



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 43, Issue 2

MAR/APR 2019

March 17th St. Patrick's Day Oakland Air Museum
March 23rd Day at the Races



Current Events

March 17th Oakland Aviation
Museum – Special Event
March 23rd Day at the Races
April 13th Sonoma Tour

See calendar for full year of
events

What's Inside

President's Message	2
2019 Calendar of Events	3
Flight Log – #1	4
Upcoming Tours	5 & 6
VTCL information	7 & 8
Blast from the past	9
Thunderbird movie star quiz	10

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Nor-Cal members,

First off I would like to thank Bill for his time and dedication while he was President. A quick little information about myself. I was a member thru the 80's dropping out when I sold my 62 hardtop. My parents were also members for number of years. Nell Richmond got me to rejoin several years ago. I was birdless at that time, but a few years back I acquired my retro.

If any of you are in the Sacramento area during the month of March, please stop at the California Auto Museum. Our club will be featured in the Cavalcade Exhibit for the month. We will have 4 vehicles on display.

I always start my auto year off with a trip to the Turlock swap meet put on by the Modesto Area A's each January. It's the largest of its kind in Northern California, drawing over 100,000 people in 2 days. There were more than 300 cars for sale this plus parts and vendors galore. I only spotted 2 T-birds. Both were 64 hardtops.

There are a lot of exciting events planned for this year. Please plan to attend any that may be close for you. Also if you would like to host an event in your area please contact an officer and let's try to make it happen.

I enjoyed our trip to the Oakland Air Museum, followed by a fantastic lunch. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the races in March.

The more miles you drive the more smiles you'll have in your Thunderbird...

Garry Grainger



Attn: All club members Important Event

We have been asked to bring our cars for a special showing at the Oakland Aviation Museum. On March 17th the museum has a special open cockpit day which draws a large following. The Thunderbird club has been invited to show our cars at the museum. The cars will be placed around the aircraft giving some great photo opportunities. The normal admission of \$15 will be waived for all club members bringing cars.

All cars must be in place by 10:00 AM to get placed before the crowds. The cars will be required to stay in place until 4:00 PM when the museum closes.

There are no food vendors nearby so this is a bring your own "running board lunch". There will be table and benches for us to use during the day. We already have a number of "baby birds" coming from the San Francisco club so we want to have a good showing.

We will have space for at least 15 cars so give a call to Russ Carr at 408-568-3782 or oldcarr.rc@gmail.com to reserve your space.

**REMEMBER FREE ADMISSION
AND BRING YOUR LUNCH**

2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Below is a schedule for 2019 year, however if you have any interesting ideas for a tour please contact Miki or Craig and they will help you get it arranged.

All month of March – Thunderbirds featured at California Auto Museum in Sacramento**

MARCH 17th – Special Event – Oakland Air Museum**

MARCH 23RD - Day at the Races in El Cerrito **

APRIL 13th - Club event in Sonoma area**

MAY 3-4th - Grass Valley Tour and Car Show **

JUNE - Open or Pinole Car Show

JULY 16 - 23 - Western Regional Meet in Spokane, WA

AUGUST 18th - Horse and Feather in Lodi **

SEPT – Grass Valley Car Show (first weekend) *

SEPT 29th - TBirds on the Wharf - Santa Cruz (last weekend **

OCTOBER 26th - Migration/BBQ

NOVEMBER - Tree Trimming at California Auto Museum**

DECEMBER - Holiday Party**

**Club functions (Set in stone)

*Tentative functions

Note from the Editor

This may be your final issue if you have not sent in your 2019 dues. Please renew!

Do you know what percentage of cars of your make and model had the same color? Go to vintagethunderbirdclub.net/club_info.htm and click on Thunderbird stuff. Color surveys will give you the answer.

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com



Short Solent MK111 as seen in Indiana Jones movie

Flight Log #1

Sweetheart Brunch and Air Museum
By Russ with Pics by Russ & Garry

It was a cold morning but we were bundled up against the wind and cold. Soon after everyone arrived the doors were opened and we were in. The museum is an interesting mix of very early aircraft to mid-century flying boats and experimental craft to modern day jets and fighters. But the aircraft are only part of the museum.



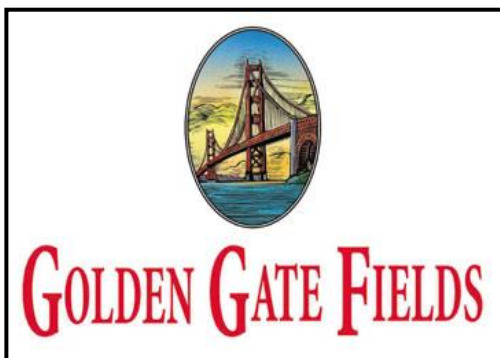
There are many separate rooms that cover different aspects of the history of aviation. There were sections about early women aviators, Oakland Airport history, flying boats ("clippers"), and other specialty aircraft. After the time at the museum we went to Pier 29 for lunch with a beautiful view across the bay to San Francisco. You have another chance to visit this museum on March 17th and park your Thunderbird near the airplanes. See page 3.

Vic "playing music" on a jet engine.



Our newly weds

A Day at the Races



We're doing it again! On Saturday March 23rd we'll be celebrating the coming of spring and thoroughbred racing with fellow Northern CA T'bird enthusiasts at Golden Gate Fields. There will be reserved Turf Club seating for at least 20 (more if sign-ups go over 20 before 3/15 deadline) with a grand view of the track. This year we are going to do things a bit different – Selecting which parking you will use (Self Park \$5 or Valet \$10) as we drive up to the parking kiosk and you will be purchasing entry to the Turf Club at the ticket window, and making your own choice if you want off the menu (\$7 to \$20+) or the all you can eat buffet at \$34

We'll meet at the track around 11:00am at the main entrance and go through the ticket windows and make our selections about food when we purchase our tickets. There is no need to prepay anything. There are also free Track shuttles leaving the North Berkeley BART Station every 10 minutes from 8:10 AM to 12:00 PM - Bart Parking is free.

Please sign-up using form below before March 15, 2019 Deadline

-----Clip & Mail-----

Yes – I'd like to attend the Races.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number Adults _____ Number Children Under 18 _____

Please respond to: Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530, (510) 558-4037, mjprgp@infionline.net
Driving and meet instructions will be mailed or e-mailed to those attending.



A DAY IN SONOMA

Saturday, 4/13/19

We have been invited for lunch! Long time club members Eugene Daly and his wife Ethel have invited our club to come to Sonoma for an afternoon of cars, historical sights, and food, our three favorite things!



We will meet in at the American Armory Museum in Fairfield at 10 a.m. and tour their facility. The museum is at 4144 Abernathy Road. At 11:30 we will leave the museum and travel to Eugene's home in Sonoma, where our hosts will supply us lunch. After lunch we will travel to Eugene's "man cave" a few blocks from his home where he has other vehicles and guy stuff for us to enjoy

This facility has off street parking for our cars, so we will leave them there and walk a short distance to Sonoma Square, where there is an abundance of historic sights and many one-of-a-kind shops, so something for the guys and something for the girls! There is also the possibility of a dessert stop after lunch to a friend's garage to see his private collection. All in all a very fun and very special day.



THIS IS NOT A DROP IN EVENT. Please be courteous and call to let us know you are coming. **We need a headcount** to give our hosts so they can plan the luncheon part of our day and we need it a week prior to the event day, so **deadline is April 6** to sign up for this event.

Call Miki with the number coming at **209-463-2793**. Hope to see you there!

We have mentioned the benefits in joining the Vintage Thunderbird Club International but do you know how and why the club got started. The following article is from the VTCI website at <http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/>



Dan Likar, VTCI Historian

The Vintage Thunderbird Club began in the fall of 1968 with the chance meeting of two fellows in Tulsa, Oklahoma who met at a local Ford dealer looking for parts for their Squarebirds (1960s). They were Don Brix Jr and Don Harris. As the conversation ensued they decided to attempt to find out if there was a club available for them that incorporated their 1960 Thunderbirds. They checked with the Classic Thunderbird Club but found that the Classic club was just for 1955 , 1956 and 1957 Thunderbirds and were not interested in expanding to newer years of cars. They also found other folks in the Tulsa area that had a similar interest so they decided to advertise in local papers to see if enough people were interested in starting a club dedicated to 1958, 1959 and 1960 Thunderbirds. The first official meeting was held at the home of Don Brix Jr. on September 17, 1968. Seven "Squarebird " owners attended that first meeting and formed the club we now call the "Vintage Thunderbird Club International". The name chosen for the initial club was "The Vintage Thunderbird Club of America, the Squarebird Society" because you see the club was devoted to just 1958, 1959 and 1960 Thunderbirds, thus "squarebirds". This is basically how our club got started, from our beginnings we now embrace ALL years of Thunderbirds and anyone can join our club even if he/she doesn't own a Thunderbird, just an interest is all that is needed.

In 1971 the leadership of the club was passed to Larry Seyfarth of Dearborn, Michigan and all club responsibilities were also given to Larry. He led the club to its present "democratic" form with elected regional directors and other officers. Larry stepped down in 1984 but not after changing the format of the club. Under his direction we began accepting 1961 up to 1966 Thunderbirds into the club, this took place in 1977.

The board of directors decided because of the world wide reach of the club and the indication in our name about our dedication to the "Squarebird" only we needed to have a change in our name. Thus in 1988 the Board voted to change the name of the club from " Vintage Thunderbird Club of America the Square bird Society" to Vintage Thunderbird Club International". We continue to use this name.

ALL years of Thunderbirds were accepted into the club beginning January 1996. We have an "International" convention each year with changing locations so that most of the members will have the opportunity to attend one of these shows reasonably close to their home. We also have Regional shows yearly, sponsored by local chapters. Judging to factory standards is done at all shows, this is done so that members who want to restore their car will know the proper way to make it original. We also have modified classes and just plain drivers classes to try to reach as many members as possible. Not all members want a perfectly restored to factory specs car.

Need tires for your 'Bird. This information is a good example of the information available on the VTCI website.

Re-tiring

by Robert Pontiff

Since the first Thunderbird, tire size conventions have changed a number of times and the tire construction method has also changed. The radial-ply tires have replaced bias-ply tires.

There are companies that specialize in providing "vintage" tires. Many judging organizations require that you use original brand, style and size tires. These vintage tires tend to be expensive and obtaining them lacks the convenience of popping down to the local Walmart or Goodyear Store. If originality is not an issue, then a number of benefits can be derived from using "new-style" tires. A "new-style" tire may be safer, less expensive, more readily available and last longer.

The use of radial tires versus bias-ply tires requires no major modifications to your automobile. Some suggest that radial tires be inflated to 3 PSI higher than normal to compensate for the less-stiff sidewall. Adjusting the front-end alignment toe-out slightly outside of specification also helps "the feel" that is resultant from the use of radials. Do not use radial tires with tubes. All Thunderbirds were delivered with tubeless tires except for those with Kelsey Hays wire wheels (1962-1964).

The tire-size convention used in the 1950's through mid-1960's is represented by "6.70-15" or "670-15". The first three digits ("670" or "6.70") of this code provided the approximate width of the tire in inches. "6.70" is 6.7 inches. The last two digits ("15") provide the rim diameter in inches.

After the mid-1960's the tire-size convention is represented by "LR60-15". The "L" is an alpha letter designation and defines load limit. "R" means that the tire has radial-ply construction. If the tire designation has only one letter e.g., no "R" then the tire is bias-ply. "60" provides the aspect ratio. The aspect ratio is the height of the tire (from top of rim bead to bottom of tread) divided by the width of the tire. The "15" represents the rim diameter in inches as above.

The current tire-size convention is a variation an original metric system and is represented by "P215/75R15". "P" means passenger car tire. (The original metric system omitted this letter.) "215" is the width of the tire in millimeters where "215" is 215 millimeters. "75" represents the aspect ratio as defined in the earlier convention. . (The original metric system omitted aspect ratio.) The tire construction is represented by "R" and can be "R" for radial-ply, "D" for diagonal-ply or "B" for bias-ply construction. As in previous conventions "15" represents the rim diameter in inches. This convention was used for 1980 and up Thunderbird tires.

The following is provided as a guide in determining replacement tire sizes:

T-bird model	Original tire size	Suggested Replacements
1955-1956	6.70-15	P195/75R15 or P205/70R15
1957	7.50-14	P215/75R14 or P225/70R14
1958-1964	8.00-14	P225/75R14 or P235/70R14
1958-1960	8.50-14	P165/75R15 or P175/70R15
1964-69	8.15-15	P205/75R15 or P215/70R15
1968-69	8.45-15	P215/75R15 or P225/70R15
1968-73	215R15	P215/75R15 or P225/70R15
1970-71	H78-15	P215/75R15 or P225/70R15
1974-75	LR78-15	P235/75R15 or P255/70R15
1976	JR78-15	P225/75R15 or P235/70R15
1977-78	HR78-15	P215/75R15 or P225/70R15
1979	GR78-15	P205/75R15 or P215/70R15

Blast from the Past

From a September 1989 Wing

For Sale

One Thunderbird collector husband. Needs complete restoration. High mileage but runs. Top needs replacing – old one is rather bare. Brakes always work when near auto wreckers. Rear end growls-----won't pass smog inspection. Bank account needs over-hauling. \$39.95 or best offer.

Other items of interest in this issue:

150 in attendance at Horse and Feathers

204 total members in club

Mike and Rita Press were new members

Cindy Grainger and her pink T'Bird circa 1985



TEST: Name the stars and their Thunderbird.

Jar of jam to the one with the most correct answers by Day at the Races.



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 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.

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Jim Parry	Mike McSherry
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Craig Cuslidge #15



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Marilyn Monroe's Thunderbird recent sold at auction for \$425,000

INSIDE
FLIGHT LOG 1 OAKLAND AIR MUSEUM
UPCOMING
MARCH 17TH OAKLAND AIR MUSEUM
MARCH 23RD DAY AT THE RACES
APRIL 13TH SONOMA TOUR