#### Dec 2023/Jan 2024

#### **OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents Steve Kelley 443-371-3030 skelley@gottogotravel.net

Cathy Kelley 443-417-0441 cathykelley49@gmail.com

V. President, Membership Mike Melnyk 610-279-6279 thunderbirdmike@juno.com

> Treasurer Frank Long 410-569-8539 fglong1@hotmail.com

Secretary Lynn Horn 410-377-5824 <u>lynnhorn704@gmail.com</u>

Editor Skip Panowitz 410-456-5276 skip.panowitz@yahoo.com

Webmaster Steve Kelley 443-371-3030 skelley@gottogotravel.net

Sunshine Lady
Peg Long
410-569-8539
peglong3@gmail.com

#### **Board of Directors**

Phyllis Cherry 410-747-1209
Ron Hill 410-569-0106
Tom Young\* 410-653-3108
Skip Panowitz\* 410-456-5276
\*Past President

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 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



http://www.midatlantictbirdclub.org



#### This Month in Thunderbird History:

- December 13, 1957: Last two seat "Early Bird" produced.
- Jan 3, 1999: Thunderbird concept introduced at the Detroit car show.
- January 8, 2001: Order bank opens for 2002 Thunderbird.

Thursday –December 20th @ 9:30 AM - Third Thursday TBird Breakfast Thursday-January 17, 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.

2023 Election of Officers

Congratulations to the following re-elected MATC officers:

Vice President: Mike Melnyk

<u>Treasurer</u>: Frank Long <u>Director</u>: Tom Young

2024 Kick-Off Meeting and \$2 Pot-Luck Social Sunday, February 4 - 1:00 PM

Bel Air United Methodist Church, Room 202 21 Linwood Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014

(at the intersection of Rt. 924 & Linwood Ave )

Inclement Weather Date: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

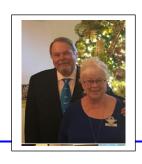
This is a General membership meeting to review club events for 2024 and report on the MATC Officer's Planning meeting. We request a \$2 contribution to help offset meeting expenses. If rescheduling is required due to inclement weather or COVID issues, see the MATC Website, Facebook page, or call a club officer. Please note that the meeting will be in Room 202 in the education building. Elevator service to the second floor is available. Once the upper parking lot entrance is entered, drive past the church and social hall. Entrance to the building requires going down a flight of stairs or adjacent ramp. Please bring a mask for possible use.

Please bring a Pot-Luck Dish in the category designated by the first letter of your last name:

"H to P" Salad "Q-Z" Main "A to G" Dessert

Please RSVP: Cathy Kelley, 443-417-0441, cathykelley49@gmail.com by February

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#### President's Message December 2023

We had a wonderful turnout at our annual Christmas dinner this year at Friendly Farm Restaurant. Their newly renovated banquet room was festive and the country meal of fried chicken and ham was delicious. We had a great time and our President's Award went to Mike Melnyk for his support and advice to us this year and for doing a great job keeping members' dues up to date. He also stepped up to be the Northeast Regional Director of VTCI, and as MATC is now a member chapter of that organization he can keep us well represented.

We had a great year in 2023 and many members participated in lots of activities. Here's a recap:

- 1. We continued our monthly breakfast gatherings at the Greek Village in Bel Air. We encourage folks in other areas to get together, perhaps for lunch to avoid traffic.
- 2. We held our annual members kickoff meeting in February, and made lots of plans.
- 3. In April some of us met at Greene Turtle down near Hanover MD and Mike and Barb Melnyk did us proud by winning a trophy at Lehigh Valley's Hex Sign Rally.
- 4. Thunderbird Appreciation Day was celebrated in May with dinner at Friendly Farms again, since our favorite John Wright Restaurant could not accommodate our group of 30. Great turnout! A few folks went to Barry's Car Barn and shopping in Intercourse PA.
- 5. We continued to attend games for our charity, Miracle League of Harford Co. In 2024 we will support a new group.
- 6. In June the Panowitzs and Dickinsons worked with the Melnyks and Lehigh Valley to setup a great reunion at All Ford Nationals in Carlisle PA. Please plan to attend in 2024.
- 7. MATC had 5 cars in the Towson 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, carrying veterans this year. Thanks to all who turned out. Skip and Cathy were joined by Dan Luber and his family representing MATC in the Bel Air parade in the evening.
- 8. Dan & Zoeanne Denham hosted their annual picnic in July, always a fun day.
- 9. Phyllis Cherry hosted the annual 'Cherry Festival' <u>indoors again</u> this year due to the rainy day September. Very good crowd in that cabin and on the porch and much fun. Potomac Club joined us as they have in the past. Awards and birthday celebration was held.
- 10. In August the Dickinsons joined us at the VTCI International Convention in Cartersville GA. They were so glad to see our 'returning' MATC chapter. Did you know we were the 2<sup>nd</sup> club to join them when they formed years ago? Next year the convention is in Grand Rapids MI Aug 7-11 and we are planning to go. Won't you join us?

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- 11. We had a Board Meeting October 8. We had a guest speaker, Doug Wood, to tell us a little about Save The Hobby, which is an organization we hope to support next year. More to come. We'll cover everything at our members' meeting in February.
- 12. We had 7 new households join the club this year. Keep recruiting!

Results of the election in November are this: The Vice President is still Mike Melnyk, Treasurer is still Frank Long and Tom Young is still a board member. If you have any desire to serve the club as an officer or staff member, we welcome you. Just let us know.

Sadly, we lost 3 much loved members this year, Linda Dameron, Ray Raeke and John Young. The club truly misses them and we are happy to see their spouses have continued to join us. Several of our members are going through some tough times now too. Please keep Dan Denham in your prayers as well as Zoanne who are caring for him, Celeste Skruch who is recovering from a stroke and Christine Young who is recovering from breast cancer. Skip is on the mend after many blood clots in his lungs, Dwight Dixon is battling cancer and your president, Steve Kelley is recovering from prostate surgery.

We are planning our General Member meeting for Sunday, February 4, 2024. Please plan to join us there. Bring a potluck dish and have some fun.

**MATCs 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 plan to have a big presence at All Ford Nationals in June, a Thunderbird Appreciation weekend near St Michaels in May and perhaps a trip to the Pittsburg area to see the solar eclipse with the Pitt Birds in April. Please send any ideas you may have for graphics to Anne Collins, who will be helping us. Be sure to come to the February meeting to hear all the plans!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, Cathy & Steve

EVENTS CALENDAR						
Official MATC/ITC activities are marked with *** and printed in bold. Our <u>Thunderbird Club</u> 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					
February 4	MATC Kick-Off Meeting	***MATC	Bel Air UM Church Bel Air, MD	1:00-4:00 PM See Info Above		
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		

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 @ <a href="www.cruiseguide.com">www.cruiseguide.com</a>. If you know of a "local" show that you think will be of interest to our membership, please provide the information to Skip.



#### **Just A Reminder:**

Even though we will support a different charitable partner beginning in 2024, you can still donate to support this very important program that provides an opportunity for kids with physical disabilities to play sports that they likely would not have the opportunity to participate in otherwise. MATC members can still visit games as observers or even volunteers to help out. To donate, just send your check or money order to Frank Long, MATC Treasurer. Or give it to Frank, or any officer, at the monthly breakfast or any event. The organizers and managers of the program sincerely appreciate the support of MATC in the past.

## MATC Christmas Party/Luncheon 2023



Friends....





Fellowship...







And of course Food!





Congratulations to Mike Melnyk - President's Award Recipient for 2023





2023 Celebrity TBird Owner Quiz Award Winners





# The officers and members of MATC wish the following members a very happy birthday: December Birthdays

#### Miriam Zentgraf (9), Barb Melnyk, Nicholas Balint, Candace Bossoli <u>January Birthdays</u>

Cathy Kelley, Peg Long, Dan Luber,

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

#### **Membership:**

Welcome aboard to the following new members:

• Timothy Oliver, Washington, DC, A: 1966 Thunderbird Landau 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:**

- Please keep Celeste Skruch in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from a recent stroke. She is staying with her daughter while recovering. Cards and well wishes can be sent to her at: : 12418 Kondrup Dr, Fulton MD 20709. Her cell phone is (410) 207-2474.
- Newsletter Editor Skip Panowitz and wife Barbara are both recovering from Covid. Plus Barb
  has been diagnosed with the flu as well. Covid, unfortunately continues ro be with us. Several
  other MATC members and couples have experienced it as well. <u>Get your shot!!</u>
- Several of our members continue to receive on-going medical treatment for various medical issues. These include Dan Denham, Dwight Dixon, 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 @ <a href="mailto:skip.panowitz@yahoo.com">skip.panowitz@yahoo.com</a> with the information so that the register is as accurate as possible. Thanks!

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#### 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, <a href="Iike right now">Iike right now</a>, 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.

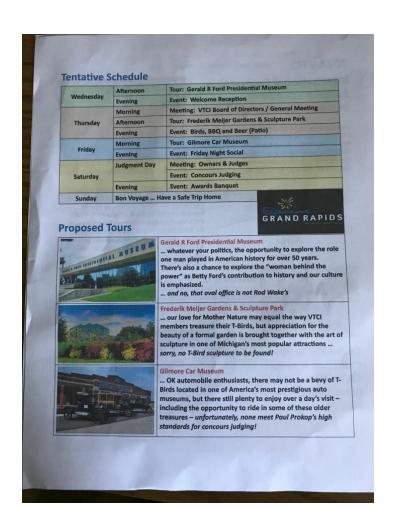
Please get your reservations taken care of early. We look forward to lots of Fun, Fun, Fun in 2024.

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# GRAND RAPIDS

#### MICHIGAN





**November Thunderbird Quiz** 

**December Thunderbird Quiz** 



Who Is The Actor? Robin Williams
What Year Is The Thunderbird? 1963
Bonus: What is the movie that this actor
and car appear in? Flubber

Congratulations to Dwight Dixon for correctly answering all of the questions.



Who Is The Actor/Entertainer?
What Year Is The Thunderbird?
Bonus: In what movie did the actor drive a
1957 Thunderbird?

#### **Previous Winners:**

**May: Judy Dickinson & Steve Kelley** 

July: Mike Melnyk
August: Al Herman
September: Bob Bossoli
October: Phyllis Cherry
November: Dwight Dixon

**June: Tom Young** 

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.

# 1964-1966 FORD THUNDERBIRD LANDS ON HAGERTY'S 2024 BULL MARKET LIST

By <u>Brett Foote</u>, Ford Authority December 11, 2023

In recent years, we've seen the values of certain classic vehicles skyrocket to new heights, though some have proven more popular than others. This includes the <u>Ford Bronco</u>, which has increased in value exponentially <u>across all generations</u>, even <u>the previously less-popular ones</u>. As for which under-appreciated models might be the next to join this list, it seems as if the 1964-1966 Ford Thunderbird could be the next vintage Blue Oval to gain in popularity – and value – according to <u>Hagerty's newly released 2024 Bull Market List</u>.

Each year, the Bull Market List aims to identify the classic vehicles that are likely to appreciate the most in the coming year, a daunting task this time around given how the collector car market, as a whole, has softened over the past year, with prices falling and interest rates climbing. Regardless, following its analysis of sales figures, historical pricing data, and demographics, Hagerty believes that the 1964-1966 Ford Thunderbird is among the top 10 classic vehicles poised for a breakout in 2024.

While early T-Birds are already sought-after and valuable collector's items, these later models are a bit under-appreciated at the moment, yet have plenty to offer, including a comfy ride, attractive styling, and reasonably solid performance. "Thunderbirds from this era have long lived in the shadow of two contemporary icons from Ford Motor Company – the Mustang and the Lincoln Continental," Hagerty said of its pick. "But as those cars have climbed out of reach, younger collectors have rediscovered the charm of midcentury luxury."

Trends say younger classic buyers (born sometime after Neil Armstrong landed on the moon) are interested in Flair Birds," added Hagerty's Todd Kraemer. "They do have a hipper, more mod vibe than the earlier Thunderbirds. This generation wants something different from Dad's old '55 T-Bird. Fond memories of watching Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis soaring one off a Grand Canyon cliff in the climactic final scene of *Thelma & Louise* can't hurt. Or maybe it's just that everyone dreams of being an early astronaut for a moment. This mid-'60s Thunderbird just might be the closest you'll ever get, Major Tom."







#### CLASSIFIEDS











**2004 Thunderbird Premium** Rare one year only Light Ice Blue metallic color. Options include black accent interior, SST, and 7 spoke chrome wheels. Includes rare and desirable folding convertible top boot. Hard top and stand included. Mileage 41,400 miles. One of only 87 made equipped like this specific car. Second owner, Garage kept, very good condition. Original MSRP: \$38,952. Service records available. Asking price \$18,000. Will consider offers. Contact John Horn 410-377-5824 or email <a href="mailto:lynnhorn704@gmail.com">lynnhorn704@gmail.com</a>. (11/23)

#### 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 a voice mail message.









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

\_A = 45<sup>th</sup> 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

			Last Name:	
				Birth month:
Street	Address: _			
City			State	Zip
Home		Work	Cell	
Email :				
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	Year	Style (HT, Conv, Landau,	Use (show, pleasure,	VIN
Car		color)	restoring)	
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Annua	l Dues	\$25 due each January. MATC r	newsletter is only delivere	ed electronically.
		Partial Dues:	is only delivered	

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

Full dues if joining after October 1st of the year, BUT IT INCLUDES FOLLOWING YEAR DUES (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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SPOUSES NAME:			
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CITY			ZIP:
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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:





**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

