



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 40, Issue 2

Mar/Apr 2016

The ITALIEN



HAPPY EASTER

Current Events

- March 19th
Day at the Races/ Golden Gate Fields
- April 29 and 30th Tour to Winery and Grass Valley Car show
- May 14th – Migration/Concours

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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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open

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510-527-1402

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

Our website is at

<http://norcal-vtca.org/> and
the facebook location is
www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream

President's Message

Greetings!

It's been awhile since we last chatted by Newsletter! I trust that you are all well and that the start of the new year has been a good one!

We are still in the throes of getting events organized for the year. However, I will fill you in on the May event for the joint Migration and annual Concours event to be (hopefully) held in Concord at the Dave Bruebeck Park. We have formally applied for the date of May 14 to the City of Concord to reserve the park. Unfortunately, they do not grant use very far in advance but they do have our application. We expect no problems being approved.

The reason I'm mentioning this now is to hope you all place this on your calendar. Last year we had over 45 Tbirds attend and by all accounts it was a great success. This year will be much the same with a BBQ coordinated by Craig and Miki and hopefully more vendors as well as a few more surprises (and better organized, too!

Of course, there will be other events too and spring is almost upon us with a myriad of opportunities for us to get our rides out and about. We hope to see you at some of these events! I also forgot to mention that the Concours judging of your car is a great way to 1) check your Tbird for safety issues and 2) find out what "other" things might either be need to be done or worked on at the start of the showing and riding season.

By now some of you have been to the Sweetheart's Brunch and getting ready to attend the Day at the Races outings. Both have been perennial favorites.

We have also been contacted by National to gauge our interest in co-hosting a Regional Meet for next year. We have cautiously agreed to be open to the idea but no co-host has stepped forward yet. This would be a meet for the entire southwest region with a show and shine as well as optional concours judging for those interested. We will keep you posted as details or our decision to co-host proceeds.

Lastly, we need some new blood for our board. Several positions have ended or will be ending this year. I'm aware that no-one really enjoys to have to step up and contribute their opinion and time but without it we can't have an organization. Please give this some thought....

All the best and happy TBirding.....

Peter

Note from the Editor

Dues are past due!!!! Last call to be in the roster for 2016.

*****Make sure you note how you want to receive The Wing.** Please include your email even if you want snail mail delivery. Then we can contact you for breaking club or tour updates.

Still looking for more Car of the Month pictures and write ups.

I am also looking for any tech notes to add to coming issues.

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

Front Page Picture

Ford's answer to the Italian design craze of the 60's. Really a Dearborn design. See info later in issue.

Picture of the Month

John Lewis was watching some old Twilight TV episodes on Netflix and found his car, a white 1959 Thunderbird Convertible as one of the stars in Season 1 Episode 23, "A World of Difference". Howard Duff rode in the car in numerous scenes.



If you are good you can tell me the year and make of the car that is facing the TBird on the right.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 19th

**Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields.

April – 29 and 30th

**Tour to Winery and Grass Valley Car Show

May – 14th **Migration/Concours

Dave Bruebeck Park - Concord

June – **Pinole Car show

July – OPEN

*4th of July Cruise 'n Show Morgan Hill

August

**Horse and Feathers in Lodi

September

** TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz

*Taste of Morgan Hill on Sunday after Wharf

October – OPEN

November – OPEN

December

**Holiday Luncheon

The 2016 Calendar has numerous open months waiting for you to sign up to host a tour. Call Craig at 209-463-2793 and he will help you arrange a tour. The Wing editor will design and publish a flyer for the tour.

**Club functions

*Other items of interest

HANDOUT BUSINESS CARDS

Vic Quarello has designed and printed a very nice handout business card to give to potential members that you may run into at shows or other locations. Contact Vic at nspite@netzero.net or Russ at oldcarr.rc@gmail.com for cards to be delivered to you at future tours.

DUES ARE PAST DUE! FILL OUT AND 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 2016 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: _____

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

Birds in your Roost: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

Signature: _____

Member number for VTCL : _____

2016 Day at the Races

Coming up Saturday, March 19st



Limited seating – sign up NOW

Hey! We're doing it again. On Saturday March 19th we'll be enjoying the coming of spring and racing with fellow Northern California T'bird enthusiasts at Golden Gate Fields. There will be comfortable Turf Club seating with a grand view of the track, all we care to eat of their great buffet, brand X valet parking with special parking for the T'birds, an Official Racing Program, group welcome on the infield tote board, a group welcome printed in the racing program plus Winner's Circle privileges for 6 to 8 members of our group. We will also have our own personal host - assigned to take care of our comfort and help familiarize us with the track and betting if we wish. Everything is taken care of - all we need to do is have fun!

We'll meet at the track around 11:00am at the parking lot entrance, special parking will be reserved for those bringing their T'Birds. Cost for this outing is **\$40.00 per person (\$20.00 for kids under 18).**

Please sign-up using form provided before March 7, 2016

*******Hurry deadline is here! Call Mike if you are planning to attend.*******

Driving and meet instructions will be mailed or e-mailed to those attending.

*****Please make checks to Norcal-VTCA**

and mail to Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr, El Cerrito, CA 94530* 1-510-558-4037**

-----Clip Here -----

Name _____

Address _____, City _____, ZIP _____

Phone _____, E-mail _____

Number Adults Attending _____ X \$40.00 = _____

Number Children Attending _____ X \$20.00 (if over 12) = _____

Will you be bringing a T'Bird _____ **TOTAL** _____

GRASS VALLEY WEEKEND AND CAR SHOW

April 29 and 30

We're going to the Gold Country!! This will be a two day event, and we're hoping you can join us for all of it, but, if you can't manage both days, please join us for some of the fun. We'll be touring up on Friday and participate in the Grass Valley car show (IT'S FABULOUS!) on Saturday.



We'll be caravanning to Grass Valley on Friday morning from all our various directions and will meet in Auburn at the 76 Station on Hgwy 49 at Dry Creek Road and will leave for a tour to the Naggiar Vineyards for lunch and tasting at 12.00 p.m. We'll leave there at 2:30 and tour into Grass Valley for check in at our hotels.

We'll be staying at the historic (and haunted) Holbrook Hotel on Main Street in old town Grass Valley. The rooms are decorated with charm and vintage furniture and the restaurant and bar are not to be missed. Parking is in a lot behind the hotel and they have rooms for those who travel with their pets. An added plus is that the hotel is situated in the middle of the car show. We can walk out the front door of the hotel and be "at" the show.

Some of our members will be staying at the Courtyard Suites, a wonderful place just one block off Main Street (and from the car show). The Suites features free wine tasting every evening, the parking is outside your door and they also have rooms available for those who bring their four-footed friends. After we're settled we'll meet for dinner at the Holbrook at 6:30. The hospitality room will be the Mark Twain room at the Holbrook and will be open before and after dinner and Saturday afternoon.



On Saturday we'll line up in the parking lot of the Holbrook at 7 AM, pick up those at the Suites, and go to the show as a group. The car show is lined up down several streets in historic downtown Grass Valley. Put on by the Grass Valley Downtown Assn. with assistance by the Roman Angels car club, there are about 350 cars in the show. Sign up as early as possible by calling 530-272-8315 or e-mailing qvda2@sbcglobal.net. In addition to the show, there are blocks and blocks of stores, restaurants and historical sites to fill whatever hours aren't taken up by drooling over the great cars or the ever enjoyable basic tire-kicking. And if you just want to relax and hang out, come up to the hospitality suite. We'll have a balcony overlooking the show, so feel free to come on up, get a soda or some wine, and watch the show while lounging on the balcony. It's a great way to watch the awards given out. Meals on Saturday are on your own. Please let us know which events you're planning on attending so we can make arrangements by calling Miki Smith, (209) 463-2793 Home or (510) 846-0383 Cell or email us at VTCA@outlook.com. It's very important to get a count of people attending each event so we can prebook. Hope to see you there!

(ed: The last 4 years NorCal VTCA has taken home 2 Best of Show Awards (Vic and Bill Edwards) and a Best Ford and Best 60's (Marilyn's Convertible). So we need your cars to keep the streak going!)

Application for car show can be downloaded at [car show application](#) (just click on this link). If this doesn't work for you I can email you a pdf file with the application. Call Russ at 408-568-3782

Flight Log #1 Sweetheart/Blackhawk Lunch

By Russ with Pics by Russ

Again the sun was shining when we left from San Martin but by the time we got to San Jose the fog was so heavy that the streets were wet and the windshield wipers came on. So much for the night before cleaning and polishing. At least we know the wipers still work! But it did clear and turn out to be nice enough that the top went down for our ride home.

We all gathered outside the Blackhawk museum next to the statue of a mammoth that wasn't there the last time we visited the museum. The Blackhawk has changed hands in the past few years and now has a little different direction. The fantastic cars are still there but only about one half the number of previous years. They have added an OLD WEST museum on the second floor. This addition houses a huge collection of old west artifacts and a 100 foot long diorama of the old west. This old west display and a natural history museum in another wing will be a permanent addition to the museum. They will still have the cars but just fewer of them in the future.

We also found out more about the museum

sponsored "Cars and Coffee" event that is held the first Sunday of each month. This event is from 8 AM to 10AM, even though as typical with car guys and gals, many start showing up at 6 AM. The first 400 get coffee and free tickets to the museum. Last month they had over 800 cars. Any type or year of cars are welcome from brass era to modern supercars. So if you want to get up EARLY, then have some coffee, tour the museum, have a lunch and do a little shopping then plan on arriving around 7 AM.

After touring the museum and reviewing the different displays we all went over to the Prickly Pear restaurant for lunch. I think everyone had plenty to eat as the portions were quite large. I know I took home half of my burrito and Miki had quite a job to work on her taco salad.

Every one enjoyed the get together and we want to say a special thanks to Miki and Craig for making all of the arrangements and bringing the boxes of chocolates for all of the sweethearts at lunch (both male and female).

I have made the pictures larger than usual and they follow. (Sorry for those of you that don't get these in color.)

195 miles on Marilyn's TBird.

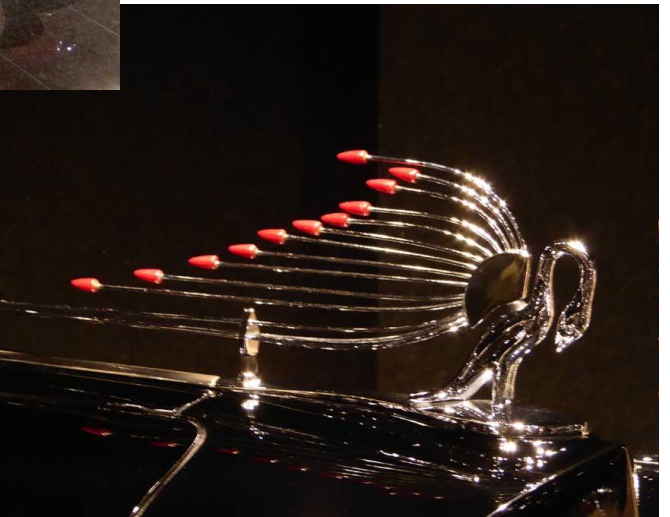
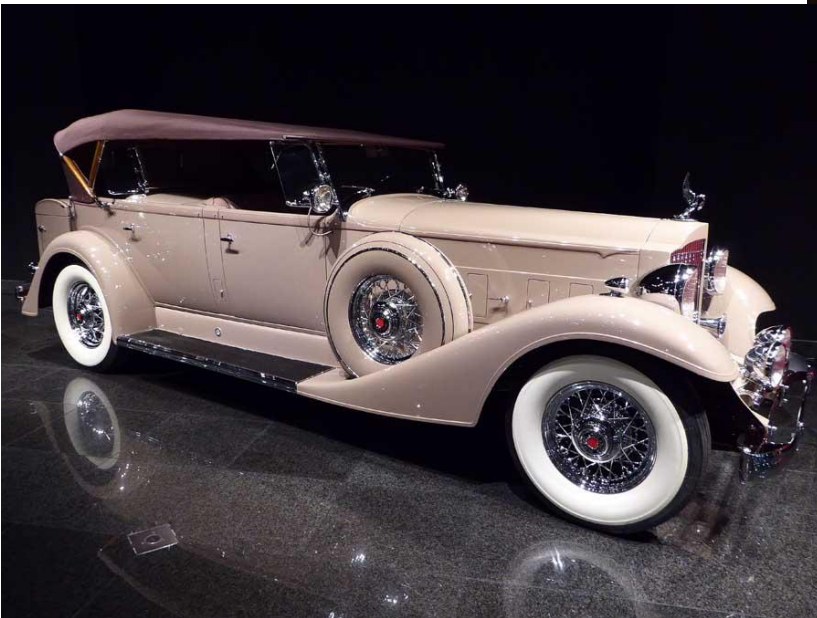


Lunch at Prickly Pear



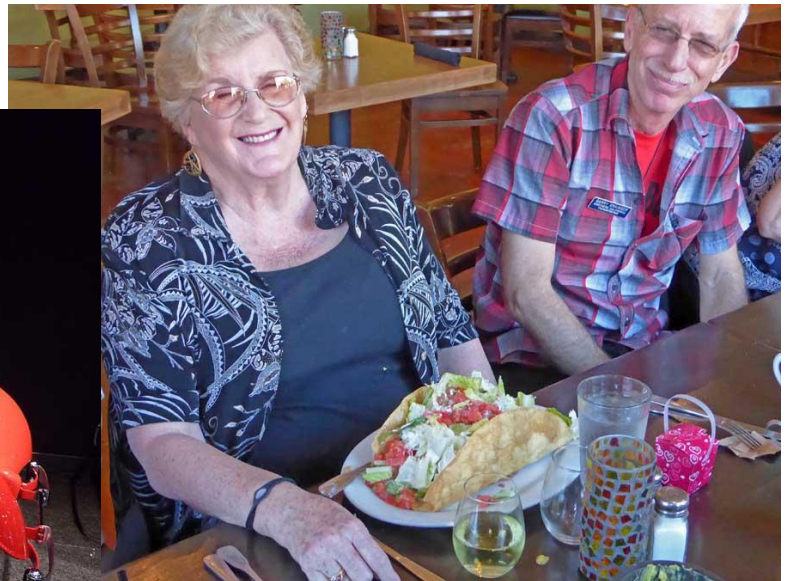
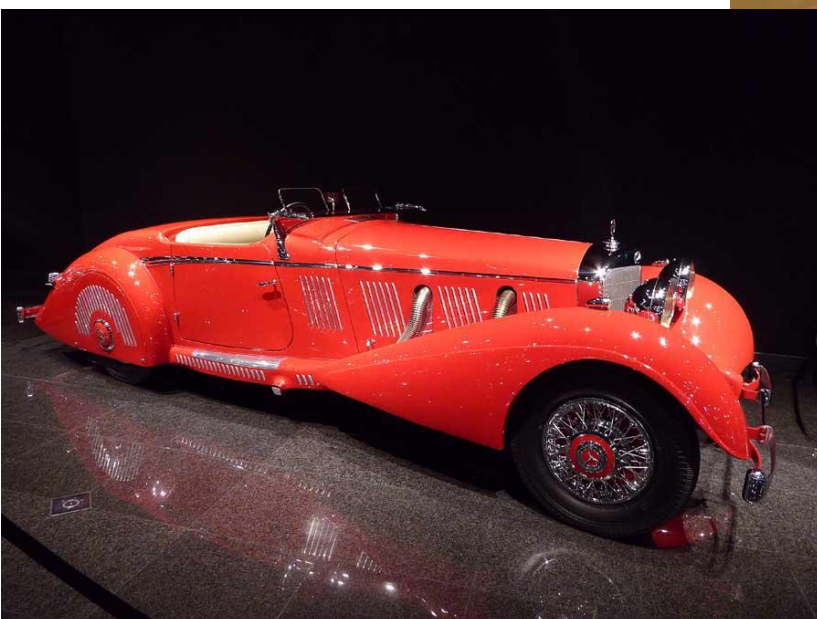
1954 Plymouth. It could have been a competitor to the Thunderbird!

Hood ornament...no! A 1938 Packard radio antenna.



A pink 1934 Packard

Miki's "little" taco salad!



A "small 30's Mercedes

Car of the Month

The 1963 ITALIEN

This isn't one of NorCal's Thunderbirds but many of us enjoyed looking at this car at the Blackhawk museum. In the 60's everyone in Detroit wanted to get in on the "Italian" design. Chrysler, Ford, American Motors and even GM flirted with designs from Italian studios like Ghia or Pininfarina. At one point Ford even bought Ghia. While Chrysler had a few limited edition cars designed and built by Italians, Ford decided to do it on their own.



Ford had produced some design concepts for a fastback Thunderbird before outsourcing the final design and build of this one-off fastback version.



Vince Gardener of Dearborn Steel Tubing designed and built the Italien for Ford. This candy apple red (popular hot rod color of the day) really started as a 1962 model (titled as a 1962) supplied by Ford. Its primary feature was the fiberglass top. The clay form for the top was supplied by Ford design studio and Gardener made a plaster cast to lay the fiberglass. Later in the build it received 1963 fenders and some trim. Under the hood it had the stock 390 with triple carburetors. Inside it had custom leather seats with most of the dash and surrounding parts stock 1963.

The Italien was a hit on the show circuit, so much so that model car maker AMT made a 1/25 model of it. After numerous photo

shoots, and car shows it made it's final appearance at the 1964 New York World's Fair. The car was scheduled for the scrap yard but actor Dale Roberston (Tales of Wells Fargo and Wagon Train) obtained the car. Reportly it was seen around the LA area as a daily driver in the 80's.



The car was restored in 2007 and last sold to Blackhawk in 2008 for \$660,000 (including buyers premium) at a Barrett-Jackson auction. Watch on youtube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWrwHnRrfr4> .

CLA\$\$IFIED

Cars and parts for sale, wanted, free, or other Thunderbird related items. Ads can be sent to Russ arr at oldcarr.rc@gmail.com (.doc, .docx or .jpg for pictures)

1960 Thunderbird Convertible 352 cu.in. plus 1960 T/B convertible parts car included.

*****See December Wing for pictures.*****

Nice restorable project

Floors show original factory red paint, no rust

Newly installed:

Rebuilt radiator, heater core. Etc

Water pump, hoses. thermostat

Rebuilt Carburetor

Rebuilt Power Steering systems, steering ram

New brake cylinders, brake lines

New power brake booster

New Gas tank, gas lines

New seats, front seats have factory styled foam rubber

Factor air conditioner included disassembled

Needs:

Engine turns but will not ignite, 6 cylinders have low compression

Two (2) cylinders have stronger compression

Electric windows, electric top & taillights

Note body work for front left fender (see wrinkles) Obvious paint & top.

Please check out car yourself or send your representative. Buyer to pay all shipping costs.

Car located in Santa Clara, CA Will have car for sale with other media. Many extra parts included

All for \$10,950 or Best offer

415-999-4333 – Russ

WANTED

WOULD LIKE TO RENT GARAGE SPACE IN THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY AREA, PREFERABLY MT. VIEW SOUTH TO SAN JOSE.

WILL NEED SPACE FOR ONE -THREE CARS.

PLEASE ADVISE WHAT YOU HAVE AVAILBLE

RUSS GENNA 408-245-2859 415-999-4333 – CELL Oleclassic@aol.com



More Blackhawk pictures.....Thanks Vic

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

Bob Mabe

1958-1966 Convertibles/Sunroofs
650-941-6534

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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Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
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Joel † and Elsie † Schlotz #26
Dr. Gordon † & Nell Richmond #25
Craig Cuslidge #15



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



4 door Thunderbird for 1967 with suicide rear door



INSIDE

DUES ARE DUE!



FLIGHT LOG – SWEETHEART LUNCH

THE ITALIEN THUNDERBIRD

UPCOMING

DAY AT THE RACES

WINERY/ GRASS VALLEY TOUR