



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 39, Issue 5

Sep/Oct 2015



### *Current Events*

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Santa Cruz  
Thunderbirds on the Wharf  
October 10<sup>th</sup> Alameda  
Car Show

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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.

### President

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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/norcalvt  
ca?ref=stream](http://www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream)

## President's Message

Time again for a message! Last month was our annual get-together for Horse and Feathers and it was a great day as always. I will mention one thing about our meets and stuff: you don't always have to bring your Tbird along. While it's great to get them out if you are like me and bringing a guest (my son) or not sure about what the temperature will be (hot for example with no a/c like mine) or if your 'Bird is in for repairs or out of commission, come anyway! Our meets are as much about friendship as anything. For example, my son wanted to come and also wanted to stretch the ride of his new Ford Fusion—so we had a great time of it. You all might want to give this some thought if driving some distance and you don't want to take the 'Bird. It's about more than our Thunderbirds!

We also had a board meeting during the raffle; however, we will probably schedule future board meetings at non-meet times and see if that works better. I know your schedule is as full as mine so this may be better—anyway, we'll try it. BTW, we talked about issuing some new cards for members to give out to perspective members or if they just see another Tbird. We anticipate solving this in the near future. One other item of interest that is just around the corner is our annual holiday brunch. Our goal is for a larger turnout if possible; to that end we are going subsidize the cost of the lunch so more can attend! Hope we see you!

As mentioned earlier in a President's Message, we are still going to combine our Migration and Concours Meet next year rather than separate them. The number of cars/owners requesting to have their cars evaluated is still small; therefore we will continue to combine the events until circumstances change. By all means, we're happy to judge your car—just be ready to find out what's missing!

We still have some great time to get the cars out. As typical, our summer is actually just starting (September and October). So whether you have air conditioning, rolling down the windows or a convertible, get them out of their nest and proudly drive them?

Until next month,

Peter Harmon President

## Note from the Editor

Sorry for the lateness of this issue but not only did we not find a printer near where we were staying in Colorado but also NO cell service! I have worked out a deal with our printer to correct this in the future but Verizon still does not cover everywhere despite what they say in their ads.

Also Bill Kinsey is still looking for photos of your car to add to our website. Send them to [tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com) . **Please note the new email address for Bill.**

**For the digital subscribers: The downtown photo in the last issue was taken about 5 years ago in Wells, NV. To our surprise the whole 4 blocks of the original street has now been razed!**

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

## Front Page Picture

Horse and Feathers 2015 with Pics by Vic.

## Video of the Month

Not a video this month but still computer oriented. Are you looking for used parts? Try going to [www.row52.com](http://www.row52.com). This website links Pic n Pull "junk yard" locations. Search for the model you want and maybe you will get lucky. Pictures are shown of the cars. A recent search for "1961-1963 Thunderbird" turned up 2 cars. One in Oakland and one in Merced. I have already pulled parts for the 1963 and 1975 Continentals. Prices for parts are relatively cheap but you do the work!

# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM to 3:00 PM**

**\*\* TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz**

Entry forms can be obtained at

<http://www.montereytbirds.com/2015.pdf>

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Alameda Car Show and lunch (entry form included)**

**November – OPEN**

**December**

**\*\*Holiday Luncheon**

**Any month in 2016 can use a tour!!**

The 2015 and 2016 Calendars have 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**

**Contest from Vic:** What is it used for?

First answer by email or phone call to Vic gets a 2016 Calendar delivered at the Holiday outing.



# Flight Log #1 Hits and Misses at Lick Observatory

By Miki Smith with Pics by Russ

We had a lovely day at the Lick Observatory. The weather was spectacular and we had views from San Jose to San Francisco. Amazing. Seven cars wound their way up the mountain. We had two retro birds, two modern iron, and three courageous members who brought their big vintage birds.



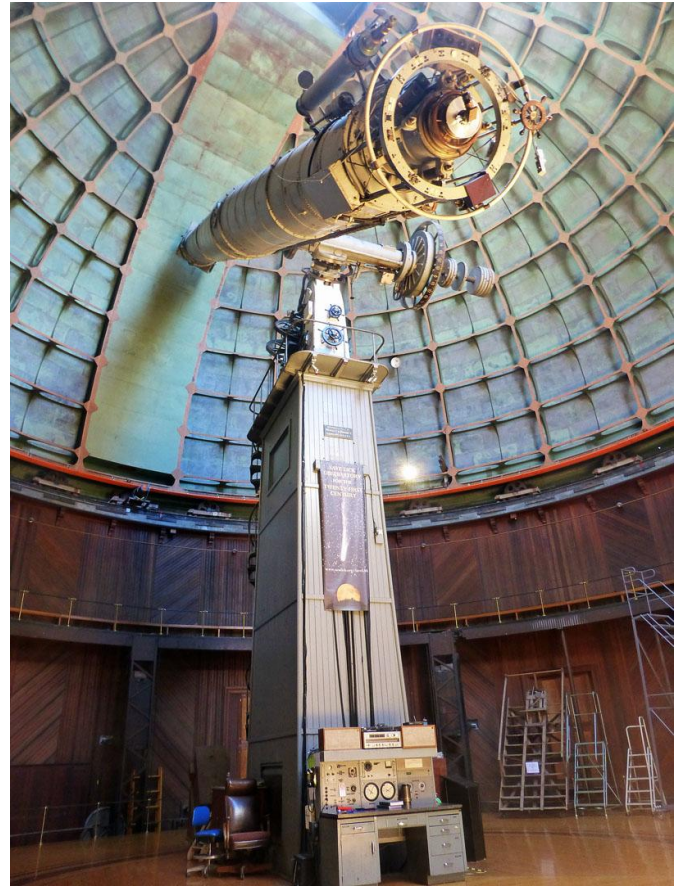
The big birds did just fine on the steep hill and looked beautiful driving the country road.



The observatory is an impressive building, built in the 1880s, with beautiful woodwork and detail. There were tons to see, between the videos, pictures and the museum, and the lecture in the refractor room was informative and interesting. We even got to see the ceiling move. It was a good outing.

Lunch was a little different. We found out the day before the meet that the Grand View

Restaurant would not be opened for lunch on Saturday.



We made a last minute change and decided to go down the back side of the mountain and have lunch at the Junction Café. Just as we were getting in our cars to leave the observatory, a shiny new red Corvette rolled into the parking lot with tar and gravel layered on every tire. He'd come up the back side of the mountain, which Cal Trans had apparently just finished refinishing. Drat! Foiled again! So we went back down the road we'd come up on and gathered at a Chevron station. Then there was a group of seniors whipping out their cell phones trying to find a restaurant nearby that wasn't McDonalds. It was a pretty funny scene. Russ Carr was the winner, finding a Chipotle nearby, and so off we went. The food was tasty, there was beer to accompany the meal, we had a table that accommodated all of us, so it was all OK. Best of all was sitting and talking to friends at the end of a good day.

## Flight Log #2 Horse and Feathers 2015

By Mike Press Pics by Vic and Bill Kinsey

This year's host was the River City Falcons who worked hard at the grille to provide all of the great barbecued burgers and dogs to go with the attendee's pot luck dishes. There was a pretty nice array of salads, condiments and deserts definitely insuring that no one went home hungry.



Turn out was a bit smaller than usual even though the weather was very cooperative with a nice mellow day. The cars filled the first row of the parking area and a good bit of the second row with cars from our club, the host club and guest Sacramento Mustangs.



There were some very nicely displayed Vintage and Retro Thunderbirds intermixed with the Falcons and Mustangs and just as much tire kicking and under hood looking as ever – you can't keep the car enthusiasts from doing a bit of comparison.

Raffle items filled the raffle table pretty full in spite of the slightly smaller turnout and with fully expressed enthusiasm when raffle items were won. The luckiest raffle winner for the day was our own Miki Smith with five items almost in a row followed closely

by Rita Press with four items at the same rapid pace.

Seems that one thing we can really do at these functions is eat and eat we did. The burgers and dogs couldn't get burned fast enough and there were even special orders that were gladly filled. Someone asked for a double cheese burger and even contemplated a triple with cheese on the bottom but no one could figure out how to cook it.

This year's entertainment was Craig Cuslidge's "String Ball" game where everyone competing tied a ball dangling from a string around their waist and tried to move a second ball over a goal. This resulted in a great display of clumsiness and fairly riotous laughter to some of the moves.



Craig also replaced the Horseshoes game with a "Hubcap Toss" resulting again in laughter accompanied by a few broken fingernails.

Perhaps the only negative of the day was that the smaller turnout didn't bring in quite enough raffle income to break even. A small income loss but compensated by a great day for everyone.

After we were full of barbecue, reacquainting with old friends and the car talk was over Norcal held their usual board meeting.

# ALAMEDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

**Saturday, October 10, 2015**



Come join us for the 22nd Annual Classic Car Show in Alameda on Saturday, October 10. This is a super fun event that we haven't done in a few years and that we want to do again! About 400 cars show up every year for this show, held on Park Street, Alameda's quaint and historic "main" street. Cars are parked on both sides of the street for about 8 blocks, and all through traffic is diverted.

This is a show and shine, and the only judging is people's choice. There's music, a few raffles, lots of fabulous cars, both restored and modified, including military vehicles, fire engines, some motorcycles, hotrods, classics, muscle cars, and even a giant motorized wagon.

The street is lined with restaurants, coffee shops, lots of diverse stores, and antique shops. There are hair and nail salons, should you wish to improve your own looks, and an excellent auto supply shop should you want something for your car.



You'll spend the day looking at cars, shopping, eating, meeting old and new friends, sitting in the sun, eating and shopping some more, and just having a good time. This is truly a wonderfully relaxing and fun end to the summer's seemingly endless stream of car



shows. And if all of this is not enough, there's also the High Scores Arcade Museum and Subpar Miniature golf for an extra thrill.

There's an application for this event in the wing or go to [shopparkstreet.com](http://shopparkstreet.com) to download one and read more about what goes on. The entry fee is \$25, but it comes with a free commemorative t-shirt and a goodie bag, so it's a bargain!

**(ed: Make sure you list "NorCal Vintage Thunderbird" as your club so we can be together)**



We will be getting together for a group lunch during the show. If you have any questions, or to let us know you want to join the group for lunch (have to have a final count by Friday, Oct 9 please), call Miki and Craig at 209-463-2793. Hope to see you all there!

# Park Street Business Association

Presents

Saturday, October 10, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Event is open to 1976 and older cars, trucks, and classics.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print All Info (If we can't read your application it will be returned)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CAR INFORMATION: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_

Ins. Co. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Event is open to 1976 and older cars, trucks, and classics. [Exceptions can be made. Please call Duane Watson (listed below) with questions.]

RETURN THIS FORM EARLY. Pre-registration and pre-payment does not guarantee event entry. All entries are subject to space availability.

All entries are subject to Park Street Business Association discretion. - No Exceptions!

\_\_\_\_\_ ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each Paid Entry Receives 1 Car Show T-Shirt. Please specify size: M \_ L \_ XL \_ XXL \_

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional t-shirts at \$12.00/shirt \$ Please specify add'l quantities: M L XL XXL

Shirts ordered without size designation or applications received after September 18, 2015, will be subject to stock on hand.

Total Amount of your Check or Money Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Event Will Take Place Rain or Shine - No Rain Refunds

Parking will be Assigned at the Discretion of the Park Street Business Association.

Club/Group

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Make check payable to PSBA - NO REFUNDS after Sept. 18 \*\***

Please mail or deliver your entry by 9/18/15 to: Park Street Business Association, 2447 Santa Clara Ave., # 302, Alameda, CA 94501

**MUST check-in by 9:15 a.m. on the day of the event.**

**After 9:15 a.m. your spot will be given away to someone on the wait list.**

**Stand-By Registration Wait List Will Be Taken at the Event Starting at 7:00 a.m. (first come, first served)**

For more information, call Robb Ratto at PSBA, 523-1392 or Duane Watson at Lee Auto Supply, 522-8811.

All registered vehicles must carry automobile insurance coverage with minimum limits of \$15,000/\$30,000 bodily injury and \$10,000 property damage. The Undersigned acknowledges and understands that no insurance is available for coverage to the Undersigned unless otherwise provided by private insurance obtained by the Undersigned.

Entry and Advertising release: In consideration of this entry, car owner and spouse/guest agree to permit the Park Street Business Association the use of their names and pictures, and pictures of the car for publicity, advertising and commercial purposes (including newspapers, magazines, radio, and television) before, during and after the event and do hereby relinquish any rights whatsoever to any photos taken in connection with the event, and give permission to publish or sell or otherwise dispose of said photographs to Park Street Business Association. All publicity and advertising rights reserved by Park Street Business Association.

Operation: Event management reserves the right to restrict entrants to acceptable behavior during any and all activities of Park Street Business Association. Open headers, unnecessary tire spins, or any other reason an entrant or his/her vehicle, their appearance or conduct are reasonably deemed objectionable by event management, entrant and his/her vehicle will be subject to eviction from the premises. This reservation includes persons, things, conduct, printed matter, or any act or item of poor character which the management reasonably considers objectionable to the event's well-being. In the case of any eviction or restriction, Park Street Business Association is not liable for refunding entry fees except at its own discretion. Radios, tape recorders, CD players, or televisions will not be played above volumes acceptable to event management. No roller blades, skateboards, or bicycles will be ridden in the car show area. Bicycle parking areas with attendants will be provided.

Liability: In consideration of the acceptance of the rights to participate entrants, participants, and spectators, by execution of this entry form, release and discharge Park Street Business Association, and the City of Alameda and their officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents, volunteers and servants, and anyone else connected with the management or presentation of Park Street Business Association of and from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgments, and/or claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by entrants to his/her person or property. Further, each entrant expressly agrees to indemnify all the foregoing entities, firms, persons, and bodies of and from any and all liability occasioned or resulting from the conduct of any participants assisting or cooperating with entrants and under director or control of entrants. Should any litigation result from this activity, the Park Street Business Association Classic Car Show, both parties agree that prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Entrants must be 18 years of age; if under 18, parent or legal guardian must sign. I have read, understand, and agree to all conditions of the Park Street Business Association application and to rules governing the event as set forth on this form and agree to observe all rules and decisions of the event management.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signature of Entrant Legal Guardian (If applicable)

Entries that are not signed will be returned.



Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club  
Invites All  
Classic ('55-'57) Vintage ('58-'66) & Retro ('02-'05)  
Thunderbirds  
To The 18th Annual  
Thunderbirds on the Santa Cruz Wharf  
Saturday, September 26, 2015  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Rain or Shine

Goody Bags, Dash Plaques, Raffle, Scavenger Hunt & Awards,  
Spectacular Ocean & Mountain Views  
Restaurants, Shopping on the Wharf & Santa Cruz Boardwalk

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Please complete and return to:  
MBCTC, PO Box 2721, Aptos, CA 95001-2721  
by September 19, 2015  
Entry fee: \$40.00 Rain or Shine  
Proceeds benefit Children's Hospice & Palliative Care Coalition.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Car Info: Year \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

\* SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Participants accept and assume full responsibility for any injury or loss to themselves or family or property and agree to release from any and all liability the Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club and/or the City of Santa Cruz, California

**Your cancelled check serves as registration confirmation.**

Rooms have been arranged by the Sacramento club at the Comfort Inn (\$121.00+) for the 25th.  
Note the address change! 110 Plymouth St, Santa Cruz, 855-239-9246



# Car of the Month

## Rita's Bird

Rita & Mike Press' 1963 Thunderbird

In 1986 Rita expressed a desire to own a '56 Lincoln Mk II and a search was begun. Finding MkIIs few and far between and parts almost non available it was decided to go for a 'Bird and with our little 'Bird being a bit on the uncomfortable side and since '63 was the year that Rita graduated high school that year was decided upon as the car of choice. In 1989 a black hardtop was found in Alameda being sold by the grandson of the original owner.

The car had sat outside for years and was sad with evidence of two incorrectly catalyzed polyurethane paint jobs and a hood and top that looked like they had been used for tap dance practice, there was rot in the front passenger floor and both sides of the trunk and it moaned when turning right. But the mileage was in the low 50Ks and the car ran well enough to drive home. The price was right and so it was brought home and christened "Big Bird".



Mike spent a lot of hours sanding and stripping the old paint (which acted more like rubber). A compression check revealed that the cylinders were becoming oval (common in early FE block engines) but a check of the transmission indicated that it was not rebuilt and almost pristine, thus verifying the mileage.

After rebuilding the power steering control box an entire new front end was installed, this made the sagging with age rear springs look even worse. So, now the rear springs were replaced. The car now drove quite well but smoked a bit. The car was driven as it was further worked on until 1993 when it was ready for final body work and painting.



After removing the entire interior "Big Bird" was turned over to George Fichtner of Auto Perfectionists in Fairfield, CA. The car was plastic media blasted down to the original pickle coat and prepped for paint. Rita selected Rose Beige metallic as her color choice, it was a correct for '63 color and it was the color of a '63 Mercury that had been owned by her late aunt and she had always loved the car. The car was still owned by Rita's uncle and a bolt was removed from inside the trunk for color matching.

George custom matched the color in modern two stage acrylic mixing a bit of "Chrystalline Frost" (fine mica) into the paint for more reflectance and color "flop". While George painted Marty Mizzi of Mizzi Automotive in Fairfield took care of the engine, boring it with torque plates installed to true the bore and doing a full rebuild. At this point a full, correct chrome dress kit was added to the engine.

While the car was in for paint Mike and Rich

Looper took on the seats. The original black was kept for the interior color but the seats were treated to new covers and custom cut foam to improve lateral and lumbar support.

Finally with completion of paint and full interior restoration a set of repro wire wheels was added and it all came together; the car was ready for its first concours – the annual Norcal-VTCA concours in Sacramento. Results of that show were First in Class and tied for Best of Show with 298 points out of 300. Subsequently the car was driven to and shown in numerous concours and shows trophying regularly.

The major drawback to keeping a car in concours condition is that it doesn't drive and stop as well as modern iron. With the car never trailered safety was a concern; it was modified mechanically with dual master cylinder disc brakes and heavy duty sway bars by Dave Adams of Adams Auto Classics in Martinez, CA. These mods make the car as drivable and stoppable as many modern cars and with the 'Birds suspension just as comfortable. Other minor improvements have been made since

then - most unseen.

Today when on the highway there is no problem staying with or stopping with the traffic and the car gets numerous thumbs up and smiles from admirers – the best trophies one could expect from a 22 year old restoration.



## CLAS\$IFIED

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

**FOR SALE**  
**1966 THUNDERBIRD DOOR PANEL**  
**PASSENGER SIDE (1) ONLY.**  
**MUST USE YOUR OWN**  
**DOOR TRIM.**  
**STILL IN SHIPPING BOX.**  
**\$225.00 (1 only) or Best Offer**  
**dealer price \$570.00 pair**

**CALL: Russ @ 415-999-4333**

# 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.*

### John Byers

1958 – 1960 Concours/Restoration  
408-265-6833

### Jack Callison

1958-1966 Mechanical  
408-262-7472 after 6:00 p.m.

### Craig Cuslidge

1958-1966 Concours Detail  
1960 sunroofs  
1965 General/Restorations  
209-463-2793

### Bill Edwards

1958-1966 General/Mechanical/Convertibles  
510-223-2365

### Kurt Larcher

1958-1966 General/Mechanical/Convertibles  
650-571-5065

### Bob Mabe

1958-1966 Convertibles/Sunroofs  
650-941-6534

### Mike Press

1958-1966 Concours Details/Parts/Services  
1961-1963 General/Restoration  
510-558-4037

## 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
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Dr. Gordon Richmond †	Barney Burke
Bob Combs	George Waters
Mike Press	LeRoy Siebert(2)
John Espinola	John Byers

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Dr. Gordon † & Nell Richmond #25  
Craig Cuslidge #15



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**Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club**



By 1975 our Thunderbird became the “bigger bird”.

225” long by 80” wide



**INSIDE**

**FLIGHT LOG – LICK OBSERVATORY**

**AND HORSE AND FEATHERS**

**CAR OF THE MONTH**

**UPCOMING**

**TBIRDS ON THE WHARF SANTA CRUZ**

**ALAMEDA CAR SHOW**