



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 42, Issue 3

May/June 2018

## Day at the Races – The Winners (actually the little guy in the middle was the winner)



### Current Events

May 4 & 5 - Kennedy Mine  
Tour & Grass Valley Car Show

June 24<sup>th</sup> Pinole Car Show

July 21<sup>st</sup> Brunch at Classic  
Cars West

See calendar for full year of  
events

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## President's Message: TORQUE-A-LICIOUS FE ENGINE

Greetings clubmates - I'm going to tell you something that you may already know, the Thunderbird FE engine is a torque monster. I got to take our beloved '66 Townie for a ride in the hills and an exercise in the physics of torque, and boy-howdy was that fun!

In late February I joined my brother ('64 Galaxie) and nephew ('66 Mustang) at Cars & Coffee in Grass Valley, meeting first in Colfax. El Jefe has been a flatland bird since the refit in 2015; the cooling system as initially re-engineered didn't do well in the hills and we kept to the Contra Costa flatlands and the Sacramento Valley. A recent completion of re-re-engineering resulted in El Jefe finally being hill-worthy.

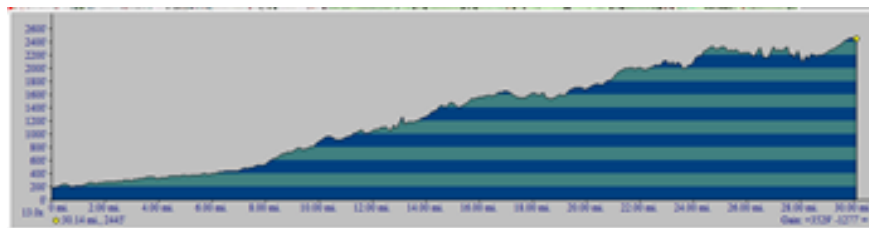
With the general downsizing of cars over the recent decades, it has been since the 1970s that I drove a vehicle with a big block V8 east of Roseville on I-80. It's been on my mind since El Jefe's first arrival. My V6 Taurus, V8 Dakota, and the four-bangers we've owned have all dutifully made the trek, but none of them create torque like the old school big iron. The 390 and the 428 that we've had in El Jefe are both particularly torquey engines that produce the seat-of-the-pants pull that is characteristic of big block engines. Anyone have a 429 or 460? I bet they do a nice job making the trip up the hill.

So there I was at the helm on a bright February day, ready to apply 480 lbs/ft of torque to the 30 mile stretch between Roseville and Colfax for the first time. Of course I wanted to put the pedal to the metal and race up that grade as fast as I could, but my relationship with the California Highway Patrol is calm now and I need to keep it that way. I decided instead to take a more scientific approach and test the parameters of 2800 rpm on the 4800-pound burden of TBird and yours truly. The god of torque emerges in full glory around 2800, and this was the place to see how it all worked.

It worked! The familiar pull from the seat of the pants accelerating up the grade, cruising with power to spare, the feeling of being able to drag a tugboat, just what I was hoping for. More focused on the tachometer than the speedometer on that run I don't know how fast I was going, keeping up with traffic and passing anyone I wanted to. Well worth the years of waiting and \$\$\$\$ spent. I thought of that wheezy V6 Taurus wagon that we used to own. You'd aim it towards the top of a hill and hoped it had enough pep to get there. I could have towed it in the fast lane with the Thunderbird.

After Cars & Coffee my nephew led us on a backroads tour around Grass Valley and Nevada City with lots of ridges and canyons to climb in and out of. Much torque was gleefully created and utilized.

See you down the road,  
Bill



I-80 between Roseville and Colfax on gains 2400' in 30 miles, woo hoo!



Family of Fine Cars at Grass Valley's  
Cars & Coffee

## 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

Bill Kinsey  
925-683-0278

### Vice President

Craig Cuslidge  
209-463-2793

### Secretary

Julie Kinsey

### 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

Mike Press  
1-510-558-4037

[mjprgp@infionline.net](mailto:mjprgp@infionline.net)

### Board at Large

Gary Grainger

Vic Quarello  
510-527-1402

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

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

Our website is at

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

## Note from the Editor

Something for the ladies in this issue. Make sure they see the article on the rare Fordite 'gemstone'.

Please note the calendar of events is full for the year so you can plan ahead to attend our functions.

Thanks Craig and Miki.

I could sure use some help with other articles, tech notes or interesting stories about your car or adventures with you cars. Just send them to me at the address below and I can format them.

Russ

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

# 2018

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*May 4 and 5 – Mining tour and Grass Valley Car Show.**

**\*\* June 24<sup>th</sup> – Pinole Car Show with special award for the best Thunderbird.**

**\*July 11 to 15 - Vintage Thunderbird Club International tour in Tulsa, OK**

**\*\*July 21<sup>st</sup> - Brunch at Classic Cars West - Oakland**

**\*\* August 18<sup>th</sup> - Horse and Feathers Picnic – Micke Park, Lodi**

**\*\*September 29<sup>th</sup> - Birds on the Wharf – Santa Cruz**

**\*\* October 27<sup>th</sup> - Migration in Alameda**

**\*\* November 25<sup>th</sup> -Tree Trimming at California Auto Museum – Sacramento**

**\*\* December 16<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Dinner – Pasta Pelican - Alameda**

**All members are requested to consider hosting a tour in 2019.**

**\*\*Club functions**

**\*Other items of interest**

**Minutes of the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club meeting 4/14/2018 at the Old Sugar Mill, Clarksburg CA.**

Attending were Bill Kinsey, President; Craig Cuslidge, Vice President; Julie Kinsey, Secretary; Miki Smith, Treasurer; Russ Carr, Newsletter Editor; Vic Quarello, Director at Large; Gary Granger; Cindi Granger; Marilyn Carr.

Call to Order 1:15pm

The President's message was first summarizing club events already conducted this year, followed by discussion.

The Vice President's message was next on concerning the scheduled events for the remainder of 2018.

Membership report was given.

Secretary's report – 2018 roster in progress.

Financial report was given and approved.

Social Media report – status of website and Facebook.

Director at large vacancy filled by Gary Grainger. Moved by Craig Cuslidge, 2nd by Vic Quarello, unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned 2:34pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Kinsey, Secretary

Letter from Marilyn Carr to the Kinsey's.

Dear Mr. Kinsey:

I would like to thank you and Julie for choosing the site for the board meeting. Before telling Russ I would go, I was feeling my time could be better used for some of the things at home that were waiting for me.

The site was nice with all of the wineries and tasting. They even had quite a bit of shopping. Too bad I'm trying to keep from buying any more "tchotskees" (dust catchers). I already have too many of them.

Even Emma like the site. She had lots of shade when in the car. She was allowed in the building and would rather be with us than all alone.

I usually refer to such meetings as "bored" meetings but not this time. You and Julie picked a good site.

Thank You

Marilyn Carr



**Classic Cars West**

Our brunch and tour location for July. More to follow in the next issue.

## Flight Log #1

Day at the Races

By Mike Press with Pics by Mike and Russ

The weather was promising to be pretty bad for the ninth annual holding of this event – apparently Mother Nature was making up in March for the lack of rain in February. As it turned out the rain predicted didn't materialize in any great quantity and there were just a few short bursts that didn't affect the happenings on the track.



Twenty two attended this year, down a bit from the last eight years and, due to the weather predictions, there was only one Thunderbird - Russ and Marilyn Carr showed up in their newly purchased Retro Bird. Others showing up were John Bock and Lisa Geller and Mark and Deb Barrall from the Golden Gate club and Mike & Rita Press who are members of both Golden Gate and Nocal; John Strizek and Lydia Hastings and the Wolbers from the Sacramento Little 'Birds along with the Korenkos, the Abouds and guests, Phyllis Siebert and family all of whom are members of both Norcal and Sacramento. All of us were making quite a ruckus cheering urging on our horses at the end of each race.



There were no big winners this year but Mark and Deb Barral of Golden Gate must get special mention for stretching a \$20 bill thru the entire series of nine races and coming out \$5 ahead at the end of the day. Our dedicated race was the second race of the day and the winner was Annisquam with Abel Cedillo riding. Eight of us represented the three clubs in the official winner's photo shown. Our luck with the weather held as it stayed dry long enough to snap the picture and then dropped a sudden strong burst just as we got under the shelter of the grandstand on our way back to the Turf Club and special Saint Patrick's Day buffet with Guinness Stout, corned beef and cabbage and a lot of green goodies on the desert table.



Many thanks to all who attended and helped to make the day a success and a special thank you to John Bock who brought mini bouquets of flowers from his garden in little champagne glasses for each table.

## Flight Log #2

### Old Sugar Mill/Board Meeting

By Russ with Pics by Vic

The day was beautiful and even though the Carr's have spent a lot of time in the delta it is always nice to cruise along the asphalt road ways in this area. We stopped in Walnut Grove for breakfast and got a look at what the Governor Brown tunnels would do to that area. If they go ahead with the tunnels, Walnut Grove will have some very difficult years with all the construction and pile driving.



We only had one "vintage" Thunderbird...."El Jefe!" But we did have 4 more Retro Birds....Craig and Miki, Vic, Gary Grainger and the Carr's. We sampled wine, cheese, chocolates and some other goodies before making our lunch choice from the food truck. Some of us spent some time shopping in the various shops.

We concluded the day in our board meeting, sitting in the shade under a spreading oak tree. Great location, good wine and a beautiful day.



Pics by Vic along Route 66 in Arizona. Do you remember these signs along America's highway from 1926 to 1963?



## Detroit “Gemstone” The rare Fordite

What is Fordite? This unique and unusual substance is something you will not find in a mineral or gemstone book. Fordite is actually from a Ford auto plant. I have found examples also from a Corvette assembly line but nothing from the Wixom plant where our Thunderbirds were born.

Previous to the advent of automated spray painting, spray paint would build up on the walls, tracks and car racks in the paint booth. Over time this overspray paint collected and would get thick on the surrounding items and had to be scraped or knocked off to keep the plant clean.



Raw Fordite as shown in last month's Wing



A worker at the plant thought the striped and layered material was interesting looking so he collected the pieces. These pieces sat undisturbed for a long time. The story we were told was that a few years ago the worker passed away, and his son's hobby was cutting gemstones and rocks. He saw the material and worked the pieces into beautiful cabochons. These cabochons when polished properly, allow us to see the different layers of paint that had been used to paint the cars.

This material is said to have come from the 60's timeframe, hence the more colorful spectrum of colors. Modern technology and automation has made the painting process so there is no overspray, so this material is not being produced any more.

Other collections of this material have been found from a Corvette factory, but the supply is finite since no more is being produced. Cut and polished pieces can be found on eBay along with chunks of raw material, but it is usually sold by the gram.

One can look at the layers and see what colors of cars were being produced, some people might even be able to find the color of a car they once had or even drive today. This is just an incredible material with real history. Fordite is a very unique material from the glory days of automotive history.

(items from the collection of Marilyn Carr)



# *Pinole's Classic* **CAR SHOW**



**FERNANDEZ PARK | DOWNTOWN PINOLE**

**RAFFLE | CONTESTS | FOOD | AWARDS | MUSIC**

**7AM - 3PM | JUNE 24, 2018**

For more information please call Megan at 510.283.5757



# ANNUAL PINOLE CAR SHOW

**Sunday, June 24th 2018**

**6am-3pm**

Pre-registration is required and will be limited to the FIRST 325 Classic American (pre 1975) and Classic Foreign Made (pre-1990) car registrants. Providing space is available, other vehicles will be admitted AFTER 8:00am



## Pancake Breakfast

## Senior Center

## 7am - 9:45am

## Vendors, Raffles and Awards!

Pre-Registration is \$30 (\$35 day of) please make checks payable to: Kopp Productions c/o Sequoia Real Estate  
2221 Pear St., Pinole CA 94564. For more information call Megan 510.283.5757

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle info: Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt (\$25): Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_\_\_



**SEQUOIA**  
REAL ESTATE

Located in downtown Pinole

Registration \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirts \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of the acceptance of the participants to the annual Pinole Car Show Event by execution of the entry form, I/WE herby release the City of Pinole, Kopp Productions, Sequoia Real Estate, their members, Officers and anyone else connected with this event from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries, liabilities, losses, judgments, and/or claims arising from any causes whatsoever that may be caused by the participation in this event. I/We accept responsibility for Bank Fees or returned check fees.



## **KENNEDY MINE TOUR AND GRASS VALLEY CAR SHOW**

**May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

We're going back 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 JACKSON on Friday morning from all our various directions and will meet at 11 a.m. in Jackson at the Kennedy Mine for a tour of the mine and a picnic lunch provided by your hosts. Please let us know if you're joining us for this part of the weekend so we make sure we have enough food for the picnic. After lunch we'll caravan to Grass Valley with one or two stops and fabulous scenery along the way.

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 Bridal Suite 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 a.m., 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 [gvda2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gvda2@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](mailto: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) Hope you can attend as we need to uphold our past record of trophy winners. Over the past few years Bill Edwards, Vic and Marilyn (twice) have all taken top honors at this show. Grass Valley Car Show application follows.



# 2018 GRASS VALLEY CAR SHOW May 5th – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

1975 & older Domestic-Import-Hot Rods-Rat Rods-Classic Vehicles-Motorcycles  
TROPHYS AWARDED FOR BEST OF CATEGORIES

**\$30.00 Pre-registration – Deadline 4/28/2017**

**Includes \* EVENT POSTER \* COLOR DASH PLAQUE**

All vehicles **MUST** arrive **BEFORE** 9:30 a.m.

**RAIN OR SHINE EVENT - NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AS SPACE IS LIMITED!**

**NO BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SMOKING or ANIMALS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Day Ph.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**(confirmation of your entry will be sent via email)**

CAR Info Yr: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Lic. # \_\_\_\_\_

Club affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

**A Photo MUST accompany your entry UNLESS your car has been in this show before.**

I understand that my payment indicates that I am releasing The Grass Valley Downtown Association and all officials connected to this event from all known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgements, and or claims suffered by myself, affiliates or my property. I also relinquish any rights to any photographs or videos taken in connection with this event. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

**YES! I want a T-shirt(s) at the advance sale price of \$15.00 each**

**Color: Ash (Shades of Gray)**

**Men's: Small \_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_**

**Women's: Small \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_**

**Remember:**

**Photos should be sent via email: [mhernandezgyda@gmail.com](mailto:mhernandezgyda@gmail.com)**

**\$30 entry fee(per car)**

**Payment for T shirt(s)**

**Payment Enclosed:**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ entry fee**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ T Shirts**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed**

**CASH OR CHECK only. Make checks payable to **GVDA**.**

-----Office Use Only -----

Date rec'd \_\_\_ Pymt enclosed: \_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_ Accept sent \_\_\_ email \_\_\_



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

Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Many Thunderbirds had appearances in The Andy Griffith Show like this nice 1965 convertible.

**INSIDE**

**FLIGHT LOG 1 – DAY AT THE RACES**

**FLIGHT LOG 2 – OLD SUGAR MILL**

**UPCOMING**

**MAY 4 & 5 KENNEDY MINE TOUR**

**JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> PINOLE CAR SHOW**