September 2023

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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



MATC THUNDERBIRD NEWSLETTER 49TH ANNIVERSARY



http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org

This Month in Thunderbird History:

- <u>September 9, 1954</u>: Production of the iconic Thunderbird commences with 1955 models. And the Fun, Fun, Fun begins.
- <u>September 25, 2000</u>: The Niemann Marcus 2002 Thunderbird goes on sale in the 2000 Niemann Marcus Christmas catalog.

Thursday – September 21st @ 9:30 AM - Third Thursday TBird Breakfast
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.

Mark Your Calendars-Upcoming MATC Activities

Sunday, September 17, 1:00 PM Annual \$2 Potluck Social

Hosted by Phyllis Cherry
14401 Water Company Road, Cascade MD, 21719
(Near Thurmont, MD).

Please RSVP by September 11th So our hosts can prepare,
Phyllis Cell: 443-831-2194 email: pacherry@comcast.net
Please bring a dish in the food category listed by the first letter of your last
name, The \$2 goes to the host to offset costs. Phyllis and family are providing
venue, paper goods, utensils, beverages, condiments, etc.

"H to Q" Main Dish "A to G" Salad "R to Z" Dessert

If bringing a salad or main dish, please provide enough to serve at least 8 people. If bringing a dessert, please provide enough to serve at least 10 people.

Note: Depending on attendance you might be contacted and asked to bring a different item.

New Jersey Adventure With The North Jersey TBird Association,

September 20-23, 2023:

See details below.



President's Message September 2023

Don't forget The **Cherry Fest** annual potluck picnic at Phyllis Cherry's camp in Western MD on Sunday Sept 17. This is a stunning place to spend an afternoon so please plan to join us there. Directions and food assignments are on the front page of this newsletter. We've got a lot to talk about after we eat some amazing food you folks always bring.

The Dickinsons and Kelleys went to the **VTCI convention** in August. We toured a couple museums, had meals together and met some very nice people. We were warmly welcomed as a returning chapter. It seems we were the 2nd club to join many years ago and then we let the membership lapse somewhere over the years. We kept hearing things like 'We hope to see big/good things from MATC'. I guess we will have to step up and show them how a Thunderbird Club thrives! Next year's convention will be in Grand Rapids MI, Aug 7-11, and we plan to attend it. We'd like to see a good showing from MATC, so please consider going. They have already reserved rooms at the Double Tree by Hilton at the airport at only \$105/night. There will be a flyer soon.

Also coming up in September is our **trip to NJ with the LVTC and NJTA** that Marsha Dixon has planned for us. It will be **Sep 20-23** with our lodging at Hampton Inn Parsippany NJ. We will see Paterson Falls and Garrett Mountain, Edison Museum, visit a couple car cruise-ins, eat some great food and have ice cream! Marsha has put a lot of effort into finding great restaurants and lodging as well as activities and we are looking forward to the get-away. So far we have 6 cars going. We could make room if you are still interested.

Our **Miracle League ball club**, the charity that MATC supports, will be playing again in September and October on Saturdays from 9:30-12:30. We'd like to have some folks drive their Tbirds on either Sept 30 or Oct 7 to show our support. This is in Harford County so we thought maybe we could do lunch together after. Please let us know if you would be interested in watching these young people enjoy a game they hadn't been able to play before.

Coming up in October is the **Rockville MD Car Show, Oct 14 from 11-3:30** (show cars 8:30). Some of our cars are old enough to be shown and the retros could go as visitors. Skip is working with Earl Zastrow and others to maybe do an overnight trip for those who are not nearby. Skip pointed out that we used to have a big presence there and Bob & Kathy Ridolfi won the Mayor and Council Award in 2022 for their Cadillac Biarritz. Congrats to them! Let's see if we can't get a bunch of folks there and hopefully some award winning cars!

MATC's 50th anniversary as a club is next year, 2024. That's a big milestone! We'd like to celebrate in a big way and use the anniversary to advertise the club. We're thinking a big ad in the Cruise Guide, the ITC Script, the VTCI Scoop, etc. We'd like to plan a trip like we did to VA for our 45th year, perhaps in St Michaels where there is a car museum Skip likes, and maybe during the Thunderbird Appreciation Day weekend like our trip to Dover in 2022. Ideas anyone? Help with graphics? Let us know.

Cathy & Steve

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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

а	s "AACA" events adhere to the 25-year rule	or other design	nation. Applicable restrictions will b	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 - Oct	3 rd Friday Cruisers		Town of Perryville, MD Lower Ferry Park	AGAPERRYVILLEMD.org
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
September 17	"Cherry" Festival	***MATC	Cherry's Cabin	Details forthcoming
September 20- 23	Joint event with NJTA	NJTA	Patterson and/or Edison NJ	See info below. More details ro follow.
October 14	Rockville Classic & Antique Car Show	City of Rockville	Glenview Mansion 603 Edmonston Drive	specialevents@rockvillemd.gov
November	Election of Officers	***MATC		Consider running for an office
December 3	MATC Annual Christmas Party	***MATC	Friendly Farms Restaurant	More Details Later
	2024			
May 19	Thunderbird Appreciation Day	***MATC	TBD	TBA
May 31-June 2	Carlisle Ford Nationals		Carlisle, PA	Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!!
July 14	National Collector Car Appreciation Day		TBD	
August 7-11	VTCI Annual Convention	VTCI	Grand Rapids, MI	Details and reservation info to be provided as available
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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.



MIRACLI	E * *
	FORD COUNTY
2023 FALI	L SCHEDULE
SEPT 9 - PIRATES 9:30 am	OCT 7 - PIRATES 9:30 am
PHILLIES 10:15 am	PHILLIES 10:15 am
BLUE JAYS vs ORIOLES 11 am	BLUE JAYS vs MARLINS 11 am
MARLINS vs NATIONALS 12 noon	NATIONALS vs ORIOLES 12 noon
SEPT 16 - PIRATES 9:30 am	OCT 14 - PIRATES 9:30 am
PHILLIES 10:15 am	PHILLIES 10:15 am
BLUE JAYS vs MARLINS 11 am	ORIOLES vs MARLINS 11 am
ORIOLES vs NATIONALS 12 noon	BLUE JAYS vs NATIONALS 12 noon
SEPT 23 - PIRATES 9:30 am	OCT 21 - PIRATES 9:30 am
PHILLIES 10:15 am	PHILLIES 10:15 am
NATIONALS vs BLUE JAYS 11am	NATIONALS vs MARLINS 11 am
ORIOLES vs MARLINS 12 noon	BLUE JAYS vs ORIOLES 12 noon
	OCT 28 - PIRATES 9:30 am
SEPT 30 - PIRATES 9:30 am	PHILLIES 10:15 am
PHILLIES 10:15 am	MARLINS vs BLUE JAYS 11 am
BLUE JAYS vs ORIOLES 11 am	ORIOLES vs NATIONALS 12 noon
MARLINS vs NATIONALS 12 NOON	

September Birthdays



The officers and members of MATC wish the following members a very happy birthday

Bob Bossoli Judy Dickinson (12) O'Rean Fiedler Lynn Horn (16) Frank Long Mike Melnyk (30) Jean Raeke (28) Marvin Schroll (17) Celeste Skruch (9) Dave Thomas Thomas VanDell

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

Membership:

Welcome aboard to the following new members:

• Holly & Jerome Segal, Annapolis, MD, 1955 Thunderbird for pleasure.

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:

- Continued thanks for all of the well wishes from MATC members regarding my diagnosis of .pulmonary embolisms in my lungs. A follow-up hematologist visit indicates that my condition has improved. I am still not out of the woods yet as the reason(s) for the blood clots has yet to be determined, and may never be determined. Until then, I remain at a high risk for recurrence. My activities, including travel, are not restricted. Good news! ed.
- Please continue to keep Christine Young, John and the Young family in your thoughts and prayers as she continues her treatment for breast cancer. We will continue to keep you aware of her progress and condition.
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham and Mike Melnyk. 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!

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In Memoriam

- We have recently learned that Kay Garvey, wife of Dan Garvey, former MATC president has passed away on August 26 as a result of Alzheimer's after a long illness. Dan and Kay were active in both MATC and the Potomac Classic Thunderbird Club. We had not seen them recently as they moved permanently to their Arizona winter home. Dan has said if anyone wishes to contact him he'd love to chat. His number is 202-550-4143. We will try to get an address for him as well. Please keep Dan in your thoughts and prayers.
- Jack Murphy was not officially a MATC member. But he had certainly become part of the MATC family. He
 was the veteran that accompanied Anne Collins each of the past three years in the Towson, MD, fourth of
 July Parade. He had a distinguished career in the United States Army and retired as a Colonel. He was an
 interesting person to talk to and was interested in learning of the military experience of others. He will be
 missed at future parades.



Upcoming "Thunderbird" Events 2023/2024

New Jersey Adventure With The North Jersey TBird Association, September 20-23, 2023:

Marsha Dixon has scouted out some places in the Morristown/Parsippany NJ area for us for an outing we hope many of you would like to attend. The main idea was to see the Edison Museum which the Damerons recommended to us last year. Plans are for Wed 9/20 – Sat 9/23.

- 1. Hotel will be Hampton Inn, Parsipanny. Marsha will block rooms and everyone will make their own reservations. Styay tuned for specifics.
- 2. On Wed eve Jim Johnson's Steak House has a car show on their lot or we can go to Rod's Steak House in Convent and eat in a plush railroad car (not beans and franks hobo meal!)
- 3. Thursday we plan to see Paterson Falls and Garrett Mountain area in a driving tour. Dinner at 4:30 at Arthur's.
- 4. Friday will be Edison Museum tour. Dinner at 4 at Reservoir Tavern. Cruise in at Boonton Walmart. Ice Cream at Curly's.
- 5. Saturday, Marsha has some local things we can do like a cooking class, apple picking, ceramics...Then home or stay another night.

Rockville, MD Annual Car Show, October 14, 2023

The Rockville Show was always a major annual event for MATC in the past. Many of our members still attend as well as our friends from the Potomac Thunderbird Club. Participation was dwindled a little as our membership became more central Maryland focused and many of our newer members have newer cars which do not meet the minimum 25 year old requirement of the show management and AACA. But now every Thunderbird meets the 25 year requirement except the retros, and some of us are only a few years away. The Board and officers of MATC would like to get more involved in this very large, well attended, and important car show if only as visitors. The number and variety of cars on the showfield is overwhelmimng, plus there are automotive themed vendors too. It is well worth the trip. Check out the registration form at www.rockvillemd.gov/carshow. It is too extensive to include in the newsletter plus it is fillable. Bea and Orville Zastrow were very actively involved with the show in the past and their son Earl has taken on some of those responsibilities. Plans are being considered to make this a MATC event even for those who do not show a car. Stay tuned.

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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 a 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 imperand good food too. tive 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 chance for 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.

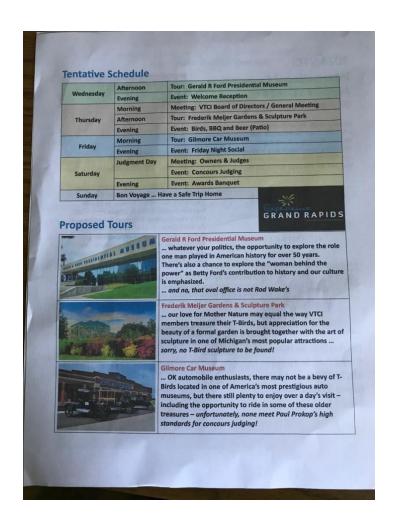


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GRAND RAPIDS

MICHIGAN





2023 VTCI Convention, Cartersville, GA The Savoy Museum

























Great Tours At Great Venues Booth Western Museum / Tellus Science Museum



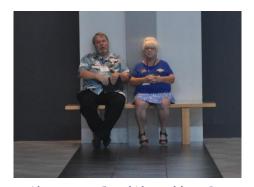












Museums Can Wear You Out



Steve Explores His Ancestry



Judy Checks Out Earl's First New Car







Car Show Day-Many Generations Of Great TBirds As Well As States Are Represented!











































'60 Sunroof-A very "Rare" Bird

Congratulations to Judy and Earl Dickinson for winning the <u>Hard Luck Award</u>. They started the journey to GA in their MSB 2005, but encountered engine problemns after only (fortunately) a short time. This necessitated taking a non- Thunderbird vehicle. They had a great time anyway.



10 Awesome Things That You Might Not Know About The Ford Thunderbird

I thought this would be interesting to share. Likely there are no surprises here for our members. ED.

BYCHAD DAW PUBLISHED OCT 27, 2022



The Ford Thunderbird is an iconic car built to destroy the Corvette, but times have changed, and the T-Bird has been put to bed!

The Ford Thunderbird is one of the most iconic cars that Ford has ever made. The idea of the two-seater Thunderbird began long before 1955 when the first model was sold on the market. The problem at that time was that sports car sales were so low that it did not make logical sense to create one. In fact, the sales were so low that Ford turned its attention away from the T-Bird and towards the Ford Custom Deluxe, which was in line with the market's demand. As time went on, the needs of consumers changed, and after Chevy began selling the Corvette, Ford knew that they had to join the fray with the new Ford Thunderbird.

Created To Take On The Chevy Corvette: During WWII, the troops from America got to see some of the best sports in the world, which were overseas at that time. Many car manufacturers in the States began drawing up plans to duplicate European sports cars' success. The <u>Chevrolet Corvette was the first of the kind to be released onto the market in 1953</u>, capturing the hearts and pocketbooks of American performance lovers. Shortly after, Ford threw in their take on the sports car, the Ford Thunderbird, which took the country by storm and changed the history of Ford forever.

Pirst Year Out Sold Corvette 40 to 1: The Corvette had been selling reasonably well during the first couple of years, but in 1955, Chevy only produced and sold 400 cars. On the other hand, the Ford Thunderbird that had been introduced for the '55 model year rocketed to success with the luxury car and a V-8 under the hood. Ford produced and sold 16,155 T-Birds for the year. When doing the math, this shows that the Thunderbird outsold the Corvette by 40 cars to 1. That goes to show just how popular the T-Bird was from the start.

8 Naming The Car Took Picking From 5000 Suggested Names:

Naming the car was more complicated than would be thought. Ford allowed the people working for them to put in some suggestions for a name; by the end of the count, there were over 5000 suggested names. None of them fit the new sports car built with luxury in mind. The Executives from Ford then posted another request, but this time, the person who came up with the name they ended up using would get a \$250 check. Alden Giberson, a Ford employee, was sitting in the breakroom one day and was hit by a solution. The Ford Thunderbird was born.

An American Icon That Is A Landmark Vehicle: Since Ford marketed the Thunderbird a couple of years after the Corvette sprung onto the scene, they were able to learn from the mistakes that Chevy had made. The T-Bird was designed to match the current demands of the public, which is why it was such a hit. The car became as iconic as the Ford Mustang would soon become, perhaps even more so. The sports car was what the consumers wanted. For years to come, the Ford Thunderbird became the landmark that other American car manufacturers tried to match.

Built For Luxury And Gained Muscle: At first, the Thunderbird was built as a personal luxury car. It had two seats up front and all of the amenities that would have been expected in those times. The engine was a V-8, but it was meant for performance rather than power. As the years went by and the muscle car era began, the Ford Thunderbird once again stepped up, switching out the old 5.1L Y Block and slamming a 7.0L V-8 under the hood. The once luxury performance car gained some muscle but kept all the interior components that made it a joy to drive.

5Used By The Rich And Famous: Cars throughout history have been made popular by some of the most famous people of the time. History has shown that the rich and famous can propel a car's popularity to new heights, which is precisely what happened to the Ford Thunderbird. In 1961 John F. Kennedy used 50 Thunderbirds in his inaugural procession. Then in 1964, the Beach Boys sang a song, "Fun Fun Fun," that brought some serious notice to the car. After that, the car has shown itself in many movies, including the hit "American Graffiti" in 1973.

411th Generation Featured A Jaguar-Designed Engine: Under the hood of any 11th-generation Ford Thunderbird sits a Jaguar-designed engine paired with a Ford transmission. In the first couple of years, the only engine in the T-Bird was the Jaguar AJ-30 3.9L V-8, which could produce 252 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque. In 2003, the engine was swapped out for another variant of a Jaguar motor, the AJ-35. This motor brought with it variable valve timing and electronic throttle control. This motor could pound out 286 pound-feet of torque and produce around 280 horses.

1957 Was The Last Two-Seater Thunderbird: As a general rule, a sports car is supposed to be designed for one person - the driver. An extra seat thrown in the front is also acceptable, but who would have thought that a company would go beyond that idea and put some seats in the back for more passenger room. In 1956, that is what the consumers were clamoring about, so for the '58 model year, Ford complied by putting seats in the back. 1957 was the last year ever that the Ford Thunderbird was only designed for two.

2Won Over 150 NASCAR Races: The Ford Thunderbird was designed so well as a performance car that it took to the track like it was home. 184 wins are what the Ford Thunderbird has racked up <u>over the years in the NASCAR series</u>. The car was perfectly designed to speed through the high banks of the corners, and on the straight stretches, it could walk away from any cars close to it. In fact, <u>NASCAR driver Bill Elliot</u> set the NASCAR record at Talladega for the fastest qualifying lap, which was 212.809 miles per hour.

Discontinued For Good In 2005 Due to Lack Of Sales: Every great thing will come to an end, and the Ford Thunderbird is no exception. In 2005, Ford decided to scrap the T-Bird for more fuel-efficient, smaller cars that the public demanded to have. There are rumors that the Ford T-Bird may come back as a nameplate on another car, more than likely an electric version of the car that America has loved for over 65 years. Time will tell, but for now, all the Ford Thunderbird lovers need to embrace the future of cars but grasp onto any of the classics from the past.

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August Thunderbird Quiz



Correct Answers:

Who Is The Actor? David Jansen
What Year Is The Thunderbird?: 1955

Bonus: What TV show is he best known for

starring in? : The Fugitive

Winner:

Previous Winners:

May: Judy Dickinson & Steve Kelley

June: Tom Young July: Mike Melnyk August: Al Herman

September Thunderbird Quiz



Who Is The Actor?
What Year Is The Thunderbird?
Bonus: Who was his famous mother?
(you thought the bonus question would be what was the famous TV show he appeared in didn't you?)

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

Note: All previous winners are not eligible to participate.

It is never too late to submit your answer.

CLASSIFIEDS



2005 50th Anniversary Cashmere Thunderbird: MATC friends and Thunderbird enthusiasts Sandi & Walt Fries are selling their 2005 50th Anniversary Cashmere Edition Ford Thunderbird. Owned since new, the car has 23,330 mostly highway mile, plus_custom features including color-keyed car cover, boot, seat covers, dash cover and front-end cover. Asking price is \$32,500. Contact Walt at 610-759-4997 (h), 484-515-4008 or wfriesjr@aol.com

Also, Walt's extensive collection of Thunderbird model cars and memorabilia is now being auctioned by Tom Hall Auctions in Pennsylvania (tomhallauctions.com). Check it out. There are so many itrems they are being auctioned in three sections. The auction is "live" now.

For Sale

Set of four BFGoodrich Silvertown 14-inch whitewall tires on Thunderbird (58- 60) rims for \$560.00 or best offer. Deliverable within reasonable distance. Contact Frank Toth at 202-329-5473 and leave voice mail message.









Still Available
MATC & TBird T-Shirts
While They Last!

_A = 45th MATC Anniversary T-Shirt; Sizes - L, XL, XXL; \$10 each - 2 for \$25 plus S&H

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.



Mid-Atlantic Thunderbird Club

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

			Date:	
		Last Name:		
				Birth month:
City			State	Zip
Home .		Work	Ce	·II
Email :				
Your o	ccupation	Spou	use occupation	
I was r	eferred by	<i>r</i> :		
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New M	1embers P	artial Dues:		
	\$:	15 if joining after June 1 st of th	ne year.	
	Fı	ıll dues if joining after Octobe	r 1 st of the year, BUT	
	IT	INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR	DUES (3 months free)	
Name ¹	Tags \$10 e		,	
	J , -			

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 September 2022)



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MID-ATLANTIC THUNDERBIRD CLUB OUR 49TH 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

