



The Wing



Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 43, Issue 6

NOV/DEC 2019

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



MIGRATION 2019

Current Events

December 1st Tree Trimming
at California Auto Museum

December 15th Holiday Party
at Pasta Pelican in Alameda

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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

Fellow Thunderbird enthusiasts.

For those that were unaware I migrated to the Midwest. I found myself in a position to retire so I took advantage of it. The majority of my family lives in Wisconsin. I also spent my childhood here. So I relocated to Iowa Wisconsin. This is the site of the largest car show in Midwest every July. I've already made a couple of connections and will volunteer to help. Birds on the wharf was a great send off for my mom and I. A wonderful group of club members in attendance.

My Thunderbirds were picked up the following Monday at 7:30 am they were delivered on Wednesday at 8 am!! I wasn't there to receive them but my uncle was. Unfortunately he didn't take any pictures as they just stopped in roadway to unload them. Driver didn't think he had enough solid ground on property to get in and out.

They will be stored in a heated space until spring, at least I can get on and detail and such during cold months. Already had some snow.

A lot of smiles per mile,

Garry Grainger



Note from the Editor

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

It's that time again no not an early Christmas commercial but a reminder that it is time to renew your membership in the club. I would also like to again stress the need for you to include your email on the renewal application.

This past month we had a sudden change in the location for the Migration and we were only able to contact those with an email address on file. This is an example of why we would like to have your email on file.

SPECIAL OFFER Make sure your email is on the renewal and I will include you on our emailing of the full color Wing even if you still want to pay the extra to get a black and white copy by regular mail.

Finally, thanks to Bill Kinsey for the timely article on Lee Iacocca.

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.

2020 IS WIDE OPEN SO SIGN UP TO HOST A TOUR

NOVEMBER - Tree Trimming at California Auto Museum**

DECEMBER - Holiday Party**

**Club functions (Set in stone)

*Tentative functions

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

With the start of a new year we thought we should mention some items for you all to consider for the coming year. We have a membership of about 50 plus families and we need help from all of you. Below are some items for you to consider.

1. Please consider receiving the Wing by email. Getting it printed and mailed when the editor is traveling is difficult and does delay when you receive each issue.
2. Consider hosting a tour this coming year. It is not fair to place the requirement to host a tour on one person when we have 50+ families in the club.
3. Consider submitting an article, story, pictures, tech notes, or other items for the Wing this coming year. The Wing is only as good as your inputs.
4. Consider helping direct the club by submitting your name for consideration for a board position.
5. Most important is to dust off the old "Bird and join us on some of our tours and outings.

REMEMBER THAT YOUR EXPERIENCES IN THE CLUB DEPENDS ON YOUR PARTICIPATION

Tim Van Raam send me the following YouTube starring Angel Cardenas at the Thunderbird display at Cal Expo. This is about a 5 minute newscast with numerous TBirds. Grab a cup of coffee and sit back and watch.

<https://youtu.be/QkNSDakadQE>

Lee Iacocca, "Ford vs. Ferrari", and "Go Like Hell" from Bill Kinsey

Greetings clubmates, many of you may remember Auto Executive Extraordinaire Lee Iacocca from the 1980s as the chairman of Chrysler Corporation or from his days at Ford Motor Company (1940s-1970s). Certainly, the mark he made at Ford is what got him to Chrysler, but his accomplishments at both companies cemented him the Great American Auto Hall of Fame, if such a HOF exists. Iacocca died on July 2 of this year at the age of 94. While it was Robert McNamara who gave us the four-seat Thunderbird, it was Iacocca who made it awesome. McNamara was a statistician who pursued product design through the demographics of the consumer. Iacocca was an engineer who pursued product design by the Wow Factor, whether in speed, luxury, utility, economy, or creating envy in those who didn't own his cars. Some notable automotive achievements include the Mustang (along with chief engineer Don Frey, of course), Shelby's Cobra and Mustangs, the Pinto and Mustang II (!), the K-Car, the minivan (with Hal Sperlich; Julie and I have an '03 Caravan), the Dodge Dakota (with Glenn Gardiner; I bought a new V8 4x4 in '92 and drove it daily for 20 years), the Jeep Wrangler, and the Dodge Viper (Bob Lutz's brainchild, Iacocca's money).

Beyond individual models that we've loved over the years are two industry trends that we can attribute to Lee Iacocca: Front-wheel drive as standard configuration, and the re-emergence of convertibles. Chrysler's financial woes were commonly attributed to its outsized product offerings being out of touch with the efficiency-minded American consumer during the oil embargoes and energy crises of the 1970s. As incentive for the \$660M government loan package in 1978-79, Iacocca committed Chrysler's entire passenger car line-up to FWD, which if I remember correctly was completely in place in the first half of the 1980s.

How about the convertible? America said good-bye to Big Three factory convertible passenger cars in the 70s, with the 1976 Cadillac El Dorado as "America's Last Convertible." Working the Wow Factor once again, Car Guy Iacocca brought out the Chrysler LeBaron convertible in 1982 on the FWD K-Car platform. Ford followed with a ragtop Mustang shortly after and open-air motoring in American cars was preserved for the next generation.



In the 1980s Lee Iacocca became a national figure. By the mid-70s the ailing Chrysler Corp. was the public face of failure. A decade later it was the model of success. His bold public statements and actions were refreshing and inspiring. "If you can find a better car, buy it!" was backed up by an industry-first 5 year/50000 mile warranty, later expanded to 7/70000. The revitalization of Chrysler lifted a lot of America out of the so-called Malaise Era. He also chaired the Statue of Liberty restoration project, completed for its 1986 centennial.

Fired from the Ford General Manager position in 1977 by Henry Ford II, in 1978 when he was hired by Chrysler Lee Iacocca was a man who had enough of failure and lack of future. That he never ran for political office while at the pinnacle is further testimony to the gravitas of the guy. I was coming of age and looking for a job when Iacocca was in the thick of the fray and I watched his every move. It was wonderful to see success being played out across the national headlines. I read his book in '85 or '86, and Julie and I drove past his house in Grosse Pointe one time in those days while visiting family in Detroit. We waved from the street but I'm sure he didn't see us. Henry Ford was a previous owner of the place, by the way (take that, Hank II).



An Interesting footnote to all of this is the legendary Ford GT40 victory over Ferrari at LeMans in 1966, coming to the silver screen this November in the film "Ford vs. Ferrari." While I can't speak to whether it will be a good movie, I can attest to it being a great story. That GT40 was powered by the SOHC 427, an FE block just like the good ol' 390s and 428s in our Thunderbirds. The book "Go Like Hell" by A.J. Baime tells the story of that LeMans victory, and goes into what was happening at both Ferrari and Ford from the 1950s up to 1966, including Iacocca's involvement. It's a real page-turner, and the good (Ford) guys win in the end. While we know the outcome of the race, the real story is in how they pulled it off.

NOVEMBER TREE TRIMMING AT CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 2:00 P.M.

We're going back to the California Auto Museum (formerly the Towe Auto Museum for us long time members) for their annual tree trimming event to get the museum ready for the Holiday season. This is a fun event we attended every year during our membership, along with a couple dozen other car clubs, always on the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

The event starts at 1:00 p.m. for the tree trimming. Our club brings our tree and ornaments and sets it up on the museum floor. We decorate it with our own ornaments. So far we've got some very special holiday-framed pictures of member's cars that have been made into ornaments. It makes the tree very personal and represents our club. Our additional decorative ornaments are silver and turquoise. If you want to bring additional ornaments in those colors, please do. You can never have too much bling.

After the decorating, socializing and wandering around the wonderful museum, we go into a potluck dinner at 4:00 p.m. **The museum will supply the main course of smoked or barbecued chicken and participants are asked to bring either a COLD side dish (they have had trouble heating everybody's side dishes in the past) or a dessert to share. The museum will provide complimentary coffee and a cash bar.**

Our club will also be bringing a raffle prize for the raffle held after dinner. The raffle benefits the museum and the prizes are always great. This is something the Club does, and there is no need for individual members to bring raffle prizes. However if you want to bring additional raffle prizes, please feel free, as more are always welcome and there are more winners that way.

This is a nice event and a nice way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Please come join us and let's set up another special tradition for our club.



Call Miki at 209-463-2793 to let her know you're coming by November 26th, so they will preset tables to accommodate our club.

HOLIDAY PARTY
PASTA PELICA WATERFRONT RESTAURANT,
ALAMEDA
December 15, 2019
12 NOON

Our Holiday Party will be at Pasta Pelican this year, overlooking the water in the Oakland Estuary and the wonderful surrounding views. Lunch will be a buffet which includes salad, New York Steak, Pollo Pelicano (baked chicken), Salmone Picatto, Penne Pasta with vegetables, roasted vegetables and potatoes, coffee or tea and dessert. In the case that we do not exceed 30 headcount, we will be ordering off the menu and will choose appetizers to share, soup or salad, entrée and dessert off the regular menu. Alcoholic beverages are of course available but not included in the price of the meal. Cost per person is \$40.00, and includes tax and tip.

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.

For those who wish to continue the day following lunch, there are several options close by. The Alameda Naval Base Museum is close by as is the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier and Museum. For Wine tasting there is the Rockwall Winery with a beautiful view of San Francisco and, for those with bolder palates Hanger One for Vodka tasting and St. George Spirits for Whisky tasting. If you feel like just taking it easy, take a stroll down quaint Park Street and visit the shops there.

Pasta Pelican is at 2455 Mariner Square Drive. From the North Bay take 880 South and take Alameda/Broadway offramp, turn right onto 5th Street, veer right and follow signs into Webster Street Tube, then turn right onto Wilver Willie Stargell Ave, right onto Mariner Square Loop, right to stay on Mariner Square Loop and left onto Mariner Square Drive. From the South Bay take 880 North, take the Broadway exit, turn left onto Broadway, stay in left lane and turn into Webster Street Tube, then turn right onto Wilver Willie Stargell Ave, right onto Mariner Square Loop, right to stay on Mariner Square Loop and left onto Mariner Square Drive.

Hope to see everyone there!

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK BY DECEMBER 10 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.

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.

MEMBERS ATTENDING _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____ X \$40.00 = _____

Flight Log #1 T'Birds on the Wharf

By Russ

The weather again was great for this get together of Thunderbirds of all years and colors. We were treated to the last opportunity to see both of Nell Richmond's great Thunderbirds before they went on their separate ways. Our President, Garry Grainger, has purchased Nell's beautiful 1962 convertible and has moved the car to the colder midwest (see President's message).



Flight Log #2 Migration 2019

By Russ with pics from Vic

The Carrs only got to stop at the Migration for a short half hour but we could see that everyone was having fun and enjoying the cars and the location. After that short visit we were down the road to Russ' 60th high school class reunion. Yep, born and raised in East Oakland and graduated from Fremont High School.

Miki and Craig did a great job with this location after some problems with the original location came up at the last minute. We had a great location with other marquees in the same area. We also had a swap meet at the location along with a great Naval Air Museum. BATOC from San Francisco had a large group of 55-57 Thunderbirds and had a photo shoot after our meet. Pictures from this photo session can be viewed at <https://www.batoc.org/2019-migration-alameda/>. Sorry you missed this great location.



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: _____

***We will send you a Bonus digital copy even if you pay extra for the mailed paper copy.
But only if you include your email address above.***

Birds in your Roost: Year _____ Model _____

Year _____ Model _____

Signature: _____

Member number for VTCL : _____



VTCI Membership Renewal
Your VTCI Renewal is due by January 1, 2019



Name _____ VTCI Membership Number _____

List your VTCI Chapter Northern California VTCA

\$35.00

Payment Options:

Check: Place check and renewal form in envelope and mail to

VTCI Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 75308
Wichita, NS 67275-0308

E-Mail: (go to http://vintagethunderbirdclub.net/club_info.htm & click on renewal button

Credit Card: VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on card: _____ Signature _____

Change of address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone _____ Email _____

List of Thunderbirds: Year: _____ Model _____ VIN _____

Year: _____ Model _____ VIN _____

VTCI Membership number is in the upper left corner of your Thunderbird Scoop Address label.

More Migration 2019



FOR \$ALE

IF you have a car, parts, books or other Thunderbird items that you want to sell, trade or give away, then this is the place. Get your items to the editor by the 20th of the month and you will see it here.

For Sale: 1962 Thunderbird Sport Roadster. Owned by long time NorCal Vintage Thunderbird club member. In his words; *"It is fully documented as an authentic Roadster not a clone. It is Rangoon Red with a Black Leather interior. It has a Black convertible top that works perfectly. All the roadster items are factory original not reproductions. Only 1427 were produced and only about 100 are registered with the Roadster Club. Asking \$39.5 K or best offer"* Jim Parry Fresno parry123@aol.com



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

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



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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



INSIDE
LEE IACOCCA
TBIRDS ON THE WHARF AND
MIGRATION 2019
UPCOMING
DEC 1ST TREE TRIMMING
DEC 15TH HOLIDAY PARTY