### April 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

#### This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

 <u>April 21, 2003</u>: Ford Announces 11<sup>th</sup> generation Thunderbird production to cease in 2005 or 2006.

#### <u> Thursday-April 18, 2024 @ 9:30 am\*\*\*\*</u>

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.

#### April 20, 2024: Romancing The Chrome

This popular annual event has always been supported by MATC members. We will stage at the 7-11 located nearby at the intersection of routes 23 and 165 at 9:15 am so we can caravan to the show. Let's have another great showing. Can we outnumber the Corvettes? Registration is at the show-we are trying to get a copy of the form so it can be pre-filled. See the attached flyer.

## Thunderbird Appreciation Day/ MATC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend May 18-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Roanoke, Virginia

The MATC Event Reconnaissance Team has selected the Roanoke, VA, area to celebrate these two great, important, events. They have selected a very nice and reasonably priced hotel and an excellent place for dinner Saturday evening. We've blocked 8 rooms at the Comfort Inn Civic Center in Roanoke for only \$99 + tax and fees a night! Here's the link to book your room -

https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/roanoke/comfort-inn-hotels/va751.

Tell them you are with Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club. <u>YOU MUST</u> <u>BOOK BY APRIL 14<sup>th</sup>!!</u> Let Cathy know when you've registered please! See Presidents Message for more details and information.



# President's Message April 2024

# Happy Spring!

Phyllis Cherry joined Cathy March 25 & 26 for a very successful reconnaissance trip to the Roanoke VA area. We'd like the club go down there for a trip to celebrate Thunderbird Appreciation day, May 19 and MATC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a club. We'd like to go over on Saturday, May 18 and return home on Monday, May 20.

We found a very nice and reasonable hotel and excellent place for dinner Saturday evening. We've blocked 8 rooms at the Comfort Inn Civic Center in Roanoke for only \$99 + tax and fees a night! Here's the link to book your room - https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/roanoke/comfort-inn-hotels/va751. Tell them you are with Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club. We only have until April 14 to book. Let us know when you've done that please.

The hotel is just about 5 minutes to downtown where there is VA Museum of Transportation, 303 Norfolk Av SW (\$10.55 entry) with a parking lot across the street and a Pinball Museum, 1 Market Sq, where you can play the old machines (\$15 entry) https://roanokepinball.org/ which is in the Center in the Square that has its own parking garage.

For dinner that evening we'd like to make a reservation at Shakers Restaurant and here's the link if you want to check the menu. https://shakers.com/.

On Sunday, which is Thunderbird Appreciation Day, we plan to reserve spaces on the Virginia Dare paddlewheel boat for an afternoon cruise at 3pm (including a meal for just \$45) on Smith Mountain Lake, about a 45 minute drive from the motel. https://www.vadaresml.com/virginia-dare ).

Then on Monday there is the option to stop at Natural Bridge (about 45 north off I81) where we can arrange a sandwich lunch and a group tour with a shuttle bus to the Bridge (a steep walk, hence the bus). Tour/shuttle is \$9. Checking cost of lunch. You can head home after that or there is a Natural Bridge Hotel there and a quaint little town of Lexington not far away if anyone is interested in staying another night in the area. https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/natural-bridge-virginia/natural-bridge-hotel-trademark/overview.

Lastly, there is the huge Star of Roanoke on a hill over the city that is really neat to see at night. We can see it from the hotel.

Please don't forget to register for All Ford Nationals in Carlisle! Skip has sent many emails and has more information elsewhere in the newsletter. This is a big event!

This year the **VTCI 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. Won't you join us this year? The flyer and registration is in this newsletter. Let us know if you register.

# Cathy & Steve

	EVE	INTS C	ALENDAR	
а	activities are marked with *** and printed in s "AACA" events adhere to the 25-year rule			
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			
April 20	Romancing The Chrome	BACC JLC	Jarrettsville, MD	Gather at 7-11 Rts 165 & 23 in Jarrettsville to caravan to show
May 18-20	MATC 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Thunderbird Appreciation Day Weekend	***MATC	Roanoke, VA	See Details in Presidents Message. Book your room reservation now!
May 31-June 2	Carlisle Ford Nationals		Carlisle, PA	Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!!
June 8	Go Topless!	СМС	Classic Motor Museum St. Michael's, MD	Possible MATC activity
July 14	National Collector Car Appreciation Day		TBD	
July??	Pot Luck Annual Gathering @ The Denham's	***MATC	5626 Williams Road Hyde, MD 21082	More details to follow
August 7-11	VTCI Annual Convention	VTCI	Grand Rapids, MI	Details and reservation info to be provided as available
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

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 @ <u>www.cruiseguide.com</u>. 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 members a very happy birthday: <u>April Birthdays:</u>

## Ron Davis (6), Phyllis Cherry (25), Skip Panowitz (27), Charles Samarodin, Bob Wood

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:**

• Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, Dwight Dixon, Steve Kelley, Mike Melnyk 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!

### 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 @ <u>skip.panowitz@yahoo.com</u> with the information so that the register is as accurate as possible. Thanks!



<u>Please let Skip know by April 15<sup>th</sup> if you are going to participate. We will stage the cars at the 7-11 at the intersection of routes 165 and 23 in Jarrettsvile at 9:15 so we can caravan and park</u> together.

# Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shirts

Here you see a picture of the latest MATC 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary polo shirts that we have ordered. If you were not at the February meeting and would like a shirt, *please let Cathy know by April 8* and we will order so they will be in before the anniversary trip to Roanoke and AFN at Carlisle. Listed are your options. They are nice quality.

```
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
     Navv
     Graphite Gray
     Forest Green
     Red
     Azelea Pink
Sweatshirt Unisex
S-XL $28 , 2X $33, 3X
$35
     Black
     Navy
     Charcoal Gray
     Forest green
```



# Upcoming "Thunderbird" Events 2023/2024

### Federal Armored Express/Dunbar Armored Museum Tour & Lunch-Pending For 2024

This is an opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to a great American success story. Founded in 1956 by James Dunbar, it grew from a one armored vehicle operation to the #3 armored car service in America with nearly 1000 vehicles and operations nationwide. Acquired by Brinks a few years ago, the museum shoiwcases the vehicles and history of the company. Cost is \$25 per person which includes lunch. The museum is located at 130 Lake Front Drive, Cockeysville, MD. Please RSVP Skip (*skip.panowitz@yahoo.com*) NLT November 6<sup>th</sup> as space may be limited.

### Thunderbird Friends Reunion #2, Carlisle, PA, May 31-June 2, 2024

A reunion of Thunderbird friends is again being planned in conjunction with the 2024 Carlisle Ford Nationals. This time we started our homework early and have been able to secure a block of rooms in the Carlisle area for the nights of Friday, May 31 and Saturday June 1, 2024. This allows for the group being together in the evening, for breakfast, etc., which was not the case this year. We have a block of 25 rooms guaranteed which can be increased as deemed necessary. The rate is \$185 per night, which is discounted from the standard rate, plus taxes. Room reservations can be cancelled up until 6 PM the night of the reservation. The rate includes breakfast and other amenities. We will also have the use of a meeting room as a hospitality room. There is plenty of free parking. The "host" hotel is:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Carlisle Southwest I-81 1501 Commerce Ave Carlisle, PA 717-241-0052

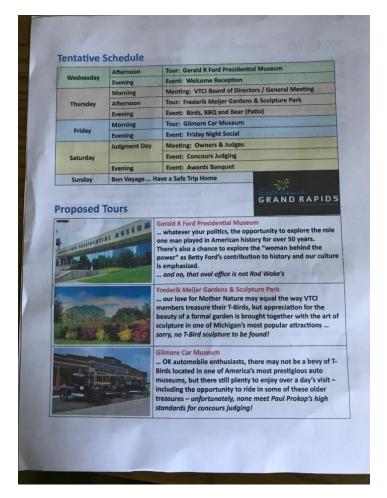
The hotel is an easy drive from the Carlisle Fairgrounds right off of 1-81. The block of rooms will remain available until 30 days before May 31st, so it is imperative to make your reservations ASAP, *like right now*, even if you are not certain you can be there. The sooner reservations are made, the better the chance of increasing the number of rooms in the block if needed. It is fortunate that we were able to reserve a block of rooms and at a favorable rate. The online reservation link is below:

### Thunderbird Friends Reunion

If the link does not work, call the hotel direct at the above number. We will provide more details as they become available. There will be a dinner on Saturday night, like this year, and possibly Friday night too. We hope to have a larger tent this year as multiple clubs are expected to be included. **Please get your reservations taken care of early**. We look forward to lots of Fun, Fun, Fun in 2024.

VTCI 2024 International August 7th-11th

# **JD RAPIDS** GR MICHIGAN



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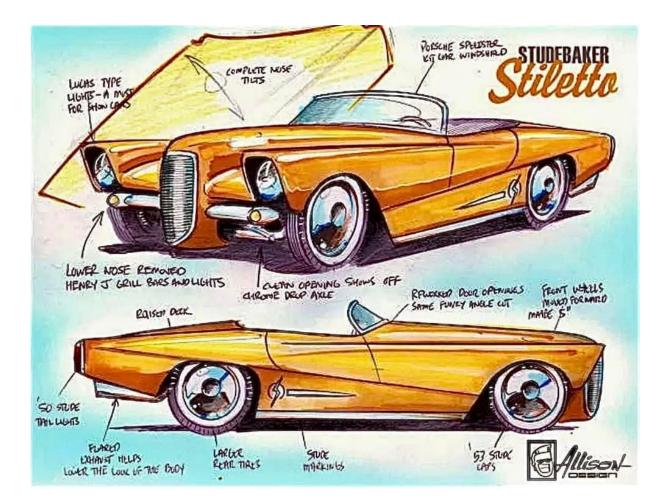


working with the Experience Grand Rapids Convention and Visitors Bureau. As Interim Regional Director for the Northeast Region (NE), Aregional Director for the Northeast Region (NC), VTC's Vice President, Bob McNelli, working with the North Central Region's Director (NC), Larry Graham, began to explore hotel options and potential tours to serve VTC'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:



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



# A possible Thunderbird competitor if it had been produced by Studebaker? Ah, the good old days of cars with matching interiors that were not gray, black or tan!



1976 "Lipstick" Edition



### 1975 Jade Luxury Group

## Some John Unitas Car Trivia

# Did you know that John was gifted a new Corvette in both 1958 and 1959 because he was awarded MVP honors?





### But here is the rest of the story:



For her birthday this year, John gave Dorothy a stereo-high fidelity record player and radio combination. He drives a white 1960 Thunderbird and she a white 1959 Chevrolet convertible. Both cars were traded for the Corvettes that John won two years in a row. John and she liked the sports cars but the large family made them impractical.

SUNDAY SUN MAGAZINE, SEPTEMBER 25, 1960

Unites end his wife, Dorothy, in front of their home. The our of the curb is his, the one buck in the drive is here.

Way to go John. And Mrs U. (Note the humble abode that they resided in.)

# **March Thunderbird Quiz**



<u>Who Is The Actor:</u> Frankie Avalon <u>What Year Is The Thunderbird</u>?: 1959 <u>Bonus:</u> What is the movie series that this actor is famous for?. Beach movies with Annette Funicello

Congratulations to winners Ann Collins and Scott Mummert!

# **April Thunderbird Quiz**



<u>Who Is The Actress?:</u> <u>What Year Is The Thunderbird</u>?: <u>Bonus:</u> Who is the famous actor that is standing with her.

### **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

Respond to Skip with your guesses...er answers. It is never too late to submit your answer.

# **<u>CLASSIFIEDS</u>**

	Still Available
	MATC & TBird T-Shirts
The manage	While They Last!
	A = 45 <sup>th</sup> MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L,
	XL, XXL; \$10 each - 2 for \$25 plus S&H
AB	B = Retro TBird Logo T-Shirt; XXL only; \$10 each plus S&H

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 knmow in advance if you are interested in any of them to be certain I have enough to meet demand. The more ex



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 kow ASAP. They are sold out at Goldvarg and my source only has a few still available from their allottment.





Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

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

**D**-+-.

					Date:		
First Name: Last I Spouses Name:		Las	Last Name:		Birth month:		
						Zip	
Home		Work			Cell	Zip	
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Car		color)		restoring)			
1							
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3							
4							

Annual Dues: \$25 due each January. MATC newsletter is only delivered electronically. \$15 if joining after June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

\$25 if joining after October 1<sup>st,</sup> (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.midatlantictbirdclub.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)

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VTCIM	emhershi	Application Form
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E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
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LIST E-MAIL ADDRESS I	N ROSTER? YE	S 🗆 NO 🗖
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PLEASE LIST THUNDER	BIRD YOU OW	N:
YEAR: MOI		
you join. You will th November/December January / February March / April May / June	nen receive a r Scoop. US and Canada \$40.00 \$35.00 \$30.00 \$25.00	All Other Countries \$60.00 \$55.00 \$45.00 \$40.00 \$90.00 includes next year \$80.00 includes next year
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Thurderbing	MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OUR 49 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY
	More Information and Application Available At:
M·A·T·C	http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org
E -	<u>&amp; Facebook Too</u>
	Serving 1955-2005 Ford Thunderbird Owners and
	Enthusiasts in The Mid-Atlantic Area:
	MD, VA, DE, WV, So.PA
Affiliated With:	Benefits of Membership Include:
UINTAGA	<ul> <li>Tech support for all generations of Thunderbirds</li> </ul>
Thunderbind	- Social Gatherings
LE ROLD	- Monthly Breakfast (Third Thursday @ Greek Village-Bel Air)
ATERNAT	
ντα	- Monthly Newsletter
	<ul> <li>Affiliation with national clubs</li> </ul>
	- Tech Sessions
(International Transferrorm	<ul> <li>Great, Exciting Excursions and Field Trips</li> </ul>
ela	- Community Activity and Support
ITC	<ul> <li>"Fun, Fun, Fun" with your Thunderbird</li> </ul>
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