



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

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Nov/Dec 2015



Current Events

December 12th Holiday
Luncheon/ Hot Cars showroom

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DUES ARE DUE!

SEE RENEWAL FORM IN THIS ISSUE.

GET YOUR RENEWAL IN EARLY AND BE INCLUDED IN THE 2016 ROSTER.

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/> and
the facebook location is
www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream

President's Message

With November starting we are officially in the Fall months. Fortunately, we live in California so we still have some pleasant weather ahead of us. In fact, October is often one of our nicest times of the year, at least weather-wise. Hopefully, you're getting some beautiful days in your Thunderbird!

A couple of newsworthy items for us to consider this month: First, the national club has asked us if we would like to co-host a regional meet in 2017—that's right, not next Spring but the spring after that. We've been asked if we would like to work with one of the southern California clubs and make it a joint effort. So far, I've heard nothing from the club but I'd like to hear from you! This would entail as many as possible willing to help with the event as well as attending (either down south or here). One thought a member suggested: some of us might be willing to transport our cars to LA and then just use them for the show as well as sightseeing thus cutting down on the long ride down south. It's still early, we could have it up here, but unless the Board hears from you, it's not going to happen! So, your opinion counts!

Secondly, we hope there will be some sort of activity for the holidays...as of my writing of this I haven't gotten anything to mention. Hopefully there will be some news in the newsletter. We were trying to leave November open with Thanksgiving and other commitments squeezing into December.

Lastly, the end of the year also marks the planning for next year. We have plenty of past annual events that we can continue to do such as the Sweetheart's Brunch (Feb), our annual Migration, a Concours event, and Horse and Feathers (usually Aug) and finally the Day at the Races as well as Birds on the Wharf (Sept-Oct) and ending with a Christmas Brunch. If you like these as before, we're happy to follow. If you'd like something different, please suggest it, or better yet, volunteer to help plan it. It's one way of getting an outing near you!

It's been an interesting year and hard to believe that it will soon be over. It's also a good time to begin to reflect on what we all want from the Club. There are more activities than ever, many car shows, etc., but again, what can the Club do for you? It's worth contemplating a bit---but better yet, letting us know!

Till next time.....

Peter Harmon President

Note from the Editor

Dues are due! Please fill out the renewal form completely and send it in with your check. This is important as the information will be used for a 2016 Roster to be published in the first quarter.

Please also remember there are two levels for dues. \$25 and you will get your Wing faster by email in full color. \$30 and we will mail the Wing to you but it will only be in black and white.

I am still looking for more Car of the Month photos and stories. Send them to my email below.

Also Bill Kinsey is still looking for photos of your car to add to our website. Send them to tbird94101@gmail.com.

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

Front Page Picture

TBirds on the Wharf with Pic by Russ.

Video Picture of the Month

It has come to our attention that you are frequently under the influence of alcohol. To clear the air, you are required to answer the following. Which direction is the car going?



2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 12th Holiday Luncheon and My Hot Cars showroom (see this issue for details)

Any month in 2016 can use a tour!!

The 2016 Calendar has numerous open months waiting for you to sign up to host a tour. 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.



Contest from Vic: Miki came up with the correct answer just 2 hours before Mike Press. Toilet paper holder!



Flight Log #1 TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz

By Russ

It was a perfect beach day and the TBirds were also very nice. We did not get a final count but attendance was up from last year. We had a larger number of "big birds" than in years past with Chuck and Lani's 1983 (?) being the biggest bird in the roost.



As usual the contrast of the colorful Thunderbirds on one side of the wharf and the dull white to grey to black new cars on the other side of the wharf was something to see. We had many of the public make note of this fact.



Nor Cal Vintage brought home two awards for the 61-63 years.

Marilyn in her Diamond Blue convertible and Jay Remick/Michael Amodt in their 1962 convertible.

If you haven't made it to this event you should plan on attending next September. The event is usually held the last weekend of September



which is the best time for the weather in Santa Cruz. Good location, fun raffle, good eats on the wharf and lots of Thunderbirds. See you there next year. 130 miles on HER63TB

Flight Log #2 Alameda Car Show

By Russ

.Now when the confirmation for the car show says 8 AM, you know that people will start arriving at 6 AM to get the best spots. Well at the Alameda Show, they select sites for you based on clubs or when your application arrives. So knowing that we still have to leave by 6:30 AM which means I have to get Marilyn up much earlier! Anyway the day started clear and bright in San Martin but by the time we got to Fremont area the windshield wipers had to come on. Just a light rain but enough to get the car dirty and to find a few little leaks.

Alameda was clearing so out came the towels and speed shine to get the TBird ready for show. By 8 AM we got a call from Miki saying her '65 had to

go back home and they were going to bring the Retro Bird. Guess transmission fluid leaking on the exhaust pipes makes a LOT of white smoke.

This show has a lot more classic and original cars than most recents show but we still had the hotrods and customs. The streets were full all day with lots of spectators. This show is very well attended by the public.



As many of you know I always open the doors and will invite people to sit in our cars to get them involved in the car scene. But I was topped by the gentleman about 5 cars down with a 1914 Model T. All day long he continued to demonstrate how to start a Model T Ford with the hand crank. Bet he did it 4 or 5 times an hour.



You did miss out on a good time car show and to top it off lunch was bought for all club members by Craig and Russ. Another 150 miles on HER63TB.

Flight Log Extra TBirds and Lincoln at El Sobrante Stroll

By Russ and Pic by Vic

While not a "sanctioned" event for NorCal, a couple of our members attended the car show in El Sobrante and came away with some top prizes.

Vic had his very nice 1964 Thunderbird take home the award for the COOLEST 60's CAR. Bill Edwards arrived with his all original 1957 Lincoln and parked with Vic. The Lincoln won the award for the COOLEST CLASSIC.



(editor note: If you do take your car to a show or other outing that is not a club function, you can still get you picture in The Wing. Just email me a picture and a short note and I will try to get it in.)





HOLIDAY PARTY



CATTLEMEN'S RESTAURANT, LIVERMORE

December 12, 2015

We'll start the day by meeting at My Hot Cars at 2476 Nissen Drive in Livermore (take Airway Blvd exit off of 580) at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and snacks while chatting amidst the many beautiful cars in their showroom. At 11:30 a.m. we'll head over to Cattlemen's Restaurant, located at 2882 Kitty Hawk Road in Livermore and who's parking lot backs up to the parking lot at My Hot Cars. Park in either lot and just walk between the places, but if you bring your classic bird, please park in front of My Hot Cars initially because they love to see our cars there.

Lunch will include a vegetable platter, all-you-want-to-eat salad, entre, mashed potatoes, their famous baked beans, dessert, coffee, tea or soda.. Alcoholic beverages are of course available but not included in the price of the meal. Cost per person is \$25.00, and includes tax and tip..

PLEASE MAKE YOUR MENU SELECTIONS AND RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK BY DECEMBER 5 TO MIKI SMITH AT 2053 TELEGRAPH AVENUE, STOCKTON, CA 95204. IF YOU THINK IT WILL NOT GET TO US BY THAT DATE, CALL US AND LET US KNOW IT'S ON ITS WAY.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____ X \$25.00 = _____

MENU SELECTIONS: NUMBER

8 OUNCE SIRLOIN STEAK (Harris Ranch beef, prepared medium unless otherwise specified) _____

LEMON HERB CHICKEN (Charbroiled skinless breast with fat free Lemon herb marinade) _____

GRILLED ATLANTIC SALMON (boneless filet, served with dill sauce and lemon) _____

SPINACH AND CHEESE RAVIOLI (tossed with pesto, diced tomatoes and feta cheese) _____

We'll also be handing out our Member of the Year award and doing a gift exchange. **The gift exchange is completely optional.** If you want to participate in this, bring a wrapped gift (not exceeding \$20.00 in cost). Boys bring boy gifts wrapped in blue or green and girls bring girl gifts wrapped in red or white.



Following lunch the Chevelle Club will have their cars at My Hot Cars beginning at 2:30 p.m. should you want to go and see more beautiful cars.

Call Miki and Craig if you have any questions or if you think your check won't reach us in time at **209-463-2793**.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please fill out the following renewal form and send it along with your check.

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 give us your email even if you decide to get the Wing by mail. Then we can contact you for special announcements)

Birds in your Roost: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

Signature: _____

Member number for VTCl : _____

Car of the Month

Bill & Julie Kinsey's 1966 Thunderbird Town Landau

By Bill Kinsey

Our 1966 Thunderbird Town Landau is the fourteenth car Julie and I have owned in our 35 years together. It was added to the fleet in 2012 as my daily driver and designated Date Car, and we've been bringing it along since then.



On May 1st, 2015 we completed a six-month refit that included complete driveline and cooling system replacement, steering and brake repairs, and a host of interior and minor system repairs and upgrades. Project Thunderbird started out as a restoration, but it's morphed to something more like "muscle-up resto-mod cruiser" using modern versions of original components. A high-output 390 replaces the 428 with similar torque and greater horsepower, a TCI™ C6 replaces Ford's C6, and Currie's version of the 9-inch Ford differential spins the rears with the same 3.0 gearing as stock.



I've been captivated with 1966 Thunderbirds since 1966. It's highly stylized and offers a different look from every angle. From the sides it's a low-rider or some sort of odd two-door limousine (town landau). From the back it's a jaunty speedboat or perhaps the Millennium Falcon space ship.



From the front, particularly when looking from above, it's a shark with a chrome smile.



One day while sitting in traffic on a downhill slope behind a '64 T-bird, I was struck by the similarities between it and my 1963 Glasspar Avalon speedboat. Looking down on the '64 I saw gunwales and a fantail, just like the Avalon. And, like the T-bird, the Avalon had these vestigial tailfins that looked like some prehistoric critter that was evolving into something modern but just wasn't there yet.

The "Thunderbird-as-Boat" concept stuck with me for years until I couldn't stand it anymore, and we acquired the '66 townie from a local guy who was ready to move on. Its condition ranged from pristine (back seats), to somewhat restored (mechanicals), to "if my daughter's date showed up in it I'd call the cops" body and paint. Just like a boat, regular applications of money get things fixed and prettied-up, and the '66 was ultimately ready for polite company.

The recent modifications have given us a driver's car with sporty acceleration and crisp handling. The first run through our local canyon backroad with the new, oversized front sway bar demonstrated that a 4600lb sedan can have a

firm and stable ride without body roll and steering wander. The second run through that same canyon demonstrated that a 4600lb sedan with that fat sway bar can be a whole lot of fun.

We're looking forward to more Thunderbird adventures as it moves into a greater state of function and reliability. It continues to be a conversation starter with people in parking lots and in traffic, with lots of comments about the one they remember from back in the day, or even better, the question "what's that?"

Bill and Julie joined the NorCal Vintage Thunderbirds in December 2014, and work on the Club's website together.

CLA\$\$IFIED

Cars and parts for sale, wanted, free, or other Thunderbird related items. Ads can be sent to Russ Carr at oldcarr.rc@gmail.com (.doc, .docx or .jpg for pictures)

**FOR SALE 1966 THUNDERBIRD DOOR PANEL
PASSENGER SIDE (1) ONLY. MUST USE YOUR OWN DOOR TRIM.
STILL IN SHIPPING BOX. \$225 ~~\$175~~ (1 only) or Best Offer
dealer price \$570.00 pair
CALL: Russ @ 415-999-4333**

FOR SALE Two 1963 Principality of Monaco Thunderbirds Contact Will Easton at 916-804-8935(Sacramento,CA)

1963 Ford Thunderbird Special Edition Landau Principality of Monaco#704 of 2000.

Completely stock, with new Concourse correct white upholstery and foam padding.

Original Rose Beige vinyl top, one repaint of Corinthian white paint. No rust California car with original black and yellow Lic.Plates. Power driver's seat, and windows. Clean title, current registration and insurance.\$11,000OBO





1963 Ford Thunderbird Special Edition Landau Principality of Monaco #1551 of 2000 made.
Completely stock; With original Ford AM/FM radio, power driver's seat, and electric windows.
Original California car with black and yellow Lic. Plates.
Older restoration; Runs, Clean title with current registration and insurance. \$5,500 OBO



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.

John Byers

1958 – 1960 Concours/Restoration
408-265-6833

Jack Callison

1958-1966 Mechanical
408-262-7472 after 6:00 p.m.

Craig Cuslidge

1958-1966 Concours Detail
1960 sunroofs
1965 General/Restorations
209-463-2793

Bill Edwards

1958-1966 General/Mechanical/Convertibles
510-223-2365

Kurt Larcher

1958-1966 General/Mechanical/Convertibles
650-571-5065

Bob Mabe

1958-1966 Convertibles/Sunroofs
650-941-6534

Mike Press

1958-1966 Concours Details/Parts/Services
1961-1963 General/Restoration
510-558-4037

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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Craig Cuslidge #15



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**Northern California
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