



The Wing

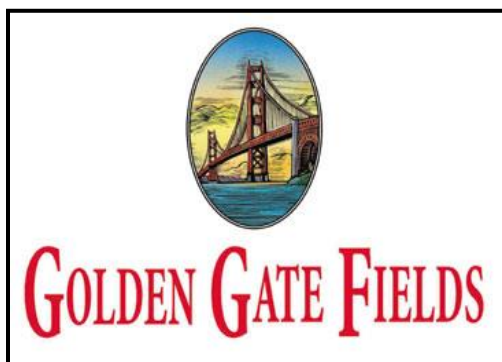
Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 42, Issue 2

MAR/APR 2018

A DAY at the Races March 17th



Our annual outing at Golden Gate Fields is fast approaching. Reservations can still be made by contacting Mike Press at (510) 558-4037 or mjprgp@infionline.net.

Current Events

Day at the Races – March 17th

Board meeting/Lunch
April 14th Old Sugar Mill

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Greetings clubmates-an interesting and familiar discussion arose among some of my online Thunderbird pals recently: Was the 1955 Thunderbird intended as direct competition for the Corvette? That's a question with lots of answers which usually include words such as "sports car" and "personal luxury car" along with comparisons of powerplants, roll-up windows, roof options, and a host of other car-related details. Less frequently included in the discussion are the 1950-1957 American marketplace, other car companies, the global economy, and niche marketing. There's more to the car business than any particular model, and Americans over the past century have rarely embraced two-seat cars in large numbers. But playing along with the TBird v. Vette discussion, take a look at the other players on the scene between 1950-1957. Chevrolet and Ford were competing in the two-seater market with American manufacturers as well as European companies aiming squarely at the U.S. car buyer. Presumably Ford and GM felt the need to enter that market segment, and once there they contended with all comers. But how strong was that segment? Would success there bring success in the far more lucrative family-car segment? Here's a snapshot of the American two-seater landscape of the 1950s.

See you down the road,
Bill

- Nash-Healey: \$5,908.00, first U.S.-built post-war sports roadster. 506 units produced 1951-1954. Clark Kent drove one on TV.
- Jaguar XK140: \$3455.00, 7,500 export units 1954-1957, primarily for the North American market. Preceded by the XK120 1950-1953.
- Kaiser Darrin: \$3668.00, 441 units produced 1952-1954. Kaiser left the car business in 1955.
- Oldsmobile F-88 and Buick Wildcat Autorama concept cars, 1954: perhaps if the post-war roadster market were stronger GM would have put them into production.
- 1953-1957 Chevrolet Corvette: \$3176.00, 11,589 units produced. Arguably successful over time.
- 1955-1957 Ford Thunderbird: \$2944.00, 53,166 units produced. Ford entered the post-war two-seater market later than its competitors and famously exited it by the 1958 model year despite outproducing and underpricing the competition.



1951 Nash Healy



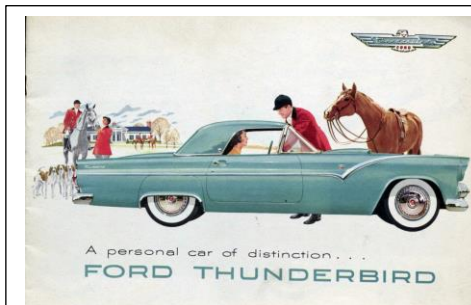
1954 Jaguar XK140



Corvette Gen 1



1952 Kaiser Darrin



1954 Olds F-88 concept



1954 Buick Wildcat

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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510-527-1402

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/norcalvtca?ref=stream

Note from the Editor

****IMPORTANT NOTE****

Many have not sent in their renewal for 2018 so I am including the renewal form again. Please send in your renewal form as soon as possible. We are compiling a club roster and want to include you.

Also included in this issue is a note from our parent club, VTCl, about their upcoming 50th anniversary meet in Tulsa. The application for this meet can be found in the last issue of the Scoop. If you are not a member and think you would like to attend then let me know and I can email you a copy of the registration form or you can go to their website at www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net .

The Elvira article was found on the internet at www.CarRating.org

Russ

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****Sunday, March 17th A Day at the Races – Golden Gate Fields**

Contact Mike Press to reserve a spot for food, betting and the horses.

****Saturday April 14th – Board Meeting/Lunch at the Old Sugar Mill – Courtland.** Your input is requested for helping guide our club in the future.

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

Many other tours in the planning for 2018

All members are requested to consider hosting a tour in 2018.

The 2018 Calendar is wide open so if you have an idea for a tour for 2018 please let Craig know.

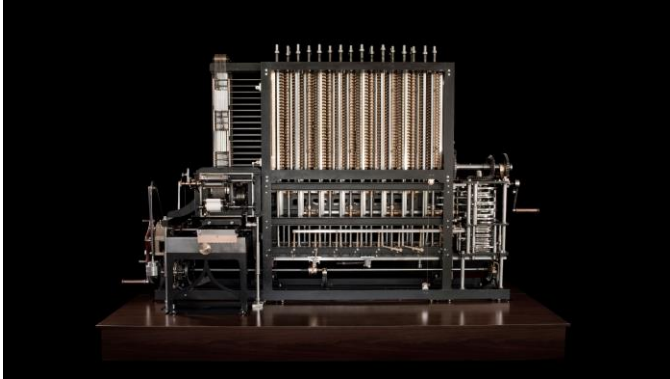
**Club functions

*Other items of interest

Flight Log #1

Sweetheart/Computer Tour
By Russ with Pics by Russ

Another lightly attended tour but a lot of fun. Actually it was a computer overload. The Computer History Museum was just too much to see and absorb in 2 ½ hours. We could have spent all day there and still not gotten through everything. The museum states that it covers 2000 years of computing so I guess I should have known it would take more than 2 hours.



One of the first computing engines was designed in 1869 by Charles Babbage but never built. 153 years later in 2002 in London, the Babbage Engine was built according to the original plans. It is 11 feet long, has more than 8000 parts and weighs 5 tons. Not really a laptop!



We had a nice range of cars in the parking lot from the two clubs and even got to see a Tesla Roadster sitting in the lot. (This is the car that Elton Musk sent into orbit last month).



The surprise car from our club was brought by Russ Genna. It wasn't a TBird but an earlier "personal luxury" car. The 1942 Lincoln Continental was nicely restored and a very rare car. Only 200 Club Coupes such as this one were produced before production was halted for the war effort.



The final question of the day was are you ready to stop driving! Since the 1930's it was shown that self driving cars were just a decade in the future. Looks like we are getting closer with the Google Car. I'm still not sure about riding in a car that I can't take control of in case of some emergency. Guess it will take a leap in faith. I'll still prefer to be driving one of our Thunderbirds!

The VTCI 50th Anniversary International Itinerary

Date: July 11 – 14, 2018 Marriott Tulsa Southern Hills Tulsa, OK

Co-written by Tim Pundt and Ed Elzinga

The planning for the VTCI 50th Anniversary International Convention is well underway. Thank you to all of the people who have volunteered their time, services, and things to help promote the 50th Anniversary of the Vintage Thunderbird Club International. The registration form is included in this issue of the Thunderbird Scoop. The plans so far are as follows:

Wednesday, July 11, 2018 early attendees will come and register at the registration desk in the lobby. The meals for this day will be on your own.

Thursday, July 12, 2018 there will be a Board Meeting starting at 8:00 AM to about 9:45 AM. The first portion of the meeting will be Board Members only discussion and the second portion will be the open session for anyone. At 10:00 AM the first tour departs. We will depart the hotel on a motor coach bus to experience the Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum in Sapulpa, OK. This museum is housed in an old decommissioned armory and is the home of the world's tallest gas pump. The auto display is on the drill room floor with a section dedicated to the military use of the building as well as a space dedicated to the Mother Road, Route 66. Next, we will cruise downtown Tulsa for lunch at the intersection of Main and Brady in the Brady Arts District where there are at least seven restaurants to choose from. Lunch will be on your own. After lunch we will walk two blocks to the Center of the Universe where the experience echoes as you speak. Then we will board the bus, drive by the Cyrus Avery Plaza which highlights Route 66, and head for the fairgrounds where the Golden Driller Statue stands watch. After taking pictures, we will drive to the Philbrook Museum of Art, which is rated the number one attraction in Tulsa. The Philbrook is housed in a historic mansion built by the Phillips Petroleum Philanthropist, Waite Phillips. He donated the 72 room mansion to the city of Tulsa in 1938, and the rest is history you won't want to miss. After touring the museum and gardens, we will return to the hotel. There will be a Welcome Reception in the Hospitality Room. Pizza and salads will be furnished by the VTCI. Time will be determined later.

Friday, July 13, 2018 there will be a judges and owners' meeting held at 7:45 AM to 8:45 AM. Then at 9:00 AM we will start our next tour. This can be a driving tour on Route 66. Plan to drive your Thunderbird on the Mother Road, Route 66, but if you didn't bring a car or would rather ride, limited bus transportation is an option. Before we drive on the Mother Road, we will drive one and a half hours Northeast of Tulsa to the Darryl Starbird National Rod and Custom Hall of Fame Museum in Afton, OK. This is a must see auto museum with over 50 custom cars including a few Thunderbirds. After the museum tour, we will drive to Vinita, OK for lunch at a Route 66 venue, which again, will be on your own. When lunch is finished we will hop on Route 66 for a nice 50 plus mile cruise down the Mother Road. We will stop at Totem Pole Park in Foyil, the Nut House in Verdigris and the famous Blue Whale in Catoosa. At the end of the afternoon, we will arrive back at the hotel, about 4:00 PM. In the evening a Backyard BBQ Buffet will be held. The time will be determined later.

Saturday, July 14, 2018 there will be a brief judges and owners' meeting starting at 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM. The judging of the cars will start promptly at 9:00 AM. All rags are down and no further cleanup of cars after the horn blows at 9:00 AM. At 10:00 AM there will be a shopping trip scheduled to the Woodland Hills Mall about 5-1/2 miles away. The hotel shuttle will take us but we will have to work around the shuttle's schedule if they have a call to pick up people at the airport. The shuttle will come and pick up people at 1:00 PM from the mall. At 6:00 PM we will have the open bar and social hour before the awards banquet. Then at 7:00 PM we will have the awards banquet.

Sunday, July 15, 2018 say goodbyes to one another and be on our way back to home or where ever we are going. Have safe travels. Thank you for supporting the 50th Anniversary Vintage Thunderbird Club International Convention.

Date written: 02-28-18

DUES ARE DUE BY END OF YEAR - 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 2018 roster)

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

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

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 VTCL : _____

Elvira's Spooky 58 Thunderbird.

Mistress of the Dark shows off her George Barris-customized Macabre Mobile.

For those who aren't familiar with this "Mistress of the Dark," where have you been? Locked in a casket? After all, her Goth, sex-kitten character has not only appeared on the TV series *Movie Macabre* and numerous cult hit-movies, but also on every imaginable type of merchandise.

Elvira, Mistress of the Dark.



character.

How did she come up with the character? A local Los Angeles TV station was looking for someone to host a show called *Fright Night*, which would later become *Movie Macabre*. Her low-cut slinky gown, sensual poses and bawdy wisecracks were an instant sensation. George Barris sums up her character as a "Seesaw . sexy, with those big breasts and cleavage, but a Mistress of the Dark."



velour upholstery, mini-caskets on the center console and trunk lid, skeleton hands, and a chain-link steering wheel with a skull in the center. The one item that Cassandra supplied was a metal hood ornament, a crouching, winged banshee sculpted with her profile.



Her seductive shape has graced Bally's best-selling pinball machines of all time, along with countless calendars and comic books around the world. Her popularity in turn spawned licensing deals for models of the Macabre Mobile, a '58 Ford Thunderbird customized by the legendary George Barris.

It wasn't always so, and she didn't always have a tricked-out T-bird to prow around town in during the midnight hour. After stints as a Vegas showgirl and singer in an Italian rock band, not until the fall of 1981 did Cassandra Peterson really hit her stride with the birth of the vampish Elvira

Elvira's George Barris Kustom '58 Thunderbird.

From there, Elvira crossed over into movies. For her first film, the namesake *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark*, Elvira needed a spooky ride in keeping with her ominous yet alluring image. She spotted a black '58 Ford Thunderbird on Melrose Avenue. "That's it!" she cried.

But it was a hardtop, and she wanted a convertible, so Barris and his "kustomizing" crew used a chainsaw to chop off the top. (Sounds like the makings of a massacre movie!) Then they added all sorts of ghoulish embellishments: a spider web in the grille, batwing nose emblem, eyeballs on the fenders, skull-and-crossbones hubcaps, leopard-print



Signature Cassandra.

Once filming was done, the movie's producers offered this mechanically plagued movie prop to her, and she sold it to a photographer, Lynn Goldsmith, who fixed it up and drove it for several years. About 10 years later, Cassandra bought it back, "real cheap" and keeps it at her house in Ojai, California, to this day.

than one Macabre Mobile. It was reproduced like one of those seedpods from the horror classic *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, starring Kevin McCarthy.

Haunting Interior.



Now here's the kinda creepy part: While there's only one Elvira, the killer queen of pop kulture, there's actually more

When we pressed Mr. Barris about the second Macabre Mobile, he notes that there was a need for another one to promote her. Given Elvira's enormous popularity, just one car was not enough. (Consider, too, that there are numerous copies of the Batmobile, plus several Dukes of Hazzard General Lee Chargers and Nash Bridges' Hemi Cuda convertibles).

While the Thunderbird at the Petersen Automotive museum is a knockoff and based on a '59 model instead (the '58 and '59 are very similar, except for a few trim items), it's still legit, since Barris built it, and newspaper photos attest to

the fact that Elvira did appear with the car at a Halloween show she did at Knotts' Berry (Scary) Farm. So think of the second car as a genuine tribute to her enduring popularity.

Custom Cobweb Grille.

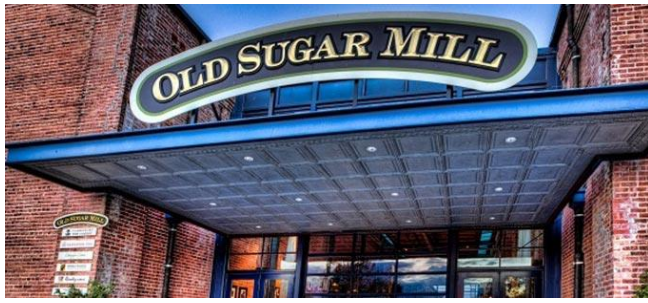


While she's known for skewering B-grade monster movies with a rapier wit on her TV shows, what's her most hated film? Surprise: *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes!* "It drives me crazy," Cassandra complains. "It's already a parody, so I couldn't poke fun at it."

How about her automotive interests? Another surprise: She actually once dreamed of becoming a racecar driver.

(Imagine her in an Indy car instead of Danica Patrick!) But she settled for owning an odd mix of cars over the years, such as a VW Beetle, '69 Firebird, and BMW 740i. Today, she pilots a Prius, and loves it, being the environmentally conscious type in her private life.

More TV shows and movies are in the works, and she's still drawing big crowds at public appearances, where she breezes along in a badass Barris T-bird while the wolves howl at the full moon and she disappears into the night. Now that's one smokin', spooky ride.



Board Meeting/Lunch at the Old Sugar Mill

April 14, 11 a.m.

Our April meet is a little unusual this year. It's just lunch and a meeting, but we hope everyone will attend. The Board needs to meet to talk about club matters and we would like to have the input of our members. It's important for the future of the club that it goes the direction you would like it to go with events you want to attend. We want to encompass a variety of events so everyone enjoys their membership in VTCA.

We're meeting at the Old Sugar Mill at 35265 Willow Avenue in Clarksburg. This is at the request of our President, who says the bacon cheeseburgers off the food truck there are life changing (something about peanut butter and chipotle sauce....!). The Sugar Mill is a historic building that has been converted to a destination site. Their main business is wine. They have wine tasting for several local wineries, along with tours, a great gift shop, a picnic area and superior food trucks from local caterers. It is a great place to visit and a great place for lunch.



Please come join us and help us run your club.

Call Miki if you have any questions, 209-463-2793.

Directions:

Take Consumes River Road exit off of I-5 north of Stockton and south of Sacramento.

Go west to Freeport Road and then turn left (south)

Watch for the bridge crossing the river on the right and go across the river to South River Road.

Turn left again and follow the river to the Old Sugar Mill.

GRASS VALLEY WEEKEND AND CAR SHOW

May 4th and 5th, 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 Grass Valley 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. 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. 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

\$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
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Phone: 408-568-3782

Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Carr's "new" 50th Anniversary 2005
Thunderbird in Cashmere with beige
interior

INSIDE

FLIGHT LOG 1 – SWEETHEART LUNCH

ELVIRA'S 1958 MACABRE MOBILE

UPCOMING

DAY AT THE RACES MARCH 17TH

BOARD MEETING/LUNCH APRIL 14TH