



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 44, Issue 1

JAN/FEB 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



### TREE TRIMMING 2019

#### Current Events

Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Board/Planning Meeting

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Sweetheart Brunch in  
Alameda

#### What's Inside

President's Message	2
2020 Calendar of Events	3
Interstate Touring by Bill Kinsey	4
Flight Logs – 1 & 2	5
Renewal forms	6 and 7
Upcoming Tours	8 and 9
For Sale	10

## 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

**Garry Grainger**

**209-380-0136**

[gdgno1@aol.com](mailto:gdgno1@aol.com)

### Vice President

Craig Cuslidge

209-463-2793

### Secretary

Julie Kinsey

[juliekinsey@comcast.net](mailto:juliekinsey@comcast.net)

### Treasurer

Miki Smith

209-463-2793

[mikismith@outlook.com](mailto:mikismith@outlook.com)

### The Wing Editor

Russ Carr

408-568-3782

[oldcarr.rc@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarr.rc@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

Bill Kinsey

925-683-0278

[William\\_Kinsey@comcast.net](mailto:William_Kinsey@comcast.net)

### Board at Large

Vic Quarello

510-527-1402

[nspite@netzero.net](mailto:nspite@netzero.net)

Bill Kinsey

[William\\_Kinsey@comcast.net](mailto:William_Kinsey@comcast.net)

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

Our website is at

<http://norcal-vtca.org/>

## President's Message

Welcome Thunderbird enthusiasts to 2020.

I hope everyone had an amazing holiday season. I was lucky to spend it 20 family members.

My mom and I had our first white Christmas in 50 years! It really was great. So far the winter has not bothered us much, a few sub zero days. Not any great amounts of snow, approximately 5 inches in the yard at present. The cars are tucked away in my shop.

I would like to at this time urge all member who are not members of the International to please join this wonderful organization. The two main events that are planned for the upcoming year sound like they will be amazing. New Orleans for a regional in June and an international meet in Portland in August. I look forward to seeing some familiar faces at these events.

My relocating is also my first time at country living so to say. I'm 1 mile out of town, which has a population of 1,300 people. With this said I have a fairly long driveway from the road to my home and shop. The sunday after Christmas we has a freezing rain storm, in which it rains and freezes when hitting the ground. Now I pretty much ice skate to get my mail each day as my driveway is still one large sheet of ice!

So as I sign off for now in the spirit of my local high school,

Go, Thunderbirds, Go!!

Garry Grainger



## Note from the Editor

Russ = [oldcarr.rc@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarr.rc@gmail.com)

It's that time again ..... no not an early Christmas commercial but a reminder that it is time to renew your membership in the club. I would also like to again stress the need for you to include your email on the renewal application.

**SPECIAL OFFER** Make sure your email is on the renewal and I will include you on our emailing of the full color Wing even if you still want to pay the extra to get a black and white copy by regular mail.

Finally, thanks to Bill Kinsey for the article on touring in a Thunderbird.

You too can have your name in the Wing. Just write a short article, repair tip, or other interesting information and we will add it to an upcoming issue.

# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***Below is a schedule for 2020 year. Your will notice that the year is wide open.***

***\*\*\*WE NEED HELP!\*\*\****

***Many events this past year were poorly attended even though we had a wide range of locations and types of events. What and where do you want to see as events for 2020? Please let us know.***

***2020 IS WIDE OPEN SO SIGN UP TO HOST A TOUR AND WE WILL HELP YOU SET IT UP***

January 26<sup>th</sup> – Board/Planning Meeting – Original Joe's in San Jose.

February 15<sup>th</sup> – Sweetheart Brunch with Golden Gate Thunderbird – Pier 29 in Alameda

\*\*Club functions (Set in stone)

\*Tentative functions



Just sold at Christy's auction. One of three 1999 Thunderbird prototypes. Color combination of Black with red interior was never offered to the public. Car has 1 inch longer wheelbase and raked front window compared to production models. This is the only one in the public's hands.

Final price including buyer's premium

**\$103,400**

**UPDATE on this video:** . <https://youtu.be/QkNSDakadQE>

After jumping on the back of a baby bird then opening a door against another TBird and generally showing a lack of respect for the quality of our cars, the reporter, Alex Cardenas, was fired from his reporting job.

## “Interstate 5 calling”

Bill Kinsey

Greetings clubmates, I’m going to tell you something that you already know: running your Thunderbird at speed through wide open spaces for hours at a time is a great way to spend a sunny day in November. I enjoyed Veterans’ Day at the wheel of our beloved ’66 townie, El Jefe, cruising I-5 with a full tank of gas and without destination or deadline. Actually, I did have a destination and a deadline. Destination: Central California; Deadline: immediately.

I-5 is more of a route than a destination, but every time I use it to go someplace else I get curious about all of the places that I’m passing. Trips south or north for us tend to be focused on getting to a certain place by a certain time, so the idea of exiting to chase up a canyon road or taking State Route # to the cool burger joint outside of town is pretty much out of the question. Over the years, though, I’ve made a mental “One Of These Days” list of I-5 off-ramps that lead to various sites, canyons, ridges, towns, restaurants, etc. that I’d like to explore.

November 11 was the One Of These Days. I had the day off, the sun was shining and wanderlust was running high. Took I-5 south from 580 at Westley and ended up for the return trip at the Chevron station on Panoche Road (Firebaugh, thereabouts?). I was having such a good time running the car that I abandoned one of the side trips I had in mind and went for distance. It was a beautiful day, and doing 70mph on I-5 in a ’66 T-Bird is not to be taken lightly or done with too soon. One spot that I got to cross off the list is the vista point on the hilltop just south of Shields Road around Newman. Quite a view from up there. Also, the run from 580 back home through eastern Alameda and Contra Costa counties included the hills and canyons of Vasco and Marsh Creek roads, always a treat.

Raise your hand if you remember California before I-5 went border to border.  
See you down the road,  
Bill



## Flight Log #1 Tree Trimming By Russ

The Carr's drove 310 miles round trip for our annual tree trimming event at the California Auto Museum but only a few other members joined us for an evening of food and fun. We were able to secure a prime location for our Christmas tree that we decorated with ornaments that featured pictures of member cars.

After spending some time roaming around looking at the great displays of museum cars and contemplating some of the different cars for sale we found our table and got ready for dinner. Our table was located under some of the ceiling heaters so we didn't mind (too much). Even though we have to wait for our table to be drawn there was still a table load of food for Craig, Miki, Marilyn and Russ to enjoy. Then on to the raffles. We didn't score a lot of prizes this year but all had a lot of fun.

WHERE WERE YOU THIS YEAR FOR THIS FUN EVENT?

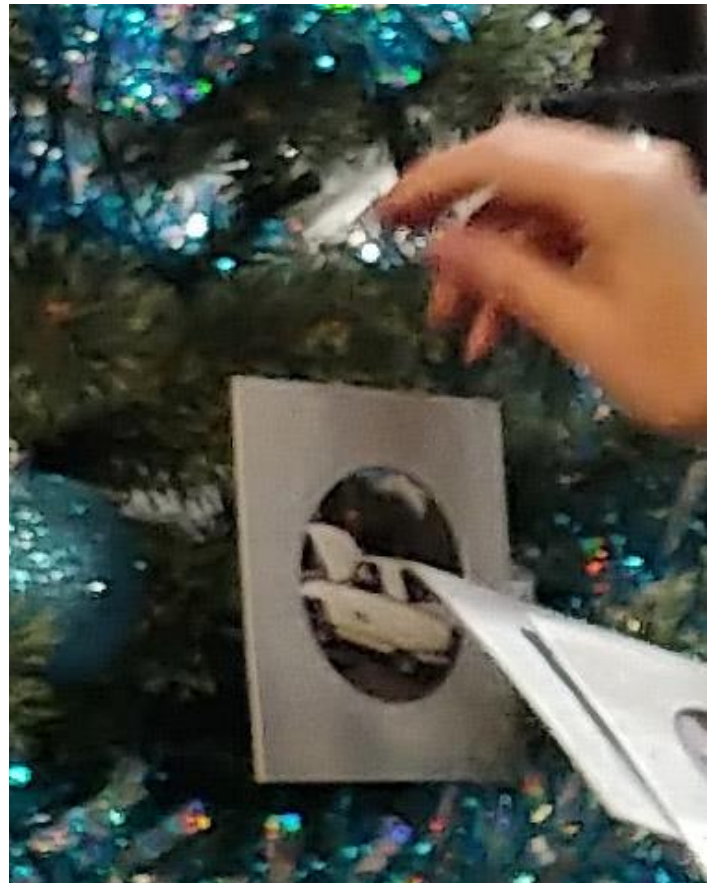


## Flight Log #2 Holiday Party By Russ

The NOR CAL VTCA Holiday Party was held at the Pasta Pelican in Alameda. The view here is great and we spent our time watching the different sail boats and yachts cruising by our window. We were able to order directly from their great menu so everyone got just what they wanted. We also had a gift exchange with great results. Vic brought some of his fantastic photo cards for everyone and everyone went home with more than one jar of jam.

This last event happened because we only had 6 people show up for our party. The attendees were Craig, Miki, Vic, Julie, and Russ..

Where are the rest of the TBirders?



# DUES ARE DUE BY END OF YEAR - MAIL TODAY

## 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 2020 roster)

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

Dues: \$25.00 if Wing by email (pfd 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: \_\_\_\_\_

***We will send you a Bonus digital copy even if you pay extra for the mailed paper copy.  
But only if you include your email address above.***

Birds in your Roost: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Member number for VTCL : \_\_\_\_\_



**VTCI Membership Renewal**  
Your VTCI Renewal is due by January 1, 2020

Name \_\_\_\_\_ VTCI Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

List your VTCI Chapter Northern California VTCA

**\$40.00**

**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](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.



***PLANNING/  
BOARD MEETING  
ORININAL JOE'S IN SAN JOSE  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020***

Our January meet is our annual planning and board meeting. Board members are requested to attend but all club members are welcome to attend and we hope you do. 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. All 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 and 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.

The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be off their regular menu. The restaurant is at 301 First Street in San Jose and has been in operation for over 50 years. The food is mostly Italian but burgers/sandwiches/salads are also available. There are no bad choices. It's all really really good.

**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!

**(ed: Original Joe's in San Jose has been serving Italian fare since 1937. It is not part of the Original Joe's in San Francisco or other Bay Area locations. The food is great. The location historic. It is a unique experience. My preference is the Liver, bacon and onions since I can't get liver at home. For the more adventuresome I might suggest the sweetbreads. But whatever you select you won't be disappointed.)**





## Sweetheart Brunch and (to be determined)

Alameda, CA  
February 15, 2020,  
11:30 A.M.



This will be a joint event with the  
Golden Gate Classic Thunderbird  
Club.

We'll be at Pier 29 Restaurant in Alameda, getting there about 11:30. 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 restaurant. PLEASE CALL MIKI at **209-463-2793** with that information or if you have any questions.

Directions to Pier 29: From I880 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 Blvd. Stay in right hand lane and veer right at the stop sign. Wind around and restaurant is on the left.

There will be an afternoon excursion still to be determined.

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

# FOR \$ALE

IF you have a car, parts, books or other Thunderbird items that you want to sell, trade or give away, then this is the place. Get your items to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and you will see it here.

For Sale: 1962 Thunderbird Sport Roadster. Owned by long time NorCal Vintage Thunderbird club member. In his words; *"It is fully documented as an authentic Roadster not a clone. It is Rangoon Red with a Black Leather interior. It has a Black convertible top that works perfectly. All the roadster items are factory original not reproductions. Only 1427 were produced and only about 100 are registered with the Roadster Club. Asking \$39.5 K or best offer"* Jim Parry Fresno [parry123@aol.com](mailto:parry123@aol.com)



For Sale: Three fantastic cars are still available from Bill Edwards and are now listed in Hemmings. So if you are interested you should consider making a call right away. Contact [davebaker1950@gmail.com](mailto:davebaker1950@gmail.com) for more info.



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> of January, March, May, July, September and November. Submissions must be received before the 20<sup>th</sup> 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



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

Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Ford thunderbird 1999

Another one of the concept Thunderbirds  
that Ford kept and is no longer around

**INSIDE**  
**FLIGHT LOG: TREE TRIMMING**  
**AND HOLIDAY PARTY**  
**UPCOMING**  
**JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> BOARD MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> SWEETHEART BRUNCH**