



# The Wing



Official Journal of the  
Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club

Volume 41, Issue 2

MAR/APR 2017

## FIRST TOUR OF 2017



### *Current Events*

March 18<sup>th</sup> Day at the Races  
Golden Gate fields  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Niles Canyon  
Railway  
May 6<sup>th</sup> Grass Valley Car  
show  
May 20<sup>th</sup> Migration

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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.

### **President**

Bill Kinsey

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

## **President's Message By Bill Kinsey**

I may not be handsome or handy, but at least I own a Thunderbird. Hello fellow members, I'm your new club president. The Northern California Vintage Thunderbird Club is a terrific organization and it's a great honor for me to serve. Julie and I joined the club a couple of years ago, and we've been active with events and running the club's website and Facebook page.

Craig Cuslidge, Miki Smith, and Pete Harmon ushered us into the club when we joined. Luck would have it that Pete lived just a few minutes away, and we were fortunate to get to spend a lot of time with him. In our first months of membership Pete asked me to serve as the club's Social Media Director, and a few months later asked Julie to serve as Secretary of Records. Since we joined the club to do stuff, it was really easy to say yes. Julie and I are firm believers in the principle of "ya get outta of life what ya put into it," and our membership in the club is a rewarding experience. So far we've assisted with a couple of Migrations, been to a Horse & Feathers, had some great holiday luncheons, written an article or two for the Wing, and took an epic tour of the Delta. Now it's time for me to take a turn at the wheel in 2017. Don't be surprised if I come to you asking for a hand here and there, as I'm also a firm believer in providing lots of opportunities for participation.

We own a 1966 town landau that's graced these pages a time or two. Keep an eye out for it at club events in 2017.

See you on the road,  
Bill



## Note from the Editor

### Important Items inside this issue.

1. Dues are past due – Send in your dues immediately to stay current
2. Respond to Mike Press immediately if you are going to Day at the Races.
3. It's also time to send in your dues for VTCI.

I am still looking for Car of the Month entries. Send me a picture and brief write up to be featured in an upcoming issue.

I am also looking for Tech Notes for future issues.

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

## Website of the Month

This is a longer video by the History Channel (40 minutes) but it does cover the history of the Thunderbird from the beginning to end. So get a cup of coffee and enjoy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMaHlqxHJWU>

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**\*\*March –Golden Gate Fields – Day at the Races**  
Registration sheet inside – return required.

**\*\*April 9<sup>th</sup> – Niles Canyon Train ride with option to Essanay Movie Studios**

\*May 6<sup>th</sup> Grass Valley Car Show (see later)

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

**\*\*June – Open**

\* June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Monterey Rock n Rod (see later)

**\*\*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

## Picture of the Month

From Tim van Raam



What are they thinking? Can't have much of a turning radius. Windshield looks like one I had on a Bayliner ski boat. Does anyone know anything about this car?



# *A Day at the Races*



**Hey! We're doing it again. On Saturday March 18th we'll be enjoying the coming of spring and racing with fellow Northern California T'bird enthusiasts at Golden Gate Fields.** There will be comfortable Turf Club seating with a grand view of the track, all we care to eat of their great buffet, brand X valet parking with special parking for the T'birds, an Official Racing Program, group welcome on the infield tote board, a group welcome printed in the racing program plus Winner's Circle privileges for 6 to 8 members of our group. We will also have our own personal host - assigned to take care of our comfort and help familiarize us with the track and betting if we wish. Everything is taken care of - all we need to do is have fun!

We'll meet at the track around 11:00am at the parking lot entrance, special parking will be reserved for those bringing their T'Birds. Cost for this outing is **\$45.00 per person (\$20.00 for kids under 18).**

***Please sign-up using form provided before March 4, 2017***

**Please respond to:**

Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530

(510) 558-4037, mjprgp@infionline.net

Driving and meet instructions will be mailed or e-mailed to those attending.

**Few openings may still be available! Call Mike at (510) 558-4037 IMMEDIATELY to reserve your seat for this fun event.**

**Mail to Mike Press, 516 Bonnie Dr. El Cerrito, CA 94530 for Day at the Races**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_, City \_\_\_\_\_, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number Adults Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$45.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

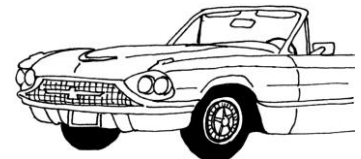
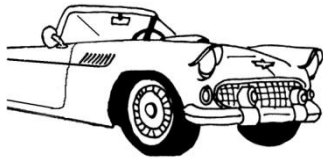
Number Children Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 (if over 12) = \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be bringing a T'Bird \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

# **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 28. (**\$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: \_\_\_\_\_



**Niles Canyon Railway Tour  
Lunch at Bosco's Bones and Brew  
With optional Essanay Movie Studio Tour  
April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
This is a joint tour with Valle del Sur Region of  
the Antique Automobile Club of America from  
Morgan Hill.**

We will meet in Sunol at about 10:00 AM and board our steam train for a half hour ride down Niles Canyon to the town of Niles. This track was first laid down as part of the first transcontinental railroad and some of the bridges date from the 1860's. After a brief layover we will return to Sunol and along the way you should watch for Tom Mix and William Hart. (Anyone know who they were?). We will then have lunch



at Bosco's Bones and Brew and learn the history of Bosco the former Mayor of Sunol. (Anyone guess why he is famous? He was a dog!)

Train costs: \$13 round trip or \$10 for seniors (62+) or \$7 children(3-12). Lunch items – all under \$16

After lunch you will have the option of heading home OR you could ride back down through Niles Canyon in your Thunderbird to the town of Niles. In Niles we will be able to learn the history of the first movie studio in California that included movies with some of the early stars of the silver screen, Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix and William Hart were just a few. (And no your editor isn't old enough to remember these stars!). This picture of Chaplin is from "The Tramp" shot in Niles Canyon in 1915.



The town of Niles also has numerous antique shops and other stores for you to visit if you desire.

Sunol station is right in town and can't be missed. Sunol is located off of 680 south of Pleasanton. If better directions are needed please give me a call at 408-568-3782 and I will help.

Call, email or text me if you are coming before April 6<sup>th</sup> so I can let the restaurant know how many to will attend.



# Flight Log #1

## Sweetheart Brunch and Rare Parts Tour Feb 12, 2017

By Bill Kinsey Pics by Bill and Vic

Blue skies and a bright sun shone on the city of Stockton for the club's annual Sweetheart Brunch, this year held at the University Plaza Waterfront Hotel on February 12.



Twenty one attendees and six Thunderbirds met in the hotel parking lot for informal introductions and photo op, followed by brunch and conversation.



After brunch, the group gathered on the flight line and commenced squadron operations in a Thunderbird parade from the hotel to the waterfront facilities of Rare Parts, a fabricator and dealer of obsolete steering and suspension parts.



Rare Parts owner Danny Burgess opened his doors and conducted a personalized tour for the club. Beginning at the testing lab and quality control operations, the tour proceeded to the production floor through CNC lathes, mills, presses, and water

jet cutter.



water jet cutter

Danny presented the club with a stainless steel medallion of the club's logo cut with the water jet, and demonstrated it by making for each guest a Rare Parts souvenir.



Founded by Lyle Burgess in Stockton in 1981, their motto is "If the part exists, we've got it. If it doesn't, we'll make it." They currently do so in two buildings on the Stockton waterfront. Manufacturing capability and inventory covers the range of model years from 1920 to 2017 across many different automobile makes and models, including Thunderbirds.





souvenir from  
Rare Parts Inc. Stockton Ca.

Thunderbird Songs: How many different songs can you find that feature our Thunderbirds. I have 12. Any more?

1. Fun, Fun, Fun – Beach Boys 1964
2. Silver Thunderbird – Marc Cohn 1991
3. Makin' Thunderbirds – Bob Seager 1982
4. Thunderbird – John Hyatt 2005
5. T-Bird Angel – Uriah Heep 2011
6. Thunderbird – Hans Zimmer (Thelma & Louise movie) 1991
7. Black and White thunderbird – The Delicates 1959
8. Jaguar and Thunderbird – Chuck Berry 1960
9. First Love – Alan Jackson 2002
10. Pink Thunderbird – Gene Vincent 1957
11. Little Duece Coupe – Beach Boys 1963
12. Blonde in the Blue Thunderbird – Walter Egan 1978

## It was a 1956 Ford Victoria Hardtop.

The vehicle pictured was at the California Auto Museum. It is a custom “hot rod” named “The Marquis” and was built in the early 60’s by Bill Cushenbery in Monterey. The question for you is: “What was the original car and year?” No it wasn’t a Thunderbird.



A complete history of the car can be found at  
<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/marquis-custom-car.htm>

## Additional Shows (not official club functions)

### May 6<sup>th</sup> Grass Valley Car Show

The club has attended this show for the past 5 years or more and we have taken home a number of awards including Best of Show twice (Vic and Bill Edwards). Even though this is not an official outing this year a number of us will still be attending. We will be staying either at the Holbrook Hotel or the Courtyard Suites in Grass Valley. We will group together early in the morning so we can park together (hopefully again in front of the Holbrook). We don't have registration information at this time but if you plan to attend and stay over Friday or Saturday nights you might want to make your reservations soon. Craig and Miki or Russ and Marilyn can give you more info on hotels and driving info. This is a fun show with more than 300 cars and plenty of shopping opportunities for the ladies.

### June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Monterey Rock n Rod.

Since there will not be a car show in Pinole this year you might want to consider a different location. This might be a longer drive but we can attest that it is a fun weekend. The weekend starts with a Sock Hop on Friday night with a good food, a great band and an outstanding "Elvis". 50's Style clothes, dance contests, an auction of related items, are just some of the other highlights. The next morning about 150 cars are parked at the Custom House Plaza near the wharf in downtown Monterey. Music will be provided all day long by a number of bands with the headliner being Mark Lindsey (former lead singer of "Paul Revere and the Raiders"). Many trophies are given so most have a chance to take something home. Call Russ if you have an interest and I can give you hotel info and sign up locations.

## TECH Note #1

### This is more of an informational note.

Do you know how to read the information on the data plate on your Thunderbird? This plate will tell you about the original colors of your Thunderbird, when it was "born", the engine, the axle and other specs on the car.

Do you know the production numbers for your model Thunderbird?

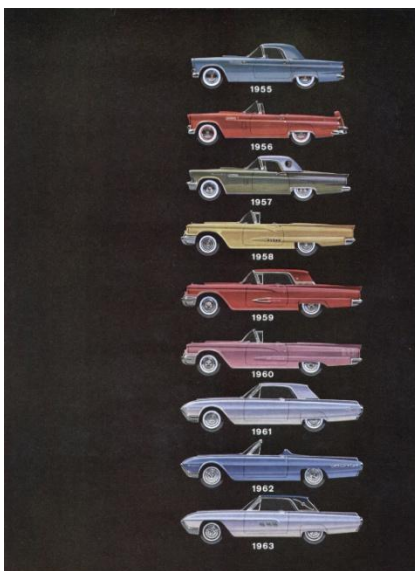
Do you know how many 1963 Thunderbird Convertibles were painted Diamond Blue? Well no records were kept with this information but a owner survey has been taken that give us an idea how popular each color was for that year.

In 1963 there were 5,892 convertibles built and about 5.3% of all Thunderbirds were Diamond Blue. This means about 316 convertibles were Diamond Blue. Wonder how many are left?

Do you know the correct tire size for your Bird? The correct size for the 1963 was 8.00-14, but what does that convert to in modern date terminology?

Just go to the website for the Vintage Thunderbird Club International and find all of this information. Even better join VTCl and get a bimonthly magazine and even more information on the website with their forum.

<http://www.vintagethunderbirdclub.net/index.htm>



Looking for a Thunderbird advertisement for you model Thunderbird? Try this website as they have many ads you can download/

<http://www.magazine-advertisements.com/ford-thunderbird.html>



# 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



Vic and Craig reviewing the car show at Grass Valley in 2016

**INSIDE**  
**FLIGHT LOG – SWEETHEART BRUNCH**  
**AND RARE PARTS TOUR**  
**UPCOMING**  
**DAY AT THE RACES**  
**NILES CANYON RAILWAY**