



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 41, Issue 1

JAN/FEB 2017



## HAPPY NEW YEAR



### *Current Events*

February 12<sup>th</sup> Sweetheart  
Lunch and Rare Parts Tour  
Stockton  
March 18<sup>th</sup> Day at the Races  
Golden Gate fields

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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

Craig Cuslidge  
209-463-2793

### Vice President

Craig Cuslidge  
209-463-2793

### Secretary

Julie Kinsey

### Treasurer

Miki Smith  
510-521-7213  
[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

open

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/> and  
the facebook location is  
[www.facebook.com/norcalvt  
ca?ref=stream](http://www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream)

## President's Message By Craig Cuslidge

Happy New Year to All!

I hope your holidays were merry and happy. We just wrapped up our November and December events. Wow. They were excellent. In November we returned to the annual tree trimming and pot luck dinner at the California Automobile Museum in Sacramento and the Christmas Lunch/Gift Exchange went flawlessly. See later in this issue for details.

Thanks to Nell Richmond and Cindy Grainger for attending our Christmas Lunch. These two ladies have been with this club since it was started, 40 years ago this year, and having them enjoy our events is always special.

Special congratulations go out to our Leroy Siebert Member of the Year Award recipient Mike Press. Mike has held every position in the club during his tenure as well as being Concours Chairman for the last several years and usually hosts at least two events every year. Thank you Mike!

We will be taking January off to recover from this hectic time of year, but we're starting off with a great event in February with a Sweetheart Brunch at the University Plaza Hotel at Stockton's Waterfront and a special tour, just for our club, of Rare Parts Steering & Suspension Manufacturing Company. This is a not-to-be-missed event!

The election Ballot for our 2017-2018 term is in this issue. Almost all the current officers have agreed to another term, with the position of President graciously accepted by Bill Kinsey, who has shown great excitement and energy in our behalf since joining this club. Included at all positions is a write-in space for you to vote for the member of your choice. So please take the time to vote and send back your ballot.

Please make the 40<sup>th</sup> year of our club, 2017, one of our best by attending as many events as you can. I'm personally looking forward to making many new friends and seeing my many other friends and the cars I've gotten to know over the last 40 years.

Happy T-Birding

Craig

## Note from the Editor

### Important Items inside this issue.

1. Dues are past due – Send in your dues immediately to stay current
2. Vote now for the 2017 officers – Mail in by Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Tour registration for Day at the Races

I am still looking for Car of the Month entries. Send me a picture and brief write up to be featured in an upcoming issue.

I am also looking for Tech Notes for future issues. Hopefully you will have some that are better than the one in this issue!

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

## Website of the Month

If you haven't visited this website you really should. Lots of good information. Check the owners survey to see if the color on your 61-63 is common or rare.

<http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/events.htm>

It's also time to send in your dues for VTCL.

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January – Resting and restoring your T'Bird to make it ready for the year of tours

**\*\*February – Stockton - Sweetheart Luncheon and Rare Parts Tour – Tour Sheet inside**

**\*\*March –Golden Gate Fields – Day at the Races  
Registration sheet inside – return required.**

**All members are requested to consider hosting a tour in 2017.**

The 2017 Calendar is wide open so if you have an idea for a tour for 2017 please let Craig and Miki know so we can include them in our planning.

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

## Front Page Picture

Holiday cake from our luncheon in December.

## Picture of the Month

From the LeMay Museum in Tacoma, WA



### 1959 Ford

Thunderbird "Bad Bird", 2-Door Convertible

This "Bad Bird" custom was built by Joe's Garage of Hebo, Oregon. A combination of a 1959 and 1960 Thunderbirds, the Bad Bird features a Camaro rear window for a windshield, Hyundai Scoop headlights, modified Volkswagen fenders and an elongated hood. Very little on this car has been left unmodified— even the windshield wiper assembly was sourced from a MG MGB!



# Sweetheart Brunch and Rare Parts Tour

**February 12, 2017, 11:00 A.M.**

We'll meet at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel at 11:00 a.m. Our cars will be parked behind the hotel along the waterfront of McLeod Lake (photo op). At 11:30 we'll enter the hotel and partake of their wonderful extensive buffet brunch with both breakfast and lunch choices and endless Mimosas for \$19.95 per person. Best deal in town!

Following our brunch, around 1, we will continue West on Fremont Street for about a 1 mile drive to Wilshire Avenue, where we'll turn left and into the parking lot of Rare Parts, Inc. Our cars will be at water's edge on the Stockton deep water channel directly across from the Port of Stockton (another photo op). Owner Danny Burgess is opening his doors just for us. He will give us a tour of his manufacturing facility where magic is born, or reborn as the case may be. With CNC lathes, mills, presses, injection molding, heat-treating machines, 3-D printers and much more they will manufacture whatever suspension or steering part your car needs. His motto is "If the part exists, we've got it. If it doesn't, we'll make it"

This is the event for our social butterflies as well as our gear heads. Great food, beautiful T-Birds, fun friends, and car parts....what more is there?! Come join us for the fun!



We need to know who's coming and how many for the restaurant. PLEASE CALL MIKI at **510-846-0383** with that information or if you have any questions. Do not use our house phone as the recent storm took out the neighborhood transit box and we're having trouble receiving calls.

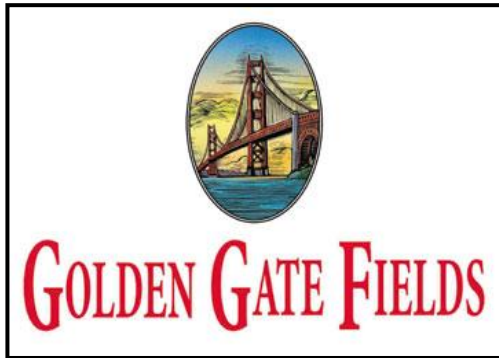
Directions to University Plaza Waterfront Hotel: Driving on I5 North or South take the Downtown Stockton Exit. Proceed to the second light, El Dorado Street, and turn Left. Proceed 6 blocks to Fremont Street and turn Left (.05 mile). Proceed to 2<sup>nd</sup> light and turn Left at Event Center Drive. Drive Straight to our parking area on the waterfront.



Call Miki or Craig if you have any questions, 510-846-0383 or 209-484-8382.



# *A Day at the Races*



Hey! We're doing it again. On Saturday March 18th 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 **\$45.00 per person (\$20.00 for kids under 18)**.

***Please sign-up using form provided before March 4, 2017***

**Please respond to:**

Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530

(510) 558-4037, [mjprgp@infionline.net](mailto:mjprgp@infionline.net)

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

**Mail to Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr. El Cerrito, CA 94530 for Day at the Races**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number Adults Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

Will you be bringing a T'Bird \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vote and mail to Miki Smith, 2053 Telegraph Ave., Stockton, CA 95204.**

**Vote for NorCal VTCA Officers for 2015-2016**

**President:**

\_\_\_ **Bill Kinsey**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:**

\_\_\_ **Craig Cuslidge**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:**

\_\_\_ **Julie Kinsey**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:**

\_\_\_ **Miki Smith**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Board Member at Large(vote for two)**

\_\_\_ **Vic Quarello**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**Wing Editor:**

\_\_\_ **Russ Carr**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

## Flight Log #1 California Auto Museum Tree Trimming

Our tree trimming meet at California Auto Museum was a fun evening with good food, a great venue, some very nice cars and a lot of people.



I don't remember the exact number of cars clubs present but 25 comes to mind. There were more than 300 people present and since everyone brought some food for the potluck, the food tables groaned under the weight of the dishes. After second helpings for some of us, we then had a raffle drawing that saw a number of members going home with nice gifts.



Our Christmas tree was right near the front and looked very good with pictures of member cars and a nice set of "wings" decorating the top of the tree.

This meet did reintroduce a longtime tradition with our club and it would be nice to continue this event in the future.

The Thunderbird pictured here was in the for sale area of the museum and was beautifully restored. Price tag was a fair \$29.9K.



## Flight Log #2 Holiday Luncheon

It was still raining in some areas so no one wanted to get there 'Birds dirty including the Carr's, so no Thunderbirds showed up for the Holiday Luncheon. That didn't dampen the spirits of the small group that did show up for our Holiday get together. Without sounding like a broken record (boy does that phrase date me!) we had good food, great people and a lot of fun.

Our gift exchange had an added twist which allowed a person to steal a gift that had already been opened. That went fine except some people made it known that we were not to steal THEIR gift! All had fun and went home with some nice items and as always a jar of jam from The Old Carr Place.



As Craig mentioned in the President's message, the LeRoy Siebert Member of the Year Award was made to Mike Press. Mike has contributed to our club for many years and the award just a small way to tell him thanks for his efforts.



Yes our group was small this year but we did miss those that weren't able to attend and hope to see you at future events this coming year. .

**The vehicle pictured was at the California Auto Museum. It is a custom "hot rod" named "The Marquis" and was built in the early 60's by Bill Cushenbery in Monterey. The question for you is: "What was the original car and year?" No it wasn't a Thunderbird.**



**A complete history of the car can be found at <http://auto.howstuffworks.com/marquis-custom-car.htm>**



## Tech Note #?

# **ELECTRICAL THEORY**

## **AKA Smoke Theory**

**By Joseph Lucas**

Positive ground depends on proper circuit functioning, which is the transmission of negative ions by retention of the visible spectral manifestation known as "smoke".

Smoke is the thing that makes electrical circuits work. We know this to be true because every time one lets the smoke out of an electrical circuit, it stops working. This can be verified repeatedly through empirical testing.

For example, if one places a copper bar across the terminals of a battery, prodigious quantities of smoke are liberated and the battery shortly ceases to function. In addition, if one observes smoke escaping from an electrical component such as a Lucas voltage regulator, it will also be observed that the component no longer functions. The logic is elementary and inescapable!

The function of the wiring harness is to conduct the smoke from one device to another. When the wiring springs a leak and lets all the smoke out of the system, nothing works afterward.

Starter motors were considered unsuitable for British motorcycles for some time largely because they consumed large quantities of smoke, requiring very unsightly large wires.

It has been reported that Lucas electrical components are possibly more prone to electrical leakage than their Bosch, Japanese or American counterparts. Experts point out that this is because Lucas is British, and all things British leak. British engines leak oil, British shock absorbers, hydraulic forks and disk brake systems leak fluid, British tires leak air and British Intelligence leaks national defense secrets.

Therefore, it follows that British electrical systems must leak smoke. Once again, the logic is clear and inescapable.

In conclusion, the basic concept of transmission of electrical energy in the form of smoke provides a logical explanation of the mysteries of electrical components especially British units manufactured by Joseph Lucas, Ltd.

And remember: "A gentleman does not motor about after dark!"

Joseph Lucas: The Prince of Darkness" 1842-1903

A few Lucas quips:

The Lucas motto: "Get home before dark"

Lucas is the patent holder for the short circuit.

Lucas - Inventor of the first intermittent wiper.

Lucas - Inventor of the self-dimming headlamp.

The three-position Lucas switch--DIM, FLICKER and OFF. The other three switch settings--SMOKE, SMOLDER and IGNITE.

The Original Anti-Theft Device - Lucas Electrics.

If Lucas made guns, wars would not start

Q: Why do the British drink warm beer? A: Because Lucas makes their refrigerators

The idea for this tech note came from the latest issue of The Scoop, the Vintage Thunderbird Club International magazine. In doing research to make sure all the facts were correct I ran into another items that you may want to review. This web site refers to a new product that was up for auction.... A Lucas Replacement Wiring Smoke Kit. Many questions and answers about the product that should keep you laughing until April 1<sup>st</sup> comes around.

[http://www3.telus.net/bc\\_triumph\\_registry/smoke.htm](http://www3.telus.net/bc_triumph_registry/smoke.htm)

Russ

# DUES ARE PAST DUE - 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 2017 roster)

Send to: Miki Smith, 2053 Telegraph Ave., Stockton, CA 95204

Dues: \$25.00 if Wing by email (pdf 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 Vintage Thunderbird Club International : \_\_\_\_\_

# 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. Hard copy submissions gladly accepted.

## Advisory Board of Past Presidents

Bob Steinhauer †	Chuck Schultz†
Craig Cuslidge (2)	Paul Simonds
Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
Bobbi Killion †	Doreen Gibbs
Dr. Gordon Richmond †	Barney Burke
Bob Combs	George Waters
Mike Press	LeRoy Siebert(2)†
John Espinola	John Byers
Peter Harmon †	

## Lifetime Members

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



The Wing Editor  
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San Martin, CA 95046  
Phone: 408-568-3782

Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Early 1955 Thunderbird Ad

**INSIDE**  
**FLIGHT LOG – TREE TRIMMING**  
**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
**UPCOMING**  
**SWEETHEART / RARE PARTS TOUR**  
**DAY AT THE RACES**