



# The Wing

Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 45 Issue 5

November 2021

## Thundering into Autumn



Kyndall McCoy's '66 Town Landau

### *Current Events*

See calendar for full  
year of events

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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

Russ Carr  
408 568-3782  
[oldcarr.rc@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarr.rc@gmail.com)

### Vice President

open

### Secretary

Julie Kinsey

### Treasurer

Miki Smith  
209 463-2793  
[mikismith@outlook.com](mailto:mikismith@outlook.com)

### The Wing Editor

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Garry Grainger

### Board at Large

Craig Cuslidge

Vic Quarello  
510 527-1402  
[happyfacecc@gmail.com](mailto:happyfacecc@gmail.com)

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

Our website is at  
<http://norcal-vtca.org/>

Email

[tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com)

## Note from the Editor

It was great to get out to the shows over the last few weeks and visit with our club mates, see their Thunderbirds and get to know the stories. Thank you to those who extended the invitations to come along,

Let's stay on the lookout for more opportunities and car events, I'm happy to forward them via email. There's a lot of fun to be had out there, and some great people and nifty cars to do it all with.

Whether your Thunderbird is at the show, on the road, in the shop, or not yet yours, share your story with us.

[tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com)

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Below would normally be the schedule of activities for the year, but circumstances have intervened otherwise as you all know.*

*Those circumstances are changing and here's our chance to get out and shake a T-Bird tail feather or two. We are reviewing plans for some tours in the coming months, and your suggestions are welcome at [tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com)*

**NOVEMBER 13-14** GoodGuys Autumn Get-Together, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton

**NOVEMBER 28\*** California Auto Museum Sacramento, more later

**DECEMBER 3-4** 24 Hours of Lemons, Sonoma Raceway

**DECEMBER 11\*\*** Holiday Brunch, stay tuned for details

**JANUARY 8\*\*** Board/Planning meeting, stay tuned for details

\*\*Club functions

\*Tentative functions

# President's Message 11-2021

OK enough of the COVID stuff! It's time to get back to touring and using our T'Birds. I don't know about tree decorating in Sacramento or if we can hold a Holiday Party yet but I am asking you to save some dates for the next couple of months.

If I can find a place to hold our Holiday brunch we will plan it for the Saturday the 11th of December. So save the date and we will send you location and time as soon as possible. Suggestions are welcome.

Second date is Saturday January 8th. This will be a Board/planning meeting. At this meeting we will try to plan the year's events for 2022. Everyone will be invited to participate with ideas and recommendations. So look around for unique/fun/historical locations for a tour or get together for some time in 2022. You don't have to plan the whole event but rather we do need suggestions. This club is made up of all of you and we need your input for the coming year. I think our 'Birds have had enough time in the garage for the past two years and we really need to give them some exercise ..... beside we miss all of you.

There are some T'Birds on the road and as Marilyn and I drove to Glacier National Park, Bozeman, MT (to see the Great Granddaughter), and a few other stops in Idaho and Nevada we did see a few on the road.

Retro birds – all driving on the road – 1 in Nevada, 1 in Idaho and 1 at Glacier NP. (Envied them with the top down on the Going to the Sun Road).

1966 – One parked behind a barn in Montana

1964 – One at a gas station in Island Park, ID

1961 – One in very poor shape on the road in Idaho.

1957 – 1 in Idaho and 1 in Wyoming – both driving.

1975 (?) – 1 in Reno on the road (It looked like our '75 Lincoln without the hidden headlights).



Not many but it was fun watching for them.

If you haven't been to Glacier NP, then plan on the "Going to the Sun Road" over Logan Pass. A fantastic drive and an engineering feat especially since it was built in 1933. It's only open from about late June to early October because of snow. About 15 miles of it is literally carved out of the mountain side. The picture included was at the top and a short hike to the top of the pass. It was a 5 second opportunity and NOT a stuffed big horn. Hope you all can have an opportunity such as this someday.

Remember to save the dates and think about events we can plan for 2022.

Russ (and Marilyn)



## Garry Grainger's & Nell Richmond's 1962 Convertible Car of the Week in Old Cars Weekly

Our pal and past president Garry Grainger has a great story to share from Iola, Wisconsin. Garry had purchased Nell Richmond's 1962 convertible a while back. We'll note here that while Garry may own the car he reminds us that "It will always be NELL'S 62." Two beloved club mates + one beautiful and well-loved Thunderbird=a great story. As Garry puts it . . .

"When I moved to Iola one of the first things I did was have a new heating system installed in my shop building. This was fall 2019. I had a gentleman come out and measure up the space and he gave me a couple estimates. The shop was empty.

A few weeks later when it was time to install the system, both Thunderbirds were in the shop on the opposite side from the work site. They were covered up. He asked what was under cover and I showed him. Dennis is his name, stated that the 1962 blue ribbon material. I would find what that was 18 months later.

Forward to July 2020, We are all aware of what summer 2020 involved. Most events of any type were cancelled. The Iola car show included. So the car show group hosted road rally instead. Huge success, over 1,000 cars. Spaced 6ft apart on the grass before departure. Upon arriving Dennis was handing goody bags. To my surprise turns out he is on the board of directors. I was driving the Retro, he said he was hoping to the 62 on the tour.

On to 2021, about March I received a registration form from the Iola car show. It was display spaces. car corral, and swap meet. Plus you ask for your vehicle to be considered for Blue Ribbon circle, so you submit photos, cars must 100% stock. No rust or primer.

Well I got a note saying not to submit any info my car was already accepted!

July 2021 the absolutely huge Iola car show was incredible. 3 days of automotive overload. Blue Ribbon cars are on display only, no awards. During the course of the show I meet Brian Earnest, from Old Cars Weekly. He asked if he could photograph the car for the publication. I told I'd be honored. So on the following Tuesday he came to my house."

### OLD CARS — STANDS REPORT FROM CHIEF CAR OF THE WEEK



**N**ell Richmond really loved her 1962 Thunderbird. She bought it new right off the car dealer back in '62, and the Bay Area socialite and car enthusiast kept it as long as she could — 57 years to be exact.

She finally sold the car two years ago at age 82, and she made sure it went to a guy who loved the car just as much as she did. Fellow 1-Bird lover Garry Grainger, of Modesto, Calif., became the lucky second owner. Grainger has since moved to the Midwest, to the tiny town of Iola, Wis., and he brought Richmond's proud '62 with him. He ordered "Nell's 62" collector plates for the car as an ongoing salute to Richmond, who passed away earlier this year. The two shared a love of nice cars — especially the gorgeous Deep Sea Green 1-Bird convertibles.

"I was not looking for a car [in 2019]," admits Grainger. "At the time I was chapter president of the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club... I first saw this car at a West Coast regional meet in Carson City, Nev., in June of 1996 and fell in love with the car. It was then as you see it now. I thought it was the most gorgeous '62 I had ever seen. And I was talking to Nell and her husband, who owned the car, and I was kind of taking out of my hat, and I said 'if you ever want to sell the car, let me know.' And of course we both belonged to the same chapter of the club and we crossed paths many times over the years and we had several mutual friends also."

"We took the 62 about a mile up on a country lane, he took a lot of great shots. Then 2 months later I get a text, it was online! It will be in a future issue also, but when is unknown at this time."



## Kar Kapades River Islands



Retrobirds on the green at River Islands. Russ & Marilyn's 2005 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cashmere Special, one of the 1500 made.

Craig & Miki's 2002: Craig ordered the car as soon as the dealer was taking orders without seeing one in person or test driving one. They waited a year for the car to come, taking delivery in December 2001 (the second 2002 Thunderbird to come in to Stockton). "We've taken the car all over the Western U.S., from Seattle to the North on many occasions, back and forth to Disneyland and Las Vegas, and all through Arizona as far down as Tombstone. It's the perfect fun car for trips.

"The seats are comfortable for long periods of time, the trunk is large enough for luggage, and the power and maneuverability is outstanding. The car loves the road. On one trip down to Las Vegas, busy chatting with a friend after having lunch in Barstow, I happened to glance at the speedometer and I was going 115 mph across the desert. So smooth I didn't feel a thing. A little bit later, driving way slower but apparently still too fast, I got a ticket for doing 75. After that I used the speed control. To date we've put over 100,000 miles on the car and she's not ready to stop. We just ordered new shoes for her and they should take us on our next round of adventures."

Miki tells us that over the years the car has been hit four times, all while standing still:

- "Two weeks after we got her I was at work and the car was parked." A flatbed was driving by with a bed full of semi tractor trailer brake drums, a strap broke and one rolled off and into the driver's door.
- A year later in Northern Arizona, a parked SUV backed into it while Miki was in the passenger seat. "It was daylight, the car is bright red, but she did not apparently even bother to check her mirrors."
- Emeryville on the freeway in stop & go traffic years later, "we were stopped but a sweet young thing in an old car with very bald tires could not stop in time and rear ended us." Very little damage.
- 8 years ago, Alameda about midnight. On a clear night and deserted street the car was parked under a street light, and Craig stood next to it. A passing car hit the door, inches from Craig. "The car pulled over on the next block and the driver ran away. The owner of the car came back, said he was the driver, and gave us all the insurance info. Did not bother to say why they crossed into the outside lane or felt the urge to plow into our car."

"These cars attract attention wherever they go, even though they're now 20 years old, but I'll be happy if she doesn't attract any more mishaps. The red bird is a great little car and it just keeps on keeping on, much to our great delight."



# Wings & Wheels Car Show, Santa Rosa



Tim and Karen O'Connor's '65 Convertible and USAF F-86



Karen & Tim. Their '65 was featured in the 1999 edition of Architectural Digest Motoring, and had been raced by a previous owner.

Parked among the vintage aircraft of the Pacific Coast Air Museum, 300 cars were on display in the Wings & Wheels car show adjacent to the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa on September 25. Our club mates Brian Ahern and Tim & Karen O'Connor entered their '65 convertibles. Lots of great cars and aircraft, plenty of old and new friends to meet.



Brian Ahern's '65 Convertible



USCG Grumman Hu-16 Albatross seaplane

This aircraft flew out of Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco at SFO, and was one of the first in the PCAM inventory. Albatross seaplanes were in Coast Guard service 1951-1983.





# 1957 Thunderb , , , wait, what? 1959 Auto Union 1000 SP

I found this gem for sale online, did a double take and then a deep dive. Its Thunderbirdness caught my eye at a glance, which is likely what Auto Union intended.



From 1958-1965 Auto Union (later to become Audi) produced what's been called a "Thunderbird-inspired" model for the European market. They made about 6,600 of them, mostly coupes and some convertibles. Originally powered by a 55hp 3-cyl engine, a V6 was apparently available at one point.



1000cc 3-cyl two-stroke. Twice as much optional.



Style points for those two-tone seats



# MARKET REPORT

Recently closed on Bring A Trailer online auction



**1956 Ford Thunderbird**

Bid to \$42,500 on 10/24/21



**1985 Ford Thunderbird  
NASCAR**

Bid to \$26,750 on 10/23/21



**10k-Mile 2003 Ford  
Thunderbird**

Sold for \$18,750 on 10/22/21



**1963 Ford Thunderbird  
Sports Roadster**

Bid to \$35,250 on 10/19/21



**1956 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$52,000 on 10/19/21



**No Reserve: 20k-Mile  
2005 Ford Thunderbird  
50th Anniversary Edition**

Sold for \$22,000 on 10/19/21



**Original-Owner 2002  
Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$25,000 on 10/15/21



**1957 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$43,500 on 10/14/21



**1957 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$25,500 on 10/12/21



**No Reserve: 26k-Mile  
2005 Ford Thunderbird  
50th Anniversary Edition**

Sold for \$26,250 on 10/12/21



**No Reserve: 1957 Ford  
Thunderbird**

Sold for \$20,000 on 10/10/21



**No Reserve: 1957 Ford  
Thunderbird**

Sold for \$27,000 on 10/7/21



**14k-Mile 2003 Ford  
Thunderbird**

Sold for \$20,750 on 10/6/21



**30-Years-Owned 1957  
Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$26,000 on 10/5/21



**190-Mile 2002 Ford  
Thunderbird Neiman  
Marcus Edition**

Sold for \$41,000 on 10/4/21



**1956 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$48,000 on 9/30/21



# 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.

### **Advisory Board of Past Presidents**

Craig Cuslidge (2)	Paul Simonds
Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
Doreen Gibbs	Barney Burke
Bob Combs	George Waters
Mike Press	John Espinola
John Byers	Bill Kinsey

Garry Grainger

### **Lifetime Members**

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



The Wing Editor  
1461 Lydia Lane  
Clayton, CA 94517  
Phone: 925 683-0278

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