



The Wing

Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 39, Issue 4

Jul/Aug 2015



MIGRATION JUNE 6, 2015



BIG BIRDS

Current Events

July 25th Lick Observatory Tour
– San Jose
August 22nd Horse and
Feathers - Lodi

What's Inside

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| President's Message | 2 |
| 2015 Calendar of Events | 3 |
| Flight Log #1 and #2 | 4 and 5 |
| Upcoming Tour applications | 6 and 7 |

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

I'm pleased to report that our Migration show at Dave Bruebeck Park last month was a great success. We had over 40 Thunderbirds attending including little birds, bullet and flair birds, as well as retro birds and even a retractable Ford! A number of attendees were either first timers or past members we haven't seen for awhile. The weather was Tbird perfect and Craig Cuslidge and Miki Smith provided a great barbeque under the trees. We had quite a few helpers for the day including Bill and Julie Kinsey for set-up, check-in, and all around assistance; Mike and Rita Press for coordinating the judging as well as securing the raffle prizes; Josh Harmon and Vic Quarello for their photographic coverage; Russ Carr for advance work and notifications, and Lani Korenko for her great raffle ticket saleswomanship. A big "thank you" to each—you were an integral part of the day's success.

If one element contributed to the great turnout it would be our expanding social networking—specifically, Facebook and our web page. We continually posted announcements regarding the show up to the day before the event encouraging everyone to come—even if they hadn't signed up early. The result was a number of last minute arrivals. We also posted a special page devoted to Migration on Facebook as well as to the '64-66 dedicated Tbird page on Facebook that I've previously mentioned. We have high expectations for an even better turnout next year with more advance planning and we plan to hold it again at the same park.

Speaking of our web page, my son, Josh, filmed interviews during the show with about a half dozen attendees. He is currently editing the footage and we expect to post it shortly on both the web and Facebook pages. We all have interesting stories about our cars and capturing a few of these on video should be fun. I hope that you enjoy them!

We have a couple of events coming up in the next two months. Our July tour is to the top of Mount Hamilton (details elsewhere) with our substitute 'Birds (due to the challenging road) and in August we have the annual Horse and Feathers get-together in Lodi. I've called a Board Meeting for Horse and Feathers so please attend and contribute your ideas and suggestions. An agenda should be posted in next month's Newsletter.

Until next time...

Peter Harmon President

Note from the Editor

I do need someone to take pictures and do a short write up for Horse and Feathers as we will not be able to attend. Please let me know if you can do this and we will talk about how to get the info to me. The September issue of The Wing will come to you from Colorado if I can find a local printer in the wilds of the Rocky Mountains.

I am still looking for any tech notes to add to coming issues. If you have done an interesting repair or upgrade, take some pictures along the way and get them to me.

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

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

Front Page Picture

Migration 2015 with Pics by Vic.

Video of the Month

This month's video comes from our own Vic Quarello. It's on www.youtube.com. Then just search for Victor Quarello. He has a number of different videos but look for the one labeled 2015 Migration. Nice job Vic!!

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 25th at 10:00 AM (see page 6 for details.)
Lick Observatory/ Mt. Hamilton out of San Jose

August 22nd from 10:00 to ????
**Horse and Feathers in Lodi, Micki Grove Park.
(see page 7 for details)

September 26th 10:00AM to 3:00 PM
**TBirds on the Wharf in Santa Cruz
Entry forms can be obtained at
<http://www.montereybirds.com/2015.pdf>

October – OPEN

November – OPEN

December
**Holiday Luncheon

The 2015 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.

**Club functions
*Other items of interest



Flight Log #1 Migration 2015

By Russ Carr with Pics by Vic and Russ

They just kept coming in all morning long. I believe the last count was 44 TBirds with more big birds than little birds. We arrived with 2 cars (more later) and Peter was madly trying to get everyone parked in a big semi-circle. It just about worked but cars just kept coming.



It was a very nice venue having the cars on the grass and it was also cooler than having them on asphalt. While Craig and Miki were putting together the lunches, Lani was out selling tickets for the raffle. They both did an excellent job as lunch was great and we did sell a lot of raffle tickets. Thanks to Mike Press and others for gathering the raffle gifts.



While this was going on, Mike grabbed a few of us to go out and judge a few of the cars. It was too bad that more did not have their cars judged, since this is an excellent way to have someone review your car with a critical eye. Some clubs use the judging to stoke the egos of the owners, but it has always been the goal of NorCal Vintage to use the judging as a learning experience for the owners. Our judging really helps all of us make our cars "just a little better and more correct". Consider having your car judged next year and you will learn more about your car.



We did have 3 "retro" birds and they made a nice grouping in red, white and blue. The white one was the second car we took up. It was on a local (Morgan Hill) dealers lot and I mentioned to him we were going to a TBird meet. He just gave me the keys and told me to bring it back after the weekend....unless I sold it!. Didn't sell it that weekend but I think it is still available at a special "club" price (\$15.5K). Let me know if you are interested.

Only 160 miles on the TBird for this tour.

Flight Log #2 Cruisin' in the Sun - Pinole

By Russ Carr

It started of sunny in San Martin but by the time we got to Pinole it was foggy. Tthat was good as it kept the temperature down for a little while. We pulled in to our meeting place right behind the Press' in their 63 TBird and Ranchero.



Shortly after Peter, Vic, and Bill Edwards arrived in their respective TBirds. It was then just a short drive down to the Pinole car show. We all were able to stay together and park on the grass as usual.



There seemed to be fewer cars than previous years but there was still a very nice selection of classics to hot rods to rat rods to fine TBirds.

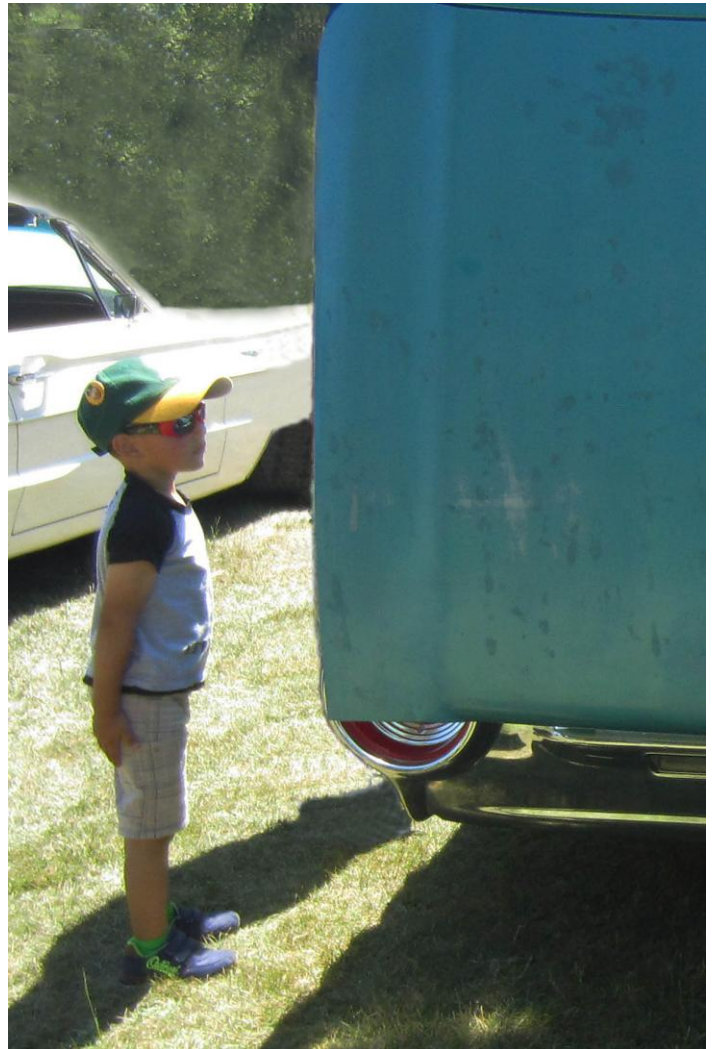
When it was all finished it was Vic who again had a sticker on the headlight. This time it was for the best TBird in the show. Congrats Vic. This car is very well done and Vic is the original owner.



Another 200 miles on Marilyn's '63 for this outing..

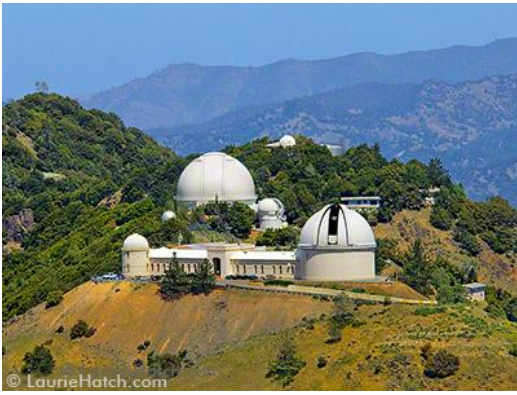
Best photo of the month by Vic.

"Future TBird owner?"



Lick Observatory Tour

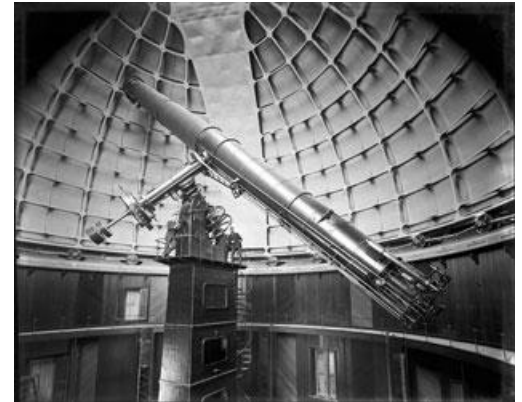
July 25, 2015



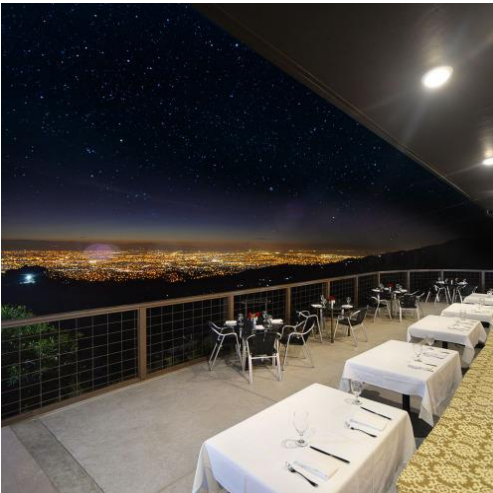
Road Trip! We're going to San Jose's Mount Hamilton for a tour of the fabulous Lick Observatory, built in the 1880s, and fully operational today. This is an amazing place. 4,000 feet at the mountain's top, with a view that goes on forever, and a huge contributor to our knowledge of space since the first telescopic photos of the moon taken in 1884. We'll hear about

the history of the place and many ways it's been linked to space exploration. We will have free reign to roam about the historic old building, it's museum, gift shop, and grounds.

We'll be leaving from the Jack in the Box at 3493 McKee Road off of 680 at 10:00 a.m., for the approximately 1 hour trip up the face of Mount Hamilton. We'll be on a very windy road. For those who are concerned about their old cars making the trip, modern iron may be a good choice. We'll be parking in the lot directly in front of the observatory, so walking will be easy for those concerned about the hilly location.



After soaking in the history, we're going back down the mountain for a late lunch at the Grand View Restaurant. The restaurant was opened in 1884 as a hotel and tavern to serve the Mt. Hamilton Stage Line. It has operated as a restaurant ever since and has recently been remodeled by new owners. The views are fabulous from the windows and the balconies and the food is amazing. Prices range from \$15 to \$30 and the menu is varied.



The views are fabulous from the windows and the balconies and the food is amazing. Prices range from \$15 to \$30 and the menu is varied.

Directions: from 680 take exit 2B/McKee Road East. Cross Capital Avenue and go to the Jack in the Box at 3493 McKee Road. From there we'll continue up McKee Road and turn Left on Alum Rock Avenue and then Right on Mt Hamilton Road. Continue on San Antonio Valley Road to Lick Observatory.

Call Miki & Craig at 209-463-2793 to let them know you're coming so parking spaces can be reserved and the restaurant can get a head count.

HORSE & FEATHERS 2015

When :SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND 10:00 A.M.

Where: MICKE GROVE PARK, LODI

SAN JOAQUIN PICNIC AREA

A JOINT MEET WITH

THE RIVER CITY FALCON CLUB AND

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA VINTAGE THUNDERBIRD CLUB

EACH CLUB INVITES A CAR CLUB OF THEIR CHOICE

(Please let us know how many are coming from your club and your guest club)

HOSTED In 2015 By RIVER CITY FALCONS

AS ALWAYS, BRING A DISH TO SHARE AND A RAFFLE PRIZE PER CAR

PARK ENTRY FEE AT THE GATE: \$6.00

THE HOST CLUB WILL PROVIDE AS MANY HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,

AND SOFT DRINKS AS OUR TUMMIES CRAVE

AGENDA FOR THE DAY:

HAVE FUN

EAT GREAT FOOD

CHAT WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS

PLAY WITH THE KIDS

GO TO THE ZOO

STROLL THROUGH THE JAPANESE GARDENS

VISIT THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

RELAX IN THE SHADE

WIN GREAT STUFF

AND THE EVER POPULAR KICK TIRES

CALL CRAIG, VTCA, AT (209) 463-2793, WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Hosts in 2016 – Thunderbirds Hosts in 2017 – Falcons

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.
\$225.00 (1 only) or Best Offer
dealer price \$570.00 pair

CALL: Russ @ 415-999-4333

NorCal VTCA Jackets are now available!

I have had numerous requests for new club jackets, shirts and various other apparel. We now have a solution. Below are shown two types of jackets that have been selected as "our club standard". They are available in both women's and men's styles and sizes. The women's jackets are a little more tapered than the men's styles. The standard colors for our club jackets will be either black or khaki. The club logo will be embroidered on the back and your name will be embroidered on the front left hand pocket area in the same blue color as the logo.

Legacy Jacket



Woman's J764

Men's J764

Challenger Jacket



Men's J754



Woman's J354

Both jackets are by Port Authority and are high quality washable jackets. The J764 jackets are the lighter weight jackets and the Challenger are fleece lined.

A local shop in Morgan Hill, CA has our logos and has agreed to do these jackets on a one off basis. The cost to do the embroidery will be \$25 for both the back and front. Logo on the back and your name located on the front left chest.

The costs for the jackets are:

Men's J764 \$48.00

Men's J754 \$52.00

Woman's J764 \$48.00

Woman's J354 \$52.00

PLUS EMBROIDERY COST OF \$25 AND TAX. Shipping is extra.

THE SOLUTION! Some wanted shirts or other apparel, so go to their web site and pick your own items.....or buy your own apparel and send it to Make it Mine for the embroidery work. Make sure that there is access to the back and front left pocket area for the embroidery work.

MORE INFO:

The website for Make it Mine is www.mimembroidery.com . Then select Apparel Catalog #1 and search for the jacket number to get more detailed info on the jackets. Russ and Marilyn will be wearing examples of both jackets at up coming events.

ORDER INFO: The jackets can be ordered directly from Make it Mine at 1-408-776-0556 or call Russ Carr with your order at 1-408-568-3782 and I will deliver at the next event.

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.

Advisory Board of Past Presidents

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Craig Cuslidge (2)
Jim Parry
Bobbi Killion †
Dr. Gordon Richmond †
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LeRoy Siebert(2)
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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**



The 4 door 1968 Thunderbird



INSIDE

FLIGHT LOG – MIGRATION AND

CRUISIN' IN THE SUN

CAR OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING

MT. HAMILTON/LICK OBSERVATORY

HORSE AND FEATHERS - LODI