

July 2024

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Deadline for submitting
Newsletter photos, articles,
etc., is the 20th of each
month.

MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>



Happy 4th Of July

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **July 1 2005:** Official last production day for retro Thunderbird. Actual last car produced was likely later.

Thursday-July 18, 2024 @ 9:30 am****

Greek Village Restaurant - 129 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, MD 21014
Please let Cathy know if you are planning to attend so the restaurant can be prepared.

July 14, Sunday, 1:00 PM **Annual Potluck Social @ Denham's**

\$2 a Plate POTLUCK SOCIAL

Hosted by Zoeanne and Dan Denham,
5626 Williams Rd, Hydes MD, 21082

(Note: their house is at the end of a long driveway that goes between other houses)

**Please RSVP at least 5 days in advance if you will
be attending.**

Home Telephone: 410-592-2030
email: zoeanne9@yahoo.com

Please bring a dish in the food category listed by the first letter of your last name. And \$2 per person attending. The \$2 goes to the host to offset costs for paper goods, drinks, utensils, condiments and abuse of their home. They have a swimming pool so bring your swim suit!! Zoeanne and Dan will be providing venue, paper goods, utensils, beverages, condiments, etc.

"S-Z" Salad "A-H" Main Dish "I-R" Dessert



President's Message July 2024

It's 'Bird Season!'

We had a great turnout with veterans for the Towson and Bel Air 4th of July parades. We had Skip, Cathy, Doug & Sandy Read, Anne Collins, Calvin Hansford, and Charles Samorodin in the Towson parade. We are well liked by the crowds there and we thank our members and the veterans who joined us.

Just Skip and Cathy made it to the Bel Air parade, again carrying veterans who are friends of ours. We thank them for joining us. Skip has some pictures elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our annual picnic at the Denham's will be Sunday, July 14 at 1 pm. This is always a great get-together so plan to be there. There may be games...and prizes... Skip has food assignments and directions on the front page.

This year the **VTCL convention** is in Grand Rapids MI Aug 7-11 and we are planning to go, arriving on the 8th. They have lots of things planned, like a visit to the Gerald R Ford Museum, Gilmore Car Museum and Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park as well as BBQs, Buffets and Banquet. Oh, and of course Tbird judging and awards. We met some great people at the convention in GA last year. Steve and Ann Longaker even joined us at AFN last month. Won't you join us this year? The flyer and registration are in this newsletter. Let us know if you register. I believe we expect the Kelleys, Panowitzs, Dickinsons, Dixons, Melnyks (if Mike is well enough) and Steve Dameron with Kathy. Anyone else going? This is a national organization rally and it would be great to have an impressive showing from MATC. If you have club shirts be sure to pack them.

It's that time of year when we need to get the 'Birds out for some exercise. **Ice cream** in Havre de Grace is being planned, maybe at Promenade Grill near the water or Bomboys. Look for emails about meet up time and place.



Cathy & Steve

Our group in the Towson parade.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Official MATC/ITC activities are marked with *** and printed in bold. Our Thunderbird Club events are open to all years of Thunderbirds. Other events such as "AACA" events adhere to the 25-year rule or other designation. Applicable restrictions will be noted with each event.

Date	Event	Sponsor	Location	Additional Information
Third Thursday 9:30 AM Monthly	Monthly Breakfast Gathering	***MATC	Greek Village Diner 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	(https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071)
May thru October	Cars & Coffee: No Competition, No Trophies, Just Fun & Socialization	-	Bel Air Plaza SC Bel Air, MD	7-9 Am, Every Sunday Weather permitting
2024				
July 14	National Collector Car Appreciation Day		TBD	
July 14	Potluck Annual Gathering @ The Denham's	***MATC	5626 Williams Road Hyde, MD 21082	See Details Above
August 4	Das Awkscht Fest TBird Club Day	AACA	Macungie, PA	Details to follow
August 7-11	VTCI Annual Convention	VTCI	Grand Rapids, MI	Details and reservation attached.
September 15	"Cherry Fest" @ Phyllis Cherry's Cabin	***MATC	Cascade, MD	More details as we get closer
December 8	MATC Christmas Dinner	***MATC	Dobbin House Gettysburg, PA	Details and reservation info to be provided as available
2025				
June 6-8	Carlisle Ford Nationals	Carlisle Productions	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	Details and reservation info to be provided as available

There are many car shows and cruise nights in our service area on a weekly basis. Some of the more popular events are listed above. Please also check out the complete list of events on the Car Show & Cruise Guide website @ www.cruiseguide.com. If you know of a "local" show that you think will be of interest to our membership, please provide the information to Skip.



Save the hobby.org

This is our new charitable partner beginning in 2024.



The officers and members of MATC wish the following member(s) a very happy birthday:

July Birthdays:

**Tom Young (5), Zoeanne Denham (9), John Horn (14), Bob Ridolfi (16),
Kathy Ridolfi (31)**

If your birthday was overlooked, please let the editor know ASAP.

Membership:

Please be sure to use the recruitment cards and/or attached flyer when you see prospective members and their cars.

Need an application for MATC, ITC or VTCI? Contact Cathy, Steve, Mike or Skip

MEMBER NEWS & HAPPENINGS:

- MATC VP and VTCI District Advisor Mike Melnyk has recently spent over a week in the hospital recovering from double pneumonia. He is now recovering at home as of the publication of the newsletter. Please give him a call or email if you have an opportunity. He would be happy to hear from MATC members.
- Jean Hill continues her recovery from a serious fall that resulted in a head injury requiring staples to close. She is doing well, and a complete recovery is anticipated.
- Dwight Dixon has been diagnosed as being cancer free!!! Very good news!!
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, and Christine Young. . Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes for a quick, complete, and successful recovery for our members.

Please submit your news, special occasions, etc., to the editor for publication in the Newsletter to keep the membership up to date on member happenings, health, and well-being. Remember, inquiring minds want to know!





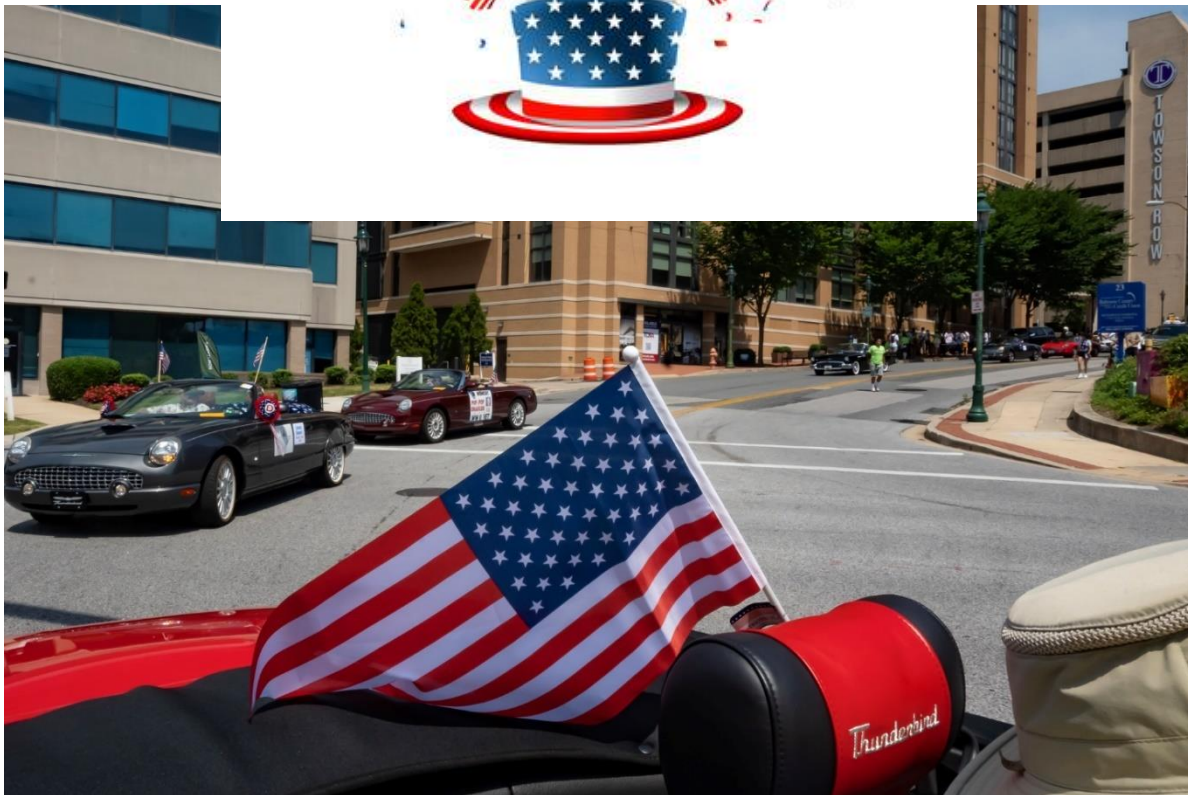
MATC At Fourth of July Parades

Look at the fun MATC members had!! Even in the rain! The crowds were very supportive of the veterans and appreciated the Thunderbird show!! Won't you consider joining us next year?

Towson









Bel Air





Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club 50th Anniversary Shirts

Here you see a picture of the latest MATC 50th anniversary polo shirts that we have ordered Listed are your options. They are of nice quality. Another order is in progress. At least six items are required to place an order.

Men's Polo XS –XL \$22

2x \$24, 3X \$27, 5X

\$32

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest green

Red

Ladies Polo XS – XL

\$22

2X \$24, 3X \$27

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest Green

Red

Ladies Scoop Tee

XS – XL \$17

Black

Navy

Graphite Gray

Forest Green

Red

Azelea Pink

Sweatshirt Unisex

S-XL \$28 , 2X \$33, 3X

\$35

Black

Navy

Charcoal Gray

Forest green



Thunderbirds On Display

**Quilt designed and made by
Cathy Kelley**

Co-president of Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club

>->-> Raffle tickets \$5 each <-<-<

Winning ticket drawn at VTCl convention



**Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to
Save the Hobby for Custom & Classic Car
Educational Foundation**



VTCI 2024 International
August 7th-11th

GRAND RAPIDS

MICHIGAN

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday	Afternoon	Tour: Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum
	Evening	Event: Welcome Reception
Thursday	Morning	Meeting: VTCI Board of Directors / General Meeting
	Afternoon	Tour: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Friday	Evening	Event: Birds, BBQ and Beer (Patio)
	Morning	Tour: Gilmore Car Museum
Saturday	Evening	Event: Friday Night Social
	Judgment Day	Meeting: Owners & Judges
Sunday	Evening	Event: Concours Judging
	Evening	Event: Awards Banquet
Sunday		Bon Voyage ... Have a Safe Trip Home



Proposed Tours



Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum
... whatever your politics, the opportunity to explore the role one man played in American history for over 50 years. There's also a chance to explore the "woman behind the power" as Betty Ford's contribution to history and our culture is emphasized.
... and no, that oval office is not Rod Wake's



Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
... our love for Mother Nature may equal the way VTCI members treasure their T-Birds, but appreciation for the beauty of a formal garden is brought together with the art of sculpture in one of Michigan's most popular attractions ...
sorry, no T-Bird sculpture to be found!



Gilmore Car Museum
... OK automobile enthusiasts, there may not be a bevy of T-Birds located in one of America's most prestigious auto museums, but there still plenty to enjoy over a day's visit – including the opportunity to ride in some of these older treasures – unfortunately, none meet Paul Prokop's high standards for concours judging!

2024 VTCI International Convention August 7-11, 2024 Grand Rapids MI



Earlier in 2023, the VTCI signed a contract to bring "The VTCI Experience" to the largest metropolitan area in Western Michigan ... Grand Rapids. The idea to bring the VTCI to the Grand Rapids area originated with former Vice President, **Ed Elzinga**, who not only provided the idea, but also the basic agenda for this convention.



Starting in 2022, the Board of Directors began working with the Experience Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau. As Interim Regional Director for the Northeast Region (NE), VTCI's Vice President, **Bob McNeill**, working with the North Central Region's Director (NC), **Larry Graham**, began to explore hotel options and potential tours to serve VTCI's members. An exploratory information sheet was provided to various hotels and proposals were solicited.



Joined later by the real management team of **Terri McNeill** and **Kate Graham**, Larry, Bob and company visited the Grand Rapids area in April 2023 to review the hotels and evaluate each hotel to enable the best choice for the club. The eventual choice:



**DoubleTree by Hilton
Grand Rapids Airport
4747 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
\$105 / Night**



NOTE: Registration form and the event schedule are included as email attachments with the MATC newsletter.

Timeless and Classic: Inside Lucile Ball's 1959 Thunderbird

Story by Faustino Gregoroff

Lucille Ball had a taste for luxury that went beyond chocolates – she cruised around Hollywood in a car that was just as unforgettable as her on-screen persona.

Pure 1950s Glamour: A Look Inside



Inside Lucile Ball's 1959 Ford Thunderbird Convertible© Provided by TORK US

Imagine a luxurious, all-white interior – a perfect canvas for Lucy's signature style and a world away from the wacky sets of I Love Lucy. Gleaming chrome accents added a touch of Hollywood glamour, while plush carpeting provided a comfortable ride

Under the Hood: Power Worthy of a Star



The Luxurious Exterior of Lucile Ball's 1959 Ford© Provided by TORK US

A smooth and powerful V8 engine lurked beneath the hood, promising exhilarating performance. And for effortless cruising, an automatic transmission meant Lucy could focus on the road ahead, while power steering and brakes made maneuvering a breeze.

Factory air conditioning, a rarity in 1959, ensured Lucy stayed cool even on the hottest Hollywood days.

The Finishing Touches: A Collector's Dream



The Exterior of the 1959 Ford Thunderbird Convertible© Provided by TORK US

Let's not forget the finishing touches that made this car a true collector's dream! **A Continental kit, that little spare tire mounted on the back, added a touch of class.** And those iconic wire wheels wrapped in wide white wall radial tires? Pure 1950s Americana.



The 1959 Ford Thunderbird Convertible is a true classic, [and according to classic.com](https://www.classic.com), **similar cars have sold for prices starting around \$48,995.**

Thanks to Earl Dickinson for submitting this article.

July Thunderbird Quiz



Who is the Actor:

What Year Is The Thunderbird?:

Bonus: What talents are she most famous/remembered for?:

(I will accept any correct one as an answer)

Respond to Skip with your guesses...er answers.

It is never too late to submit your answer.

June Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Celebrity in the TBird?:

Jim Henson

What Year Is The Thunderbird?: **1956**

Bonus: What is the celebrity famous for?

Development of the Muppets.

Jim lived in Prince Georges Co and is a University of Maryland graduate.

Congratulations to Dave Thomas who responded with the correct answers in record time!

Previous Winners:

May: Judy Dickinson & Steve Kelley

June: Tom Young

July: Mike Melnyk

August: Al Herman

September: Bob Bossoli

October: Phyllis Cherry

November: Dwight Dixon

February: Judy Dickinson

March: Ann Collins / Scott Mummert

April: Marsha Dixon

May: Gary Faircloth / Anne Collins / Scott Mummert

June: Dave Thomas

CLASSIFIEDS



A

B

Still Available

MATC & TBird T-Shirts

While They Last!

A = 45th MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L, XL, XXL; \$10 each - 2 for \$15 plus S&H

B = Retro TBird Logo T-Shirt; XXL only; \$10 each plus S&H

Beautiful Torch Red 2002 Thunderbird Bird for Sale - Hyattsville, Maryland.

2, 97.5k miles, 2 owners. \$12,000. Contact Allison by phone or text at 301.792.5826 or by email at allison.in.hyattsville@gmail.com if interested.



(6/24)

Note: Classified ads are inserted at no cost for MATC members until the item is sold depending on space. Non-member cost to advertise is complimentary for the first month then \$10 for each three months thereafter. This policy is subject to change.

Collector's Corner:

For those of us that are collectors of Thunderbird models and memorabilia, the diecast model makers have finally discovered that there is a market for the "big" Birds, the 1972-76 versions of this great marque. These are previewed below. Let me know in advance if you are interested in any of them to be certain I have enough to meet demand. *Skip*

GREENLIGHT
1:64 X 1:64 @GLCOLLECTIBLES

SHOWROOM
Floor



1974

These are 1:64 scale produced by Greenlight. Price will be about \$7.00 each. I expect to have them available mid-year.



39150E - 1:64 1976 Ford Thunderbird
"Treat Yourself to One of the World's Great Luxury Car Buys"

These are by Goldvarg. They are superb quality and are very well detailed. And they are pricey, about \$80 each to MATC members, retail is \$100+_. Other manufacturer models of the same quality are 2-3 times more expensive. The model year is 1976. I expect to have these later this year. A very limited quantity of about 150 each is being produced so if interested let me know ASAP. They are sold out at Goldvarg and my source only has a few still available from their allotment.



Registry of Retro Thunderbirds By Color:

MATC is developing a register of 2002-05 Retro Thunderbirds owned by our members by year, color, and specialty model as applicable (Niemann Marcus, 007, Pacific Coast Roadster, Cashmere). Included with this edition of the newsletter is the updated roster of members. If your retro Thunderbird year and color are not indicated, please notify Skip @ skip.panowitz@yahoo.com with the information so that the register is updated.



Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

"A Club for Enthusiasts of the Ford Thunderbird of all years"

Application for Membership

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Birth month: _____

Spouses Name: _____ Birth month: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home _____ - _____ - _____ Work _____ - _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____ - _____

Email : _____

Your occupation _____ Spouse occupation _____

I was referred by: _____

List your Thunderbirds:

Car	Year	Style (HT, Conv, Landau, color)	Use (show, pleasure, restoring)	VIN
1				
2				
3				
4				

Annual Dues: \$25 due each January. MATC newsletter is only delivered electronically.

\$15 if joining after June 1st of the year.

\$25 if joining after October 1st, (INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR (3 months free))

Name Tags \$10 each: _____

Please PRINT names for tags above. Separate by comma if more than one.

Send To: Please Mail Application with your check payable to **MATC** to:

Frank Long, Treasurer; 331 Sullivan Drive, Abingdon, MD 21009; 410-569-8539

Visit us at www.midatlanticbirdclub.org Like us on Facebook: mid-Atlantic thunderbird club.

The Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club is a tax-exempt Association under IRC 501 (c) (7).

(Revised November 2023)

Vintage Thunderbird Club International



VTCI Membership Application Form

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

MAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE / PROVINCE _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

LIST NAME IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

LIST TELEPHONE IN ROSTER? YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE LIST THUNDERBIRD YOU OWN: _____

YEAR: _____ MODEL: _____

*Annual dues: \$40.00 United States and Canada, \$60.00 all other countries. Due the 31st of January each year. Canadian and overseas payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank

For NEW members only Send initial dues according to the month you join. You will then receive a renewal notice mailed with the November/December Scoop.

	US and Canada	All Other Countries
January / February	\$40.00	\$60.00
March / April	\$35.00	\$55.00
May / June	\$30.00	\$45.00
July / August	\$25.00	\$40.00
September / October	\$55.00	\$90.00 includes next year
November / December	\$50.00	\$80.00 includes next year



VISA / MasterCard (circle one)

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

(if different from above-please print) _____

Signature _____

Please make check payable & mail to:
Vintage Thunderbird Club International

P.O. Box 75308 Wichita, KS 67275

*Annual dues include a subscription to "Thunderbird Scoop" magazine.



MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

More Information and Application Available At:

<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org>

& Facebook Too

Serving 1955-2005 Ford Thunderbird Owners and

Enthusiasts in The Mid-Atlantic Area:

MD, VA, DE, WV, So.PA

Affiliated With:



VTCI



ITC

Benefits of Membership Include:

- Tech support for all generations of Thunderbirds
- Social Gatherings
- Monthly Breakfast (Third Thursday @ Greek Village-Bel Air)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Affiliation with national clubs
- Tech Sessions
- Great, Exciting Excursions and Field Trips
- Community Activity and Support
- "Fun, Fun, Fun" with your Thunderbird

