



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 42, Issue 1

JAN/FEB 2018



Member of the Year – Gary Grainger receiving his award from Craig

##Please read the editor's note. ##No tour reminder for February##

Current Events

No January Tour

February 17th Computer

History Museum in MT. View

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President's Message

Ah, the joys of vintage car ownership: Greetings clubmates, once again I'm going to tell you something that you already know-keeping a 50 year old car up and running can be frustrating, time-consuming, and costly. Perhaps you've encountered this.

Our beloved '66 townie (El Jefe) has been through a lot over the years, and I give it a couple of pats on the roof each time I walk past it in the carport simply out of appreciation for it still being among the living. Sometimes it sits there for longer than I'd like while I'm out earning Thunderbird dollars so I can keep it among the living. And while I'm always eager to brag about what a basket case it was when I bought it and how thorough its rehabilitation was, the fact is that it isn't always ready to drive on the day I want to drive it. "It's a work in progress" is what I tell myself, and perhaps you'll have a chance to hear that in the coming months.

Sometime back in late October the Kinsey Fleet's Chief Engineer identified several items needing repair, and into the shop it went. Well, one thing led to another, this and that needed attention, and six weeks later it came home with some of those items corrected. I'll point out here that our automotive service providers are intelligent, capable, and honest people who do terrific work. Thunderbirds, "unique in all the world," can be a handful particularly when they are decades older than them who is a-wrenchin' on 'em. Parts and the vendors of parts aren't always readily available, the way one goes about making repairs doesn't always work how ya think it's gonna, other busted stuff gets discovered, and six weeks can go by pretty quick.

During the repair period I was able to turn my bright enthusiasm for Thunderbirding into the dark brooding of second-guessing the whole vintage car thing, counting every dollar and minute I'd obviously squandered up until this point. It's good when things are going south to make sure you get every ounce of despair out of the situation, don't you think? Clearly The Beast would never be right, and I'm an idiot for thinking differently. Once I'd accepted that, I then pondered if simply owning such a beautiful car would be sufficient. Just because its undrivable doesn't mean I have to give it up, I reasoned. Why, I could build a garage to keep it in and show it to my friends who not only would see its beauty but would think of me as a real sophisticate for owning it. I lived with that delusion for a couple of days, but wanting to turn the situation darker, it was obvious that El Jefe had betrayed me and it has to go. I went as far as to actually verbalize to my closest inner circle that it was on the block. What a relief it would be to move on, I said.

Then El Jefe returned from the shop clean and shiny, and mostly working as intended. Ah, the joys of vintage car ownership! It was a day or two before we went for a ride, but when we did the clouds parted, larks sang, the 390 roared and life was good again. One ride turned into a few more and once again my town is cooler just because El Jefe is cruising around in it. So what if I had to drive the Caravan the club's tree decorating at the California Auto Museum, or the Honda to the holiday lunch in Alameda. There's Always Next Time! We'll just forget that whole "gotta get rid of it" business.

El Jefe's going back to the shop tomorrow to take care of those last few things, keep your fingers crossed.

See you down the road,
Bill

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

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925-683-0278

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209-463-2793

Secretary

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The Wing Editor

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mjprgp@infionline.net

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open

Vic Quarello
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

*****Your editor will be traveling in the Arizona desert next month and will have no access to printers or the internet so there WILL NOT be a February tour reminder.*****

Please note that it is now time to send in your dues for the coming year. The application is included in this issue. Please send the application in with your check so we make sure we have the latest info on your addresses and Thunderbirds.

Again I am going to request that you consider receiving The Wing digitally if you don't already. Getting this thing printed and mailed by "snail mail" is difficult when we are traveling and usually will cause a delay in sending it out. Besides it is cheaper for you and you get it in color.

Russ

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

** No tour in January

** February 17th Joint tour with Valle del Sur Antique Automobile Club to the Computer History Museum in Mt. View. (see this issue for details)

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

Important Message from Jim Merritt at VTCI

Please send out the following information for the upcoming VTCI 2018 Convention.

The VTCI is coming up to a major milestone this year. The VTCI is going to be 50 years old and we want to have a 50th Anniversary celebration. The celebration will be the international convention in Tulsa, OK on July 11 - 14, 2018. The VTCI BOD was asked and they approved being the hosts for the 50th Anniversary convention held at the Marriott Tulsa Southern Hills, OK. The hotel is very nice according to Rod Wake, who went there to see first hand what it was like. This hotel is used to working with car clubs because the Mid America Ford and Shelby Nationals has been held there at this hotel many times over the past years. The reason for picking Tulsa is because 50 years ago in September the first official club meeting was held there.

The Convention Committee is in need of someone to design the logo for the shirts, hats, and the awards. The design will be open to everyone who would like to turn a design in.

Send your ideas to Rod Wake at: vtcirez10@gmail.com and to Jim Merritt at: Merritt793@gmail.com by February 15, 2018.

The Convention Committee are also looking for volunteers that would be interested in helping out at the convention. In the next week I will send an email out with a description of task that need to be filled at the convention.

Questions? send Jim Merritt an email at: Merritt793@gmail.com or give him a call at [303-472-1328](tel:303-472-1328).

Is anyone thinking of attending this event. Please let either Bill Kinsey or Russ Carr know if you want to go.

Sweetheart Joint Tour with Valle Del Sur region of Antique Automobile Club of America to the Computer History Museum

When: 10:30 AM Saturday February 17th
Where: Mt. View (see directions below)
Cost: Adult \$17, Senior \$13

What was the first computer that you used? Mine was an IBM clone that ran off 5 ¼ floppy disks. When was the first computer defined – 2000 years ago (no I don't remember it). Later when I upgraded I bought a hard drive for \$250 that stored 5 megabits. Your basic smart phone has about 15 gigabites which is a whole lot more. We will be able to trace computerization back from a time earlier than most of us could guess (1890?). There are special displays on various aspects of the industry from manufacturing to the computer games.

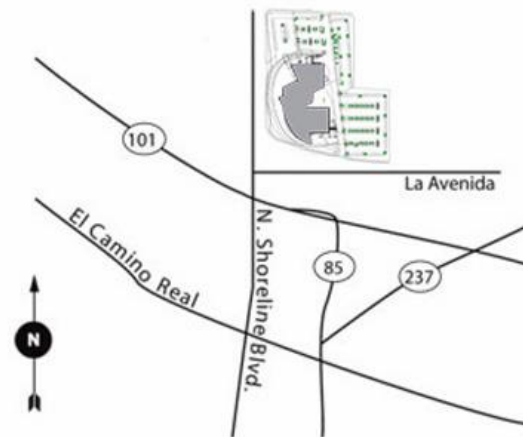


There is an auto display that traces autonomous vehicles that always seem to be just two decades away starting in 1930.

We will spend a couple of hours at the museum and then tour a mile up the road to the Bejis Café in Mt. View for our Sweetheart Brunch. Bejis has an extensive breakfast/lunch menu with all items under \$15.

Directions

- Take US-101 to Mt. View
- Take Shoreline Blvd exit.
- Head east onto Shoreline Blvd.
- Cross through intersection.
- Museum is on your right



Please call or email Russ at 408-568-3782 or oldcarr.rc@gmail.com if you are going to attend by Feb 12th. We may be able to get a group rate at the museum if I know the number of people attending.

Flight Log #1

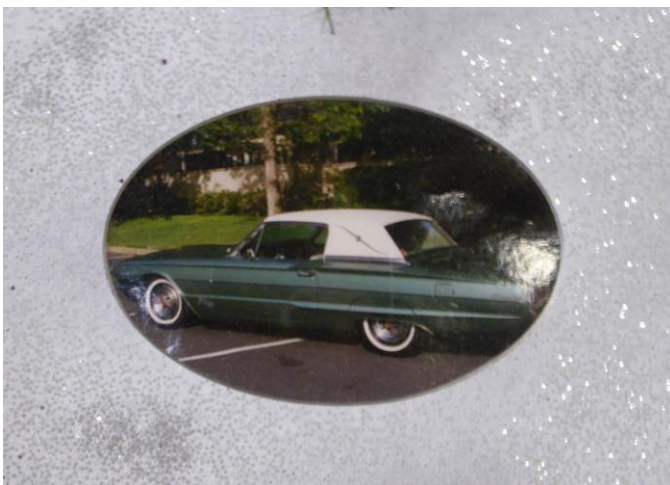
Tree Trimming in November

By Russ with Pics by Russ

The afternoon started out with more than 30 different car clubs arriving at the California Auto Museum in Sacramento. Then the procession of trees, ornaments and food began.



Every car club had their own tree placed around all of the beautiful cars in the museum. Our tree had ornaments that had pictures of club owner's cars.



After the trees were all in place we congregated around the tables for dinner. The tables were groaning from the load of food and we had to wait around until our number came up.



We didn't have to worry about food since they were busy replacing the empty dishes from the kitchen. After all had been fed there was still food left for seconds. When the plates were cleared we then went to the raffle. There were many prizes and even though our table only scored a few wins we all had a great time. Thanks go to Miki and Craig for getting our tree ready and then for going back in January to take it down. A great time was had by all and you should consider attending this event next year.

Flight Log #2

Holiday Dinner

By Russ with Pics by Vic

The day was warm enough for me to put down the top on our new 2005 Cashmere Thunderbird. Well the top was down only since I was alone. But it was a nice ride and I think we will have some fun with this "new" bird.



Our attendance was light this year but we still had the regular results for our tours.....good food, lots of fun, and great people.



We had a very nice dinner and then a gift exchange. Everyone went home happy since there wasn't even any steals of the gifts.



We spent a few minutes honoring Gary Grainger as our LeRoy Seibert Member of the Year. This award is presented to the member that has demonstrated the Thunderbird spirit in the past year. Gary has been to most of our tours and always had a smile for everyone.



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 : _____



New Membership Application Form International

Fill out this form online print and send with your check or money order to the address below.

Prorated dues schedule *

<u>Month</u>	<u>US and Canada</u>	<u>All Other Countries</u>
January/February	\$35.00	\$55.00
March/April	\$30.00	\$50.00
May / June	\$25.00	\$40.00
July / August	\$20.00	\$35.00
September / October	\$50.00 includes next year	\$85.00 includes next year
November / December	\$45.00 includes next year	\$75.00 includes next year

NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

CHANGES IN MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY – STATE /PROVINCE – ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ PHONE: _____ VTCI # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIST NAME/ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES NO

PLEASE LIST ANY CHANGES IN THUNDERBIRDS YOU OWN:

YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

Local club if any: _____

Do you belong to any other National Thunderbird Club? Yes No _____

USA, CANADA OVERSEAS (AIR MAIL)

Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

Payment enclosed. Please make check payable to: Vintage Thunderbird Club International

Please fill out and mail check made out to VTCI:

Vintage Thunderbird Club International, Inc. C/O Beverly Wake

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine, valued at \$20.00/year

(Subscription not available without membership)

2017 A GREAT YEAR



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.

Advisory Board of Past Presidents

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



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Thanks to Tim Van Raam for this Elvira Thunderbird. More on this George Barris creation in coming issue.

INSIDE

FLIGHT LOG 1 – TREE TRIMMING

FLIGHT LOG 2 – HOLIDAY LUNCH

UPCOMING

COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM

IN MT. VIEW