

The Wing

Official Journal of the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 38, Issue 6

Nov/Dec 2014



Current Events
Holiday Dinner
Sunday December 14th 12 noon

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President's Message	2
Flight Logs	4 thru 7
Membership Renewal and ballot	9
Holiday Dinner info	12

#### **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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#### **Board at Large**

Mike Aceituno 916-863-6146 maceituno@comcast.net

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

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

Our website is at <a href="http://norcal-vtca.org/">http://norcal-vtca.org/</a> and the facebook location is <a href="http://www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream">www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream</a>

#### President's Message

Happy Fall to you all and welcome back to standard time!! With the holidays right around the corner that means that 2014 is heading into the home stretch... see, I even got a baseball reference in there (Great job, SF Giants!!). That means two things for our club—the annual holiday brunch coming up early next month and election of officers for the next two years.

A last minute family obligation kept me away from the Santa Cruz Bird's on the Wharf meet but I hope that many of you were able to attend. This is the first time I've missed it in many years and it was always one of my favorite events. I look forward to hearing the details from those of you that attended.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a report of October's outing to Sturgeon's Mill in Petaluma. For the few of us that attended the outing it was terrific—the weather Tbird perfect and the smell of redwood trees and barbeque perfect. The historic mill was fascinating—especially seeing it in operation and talking to one of the originally family members that owned the mill.

Coming up next month is our annual holiday brunch. This year we will be returning to The Dead Fish in Crockett overlooking the Carquinez Straights on December 14th. This brunch has been a long-standing holiday tradition and is always a well-attended event. As always there will be a fun gift exchange. There will be further information elsewhere in this issue.

Also in this issue you will find a ballot for club officers to serve for 2015-2016. As we have had no interest from the members in running or joining the board, the current slate of officers has agreed to continue for another term with Vic Quarello generously offering to serve as "board member at large". However, this is no way to run a club... too few members doing all the work. I urge you all to consider stepping up and serving in some Capacity from hosting a meet to sitting on the board. We all enjoy the events, get-togethers, and showing our lovely Birds but it doesn't happen in a Vacuum—someone has to organize it and keep it running (just like our Cars).

I hope to see you all at our brunch next month! Until then, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving...

Peter Harmon

President

#### **Note from the Editor**

Dues are due! Make sure you note how you want to receive The Wing. Renewal form found later in this issue. If you pay for regular mail delivery I can also send an electronic copy.

The voting form for club officers is on the same page so make sure you send in both parts.

Starting next year I would like to do a "Member Highlight" each month and feature a member and their cars. Any volunteers for January! I will need a picture of you and your car and a short write up. Or I can call you and get the info and do the write up for you. I would like to get the pictures in the .jpg format.

Marilyn and I would also like to extend our thoughts and condolences to the families of both of our members noted next to this. I'm sure the rest of our members also extend their thoughts to you.

Russ = <u>oldcarr.rc@gmail.com</u>

#### Front Page Picture

Sturgeon's Sawmill on our Petaluma Tour. A beautiful setting and a great day. Sorry so many of you missed this tour and both locations.

# 2014 GALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday December 14th Holiday Party (see inside for details)

The 2015 Calendar is wide open 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.

#### **NOTE FROM MIKE PRESS:**

Just heard of the passing of Shirley Querring, member #86. As she was 88 years old and living in Sun City (near Palm Springs) I'm not sure she's still on the active list. However, I think that the older members that knew her might like to learn of her passing from the Wing. Shirley and her husband Wally were quite active with their '64 and well known in the club until his passing some years ago. Shirley died during surgery in October.

#### Email from Vic Quarello:

I'm sorry there will be no more pics by Vic for awhile. I'm taking a break. My wife Corita passed away Saturday am Sept. 20th. I like to go to car shows and NORCAL outings and take lots of photos. Corita was not into car shows at all, only if we would drive my 64. She only was able to ride to one car show, the Grass Valley show. I started restoration of the 64 July 2000. Corita found out she had cancer 2 months later. Almost pulled the plug on the restoration, but Corita insisted that we continue so someday we could ride in the 64 again. The work on the 64 took much longer than planned. Even though Corita was not into cars she enjoyed the NORCAL's annual Christmas lunch, the sweetheart lunch and one time at the Albany race track. My main interest is in car shows, not the social part of NORCAL. Because of Corita we started to do both. I told Corita how much I enjoyed the saw mill, and wanted to go back. We were planning to go on the NORCAL outing on Oct.11th. Life goes on, and I must go on as well. If you don't see me around for awhile, please understand I just need a break.

When I signed the contract 'For better and for worse" I never thought the worse would be this bad. It will get better. Time will help.



# Flight Log #1 TBirds on the Wharf

By Russ Carr

We missed this event this year due to a 55 year Class Reunion. So I don't have a report or pictures.

# Flight Log #2 Treasure Island

By Ray Fairfield of Valle del Sur AACA in Morgan Hill

This was a joint tour to the Petaluma area with the NorCal Vintage Thunderbird Club and the Valle del Sur region of AACA.

Joining us from the T-bird club at the Best Western Inn in Rohnert Park was a very nice lady named Karen Crabtree, from Pine Grove. The other T-bird club members met us on Saturday at the Sturgeon's Mill.

Dinner was at the Redwood Café in Cotati. A nice little local joint with great décor and ambiance, and food to match. We've been all around the area before, but had never actually driven through Cotati, or, for that matter, most of the places we drove through on this tour.

So, after breakfast Saturday morning, provided by the motel, we took a short drive to a steam-driven sawmill that was in full operation. You've gotta experience this place to fully appreciate what they've got here.

First of all, it's located in a tight little redwood grove, situated in a narrow valley, with a creek running down through it. A delightful spot. The sun was shining through the trees, and the sounds of machinery echoed through the clearing. The steam sawmill was running, as was an old diesel engine running a planer (through a belt drive, of course). The diesel was blowing smoke rings 40 feet in the air. It was a 1916 Fairbanks Morse 2-stroke diesel, which used a blowtorch to get running. It ran as smooth as silk. The place runs on steam. A boiler feeds all the steam engines (there are 4 or 5 running different pieces of equipment), and everything is run by belts from the engines. Steam is provided by a modern boiler, but the old derelict boiler can still be seen residing under the mill. The boiler runs on diesel fuel, burning about \$700 a day.



Check out the picture above. The mill guy has his foot on the feeder carriage, on which the logs are fed to the saw(s). Notice the double blades, one from above, and one from below. The lower blade is a 5 footer; the upper blade a 4 footer. They are slightly offset, so when cutting huge logs, only a very thin strip of uncut log is left. After passing through the double blades, a worker drives a wedge in the kerf to break the offcut free.

After the slabs are cut, they are moved over to the gang saw, which is a steam-driven saw with 4 blades. Each saw blade can be moved with a long lever at the front of the machine, to set the widths of each plank to be cut. 3 planks can be cut at the same time. And if any of you are looking for a huge redwood slab, this is the place to get it. They sell their slabs, in whatever thickness you want, for about \$3 per board foot, which is very reasonable. You want a 3 foot wide, 3" thick, 12 foot long slab for a dining table? No problem. Bring a big truck.

There is no admission charged here. They run on donations, and volunteers. Lots of 'em. I think I heard that they had 60 volunteers. And the enthusiasm, warmth, and friendship (and knowledge) they exude are just remarkable. They open the mill to the public four weekends a year. For 2015, the dates of operation will be:

May 16-17, June 20-21, Sept 19-20, Oct 10-11.

We had lunch at the mill, served by a local restaurant, at very reasonable prices. During lunch, they had a demonstration of a team of Belgian Shires (draft horses) dragging a log through the forest, showing how the logs were hauled to the mill, in the old days. The logger stopped for 15 minutes and spoke to the crowd,

explaining how it all used to work. Then they had a demonstration of a guy climbing a redwood tree. He went up about 60 feet in maybe a minute or two, but came down significantly faster. During this time, Bob Sturgeon gave a talk about the history of the mill, the volunteer effort to restore it, and introduced the board of directors of the place, officially named the Sturgeon's Mill Restoration Project. It's non-profit, obviously.

One of the docents was a nice old lady, maybe 80 years old or so, who had worked in the office there at the mill when she was a teenager. She gave a very nice talk as well. There's also a banjo player walking around the place entertaining the visitors. Oh yes, there were old cars and trucks too. A Model T Pickup, a 1949 Chevy Pickup, a 1922 Dorris, and a 1912 Autocar. All running, of course. And working.

I almost forgot. They have the original office building, built over the creek to save space. And the original blacksmith shop too, which by the way, was operating with guys giving talks and demonstrating blacksmithing.

Average attendance per weekend in 2013 was 1100 people. And they give you a docent who leads you in an hour-long tour, filled with all the details you'd want to know. And you get to get up close and personal with the machinery. When they shut down the saws, the operators will let you walk right down onto the sawing deck and explain how everything works. And you're not that far away when they fire it back up. Very nice. I keep thinking that OSHA would have a field day here, if this were a business place with employees. Well, I assume OSHA isn't involved here. But I don't really know. Anyway, if you think OSHA is a small town in Wisconsin, you're sadly mistaken.

On the way to the mill, we passed one street where the neighbors had engaged in some clever yard art. Hard to tell if this was a friendly contest between neighbors, or if neighbors were simply allowing their yards to display the art of one guy. I'm leaning toward the latter, but no matter. Pretty clever stuff.

And then, in keeping with our tradition, we hunted down an ice cream shop (Screamin' Mimi's) where we proceeded to (as our parents used to say) "ruin our dinner". But we didn't. Ruin our dinner, that is. Dinner Saturday night was at GTOs in Sebastopol, another great spot. Check out the sign in the men's room. Apparently loose women are categorized similarly to pickpockets.



And now, some pictures of the sawmill tour....



The sawmill. Isn't that a pretty location.



The 1912 Autocar

Sunday morning we left the hotel at 9:30 AM for another short ride to the town of Penngrove. Located here is the private Penngrove Power and Implement Museum. This location has some of the largest engines, compressors and other "implements" you can imagine. Then you can add small hit-and-miss engines, outboard motors, tractors, farm vehicles, steam engines and more "stuff" than you can review in a couple of weeks. We were met by the owners Steve and Nancy Phillips. It's their collection. And it's quite impressive. They gave us a very detailed private tour, which we all thoroughly enjoyed, including the ladies.

Steve Phillips not only finds and rescues this equipment, but he also restores it. He figures out how the stuff works, researches it, and makes 'em like new. He pours and bores his own babbit bearings, and machines the parts he can't replace. It's a labor of love, and it shows.

Upstairs in the barn was a Model T depot hack, and what looked to be a homebuilt camping trailer built on a Dodge axle. About 1924, I think. They also had a WWII vehicle called a Mule. Smaller than a jeep, the driver sits out in front of the front axle. Fun stuff. But Nancy had her sewing machine collection up there, as well as many other interesting antiques. Victrolas, an old monster box camera, an airplane hanging from the rafters, etc.

They have a railroad built around their 5 acres, which they run during their power-up weekends (which, by the way, is the second weekend in July every year – put it on your calendar). They have an old steam tractor, just restored and running (but, unfortunately, not for us) and a monster 6-

cylinder diesel engine that was reclaimed from an old mine. It's about 16 feet long. Can't remember the horsepower. On power-up weekends, they fire up this engine using compressed air, provided by the compressor (with the 12 foot flywheel that used to be a refrigeration compressor) that is powered by a stationary engine and a drive belt. Somehow I didn't get a picture of this stuff. The place is so overwhelming you can't take it all in.

And the guy actually has a player piano in the shop too. It turns out that it's a rather rare piece, a reproducing player piano. The rolls are coded to play not only each note, but the loudness, the artist's expression, of each note. Very sophisticated engineering for 1920.

Not on the property during our visit, Mr. Phillips also has a Pratt and Whitney 28 cylinder R-4360 aircraft engine, which was originally one of the engines on the Spruce Goose. Phillips has the history of this engine, and provided same to us. He fires up this engine on power-up weekends too.

We left the museum and headed downtown into Penngrove to grab a pizza before returning home, but, alas, the pizza shop was closed. So we drifted down the street to a burger joint purported to have the best burgers in the county. We tested 'em and agreed. They also had purty good milk shakes. I know that because Russ told me so.

After that, we all piled in the vehicles and headed home.

More pictures from Penngrove.



Several very nice tractors preceded this engine in the back of the shop. All restored and running. Check out the railroad inspection cart.



Some real nice machinery here



All the equipment runs on line shafts and belts.



This machine is something special. It makes flat woven ribbons, or woven string, or woven insulation for wire looms. Phillips said there used to be a factory up by Santa Rosa that had a thousand of these machines running. When they closed down, he bought four of 'em. The rest of 'em went back east. The only other machine like this I ever saw was down at Nethercutt's Tower of Beauty in Sylmar. Truly amazing. Notice it's running from the line shaft.



Kathy in front of Phillips' outboard motor and steam gauge collection.



Marilyn checking out the sewing machines.



Al checking out the depot hack.



The recently restored steam tractor. Steering by Arm-strong.

(Editor: Plan on the second weekend of July if you want to see all of this stuff running on their "Power-up Weekend)

Email from Mike Press from Hemmings' Car Club

listing: Name: Mark City: Newark

State: Ca, United States Phone: 510-467-2377

Email From: Nevesmark@hotmail.com

MESSAGE:

I have an extensive collection of 1966 Thunderbird trim pieces/parts. I'm trying to find interested buyers and thought where better than a car club. If you know anyone interested in taking a look, I'd love to hear from them. My number is 510-467-2377. Thank you Mark

Do you know about the new gas tax going into effect on January 1st?

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) will extend the states cap and trade program to include gasoline and diesel fuels on January 1, 2015. This should increase the tax on gasoline by \$0.16 to \$0.76 over the next few years.

The state claims that this tax is on the gas producers but everyone doubts that they will just eat this tax. They expect the cost to be passed to the users....us.

The funds raised by this tax will go into the "Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund" and can be spent at the politicians discretion. More information on this can be found at <a href="https://www.californiadriversalliance.org">www.californiadriversalliance.org</a>.

I don't know how much this will affect the gas prices but I'm going to make sure my cars are full on 12-31-2014

### Video of the Month

# Be careful where you park your TBird at the next car show!

Central Beheer, an insurance company in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, has received numerous awards for its commercials.

https://www.youtube.com/v/IQfZY5rvXX0&rel=0&hl=en_U S&feature=player_embedded&version=3



#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please fill out the following renewal form and survey and send it along with your check. Send to: Miki Smith, 2053 Telegraph Ave., Stockton, CA 95204

Name: ______ Date: _____

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

Spouse:		Member #:
Address:		
City:	_ State:	Zip:
Phone:	_ Cell:	
Email:		
Birds in your Roost: Year	Model	
Year	Model	
Signature:		
Member number for VTCI :		
Vote for NorCal VTC	A Officers for 2 lice President: Craig Cusli	
Vote for NorCal VTCA President: V Peter Harmon	ice President:	dge
Vote for NorCal VTCA President: V Peter Harmon Secretary: T	ice President: Craig Cuslide reasurer: Miki Smith	dge 

#### Email flyer from VTCI:



# **NOW CASTING!!!**

Discovery's hit show Lords of the Car Hoards is now casting for season 2!

Are you an extreme car collector? Has your car collection gotten a little out of control?

Are you sitting on a heap of cars that are gathering dust, rust, and is
getting rid of them simply a must?

Do your friends, family, or neighbors think you have way too many vehicles?

Do you have one car in particular that you consider to be your prized possession?

Does that vehicle have an interesting story/history behind it?

Would you consider selling off your collection to pay for a full restoration of that one prized possession...done by vintage car guru Rick Dore and former WWE wrestler Chuck Palumbo?

If this sounds like you or someone you know, then we would like to hear from you.

We are seeking car collectors in Southern California, Las Vegas, and Phoenix...who have over 20 cars in their collection, and may be ready to get rid of some or all of them.

Email us TODAY: Carhoardscasting@gmail.com

Please include your Name, Contact Info, Location, Number of Cars, and Pics.

A member of our casting team will respond promptly.

Thanks, and we hope to hear from you!!!





DISCOVERY CHANNEL



# New Membership Application Form International Fill out this form online print and send with your check or money order to the address below.

#### Prorated dues schedule *

<u>Month</u>	US and Canada	All Other Countries
January/February	\$35.00	\$55.00
March/April	\$30.00	\$50.00
May / June	\$25.00	\$40.00
July / August	\$20.00	\$35.00
September / October	\$50.00 includes next year	\$85.00 includes next year
November / December	\$45.00 includes next year	\$75.00 includes next year
NAME:		
SPOUSE'S NAME:		
CHANGES IN MAILING ADDRESS:		
CITY – STATE /PROVINCE – ZIP:		
COUNTRY:	PHONE:	VTCI #
E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
LIST NAME/ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES	NO	
PLEASE LIST ANY CHANGES IN THUNDERB	IRDS YOU OWN:	
YEAR:	MODEL:	
Local club if any:		
Do you belong to any other National Thur	nderbird Club? Yes No	
USA, CANADA	OVERSEAS (AIR MAIL)	
Canadian and overseas payment must be	in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. ban	k
Payment enclosed. Please make chec	k payable to: Vintage Thunderbird	d Club International
Please fill out and mail check made out to	VTCI:	
Vintage Thunderbird Club International, In	nc. C/O Beverly Wake	
P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275		
*Annual dues include a subscription to "T	hunderbird Scoop" magazine, val	ued at \$20.00/year
(Subscription not available without memb	pership)	







### Sunday, December 14th 11:30 AM Social Hour 12:30ish Luncheon Service at the



### Overlooking the Carquinez Straits in Crockett

We'll be having our traditional gift exchange



# BRING GIFTS Wrapped in green for guys, red for gals

Clip &	& Mail	
Name	Number Attending	
Phone ()	X\$45.00	
	Total	
Luncheon includes , salad, entrée, coffee Entrée Selections (Menu on reverse side)	, tea or soft drink and desert ). Please mark number of each selection.	
Dungeness Crab Legs, Boneless Sh	hort Ribs of Beef, Salmon, Lasagna	

#### Please respond before December 9th.

Make checks payable to Norcal-VTCA & mail to: Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530 **For info:** (510) 558-4037 or mjprgp@infionline.net

### **Norcal –VTCA Christmas party**

#### **NONNA'S SPECIAL BANQUET**

SALAD

Choice of Entrée:

#### **DUNGENESS CRAB LEGS**

roasted in our secret garlic sauce

#### **BONELESS BEEF SHORT RIBS**

Slow roasted English short ribs

#### SALMON

in a lemon butter caper sauce

#### CRAB LASAGNA

in a white sauce

#### **DESSERT**

Tiramisu

coffee, tea and soft drinks

#### **DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS**

#### From San Francisco

Take I-80 East (Bay Bridge) toward Sacramento

Take San Pablo/Pomona Exit just before the Carquinez Bridge

#### From Sacramento

Take I-80 West toward Oakland/Berkeley

At the West end of the Carquinez Bridge take the San Pablo/Pomona Exit

The Dead Fish Restaurant will on your right at 20050 San Pablo Ave., Crockett



### December 2013 to November 2014 A Look Back



#### **Need Help and Information?**

#### **Our Technical Advisors**

#### 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 510-799-0556order.

#### **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 <u>The Wing</u> 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 <u>The Wing</u> Editor. See advertising pages for rates.

#### **Publication Deadline**

<u>The Wing</u> 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 Paul Simonds Craig Cuslidge (2) Mike McSherry Jim Parry Bobbi Killion † Doreen Gibbs Dr. Gordon Richmond † Barney Burke George Waters **Bob Combs** LeRoy Siebert (2) Mike Press John Espinola John Byers

#### Lifetime Members

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



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Phone: 408-568-3782 Email: oldcarr.rc@gmail.net

Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Could this be the new 2015 Thunderbird????



