

**JANUARY  
2018**

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Tom Young 410-653-3108

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

**MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB**  
*Charter Member, International Thunderbird Club*



**MATC  
THUNDERBIRD  
NEWSLETTER**



<http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org/>

<http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/>

**January Third Thursday Bird Breakfast in Bel Air**  
**January, 18, 9:30 AM**

Greek Village Diner, 129 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air, MD 21214

**2018 Membership Renewal**

The 2018 Membership is included as part of the newsletter. Fill in your personal information and mail the notice along with your payment to the treasurer. Payment is due by March 1, 2018. Thank you for your continued support of MATC.

**Welcome New Members**

Daniel and Robin Luber  
Forrest Hill, Maryland  
1964 Thunderbird Hardtop

William Spencer  
Waldorf, Maryland  
1955 Thunderbird Convertible

**December Birthdays**

Mariam Zentgraf  
Barb Melnyk

Harry Skruch  
Ole Gal Dec 1962

## 2018 TENTATIVE 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	Details
January 6 9:30 AM	<b>Officers Planning Meeting</b>	<b>MATC</b> ***		
January 18 9:30 AM	<b>Third Thursday Breakfast</b>	*** <b>MATC</b> ***	<b>Greek Village Diner</b> 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071</a>
February x 1:30 PM	<b>BUSINESS MEETING, POT-LUCK Membership Meeting</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Bel Air United Methodist</b> 21 Linwood Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014	
Sat March 10	CRAACA Antique Auto Parts Flea Market	CRAACA	Howard Ct. Fairgrounds Rte 144, West Friendship	<a href="http://chesapeakeaaca.org/pages/activities/flyers/2015fleamarket.pdf">http://chesapeakeaaca.org/pages/activities/flyers/2015fleamarket.pdf</a>
March x	<b>AACA Museum/ or some other event</b>	<b>MATC</b>		
<b>April 8– 15, 2018</b>	<b>BERMUDA MATC 2018 Cruise</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Departs Baltimore April 8, 2018 @ 5:00PM</b>	<a href="http://midatlantictbirdclub.org/pdfs/matc2018.pdf">http://midatlantictbirdclub.org/pdfs/matc2018.pdf</a>
Sat April xx	Romancing the Chrome	Harford Library Foundation	Jarrett's Field 3719 Norrisville Rd., Jarrettsville, MD 21084	10AM – 4 PM <a href="http://romancingthechrome.org/">http://romancingthechrome.org/</a>
May 17 - 20	<b>Cruisin O.C.</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Ocean City Md</b>	<a href="https://www.specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city">https://www.specialeventpro.com/cruisin-ocean-city</a>
Sun May x	<b>Thunderbird Appreciation Day</b>	<b>ITC</b>	<b>John Wright House Restaurant Wrightsville, Pa</b>	<a href="http://www.johnwrightrestaurant.com">www.johnwrightrestaurant.com</a>
June 1 - 3 Fri to Sun	All Ford Nationals	Carlisle	Carlisle Fairgrounds Carlisle, PA	<a href="http://www.carlisleevents.com/carlisle-events/carlisle-ford-nationals/default.aspx">http://www.carlisleevents.com/carlisle-events/carlisle-ford-nationals/default.aspx</a>
Sat June 2	28 <sup>th</sup> Orphan Car Tour		Balt. & Harf. Counties, MD <a href="http://www.orphancartour.org/">www.orphancartour.org/</a>	Jon Battle, (540) 364-1770 <a href="mailto:tourdiretor@orphancartour.org">tourdiretor@orphancartour.org</a>
June 9	First Annual Car Show		Bel Air United Methodist 210 Linwood Ave, Bel Air	<a href="http://belairumc.org">http://belairumc.org</a>
June x	Sully Plantation		Chantilly VA	
July x Sun	<b>Potluck Social hosted by Dan &amp; Zoeanne Denham</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Hydes, MD</b>	<a href="mailto:garagex4@yahoo.com">garagex4@yahoo.com</a>
July 11 - 14	AACA Eastern Spring Meet	Chesapeake AACA	Gettysburg, PA	<a href="http://2018eastspringmeet.aaca.com/">http://2018eastspringmeet.aaca.com/</a>
Aug 3 -5 Fri to Sun	Das Awkscht Fescht		Macungie, PA	See website for registration. <a href="http://awkscht.com/">http://awkscht.com/</a>
Aug 7 – 12	<b>International Thunderbird Convention</b>	<b>ITC</b>	<b>Buffalo, New York</b>	<a href="http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/">http://www.intl-thunderbirdclub.com/</a>
Sept Sun	<b>Potluck Social hosted by John and Phyllis Cherry</b>	*** <b>MATC</b> ***	<b>Cascade, MD (near Thurmont)</b>	
Oct 4 - 7	Endless Summer Cruisin		Ocean City MD	<a href="https://www.specialeventpro.com/endless-summer-cruisin">https://www.specialeventpro.com/endless-summer-cruisin</a>
Oct 10 - 13 Thurs to Sun	AACA Eastern Fall Hershey	AACA	Hershey, PA	<a href="http://hersheyaaca.org/fallmeet.html">http://hersheyaaca.org/fallmeet.html</a>
Saturday Oct 20 Rain Date: 27	<b>Rockville Antique and Classic Auto Show</b> 8:30a – 3:30p	<b>MATC</b>	Rockville Civic Center Pk <b>603 Edmonston Drive</b> Rockville MD 20851	<a href="http://www.rockvillemd.gov/events/carshow.htm">http://www.rockvillemd.gov/events/carshow.htm</a>
Nov	<b>Officer Election</b>	<b>MATC</b>		
Sunday December 2 1:00 pm	<b>Annual Christmas Party</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Dobbin House</b> 89 Steinwahr Avenue Gettysburg, PA	
<b>Third Thursday, Every Month 9:30 AM</b>	<b>Monthly Breakfast Gathering</b>	<b>MATC</b>	<b>Greek Village Diner</b> 129 Baltimore Pike Bel Air, MD 21014	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greek-Village-Restaurant/203026953055071</a>

**Suggestions:**

Visit to Bob and Esters Museum  
 Car Museum St. Michaels <https://www.classicmotormuseum.org/visit>  
 Sunshine Grill w/ Chesapeake AACA ( Sunshine Grill owner likes Thunderbirds )  
 Team up with Lehigh Valley at Das Awkscht Fescht  
 Luray Caverns and Car & Carriage Museum Luray, VA  
 Visit Homeless Veterans Home

**Other Events:**

**Car Cruise and Show Guide:** <http://carcruiseguide.com/>

**Hunt Valley Horsepowering:** Every Saturday 8:00AM to 10:00AM, Location: Hunt Valley Town Center (Shawan Road) in the parking lot between Joe's Crab Shack and the former Best Buy location. <http://horsepowering.com/>

**FOR SALE:**

**2003 Thunderbird:** Steve Kelley 443-371-3030, [skelley@gottogotravel.net](mailto:skelley@gottogotravel.net)



**1962 Thunderbird Convertible:** with factory Tonneau cover, all power equipment, and factory AC. New powder blue interior, Strong running gear. Have complete work history since 2001, 110,500 miles, Asking \$26,000 (offers) **Victor Morino**, cell 410-802-9078.



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 @ THE DOBBIN HOUSE**







Congratulations to **Judy Dickenson**,  
2017 MATC Presidents Award Recipient



Congratulations to **Phyllis Cherry** first prize  
winner in the 50-50 drawing held during the  
Christmas Party.



Congratulations to **Tom Young** second prize  
winner in the 50-50 drawing held during the  
Christmas Party.  
Prize: 2002 Thunderbird Introduction Book



### **MATC APPAREL**

A number of MATC members have asked when there is going to be another apparel order. The order forms are available at most MATC functions or from Skip or Steve. However, as an additional option, the vendor has indicated that members may contact them directly to place orders. The price will be the same as if it was part of a larger MATC order. The vendor is:

**EmbroidMe**  
**2216 Commerce Rd, #3**  
**(in Forest Hill industrial park, near airpark)**  
**Forest Hill, MD 21050**  
**443-640-6414**  
**Ask for Candace**

This option gives members an opportunity to stop in their shop to see what is available. There are also a few of the sample items available for sale.

## KITTY MUMMERT



It is with great sadness that I must report that Kitty Mummert passed away on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Kitty was a MATC Board member and past treasurer. She was also a former ITC treasurer. Because of continuing health issues she had recently moved from her long time home in Pennsylvania to reside with her son in New York State. Kitty, and her late husband Norm, were stalwarts in the TBird hobby for over 40 years. They were original members of the Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club, and founding members of ITC. Norm was fondly known in the hobby as Mr. Thunderbird for his technical knowledge of TBirds, especially the 55-66 models. Norm and Kitty had a collection of over 30 TBirds before his passing. Kitty was always the perfect hostess, providing a warm welcome to new members of both MATC and ITC. She coordinated the MATC Christmas Party at Dobbin House in Gettysburg, PA, for over 20 years. She was actively involved in the planning and coordination of many ITC conventions. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her or had the opportunity to meet and know her.

Arrangements are as follows:

Viewing: Wednesday, December 27, from 6pm to 8pm at the LeRoy Leber Funeral Home, 2290 School Street in York (Shiloh), PA. 17408

Funeral service: First United Methodist Church, 200 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA., at 10 AM on Thursday, December 28. There will be graveside services on Friday at 10am at the Prospect Hill Cemetery in York.

Condolences may be sent to her family in c/o her son: Greg Mummert, 1280 Blood Road Cowlesville, NY 14037.

## NAME BADGES

**Name Badges:** If you are interested in having one of the new name badges, please contact Mike Melnyk ([thunderbirdmike@juno.com](mailto:thunderbirdmike@juno.com)). The price is \$10 each. They have magnetic fasteners, are metal and measure 2"X3". Please send payment to Harry Skruch ([hskruch@verizon.net](mailto:hskruch@verizon.net), 4804 Torpoint Road, Nottingham, MD 21236), MATC Treasurer. Your name badges will not be ordered without payment. A photo of the new name badges appears to the right. *Skip*



## MATC CHARITABLE SUPPORT

The MATC supported charity is now Shriner's Children's Hospital. All donations will be made by MATC members via personal check payable to the *Shriners Hospitals*. The Philadelphia location is the facility we will be supporting. We have been invited to visit Shriner's Children's Hospital and plan to present our donation to them a visit in early 2018. If you did not attend the Christmas Party, and/or have not yet contributed, please consider making a contribution to this great cause. MATC members have generously contributed nearly \$500 to date. Your contributions can be sent to MATC treasurer Harry Skruch. His address is 4804 Torpoint Road, Nottingham, MD 21236. Please send your donation to by Harry by December 31, 2017. We will be evaluating other charitable organizations to support in the future.

## BILL CLARK'S SUPERCHARGED 1957 THUNDERBIRD

October 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> was the AACA Eastern Fall Meet held in Hershey Pennsylvania. Bill Clark entered his 1957 Supercharged Thunderbird in the meet. A picture of his T-Bird is featured in the Antique Automobile Nov/Dec Magazine, page 71.



## **STEERING BOX REPAIR**

In the words of Willie Nelson, after 3 months up on jack stands in the garage, my Bird and I are “On the Road Again”! Summer touring was cut short on July 30 when I pulled her out of the birdhouse for Shelly to take to a Vintage Chevrolet Club sponsored event and....wait a minute....maybe that’s the problem right there. The pretty bird didn’t want any part of hanging with a bunch folks wearing Bowties! Anyways, a seal on the steering box let loose and fluid proceeded to blow out all over the driveway. At least she was kind enough to dump all her fluids at home...the car that is.

What to do? Well, I knew what to do but just not how best to go about it. Two days later was the police and fire demonstration event at Target in Abingdon of which MATC was invited to show some of our Thunderbirds. I went (in a Ford) and yakked it up with everyone else. Bill Clark was there with his gorgeous ’66 convertible. He told me that replacing the steering box was not for the faint at heart. Very difficult. His advice was to contact Jim Wulf, the ITC tech advisor for my ’63. I did. Jim could not have been more helpful with advice on how to do the job and where to obtain quality parts and service. He also warned me that this was not going to be an easy undertaking.

For anyone who has ever worked on one of these models, you know, nothing is easy to get to. Add factory air conditioning and you’ve really got to be a contortionist and have a variety of socket accessories with knuckles. The steering box does come out but not without removing support brackets, exhaust pipes, stuck pitman arm and swing away steering wheel coupling. The job is complicated by the fact nearly every vacuum hose, brake line, hydraulic line, accelerator linkage, transmission linkage, master cylinder, A/C hoses and tons of wiring all are located and or snake through this area. To add insult to injury, the box weighs nearly 50 lbs. As explained by Jim, it is absolutely a two person job to lower it out once everything is disconnected and moved out of the way. One person must hold the box from above using a healthy strap and another works underneath to support the devil and maneuver it out. For what seemed like an hour of twisting, lifting, turning, finagling and finger squashing, this box which now felt like a ton, wiggled out of the bottom of the car. While I was at it, I decided it was best to replace the pump and hydraulic lines. This is complicated because this is one of the models that uses the power steering pump to operate the windshield wipers. Brilliant.

Where to obtain parts and service? Jim’s priceless advice was not to purchase at a local store or any of the well-known Tbird parts dealers. Unfortunately, the quality just isn’t there. He provided names of two shops that would rebuild the units in a superior manner. I chose Lares corporation located in Minnesota. They actually already had a replacement pump available and would rebuild my box and return it in about 3-4 weeks. They were wonderful to deal with and the price was very fair. I shipped off my greasy old box and 3 weeks later it was returned looking brand spanking new along with detailed but simple instructions on how to install, align and center the wheels and fill and bleed the system. Wonderful. I highly recommend them.

My bird has always been rather lazy when I step on the gas. The pedal always felt like I was stepping on a wet sponge and the 300 horses never seemed to want to get up and go. While the steering box was out, I decided to look into this. I climbed on top of the engine and had Shelly pump the accelerator pedal while I looked down the carburetor throat. Lo and behold, the primary butterflies were opening only half way! A little adjustment and the problem would be solved so I thought. Nope. Adjustment was already maxed out. There’s an odd mechanism between the firewall and the cylinder head where the linkage goes through to the pedal. The whole contraption was sloppy. Strange. Called Jim Wulf again. Jim instantly knew the problem. There’s supposed to be a little bracket bolted to the rear of the bell housing to provide support for the accelerator linkage. This bracket is often lost and/or forgotten when the transmission is removed. Mine was missing. A call to Pat Wilson and \$20 and I had one on my doorstep in two days. What a difference!

I finally got the car back together a couple weeks ago and took a couple short rides to sort things out. Last Thursday the real maiden voyage was the drive to Bel Air for the monthly MATC breakfast. No problems. After breakfast, I drove about 2 hours taking care of various errands around town. After not having the car for 3 months, I was pleasantly reminded why I love this car. It is such a dream to drive. Quiet, comfortable, stylish and now with some real power on hand...or is that on foot! I want to thank Jim Wulf and the rest of the Thunderbird community for all their help, advice and sympathy throughout this process. It’s great to be a part of this group.

Phil Hack



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**January 2018**



The annual Christmas Party at Dobbin House in Gettysburg, PA, was attended by nearly 50 MATC members and their families. What a great showing. Attendees had a great time socializing and enjoying great food.

Congratulations to Judy Dickinson, well deserved recipient of the 2017 President's Award for her effort as MATC Secretary. In addition, Judy has also been responsible for coordinating several MATC events, including the Christmas gathering. Congratulations are also in order for Phyllis Cherry who won the 50-50 raffle drawing during the Christmas Party. She graciously has donated her winnings to the Shriner's Hospital fund. We thank her for her generosity. Congratulations also go to second award raffle winner Tom Young. He received a copy of the 2002 Thunderbird book published by Ford for purchasers of the new retro TBirds in '02. Thanks to all who participated in the raffle.

The election results were announced during the Christmas Party. Congratulations to the winners as follows:

President: Skip Panowitz

Secretary: Judy Dickinson

Board Member: Phyllis Cherry

Please consider running for an office in the future. New energy and ideas are always welcome. And needed.

Your MATC Board of Directors will be meeting in January to plan the 2018 calendar of activities. A preliminary calendar is attached. If you have an idea or suggestion for an event, please provide it to any MATC officer by January 1<sup>st</sup>. This is your club. We want to feature activities that are of interest to the membership and will be supported and enjoyed by as many members as possible.

Several reminders:

- Please check out the MATC and ITC Facebook pages and websites on a regular basis. Information about events and of items of general interest to TBird owners and enthusiasts is being posted continually.
- Your Board of Directors can use help with coordinating events, the apparel sales, advertising, etc. If everyone does a little bit to help the success of MATC, a small group is not over burdened with responsibilities. Please consider helping out the Board with these important parts of our services to our members. Contact me, or any Board member, for more information on how you can help. Thanks!

Barb and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday, and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at an MATC function in 2018. And above all, be careful and be safe!!

Skip



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Month \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

I was referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

List Your Thunderbirds:

Car	Year	Style (HT, Conv, Landau, etc.)	Comment (Show, Pleasure, Under Restoration, etc.)
1			
2			
3			
4			

Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Annual Dues: \$25.00 due each January, newsletter delivered electronically, or  
\$40.00 due each January, newsletter delivered by US Postal Service

New Members Partial Year Dues:  
\$15.00 if joining after June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year  
Full dues if joining after October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, BUT  
IT INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR DUES (3 months Free)

Name Tags \$10.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send to: **Make your check payable to MATC.**  
Please Mail Application with your check to:  
Harry Skruch, Treasurer  
4804 Torpoint Road  
Nottingham, MD 21236  
410-256-2740

Visit us at [www.midatlantictbirdclub.org](http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org)

Like us on Facebook





# Got-To-Go Travel

Sometimes you just Got To Go...

## Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club 2018 Cruise



**Special Guest Speaker will be  
Mr. Jim Youngs, Ford's  
Project Manager for the  
"Retro" 2002 -2005 Ford  
Thunderbird**



Join us aboard the Carnival Pride departing Baltimore on April 8th, 2018 for a 7 day cruise to the beautiful Island of Bermuda. Spending 3 nights and 2 FULL days in Bermuda. Select your Cabin by placing a \$500 ship deposit and a \$25 per person event fee. The ship portion of the deposit will refundable until full payment due date of January 23 2018.

Day	Port of Call	Arrival Time	Depart Time
Sun	Baltimore, MD		5:00 PM
Mon	Fun Day At Sea		
Tue	Bermuda	5:00pm	
Wed	Bermuda		
Thu	Bermuda		
Fri	Bermuda		7:00am
Sat	Fun Day At Sea		
Sun	Baltimore, MD	10:00 AM	

**Balcony Cabin Prices starting at :  
\$1492.25 per Person**

Prices includes all Taxes and Port fees.  
Price above does not include Gratuities,  
Travel Insurance or Shore Excursions.

### Bermuda's Pink Beaches



**Call: Steve Kelley at Got-To-Travel  
443-371-3030  
stevekelley@gottogotravel.net**

Carnival Pride is registered in Panama







The Buffalo Thunderbird Club is proud to host the Silver Anniversary edition of the International Thunderbird Club's Annual Convention and we invite all ITC members and friends for a fun-filled stay in the Buffalo-Niagara region!



Host hotel is the brand new Hyatt Place Buffalo/Amherst! Convention highlights include the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum, an architectural tour including Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House, dinner harbor cruise on the Miss Buffalo, and of course, a visit to Niagara Falls!



**Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club**  
**5626 Williams Road**  
**Hydes, MD 21082-9533**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB.....**

*Charter Member, International Thunderbird Club*

