

February 2026

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MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB
Charter & Founding Chapter, International Thunderbird Club



Our 52nd Year!!

This Month in *Thunderbird* History:

- **February 15, 1954:** "Thunderbird name officially selected.
- **February 19, 1954:** Thunderbird prototype completed
- **February 20, 1954:** Thunderbird debuts @ Detroit Auto Show



- **February 12, 1958:** "Squarebird" introduced-first 4 seat Thunderbird



Mark Your Calendars For These Great Activities & Events:

First Tuesday TBird Lunch – April 7, 2026 11:30 AM

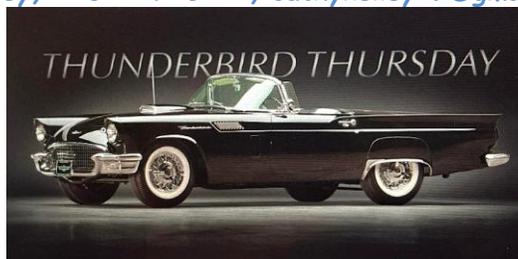
*Matthews Restaurant, 1600 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD
RSVP Phyllis by April 3rd, 410-747-1209, pacherry@comcast.net*

Second Wednesday TBird Lunch – January 14 @ Noon

Inn 94, 4805 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford PA, 17350. RSVP Earl Dickinson @ 717-873-8051. Join the Dickinsons and Scholls.

Third Thursday TBird Lunch- February 19, 11:30 AM***

*Madonna Seafood House, 4105 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161
RSVP: Cathy Kelley, 443-417-0441, cathykelley49@gmail.com by Jan 13th*





President's Message February 2026

Happy Valentine's Day 

Our annual **Members General Meeting** on **Sunday, February 1** was a lot of fun, although a small crowd, assuming due to the snow and cold weather. We played the Show Me game and first place was Mike Melnyk because he had a flip phone which was extra points. Watch for new items added to the game for our next outing. We covered plans for the year to include Thunderbird Appreciation Day, AFN at Carlisle, VTCI Convention in AZ and our club get-togethers like Denhams' picnic and Phyllis's Cherry Fest. A surprise announcement from Scott and Stephanie was that they would like to host a **springtime pot-luck picnic** at their house (Norm and Kitty's place in Hanover PA for you old-timers) which might include a covered bridge ride. Plans are being made...

In addition to our **Third Thursday Tbird Lunch** and our **Second Tuesday Tbird Lunch** we just tried out **Tbird Lunch South of Baltimore**. Phyllis set this up and discussions will take place to see if it will be ongoing and how often. We attended this first time at Leelyn's in Ellicott City and had a fabulous lunch. Cathy went over what those people missed at the Members Meeting. In attendance were: Phyllis Cherry, Anne Collins, Tom Young & Rosemary Desmond, Steve and Cathy Kelley, Skip and Barb Panowitz, Bob and Kathy Ridolfi and Al and Lois Herman. The next lunch is planned for April 7 at Matthews 1600 in Catonsville. More details in next newsletter.

We've already made reservations at the John Wright Restaurant for our **Thunderbird Appreciation Day** outing on Sunday, May 17. Please mark your calendars now but there will be more info to follow.

Cathy & Steve



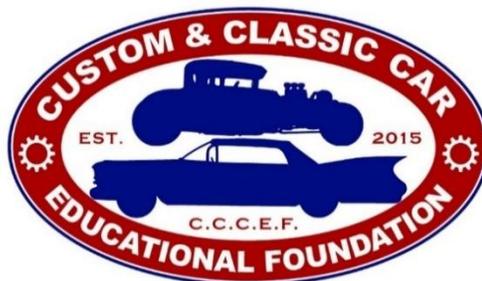
THE GENTLEMEN'S END OF OUR LUNCH TABLE AT LEELYN'S FOR OUR FIRST TBIIRD LUNCH SOUTH OF BALTIMORE.

MATC 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 "ACA" events adhere to the 25-year rule or other designation. Applicable restrictions will be noted with each event.

| Date | Event | Sponsor | Location | Additional Information |
|--|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1st Tuesday 11:30 am | First Tuesday TBird Lunch | ***MATC | To Be Determined Each Month | Will be scheduled on an occasional basis |
| 2nd Wed Noon | Second Wednesday Lunch | ***MATC | Inn 94, 4805 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford PA, 17350. | Contact: Earl Dickinson @ 717-873-8051 |
| Third Thursday 11:30 AM Monthly | Monthly Lunch Gathering | ***MATC | Madonna Seafood House 4105 Norrisville Road, White Hall, MD 21161 | Just north of Jarrettsville on Rt 23. Just past the flashing red light. |
| All Year 7-9 AM | Cars & Coffee: No Competition, No Trophies, Just Fun & Socialization | - | Bel Air Plaza SC Bel Air, MD | 7-9 Am, Every Sunday Weather permitting |
| 2026 | | | | |
| Feb 1 | 2026 Kick-Off Meeting | ***MATC | Bel Air United Methodist Church | Details To Follow |
| April 7 | First Tuesday Lunch | ***MATC | Matthews Restaurant 1600 Frederick Road Catonsville, MD | RSVP Phyllis by April 3rd |
| April 11 10am-3pm | Romancing The Chrome | Various | Jarrettsville, MD | On site Registration Only |
| April TBD | Covered Bridge Tour/ Potluck @ Stephanie & Scott's | ***MATC | Hanover, PA | More details soon |
| May 17 | Thunderbird Appreciation Day | ***MATC | John Wright Restaurant | See Flyer In Newsletter |
| June 5-7 | Carlisle Ford Nationals | ***MATC VTCI | Carlisle, PA Fairgrounds | See Details In Newsletter |
| June TBD | Potluck at Denham's | ***MATC | Hydes, MD | Details Coming Soon |
| Sept | VTCI Convention | VTCI/CTCI | Flagstaff, AZ | Details to follow |
| September 19 | Cherry Fest | ***MATC | Cascade, MD | Details To Follow |
| October ? | Endless Summer-Ocean City, MD | Special Products | Various-OC MD | Specialeventpro.com |
| October 17 | Rockville Car Show | City of Rockville | 603 Edmonston Dr Rockville, MD | More Details To Follow |
| December 13 | MATC Christmas Gathering | ***MATC | Dobbin House Gettysburg, PA | Additional Details Forthcoming |

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.



MATC MEMBER NEWS & HAPPENINGS:



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

February Birthdays:

Earl Zastrow Cindy Perugini

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

- Sunshine Lady Barb Panowitz has mostly recovered from her spill just before Christmas. The swelling and bruises are mostly gone, and the broken nose bones are healing without surgical attention. She is currently participating in PT to help improve her balance. om

It is with sadness that we must report the passing of long-time VTCI newsletter editor Terri MacNeill after a long illness. Many of us recall seeing her at recent VTCI conventions. She was an important part of VTCI along with her husband, past VTCI president Bob. She will be missed.

Please keep our members dealing with a variety of medical issues in your thoughts and prayers:
Dan Denham, Mike Melnyk, Dwight Dixon

MATC members are reminded and encouraged to provide Barb with any important information regarding health issues, special occasions, awards, etc., for appropriate recognition. Barb's contact info: 443-504-5542 (phone or text); ladyofthelake21014@yahoo.com.

Please keep our convalescing members in your thoughts and prayers as they deal with their medical issues.

The most recent MATC Membership Roster was recently distributed in a separate email. It traditionally is distributed twice per year – in April after all renewals are confirmed and in November with any updates. It is updated on an ongoing basis. Can't find yours? Contact Cathy, Steve or Skip for another copy.

2026 MATC "Kick-OFF" Meeting
February 1, 2026



Always Plenty of Good Food



Cathy "conducts" the Meeting



Friendships As Well As Thunderbirds Draw Us Together



*First "First Tuesday" Gathering
LynnLee Restaurant - February 3, 2026*



Upcoming "Thunderbird" Events 2026

Thunderbird Friends Reunion #3, Carlisle, PA, June 5-7, 2026

A reunion of Thunderbird friends is again being planned in conjunction with the 2026 Carlisle Ford Nationals. A block of rooms has been reserved. The reservation link will be posted soon. We are again getting a special room rate and a hospitality room will be available. The host hotel information is listed below. [Ask for Thunderbird Friends group](#):

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

Hotel direct link: [Thunderbird Friends Carlisle 2026](#)

Restaurant arrangements:

Friday Night, June 5, Time & location TBD:
Stay tuned for more details in the future.

Saturday Night, June 6, 6:30 PM:
Rustic Tavern, 823 Newville Road, Carlisle, PA

It was a big hit last year and is back again by popular demand. There will be a be dedicated menu, similar to last year, that will be published later. The food is great and prices are reasonable.

Note: Seating is will again likely be very, very limited.

2026 Carlisle FORD Nationals **June 5, 6, 7**

Check the Carlisleevents.com website for information regarding early registration discounts.

VERY IMPORTANT: Register your club affiliation as VTCI

We had a great time this year (see photos) in spite of a little rain. Well, a lot of rain in a very short period of time. Plan to join us in 2026.



MATC is now officially a part of Ford Performance-Club Connect. This is another opportunity for Thunderbird owners to learn about our club and top promote events. Check it out at:

www.FordPerformanceClubConnect.com



Preview of the 2026 VTCI/CTCI All Thunderbird Convention

In commemoration of the Route 66 Centennial, selecting a location for the 2026 Convention along this historic thoroughfare is notably significant. Hosting the event in Flagstaff, Arizona, a beautiful city located right on the “Mother Road”, will provide Thunderbird enthusiasts with an opportunity to experience travel along the “highway that’s the best.” Flagstaff is located along I-40, and is approximately 145 miles north of Phoenix, via I-17. This makes it a favorite recreation/vacation spot for residents of the Valley of the Sun trying to escape summer temperatures, or experience a snowy, winter wonderland. At a 7000-foot elevation, Flagstaff is surrounded by pine forests and majestic peaks. A perfect spot to gaze at the heavens since Flagstaff is recognized as the World’s First International Dark Sky City for its commitment to dark sky preservation.

Convention Dates:

Wednesday thru Sunday, September 8-13, 2026 – this is the week following Labor Day, which is 9/7/2026. Using these dates allows for lower room rates and temperate weather. Flagstaff hotels typically charge higher rates for the summer through Labor Day, and winter rates can climb during the ski season.

Hotel:

We requested information from the larger hotels and contacted the Flagstaff tourism office. We visited properties that had the potential to handle our large group, considering meeting

space and available parking. We hope you will agree that Little America is a perfect choice. Little America – Flagstaff sits on 500 acres of ponderosa pine forest and just received a multimillion-dollar renovation in 2024. It is the only hotel in Flagstaff to receive a 4-Diamond rating from AAA. Each of the 247 luxurious guest rooms features design and décor inspired by the surrounding pines and southwestern influences. Room amenities include large floor to ceiling windows, a sitting area, large bathroom, room safe, mini-fridge, coffee maker, steamer, premium bedding, and custom furnishings. The property has a Fitness Center, Large Heated Outdoor Pool and Hot Tub, Private 2-mile Hiking Trail, Volleyball Court, Horseshoe Pit, and Complimentary Wireless Internet. At the on-site Travel Center there is a 24-hour Convenience Store, offering packaged and fresh snacks, grocery items, and personal care items, along with Sinclair Collectibles. The Travel Center is where you will also find their Hot Grill & Deli. In the main building of the hotel features a large Gift Shop with men’s and women’s clothing, accessories, art, décor, toys, and gourmet snacks. The Silver Pine Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It also has an outdoor patio and bar. The venue offers more than adequate meeting and banquet space. A large, secure parking area, with only one way in, is available for our show field. They are happy to provide a DIY Car Wash Station with hoses. The property is largely surrounded by forest with virtually no other businesses encroaching on the property lines. Little America has offered a Special Thunderbird Club room rate of \$189, plus taxes. There are no additional resort fees.

Tours:

There are many available and recommended tours and sightseeing opportunities. These include:

Grand Canyon National Park

If you have never done so, we suggest you visit this Natural Wonder. We will include tour suggestions soon.

Travel Route 66

Take time to plan your trip to the 2026 Convention. We soon will be offering a travel guide to make the drive to Flagstaff and beyond the trip of a lifetime.

Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club

Thunderbird Appreciation Day 2026

Arranged by Steve and Cathy Kelley.

RSVP via text or call to Cathy's cell
443-417-0441
or Cathy's email
cathykelley49@gmail.com



Please join us in celebrating
Thunderbird Appreciation Day,
Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Meet us at John Wright Restaurant, 234 N. Front St, Wrightsville PA 17368 at 11am for their Prime Rib Brunch Buffet. \$28.95 + per person.

It has a beautiful view of the Susquehanna River, so makes for great pictures. Gift shop too!

Come a little early and we'll try to get a good group shot of the Tbirds together like last year.

RSVP is required please.



February
Thunderbird Celebrity Quiz



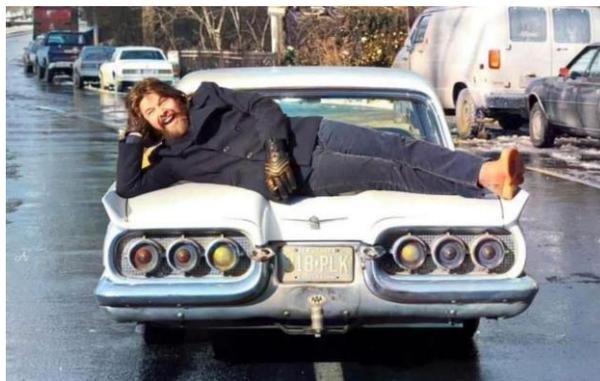
Who is the celebrity with the TBird?:

What Year Is The Thunderbird?:

Bonus: What is the celebrity famous for?

This may be the toughest one yet.

January
Celebrity Thunderbird Quiz



Who is the celebrity with The TBird?:

Bob Segar

What Year Is The Thunderbird?: **1960**

Bonus: What is he most famous for?

The song: Makin' Thunderbirds

Congratulations to Stephanie Nagy for answering all of the questions correctly!!

Previous Winners:

2024

February: Judy Dickinson
March: Ann Collins / Scott Mummert
April: Marsha Dixon
May: Gary Faircloth / Anne Collins / Scott Mummert
June: Dave Thomas
July: Cathy Kelly
August: Phyllis Cherry
September: Scott mummert, Bob Bossoli
October: Dave Thomas
November: Barb Melnyk
December: Cathy Kelley

2025

January: Earl Dickinson
February: Dan Luber, Earl Dickinson
March: Bob Bossoli
April: Bob Bossoli
May: Scott Mummert
June: Phyllis Cherry
July: Bob Bossoli
August: Phyllis Cherry
September: Steve Dameron, Earl Dickinson
October: Judy Dickinson
November/December: Dave Thomas

2026

January: Stephanie Nagy

CLASSIFIEDS

THUNDERBIRD PROMOTIONAL MODEL CARS

Through the very gracious generosity of club member Dave Shelton, we have four (now three-thank you Scott!) Ford Thunderbird promotional model cars available for purchase by club members. If you are not familiar with “promos”, they were produced by various model manufacturers for the car manufacturers from the late 1940s through 2017. They were most available and popular in the 1950s and 1960s. They are detailed, accurate models of the cars they represent. Car dealers gave them to customers who bought the real cars and they sold the models as well. The car manufacturers distributed them for promotional purposes, hence their name. They were also sold at various retail outlets, but these versions are slightly different in that they have flywheel motors to propel them. Although these versions were unfortunately often purchased as toys, they are still truly collector items. The cars MATC has available are true dealer promos, also referred to as coasters as they do not have the flywheel motors (with one exception, the 1957, which was only available in the version offered). The true dealer promos tend to be slightly more valuable, but condition, color, etc., is always the most important factor.

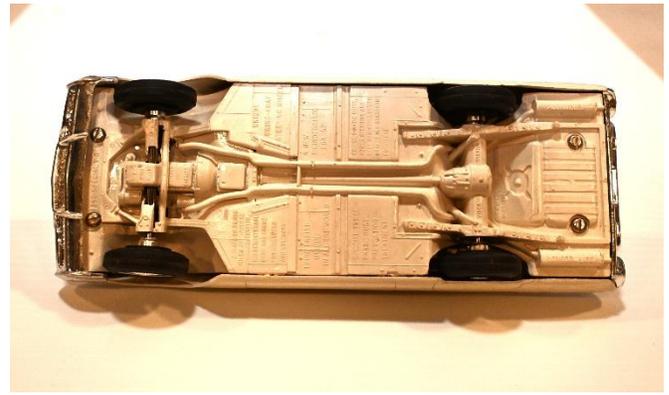
It has been decided the the funds from the sale of these cars would be donated to our charitable partner **“Custom & Classic Car Education Foundation”**(savethehobby.org). Checks for the purchase of the model cars should be made payable to the CCCEF. So you not only get a great collectible, but you support a great cause as well. The cars being offered are in very good to excellent condition. The price of the cars is **\$45** each. I will have them available at the Christmas Dinner as well as future MATC events.



1963 Thunderbird Hardtop

Color is Fieldstone Tan



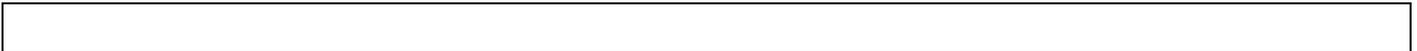


1962 Hardtop-Color is Sahara Rose: Note undercarriage detail & sales info on dealer version



1957 – Color is Flame Red

Why not consider purchasing one of these great, collectible promotional model cars as your charitable partner donation? You get the deduction for your taxes as well as a great collectible.



70th Anniversary Hats

\$15 Each

(plus s&h as applicable)

While Supply Very Limited Lasts

Contact Cathy or Steve If Interested



Here's a couple of ideas that are just what we need for the winter we have had around here so far.



Retro Thunderbird History



At the ITC convention in August of 1998, Doug Gafka, Chief Designer of the retro Thunderbird program, was the guest speaker at the awards dinner. He would reveal only very limited information about the forthcoming car that we were all anxiously awaiting. He was asked about the number of seats, how many doors, what type of engine, rear wheel or front wheel drive, two or four doors, automatic and/or manual transmissions, etc. He responded only that, yes, it would have seats, an engine, doors, a drive train, a transmission, etc. One of the most interesting parts of the development process for the car, in my opinion, was when he revealed how the design team management hoped to inspire the designers. They wanted the new car to reflect the original and other early versions of the iconic car. But most of the designers were young and many had never seen an early thunderbird or in some cases were even aware they existed. In an effort to give these young designers the same inspiration that the designers in the early 1950s might have felt, three 1955-57 Thunderbirds were purchased for evaluation and inspiration. Part of the process was to have these young designers wash the cars. Wash them over over and over again. When I saw the above comparison photo I was reminded of this story. I don't know about you, but I think they did a pretty good job of capturing the original spirit of the Thunderbird with the retros. Ed.

Need Technical Help with your Thunderbird??



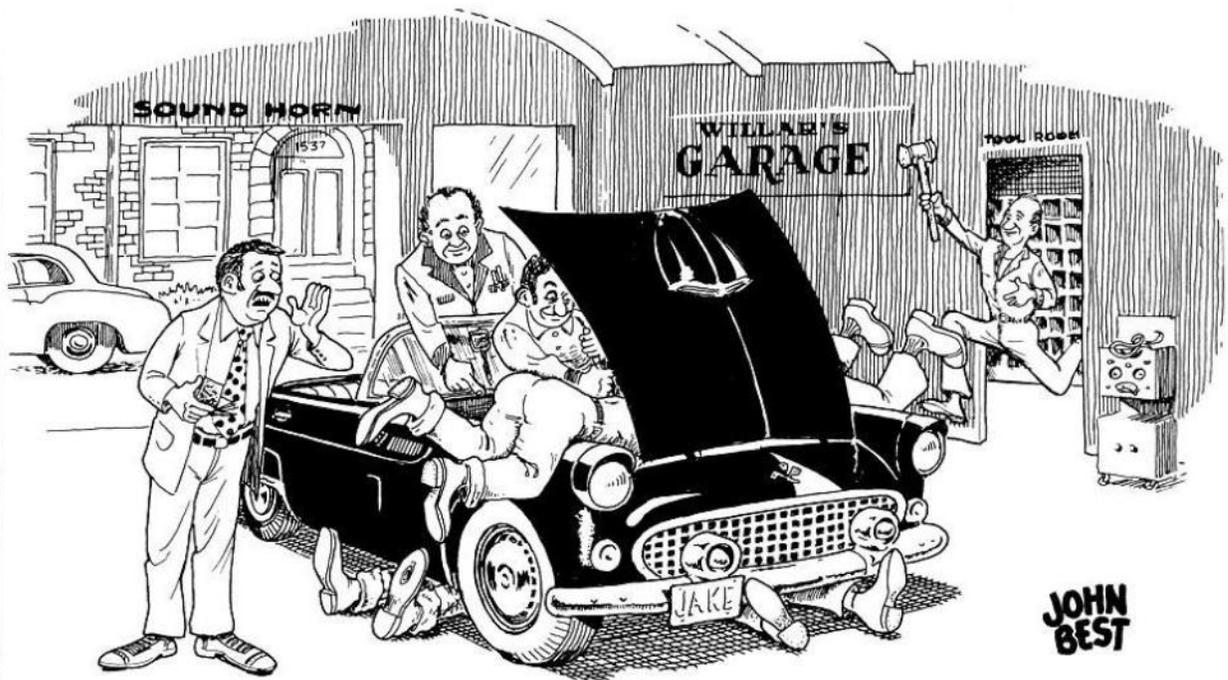
Are you sure this is how to change the oil?

Here are some MATC members that may be able to help:

| <u>1955 – 1960</u> | <u>1961- 1966</u> | <u>2002-2005</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Tom Young Tbirdtoms60@verizon.net 443-744-6338 | Mike Melnyk thunderbirdmike@juno.com 610-574-5738 | Skip Panowitz Skip.panowitz@yahoo.com 410-638-6446 |

If these guys can't answer your question, they will sure know where to find it. If you know someone that we should add to the list, please share them with us.

+++++



PLEASE TELL ME IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.



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:
Ron Hill, Treasurer; 1905 Cypress Drive, Bel Air, 21015; 410-569-0106

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 January 2025)

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 52ND 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 Lunch (Third Thursday @ Various Locations)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Affiliation with national clubs
- Tech Sessions
- Great, Exciting Excursions and Field Trips
- Community Activity and Support
- "Fun, Fun, Fun" with your Thunderbird

