up for 2019

Greetings clubmates, happy 2019. A year ago Julie and I were without an operating Thunderbird, and today El Jefe (our beloved and oft-mentioned '66 townie) performed the most mundane task of vehicular reliability-Julie drove it to work. Nothing says success in the world of cars like being able to handle the morning commute, and apparently when it comes to 53 year-old dinosaurs on wheels all it takes is time and \$\$\$\$\$. El Jefe got out a lot in 2018, including some club events, a family Thanksgiving cruise to Pt. Reyes, and a New Year's Day jaunt through the East Bay hills with some pals from work and their vintage sports cars (El Jefe allows these buzzy things to run ahead in a pack, preferring a leisurely pace through the twisty canyons of East Bay redwood country).

With 2018 in the rear-view at this time, planning for 2019 is top priority for the club right now. Our annual planning meeting is scheduled for January 20th. All members are invited to attend, I hope you can join us at the Cattlemen's restaurant in Livermore (details noted elsewhere in this issue). We'll be discussing the continuation of offices, and the planning and calendaring of our events. Here's your chance to get in on the decision-making and the direction the club takes this year and beyond.

We had some really nifty events in 2018, and in 2019 we're looking to mix our traditional events with some new ones. Come along and join the fun, bring a Thunderbird with you if you can.

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

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408-568-3782
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Mike Press
1-510-558-4037

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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

**Many have not sent in your renewal forms and dues.
Don't miss your next issue. Send in your dues
immediately!**

**I would also like everyone to 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.**

Russ

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***Below is a tentative schedule for next year, however if
you have any interesting ideas for a tour please
contact Miki or Craig and they will help you get it
arranged.***

JANUARY 20th – Board Meeting – Cattleman's - Livermore
FEBRUARY 9th – Sweetheart Brunch – Pier 29 Alameda
MARCH ? - Day at the Races in El Cerrito **
APRIL ? - Club event in Marin/Napa area
MAY 3-4th - Grass Valley Tour and Car Show **
JUNE - Open or Pinole Car Show
JULY 16 - 23 - Western Regional Meet in Spokane, WA
AUGUST 18th - Horse and Feather in Lodi **
SEPT – Grass Valley Car Show (first weekend) *
SEPT 29th - TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz (last weekend) **
OCTOBER 26th - Migration/BBQ
NOVEMBER - Tree Trimming at California Auto Museum**
DECEMBER - Holiday Party**

**Club functions (Set in stone)

*Tentative functions

Flight Log #1

Tree trimming in Sacramento

By Miki with Pics by Russ

The tree trimming at the California Auto Museum was a fun event this year, as always. We all worked very hard (well, truthfully, the work was not really hard at all) to make the tree a beautiful representation of our club. We always use the club-made ornaments that are glittery paper frames around pictures of members' cars. Lightweight and colorful, they make good ornaments, and seeing the cars that have been in the club is an extra-special treat. Our color "Theme" for our tree is "Thunderbird" blue and silver, thanks to Gary and Cindi Granger who brought the ornaments and garlands a few years ago. This makes our tree a completely unique stand out at the museum. They used it on some of their promotion last year.



Members on hand who helped in the decorating this year are Gary and Cindi, Bill and Julie, Russ, Vic and, oh yes, Craig and me. Phyllis was there with Chuck and Lani with their little bird club. Mostly they were helping Lani get around since a

horrendous accident at a national meet left her with a "shattered" shoulder and some other injuries. This very brave lady would not go to the hospital until they drove their car all the way home because she didn't want to leave the car behind! I am not that tough!

After much merriment (yes, there was wine), we all went in to eat the wonderful food. Everything was good, as usual, and we all ended up much fuller than we intended. The raffle prizes, too, did not disappoint, but the best thing, as is always the case, was seeing and chatting with the people we like so much. The cars were great, the trees were lovely, the food was delicious, and being with friends made it a true Holiday. Hope to see you there next year!.



It's not a Tbird but not a bad way to travel. 1956 Chevrolet with a 1960 Shasta trailer.

Flight Log #2

Holiday Party - Pasta Pelican - Alameda
By Miki with Pics by Russ

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual holiday lunch. It was a lovely day (what's a little rain!) with great food, great friends and great gifts (not a single person wanted to steal another's gift-amazing!).



Our little nook at the restaurant is becoming one of my favorite places. Off to the side so we have some privacy but with amazing views of the water with all the boating activity and the lovely shoreline, business district and hills of Oakland on the other side.



The service was wonderful as usual. We ordered off the menu because our group was smaller than their limit for banquets, so everyone got exactly what they wanted. Perfect!

I want to give a special thank you to two people who always go above and beyond. Every year Russ Carr brings his wonderful home made jams and jellies to share with us. They are so delicious and such a treat. And Vic Quarello brings us greeting cards adorned with his amazing photography. They are beautiful and I only send them to special people. Thank you both for those extra special touches to this event.

I went to the lunch thinking we were not going to do the Member of the Year award (sort of a couldn't get our act together thing) and found out that everyone was plenty organized and the award was given to me. Thank you so much everyone. I love this club and love participating in the facilitating of it. It never seems like work, only fun.



Hope everyone's holidays were exactly how they wanted them to be. See you in the coming year!

BOARD MEETING
CATTLEMAN'S RESTAURANT, LIVERMORE
SUNDAY JANUARY 20, 2019 12:00 NOON

Our January meet is our annual board meeting. Board members are requested to attend. We will have reports from the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and will be discussing and planning events for the rest of the year. We will also discuss the continuation of present officers for the coming year and the possibility of holding an election for different positions. Club members are welcome to attend and participate. We'll have an open discussion where anyone can bring up anything they want to discuss, new or old business. Anyone with a suggestion for an event in the future is very welcome to bring it to the club. We need your input and we're hoping to amp up our events for this year and future years. You may know of a great excursion that the members would love to attend. **Please come and help make your club even more fun.**



Lunch will be off their banquet menu and you get to choose between an 8 ounce sirloin steak, lemon herb chicken, grilled Atlantic salmon, or spinach and cheese ravioli, and will be served with an all you can eat salad, ranch-style beans, sourdough bread, coffee, tea and soda. Price will be \$23.00 per person, tax and tip included.

Call Miki and Craig to let us know you're coming so we can advise the restaurant for table setup at 209-463-2793. Hope to see you there!

Cattleman's Restaurant is at 2882 Kittyhawk Road in Livermore. From 580 take Airway Blvd off ramp, and Kittyhawk Road runs parallel to 580.



Picture sent in by Tim Van Raam. Note tag wheel at rear of TBird.

Sweetheart Brunch and Oakland Air Museum

Alameda, CA

February 9, 2019, 10:00 A.M.



We'll meet at the Oakland Aviation Museum at 82363 Earhart Road in Oakland. This is a gem of a museum (5 star in online ratings and well deserved) where you can get up close and personal with the aircraft of bygone times. We can wander through on our own or take a docent led tour. I've done both before and the docent tour can be very extensive. The docents love the aviation history on display here and they love talking about it! Admission to the

museum is 15.00 regular, 12.00 for seniors (60+), and other rates for military and children. We'll be at the museum for two hours and then will caravan to Pier 29 Restaurant in Alameda, getting there about 12:30.

Pier 29 is at 1148 Ballena Blvd in Alameda and has a large parking lot with great views of Ballena Yacht Club on one side and the San Francisco skyline with both bridges and the naval vessels of Alameda Naval base on the other (photo op). Instead of being restricted to a banquet menu and advance payment, they are letting us order off their extensive regular menu with separate checks. They have everything from bacon and eggs to sandwiches, soups, and salads to prime rib and seafood.

We need to know who's coming and how many for the museum tour and for the restaurant. PLEASE CALL MIKI at 209-463-2793 with that information or if you have any questions.



Directions to Oakland Aviation Museum from I80: take Hegenberger Road exit. From Hayward turn left onto Hegenberger and from Berkeley turn right onto Hegenberger. Turn right onto CA-61 (Doolittle Drive). Turn left onto Swan Way and then immediately turn right onto Earhart Road. Turn right onto Cooke Street and then immediately turn left onto Boeing St.

If you're coming to brunch only the directions to Pier 29: From I80 take the Broadway/Alameda exit. From Hayward turn left on Broadway, go under freeway and turn left into the Webster Street Tube. From San Francisco/Berkeley bear right onto CA-260/CA-61S and into the Webster Street Tube. From the tube continue straight ahead and turn right onto Central Aven. Turn left at Ballena

Bldv. Stay in right hand lane and veer right at the stop sign. Wind around and restaurant is on the left.

Call Miki or Craig on our cell phones if you have any questions or problems, 510-846-0383 or 209-484-8382.

DUES ARE DUE BY END OF YEAR - MAIL TODAY

NorCal VTCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please fill out the following renewal form and send it along with your check.
(The completed form is required so we have the correct info for our 2019 roster)

Send to: Miki Smith, 2053 Telegraph Ave., Stockton, CA 95204

Dues: \$25.00 if Wing by email (pdf in **COLOR**) _____

\$30.00 if by USPS (printed in B&W) _____

Make Check out to NORCAL-VTCA

Name: _____ Date: _____

Spouse: _____ Member #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

(Please include your email so we can contact you with club or tour updates)

Birds in your Roost: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

Signature: _____

Member number for VTCA : _____



VTCI Membership Renewal
Your VTCI Renewal is due by January 1, 2019



Name _____ VTCI Membership Number _____

List your VTCI Chapter Northern California VTCA

\$35.00

Payment Options:

Check: Place check and renewal form in envelope and mail to

VTCI Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 75308
Wichita, NS 67275-0308

E-Mail: (go to http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/club_info.htm & click on renewal button

Credit Card: VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on card: _____ Signature _____

Change of address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone _____ Email _____

List of Thunderbirds: Year: _____ Model _____ VIN _____

Year: _____ Model _____ VIN _____

VTCI Membership number is in the upper left corner of your Thunderbird Scoop Address label.

The Tale of Big Bird and Little Bird

– by Michael Amodt

Did you know that we have a club member who still owns a car that she bought brand new fifty-seven years ago? In October of 1961, Nell Richmond received an excited call from her friend at Broadway Ford in Oakland telling her they had a new arrival she was sure to like. Nell and her husband raced across the Bay Bridge to find a plastic-wrapped, Deep Sea Blue 1962 Thunderbird convertible fresh off the transport truck. The car was very nicely optioned and included power windows and seat, remote mirror and fender skirts. Its teal exterior beautifully complimented the turquoise (Nell's favorite color) interior and white convertible top. They bought it on the spot and happily bid farewell to their problem-plagued '59 Ford Retractable.

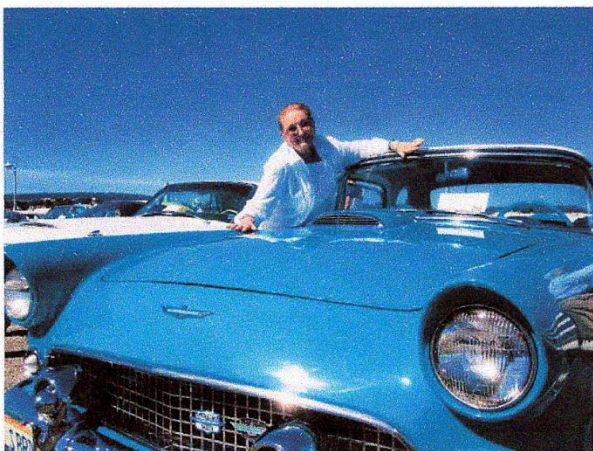
“Big Bird” would be her daily driver car for many years until being replaced by a series of Lincolns. After joining the Thunderbird Club in the late '70s, she and her husband, Gordon, spent hundreds of hours lovingly restoring the car. Nell told me that when they were working on the interior they realized it was five shades of turquoise. They carefully matched each shade perfectly! Their restored Thunderbird has since been a regular fixture at countless car shows and club events and has rarely failed to win an award.

It was some time later that Dr. Richmond surprised Nell with her ultimate dream car – a Peacock Blue and Colonial White, 1956 Thunderbird convertible.



“Big Bird”

“Little Bird” had sat, un-driven in a friend's garage for many years. Jay and I still laugh when we think about Nell's response when we overheard someone ask her if they had to do much to the '56 after they bought it. She replied no, that they just changed it over from a manual transmission to an automatic, added power steering, rebuilt the engine, replaced the interior and convertible top, had it painted and all the chrome refinished. Hardly a thing at all it seemed.



Nell with “Little Bird”

Both cars have brought great pleasure to Nell and her late husband, Gordon. She has long been recognized around her Pacific Heights neighborhood as the lady with the Thunderbirds. Big Bird and Little Bird are side by side, snug in her garage under their fitted covers and still come out occasionally for car shows and pleasure driving.

Do any of you wish to share the story of your first car or your favorite car? We'd love to hear from you!

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

Bob Steinhauer †	Chuck Schultz†
Craig Cuslidge (2)	Paul Simonds
Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
Bobbi Killion †	Doreen Gibbs
Dr. Gordon Richmond †	Barney Burke
Bob Combs	George Waters
Mike Press	LeRoy Siebert(2)†
John Espinola	John Byers
Peter Harmon †	

Lifetime Members

Bob † and Arlene Steinhauer #1
Joel † and Elsie † Schlotz #26
Dr. Gordon † & Nell Richmond #25
Craig Cuslidge #15



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



1957 Thunderbird with 1960's Shasta trailer

INSIDE

FLIGHT LOG 1 – TREE TRIMMING

FLIGHT LOG 2 – HOLIDAY PARTY

UPCOMING

JAN 20TH BOARD MEETING

FEB 9TH SWEETHEART LUNCH

OAKLAND AIR MUSEUM