



President's Message April 2024

Happy Spring!

Phyllis Cherry joined Cathy March 25 & 26 for a very successful reconnaissance trip to the Roanoke VA area. We'd like the club go down there for a trip to celebrate **Thunderbird Appreciation day, May 19 and MATC's 50th anniversary as a club.**

We'd like to go over on Saturday, May 18 and return home on Monday, May 20.

→ We found a very nice and reasonable hotel and excellent place for dinner Saturday evening. We've blocked 8 rooms at the Comfort Inn Civic Center in Roanoke for only \$99 + tax and fees a night! Here's the link to book your room -

<https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/roanoke/comfort-inn-hotels/va751>. Tell them you are with Mid Atlantic Thunderbird Club. We only have until April 14 to book. Let us know when you've done that please.

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

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

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

<https://www.vadaresml.com/virginia-dare>).

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

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/trademark/natural-bridge-virginia/natural-bridge-hotel-trademark/overview>

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

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

This year the **VTCI convention** is in Grand Rapids MI Aug 7-11 and we are planning to go, arriving on the 8th. They have lots of things planned, like a visit to the Gerald R Ford Museum, Gilmore Car Museum and Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park as well as BBQs, Buffets and Banquet. Oh, and of course Tbird judging and awards. We met some great people at the convention in GA last year. Won't you join us this year? The flyer and registration is in this newsletter. Let us know if you register.

Cathy & Steve