



The Wing

Official Journal of the
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club



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The "Gang" in Alameda

Current Events

September 30th T'Birds on
the Wharf – Santa Cruz

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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/> and
the facebook location is
www.facebook.com/norcalvtca?ref=stream

President's Message

Automotive enthusiasts, it's a great, big garage: Greetings clubmates, I'm going to tell you something that you already know-the car hobby is vast. Racers, restorers, customizers, hot-rodders, lowriders, collectors, drivers, passengers, and that's just what comes to mind at the moment. Each one of those categories has its own zillion permutations and on any given day I'm content to be in any of them.

I see a lot of impressive expressions of the hobby as I attend various car events. That's nothing new, as the car hobby is over a century old now and it was 54 years ago that Tom Wolfe's "The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby" appeared in Esquire magazine. But perhaps new to me is the appreciation for other car guys' vision and their efforts in creating and enjoying them. I started out in the hobby as a bored 16 year old searching for glory and a good time behind the mythic wheel of John Milner's '32 Ford, or Danny and Sandy's "Greased Lightning" (Bill and Julie as Travolta and Newton-John, dreaming the dream of dreamers). Among the only two things I had on my mind in those days was a gleaming speedster that all my pals would admire, and anything that wasn't that was contemptible. But the sneering 16 year old has mellowed over the last forty years, and I find myself honestly exclaiming "that's cool!" a lot these days.

Thunderbirds I've seen in the last few years since I've been paying attention include an undriven '66 controvertible that sold for \$77,000.00, a rat rod '62 that was cut into a two-seater, a road-racing 80s Turbo, concours-quality restorations, work-in-progress drivers, more than a few lowriders looking more like they been tattooed than painted, and I'm diggin' every one of them. Thunderbird as history, Thunderbird as art, Thunderbird as "let's go get a burger," Thunderbird as the Racer's Edge. Which one is right? They all are, and that's the beauty of the hobby. I'm still looking for Thunderbird as all-terrain vehicle, and I know it's out there. Clearly, I'm going to need a lot more Thunderbirds if I'm going to fully round out the experience.

And if the hobby is wide open, then so is the definition of the enthusiast. Not everyone wants to race, or cruise, or own, or even drive. Or some want to do all of that, and maybe not with the car you think they might. I'll take this moment to pay tribute to a car guy who passed away in August, my father-in-law Howard.

Howard mostly owned economy cars because they were inexpensive to keep and operate, which allowed him to enjoy them at will. His love of going for a ride and getting a burger took him to all 50 states during his lifetime, mostly behind the wheel of forgettable cars. The experiences, however, were

unforgettable. He loved the freedom of the road, and the car was merely the vehicle to be run on it. That's a bona fide car guy in my book.

See you down the road, Bill



Note from the Editor

We were able to attend the Horse and Feathers meet just before we took off for a one month tour of the Canadian Rockies. So this issue is being prepared along side of Lake Louise near Banff, Alberta, Canada. It may lack some of the extra pictures and graphics that I usually include but we are in an area with NO internet service. This issue comes to you courtesy of a local hotel's WiFi that has allowed my connection.

Hope to see you all in Santa Cruz.

Russ

Russ = oldcarr.rc@gmail.com

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

** September 30th
T'Birds on the Wharf – Santa Cruz (see application in this issue.)

** October –
Overnight tour of the gold country.

** November 26th – Tree trimming and Potluck at California Auto Museum in Sacramento.

** December 10th - Holiday Party

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



Previous years of T'Birds on the Wharf. Don't miss it this year



Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club Invites All

**Classic ('55-'57) Vintage ('58-'66) & Retro ('02-'05) Thunderbirds
To The 20th Annual
Thunderbirds on the Santa Cruz Wharf**

**Saturday, September 30, 2017 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Rain or Shine
Goody Bags, Dash Plaques, Raffle, Scavenger Hunt & Awards,
Spectacular Ocean & Mountain Views
Restaurants, Shopping on the Wharf & Santa Cruz Boardwalk**

Please complete and return to:
MBCTC, PO Box 2721, Aptos, CA 95001-2721

by September 22, 2017

**Entry fee: \$40.00 Rain or Shine
Proceeds benefit Partnership for Children.**

Name: _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Club Affiliation _____ **Car Info: Year** _____ **Color** _____

SIGNED: _____ **Date:** _____

*Participants accept and assume full responsibility for any injury or loss to themselves or family or property and agree to release from any and all liability the Monterey Bay Classic Thunderbird Club and/or the City of Santa Cruz, California.

Your cancelled check serves as registration confirmation.



Flight Log #1
Radio Museum and Alameda Lunch
By Russ with Pics by Russ

The day was hot in San Martin and in the Sacramento Valley so the cooler weather in Alameda was welcome. Everyone arrived at different times and parking was quite difficult, but we finally got together at the Radio Club Museum.



What an interesting stroll back in history to bring back memories of those old radios. I hate to admit that I used to listen to broadcasts on many of those "antique" radios. We had to finish our homework before we could listen to the likes of The Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy, The Shadow, Fibber McGee and Molly and others. Then when we got older and music became more important, we saved up our money and got a transistor radio with 6 transistors! Try explaining that to anyone under 35.

The museum had radios from the earliest pieces that were items of furniture, to the bakelite radios of the 50's to the space age "Jetson" designs of the 60's, and everything in between.

Then when you thought you had seen everything they had a radio garage sale in the backyard. Tubes, condensers, transistors, and electronic items I haven't seen or thought about for 50 years.

The radio club members were extremely helpful and were a storehouse of knowledge. I might guess

if you needed help with on old radio this just might be were you could go to get more information.



After a while the club members jumped in their cars (2 of them T'Birds) and headed off to find lunch. We arrived on the old Alameda Naval Air Station for our lunch at Scolari's. We had a beautiful view across the old runway to San Francisco in the background. This runway was a major site for naval planes during World War II but more recently has been a filming location for some of the more destructive events in the TV series "Mythbusters".



Again a fun and informative day with an interesting venue, nice cars, good friends and good food. **You should really try to join us on the next event.**

Flight Log #2 Horse and Feathers

By Russ with Pics by Vic

Where are all of the "vintage" T'Birds? You only see one in these pictures. Well we did have some members drive their Retro Birds so we did have some Thunderbird representation.



The day was cool for Lodi in summer. Just mid 80's. The tables groaned with the load of food. The raffle table was full of goodies with something for everyone. Craig and Miki were our big winners. Maybe they should buy us some Powerball tickets!



The Falcon and Mustang clubs both had good turnouts and outnumbered our Thunderbirds. Maybe next year we should see if there are Bronco and Pinto clubs that would like to attend.



Again the same results as all of our tours.....good venue, nice cars, lots of food and great people. **You really should try to join us on our next tour. Or did I say that before!**

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.

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Northern California
Vintage Thunderbird Club



Car show at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC, Canada.
The cars are 1/43 size!

I n s i d e
F l i g h t l o g 1 - R a d i o
C l u b T o u r
F l i g h t l o g 2 - H o r s e &
F e a t h e r s U p c o m i n g
T' B i r d s o n t h e W h a r f
S a n t a C r u z