



# The Wing

Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



Volume 45 Issue 3

July 2021

## TBird Summer



Tim Van Raam's '62 on the way to work

### *Current Events*

July 9<sup>th</sup> Collector Car  
Appreciation Day

See calendar for full  
year of events

### *What's Inside*

*President's Message*

*Nell Richmond*

*Flight Log I: TBirds at the California Auto  
Museum*

*Flight Log II: Bay Model*

*Vintage Car Touring*

*Market Report/For Sale*

# President' Message July 2021

First with the sad news from the club. Recently I got a notice that Nell Richmond had passed away. Nell was a long time member of the club and we all enjoyed the time we had with her. There is a more detailed article about this later in this issue.

Second, we missed most of you last weekend. Our resurrected Bay Model Tour was held with only a few in attendance. We had Retro Birds from the Carrs and Miki and Craig, and "El Jefe" with the Kinseys. Paul Leclecr also was a walk up since he just lives a few minutes away in Sausalito. See the Flight Log later in this issue.

We are still in need of a Vice President for this year, so don't be bashful, just give me a call. I will let you know what is expected or at least hoped for in the coming year.

I also need some help with suggestions for tours and activities for the coming year. The only firm event is the Horse and Feathers in Lodi in August. We are looking for events! That means driving tours, car shows, destinations or other excuses to get our cars out on the road and get together will all of the members.

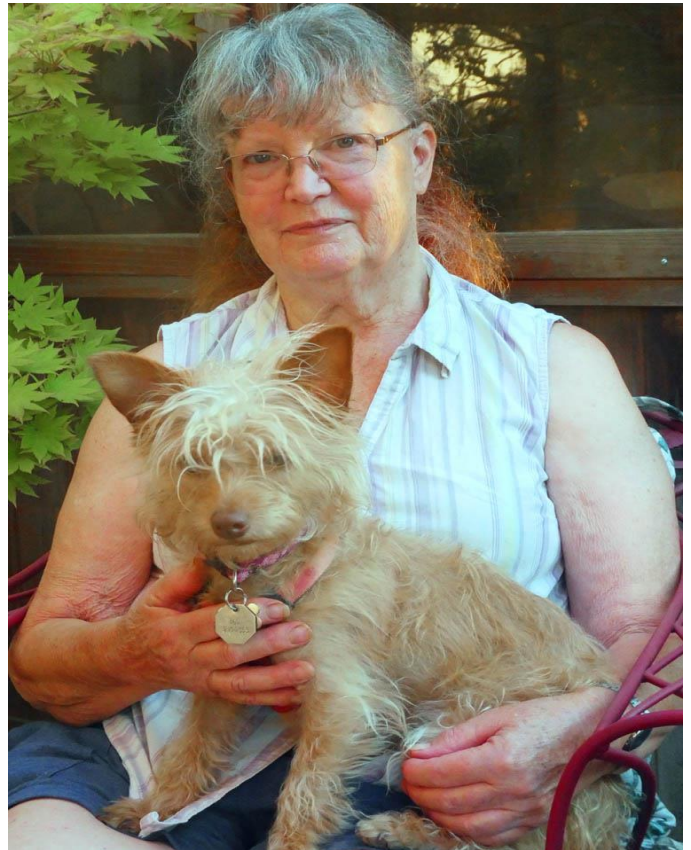
The members of our Congress have gotten together and passed at least one declaration this year.

Upcoming on July 9<sup>th</sup> is Collector Car Appreciation Day. So take your car for a drive or to dinner (better bring the wife along for that). Cruise your local downtown past the outside dinners and get a few thumbs up. Or just find a backroad for a slow country side drive. Your Thunderbird will appreciate it!

Last thing: As most of you know last year we lost our Emma, the Yorkie that went on all TBird events. We now have a new family member. Thanks to daughter, Melodie and ARF (Tony LaRusso's rescue foundation) we have a Silky Terrier named Ginger. She's already been to one car show and will see you on some of our future tours.

Keep those 'Birds rolling and we will see you soon.

Russ



## 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

Russ Carr  
408 568-3782  
[oldcarr.rc@gmail.com](mailto:oldcarr.rc@gmail.com)

### Vice President

open

### Secretary

Julie Kinsey

### Treasurer

Miki Smith  
209 463-2793  
[mikismith@outlook.com](mailto:mikismith@outlook.com)

### The Wing Editor

Bill Kinsey  
925 683-0278

### Immediate Past President

Garry Grainer

### Board at Large

Craig Cuslidge

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/>

Email

[tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com)

## Note from the Editor

Long days and long roads, its Thunderbird season! Here's to getting that Bird out of the garage and into the wind where it belongs. Take a tour, cruise the boulevard, run an errand, show the world just how cool a Thunderbird is. While you're at it, snap a photo or two and send it along. We've got a story to tell and this is the place to tell it.

Birds of a feather, let's flock together. Got an idea for a tour or event? Send them to [tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com).

# 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Below would normally be the schedule of activities for the year, but circumstances have intervened otherwise as you all know.*

*Those circumstances are changing and here's our chance to get out and shake a T-Bird tail feather or two. We are reviewing plans for some tours in the coming months, and your suggestions welcome at [tbird94101@gmail.com](mailto:tbird94101@gmail.com)*

JULY 9 - National Collector Car Appreciation Day  
AUGUST - Horse & Feathers\*\* tba, Nat'l Meet, stay tuned  
SEPT  
OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER

\*\*Club functions (Set in stone)

\*Tentative functions



## Nell Richmond, club member #25

From Craig Cuslidge and Miki Smith

It's with great sadness that I have to inform our club of the passing of long time member Nell Richmond. Nell passed away quietly in her sleep on May 13 at the age of 94.

I met Nell when she was Nell Small, on March 12, 1978, while hosting a T Bird meet at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. This was her first ever car function and she was driving her amazing Peacock Blue 1962 Thunderbird convertible, which she had delivered to her directly from the factory. She loved that car. When she was asked to put the top down she confessed that she hadn't put it down in over 7 years. Our very next meet was our mini-conference at San Jose on May 7 where Nell and her car took 2nd place.

Nell rarely if ever missed an event. Then in March 1981 Nell showed up in Oroville with the top down and the next love of her life sitting beside her and we met Dr. Gordon Richmond. Nell and Gordon Richmond would be together from that day on.

Nell grew up in Grass Valley but spent her entire adult life in San Francisco, the city she loved. Except for T-Bird outings, she did not like leaving the city.

Gordy, like Nell, enjoyed the car club. As it turned out, while he loved the 62, she was hankering for a little bird. So Gordy bought her a turquoise 1956 T-Bird with the specialized plates NellsBd. After that Gordy had his big bird and Nell had her baby bird and while they mostly travelled together in one car or the other, they occasionally brought both cars to shows, many of those times with both cars taking home trophies. But they were always together, the great loves of each other's lives.

Even after Gordy's passing, Nell remained very active with many T-Bird clubs in the Bay Area, as well as the Model A Club and the Freewheelers Club in San Francisco. She loved many things: Hamburgers and shakes, blackened swordfish at Scomas, old cars, dogs, Frank Sinatra, and her many many friends, who loved her back.

Nell and Gordy were like parents to me and I will miss both with all my heart. Nell's favorite flowers were white roses, and I would send them to her every year on her birthday and every Mothers Day. Those times when I could deliver them in person I loved watching her eyes light up when she saw them.

Nell, not only do I love you but everyone whose lives you've touched love you. We will miss you so much.

P.S. Say hi to Gordy from all of us



# FLIGHT LOG I: Thunderbird Extravaganza California Automobile Museum May 15, 2021

Among the 90 or so classic and vintage Thunderbirds at the Sacramento Classic Thunderbird Club's outdoor display at the California Automobile Museum were several NorCal VTCA cars and their owners. In addition to enjoying some long overdue in-person fellowship and a bunch of very pretty TBirds, we also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of our pals and club mates Lani & Chuck Korenko.



Happy Anniversary Chuck & Lani



NorCal VTCA in the house!



Sunshine and blue sky



Portholes and landau bars



Good to get together again



'57 F Code supercharged 312



# Flight Log II: US Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model Sausalito June 26, 2021



With cool breezes and warm hearts several club members attended the Bay Model tour in Sausalito on June 26. Created and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate their stewardship of the navigable waters of the bay and delta, the model is a scaled representation from the Golden Gate and south bay to Sacramento and Stockton. Its 286,000 gallons of water are circulated every 15 minutes to demonstrate the tidal cycle. The model covers 1.3 acres and is housed in a 3 acre building. After a thorough tour of the model and the various exhibits it was on to lunch at the nearby Sea Horse restaurant.

This part of Sausalito was the site of the World War II Marinship shipyard that made Liberty ships and T2 tankers, essential components in the Arsenal of Democracy. Within the Bay Model facility is an area dedicated to the Marinship history, complete with artifacts, photographs, and other exhibits.

The Bay Model was initially built in the 1950s and is running with 1950s parts. Just like our vintage Thunderbirds, when old parts go bad you start looking around for new old stock or reproductions. The internet is great for old car parts and old pump and electrical panel parts. Just like vintage Thunderbirds, when you can't find NOS or re-pops, you start looking for a machine shop to make the things you need. And so it is now with the Bay Model, but we're pleased to report that the electrons and the water were flowing properly on the day of our visit.



## DINOSAURS ON TOUR Bill Kinsey

Greetings clubmates, I'm going to tell you something that you already know: it's a hoot to get on the road with pals in old cars. On May 1<sup>st</sup> Julie and I had the pleasure of running El Jefe on the Pioneer Poker Run charity event in the foothills east of Oroville. With vintage hot rod DNA well represented, 100 cars and motorcycles took off on a hundred-mile backroad course through canyons and over ridges in some very pretty country. With us in our group were my brother and sister-in-law in their nicely hotted-up 1964 Galaxie, and a pal of theirs in an equally potent '32-ish rat rod. We stayed together for the full hundred.

Earlier that week in the north state, the California Mille, also a charity event, took place. Inspired by the famed Italian Mille Miglia road race, this "Mille" is a 1000-mile, 5-day vintage car tour. Eligibility is limited to cars that could have run in the original Mille Miglia, 1920s-1950s. This year a pal of mine volunteered his wrenching talents and tools, and he followed the pack in a Dodge Grand Caravan making roadside repairs.

### **The Dinosaurs duel (within posted speed limits):**

There we were on the poker run on a Yuba County backroad, Thunderbird chasing Galaxie and rat rod chasing Thunderbird. Big sleds torquing it up the hills, weaving through curves, bellowing out of the exhaust pipes, all at around 45 mph. Lots of fun but hardly sophisticated. A pair of aged tyrannosaurs with bad knees going at it while a fossilized velociraptor is ready to pick off the winner.

The Mille has its version of the same thing. Notes my pal, "I haven't driven one on a tour, but they say the big Ferraris are real trucks. Heavy steering, shifting, bad brakes, wiggly chassis. Good engine, that's about it."



Hmmm, a few grand for a poor-handling vintage Ford v. way more than a few grand for a poor-handling vintage Ferrari . . . .

"Folks with experience say it's more fun to drive a slow car fast. You're having a great experience at more the limits of the car without endangering yourself or others. A Fiat 850, etc. I can easily be over my head in a 120 HP Alfa, I cannot imagine what it's like for guys with 800 HP cars," says a folk with experience.

Along with the charming clunkiness of vintage cars on tour is the breakdown factor.

We had some breakdowns on the poker run and they had them on the Mille. The gleaming Bugatti or the ghost-flame Tudor, looking great in parking lot before leaving, have a different look by the side of the road with half a mechanic protruding from beneath. Sure, we get into the shop beforehand, pack parts and fluids for the tour, double-check our unlimited AAA, but we're still rolling the dice at 2600rpm gambling that we're going to get home.

So the trip may end sooner than planned when things go bad and the high performance may live only in the mind of the driver. My kind of fun.

See you down the road, Bill





# MARKET REPORT

Recently closed on Bring A Trailer online auction



**No Reserve: 1955 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$22,000 on 6/25/21



**9k-Mile 2005 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$23,751 on 6/25/21



**No Reserve: 1964 Ford Thunderbird Landau**

Sold for \$13,900 on 6/23/21



**1956 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$33,750 on 6/22/21



**Original-Owner 27k-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$22,000 on 6/18/21



**No Reserve: 48-Years-Museum-Owned 1955 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$30,650 on 6/18/21



**1956 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$36,500 on 6/15/21



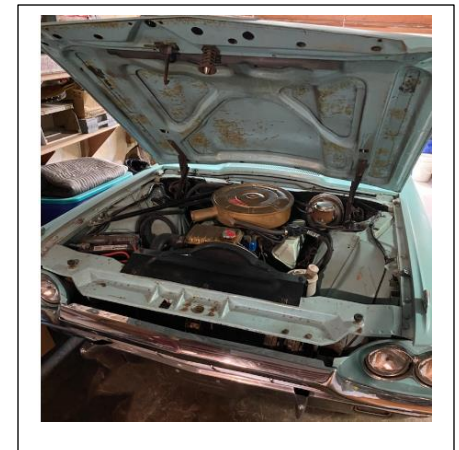
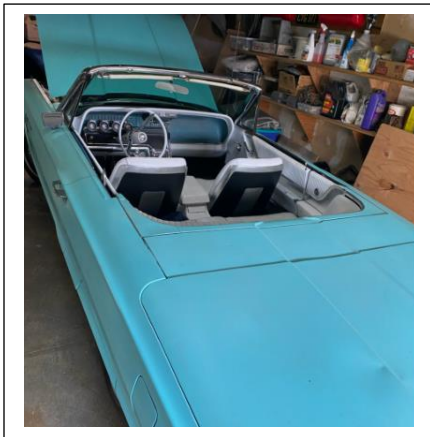
**No Reserve: 40k-Mile 2002 Ford Thunderbird**

Sold for \$17,500 on 6/15/21

## FOR SALE: 1965 Thunderbird Convertible

Asking \$12,000.00. This project was in a barn for 40 years. Last registration was 1981; current registration through October 2021. Mileage about 85,000. About 500 on new parts. Professionally rebuilt engine, transmission, carb, alternator, power steering pump, water pump. New tires, headlight switch, electronic sequential tail lights. Runs great and looks fabulous. \$12,000.00 is my investment so far.

Patrick Stack 415 333-3349.





# 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



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Northern California  
Vintage Thunderbird Club



**Inside**  
**President's Message**  
**Nell Richmond**  
**Flight Log I**  
**Flight Log II**  
**Vintage Car Touring**  
**Market Report/For Sale**