



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 41, Issue 3

MAY/JUN 2017

## Our ride for the May tour



### *Current Events*

May 20<sup>th</sup> Migration in  
Concord  
May 21<sup>st</sup> Thunderbird  
Appreciation Day  
June 10<sup>th</sup> Brizio Street Rods  
in South San Francisco

### *What's Inside*

President's Message	2
2017 Calendar of Events	3
Upcoming Tours	4, 5 and 6
Flight Log - #1	7
Car of the Month	9

## 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

Bill Kinsey  
925-683-0278

### 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/norcalvtca?ref=stream](https://www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream)

## President's Message

**Vintage racing and a vintage Thunderbird** Greetings clubmates, I got to do something in April that I've wanted to do for a long time: attend a vintage road race at Sonoma Raceway. We made a family trip of it and braved the Highway 37 traffic for a Classic Sports Racing Group charity event.

I got interested in racing as a kid in the late 60s and early 70s with my older brothers. While I have enjoyed going to the track from time to time since then, those old days have stuck in my mind as something of a benchmark of motorsports. Perhaps it was the combination of NASA-like development programs and interesting characters behind the wheel, but when I think of racing it's the likes of Gurney, Foyt, and Andretti at the reins of Cougars, Coyotes, and Hawks that comes to mind first.

So there we were in the pits at Sonoma on vintage race day in April 2017, with the roar of the engines and the penetrating aroma of high-octane exhaust belching out of Corvettes, Mustangs, Lotuses (Loti?), unwinged Formula cars, sports racers, Jags, Alfas, and more. In my mind it was 1970, and I became the giddy kid who wouldn't shut up about this car or that driver or how this engineer and that company made this cool thing that smoked everyone else on the track that day, ad infinitum (I'm blessed with a very patient wife and daughters). My transformation happened immediately upon arrival and stopped only through exhaustion some time later. Around every corner I was expecting to see Parnelli Jones or Penelope Pitstop in a place that will always be Sears Point to me.

And the icing on the cake? Arriving and departing in style in our very cool '66 Thunderbird. There weren't many vintage cars in Parking Lot 2 that day. Among a few old Mustangs our Thunderbird commanded attention with distinctive looks and relative rarity. The perfect ride for a trip to yesteryear.

See you on the road,  
Bill

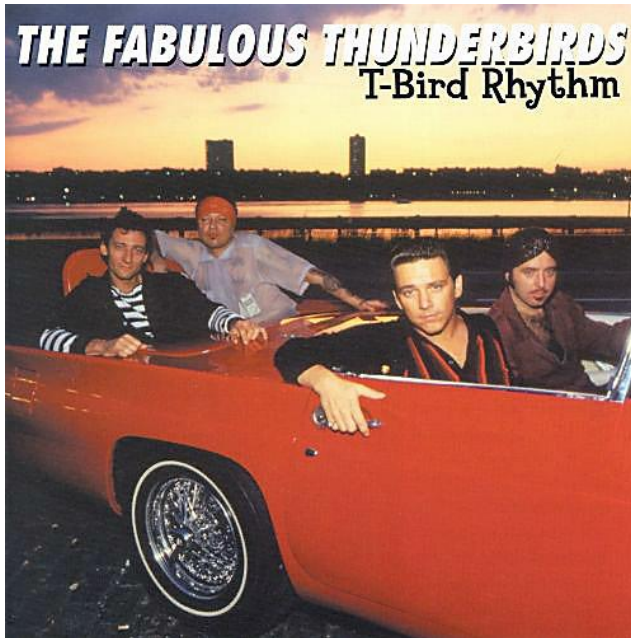


## Note from the Editor

I'm sorry but we I don't have any report on the Day at the Races for this year. We missed it this year and so did most of my "normal reporters".

I found one more Thunderbird song! "In my Thunderbird" by The Fabulous Thunderbirds.

However I really liked their album cover. A rare '57 with the Bird Nest in the trunk!



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

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*May 20<sup>th</sup> – Migration Dave Bruebeck Park – Concord (entry form later in issue)**

**\*\*May 21<sup>st</sup> – Ford Thunderbird Appreciation Day! Get your 'Bird out of the garage and take it to lunch, drive it shopping or just take a Sunday drive to show it off.**  
<http://www.oldcarsweekly.com/news/ford-thunderbird-appreciation-day-may-21-2017>

**\*\* June 10<sup>th</sup> – Brizio Street Rods – South San Francisco (info in this issue)**

\*June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Monterey Rock n Rod (see last issue or call Russ for info)

**\*\* July – Open**

**\*\* August 13<sup>th</sup> Horse and Feathers**

**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**

## Pictures of the Month

From Vic Quarello



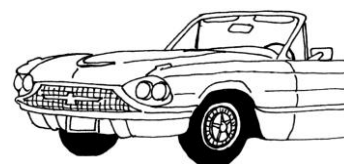
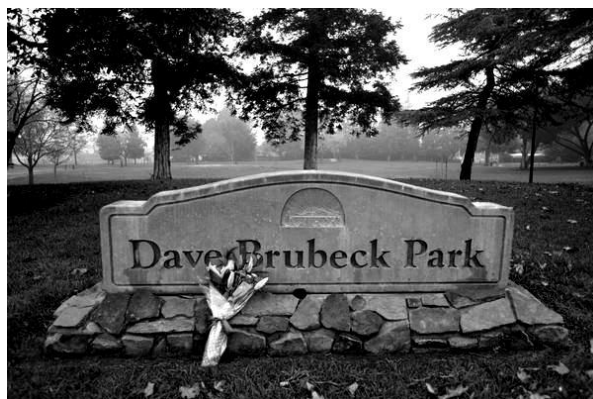
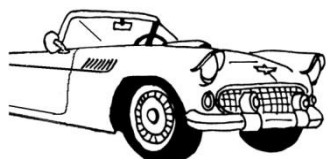
What if? A '63 pickup and a '66 four door.

# **\*LAST CHANCE – MAIL IN RIGHT AWAY**

# **MIGRATION / CONCOURS**

# **2017**

**ALL T-BIRDS 1955 - 2005 WELCOME**



**Peoples Choice Trophies for '55 thru '57, '58 thru'66,  
Post '66 and Retro 'Birds**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**  
**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Dave Brubeck Park in Concord, CA**

Hosted by the **Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club**

Come relax and enjoy a day at the park surrounded by cars and the people who love them. Meet new friends, eat good food, kick a few tires, and maybe win a trophy or a great raffle prize! Mark your calendar or to-do list and plan on spending a day enjoying our cars and a great part of our national history.

**\$25.00 ENTRY INCLUDES** – Grass parking, commemorative dash plaques for the first 50 participants, photo ops, and entrant's choice car show with awards. Optional concours judging for Vintage ('58 – '66) cars will be available upon individual request and for information only. Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day for donated items from our sponsors (we also encourage entrants to donate raffle items). Late entry on day of the show is **\$30.00**

**BBQ Lunch Available** – Burger/Hot Dog and Beans Barbecue available, includes fruit and green salads and drink. \$6.00/person

**PLEASE COMPLETE ENTRY FORM ON OPPOSITE SIDE AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED BEFORE MAY 13<sup>th</sup>.** Attendees will be notified of receipt of their entry and receive driving directions via mail or e-mail

# MIGRATION / CONCOURS 2017

## ALL '55 THRU '05 T'BIRDS

Please complete the following registration form and send with a check made payable to Norcal VTCA to Miki Smith 2053 Telegraph Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204. Call 209-463-2793 with questions. Entries must be postmarked by May 18. (**\$25.00 Pre-registered - \$30.00 day of show**) Entry fee is non-refundable.

**Information? Call (510) 558-4037 or e-mail [mjprgp@infionline.net](mailto:mjprgp@infionline.net)**

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

### MIGRATION / CONCOURS 2016 Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Check for Concours Evaluation (Vintage Only) \_\_\_

Vehicle Entry \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

BBQ Lunch \$6.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages which may result in my participation in the Migration 2015. By my signature below, I release the Dave Brubeck Park, the City of Concord and the Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club of any and all liability of property or loss to myself or said vehicle.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOTRODS!

June 10, 2017



We're going to South San Francisco and taking a tour of the fabulous Brizio Street Rods, located at 505 Railroad Ave. This is an amazing place where they take in project cars from all over and turn them into amazing street machines.

We all love our Thunderbirds, but there's something about a hotrod that turns back the clock and turns us all into teenagers. They are so kool! We not only get to see the shops where the magic occurs but then get to wander through the showroom and drool over the dozens of beautiful rods that are waiting for their new owners. Got room in your garage???

We'll meet at Brizio's at 10:00 a.m. and spend a couple hours wandering around (there's also a gift shop).

**Directions:** Travel on 101 to South San Francisco and exit at Grand Ave. Follow signs to Grand Ave. heading west. Travel west on Grand a short distance to Spruce Ave and turn left (south). Brizio Street Rods is at the corner of Spruce and Railroad.



Later we will take off at 12:00 for a 6 mile drive to Max's Restaurant at 1250 Bayshore Highway in Burlingame.

Please call Miki Smith at 209-463-2793 by Thursday, June 9, if you have any questions and so I can let Brizio's know how many to expect and book a final number for the restaurant. See you there!

For more info on Brizio and the fantastic cars we will see, go to their website and browse the pictures.

<http://www.roybriziostreetrods.com/home.htm>

# Flight Log #1

## Niles Canyon Railway

By Russ with Pics by Bill and Vic

It started off as a nice day and only got better as the day went on. We arrived at Sunol on time and met up with another dozen people from the Valle del Sur, Antique Automobile Club from Morgan Hill. Again mostly modern iron with one "retro bird" and Marilyn's '63 convertible (without her as she was under the weather). Bill's '66 arrived later for lunch.



We soon got our tickets and boarded our steam train for a ride through Niles Canyon on the same right of way that carried the final leg of the transcontinental rail line of 1869.



Our timing was great as we found that our steam locomotive was making it's last run for about 2 years. It's going in for a full overhaul and refurbishment.

The Niles Canyon Railway is a completely volunteer nonprofit that keeps the tracks and rolling

stock working and running. When SP gave up the line they tore up most of the tracks. Slowly this group is working to lay new track and one day the line will continue to Pleasanton.



It was a beautiful ride with lots of flowers and green hills. We could also see just how much water came down the canyon during this winter's heavy rain. It's hard to imagine just how high the water was in the canyon.

After a nice train ride we went across the street for a lunch in the old hotel. I don't think we will give them very high ratings since lunch was very slow coming out and then they had trouble telling the different between fish and shrimp.



After lunch most headed home but a few continued back down Niles Canyon to the town of Niles to browse the antique stores and the Essanay Studios. Just as a note: a future tour to Niles could take up a full day of antique stores, shops and the studio.

## Flight Log #2 Grass Valley Car Show

By Russ with Pics by Vic

All week it said it was going to rain for the Grass Valley show so many were afraid that their cars would melt if they got wet! Attendance was down from years past.....but it didn't rain!

The Carrs drove up on Friday and toured up Highway 49 almost to Downieville. The drive was all green and beautiful and the water level in the Yuba River was very impressive. It did look like it had been much higher earlier in the year.



The regulars from Vintage Thunderbird did arrive and get our regular parking place right near the Holbrook Hotel. The Carr's, Dave Kuhn and Vic Quarello and friend Judy made the trip as years past. The Carr's didn't drive a Thunderbird but instead drove the monster 1975 Lincoln Continental Mark IV. (It was only 2 feet longer than Vic's Thunderbird.) Miki and Craig drove up to give us moral support since their Thunderbird is still not back on the road.



We didn't take home any prizes but Marilyn was able to bring home a bag of goodies bought in one

of the shops. Naturally since this is like one of our tours we had a nice dinner at one of the local Mexican restaurants.



You should consider this show in the future as it has a good selection of cars, lots of good restaurants, a wide variety of shops and great people. A good place to show your car.

## Ford Thunderbird Appreciation Day

May 21st, 2017



Your Thunderbird is "unique in all the world" and we want you to share it with the world. So on May 21st, 2017 each of the three large Thunderbird clubs are asking members AND non-members alike to take their T-birds out of hibernation and someplace for the world to enjoy. Work or church, diner or coffee shop, on a family picnic, it doesn't matter. Use your car like it was used when it was brand new. Let others see it, ask questions about it, hey, maybe even let them drive it! Then share your experiences on the Thunderbird Appreciation Day Facebook page. It's going to be all about the Thunderbird on May 21st!





Letter forwarded from Mike about Beverly Davis at Thunderbird Headquarters.



David W Adams

15161 Byron Hwy

Byron Ca 94514

(925) 497-8164

Dear Mike and Rita,

This information is from Bev's daughter, Kristina, whom works here at Thunderbird Headquarters in the office. Use this information as you wish. Thank you.

BEVERLY DAVIS

DOB: 5/17/1956 – DOD: 3/11/2017

Survived by:

Father, Conrad Thrush

Husband: Ralph Davis

Daughters: Amanda Davis and Kristina Peters

Five grandchildren: Justin, Alexandria, Harmony, Anthony, & Kolin

Thunderbird Headquarters' crystal ball has broken. After a two year battle with cancer, Beverly Davis has passed away. Along with her passion of T-Birds, she enjoyed knitting and spending time with her beloved grandchildren. She was very generous and caring, always putting others needs above her own. Her vast knowledge of Ford's was truly remarkable. After 35 years at Thunderbird Headquarters she will be missed by everyone here, and many, many others throughout the T-bird & Ford industries.

She will be buried at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, date and time to be determined (tentatively April 28<sup>th</sup>)

Donations to: Hospice or Salvation Army.

My (Dave's) comments: It was my great pleasure to work with Beverly for 30+ years. As a manager she always looked after the best interest of every employee. She encouraged us to use our individual skills to the fullest. She will be greatly missed.

Best regards,



David William Adams

# Car of the Month

Today we have a second generation Thunderbird owner. Vince Bertoni from down in Fresno has sent in this picture of his Dad's 1966 Thunderbird convertible. His Dad passed away in 2012 so now Vince drives the T'Bird around Fresno. Much of the time it is pulling his Kawasaki 750 triple that is dubbed "the widow maker" (there must be another story behind that name). Vince raced this motorcycle in the 80's. Vince states that "if you think this car is cool, then you should have met my Dad".



**Would you like to show off your car in The Wing? Send me a picture and a brief story about your car so we can let everyone see your pride and joy.**

Tim Van Raam sent this picture to me with a comment that he thought it looked like a Thunderbird. It is the 1964 Chrysler Turbine car. A little research showed why. The car was designed under the direction of Elwood Engel. Sound familiar? Engel worked for Ford and was instrumental in the design of the 1961 to 1966 Thunderbirds. At Chrysler he also directed the design of the mid 60's Imperials. Funny, they had many of the same styling traits of the 60's Lincoln Continentals. Of the 55 original turbine cars only 9 are left and only 5 have active engines. Jay Leno has one of the active engine cars.



# 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  
13400 Center Ave.  
San Martin, CA 95046  
Phone: 408-568-3782

Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Annette Funicello and her 57 Thunderbird

**INSIDE**  
**FLIGHT LOG – NILES CANYON**  
**RAILWAY TOUR**  
**UPCOMING**  
**MIGRATION**  
**BRIZIO STREET HOTRODS**